

**Minutes of the National Committee Meeting, Red Rope held on Saturday 12 July 2008 in Nant Peris.**

**Present:**      Andy Bateman (chair)      Dave Jefferies      Pat Durrant  
                 Pravin Patel      Humphrey Southall      Dave Symonds  
                 Becky Bates      Barbara Segal      Jan Lancaster  
                 John Dickie      Steve Wright

**Apologies:**      Janet Saunders      Pam Case      Colin Knowles  
                 Hugh Wallis

1. **Minutes of the meeting** held in Sheffield on the 8 March 2008 were approved unanimously.

2. **Reports:**

a. Treasurer: No report.

**Action – Jan to contact Pam C to request a report on our present finances which can be affixed to these minutes for future reference.**

b. National Trips Treasurer: Humphrey S

HS had submitted a financial report and confirmed that the balance was in a healthy state. There were no further questions.

c. National Trips Secretary: Becky B.

We have had several successful trips. Unfortunately, the Easter trip to Coruisk had to be cancelled, and we lost the deposit of £260.

**Action: Becky will revise the trip guidelines so that this does not happen again.**

d. Membership Secretary: Pat D

302 members – sometimes 320. Dave J had updated the system and now it was much easier to operate. Pat confirmed that she is sending lists of members to Regional Reps each month.

e. Bulletin Editor: Dave S

The next edition will be ready to go out in very early September (in readiness for the AGM). Cover has already been designed and there is a variety of trip reports, and book reviews. August 18 is the deadline for submissions.

**Action: Jan will send AGM info this week to Dave S (bulletin@redrope.org.uk) for insertion in the bulletin.**

f. MIS Editor – next Edition in August.

**Action: Jan will send AGM info this week to Mark for insertion in the MIS.**

- g. IT officer: Dave J
- i. The new system reduces spam and is also cheaper. He has updated the data base. Yahoo discussion group – the local IT officer must own this to allow for continuity.
  - ii. Dave is NOT STANDING AGAIN next year.  
**Action: Dave will draw up a job description for insertion in Bulletin to encourage someone to think about taking this position over.**

- h. Training Officer: Steve W
- Difficult to pursue effectively due to personal circumstance. A lot of work can be done – too much at the moment for SW – happy to co-share this position.
- Action: will put notice on National List re sharing position. Quite prepared to stand down entirely.**

There is an OUTDOOR 1<sup>ST</sup> AID TRAINING COURSE.  
Janet S interested.

**Action: Steve will: (a) re-circulate email regarding this course in mid Wales. Need 12 people - £80 each. Doesn't cover transport. (b) Will put in Bulletin also. (c) Will circulate information on National List (d) will put in article on Mountain Challenge in Brecon – 20 Sept.**

Mike (Merseyside) had suggested an 'online skills forum'  
Suggestion: Use National List instead (SW will moderate this list).  
Include Web links also.  
**Action: SW will also contact Summit.**

- i. BMC Rep: Pravin
- New regulations now re holidays – we are not involved. BMC have some huts that will not take children – need to check ahead of time before booking.  
BMC is also looking into how they can help Groups.  
**Action: Pravin to contact BMC re the Link to RR.**  
**Action: Pat D and Pam C will check out best /cheapest way of paying our membership dues.**

- j. Publicity: Jan L
- No more badges were ordered due to lack of interest.  
**Action: Jan to send badge pattern to Dave J.**  
**Action: Pat D to add 'order form' for badges to membership form.**  
**Action: Jan will send article to Bulletin**  
**Action: Dave will put 'order form' on web site.**  
**Action: Jan will send out any badges ordered and will order more if sufficient interest.**

3. **Annual General Meeting – Sept 26, 27 and 28 Gradbach, Derbyshire.**

Notice of the Annual General Meeting was placed some months ago in the Bulletin.

**Action: Dave J will send registration form to Jan L who will send to Bulletin, MIS.**

**Action: Dave J will put registration form on web site.**

**Forms to be sent to: Gill Cox.**

Job Vacancies; IT Officer and ½ share of Training. (notices to be placed on web site and National List.

MIS editor – **Action: Jan will contact Mark to confirm he is standing again.**

Ramblers - **Action: Jan will contact David B to confirm he is standing again.**

Motions: **Action: Jan will send to Bulletin all motions received to date.**

Childcare: **Action: Jan will contact Gill Platt and Malcolm to see what happened last year.**

Registration: Gill Cox has agreed to co-ordinate.

Jan circulated a list of jobs to be done.

**Action: Andy B will co-ordinate to ensure the smooth running of the AGM.**

4. **Regional Support:**

Discussion ensued re support on lost deposits. It was agreed unanimously that groups should try and have £200 on reserve (for hut deposits etc).

**Action: Jan will contact Regional Reps to request that copies of the Treasurers' reports be sent to National Treasurer.**

**Action: Also to update names of all Treasurers.**

**Action: Groups should be asked (At AGM) to contribute to central funds for those groups who are struggling financially, in the mean time we will continue with the support system as refined by J. Patient last year.**

5. **E Band Introduction.**

John Dickie introduced the concept that new people who do not know what a trip will cost/ nor aware of 'bands' should be invited to join a weekend at E BAND no matter what their income (people who would pay A-C bands will continue to do BUT without the 20% surcharge). All subsequent trips would be normal charging. (non and members alike).

This would be on a one off basis as a means of introduction.

It was agreed unanimously.

**Action: Motion to AGM.**

**6. Hut Options:**

Colin had submitted a report. (see attached). Items 1 and 5 had been withdrawn. It was agreed that we needed costings and commitment and more details – how much to part share in a hut.

Concerns were expressed about our ability (given our philosophies) to work well with another group.

What would be the arrangements – possibility of a ‘time share’ purchase of a hut? If we were serious we would need to amend the Constitution.

Could we use the £ to enhance a hut i.e. toilet block etc.

One guiding principle should be – don’t commit ourselves to something that we can’t continue. Dave Symonds suggested that the question was not so much ‘What kind of hut should we have?’ as, ‘What shall we do with the hut fund?’

**Action: Jan will contact Colin K with the above comments.**

**7. Childcare Policy**

RR doesn’t adhere to their childcare policy. Only 1-3 huts are BMC run – other huts do not apply.

**8. Transport (Dave J took over the Chair)**

Andy B had submitted a paper which he had circulated. There is an inherent unfairness which needs to be addressed. Financial risks in taking your car on a RR weekend/National trip. Costing RR money too.

Two options - collect money by band

- paying drivers – pay fuel costs for that trip and a little mileage costs.

Humphrey also submitted a paper substantiating keeping the present position. Discussion ensued.

**Action: AB and HS will rewrite and clarify proposals for further discussion at the AGM.**

**9. Public Transport**

At present public transport is ‘last resort’. Needs further discussion.

**10. Any Other Business:**

Not sure about our Scottish friends.

**Action: Jan will send letters to Scottish groups.**

**11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING (after AGM)**

29 November in Coventry.