

FINAL VERSION

Minutes of the National Committee meeting

Held in Leamington Spa on Saturday 29 November 2008

Present: Janet Saunders Gill Platt Andy Bateman
Adrian O'Connor Barbara Segal David Symonds
John Dickie Becky Bates Steve Wright
Dave Doody Adrian Pat Durrant Pravin Patel

Apologies: Pam Case, David Barnes, Colin Knowles

1. Minutes of the meeting held in Nant Peris in July 08 were approved.
2. Reports from Officers:
 - a. Membership: Pat Durrant: Membership. No Report
 - b. Treasurer: Pam Case: BMC fees to rise but no figure yet so effect on our subs is unclear.

ACTION: Pam to notify NC of new fees as soon as possible.

- c. Nation Trips Sec: Becky B. % rate change – discussion of nightly charge shortfall. Financial impact of 10% discount. Transport: if car has a space and trip orgn can decide Transport charge on top of public transport charge.

ACTION: guidelines are needed. (Becky, John and Pravin – will circulate in due course).
Public Transport – guidelines flexible.

- d. Bulletin: David S: Bulletin: Next issue will be out in Feb 09. Deadline: 28 January 09. DS has some basic ideas but no copy at present (lots by the end of this meeting: sec note). Book review section. Has been costing colour.
 - e. MIS: Mark – no report.
 - f. IT: David D – still learning re websit
 - g.

ACTION: MIS electronically – Janet S will co-ordinate discussion on MIS on website with Mark

- h. Training Officer: Steve W. Some interest in First Aid course in early 09. Some financial support from RR if low banded. Steve W will circulate more info in due course regarding a scheme for a banded subsidy (though transport could be according to national trip rules).

ACTION: Steve W will circulate more info in due course.

- i. BMC. No report

- j. RA. /Campaigns. David B had submitted some ideas about new job description. NC felt that 3 other duties should be included.

ACTION: Jan L will contact David with the three suggestions.

End of reports.

6. (A) Trip Transport Charges: (this was a motion brought to AGM 07). It was agreed that Banded trip transport and the National Trip guidelines will cover.

2.

ACTION: Becky will explore and circulate information.

6 (B). Constitutional Amendment. This has been requested by the BMC that all groups amend their constitutions so that in the event of a club being formally closed down, there is a procedure for dealing with the distribution of assets.

ACTION: Jan will contact BMC who has a standard form.

Ideas: any and all money to be shared between specific Mountain Rescue groups (ie North Wales, Lake District and Scotland) , BMC, John Muir Trust, Mountaineering Council of Scotland.

ACTION: Jan will submit an article for Bulletin to get ideas from other members.

ACTION: Adrian, Jan and Andy will review and clean up the Constitution so that it is in line with all recent motions passed. This will be done in early Feb 09.

6. (C). Postal Ballots. Legal opinions had been received re the question of postal ballots. It was unconstitutional.

Motion to set aside the postal ballot in light of the legal opinions received was put before the NC. Seconded: Discussion.

There was no status in constitution and based on the two legal opinions we need to set aside. Decision must be made today so that the Hut Officer can continue discussions with Lancashire Mountaineering Club.

An SGM could be arranged in 09 to discuss in more detail. It was agreed that there was much confusion at the AGM as to whether it was constitutional or not.

The above motion was 12 in favour; 1 against and 1 abstention.

Two members left the meeting to draft a statement to the membership setting out the full position. (see attached).

Lunch for 45 minutes.

6 (c) Contd: Discussions re SGM – meetings around the country. Tour with a ‘floating’ SGM. Most people do not contribute to the Hut Fund so we need to keep in perspective. £5K in hut fund to date.

We can discuss among ourselves during weekends and day walks. It was generally agreed that there is a lot of frustration around the hut issue and after this process is completed and the vote is against a hut – then amend constitution to eliminate need for a hut.

8. Banding Review: Janet S. This was agreed at AGM 07. Sub cttee founded, spread sheets prepared. Motion was to separate nightly charges from membership.

ACTION: Proposal to review by Janet for next meeting

3.

9. Publicity. – Discussion re website and search engines. Flyer has been prepared by Merseyside.

ACTION: David S. Will do an article for Bulletin re cards to be handed out when walking/climbing giving info re local group and web site.

ACTION: All groups to bring their own group publicity to AGM 09 for a display and to swop ideas.

ACTION: Jan: Cost of Car stickers will be looked into again and if viable given out with membership renewals.

9. Hut. Not much has happened because of the motion. Now it has been set aside. CK will gather more information and communicate with NC. Decision WILL ONLY BE MADE at SGM or AGM. Every hut proposal is specific. LMC are still in communication with CK.

10. How to submit Motions to meetings. In order to ensure that all future motions that are submitted to AGM will be in a correct format, some guidelines will be published in Bulletin. All motions from all groups must be submitted by July NC meeting so that any alterations can be dealt with well before publication in August/Sept edition of Bulletin for the AGM.

ACTION: Jan will submit an article illustrating the guidelines. (attached hereto)

11. Transport Charges: John D presented his calculations. Transport costs are to be based on a % of the average UK price of a litre of petrol as reasonably determined by the trip organiser, and wear and tear payment e.g. drivers to be paid 7% of cost per person per mile, A band to pay 3.5%, B band to pay 4.5% etc.. The meeting agreed to try this system as it will hopefully eliminate the need for constant transport cost revisions. Local trips can continue with the current system if they wish.

ACTION. Steve Wright has produced a matrix (attached). This will be auctioned from 1 January 09.

12. Standing Orders. Jan L produced a sample standing order.

ACTION: This will be emailed to Dave D for putting on website. Jan L will insert article in Bulletin recommending that members use SO in future.

13. Regional Subsidies; Referred back to Arthur H and Pam C. Groups can be asked to contribute to central funds if over £500 in bank account regionally. Subsidies to other regions.

14. BMC Grant – to be used for publicity (see above).

ACTION: Pravin will put article in Bulletin informing groups that they can apply for a grant from this money for local publicity.

15. Gear List – will not be putting this on the website. Adrian has the equipment – mainly camping stuff.

4.

16. AGM 2009. Discussion re Lockerbrooke Activity Centre. Agreed to go.

ACTION: Jan will continue to liaise with Lockerbrooke. (confirmed Monday am December 1 2008)

17. Next meeting to be in London on Saturday 28 February 09.

AC TION: Jan will contact Dermot re London meeting. (done : Monday 1 Dec 08)

ACTION: Pravin to book July meeting again in North Wales and organise weekend.

18. Any other Business.

a. Norwich – prospective new group. Pat D will ascertain how to establish.

b. BMC safety 20 copies available from Steve W. Give out to National Trip organisers. Also a DVD/Video version.

c. List of contacts to be sent to Pat D (done by Jan L)

Meeting concluded at 4:30pm. Thanks to John D for excellent chairmanship.

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Appendix A.

The Following statement was written and accepted by vote at the NC meeting 29/11/2008

Dear Member,

The National Committee wish to apologise for confusion and difficulty which arose at the recent 2008 AGM. This confusion concerned a motion debated, committing the club to investigate the joint purchase of a hut, and requiring the decision to be taken by a majority of the membership in a postal ballot. This motion was narrowly passed at the AGM by a simple majority.

During the debate it was argued that the motion was a constitutional change and therefore required a two-thirds majority, but at the time the meeting decided this was not the case.

However, there were numerous misgivings, and the National Committee have taken legal advice about this decision. Two separate legal opinions have advised that this was in fact a constitutional amendment and therefore required a two-thirds majority.

The National Committee therefore regrets that we have had to declare the decision to pass this motion as invalid, as it did not reach the required majority. We took this action because we believe that we must uphold the constitution because it is the agreement by which Red Rope governs itself.

In 2007 the AGM asked the Hut Officer to pursue and investigate possible ways to use the hut fund. This now remains the last valid decision on this topic, so this investigation process continues.

5.

However, we all need to act in future with the spirit of the recent AGM debate in mind – seeking opportunity but being aware that there are real differences of opinion in the club about decision-making processes, and also the yet unknown level of commitment to a hut inside the club.

In respect of future investigations into the use of the hut fund the NC will:

- Use publications and local meetings to ensure full information and discussion amongst the whole membership
- Ensure that activities of club officers do not expose the club to significant financial risk
- Ensure that constitutional provision for decision-making is followed
- Encourage NC members and others to investigate possible decision-making methods, to be properly debated at an AGM or SGM

To prevent any recurrence of confusion at AGM meetings, the NC is tightening up procedures in relation to deadlines for submission of motions and amendments, to allow for proper consideration of the constitution before any meeting.

If any member would like more information concerning the legal advice obtained please contact the National Secretaries who will be happy to supply it.

The National Committee

Appendix B

Motions to Meetings

The Bones of a Motion If your group wishes to put a motion together for the AGM then here is the format to assist you.

This meeting notes: The first part of the motion must set the scene for your points, stating what things exist at present and are relevant to your case. Make reference to important items like documents or policies that already exist. This section **states facts only**.

This meeting believes: The second part of the motion details: (if necessary)

- the opinions of those bringing the motion
- the ultimate purpose of the motion which should be made clear
- and any qualifying statements of belief.

6.

This meeting resolves that: The final part of the motion outlines what you are actually proposing is done about the points that have been laid down. Short and succinct is best.

This should instruct Annual Gathering of Members to do things or change existing policy. It is this part that is voted on by all members present.

Q. Who can propose, second or vote in a motion to A General Meeting?

A. Any member or Group of Red Rope can bring a motion to an Annual General Meeting BUT IT MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE no later than the July meeting so that all members can be notified 28 days prior to the AGM.

Final version of minutes of meeting

Nov 09

Dec 8 08

7.