Red Rope National Committee Minutes

Meeting 3pm 5th November 2023
(zoom meeting – thanks to Sue for organising this)

Present: Pete Watson; Sue Whittle; Steve Wright; Janet Saunders; David Symonds; Humphrey Southall; Hugh Wallis; Jon Marsden; Barbara Segal; Peter Billington; Gill Platt; Sarah Bates

Apologies: Becky Bates, Dave Doody, John Dickie

Agenda

1. Appointing of Chair for meeting and Minutes Taker

Chair – Pete Watson 1st Half, Jon Marsden 2nd Half
Minutes – Janet Saunders

2. Welcome, Introductions
3. Apologies for Absence (see above)

4. Minutes of previous meeting – Accepted
5. Matters Arising (unless on this Agenda) - None
6. Action points - Steve Wright
7. Training - Pete Watson/Becky Bates
8. National Gathering (charges and events) - Gill Platt

Break

9. Vulnerable adults on trips - Pete Watson
10. Membership cards - Gill Platt
11. Trip transport - Becky Bates
12. Red Web - Becky Bates
13. Future NC meetings/ AGM - Pete Watson
14. Any Other Business

Minutes

		Action
Item 4	**Minutes from previous meeting**	
	Have been circulated, are on website and no objections raised	none
Item 5	**Matters Arising - none**	None
Item 6	**Action points** – Steve Wright had pre-circulated a list.	
	1. New Members months – to follow up in January, Dave Symonds reported that Merseyside had done an event/walk with a history focus, which had a good turnout but all from established members plus one other. Barbara said a May walking festival would work for Bristol	Pete W to follow up with regions
	2. Policy on Covid on Website, Steve is putting it into the policy document, very small differences. (Correct version is on website, arrived at after email discussion in July. Steve to check minutes and website and align the policy document.)	Steve W
	3. Trip pack – check it for mentioning Covid, Forward TOP to NC members (JS)	Janet S

	4. Bank Account is all sorted for access EXCEPTING Barbara who has no access and Humphrey is to follow up – Thanks to all parties involved.	Humphrey
Item 7	**Training** Pete read out the suggestions drawn from an email forwarded by Peter Billington https://www.thebmc.co.uk/training-essentials BMC Courses: • Introduction to navigation and safety on the hills • Next Steps navigation including poor weather navigation • Introduction to scrambling – no rope • Next Steps scrambling – with rope (£60) • How to train novices in winter skills (PYB) £85 Except for the two latter courses, these are all one-day courses @ £50 for BMC members. NC decided details to be forwarded onto members, if anyone wanted to book, the club should pay fees, plus cost of travel at Band 1 only, suggested by Humphrey as club treasurer. Not covering accommodation. Plus club could investigate a route-planning workshop at a trip, e.g. scrambling – Sarah added that there had been no interest in scrambling when floated for one of the Longthwaite trips. The BMC also mentioned their partners Active Partnerships, in each county of England, who may be able to suggest courses, First Aid was among these. E.g. half day First Aid £45 *Pete proposed that members should be able to access these £45 First Aid courses booked through Active Partnerships, i.e. treated the same as the directly provided BMC courses relating to help with the cost and a travel subsidy.* **Point of Information** Steve pointed out that Outdoor First Aid was quite specialised and required more than a half-day – other providers might be better for this. Some BMC (or PYB) courses are 2 days long but come in more expensive (e.g., £160 plus). Proposal **A – we cover fees for everyone wanting to access a PYB or Active Partnership course, up to £60 max, we pay travel cost for Band 1 only. and half band 2. (8 votes)** B - Or banded for fees – 2 votes only Vote: Proposal A CARRIED All courses to be subsidised as in 'Option A' above To be publicised via WebCollect email	Pete W to publicise specifically via All members email PLUS MIS (JM) and potentially Training page on web (JS)
	Pete Watson suggested further discussion at Trips meeting.	Pete W, Becky, Sarah

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<tr><td></td><td>For advertising these training options, Humphrey suggests that we should make more use of all member emails – this would be a good candidate, better than MIS, which isn't always read unless people are into Trips.</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>Item 8</td><td>National Gathering
Pete Watson read out Gill Platt's figures proposal (as emailed).
Humphrey pointed out the last NG lost £600 which is a lot.
But agreed we should subsidise new members.

Proposal – ordinary rates 12/ 18/ 24/ 30/ 36 per night – half that for new members – who joined in last 2 years.
Suggestions waive EBD, not applying.

Votes on each element
Charges per night 1.5 (3) 1.2 (8), So 1.2 CARRIED

Discount new members – proposal is 50% / one third off or 20%
One third off - CARRIED

EBD to be applied - CARRIED.

Sums rounded to nearest £1

New members can get the one-third discount or the EBD but not both.

Steve's calculations following the meeting (rounded) for the AGM rates (all shown as full cost for 2 nights):

<table>
<tr><th>Band</th><th></th><th>x1.2</th><th>less 33%</th><th>less 10%</th></tr>
<tr><td>1</td><td></td><td>26.00</td><td>18.00</td><td>24.00</td></tr>
<tr><td>2</td><td></td><td>40.00</td><td>26.00</td><td>36.00</td></tr>
<tr><td>3</td><td></td><td>52.00</td><td>34.00</td><td>46.00</td></tr>
<tr><td>4</td><td></td><td>66.00</td><td>44.00</td><td>60.00</td></tr>
<tr><td>5</td><td></td><td>80.00</td><td>54.00</td><td>72.00</td></tr>
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</td><td>Steve W to draw up charges. DONE
Gill to implement on form</td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>CLARIFICATION
In the week following the meeting it was pointed out that the rate's read out to the meeting were already higher than the normal nightly rate and had been calculated to avoid a large loss.
Steve recalculated the figures based on 1.2 nightly rate.
It was pointed out by Gill that these rates would likely result in a £700 loss at least, possibly £950.

Hugh pointed out that getting more people to fill the accommodation would avoid such a large loss. So the conclusion is to put greater effort into getting people to attend.

Hugh to liaise with Gill about best method for taking payments.

Principles:
10% for EBD
No double discount for early-booking new members (they are getting 33%)
New member discount available up to the trip beginning (assuming places available), i.e. not the same as the EBD</td><td></td></tr>
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	Break – Peter B had to leave the meeting and gave apologies	
Item 9	**Vulnerable Adults on Trips** Pete Watson had sent notes round regarding this suggesting that age related decline could be an issue in the club. Physical limitations were easier to understand, but if people have cognitive challenges, they may be less well equipped to judge what they can do. Principles of Mental Capacity Act relevant here. Re. people who have difficulty making decisions. We should support people to make informed decisions by ensuring they understand the details of a walk or trip activities. This was preferred to simply 'banning' people. This is about explaining risks etc. Thinking about making it a safe day for that particular person. Concept of chaperoning might be relevant. Humphrey – this could present difficulties for trip organisers, and others on trips. Dave Symonds raised point of people going out alone, in this position. There is a danger of someone going out alone and getting lost or having an accident. Sue – this has also been discussed in the Rucksack club, it is important to talk to the individual about their capacities, but people over-estimate their abilities. Trip Organiser is not a leader and is not responsible. The difficulty is when people do not realise their capacity. Sue suggests having someone in the organisation who is responsible and has some understanding – someone to refer to, or it could be enquired through the region. Agreed the Club needs some word written / Guidelines around this. It is on the agenda for the Trips Group meeting. NatSec has someone in mind to be an advisor. Pete Watson to follow up.	Pete Watson to follow up to look for a person with experience of these matters.
Item 10	**Membership cards** Following Janet's detailed report, it was Agreed to print cards, if considered necessary. The point was made that we could just use email, particularly for the England/Wales members, who can use BMC card. This would save time and stationery/postage costs Leave with J and G to action/ discuss.	Janet & Gill
Item 11	**Trip Transport** This was mentioned in Trip Secretarys' report. There is to be a review of the trial to consider what worked well and any issues. Anyone who wants to contribute should go to the Trips group zoom meeting in January.	Trips Secs & Group
Item 12	**Red Web** Sarah explained this is an idea Becky had – a personal noticeboard for private trips (or sale of gear) to go into MIS.	Becky

	Barbara expressed concern that it could become commercial, i.e., people selling items or advertising commercial goods/services etc. Sue suggested that WhatsApp is a good thing for this kind of noticeboard. Discussion about WhatsApp group of 300 being unwieldy. Janet advised the Website did not seem the best place for it, and Pete suggested that Facebook Members page could be. There was an inconclusive vote for putting it into MIS, NOT CARRIED. We will wait to hear from Becky at a later date.	
Item 13	**Future NC Meetings 2024** 27 Jan 2024. Birmingham face to face meeting 1pm. Steve W to book a venue Another Trips meeting – In Jan before the NC meeting. Sunday 13 April 2024 4pm – AGM on Zoom 15 May 2024 6.30 pm Zoom NC 11-14 Oct 2024 NC trip/ meeting at CY (Thurs night an option personal extra to avoid Friday travel issues.) CLARIFICATION This is an NC trip, there may be late notice places available to non-NC members. This trip has been booked for a national committee meeting. However if any member expresses an interest there may be places available nearer the time. Nov 2024 – NC meeting on zoom : Date TBA	Steve W to book venue. Sarah/Becky to ensure Trips group meet before that.
Item 14	**Any Other Business** None	

Meeting closed at around 5.30 pm.

Minutes : Janet Saunders