

Red Rope AGM 2018 Minutes of Meeting

6 October 2018 - Glenorchy Centre, Wirksworth

(1) Appoint Minute taker and chair

Chair – John Dickie

Minutes – Adrian Jones

(2) Present:

Janet Saunders	Adrian Jones	Damien O Conner
Tony Martin	Don Kinnibrugh	Hugh Wallis
Humphrey Southall	John Dickie	Jon Marsden
Barbara Segal	Pete Watson	Dave Doody
Uta Praekelt	Andy Bateman	Clare Bethell
Gill Cox	Nigel Green	David Symonds
Olya Bowers	Linda Goss	Becky Bates
Amber McKenzie	Sarah Bates	Jennifer Mirdamadi
Malcolm Donne	Janey Hewitt	Bob Steel
Margaret Johnson		

Note: 28 persons

(3) Apologies

Sherry Macliver, Steve Wright, Dena Gefferies, Joanna Clarke

(4) Matters Arising from 2017 AGM Minutes

None, all dealt with by the NC during the year.

The 2017 AGM minutes were formally approved by the meeting.

(5) Officers Reports

The following Officers Reports were pre circulated to all members and are also attached to these minutes.

Assistant National Secretary: Steve Wright
Membership Secretary: Linda Goss
National Treasurers Report: Humphrey Southall
National Trips Secretary : Becky Bates
Trips Treasurer Report : Sherry Macliver
IT Officer : Dave Doody
Ramblers Rep : Barbara Segal
BMC Rep : Andy Bateman
Bulletin : Dave Symonds
Publicity : Janet Saunders
MIS : John Marsden
Hut : Barbara Segal
(no report for Training , vacant position)

There were some comments and discussions on the reports as follows

Membership Secretary – some new members are coming forward from on line searches, which hopefully will continue, and supplement traditional advertising and word of mouth on which new membership has relied on in the past.

National Treasurer. Club remains solvent and the move to 5 charge bands and calendar year membership has gone well. The Annual Accounts were approved by the meeting

National Trips - The trip to Alex Mac in 2019 has as yet no organiser, anyone interested? And there is increased interest in week long trips, but less in weekend trips, why is this? (to be discussed later in the meeting)

Trip Finances – A good year for most National Trips financially. A comment was raised that the two top charge bands for travel seem high, and it was suggested these should be adjusted downwards. NC to review at next NC meeting.

Campaigns. Barbara has attended the Ramblers AGM this year and gave a brief report on this. Queried whether we still want to be affiliated to the Ramblers Association; this will be discussed by the NC at the next meeting.

Officers Elections

National Secretary – David Symonds volunteered; Approved by meeting. Steve Wright couldn't attend the meeting but it is hoped he will stay on as Assistant National Secretary.

Adrian has replaced Sherry as National Trips Treasurer. John Dickie, as AGM chair, thanked Sherry McLiver for her work as National Trips Treasurer.

Linda Goss stepped down as Membership Secretary; was thanked by the meeting. Gill Platt will take on this role.

Tony Birtill was appointed interim Training Officer. Tony has the summer Mountain Leadership qualification and has completed most of the winter ML course. Unfortunately he currently has health problems so if anyone else could take on the role he would be happy to step aside.

Malcolm Donne volunteered to become the new BMC contact, taking over from Andy Bateman.

For all other posts the present incumbents are willing to continue. Approved en block by the meeting.

(6) Motions

Motion 1

The Merseyside motion, to give £1 per member annually to regions, with any region with fewer than 20 members receiving £20, was passed almost unanimously. This will commence in February once the new membership figures are clear. Amendment by the meeting – this can only be requested provided the Region concerned has submitted its annual accounts for the previous year to the National Treasurer. Motion agreed by the meeting.

Motion 2

An emergency motion proposed by Barbara Segal at the meeting to donate £1000 from the club's funds to the BMC's 'Mend Our Mountains' campaign, which is mentioned in the current bulletin, was also passed. Which RR fund it should come from was discussed; possibly the Action Fund, although it

was pointed out that this is really for political use. Half from the Action Fund and half from the National Account was proposed.

Discussions

1 Why are there fewer regional trips than there used to be? No clear view , but NC are to formulate a plan to reinvigorate this; Becky to contact regional reps to encourage they undertake regional trips

2 RR National Discussion List. The meeting agreed this should be a members only group going forward (suspected some on the list are not current members). It was requested views to be emailed to Janet Saunders, she will take to the NC.

It was agreed that the Facebook Group to be moderated in the future

Meeting closed 6.30 pm

Red Rope – Annual Reports to AGM 2018

Assistant National Secretary Steve Wright

We held 3 National Committee meetings as usual, in November 2017 in Liverpool, March 2018 in Birmingham and June 2018 weekend in the Peak District at the Don Whillans Hut in the Roaches. The latter was particularly well attended doubtless due to its location and the continuing sunny weather. It also offered two days walking - and quite by chance a Beer Festival at Danebridge!

From this year on, in line with last year's AGM resolution, we shall be holding only two whole day committee meetings but have already booked Cae Ysgubor for June 2019. Following this AGM the new committee will be meeting to decide actions arising from any resolutions and discussions.

November 2017

- 1) Our major topic was how to attract members to the AGM, having been non-quorate for the last two years. Having tried Sunday morning AGMs for a few years, it was decided to revert to a late Saturday afternoon meeting, time-constrained to 2 hours maximum. Meeting on the Saturday would enable neighbouring regions to attend more readily just for the day – walk/climb. AGM, meal and entertainment. Also we decided to aim for a venue more centrally located and easily accessible than for the last few – hence Wirksworth. Finally it was decided to call the event 'National Weekend' to emphasise that it was more than just an AGM.
- 2) **Redistribution of membership fees to regions (referred from AGM).** The committee decided to offer regions the opportunity to apply for funding to cover shortfalls in their float for organising trips, subject to the treasurer having received regional accounts for the current year.
- 3) **Role of National Secretary.** There was a general feeling that, whilst the present National Secretary did an excellent job in organising and minuting meetings, the club needed an individual(s) to monitor actions decided on and to act as a key spokesperson for the committee. As a result, Steve Wright to act in this capacity (Assistant National Secretary) until the next AGM.

March & June 2017

- 1) **Regional Issues.** West Yorkshire is not now an active region, although it still has nominally 3 members. Also Cumbria and Lancashire only has 1 member. It was felt that it was misleading to potential new members from these areas and the website has been amended to explain this more accurately
- 2) **GPDR.** The new European rules on data protection have been implemented for National activities – membership system and website, but regions have been slow to respond to our requests for confirmation that they are following the new rules.

Complaint

The November committee meeting was marred by a disagreement with an attending local member who wished to propose a particular programme for the National Weekend but attempted to do so under the incorrect agenda item. Asked to wait until the appropriate item and dissatisfied with the responses of the rest on the meeting attendees the member withdrew and subsequently raised a

complaint against the National Committee. This was heard by an independent panel (that is, long standing members not involved with the NC or the meeting) who found broadly in his favour. As a result the Assistant National Secretary sent an unqualified apology to the member.

MIS Editor's Report AGM 2018 - Jon Marsden

Since the current editor took over from Mark Wallis the regular monthly electronic MIS has continued to be sent to members and posted on the website, in the same format as before. There have been two paper-based editions, the first of which was combined with the printing and posting out of the Spring Bulletin in March, ably carried out by the Bulletin Editor and members of the Merseyside group. The postage labels were provided by the Membership Secretary both for this and for the August edition, which was printed by a local printer in Nottingham.

There has been a suggestion that a pro-forma be posted on the website for contributors to use, but here have not been any cases where the necessary information has been missing, and this suggestion has not been taken forward. Entries continue to have slightly varying formats, reflecting the personal preferences of the contributors.

IT report to AGM 2018 - Dave Doody

Aiding and abetting chief webmaster Janet Saunders, I upload documents to the RR website such as monthly Contactless MIS, NC minutes and the Bulletins. I do some updating of the Diary Page. I add/remove members email addresses when required in the Email Forwarding Program provided by Ecohosting. As Yahooogroup Moderator I add/remove members email addresses from the mail lists of RR groups.

The Bulletin. Dave Symonds

I have been pleased that our printers, Art Trade Print of Sheffield, have upgraded their equipment and consequently have been able to offer full colour at no extra cost. The quality of the paper, particularly the heavier outer sheet, has also improved.

I obviously appreciate articles and photos from frequent contributors but would like to see a greater range of members submitting material. A full side of text amounts to about 700 words and photos should preferably be in either jpeg or tiff formats. A deadline is always mentioned in the short 'bulletin' section of each edition.

I realise that some editions have not always been received as positively as others. The 'duckman' cover of RR 33 wasn't universally popular! I do bear these criticisms in mind – honest!

However, I have said repeatedly that I would welcome photos or artwork which would be suitable for the front and back covers or as illustrations, although not much has been forthcoming.

Some regions use bulletins to publicise the club. RREA have mentioned that basic info about the club on the back cover would help in this regard. In the current issue I addressed this by putting the article about the new flyer on the back but I will also include that info in future. I would also be happy to send a pdf of the bulletin to a few members for comments before sending it to the printers. Let me know if you would like get involved.

I have generally enjoyed putting the bulletins together and would like to continue in the role although if any one fancies taking over or becoming involved in some way please let me know.

National Trips Report Becky Bates

It's been a good year with a healthy number of bookings for weeklong trips to five mountaineering club huts and three self-catering cottages. The programme has been varied with trips throughout the year to Cornwall, the Lake District and Scotland.

Cancellation rates have increased, inevitable with an ageing membership and this has affected all trips. Cornwall in September had 4 cancellations and no reserve list, surprising as it was to a cottage overlooking a cove near Newquay.

Reasons given for cancelling are generally health/fitness and changes to plans

We have noticed an increase in cancellations made a month before the trip and this is owing to the change to the refund policy whereby members get a 50% refund a month before the trip. Previously cancellations were often 3 months before which was easier for trip organisers to manage as that is before plans are confirmed. A month before a trip is also too late to reduce booked bed nights so increases costs to the club. We will monitor cancellations through the coming year.

Transport issues continue to provide challenges for trip organisers

- Late cancellations make organising lifts difficult
- More people want to travel independently so cannot offer lifts
- There are less drivers to share the driving

This will also be monitored as we may need to consider whether shared transport should be arranged informally.

Future trips programme

6 trips have been booked and only Glencoe in March does not yet have an organiser tho bookings can be made through me.

- October: Robertson Lamb hut, Langdale
- New Year: Swarthbeck House, Ullswater
- February: Stair Cottage, Newlands Valley
- March: Alex Mac, Glencoe
- April: Muir Cottage, Cairngorms
- May: Kilmory Haven, Arran

See MIS for further details.

Membership report – Linda Goss

Count of members	Band 1	Band 2	Band 3	Band 4	Band 5	Grand Total
Bristol & South West	2	7	9	4	2	24
Coventry & Warwickshire	1	1	2	1	1	6
Cumbria & Lancs				1		1
East Anglia	6	2	6	2		16
Leicester & Nottingham	2	5	9	3	3	22
London	7	17	18	18	12	72
Manchester	6	9	7	5	3	30
Merseyside	13	15	13	9	1	51
North East England	1	3	3	1		8
Scotland	7	7	9	9	2	34
Sheffield	8	9	8	3	4	32
West Midlands	3	5	6	6	2	22
West Yorkshire	1	1	1			3
(blank)						
Grand Total	57	81	91	62	30	321

It has been a busy year moving on to WebCollect and moving the renewal year from monthly to January 1st. I have had to (and I still am) chase people who didn't renew when they were asked at the beginning of the year and we did our bulk send out of membership cards. It is also complicating extracting data from Webcollect as it only sees people who renewed as members, so I have to re-add the people who are members under the previous system to my extracts.

However (hopefully) this will be a thing of the past soon and people will all renew promptly at the end of this year/beginning of next. This will make the job of renewing people much easier administration wise and also mean we are only paying annual subscriptions to the BMC for those actually paying us for the year. The BMC have stopped accepting emailed spreadsheets to do the data uploads so I have recently got access rights to do this and everyone is now on the BMC system.

We have had 45 people join as new members since the beginning of the year. 20 returning members, 17 join through friends and family and 6 found us from internet searches.

We have lost the extract our old membership system did where it updated regional contacts on members/joiners and lapseders. I have sent this data out only once to all regions plus on request. Regional contacts can be given a read-only access to the system if they want to be able to check on their members or they can ask.

I email contacts when people join their region. I email the new joiner with the latest MIS and send out a membership card and a bulletin to them. If someone was interested in helping, but wary of getting involved with the computer side this part of the job could be separated.

We have 223 members registered on GoCardless and other members entered their own details and then sent in a cheque, so the system seems to have been accepted by a good majority of our members.

2017 for comparison

Count of Members	Band					
Region	1	2	3	4	5	Grand Total
Coventry	1	2	1	3		7
Cumbria & Lancs	1	1		1		3
East Anglia	4	3	5			12
Leicester	3	4	10	4	2	23
London	8	15	18	19	10	70
Manchester	5	7	5	6	3	26
Merseyside	11	7	17	9	2	46
North East	2	6	3	2		13
Scotland	5	6	9	9	2	31
Sheffield	8	11	9	5	4	37
South West	3	8	7	7		25
West Midlands	2	6	4	6	3	21
West Yorkshire	1		1			2
Grand Total	54	76	89	71	26	316

Hut Liaison Report– Barbara Segal

As members will know, Red Rope has an agreement with Lancashire Mountaineering Club for the use of their huts: The Loft at Blea Tarn (Langdale) in the Lake District and Cae Ysgubor in Beddgelert, Snowdonia. We can book three weekend trips to the huts each year, and Red Rope members who obtain individual key fobs can use the huts at any time when they are not booked out to groups, to a maximum of 200 bed nights per year.

Cae Ysgubor is a great hut, extremely comfortable and in an excellent location. **The Loft** is much more basic, with poor facilities, though in a beautiful area. There are plans to upgrade it, but LMC needs to raise funds for this. In the meantime it is a not being let out to groups but is still available to individuals prepared to rough it

Weekend Trips - We have used our full allocation of weekends each year, most recently for trips organised by East Anglia, East Midlands and Merseyside in 2018. At the time of writing only one of our weekends for 2019 has been booked – for an NC meeting in July. Manchester is also interested in booking, but there is at least one additional slot available.

Individual Use of the huts

There are now 31 RR members with keys to Cae Ysgubor but we are still using only a small proportion of our available bed nights – 66 in the year July 17 to June 18, of which around half were additional nights tagged on to regional trips. It would be interesting to know why so few Red Rope key holders stay at Cae Ysgubor. It's a fantastic resource and it would be great if more members took advantage of it.

Overnight charges for Red Rope members staying at the hut are banded but so far the total fees paid to us have roughly matched what we have paid to LMC.

Other

Earlier this year Red Rope installed a key safe at Cae Ysgubor, where a key to the hut can be left during the day. We have also agreed to provide a couple of large saucepans for the hut.

Further information

All the information about using the LMC huts, either for a formal Red Rope trip, or as an individual member, is on our national website. Please read it if you are planning a trip to either of the huts!

Publicity Officer Report – Janet Saunders

Advertising

No advertising in press or publications this year.

Business Cards, Leaflets, Posters and banners

We have NEW National publicity leaflets – this leaflet advertises Red Rope as a club, with just a few words, and there is space for you to put your own region details if you wish. The reverse contains all the region@redrope addresses. This was publicised in the last Bulletin and I will bring some to the National Weekend – I have 500. Please contact me for more. They are great for handing out at left wing or like-minded events.

We still have the 'business cards', and the information A5 leaflets.

If you want to run an event or a stall, there may be a table top poster available – with notice we can get these printed.

Help with New Regions

Sally Meadows made some enquiries about getting a new region going in Bridport – I supplied her with leaflets and cards and general ideas about getting started

Website

I am responsible for ensuring the website pages are kept up to date and editing the more complex content pages. New pages this year:

Starting a New Region – based on the advice given to a Bridport member.

<https://www.redrope.org.uk/members/start-a-new-region/>

A 'Privacy Policy' page

The only region actively using their own page are Merseyside - using the new Gallery feature to post trip photos. I can give out a password to local editors if you want to edit your local page.

There have been several technical issues dealt with this year

- A 'spoofing' hack which pointed all our pages to a pharmacy site - fixed
- An issue with 'SSL certificate' with Google – fixed
- An issue with 'SPF' records which confused the mailing lists for a short time - fixed

– aided by support from Cov and Warwickshire member Bronwen Reid, who understands these things far better than myself or Dave Doody and she was able to guide us through getting these issues fixed with our hosting provider. Thank You Bronwen!

National Facebook site

Continues to be lively from just one or two regions. London and Merseyside use it regularly. Others very occasionally. It would be great if more people used the Facebook site, liking it and using it to post trip images, or just interesting items to get attention – why not share your local posts to the National FB site for example?

The most widely shared posts seem to be the general ones such as ‘The climbing women cholitas’ or ‘What flowers are these?’

Has 332 followers.

Trip photos and other posts get seen by 25 to 200 people (depending on likes and shares)

Local FB or blog sites – East Anglia, London, Newcastle blog, Scotland, West Midlands

Other activity - GDPR

I carried out an exercise to ensure the club was compliant with GDPR, in the way we share data with the BMC/MS for membership affiliation purposes – our online membership system complies with this, and our forms have also been checked and updated where necessary.

- Our Website also complies with GDPR
- All regions were contacted spelling out what they needed to check in accordance with this.
- The outcome of all this is recorded in our Privacy Policy page on the website

<https://www.redrope.org.uk/members/privacy-policy/>

Discussion Item – RedRopeNational – should it be an open or members only list?

Red-rope-national discussion list has been in existence for many years – it has circa 182 members, but not all are members of Red Rope. The club does not have a ‘members only’ discussion list and it would be possible to moderate RR National to become members only. Our Facebook group could remain ‘open’ to anyone. I would be interested in feelings of the AGM meeting about having a members-only discussion group.

Red Rope: National Admin Treasurer's Report and Annual Accounts 2017-18

The accounts overleaf are constructed as far as possible to match those produced by my predecessor for the two previous years, which I also include. This means that I have tried to associate all items of income and expenditure with the year they relate to, even if they cleared the bank account in a different year. However, a fundamental limitation to this is that membership, and therefore subscriptions, now run for years starting on the 1st of January, while the financial years covered by these accounts run from 1st of July.

Notes:

- 1) These figures cover the main club administrative account, but the same bank account also holds three other funds:

	£
Funds held on behalf of Sheffield Region:	460.90
Action Fund	2,000.52
Hut Fund	145.67

There has been no expenditure from any of these funds, and as far as I can establish no income.

- 2) As part of the transition to the new membership system, most of the membership were sent refund cheques in late March. As of the start of September, 32 of these cheques to a total value of £160.74 had not been paid in, and as they expire after 6 months any which were not paid in during September will be invalid. For now, however, they are included as a deduction from the subscription income.
- 3) In February we sent the Ramblers Association a cheque for £175 to cover our annual affiliation. When our representative arrived for their annual Council Meeting, they claimed the payment had not been received and she had to pay the money again to be admitted to the meeting. We are in the process of establishing, via the Co-op Bank, that the original money was in fact paid to the Ramblers, but this has been very time consuming and for now the affiliation fees include £350 to the Ramblers.
- 4) The accounts include a donation from West Midlands region of £200 and a regional support payment to Merseyside of £200.

Humphrey Southall
September 2018

RED ROPE ACCOUNTS 2015-18

	2017-18	2016-17	2015-16
INCOME			
Membership	8,560.99	7,865.00	7,847.00
Regions	200.00		
BMC Grants		350.00	
Ramblers Fellowship	20.00	20.00	50.00
Tee Shirts	42.50	19.45	
TOTAL INCOME	8,823.49	8,254.45	7,897.00
EXPENDITURE			
Affiliations	4,570.50	4,281.50	4,139.25
Publications:			
Bulletin - printing	852.00	662.25	713.22
Bulletin - postage+sta.	449.39	518.03	430.34
Bulletin - other	15.00		
MIS post + stationery		117.89	15.28
Publicity		405.86	68.37
	1,316.39	1,704.03	1,227.21
National Committee:			
Travel	411.96	209.35	348.95
Accommodation	122.00	112.00	48.00
Admin (incl postage)	512.10	499.71	212.84
Sub-committee travel		121.60	92.95
	1,046.06	942.66	702.74
Other			
Website	50.99	41.99	50.99
Training		134.00	359.06
Regional subsidy	200.00		
AGM	361.72	-64.16	102.99
Donations		2,000.00	100.00
Equipment		336.00	295.95
T-Shirts printing	66.83		
Hut (Misc)	10.98		
Transfer to trip a/c	350.00		
	1,040.52	2,447.83	908.99
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	7,973.47	9,376.02	6,978.19
INCOME LESS EXPENDITURE	850.02	-1,121.57	918.81
OPENING BALANCE	13,621.75	14,743.32	13,824.51
CLOSING BALANCE	14,471.77	13,621.75	14,743.32

Red Rope National Trips 2017-8

	food and accommodation	Car Transport	Public Transport	other	Total	Food cost pppd	Notes
Bosigran 2017	-110.59	-6.49	-3.99	88.27	-32.80	3.01	accommodation £12pppn. All had 10% early booking discount. At Band 3 this is £14.40 not £16pppn
Bosigran if all band 3	-60.19	-26.25	0.00	88.27	1.83		
New Year 2018					197.85		trip treasurer form not completed
Ivy Cottage 2018	187.34	65.59			252.93	4.62	
if all band 3	315.44	61.56			377.00		
Easter 2018					240.43		trip treasurer form not completely completed
Ronnan Cottage 2018	654.79	263.63			391.16	4.51	
and Invercroft							
if all band 3	830.06	297.91			532.15		
NC Roaches June 2018	47.65	-70.00			-22.35	4.24	£70 owed to trips account from national accounts
if all band 3	10.85	-70.00			-59.15		£70 owed to trips account from national accounts

account balance
01 July 2017 £2,521.82
30 June 2018 £3,633.07