

Red Rope Annual General Meeting 25th September 2016

(1) Appoint Minute taker and Chair

Chair - Andy Bateman. Minutes - Adrian Jones.

(2) Present:

Adrian Jones	Malcolm Donne	Sherry Macliver	Hugh Wallis
Andy Bateman	David Doody	Jon Marsden	Rob Steel
Rebekah Bates	Nigel Green	Janet Saunders	Linda Goss
Angela Benham	Titch Kavanagh	Barbara Segal	Peter Watson
Olya Bowers	Don Kinnibrugh	HumphreySouthall	Miriam Beeks
John Dickie	Dermot McKibbin	David Symonds	Trudi Warner

(3) Apologies for absence

Sarah Bates, Steve Wright

(4) Matters Arising from 2015 Minutes

None. The Minutes of the 2015 AGM were formally approved.

(5) Officers' Reports:

National Secretary

Nothing specific to report.

Membership Secretary

Linda Goss noted that membership has risen since last AGM by 59, now 318, which is encouraging. Merseyside is the fastest growing. Northampton has no members so is closed.

Admin Treasurer

Overall the financial situation of the club is sound. Current account balance £13,800. Surplus of £918 on the financial year 2015-16. Income up from £7500 to £7900. The full effect of the banding changes on club finances will not be known for at least another 6 months as it has only been implemented since January this year. Marginal increase in affiliations this year (BMC) due to increase in membership.

The accounts for 2015-16 were formally accepted.

National Trips Secretary

There had been a successful programme this year (5 trips), and a full programme had been organized for next year 2017. All trips have organisers.

National Trips Treasurer

There had been a small loss on the overall programme over the last year of £58. National Trip account balance currently £2300.

John Dickie stood down as National Trips Treasurer at the meeting (Sherry Macliver to take up this post, see 'Officer Elections' below)

IT Officer

Dave Doody gave a short report. New website is running well and Dave is updating information on it on a routine and regular basis.

Ramblers/Campaigns

No report to AGM, post vacant. Humphrey Southall agreed to take up this post.

BMC Representative

Andy Bateman has been receiving material from the BMC and passing it on to relevant people in RR. No major activity reported.

Training Officer

Dermot circulated a written report.

Has continued to circulate information about BMC training courses for BMC affiliated clubs (see www.thebmc.co.uk/club-training-courses-2016) and for the Mountaineering Council of Scotland. All club members are entitled to receive a training grant to help pay towards the cost of these courses. Nobody has taken up this offer so far.

Has written up about training opportunities in various RR Bulletins but has had little feedback if any from club members .

A trainer was organized to run a navigation course for Merseyside Red Rope in May 2016. The feedback was positive. The bulk of the cost was borne by the club centrally and individual members paid a banded contribution towards the cost of the course. All participants had to give a written undertaking to cascade the acquired skills to RR. A trainer was also provided for one day of training on winter skills for the national trip in 2017; obtained a financial contribution from the BMC.

In discussion with Scotland Red Rope to provide a trainer for navigation training to be held some time in 2017. Scotland Red Rope has undertaken a skills audit of the training that their members want. This appears to be a useful exercise and will be exploring this further.

One RR member has attended the annual training novice club members week-end that is held at Plas -y-Brenin every May. The club paid this member £50 which was the actual cost of the training. In return this member has agreed to provide training at this year's AGM.

Feedback still required from climbers about their training needs.

There is more detailed information on the club website about the club's training policy.

MIS Editor

Mark had not sent a report, but issues have been coming out reliably and promptly. Thanks to Mark from the AGM for his work

Bulletin Editor

David felt it was running fairly smoothly. As always, the membership is encouraged to submit articles of interest. Deadline for submissions for the next issue of the Bulletin is the end of January 2017. The AGM thanked David for his work preparing the Bulletin.

Publicity

Website - This year most attention from Janet has gone on further tweaks to the website. We now have a carousel of images on Home Page, Bulletins on the site, more images generally and in the header, all regions have pages. We have set up some analytics on the website, so we can see how it's being viewed (e.g. 280 unique visitors in September). Our IT officer Dave Doody is doing all the routine stuff of posting onto our site. Several RR officers have been given rights to edit, but would like more people involved in looking after their region pages for example. The old Greynet site has now been closed.

Facebook site - Dave Doody looks after this, and Janet is also an administrator. Merseyside and London have been using it to put up photos of their walks, and it is a really quick way to advertise. There seem to be around 180 people using it. 195 people saw the AGM post put on there.

Handy Business Cards - The business cards continue to be useful. A supply has been sent to each regional organiser and some handed out at the meeting. To be used to give to friends, and anyone interested in Red Rope. They are cheap to produce so plenty are available to those who need them.

Leaflets, Posters and Banners - There haven't been any new developments on leaflets or posters this year. Some may still be available. Janet trying to keep a tab on where they are.

Advertising - There are plans to advertise via Green World initially. We can do some things with leaflets and online, but the key person in recruitment is really – RR Members, so tell your friends, ask them out on a walk and get the word out.

RR T Shirts - AGM attendees were asked to vote for one of 5 RR T shirt designs. There was a clear majority for one design featuring a mountain silhouette. These will be available in November.

Hut Booker

Individual bed night bookings are increasing as the membership gradually becomes aware of the quality of Cae Ysgubor hut. More interest has recently also been shown from the regions in regards to weekend trip bids. A reminder that Blea Tarn is also available for booking. Hut Committee to attend a routine liaison meeting with the LMC in November

Vote of thanks

The meeting formally thanked all the officers for their work over the last year.

(6) Election of Officers for the year 2016-2017

The following are willing to continue and was agreed by the meeting:

³⁵ / ₁₇ National Secretary:	Adrian Jones
³⁵ / ₁₇ Admin Treasurer:	Sherry Macliver
³⁵ / ₁₇ National Trips Secretary	Becky Bates
³⁵ / ₁₇ IT officer	Dave Doody
³⁵ / ₁₇ Training Officer	Dermot McKibbin
³⁵ / ₁₇ MIS editor	Mark Wallis
³⁵ / ₁₇ Bulletin editor	David Symonds
³⁵ / ₁₇ Publicity	Janet Saunders
³⁵ / ₁₇ Membership Secretary	Linda Goss
³⁵ / ₁₇ BMC representative	Andy Bateman

Newly elected

³⁵ / ₁₇ National Trips Treasurer -	Sherry Macliver
³⁵ / ₁₇ Ramblers/Campaigns Rep –	Humphrey Southall

Posts becoming vacant:

³⁵ / ₁₇ LMC Hut Booker –	Barbara Segal would like to stand down when a replacement comes forward, but will continue for the time being
³⁵ / ₁₇ Admin Treasurer -	Sherry Macliver will stand down when a replacement comes forward; will provide a 12 month handover to the successor due to the complexity of this task

(7) Motions

None this year

(8) Discussion Items

Trip Safety – discussion about the accident on the February Trip and the subsequent decision to review Trip safety. The June NC agreed some changes and revisions to the trip safety procedures and route card and these are now available on the website. Winter Skills training has been organised for the February 2017 trip.

Publicity – the BMC website needs to show RR more clearly. It was pointed out that the BMC do propose that each BMC affiliated club will eventually have a dedicated page on their website (BMC work in progress)

Some brief discussion on others ways of promotion of RR; leaflets don't seem to have been very successful, neither has the RR stand at the Ramblers AGM which has not generated any new members as far as can be ascertained

Meeting closed circa 11.00 am