

Minutes of Red Rope National Committee Meeting, Liverpool, 3 March 2007

Present: David Barnes (North West), Geoff Birch (Chester), Arthur Bowling (Merseyside), Pat Durrant (Sheffield, Nat. Sec.), Gillie Gould (Sheffield), Arthur Howarth (London, Nat. Trips Organiser), Tim Jones (London), Anne Maloney (Merseyside), Barbara Segal (Bristol/South West), Humphrey Southall (London, Nat. Trip Treasurer), David Symonds (Merseyside), Steve Wright (West Midlands, Safety Officer).

Apologies: Anna Buehring, Dave James, Dave Jefferies, Jenny Patient, Gill Platt, Janet Saunders, Mark Wallis.

1. The **minutes of the last meeting** were accepted.

2. Matters arising

- **Empty NC Posts.** Pat to contact Anna to see if it's too late to include a call for volunteers in the current Bulletin. If possible retiring post-holders to write brief notes on what their post involves.
- **Car stickers.** Janet to be given a nudge about these.
- **New trip rates & website.** Arthur to ask Dave to put the new booking form on the web asap. Dave also to be asked if he can update the list of charges and the version of the trip treasurer's form designed to be printed out.
- **AGM.** Gradbach (Peak District) had been booked for first week in October. Pat volunteered herself & Janet to organise AGM.

3. Reports

- **Written reports** were tabled from Dave Jefferies, Gill Platt & Jenny Patient. Agreed that mobile 'phone for membership secretary now unnecessary as Gillie wouldn't need one. In connection with expenditure, Jenny to write a short piece for MIS encouraging more people to receive the MIS electronically and explain how to 'sign up' for this.
- **National Trips Secretary.** Arthur raised concerns about filling huts and about Red Rope's reputation. The club needs to discuss (a) whether we should make bookings which involve sharing with other clubs; (b) issues regarding behaviour on trips. Arthur and Humphrey to write a paper on this to promote discussion at the AGM.

4. Training Needs. Steve to explore and publicise availability of courses locally, eg WEA and local colleges. Members should let him know about anything useful. He would also talk to BMC. Part of Steve's report deferred to next meeting.

5. Regional Publicity Needs. In the absence of a report from Fiona this was deferred.

6. BMC & Civil Liability. Steve had investigated this and reported:

- Members are covered for accidents sustained by them and caused by the club;
- Members are covered for accidents caused by them to third parties;
- Non-members are not covered when taking part in Red Rope activities;
- The club is covered for accidents to under 18s, but not for incidents involving child abuse.

[This needs to be checked by Steve. Would under 18s only be covered if accompanied by a parent or guardian? if not, why are they different from an adult non-member?]

7. Membership matters. The following were suggested of ways of retaining and recruiting members:

- Build links with Woodcraft Folk so that young people outgrowing the WF might move on to Red Rope;
- Ensure that records are up to date so that continuing or new members don't fall through the loop;
- Dave to make publicity leaflets etc. available on website;
- Articles and (more especially) letters to publications are a good free way of getting publicity.

8. Use of IT to improve collaboration. Tim gave a presentation about how we could use IT more effectively, including improvements to email setup and other features such as wikis. Agreed that no decisions could be made in the absence of the IT Officer but suggested that an IT group be set up, consisting of Dave Jefferies, Tim, Humphrey and Charlie, to explore possibilities and priorities. Tim will also investigate alternative providers to Yahoo.

9. Hut Fund. Dave Barnes offered to do some 'armchair research' into possible uses for Hut Fund, to report to the March 2008 NC meeting. [However, subsequent to the meeting it was confirmed that Ian Muir is the official Hut Officer, so Dave has withdrawn his offer]

10. AOB.

- **Vixen Tor, Dartmoor (Access issue).** Colin Knowles had approached the BMC about more energetic action being taken. BMC had responded suggesting that climbers should 'quietly' continue to use the area as often as possible, so as to show that use does not cause problems.
- **Equipment.** Arthur to chase Ian Muir to produce an inventory of kit and its whereabouts.
- **Info on NC Meetings.** Details of times and venues should be circulated early enough for people to book cheap train tickets.

Barbara Segal
3 March 2007