

15 June 2019 NC Meeting. Cae Ysgbor Hut. 2 pm

Minutes (Janet Saunders)

Present

Becky Bates, John Dickie (Chair session 1), Dave Doody, Adrian Jones, Jon Marsden, Gill Platt, Janet Saunders, Barbara Segal, Humphrey Southall, Dave Symonds, Steve Wright (Chair session 2)

Apologies: Malcolm Donne

	Action Initials
Matters Arising Steve had brought the action sheet to the meeting and agreed to update it after this meeting	SW

Pre-circulated Officers' Reports – had been received and read by all

Agenda Items (Session One)

1. Plans for National Weekend and AGM, Sep 27-29 2019

Dave S. Last year's attendance numbers were good but still not quite quorate. Accommodation looks good and it can sleep 35. The deposit has been paid. The balance to be paid when needed. Dave reported he was planning to visit the accommodation.	HS DS
Humphrey to organise National Weekend booking form and online payment (Meeting timing 4 pm with dinner at 7 pm)	HS
Deadline for motions from regions of 31 July. This information will be included in the content of the MIS email.	DS and JM
Activities: Quiz, Orienteering, Treasure Hunt, Walking, Caving? Climbing? Mention on booking form and in bulletin	HS & DS
Quiz: Barbara and Humphrey	BS and HS
Barbara offered to re-use an orienteering activity from an earlier AGM in the area.	BS
Jon M and Pat Durrant are working on a Treasure Hunt	JM & PD
Food – Pat Durrant had offered to organise this with Sheffield members	PD
Bar – Barbara will organise this again – the advert should advise people there is NO NEED to bring their own drink	BS & HS
Raffle – BS suggested a raffle to raise money for LMC huts	BS
Climbing – Malcolm had offered to arrange this if there is demand. The booking form must ask people to specify their interest and we will try to organise it.	HS & MD
Caving – Steve Wright to contact Steve Bonham as to whether caving could be offered – if so it should be on the booking form also	SW & HS

2. Relations with LMC (huts)

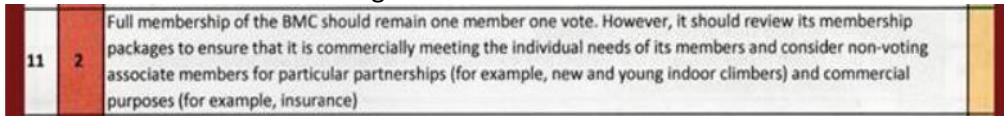
It was agreed that the £1000 already agreed towards LMC hut projects (Blea Tarn) should be paid immediately	HS
We discussed the London proposal that a further £2000 be paid, (making in total £3000) but it was felt this should be an AGM decision and London should be asked to put a motion to AGM. Barbara reported that Blea Tarn projects were not ready to start yet, so the meeting felt there was time for RR to make this decision.	HS to inform London?
The NC supported Barbara's idea of individual donations, with matching from National Funds. Barbara to organise an appeal. The last date for matching would be the last day of the AGM.	BS
Regions should be encouraged to donate but this would not be matched	BS
BS suggested a raffle at AGM for individual donations	BS
Volunteering activity. From the recent survey this seemed a possibility. BS to follow up with LMC as appropriate	BS

3. Trip Refunds for cancellations within last month of a trip

Discussion took place as to whether NC had right to overturn a policy decided c 5 years ago at AGM that there would be 'no refunds for National Trips'. It emerged that this policy was being ignored and sometimes was being applied in an inconsistent way.	-
It was decided the club should reinstate the 'No refunds within the last month' rule.	
To mitigate this however, it was proposed there be a nominal central 'hardship fund' to support people finding themselves in the position of needing a refund. This would apply to regional or national trips and members in need of a refund would be required to apply to the hardship fund committee. Carried 7 / 3 (1 abstention)	
A list of criteria should be drawn up to guide this committee. (NOTE JM has drafted this)	? Becky to coordinate
For National Trips only, a 6 week reminder MUST be sent advising all members of the one month cut off date for cancellations.	BB
Trip organisers to be made aware of this.	
A Bulletin article should be written to advise members about this policy, and to remind members that the amount they pay is not a deposit but payment in full. In that respect it is like any other holiday payment. An additional discussion took place briefly about 'holiday insurance' and it was noted we could advise members that if they had this facility available to them, they could try to use it.	JM, BB, JS
This policy to apply for all trips from date of AGM i.e. October 2019 onwards	

4. BMC Membership affiliation fee increase

The BMC membership increase is increased from £15.20 to £21.20 per member	
A proposal was carried that we should not pass any of this increase on to RR members this coming year (at a likely cost to the club of £1800 plus). So 2019-2020 subs remain the	HS & SW

same. We will research what needs to be done for the following year, which may involve a re-assessment of banding / relevant income etc. Carried 7 / 4	
Hugh Wallis, London RR, adds 'On the BMC increase, London are very concerned it will put people off joining. We think we should be considering more radical alternatives than just subsidising the first year. Options would include dis-affiliating and possibly only affiliating members who want to go on trips to huts (a 2-tier membership).	
The meeting discussed London's proposal to consider a 2 tier membership where some members were not affiliated. Points of information were provided that this would invalidate our 'Club Insurance' with BMC, and affect our access to BMC huts. (Note: the club insurance covers the possibility of damage to third parties which can happen even on easy walks through farmland) Benefits from our BMC affiliation include booking access to BMC huts (i.e. Most of our cheap accommodation) and Club Indemnity Insurance, beside the benefits to individuals. It was also pointed out that the only way to achieve 2 tier would be to split into 2 separate clubs each with its own specialised insurance.	
NOTES (added at request of DS) <i>Dave Symonds wrote to Dave Turnbull, CEO of the BMC, on Thursday 20th June, asking about this issue in relation to what had been said at the 2019 BMC AGM (below):</i> <i>London Red Rope is our largest group. Many of them are elderly, or just not interested in more demanding activities.</i> <i>Have any proposals been made for a cheaper, second tier grade of membership? BW, David Symonds</i> <i>He replied by saying that the BMC staff who were formulating proposals would get back to me.</i> This at least suggests that it is being considered. 2019 BMC AGM weekend, March 30-31, Buxton You can see that 11/2 suggests some flexibility over insurance. BMC CEO Dave Turnbull mentioned, during his talk in support of the motion to approve the increase, which was passed, that a cheaper form of membership might be available with restrictions e.g. that it would not involve 'Summit' magazine.  In an informal chat with Huw Jones, who was later elected as Nominated Director (accounting and services), he mentioned that he thought there could be a reduced rate for membership by Direct Debit. It would be useful if these options could be clarified a.s.a.p. so clubs can consider if any of them would suit their members. I am in Merseyside Red Rope. We have 50 members with only one climber. He climbs with friends who are not in the club.	

5. Automatic membership renewal, by direct debit

It was agreed that automatic renewals by recurring Direct Debit would be of administrative benefit to the membership/ renewal process. This needs to be fully	HS and GP
--	------------------

researched to understand how it could be managed through WebCollect and reported to next NC meeting on the last day of the National Weekend (last Sunday in September). If feasible, the aim would be to introduce the DD system for the November renewals.	
---	--

Session Two

6. Email systems to replace Yahoo

The club needs to end its dependency on Yahoo which is not fit for purpose anymore. BS proposes RiseUp which is 'progressively' owned and free. Another option is groups.io which is currently used by Merseyside – DS will ask Jennifer Miramadi to report on the Merseyside switch.	DS (and J Miramadi)
SW reminded the meeting that the Webcollect system could generate an all-members email for occasional broadcast messages. However it is not a group email system.	
JD proposed that RiseUp is trialled by NC and DS reports about Merseyside's experience. Agreed unanimously.	DD and BS with DS

7. Using the same multiplier for trip transport as for overnight charges

8. General discussion on trip transport

These two items discussed together

At Feb NC it was agreed that a trial be made of using same multiplier for trip transport as for overnight charge. BS and HS presented some figures from this. The trial had worked well for one trip, but BS did not advise applying this yet, as not convinced it tackled the issue.	
Trip Secretary (Becky) considers the transport charges were putting people off longer haul trips.	
In addition, changes amongst Red Rope demographics mean that members often have a variety of individual needs for transport flexibility which consistently undermine trip transport arrangements. There are a number of factors to consider: • A general lowering of banding on trips • High train fares cannot be sustained from Red Rope transport charges • People have more time for their own agendas • There is a need to get drivers to take cars on trips • High band members need to contribute something to trip transport	
2 Proposals to consider: 1. Use the same transport multiplier as for overnight charge 2. Limit banding to only those cars used for shared transport with 3 people, all other travellers pay their own private charge. 3. May be others	
NC does not have enough information to make this decision yet – Sub committee of Becky, Humphrey and Barbara to research and report to next NC	BB, HS, BS
Cheques for National trips should be paid into bank by date of one month before the trip, so people realise it is a payment, and to assist trip funds. Communicate this to trip organisers	BB
National Trip with scrambling training from Lupine – Agreed a charge of £33 for Band 5 members, everyone else to pay a subsidised charge.	BB

9. Uses for RR Action fund

NC considered the suggestions provided by 4 members	
Proposal 1 – Lawrence Brown’s suggestion concerned creating accessible trails for wheelchair users close to huts in association with ACE (Accessible countryside for everyone) Proposal 2 – Roger Greenhalgh’s suggestion concerns accessible routes in Snowdonia which are not met by the ‘Blue Badge’ certified walks.	
In regard to the 2 mobility proposals the NC decided to ask the proposers to bring the ideas to the AGM, giving an indication to them of realistic expectations of what Red Rope might be able to offer in terms of involvement.	SW
Proposal 3 - Pete Watson had also made a suggestion earlier on the committee list about supporting the ‘The Land is Ours’ (www.tlio.uk). They are a radical land rights group set up by George Monbiot and others. Note – as this is a donation and not an ‘Action’ it was agreed to reject this proposal. JM was asked to let Pete know and suggest he brings a motion to AGM if he wishes to pursue it.	JM
Point made by JM that we should be wary of turning the Action Fund into a ‘donations fund’ which was a different thing. It was agreed that the Action Fund should be used to assist members to take actions and be directly involved in campaigns, and not simply to donate to groups we felt sympathetic to.	
Proposal 4 - It was agreed that Scotland’s proposal for supporting the ‘Flamingo Park’ protest was one we would clearly support. SW agreed to contact Scotland/ Fiona to suggest £100 would be available to the region to support the campaign.	SW

10. Training Officer

Tony Birtill has had to step down for health reasons.	
Becky noted that in principal one National Trip a year should have a training element, but this does not have to be directed at novices. There is already a scrambling trip this year organised initially by Janet and then passed over to the trips organiser. It was agreed someone should take on the role of liaising with a training organisation for the following year. As we already have a scrambling course arranged for this year, it was suggested that Who and what was left for a discussion at the next meeting / National Weekend	RB

11. AOB

Deposit Account. HS asked for a decision on this – Close it	HS
WebCollect password Access – IT officer should have admin access and keep copy of passwords. It was agreed Linda Goss will keep her creator password but otherwise in all respects HS and JS will ‘control’ it.	JS & DD
Publicity – John Aldous designs and a new logo suggestion. Janet said she wanted to be kept informed and included about anything which related to branding. She had already made her own comments to John. Several comments were made about the logo itself. Dave S said he was likely to use the Bulletin cover suggestion and ask members for comments. There was discussion about using the Trip advert in some way to advertise National Trips in the Bulletin.	DS, JS

Publicity – Facebook campaigns – NC agreed to continue these with more ‘politically’ targeted ads if possible, up to a budget of £100 per annum. It would be useful to know how this was reflected in recruitment.	JS
Membership – Gill Platt needs to have several issues addressed (2 from meeting and 2 informally) Why do names come up twice when bands change? Will this also happen when an AGM booking is made? Printing a letter for an individual member /members without having to do each manually Printing names on cards	JS, SW? and probably HS

Meeting Finished circa 6 pm