

# Your details and opinions about Red Rope

## 1. Your name

Number of Respondents 115

## 2. Your Gender

	% of Respondents	Number of Respondents
M	59%	68
F	41%	47
Number of respondents		115

## 3. Your Red Rope Region

(If you don't know your Region, chose the region nearest to you)





	% of club responding	Number of Respondents	Number in region	% of region respond
Bristol & South West	17%	19	43	44%
Coventry & Warwickshire	4%	5	12	42%
Cumbria and Lancs	2%	2	4	50%
Leicester & Notts.	10%	11	22	50%
London	23%	26	92	28%
Manchester	9%	10	32	31%
Merseyside	9%	10	15	67%
North East England	1%	1	3	33%
Scotland East	6%	7	22	32%
Scotland West	1%	1	4	25%

Sheffield	16%	18	49	37%
West Midlands	3%	4	14	29%
West Yorkshire	2%	2	10	20%
<b>Number of respondents</b>		<b>115</b>	<b>323</b>	<b>36% Return</b>

<b>4. Your current age bracket</b>		% of Respondents	Number of Respondents
0 - 19		0%	0
20 -29		0%	0
30 -39		4%	4
40 - 49		27%	30
50 -59		49%	55
60 - 69		19%	21
70+		3%	3
<b>Number of respondents</b>			<b>113</b>

<b>5. I am a paid-up member of Red Rope</b>		% of Respondents	Number of Respondents
Y		97%	110
N		3%	3
<b>Number of respondents</b>			<b>113</b>

<b>6. I have been a Red Rope member for</b>		% of Respondents	Number of Respondents
Less than one year		7%	8

Less than three years but more than one year		11%	12
Less than seven years but more than three years		24%	27
Less than fifteen years but more than seven years		27%	31
More than fifteen years		31%	35
Number of respondents		113	

**7. I joined Red Rope because: (please indicate how far each reason applies to you)**

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Number of Respondents
I was/am a socialist or on the Left	52% (57)	34% (37)	9% (10)	0% (1)	2% (3)	108
I was/am a mountaineer	23% (20)	22% (19)	20% (18)	11% (10)	22% (19)	86
I was/am a climber	22% (18)	13% (11)	16% (13)	15% (12)	31% (25)	79
I was/am a hill walker	55% (57)	31% (32)	4% (5)	2% (3)	4% (5)	102
I was/am a walker	57% (56)	31% (31)	7% (7)	1% (1)	3% (3)	98
I had/have friends in Red Rope	46% (41)	24% (22)	12% (11)	7% (7)	8% (8)	89
Number of Respondents						109

**8. I joined for another reason. Please tell us briefly what it was:**

1	Re above the fact that Red Rope is a Socialist Club is fundamental to me
2	Good company
3	One of very few groups sharing food and transport
4	Active life and politics combined
5	Social empowerment/networking
6	I wanted to meet people and go hill-walking
7	To make good friends
8	Meet interesting people who shared similar values
9	I wanted to learn how to climb and after scouting around a few clubs decided that RR felt best for me.
10	Meeting like minded people

11	The range of weekend and national trips attracted me as the did the easy going nature of the club and mixture of non-experience and experienced members.
12	To be able to get out of London (had no car at time) To find others to climb with in particular and to learn to climb
13	Plus I was frustrated about not always being included in outdoor climbing trips organised by the small group of men I was doing indoor climbing with at the time. I saw Red Rope as giving me the opportunity to climb more outdoors. I was also impressed by the number of female climbers in Red Rope and their prominence in the organisational structure.
14	None of my friends like walking and so i wanted to join a club that went to more adventurous places rather than just rambles though local fields. I liked the idea of shared accommodation, meals etc and that it was no problem being a vegetarian. I reckoned that in a "socialist" group I was more likely to get on with everyone with a some common lifestyle values and wouldn't have to deal with any Young Conservatives... :)
15	community of likeminded people who share the love of nature and are politically more on the humanistic side
16	Friends in RR now, not when I joined!
17	I wanted to investigate the structure of Red Rope
18	As a single walker I joined so that I could meet and walk with other socialist walkers.
Number of Respondents	
18	

**9. In my opinion Red Rope is primarily (mark as many as you like)**

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Number of Respondents
A Socialist Club	31% (31)	51% (51)	15% (15)	1% (1)	2% (2)	100
A Mountaineering Club	21% (20)	53% (49)	11% (11)	13% (12)	0% (0)	92
A Climbing Club	25% (23)	54% (49)	11% (10)	7% (7)	1% (1)	90
A Hill Walking Club	46% (46)	50% (50)	3% (3)	1% (1)	0% (0)	100
A Walking Club	43% (43)	46% (46)	10% (10)	0% (0)	0% (0)	99
A Social Club	16% (15)	56% (53)	20% (19)	3% (3)	3% (3)	93
Something other than those	3% (1)	6% (2)	37% (11)	31% (9)	20% (6)	29
Number of Respondents						110

**10. If you think Red Rope is something other than those choices above, please indicate what you think it is:**

1	Did not take to the RA attitude locally; I found racial attitudes from right wing christians
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2	Just a nice bunch of people :-)
3	To get access to huts around Scotland (as Q8)
4	Accessible to prospective members
5	To learn to climb (as Q8)
6	To meet like-minded people (like Q8)
7	Social equality provider
8	a campaigning organisation
9	I think we should be moving towards a 'Red Green Rope' - on Merseyside we have Green Party members coming on trips. I feel the best hope for the better parts of the socialist movement is to join with the better parts of the green movement.
10	a great way to enjoy the outdoors with good company!
11	A dating agency
12	Harmonious and no inner struggles
13	I find the club to be like-minded people (though not in a politically correct or oppressive way) who love the outdoors and want to embrace it in whatever way their bodies and skills allow. It is also child-friendly and promotes skill-sharing. I love it, even though I haven't been on a trip in a year! But I will go soon (I promise myself!).

Number of Respondents

13

### 11. Here we ask about your attitudes to Red Rope's affiliations

Currently Red Rope is affiliated to:

The British Mountaineering Council [www.thebmc.co.uk](http://www.thebmc.co.uk)

The Mountaineering Council of Scotland [www.mcofs.org.uk](http://www.mcofs.org.uk)

The Ramblers' Association [www.ramblers.org.uk](http://www.ramblers.org.uk)

Unite Against Fascism (The Anti-Nazi League) [www.uaf.org.uk](http://www.uaf.org.uk)

The Open Spaces Society [www.oss.org.uk](http://www.oss.org.uk)

Do you believe it is correct for Red Rope to be affiliated to (answer each one)

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Number of Respondents
The British Mountaineering Council	56% (62)	31% (34)	10% (11)	1% (2)	0% (0)	109
The Mountaineering Council of Scotland	52% (56)	33% (36)	11% (12)	2% (3)	0% (0)	107

The Ramblers' Association	50% (55)	35% (38)	12% (14)	0% (1)	0% (0)	108
Unite Against Fascism (Anti-Nazi League)	29% (31)	33% (36)	24% (26)	8% (9)	3% (4)	106
The Open Spaces Society	33% (36)	41% (44)	22% (24)	0% (1)	0% (1)	106
Number of Respondents						110

# The Debate about the Club Hut

## 12. Please indicate your degree of agreement with the following statements that all relate to Red Rope having a Club Hut entirely of its own.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Number of Respondents
I like the idea of a Club Hut that is solely Red Rope's	19% (19)	20% (20)	21% (21)	16% (16)	24% (24)	100
I think we are perfectly capable of raising the money for a Club Hut on our own	5% (6)	3% (4)	27% (28)	26% (27)	36% (37)	102
I think we are perfectly capable of setting up a hut on our own	8% (8)	10% (10)	30% (30)	21% (21)	31% (31)	100
I think we are perfectly capable of looking after a club hut on our own	12% (12)	20% (20)	25% (25)	13% (13)	30% (30)	100
I do not think we have the skills and energy to set up a hut properly on our own	27% (27)	19% (19)	32% (32)	14% (14)	8% (8)	100
I think it is impractical to try and raise sufficient money to buy our own Club Hut	25% (26)	18% (19)	38% (39)	13% (14)	3% (4)	102
I do not think we can manage a building over the long run on our own	26% (26)	21% (21)	23% (23)	20% (20)	9% (9)	99
I think it is impractical to try and raise sufficient money to buy our own Club Hut	35% (35)	27% (27)	19% (19)	13% (13)	6% (6)	100
I don't think we should be involved in a Club Hut at all.	27% (27)	8% (8)	24% (24)	25% (25)	16% (16)	100
Number of Respondents						104

## 13. Please indicate your degree of agreement with the following statements that all relate to Red Rope sharing a Club Hut.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Number of Respondents
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I think that provided there are proper safeguards in the agreement, sharing a Club Hut with another club seems like a good idea	9% (10)	46% (49)	18% (19)	10% (11)	15% (16)	105
I think we would have the skills and energy to set up a Club Hut in partnership	6% (7)	37% (39)	27% (28)	11% (12)	16% (17)	103
I think that we would have the skills and energy to manage a building in partnership	7% (8)	33% (35)	30% (31)	11% (12)	16% (17)	103
I think it is a practical proposition to try to raise money for a part share in a hut	9% (10)	31% (33)	23% (24)	16% (17)	19% (20)	104
I think sharing a hut would be a bad idea	14% (15)	10% (11)	26% (28)	39% (41)	8% (9)	104
Number of Respondents						106

**14. There have been a number of suggestions over the years of other ways of ‘using’ the hut and access funds, for example, donating money to worthy related projects, such as the mountain bothy association, improvements to other clubs’ hut facilities in return for reduced rates, and so forth. These options are not the main subject of this survey, but please answer the questions below and add an extra comment if you wish.**

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Number of Respondents
I think that we should wind up the Hut fund	22% (22)	9% (9)	30% (29)	22% (22)	14% (14)	96
I think that we should wind up the Access fund	6% (6)	5% (5)	37% (36)	29% (28)	21% (20)	95
I think we should buy some ground to use as a club camp-site.	4% (4)	12% (12)	29% (28)	25% (24)	29% (28)	96
I think the hut fund should be used for some other hut related purpose (please tell us below)	8% (8)	15% (14)	43% (40)	25% (23)	6% (6)	91
I think the hut fund should be used for some other purpose not related to a hut (please tell us below)	13% (12)	15% (14)	29% (27)	28% (26)	13% (12)	91
Number of Respondents						98

**15. If you have something in mind please indicate it here.**

- 1 The Hut Fund should be renamed and reserved for a future project of benefit to the whole club.
- 2 We should put money toward conservation i.e. 'fixing the fells' or the Mountain Bothy Association
- 3 Possibly some money to Mountain Rescue teams; To support Members with Winter Skills training
- 4 Mountain Bothy Association
- 5 Youth training; Basic Equipment Store; membership links(?); Reaching other disadvantaged groups
- 6 Improvements to another club's hut for a reduced fee is a good idea
- 7 What worries me about a hut is the extra commitment it involves when the membership is diminishing and the average age of members is going up. Huts have so many more regulations now and popular ones are well used but not so popular ones are having to raise prices to cover costs. They are at risk of pricing themselves out of the market compared to say cottages which already can work out cheaper and more comfortable. If we can use the funds for other purposes I think we should use it for marketing ourselves more effectively through say the Woodcraft Folk, university climbing clubs, outdoor activity centres, young socialist groups. Particularly in areas where we have strong local groups. We should formulate policies which encourage younger members, spend money on training more of our members to be qualified mountain leaders. I think if we don't address this problem there will be no Red Rope as it will have died out.
- 8 I like the idea of using the Hut Fund to help other organisations (including the MBA) to maintain their huts in exchange for reduced rates.
- 9 I quite like the camp ground idea, we did discuss a mini bus at one time but which region would benefit was always an issue.
- 10 buying a yurt or tipi or similar
- 11 access and conservation
- 12 Contribute towards another club's hut in exchange for concessions. If this is not possible then donate to a hut related charity.
- 13 1) Providing funds to another mountaineering club in exchange for say free use a couple of weekends per year. 2) Purchase of Teepee (or similar).
- 14 I like the idea of the club or any similar club owning and managing its own club; we should try and do our bit to extend and support the hut network. However with the numbers of members we have it would be rash to go it alone. I also think in any partnership we should play a minor role; a partnership need not be of two clubs it could involve a number of clubs. We have to be realistic about our abilities and capacities and not overstretch ourselves and get into difficulties with the potential to start falling out with each other which could happen in such circumstances. Money in the hut fund has been raised for the purpose of being used for a hut so it would be inappropriate to now use it for another purpose. I would rather we made a donation to a hut than use it for a purpose it was not intended for. Winding up the access fund does seem a good idea as our ability to become directly involved in a access work is limited. I do not think either that those who are committed to a hut should expect too much of those who are not enthusiastic by demanding such things as levies or extra payments. Our duty should be to keeping the club in a good





	shape and not to create obstacles to new members and any way which antagonises current members perhaps on low incomes or unenthusiastic. Lastly even if the current link with this other club seems attractive we should weigh it up carefully and not rush into an agreement. The club comes first.
15	Give the money in the hut fund to the mountain bothies association
16	My understanding is that we are obliged to use the hut fund on hut related spending. I think the money should be donated for a specific purpose to a hut we have a good relationship with. We may be able to negotiate some benefits, like several nights at members' rates for 5 years.
17	I don't know what the situation is in other areas, but Merseyside could do with some financial support. Most of our recent trips have been well supported, but have made losses. Looking at the people on these trips, there was a reasonable mix. What I have noticed is a few of our older members/contacts who are not members slipping into the lower income categories as they leave full time work. Also some of the hut charges have increased massively e.g. Fylde MC whose huts we have used a lot. We currently have a bank balance of £60 i.e. we will have difficulty in putting down deposits in future.
18	People gave to original Hut Fund on basis there would be a hut - if club decides against own hut or shared one I think it should be given for hut related purpose e.g. to BMC/MCofS for a hut or possibly to Mountain Bothies Association to do up some bothies
19	Improvements to other huts in different regions,
20	I'd like to see funds (esp those that people have in the past chosen to donate to the Access fund) used for access purposes in the sense of facilitating experience of the outdoors and walking for people who usually don't get the chance to do this, whether through mental or physical disability, poverty etc. There are projects all over the UK doing this sort of thing that we could partner up with. It would seem in keeping with Red Rope principles!
21	a) Support the organisations hut costs for huts that we use regularly.
22	<b>BUY OR TAKE A LONG LEASE ON A CAMP SITE</b>
23	It is only about £6000 max. Donate it to another club hut scheme in return for some small concession - e.g. a reduced price weekend trip per year for a fixed term.
24	We should continue to use hut fund to access other clubs' huts
25	Nothing specific, but perhaps buying a time-share in one or more huts would be realistic - starting with one, then building on that if it worked well.
26	General club funds. If not possible, donate to relevant charitable purpose e.g. access for young people to countryside.
27	the idea of buying some land for a campsite seems a worthwhile second option to explore should the current hut sharing proposals not work out
28	socialist campaigning
29	we need to develop walking/mountaineering skills at all levels

**16. Let us suppose that the club had a free hand to find a suitable disused property, and either in conjunction with another club, or on our own, could acquire a Club Hut - Where would you like the Club Hut to be? If you personally are not interested or disagree with the idea of a hut, please still indicate where you think would be best. (1 = First Preference, 8 = Last Preference)**

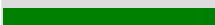



	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Number of Respondents
North or East Highlands	5% (3)	12% (7)	1% (1)	13% (8)	6% (4)	17% (10)	6% (4)	36% (21)	58
West Highlands	13% (8)	11% (7)	13% (8)	9% (6)	14% (9)	6% (4)	29% (18)	1% (1)	61
North Yorks/Northumberland	5% (3)	5% (3)	22% (13)	13% (8)	13% (8)	20% (12)	12% (7)	6% (4)	58
Lake District	22% (15)	33% (22)	15% (10)	12% (8)	7% (5)	4% (3)	3% (2)	1% (1)	66
Peak District	18% (12)	15% (10)	20% (13)	15% (10)	9% (6)	9% (6)	6% (4)	6% (4)	65
North Wales	40% (27)	20% (14)	11% (8)	7% (5)	7% (5)	4% (3)	2% (2)	4% (3)	67
South Wales/Wye Valley	8% (5)	11% (7)	14% (9)	8% (5)	19% (12)	11% (7)	14% (9)	12% (8)	62
Cornwall/Devon/Dorset	10% (6)	7% (4)	8% (5)	14% (8)	14% (8)	14% (8)	12% (7)	19% (11)	57
Number of Respondents									80

**17. If Red Rope had a hut at your number one location, how much time would you be likely to spend there each year - whether on a club trip or on a private visit.**

	% of Respondents	Number of Respondents
None	13.48%	12
One weekend a year	23.60%	21
Two or more weekends a year	31.46%	28
One week a year	4.49%	4
Maybe even more than that	26.97%	24
Number of respondents		89




<b>18. If Red Rope had a hut in North Wales, (for example, at Beddgelert, the current proposal) how much time would you be likely to spend there each year - whether on a club trip or on a private visit.</b>			<b>% of Respondents</b>	<b>Number of Respondents</b>
	None		30.43%	28
	One weekend a year		23.91%	22
	Two or more weekends a year		16.30%	15
	One week a year		9.78%	9
	Maybe even more than that		19.57%	18
Number of respondents				92

Section 3: Partnership

<b>19. Here we need to know how you feel about this specific proposal</b>			<b>% of Respondents</b>	<b>Number of Respondents</b>
	We should draw up plans for the agreement and put them to the next AGM		36.45%	39
	We should abandon this scheme straight away		28.97%	31
	If others like the scheme then I'd support it, but otherwise I'm indifferent		20.56%	22
	I'm not sure what I feel about this proposal		14.02%	15
Number of respondents				107

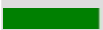

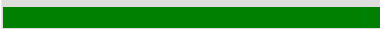
# Money matters

**20. Suggestion One: It has been suggested that Red Rope should raise a levy on all members in 2010, which would mean all members would pay a double subscription that year. Do you support this proposal?**

	% of Respondents	Number of Respondents
Yes 	28.97%	31
No 	57.94%	62
Neutral 	13.08%	14

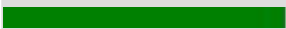






Number of respondents 107



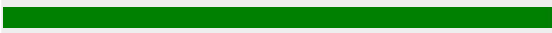
**21. Suggestion Two: It has been suggested that Red Rope should ask all its members to make a one off donation of three times their annual subscription. Do you support this proposal?**







	% of Respondents	Number of Respondents
Yes, as well as the levy 	15.69%	16
Yes, instead of the levy 	21.57%	22
No 	62.75%	64

Number of respondents 102

**22. Suggestion Three: It has been suggested that members are asked to make a donation relative to their annual subscription, possibly spread over five years, or as a one-off sum. How much might you be prepared to donate in total?**

	% of Respondents	Number of Respondents
Nothing 	47.00%	47
1 X my Annual Subscription 	11.00%	11
2 X my Annual Subscription 	5.00%	5
3 X my Annual Subscription 	12.00%	12
4 X my Annual Subscription 	3.00%	3
5 X my Annual Subscription 	7.00%	7
A larger sum 	4.00%	4

A one-off sum not related to my annual subscription 	11.00%	11
Number of respondents		100
<b>23. Do you know of anyone outside the club – possibly a sympathetic ex-member – who you could approach for a donation?</b>	% of Respondents	Number of Respondents
Yes 	7.62%	8
No 	92.38%	97
Number of respondents		105

Fund-raising		
<b>24. Would you be happy to be involved in fund-raising?</b>	% of Respondents	Number of Respondents
Yes 	31.73%	33
No 	68.27%	71
Number of respondents		104
<b>25. Would you be happy to organise a fund-raising event?</b>	% of Respondents	Number of Respondents
Yes 	12.38%	13
No 	87.62%	92
Number of respondents		105
<b>26. Would you be prepared to be your region's fund-raising co-ordinator?</b>	% of Respondents	Number of Respondents
Yes 	2.86%	3
No 	97.14%	102
Number of respondents		105

## Skills you could bring to the project

27. Assuming that local accommodation was available for on-site work, would you be willing to volunteer some time to help with the project, and how much?

	% of Respondents	Number of Respondents
No	53.00%	53
One weekend a year	20.00%	20
Two or more weekends a year	21.00%	21
One week a year	4.00%	4
An extended block of time	0.00%	0
Maybe even more than that	2.00%	2
Number of respondents		100

28. What particular skills could you bring to bear?

	Labourer	Amateur proficient	Trade skill	Number of Respondents
Electrical	56% (14)	36% (9)	8% (2)	25
Plumbing	68% (17)	24% (6)	8% (2)	25
Carpentry/Joinery	65% (19)	27% (8)	6% (2)	29
Flooring	75% (18)	20% (5)	4% (1)	24
Concreting	80% (24)	16% (5)	3% (1)	30
Outdoor groundwork	73% (28)	21% (8)	5% (2)	38
Project Management	34% (8)	39% (9)	26% (6)	23
Legal skills	64% (11)	29% (5)	5% (1)	17
Administrative skills	25% (8)	54% (17)	19% (6)	31
Number of Respondents				47

29. Please describe briefly any other skill and level of skill

1 Re Q 28 Please note that I am over 80 years old.

2	I am a cook - I'd be willing to help with cooking for work parties
3	Dry-stone walling - amateur proficient
4	Caretaking, Cooking, Security
5	Work for Sky - could always fit an aerial
6	A number of environmentally-related skills and qualifications
7	Painting and Decorating
8	painting
9	Fund raising (but not by myself!)
10	Decorating/painting - amateur proficient. Generally capable and handy in manual skills under direction. eg can use tools!
11	This doesn't seem to provide a ' I'm not interested ' option, which would be my position, because I think the scheme is impractical and unnecessary.
12	Very considerable practical abilities and experience of work on houses - unfortunately I am effectively responsible for maintaining and renovating three houses, and I need more unpaid practical work on buildings as much as I need the proverbial hole in the head.
13	I can paint walls, ceilings and woodwork. I can provide food and refreshments for workers.
14	Tiling - pretty good amateur
15	painting and decorating, general DIY, simple electrical e.g. installing light fittings to walls and ceilings etc.
16	Accountant, Project Manager, Club Treasurer (other clubs)
17	Internet applications   web programming
18	I would use my Sprinter van to ferry materials from Merseyside to the site
19	I could cook for volunteers!
20	Public speaking. Don't know if that is much use.
21	painting and decorating

Number of Respondents

21

**30. You may wish to make some further points about any issues raised in this survey. Please do so below. These contributions will be separated from the main survey and will be submitted to the National Committee for consideration in an anonymised form.**

Number of Respondents

25