Minutes of Red Rope NC Meeting, 6 June 2020
(Held via Zoom)

Present: Becky, Jon, Steve, Humphrey, Janet, David S, Dave D, Stuart, Barbara, Mark R (for first part)
Apologies: Gill, Adrian (who had difficulty accessing the meeting!).

1. 2020 AGM. It was agreed that this would be held via Zoom on Saturday, 3 October. Only essential business would be covered, with all materials circulated to members in advance. Members to be encouraged to defer any non-urgent motions or discussion of broader issues until the national get-together in April (see Items 2 & 3). The length of the meeting could therefore be kept to a minimum – say a max of 1 hour.

Actions: Barbara to draft something for membership about this.

2. 2021 National gathering/AGM. It was agreed that the provisional booking in Hathersage for the weekend of 23 – 25 April, would go ahead, subject to the possibility of cancellation/postponement in the event of relevant government restrictions due to Covid-19. David to investigate. Members not wishing to sleep in shared accommodation might be able to camp at North Lees campsite. Given the absence of activities on offer to members this year, it was agreed that the club would be prepared to take a financial hit on this event if necessary. Subject to changes in Item 3, this get-together could incorporate the 2021 AGM.

Actions: David to contact Hathersage ***[already done]***

3. Moving of the club's financial year. Given the timing of major incoming & outgoing payments, Humphrey proposed that it would make sense to move the club's financial year to match the calendar year. As this is laid down in our constitution the change would need to be approved by an AGM. This could be done at the October meeting, enabling the 2021 AGM to be held at the Hathersage gathering***. [Editor's note: other minor changes would be needed to the constitution, eg change of window for AGM to end of June and interim terms of office for post-holders.]***

4. Use of Meetup for recruitment of members. Janet had circulated a report on a RR Meetup Group set up by Coventry/Warks region. There had been a good response (75 people) and a walk had been arranged with the first 10 to sign up. This could not take place due to the lockdown, but would be pursued when possible. Meetup charges for the service – around £23 per month – and a brief discussion ensued as to whether those joining walks through Meetup could be charged.

Actions: Janet to report back on first walk with Meetup participants

5. Post-lockdown trips. Becky had elicited the views of members booked onto the October trip, which showed that most had some reservations. Use of huts will be subject to BMC advice and risk assessments carried out by hut-owning clubs. Camping might provide an alternative for our trips, but transport could be problematic if members are uneasy about travelling in shared cars, or by public transport. ***[Additional information from Becky: February trip is attracting a lot of interest]***

6. Automatic renewal of membership. David raised this possibility, which would ensure greater continuity of membership and save work for the membership secretary. Agreed that this would be a good idea. Humphrey to investigate, though our banding system – and therefore the number of options available on the membership form - is likely to make this a bit messy.

Actions: Humphrey to look into automatic renewal of membership via WebCollect

7. Membership. Gill had circulated a membership report. We have over 270 members, which is a decline of around 50 on 2019. The banding distribution looks about right, with the largest number of members on the 'break-even' band 3 and the average band marginally below 3.

Barbara, June 2020