

**Red Rope:
Minutes of NC Meeting
Quaker Meeting House, 16 Queens Road, Leicester, LE2 1WP
Saturday 27th June 2015**

Present: Dermot Mckibbin (Training), Sherry Macliver (National Treasurer), Adrian Jones (Nat. Sec.), Janet Saunders (Publicity), Don Kinnibrough (Ramblers & Campaigns officer), Phil Smith (Bristol/South-West Regional Rep), John Dickie (Nat Trips);

Item No	Minutes	Action
1	Welcome, Introductions and appoint minutes taker Chair –John Dickie/Dermot Minutes - Adrian	
2	Apologies for Absence Steve Wright (Membership Sec.), Dave Doody (IT Officer), Rebecca Bates, Dave Symonds (Bulletin); Chris Drinkwater (BMC Rep); Barbara Segal (Hut)	
3	Minutes of last NC meeting 28th February 2015 London The minutes of the last NC meeting were accepted	
4	Matters Arising from previous minutes (unless on this Agenda) None	
5	Reports from officers:	
5a	National Secretary Adrian J See below AGM 2015	
5b	National Treasurer (admin) Sherry Mc Circulated accounts to June 2015; income £7257, of which £4084 is membership. Expenditure £7462, of which £4084 is affiliations. Budgeted income year 14/15 £8250, budgeted expenditure £8753. Funds – approx. £16,000	
5c	National Trips Treasurer John Dickie Trips so far this year were Feshiebridge in February which lost overall £14, mainly due to losing £ 54 on transport. Balgowan Easter overall surplus of £78, though transport lost £52. Arran lost £439 mostly through 4 empty beds and lowish banding, though transport made £55 surplus. Alex Mac in June lost £191, of which £91 was transport. No action needed at the moment except we need to be careful of 'over booking' beds we cannot cancel. National Trip Charges Proposed 5 band charges which are to be taken to the 2015 AGM were confirmed : P £8 Q £12 R £16 S £20 T £24 10% discount for early booking to be retained Subject to AGM agreement, to apply from 1 st January 2016	

	<p>Malcolm Doone has offered to run a workshop during the AGM weekend on the use of the rope for walkers in an emergency. Terry Ellis (who attended the March training) has also agreed to provide navigation training at the AGM weekend.</p> <p>Future</p> <p>³⁵₁₇ The training schemes are worthwhile though too dependent on the RR training officer for their organization. We should therefore encourage club members to be training course trip organizers and suggests RR pay 50% of the accommodation costs of anybody who is willing to organize a training course trip.NC agreed</p> <p>³⁵₁₇ There has been little interest in training from climbers.</p> <p>³⁵₁₇ We should consider having a training event at Clapham or elsewhere in order to attract members from a different part of the country.</p> <p>³⁵₁₇ The BMC are very helpful in supporting courses financially and we need to continue to take advantage of this.</p> <p>³⁵₁₇ The club should continue with the same level of financial support for training in the next financial year.</p> <p>³⁵₁₇ Will consult club members on the training policy by writing an article for the next bulletin, raising this issue at the AGM and via the website. Will report back to the next national committee about the result of the consultation.NC agreed</p> <p>³⁵₁₇ It would be useful to try to progress “capturing” training needs and experience on the membership form if at all possible.</p> <p>Proposes that we do not continue to buy the navigation book for subsequent Mountain Skills course participants.</p>	Dermot
5j	<p>BMC Chris Drinkwater No report Sherry now sits on the BMC Clubs Committee ; recently attended the BMC AGM and the Clubs Seminar.</p>	
5k	<p>Publicity. Janet No action since last meeting</p>	
5l	<p>Ramblers / Campaigns Report Don K Ramblers AGM March 28th - 29th, Robinson College, Cambridge Adrian and Don attended this event, Adrian for the Saturday, Don for Saturday and Sunday. As usual, with our stall, as it has been for the last six years. However, rather less interest shown this time, and fewer Red Rope leaflets and bulletins were taken than usual.</p> <p>Governance motions This year the most important items on the agenda did not concern access and countryside issues. Of the three such motions (on fracking, rail crossings and danger from cycles) two were not even debated for lack of time. The big issue which took up so much time was an internal one: the future governance of the Ramblers. The main change proposed was to introduce the principle of 'one member, one vote' to the election of the Board of Trustees. In future, if these motions had been passed, the nine</p>	

	<p>members of this now elected by General Council (the AGM) would be elected by a postal ballot of the 108,000 Ramblers' members instead. At first sight this change would seem to be unobjectionable, however it would only apply to Ramblers members. While these would have one vote each, the national affiliated organisations (including Red Rope) would have just one vote for the whole organisation, regardless of the size of membership. Thus while the Ramblers membership could potentially cast 108,000 votes, Red Rope with 300 members would have just one vote. In the event the proposed constitutional changes received so much opposition from the Ramblers own delegates that they were withdrawn without a vote. The opposition was partly on grounds of cost.</p> <p>Conclusion Since the purpose of withdrawing these proposals was presumably to reintroduce them next year, a letter should be sent to the Ramblers' on behalf of NC to point out our objections to this year's proposals, and to ask to be consulted beforehand next time; NC agreed to this, Don to draft for next NC</p> <p>Pathwatch On July 13th the Ramblers are starting a national survey of the state of England's paths, walking local paths and reporting on their state. It involves registering on the Ramblers website, selecting a square kilometre from the 1:25000 OS map, downloading a smartphone app for recording and transmitting the results, walking all the paths in that square and reporting on their condition via the app. This would hopefully not only provide a statistically accurate record of the state of the nation's paths but also bring publicity and new members to the Ramblers. This may be of interest to Red Rope regions and members. (Don to write something for the bulletin.)</p> <p>Don wishes to stand down at the AGM from this post. Will canvas potential successors.</p>	<p>Don</p> <p>Don</p>
5 m	<p>Gear Coordinator Adrian O'C No report</p>	
50	<p>Regional Reps On behalf of Bristol / SW Phil raise the issue of advertising Red Rope and attracting new members. Presented a poster recently created in attempt to attract climbers to Red Rope Bristol & SW. NC received favourably, but suggested add 'walking' and 'socialist' to the title.</p>	
6	<p>Web Development Committee The 'login' issue worked out, but the web team Steve and Janet thought it best to go ahead with access to all, as in the existing site, in the interests of speed. NC agreed continue and open the website Some changes have been made to menus to make the site work well on tablet and mobile. The long regions menu had to become a footer menu - in order to make this site work well on tablet and mobile. All the regional pages now have something on them. Images to be inserted onto the home page - not yet actioned. Currently sorting out the Members page of minutes and bulletins, limited archive online to 5 years, and everything else be stored in our Yahoo files.</p>	<p>Web team/ Janet</p>

	<p>Porting info from the existing site underway, eg the recipes page and the links page. Hosting company to be 'ecohosting', £30/year See http://redrope.nicenewwebsite.com for current status</p>	
7	<p>LMC /Hut. Barbara Segal Meeting with LMC Sherry, Pete Kos, Barbara met with LMC in March. LMC was represented by Richard Toon, John Toon, Nigel Lyle and Roger Gott. It was a friendly and productive meeting and were able to resolve all outstanding issues. Also worked through the Hut Sharing Agreement and agreed changes which have subsequently been incorporated.</p> <p>Beddgelert Hut The Bristol/SW Easter trip to Cae Ysgubor went ahead with 9 people. The hut is extremely comfortable and well-equipped. The lack of a separate lounge could make it less than ideal if filled to capacity (19/20 people) but the kitchen is large, with comfortable dining chairs, it should be fine for around 12-15 people.</p> <p>Weekend bookings at the Huts In April Barbara emailed the contacts for the four regions which had organised the most trips in the past few years, offering them a weekend booking at one of the LMC huts this year. Only London sent an acknowledgement (not Scotland East, Manchester or Merseyside). Merseyside has subsequently requested a booking in October, which will go ahead.</p> <p>Information for members Also in April sent detailed instructions about group and individual bookings to all regional contacts, and Dave put a copy on the club website and will advise Mark to update MIS to suite. Also put a short piece in the Bulletin pointing members to the web-site.</p> <p>Issue of key fobs to individuals Six members have been issued with key fobs and two more are in the pipeline. Richard Toon, who sets these up, is away a lot and it took over a month (and a couple of follow-up emails) to get the first batch. At the meeting we agreed that a month's notice was reasonable, but Richard's frequent trips mean that it could take longer, so members need to apply well in advance of their first stay. Once people have their own keys, they can use the hut at will (subject to checking availability online and letting Barbara know). Richard would like a copy of the RR membership list, with full contact details, so that he can flag up members with keys rather than have to type in the details. Data protection, we cannot hand this over without the membership agreement - NC Decision - AGM Motion required to seek membership agreement; Barbara to draft.</p> <p>Group bookings 2016</p>	Barbara

	Weekend bookings are to be agreed at the hut AGM (in October) and has asked (in the document on booking) for regions to put in bids by the AGM. Barbara to send a reminder to regional contacts in early July, then one in early September, also flag this up in the Bulletin.	Barbara
8	Trip accidents Sherry and Dermot still to meet to draft an accident procedure statement. Work in Progress.	Sherry, Dermot
9	Trip Organisers Pack John – to add to trip organisers pack : ³⁵ ₁₇ a statement on the dating to be used on trip payment cheques ³⁵ ₁₇ a short Code of Conduct for travel arrangements that trip organisers instructions are mandatory	John D
10	AGM 2015 25/27 September 2015. Gradbach Mill, Derbyshire. Booked the 'Farmhouse' only, (36 beds) plus camping. Booking form – on website. Entertainer Saturday night - Naomi Paul – has agreed Quiz – Dave Symonds (will liaise with Arthur; Arthur's expenses to be paid) Saturday walk – Don to lead Navigation training – Dermot to organise Link from Website AGM page to previous Bulletin (article on Gradbach) – Sherry to action via Dave Doody Gill Cox – has agreed to organise Saturday evening meal i/c evening meal food purchase; Sherry to prepare list for purchasing other foods, Dave Doody has found a supermarket (Coop) in Leek that will deliver. Article for Bulletin re AGM navigation training - Dermot In addition to inserting loose copies of the AGM Motions into the July Bulletin, this year will also include a copy of the AGM Booking Form – attempt to boost attendance at AGM NC Motions to AGM Revised 5 band Membership - Steve to Draft Revised 5 band trip Charges – John/Becky to draft Redrafted Constitution – Steve/Barbara Proposal LMC being given RR membership names, addresses, emails – Barbara to draft	
11	Club Discipline/Complaints Procedures NC to take forward a complaint against member Jeanie Sherwood, re her refusal to accept the role of the trip organiser on a recent Arran trip, membership lapsed well before the trip, and was rude to trip organiser. Becky was requested by the NC to carry this matter forward, review it impartially and if deemed appropriate, draft on behalf of the NC, a letter of complaint to her.	Becky
12	Constitution Update Steve and Barbara absent, so no update. NC asked Steve to draft an AGM Motion.	Steve

13	<p>Banding Revisions Proposals</p> <p>AGM 2015 Motion - Reduce the number of existing bands from eight to four and add a new upper band for higher earners. To avoid confusion the new bands will be designated 1 to 5. The proposed fee for band 5 has been kept below £50 as this is regarded as a psychological disincentive. Details as follows:</p> <p>1) As far as possible, base the income thresholds between bands on national income and tax parameters. In particular:-</p> <p>a. the threshold between band 4 and band 5 should be derived from the higher rate (40%) income tax level – in 2015, £42,385.</p> <p>b. the threshold between band 3 and band 4 should be derived from the median UK standard personal allowance for income tax – in 2015, £26,884.</p> <p>c. the threshold between band 1 and band 2 should be derived from the standard personal allowance for income tax – in 2015, £10,600.</p> <p>d. The threshold between band 2 and band 3 should be set to be somewhat lower than the midpoint between the upper income levels of bands 1 and 3.</p> <p>Taking account of income tax and national insurance deductions and converting to weekly and monthly figures, we are, therefore, proposing the following band and fee matrix:-</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="248 1144 1259 1379"> <thead> <tr> <th>Band</th> <th>1</th> <th>2</th> <th>3</th> <th>4</th> <th>5</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Income per week</td> <td>£0 – 180</td> <td>£181 – 275</td> <td>£276 – 400</td> <td>£401 – 615</td> <td>£616 +</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Income per month</td> <td>£0 – 780</td> <td>£781 – 1192</td> <td>£1193 – 1733</td> <td>£1734 – 2665</td> <td>£2666 +</td> </tr> <tr> <td>upper limit ratio to band 3</td> <td>45%</td> <td>69%</td> <td>100%</td> <td>154%</td> <td>n/a</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Annual fee</td> <td>£12</td> <td>£18</td> <td>£27</td> <td>£40</td> <td>£48</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ratio to band 3 fee</td> <td>44%</td> <td>67%</td> <td>100%</td> <td>148%</td> <td>178%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>2) No changes are proposed to the method used by members or prospective members to calculate their relevant income.</p> <p>3) Trip fees are to be calculated on the same 5 bands as proposed in 5c above.</p> <p>The proposed income bands and membership fees will kept under review by the National Committee and the results reported to the 2016 AGM.</p>	Band	1	2	3	4	5	Income per week	£0 – 180	£181 – 275	£276 – 400	£401 – 615	£616 +	Income per month	£0 – 780	£781 – 1192	£1193 – 1733	£1734 – 2665	£2666 +	upper limit ratio to band 3	45%	69%	100%	154%	n/a	Annual fee	£12	£18	£27	£40	£48	ratio to band 3 fee	44%	67%	100%	148%	178%	Steve/ Sherry
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14	<p>BMC Grant Applications</p> <p>£150 training grant received from the BMC</p>																																					
15	<p>Any other business.</p> <p>The club has £16,000 in its current account. NC proposed part of this be used to boost membership. Ideas wanted</p>	All																																				
16	<p>Next NC Meeting</p> <p>11am 28th November 2015 Bristol. Phil to book</p>	Phil																																				

