

RED ROPE NATIONAL COMMITTEE MINUTES. 7th JULY 2007 (Borrowdale).

(Amendments in italics)

Present: Janet Saunders, Pat Durrant (Joint Secs), Dave Jefferies (IT), Steve Wright (Training), Humphrey Southall (National Trips Treasure), Arthur Howarth (National Trips Organiser), Shelagh Clarke, Pam Case (London reps).

Apologies: Jenny Patient (Treasurer),

Minutes of NC meeting in Liverpool, March 2007
Accepted.

Matters Arising:

RR equipment - it is still proving difficult to track down gear and kit so Arthur H. is going to ask Ian Muir to give us a list of at least the whereabouts of currently known equipment.

Action: Arthur H. (by AGM)

National Trips and Hut Bookings - Arthur H. and Humphrey raised the issue of booking huts for the sole use by RR especially in view of the recent disciplinary action against a member for unacceptable behaviour when non-RR people were present. It was acknowledged that some huts are not suitable for the organisation of RR groups e.g. no room for meetings, eating communally, if we do have to share. It was agreed that we would avoid booking such huts and generally try to have exclusive use of huts.

Also arising from the same disciplinary incident, it was also decided that a sheet to remind all members of acceptable behaviour would be circulated with the MIS and included in the Organiser's Pack on the website.

Action: Steve Wright will write it.

Reports from Officers:

Joint Secs. - They verbally reported that three complaints have been satisfactorily dealt with without recourse to the whole NC (most referred back to local committees).

Membership Secretary - Gill Platt has now managed to pass this job over to Pat Durrant who has nothing to report as yet but is up-to-date with all applications.

Treasurer's Report - (written report in Jenny Patient's absence). There is some concern about lack of income due to a) falling membership b) the high cost of the AGM. It was agreed we would not offer early-booking discounts this year. Also Regional Reps to be alerted to motivate as many members to attend as possible. It will be advertised as the ANNUAL GATHERING OF MEMBERS.

IT Officer - Given the difficulty of finding a Membership Secretary, he will amend the job description to stress the requirement for IT skills in future. He flagged up the possibility of needing expensive soft-ware for this post.

DJ has made efforts to liaise with Tim Jones (who gave a presentation at the last NC about improving IT usage) but has had no response. No further action will be taken. *There is uncertainty who is the London IT officer. Tim Jones had volunteered but was not at the London AGM. It was emphasised that the job needs continuous availability. Pam Case will look into this.*

Action: Dave J. and Pam Case

National Trips - The 20% discount for early booking is working well.
Some concern about the rising cost of huts; Arthur and Humphrey are going to draft a motion on Overnight payments to be inserted into the Organisers' Pack.

There should also be a ruling about paying car insurance for extra drivers – as follows:

When extra insurance is necessary to provide extra drivers, the extra cost should be raised in the same way as the well established method of paying for a ferry. That is, the cost should be converted into the number of miles at a band E rate (i.e. £6 is 100 miles @ 6p) and all Bands pay at their appropriate rate. Thus the cost of trip transport will be born by the trip and not by the membership at large. The cost or extra cost of overnight accommodation incurred whilst travelling shall not be paid by Red Rope but will be the responsibility of the individual.

Action: Arthur H. & Humphrey S.

Publicity - Janet S. reported that there are now various RR leaflets on the website and accessible by Regional Reps. She also has some badges to sell and will bring them to the AGM.

Action: Janet S.

Training and Safety - Steve W. is interested in organising training weekends and will e-mail the rest of the NC to get views on possible content for such events and also trainers (in-house or external?). It was agreed that such a weekend was very desirable and be organised as soon as possible.

The issue of having under-18s on trips was raised by Janet S. as we do not specify any age restrictions on membership. Steve reported that our insurance covers accidents to all minors on trips (members or not) but does NOT cover incidents of child abuse. He will clarify with the BMC.

Action: Steve W.

Report from the Sub-committee on up-dating the banding -

Janet S. has written a discussion document but has not yet received any feedback. Dave J. felt there should be more progressive (socialist) charges and have different charging slopes for trips/membership i.e. relatively expensive membership fees for the better-off but less differential on trip charges. Perhaps change the banding label from letters to something less hierarchical sounding. Agreed the NC should develop a motion to this effect for the AGM.

Action: Janet S. +

AGM organisation -

1. Regional reps to be given responsibility for organising transport
2. Normal trip rates apply. GILL COX has agreed to take bookings.
3. It will be called the Annual Gathering of Members to emphasise the sociable nature of the event.
4. Dave J. will put a map and travel directions on the website which Steve W. will draw up.
5. Janet S. will do the booking form to go out with the MIS.
6. Steve W. will organise a historical, story walk for the Saturday morning.
7. Gill Platt will be asked if she will do the Bar.
8. Julia Wicketts (Manchester) has offered to organise the main meal on Saturday evening.
9. Creche still not organised as the venue is not easily accessible for professional child-carers; Janet S will liaise with Gill Cox.
10. It was agreed the Sunday walk could be organise at the weekend.

Motions for the AGM -

1) Pat D. and Steve W. felt the NC could be streamlined and have more active regional involvement. They agreed to send a motion to this effect.

2) Following the good feedback from the experimental trips where a multiplier is applied, it was proposed that this practice be formalised. Regions may apply a multiplier of any variable from 1 to 2 times the nightly rate to allow them to book accommodation where there is no cheaper option. This must be advertised when the trip is advertised, and all such trips be ratified by the National Trips Secretary.

NC Motion

3) Where a non-member is on their first RR trip, the 20% surcharge should not be imposed whether or not they go on to join.

(Leicester)

AOB -

NC posts to be filled: Most of the NC posts will be vacated this AGM. Dave J. will circulate the posts with job descriptions to all members ASAP.