Red Rope National Committee Meeting by Zoom, 8pm Tuesday 26 January 2021

MINUTES

Present: Adrian Jones (AJ), Becky Bates (BB), David Doody (DD), David Symonds (DS), Humphrey Southall (HS) (chair), Janet Saunders (JS), Jon Marsden (JM), Sarah Bates (SB), Steve Wright (SW) (minutes). Robert Manby joined later in the evening.

Apologies: Barbara Segal (BS), Gill Platt (GP)

Item		Action By
1	**Access to club info for those who have not renewed** *"Our concern is that if people don't renew soon they may not do so, even when the situation improves, which could put the future of the club in jeopardy. It had been suggested that national and local lists should not be purged for some time but that regions check whether people taking part in activities are current members."* Note from Membership Secretary in agenda *"Of the 298 listed on the database 183 members have renewed, 13 are still awaiting payment (3 of which are taking longer than usual to clear), 19 are not renewing. This leaves 83 members still to renew."* ***Gill P*** At time of NC: 198 members have re-joined or are in progress – approx. 80% of 2020 DS noted Merseyside's experience with non-members on local list – advised them all that non-members would be removed; several non-members then joined HS noted London's membership list – most non-renewals not known by HS. Believed to be casual day walkers. Expects many to return and join club when regular activities re-start. It was suggested that Membership Secretary circulate list of people who haven't renewed to regions. However JS advised that Gill Platt had done this already. This had encouraged some to re-join. Later renewal letter generated a few more re-joins. **Action:** Agreed to do nothing until activities restart. Then send final reminders for 2021 – probably after Easter	GP
2	**Hathersage Weekend** Agreed to delay until early September. 2021 AGM will therefore have to held by Zoom (see item 8 below) so as to be before June 30. **Action:** Contact venue to advise of postponement and find out availability in September *(Post-meeting note: Venue has agreed to postpone booking until Sept. 10-12)*	DS
3	**Major Payments** Treasurer (HS) would like a second person to authorise online major payments.	

	"This is to ensure clarity in potentially muddled situations, where there is some dispute about whether a payment should be made. This only works if the authoriser is familiar with NC discussions." SW offered to be an authoriser and also advised that in the West Midlands two local committee members had been allowed to be online authorisers. He suggested that national account should have more than one also. His offer was accepted. **Actions:** 1) Treasurer to forward details to SW 2) Confirm with Co-op Bank that more than one authoriser allowed for national account	HS SW
4	**Postponed National Trips** *"1. Feb week - accommodation cancelled by the organisation with credit. Feb trip regulars have been asked for preferred dates for next winter. To be confirmed soon."* Awaiting replies from members *"2. Easter - Lowstern hut unlikely to be fully open in early April. July or August suggested as alternative"* Meeting decided on August. *"3. Trips in May booked likely to be too early for vaccinations to have impact on likely trip members. Suggested moving to June."* No decision yet *"4. Postponed date for Hathersage OK but should consider possibility of moving to July/August to avoid clashes with dates above."* Meeting decided to keep to September date for Hathersage meet *"5. Short notice trips: Unlikely before April but will go ahead as planned asap."* Cae Ysgubor one likely venue for this. **Actions:** Advise NC on preferred winter 2021 date(s). Re-book Lowstern for August 2021. Keep under review alternative dates for May trips planned and for introducing short notice trips.	BB
5	**LMC Hut Keys** Members who have not re-newed with hut keys to be asked to return those keys to LMC early in March. Note: This may encourage some to re-join.	BS
6	**Sharing ideas for local walks** Merseyside has encouraged members to share ideas for local walks for pairs. Bristol/SW has an idea to promote sharing a 'walk of the week' similarly. West Midlands had regular programme between lockdown but are doing nothing at present. Will raise issue of maintaining contact with members at local meeting on Friday *(Addition: At the end of their pre-Christmas walk they held an out-of-doors social, socially distanced, around a fire-pit where each of the 6 members eat/drank their own food/drink and read short poems or prose – in the rain!)*	SW

	Leicester are holding Zoom 'Pub Meetings' where each participant supplies their own drink and snacks. London held 1 day walk in December	
7	**Number of emails sent to the NC list** *"Limited group of interested officers have been discussing renewals recently. This has seemed to make sense rather than contacting all officers and regional reps."* BS is uneasy excluding members of the NC and proposed that the initiator of a discussion should advise whole NC of topic, give 1 week to respond, then restrict further email discussion to those showing interest. Meeting decided that this process was appropriate but that any conclusions should be recommendations, not decisions, for whole NC to agree. **Action:** This process to be adopted for all policy and procedural discussions outside official NC meetings. JS had proposed use of Dropbox for sharing and storing information. Meeting decided that Dropbox not favoured. It was suggested that our existing website could be a better repository for documents **Action:** Investigate suitability of website for storing documents with limited access (for instance by password)	All JS
8	**AGM 2021** Already decided that this would be by Zoom. Decided that AGM will be held on April 24th starting at 5 pm National Secretary (DS) has decided to remain until AGM 2022 so as to avoid difficulties with lockdowns and social distancing expected through 2021. However he recommended that the club should adopt a more formal approach to selecting this post and other officers, involving nominations in advance of the AGMs, possibly with personal statements and view of the role in question.	All to note All to note
9	**Any Other Business** BS proposed sending a donation of £50 to Rise-up who are a non-profit organisation and are hosting several of our lists Meeting agreed to make this donation **Action:** Send donation of £50	HS
10	**Date & Time of Next Meeting (by Zoom)** **7 pm Monday, March 22nd** John Dickie to be approached to host meeting as he holds a paid-for account enabling Zoom meetings to be held longer than 40 minutes sections. *(Post meeting note: John has agreed to do this- subject to being reminded nearer to the date of the meeting)*	All BB *SW*