Red Rope National Committee Meeting

Thursday 15th May 2025 630pm

Present: Humphrey Southall, Pete Watson, Gill Platt, Sue Whittle, Hugh Wallis, Jon Marsden, Liddy Goyder, Barbara Segal, Debora Singer, Becky Bates, Damien Connor, Sarah Bates, Janet Saunders, David Symonds, Peter Billington, Janey Hewitt

No Apologies

It was agreed that **Humphrey** will chair, and **Pete** will take minutes.

1)Minutes of the previous meeting (January 2025)

2)Matters Arising and Action Points from January NC

1) **Gill and Humphrey's** work on a handbook remains WIP
2) **Janet** has appealed for IT help from members
3) **Sarah** has spoken to **Pete Clark** about using Bluesky and Mastodon. These however are not "equivalent" alternatives to Facebook. East Anglia have started to use Signal as an alternative to WhatsApp, and this could be used elsewhere.
4) **Jon/Janet** to check that safety article has been uploaded.
5) **Sue** to add safeguarding to Trips Information
6) **Hugh** reported that it was impractical to save basic information in Google trip forms for future use.
7) **Humphrey** reported that he has been in communication with BMC about their definition of unemployed and they define it as a person on JSA which is a very narrow definition. Humphrey will send an all-members email to enlist the support of members active in the BMC to raise this in that organisation.
8) **Steve** was not present at the meeting and was therefore unable to confirm any discussion with Howden's insurance.
9) **Hardship provision**. **Humphrey** reported that there is provision to assist members who struggle to pay membership charges. The club does not have a hardship fund, but the national committee can consider hardship cases. The question of hardship can be part of the discussion on banding and transport costs.
10) **Steve** has set up a group to consider amending our banding charges.
11) **Janet** has checked that the wording on the membership renewal letter and the website is the same.
12) **The Gathering - Gill** reported that she has sent out an all-members email. Jon is organising a treasure hunt. Volunteers needed to help with the Saturday meal. Gill can bring a quiz if required.

3)Club Code of Conduct

Introduced by Sue

Sue spoke in support of a draft set of guidelines which outlines unacceptable behaviour and a member's course of action if the code of conduct is breached.

Several amendments were considered by the meeting. No vote was taken on these amendments, but it was agreed that an amended version would be brought to the next NC before a final decision. Members can contact Sue with suggestions outside of the NC meeting.

It will be publicised on the website and in the handbook when complete.

4)Room Sharing on Trips

Introduced by Debbie

Debbie spoke to a paper produced by a few interested members that proposed some guidelines about room sharing on trips. Issues particularly relate to twin bedded or smaller rooms which are more typical now on trips. The paper considered how to allocate rooms based on a person's sex. It also covered room allocation for trans and non-binary people.

Differing views about the proposed policy were expressed.

It was agreed to refer the proposals back to Debbie and Becky to consider issues raised, "streamline" them and to bring back to the next NC.

It was agreed that the procedure be piloted for some trips to test its practicality.

5)Review of Membership Banding and Trip Finances

Introduced by Pete

It was agreed

1) To have two "working groups" to consider amending the current banded membership charges, and trip transport costs
2) **Dave Symonds** agreed to be the convenor of the Banding group**. Becky** will convene the trip transport policy discussion through the trips group.
3) **Pete** will advertise these groups in an all-members email and invite members to take part.

6)Review of the club AGM

Introduced by Dave.

Dave spoke to a paper he had circulated in which he hoped the AGM could be streamlined and made more attractive. Ideas included changing the agenda, meeting on a weeknight earlier in the year, and making the meeting more concise.

It was agreed to consider amendments to the Constitution at our F2F meeting at the CY hut in September. This may include a proposal to reduce the quorum which currently stands at 10% of the membership.

7)Future National Committees

Thursday 24th July 6.30 on Zoom

Friday 26th September – Monday 29th September at the CY hut, Beddgelert.

8)Any Other Business

Pete reported that he had a long-term illness and may not be able to maintain his level of activity as national secretary. He will review and seek help from Steve Wright, Assistant secretary, when necessary.

Humphrey and Hugh reported on the state of national finances and the need to guard against substantial losses.