

RED ROPE NATIONAL COMMITTEE MINUTES. 12<sup>th</sup> January 2008 (Manchester).

**Present:** Jan Lancaster, Gill Platt (Joint Secs), Janet Saunders, Pat Durrant, Dave Jefferies (IT), David Barnes, Andy Bateman

**Apologies** Adrian O'Connor, Becky, Steve Wright,

Minutes of NC meeting in Borrowdale, July 2007  
Accepted.

Matters Arising:

RR equipment – Adrian O'Connor confirmed all the gear is either with him and is accounted for. He has suggested buying a small camping gas burner as the previous one has gone missing.

**Action:** Jan Lancaster to talk to Adrian to put in a proper request with alternatives to be put to the next meeting to be decided. Also can we have a list on the web site with all the gear that is available for general use

Reports from Officers:

**Treasurer's Report** - Jan emailed Pam to ask if she has taken over the job but the account not been passed over. The transfer is now being organised. Data is required from Pat for members for BMC.

**Action:** Pat to download the data with help from Dave Jefferies.

**Trip Treasurer**

Nothing to report emails still go to Humphrey rather than John Dickie although he is receiving emails via the committee email address. Email from Hugh Wallis – spreadsheet problems with completing it. Dave Jefferies has asked Humphrey to contact Hugh to clarify. Note to advise all trip organisers to go to the web to get the most up to date spreadsheet.

**National Trip Secretary**

Becky Bates has nothing to report. All the trips for this year have been booked but Becky would need to start organising trips for next year.

**Action** Jan to email Becky to ask for suggestions for next year's trips.

**Membership Secretary** – Membership down to 313. List to be emailed out to the regions. Dave Jefferies will assist Pat to send these out. Discussion on secrecy and who should the monthly memberships should be sent to the NC Reps. List to regional rep with covering letter to talk to contact person.

**Action:** Review our privacy policy at next meeting.

David Barnes discussed using direct debit and Standing orders to keep membership going rather than any lapse of payment. This matter has been discussed in great detail in previous meetings and the main issue was how do we know who has paid when an amount is paid into the bank.

**Action:** Janet and Jan to look into how other organisations do it.

**Bulletin Editor** -

Not enough input to generate a bulletin as yet. Should Dave S do a short bulletin to advertise trips in the absence of anything to print?

**Action:** Jan to do an article about the AGM and Dave to send photos to give some information. Also list of names of new committee.

**MIS Editor**

Nothing to report – Janet brought up the issues of the Post Office allowing some of the last bulletin going out and others charging excess postage because of the size. If in doubt put the extra postage. This has been discussed in the meeting and Gill expressed a desire to receive the Bulletin unfolded but we are leaving the judgement to those people sending out the Bulletin and MIS as to whether they fold or not.

**IT Officer** – All referencing of all committee members had been done. Gill mentioned she had not received any emails relating to the meeting. She is contact Dave Jefferies to resolve. Dave Jefferies pointed out problems involved with some email systems. Action Dave Jefferies to put an article in the Bulletin

**Publicity** - Janet S. reported that there are now various RR leaflets on the website and accessible by Regional Reps.

**Training and Safety** - Steve W. Nothing to report

**Action** – Ask Steve for some safety suggestions for the bulletin

**Jan to contact** Pravin – as Dave Jefferies informs us that BMC does not have any link to Red Rope anymore. Email to let people know ? Make BMC rep aware.

**RA Rep** Noting to report but he will check with the RA website.  
Janet to check whether we have a link to the Opens Space Society

### **Reports from Regions**

Coventry Rep – 3 new members

There are no geographical areas and where a member is joined and this is decided by the membership secretary. David Barnes wants his region renamed to reflect the area he is in.

**Action:** Pat and Dave to create Cumbria and Lancashire region.

### **Access and Conservation**

David Barns suggested wrapping it into the RA post. Access to shorelines is an issue. **Action:** Motion to be taken to the AGM to join the posts for the AGM.

### **Publicity**

Jan asked for approval to take out another advertisement in the Morning Star. Given that our best source of membership generation is by friends and relatives the badges would seem our best course of advertising.

**Action:** Jan to provide article for the bulletin to sell the badges. Jan to find out more information re car stickers.

The hut fund was discussed at the AGM where John Dickie suggested alternative uses for the hut fund.

**Action:** Jan to contact Colin to be included and discuss hut fund alternatives

### **Agenda Items for March Meeting**

Agenda already been sent. The constitution needs to be updated on the strength of the AGM – **Action** Janet to do update the constitution and Dave to post it on the web site.

Dave Jefferies needs to update IT access for local groups

Out of region transport charges

Local purchases as a guideline – Becky to update Trip organiser pack David Barnes to take up action.

Confirmation of venue for March Meeting – March 8<sup>th</sup> – Sheffield to organise. Rutland Arms.

**Action:** Dave Jefferies to organise.

Venue for July meeting –.try Lakes and Snowdonia. Gill to action

AGM ratification

Gradbach booked

Venue for 2009 suggestions required.

### **Banding Review**

At the AGM voted they would like a fixed ratio but the NC needed to decide this. It was agreed that the NC should review the banding and upgrading the banding. Subs and trip charges would be proportional to income.

Subs are currently paid in proportion to income. People at the lower end pay more proportional to those at

the top. Ratios are difficult to organise. If A band should cover the basic variable costs, this would be £10 for affiliation and £3 for MIS etc. Basic question is should it be based on gross income or disposable income. Should rates be proportional to income or should those at the lower end pay bare minimum Dave Jefferies and Janet discussed this and produced a document for discussion. The ratio has been 4:1 but this puts too much constraint on the calculations. Should the ratio be different for subs than for trips.

### **Conclusions**

Take back to the AGM – a fixed ratio is not feasible it's not a good idea and does not give the club the flexibility to give fix rates. We need to spread the financial constraints of the club. A banders do not pay proportionally the same as H banders. Should we be dropping the allowances but we have not been charged to look at this. **Action:** Pass a motion to drop housing allowances at AGM.

Request has been received asking for the bands to be expressed as a weekly, monthly and yearly income to make it easier for people to decide.

**Action** for Dave to produce these figures

People need to know our decision and why we were not able to fulfil the motion from the AGM. This needs to be documented presented at the next meeting and then printed in the next Bulletin (after March).

We need to show what we need for basic income how we calculate the subs and how using a fixed ratio would not be fair or reasonable. We need the power to change the number of bands to say 3:1

Talk about trip banding next time. The fuel issue might prove to be a problem in before the next AGM put it on the March AGM. Could we not raise the transport costs now due to the rise in fuel? The transport costs need to be looked at by the trip treasurer so we could ask Humphrey to look at this (with John Dickie) as a proposal of 20% on transport rate to cover the increase in transport costs. Can they look at this and report back for March.

**Action:** Andy to write a paragraph for the bulletin on increasing transport costs

**AOB** - Email to Pam Case re member who had been an H band but had been made redundant and was suffering financial problems. It was suggested that this person dropped to a lower band as he has three dependants. It was decided that this was not a matter for the committee to decide upon but it should be down to the member, his conscience and the trip treasurer.

Date of next Meeting: SATURDAY 8 MARCH 11 – 4PM IN SHEFFIELD