

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF
RED ROPE SOCIALIST WALKING AND CLIMBING CLUB
HELD AT GRADBACH, DERBYSHIRE September 26 2008.

PRESENT: 31 members (see attached list).

APOLOGISES: Angela Benham, Pam Case, Pat Durrant, Yvonne Gilligan, Becky Bates, David Barnes, Pravin Patel.

1. Andy Bateman nominated as Chair – seconded Julian Noble
2. Jan Lancaster – minute taker
3. Running order of the meeting was discussed and accepted.
4. Apologies were received and accepted
5. Minutes of the 2007 AGM (circulated extensively and posted on Web site) Accepted unanimously
6. **OFFICERS REPORTS:**
 - a. National Secretaries: Jan Lancaster and Gill Platt had shared this position until 1 June 2008 when Andy Bateman took over from Gill. Many thanks to Gill for her work over the years. (see attached report).
 - b. Membership : Pat Durrant had sent in a detailed report. Current membership at 319 (see attached). Administration Treasurer. (see attached report) Hugh Wallis circulated a detailed report and answered questions as to the financial health of Red Rope. We are solvent.
 - c. National Trips Organiser. As Becky Bates was unable to attend, John Dickie presented short verbal report. 5 Scottish trips had taken place. Trips in future will run Sat to Sat. All organisers should monitor early booking discounts.
 - d. National Trips Treasurer: Humphrey S presented a written account . One trip did not produce a surplus, others did. (see attached report). Float is £1,900 which is the basic required for deposits etc. In future – if any treasurer (admin or trip) intends to step down at the AGM, please acquire necessary bank transfer forms AHEAD OF THE MEETING so that signatures can be obtained at AGM.
 - e. Ramblers Association. David Barnes sent in a short report (see attached report).
 - f. BMC. Nothing to report. Pravin has obtained £300 from BMC for Red Rope for publicity. Thank you Pravin and the BMC.
 - g. Training: Steve Wright sent in a report (copy attached).

- h. MIS. No report received from Mark Wallis. But MIS editions came out regularly over the year by email and hard copy and on time.
- i. Bulletin: David Symonds presented a short written and verbal report. Two editions produced over the year.
- j. Hut Officer: Colin Knowles presented 'the Way Forward' with another climbing club (Lancashire Mountaineering Club).
- k. IT Officer: Dave Jeffries had changed the ISP and the emailing forward system. Spam filter is now better. Standing Down.
- l. Gear Co-ordinator. Adrian O'Connor .

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THE MEETING UNANIMOUSLY ACCEPTED THE ABOVE REPORTS AND GAVE THEIR THANKS FOR ALL THE HARD WORK DONE BY ALL OFFICERS.

All standing officers were re-elected.

Janet Saunders elected unanimously as Publicity Officer

David Doody elected unanimously as IT officer. Thank you to both.

Short break.

Janet Saunders was unanimously voted Chair of meeting. Jan Lancaster - Minutes

MOTIONS.

Initial discussion about Quorum. Meeting decided that we were quorate and could continue and make decisions under the Constitution.

1. **Motion : From Colin Knowles (Hut Finder) and Andy Bateman (Joint Nat. Sec)**

(first motion put to meeting)

- a. This AGM welcomes the proposal of the Lancashire Mountaineering Club to investigate jointly developing a hut on the site they own above Beddgelert. The National Committee is instructed to act with all possible speed following a positive outcome from the investigation to agree with the LMC structures and procedures to support the physical, financial and gubernatorial development of the joint hut and manage the partnership, submitting specific proposals for ratification at a Special General Meeting.
- b. The National Committee is also instructed to put forward constitutional proposals for the disposal of assets of the club should the club be

dissolved.

Motion carried.

Dermot spoke against the motion as the club is in decline.

Humphrey – two question re winding up of club – what do we do with funds – give to BMC?

Do we have a volunteer workforce committed to be working on hut?

Andy made the point that we have a year before any definite decisions need to be made. This is our opportunity to explore the possibility of sharing a hut.

Malcolm D. Put forward arguments against. RR has no need for a hut. Had concerns about the effect of having a hut on the location for group trips. We can continue to visit other places as a group.

Motion was amended as follows:

“The National Committee is instructed to act with all possible speed to investigate an agreement with LMC to proceed to explore structures and procedures to manage the partnership and to bring an outcome to a special General Meeting”

(amendment of original motion unanimously agreed by AGM).

Amendment: Malcolm D and Seconded by Linda G Constitutional Amendment.

That arguments for and against shall be put to all members and be ratified by a postal ballot in which 51% of membership would be required to be in favour. This would indicate a minimum of 150 members in favour and be a much sounder basis for going ahead.

Vote taken: 14 in Favour 13 against. **Motion was Carried** Chair abstained

Janet S stepped down as Chair. Colin Knowles took over as Chair.

FINAL WORDING OF MOTION:

This AGM welcomes the proposal of the Lancashire Mountaineering Club to investigate jointly developing a hut on the site they own above Beddgelert. The National Committee is instructed to act with all possible speed to investigate an agreement with the LMC covering the physical, financial and gubernatorial development of the joint hut and manage the partnership, submitting specific proposal for ratification by a postal ballot in which 51% of the membership are in favour.

2. Motion From Barbara Segal

The AGM notes:

1) that where the average band of members on a regional trip is below E, the region can claim a subsidy from national Red Rope to compensate for the shortfall.

2) that there is no counter policy whereby regions should pay to national Red Rope any trip surplus made as a result of the average membership band of those on a trip being greater than E.

3) that regions need to maintain sufficient funds to enable forward planning of activities, but that it is possible that due to a high band average on a series of trips, a region might accumulate a greater surplus than is needed for its own activities.

The AGM therefore proposes that any annual increase to a region's funds of over £500 should be paid to national red rope, so that the money can be used to benefit the club as a whole.

This motion was referred to National Committee.

3. Motion re Regional Funding – London

Discussion ensued. As regional subsidies already exist under the Constitution. Action required is that Regional Treasurer submits a report to National Treasurer.

Vote taken: 9 For 12 against. **Motion defeated.**

4. Motion re MIS – London

That members receive MIS by email or by post every month. At present, 30% of the club members received MIS by email.

14 for 7 against. **Motion Carried. All members to receive a copy of MIS each month.**

5. Motion: From National Committee

Whereas: The post of Conservation and Access have been vacant for a few years and with the limited capacity of members to cover the work of all posts it could be a choice of finishing the post or amalgamating it with the most appropriate one. The Role of Ramblers rep links sensibly with Conservation and Access and as an affiliated organization we can rely on the Ramblers to do our Conservation and Access campaigning work by proxy.

Be it resolved that: That the posts of Ramblers Rep and Conservation and Access rep be combined as Ramblers and Campaigns. **Motion Carried unanimously**

6. Motion: From National Committee (John Dickie)

As a means of introducing potential new members to the club, Be it resolved that: Potential members on their first trip can pay Band E (accommodation and transport), no matter what their income, with no 20% non-member surcharge. They can if they prefer pay their proper band, plus the 20% non-member surcharge). All subsequent trips would be charged at the appropriate band according to normal rules.

Motion Carried unanimously

7. Motion – From Humphrey Southall

This AGM wishes to keep the system of a set rate of per person per mile payment for transport, linked to the scale of transport charges paid by members, promoting environmentally efficient trip transport and providing a basis for systematic use of public transport. It calls on the National Committee to improve the current system by:

(a) systematically linking the system of mileage payments and travel charges to the cost of

fuel. The new system should enable the national trip treasurer to regularly revise the payments and charges in periods of rapid changes using average prices as published, for example, by the Automobile Association.

(b) Providing that car drivers, when their car is needed by the trip and requested by the trip organiser, should normally be paid at the rate for three persons, whether there are two, three or four persons in the car. The same rate can also be paid to a member travelling by themselves to a rendezvous or from a drop-off point but ONLY if the car is absolutely essential to the trip and would not otherwise be available; the trip organiser should consult with national officers on this. Payment should still be per person where travel was not coordinated by the trip organiser, where the vehicle is particularly large and can carry more people, or where public transport is being used."

15 for

8. Motion re Transportation – proposed by Andy Bateman

AB: RR needs to fairly refund drivers for money spent on transportation by amending the present system to reflect this. At the present time, drivers do not get back what is spent on travelling to RR trips.

8 For.

It was therefore agreed to refer this to National committee and to ensure that at November meeting all trip rates and treasurers forms be amended.

9. From Bristol/SW Red Rope (presented by Julian Noble)

Red Rope should encourage the use of public transport for both day walks and trips. Though car shares are encouraged they may not be that environmentally satisfactory, and with

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reducing oil availability alternative strategies should be sought. Consideration in organising transport for trips and day walks should be given to conserving resources rather than just too reducing expenditure. It is noted that the Trip organisers pack makes no mention of actual process for using public > transport and completing related trip accounts. As a bare minimum it is > proposed that this omission in advice to trip treasurers is rectified, and consideration should be given to stating a clearer policy that actually encourages sensible use of public transport. Regions are encouraged to run trial trips by public transport to carefully chosen locations. **Motion carried unanimously**

10. Motion: From London Region Proposer Hugh Wallis, Seconder Val Gorbould

Background

There's been much discussion recently around transport to and from Red Rope trips. The motion below attempts to address various concerns by modifying and clarifying our policy. In particular it attempts to:

* Provide a sensible framework for the use of cars and public transport, including the need to

book train tickets early to get cheap fares.

* End the anomalies caused by the circumstances in which people "opt out" of group transport and hence can be cheaper for those on high bands to go on other regions' trips than their own or "be in the area anyway".

* Ensure participants don't receive more in travel expenses than their costs.

* Reduce payments to car owners for more than 3 passengers (this is not suggesting payments in general don't need increasing). Unfortunately the need to cater for all circumstances makes the wording complex. No doubt there should still be some flexibility in its application. The proposals are written for application to regional trips, but could be adapted to work for national trips.

Proposals

As a first step, it should be agreed between the participants and the Trip Organiser which category individuals should be in:

- 1) Bringing a car to transport others.
- 2) Bringing a car but only to transport others for local travel during the trip (e.g. if coming from another region).
- 3) Wanting a lift in a car.
- 4) Travelling independently (e.g. by train).

The Trip Organiser should also estimate a standard Home Mileage, which would typically be from the centre of the region to the trip location. For those travelling in a car (categories 1 & 3), payment is simply based on their Band rate multiplied by the standard Home Mileage (even if coming from another region). If a car owner transports people a greater distance (e.g. from a far away region), they would need to agree any extra charges with the individuals. For those travelling independently (category 4), the mileage rate is net of the Band E rate (e.g. the Band H rate would currently be 11p-6p = 5p per mile). People above Band E should pay in based on this standard Home Mileage (even if coming from another region). Those below Band E would receive a rebate, based on their banding and their actual mileage up to a maximum of the Home Mileage (e.g. the Band A rate would be 3p-6p per mile; i.e. a rebate of 3p) only to the extent that they have spent money (e.g. a person that hitches and doesn't have any travelling expenses would not receive a rebate). Where people are picked up part way (including from a local station), a combination of the above methods are used. Where this necessitates a special car trip, the round trip mileage should be used. Those bringing their car without any other passengers and hence only to be used for local travel (category 2) and below Band E, would receive a rebate based on a rate net of the Band E rate and their actual mileage up to a maximum of the Home Mileage. Those of Band E and above and travelling by themselves in their own car would be excluded from transport costs. A pool car owner (category 1) would be reimbursed for the number of passengers (including the driver), multiplied by the Band E rate and actual mileage up to a maximum of the Home Mileage. Each passenger greater than 3 would count as half a passenger (e.g. 5 passengers would be reimbursed for 4).

This motion was remitted back to the proposers.

Thanks to Dave Jeffries and Humphrey Southall for all their hard work on the National Committee over the last few years.

Special Thanks to Gill Cox for registration work at this AGM and particularly for the supper.

Meeting concluded at 7:10pm.

TYPED: OCTOBER 7 2008

Revised: 15 October 2008

Revised: 17 October 2008

Revised 21 October 2008

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