



AGM 2019 – September 28th - Minutes

Meeting Officers: Chair - Humphrey Southall. **Minutes** taken by Steve Wright & Linda Goss

Present: National Secretary and Bulletin Editor – David Symonds (DS)
Asst. National Sec. – Steve Wright (SW), Treasurer – Humphrey Southall (HS)
Membership Officer – Gill Platt (GP), Publicity Officer – Janet Saunders (JS)
Trips Officer – Becky Bates (BB), MIS Editor - Jon Marsden (JM)
IT Officer – David Doody (DD), Hut Liaison Officer – Barbara Segal (BS)
BMC Representative – Malcolm Donne (MD)
and 19 general members. Total attendance, 29 (3 below quorum).

(see Appendix 1 for list of attendees. For cross-reference of initials used in minutes see Appendix 2)

Apologies: Deena Jefferies, Sarah Bates, Nicola Saunders.

Minutes of 2018 AGM – Accepted as correct record

Matters Arising (not on 2019 agenda) – none

Officers Reports

Submitted in advance and attached as Appendix 3. Issues arising:-

1. **Publicity Secretary** (JS) would like to make this her last year in post and called for volunteer willing to succeed her and would be prepared to 'shadow' her work in 2019-20. Her main roles are maintaining our website (which she is willing to continue to do beyond 2020) and for recruitment (activities and materials) usually through regions. Pete Watson volunteered to assist Janet with a view to taking over after the 2020 AGM.
2. **BMC Representaive** (MD) reported verbally that he had attended BMC national meetings on behalf of Red Rope and had not been available to attend any regional meetings. He commented on the incident causing the hefty insurance increase. With another meeting forthcoming he asked for any issues he should raise and was asked to bring up the issue of two-tier membership, with non-climbers/mountaineers being on a tier with less expensive insurance (see also Motion 3/4)- **Action: MD**
Malcolm advised that the BMC themselves were looking into cheaper insurance. The meeting expressed doubts that such would be available given the present situation.
3. **Hut Liaison Officer** (BS) also reported verbally (*written report received after the meeting and included in Appendix 2*). 30 members have keys to Cae Ysgubor but only half have used theirs. Members may now use the C.Y. hut as individuals under the same rules as Lancashire MC members. However there is not yet permission to take non-RR friends. As yet no bids for C.Y. for 2020 have been received and a letter will be sent to regions to ask for these - **Action: BS**

4. Help with re-decorating CY Hut is being arranged for two consecutive weekends (dates to be arranged) - **Action: BS**. There is to be a hut management meeting in November, to be attended by BS.
5. Requests for donations (to be matched from national funds) to help toward refurbishment of Bea Tarn hut has yet to commence.
 - a. A general email appeal to all members will be made via WebCollectt - **Action: HS**
 - b. A request will be posted on RR web-site - **Action: JS and Pete Watson**
 - c. A request will be included in the next MIS - **Action: JM**
 Deadline for donations to be end of October.
6. HS reported that the number of bookings made on-line for the National Weekend had exceeded expectations.
7. Olya Bowers offered to act as telephone contact for next year's National Weekend - **Action: All NC to note for next year.**

National Committee membership

All 2018-19 committee members were willing to continue in office. As there were no other nominations the committee were accepted en bloc.

(2019-2020 National Committee listed in Appendix 2)

A vote of thanks to the outgoing committee was proposed by Steve Wright – agreed unanimously

MOTIONS

Motions are detailed in Appendix 4.

Motion 1 – Trip Transport Charges Rules

- a) Only travel in a vehicle sanctioned by the trip organiser is to be banded;
- b) Members attending national trips will be at liberty to use public transport to/from the trip if they so wish, but this will not be banded. Those using this method of travel will cover their own transport costs to/from the trip and will not receive, or give, any subsidy;
- c) Trip organisers may make decisions on banded train travel for members who cannot join a sanctioned car, eg when all available cars are full.

A concern was raised about the risk of higher-banded members choosing to travel independently without contributing to the trip travel costs. It was suggested that research be undertaken, and then publicised, into typical public transport fare options to frequently visited areas. (**Action: NC to consider**)

Trip organisers should not have to decide alone if train travel is to be allowed.

Amendment proposed (Jon Marsden) that section C be amended to read “Guidance will be given to trip organisers by the National Committee, before January 2020, on the application of banded public transport for members who cannot join a trip-sanctioned vehicle”

..... passed unanimously

The amended motion was then put to the meeting:- in favour 24, against 2, abstentions 1 – motion carried.

Motion 2 – Trip refunds (West Midlands)

- a) Trip refunds to continue to be allowed in exceptional circumstances.
- b) Regions should be free to follow their own processes for trip refunds

Part (a) wording adopted at the meeting after request for clarification by the chair.

Red Rope was a caring organisation and should look sympathetically to requests for trip refunds for, for instance, bereavement or incapacitating injury and not a legalistic approach. Therefore the National Committee wording regarding refunds published in last Bulletin should have the word 'hardship' replaced by 'exceptional circumstances' for national trips.

When put to the meeting section (a) was agreed unanimously.

Section (b) was voted on separately:- in favour 16, Against 9, Abstentions 0 – item carried

It was noted very strongly that trip organisers should not have to make decisions alone about refunds, but that they should be referred to a national sub-committee or to the relevant regional committee. Members should have this drawn to their attention by including it on the Trip Booking Form and in an article in the next Bulletin.

Motion 3 – Club subsidy towards an increase in the cost of membership.

To accommodate the large increase in the fee for affiliating to the BMC, membership fees should be raised by an average of £3 per member, banded appropriately.

Motion 4 – NC to investigate options to avoid large membership fee increases (London)

Since these two motions were related, discussion incorporated both issues but were voted on separately.

For 2020 the BMC affiliation fee will increase by £6 per member due to a fierce increase in their liability insurance fee following a massive injury award. The National Committee had initially decided to keep 2019 membership fees for 2020. However further reflection had highlighted that the cost of doing so would cost the club some £1800 in 2020 and that, in any case, the full fee would have to be incurred in 2021. Therefore it was being proposed that the fee increase be phased over two years.

Some research had already been undertaken into the possibility of alternative insurance cover but these had proved disappointing, one firm having declined to quote and another stating that they would not be able to better £25 per person per annum. It was suggested that a two-tier membership scheme be considered, although initial enquiries with the BMC had indicated that this would not be within the terms of our affiliation. Nevertheless MD was asked to pursue this further with the BMC (see his report above).

Motions were put to the meeting:-

Motion 3 – In favour 18, against 9, abstentions 0 – motion carried

Motion 4 – In favour 21, against 5, abstentions 2 – motion carried

Any Other Business

1. Club 'Branding'

Discussion on the logo used on the latest Bulletin versus the current version produced mixed responses, with some liking the 'trial' logo, some disliking but most neutral. The conclusion was that if there was a general feeling that the present logo was too old/pedestrian then we should be seeking several suggestions for alternatives which could then be evaluated by the NC to propose one to the membership.

Action: Short article in the Bulletin to seek views and suggestions of membership (?)

2. NC to discuss the problem of AGMs not being quorate. **Action: NC**

Note to be taken that AGM attenders are not representative of many members who only go on day walks.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – AGM Attendees

David Symonds	Amber Mackenzie	Uta Praekelt
David Doody	Olya Bowers	Pete Watson
Liddy Goyder	John Aldous	Janet Saunders
Pat Durrant	Gill Platt	Barbara Segal
Ann-Clare Fourcin	Becky Bates	Humphrey Southall
Stuart Bloom	Linda Goss	Damien Connor
Jake Jackson	Malcolm Donne	Nigel Green
Steve Wright	Heather Morris	Arthur Bowling
Rob van Beek	Hugh Wallis	

Appendix 2 – 2019-2020 National Committee

DS	David Symonds	National Secretary & Bulletin Editor
SW	Steve Wright	Assistant National Secretary (co-opted)
HS	Humphrey Southall	National Treasurer
GP	Gill Platt	Membership Secretary
JS	Janet Saunders	Publicity Officer
BB	Becky Bates	Trips Secretary
AJ	Adrian Jones	Trips Treasurer
JM	Jon Marsden	MIS Editor
DD	David Doody	IT Officer
BB	Barbara Segal	Hut Liaison Officer
MD	Malcolm Donne	BMC Representative

Appendix 3 – Officers Reports Received

National Secretary's report – Dave Symonds

I organised the November National Committee meeting in Birmingham and the June meeting in Beddgelert. (Minutes for NC meetings can be seen on the RR website.) I also attended the BMC AGM weekend in Buxton in March, which I wrote a report about in the recent bulletin.

I have booked the St Michael's Centre in Hathersage for the forthcoming RR National Weekend. Barbara Segal and I visited the Centre in August and did some preparation for the orienteering exercise which will be held at the National Weekend. We also had a wander along the impressive Stanage Edge in bright sunshine and a howling wind!

I have just collated the 3 motions for this year's AGM, which I will be sending out soon with this collection of officers' reports. The point of this is to allow members to read and digest the material before the event and save the time when officers would have read out their comments on the day. This should help keep the meeting to a maximum of 2 hours.

I am pleased that there has been a small increase in membership. However, I am concerned that some regions don't have much by way of a programme of activities, without which it is will be hard to attract prospective members.

My intention is to remain National Secretary for another 2 years, when I will have reached a particularly big birthday, unless I'm shown the door before that!

Treasurer's Report and Annual Accounts 2018-19 - Humphrey Southall

The accounts below are slightly changed from previous years, identifying membership administration expenses separately rather than including them in "National Committee expenses".

Notes

1) As I noted last year, there is now a fundamental limitation in 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. Subscriptions are credited to the financial year in which they were received.

2) 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.

3) The club has made two major donations during the year, to the BMC's Mend Our Mountains campaign and to the Lancashire Mountaineering Club's Blea Tarn appeal. Following some discussion on the NC, both are treated here as coming from the main admin account.

4) Although subscription income may appear to have dropped, note that in 2017-18 £1311 was refunded to members reflecting the change in the membership year.

	2017-18	2018-19	Notes
INCOME			
Membership	10,152.66	9,389.98	See below for refunds From W Midlands Ramblers Walking Hols.
Regions	200.00		
AGM	706.40	813.00	
Hut	49.00	79.00	
Donations	20.00	50.00	
T-shirts	42.50		
TOTAL INCOME	11,170.56	10,331.98	
EXPENDITURE			
Affiliations	4,570.50	4,791.60	Was Feb venue free?
Publications:			
Bulletin - printing	852.00	784.40	
Bulletin - postage &c	464.39	524.97	
MIS post + stationery		25.46	
Publicity		223.89	
	1,316.39	1,558.72	
National Committee:			
Travel	655.56	600.45	
Accommodation	122.00		
Admin (incl postage)	69.48	46.20	
	847.04	646.65	
Other			Incl £1000 for Blea Tarn To Merseyside Change in mem. yr. To Mend Our Mountains
Website	50.99	29.99	
Mem. Admin.	379.02	722.00	
AGM	988.62	914.15	
Hut (Misc)	59.98	1,258.95	
Training		220.00	
Regional Support	200.00	55.00	
Mem. Refunds	1,311.18		
T-shirts	66.83		
Transfer to trips a/c	350.00		
Donation		1,000.00	
	3,406.62	4,200.09	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	10,140.55	11,197.06	
INCOME LESS EXPENDITURE	1,030.01	-865.08	
OPENING BALANCE	13,621.75	14,651.76	
CLOSING BALANCE	14,651.76	13,786.68	

Membership Secretary's report -Gill Platt

Region	Band 1	Band 2	Band 3	Band 4	Band 5	Total
Bristol & SW	4	8	11	3	4	30
Coventry & Warks	1	1	2	1	2	7
East Anglia	6	3	4	3		16
Leicester	2	6	10	2	2	22
London	6	13	15	19	11	64
Manchester	5	7	5	7	3	27
Merseyside	11	17	15	9		52
North East	3	2	3	3		11
Scotland	6	8	11	13	2	40
Sheffield	6	6	12	3	4	31
West Midlands	3	6	5	6	2	22
Yorkshire	1	1	2			4
Cumbria				1		1
Total	54	78	95	70	30	327

It has been a difficult time taking over as membership secretary in trying to understand how the new database worked. This has not been helped by the fact that some members have not accepted that all membership is now from January to December and not the date they used to renew on. This has provided extra work for me and I'm hoping that the renewal starting in November will run a lot more smoothly.

275 members have moved over to WebCollect which has made my life easier with just 51 members who have not grasped how to do this yet. I hope the regional reps could step up to help these people for next year.

Our numbers have stayed much the same and the banding is also much the same. We have obtained around 138 new members, but this figure is slightly flawed due to the fact that members renewing on the new system have been allocated a new membership number, so this figure is extremely vague.

I wrote to all those members who had not renewed and have now removed them from the database if they did not reply. All members have been added to the list of BMC or Mountaineering for Scotland databases and their affiliation has now been paid for.

I have endeavoured to send out membership lists to the regional reps on a monthly basis but this has been thwarted initially while I got to grips with the system and then a bereavement putting me somewhat behind for a couple of months. I have distributed membership list to all the reps on 1st September prior to the AGM and I hope the reps will encourage members to attend the meeting as take up has been a bit slow at present. I could also do with the current reps giving me their name if it changes hands so that I can send information to the correct person.

I'm still trying to understand the new database so please forgive me if things don't go exactly to plan with getting memberships renewed and sending out membership lists. I'm hoping this can be more automated for the future when I finally understand how the database works.

2018 Count of Members for comparison

Region	Band 1	Band 2	Band 3	Band 4	Band 5	Grand Total	Difference
Bristol & South West	2	7	9	4	2	24	+6
Coventry & Warwickshire	1	1	2	1	1	6	-1
Cumbria & Lancs				1		1	-1
East Anglia	6	2	6	2		16	0
Leicester & Nottingham	2	5	9	3	3	22	0
London	7	17	18	18	12	72	-8
Manchester	6	9	7	5	3	30	-3
Merseyside	13	15	13	9	1	51	+1
North East England	1	3	3	1		8	+3
Scotland	7	7	9	9	2	34	+6
Sheffield	8	9	8	3	4	32	-1
West Midlands	3	5	6	6	2	22	0
West Yorkshire	1		1			3	-1
Grand Total	57	81	91	62	30	321	+6

Publicity Officer Report – Janet Saunders

Actions still O/S from AGM 2018

“Red Rope National” - Make RR Nat a closed group, moderated, and invite members to join, Advise non-members about being taken off . We hesitated to do this until all renewals had completed – now we are waiting to see if a new mailing list is being initiated – as part of the strategy to move away from Yahoo lists?

RR National has been very quiet this year.

Membership – membership numbers are to some extent a reflection on publicity!

Membership seems healthy – see membership sec Report. The new online system has resulted in a continuation of this upward trend and we have not lost numbers – Good news!

Publicity activity as follows:

Advertising - No advertising in publications this year.

The Socialist Party approached me re. a summer school event they held in August in Birmingham – I wrote them a short article that was published in their conference brochure. I also sent them flyers to hand out at the Summer School. – Incidentally the SP member found out about us from a flyer in a London bookshop! So placing flyers in (socialist?) bookshops does attract interested people.

National Facebook site (Red Rope Walking and Climbing Club)

Firstly – THANK YOU to everyone who has used or shared the site this year.

The site now has 411 followers – an increase from 332 last September

I ran 2 paid-for promotions on Facebook in the Spring which cost a total of £24 and reached 1756 people, with 71 clicks to the website. I aim to repeat this ASAP but have not had much time over the summer to do so.

Our Facebook site continues to be lively from just one or two regions. London and Merseyside use it regularly. Others very occasionally.

REGIONS PLEASE use the Facebook site, liking it and using it to post trip images, or just interesting items to get attention – why not share your local walks 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?’, plus outdoor-related news items.

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

There are other local FB or blog sites – East Anglia, London, Newcastle blog, Scotland, West Midlands, but I do not know how much they are used.

Please use your Facebook sites if you have them – many people are on it.

Business Cards, Leaflets, Posters and banners

All the new Flyers were used by regions, so I have got 500 more on cheaper paper. I emailed all regions about these. I have sent some on request to Scotland, I sent West Midlands the file to edit themselves and use.

I have not phoned any other Regions – it’s hard to get people on the phone.

PLEASE ask for some flyers for your Region and put them in relevant places.

We still have the ‘business cards’, (which regions use occasionally) 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.

Website

- I am responsible for ensuring the website pages are kept up to date and editing the more complex content pages.
- Dave Doody does the day to day posting onto the Site of PDF forms and MIS.
- Bronwen Reid (Coventry and Warwickshire) helps out with the more technical items that Dave and myself cannot deal with, which is invaluable help.

New items this year:

We have a way of making Committee-only password-protected posts: Thank You Bronwen!

I have an action to update the cover photos, particularly the 'montage' – climbing related photos and politics/action-related would be welcome.

I am trying to use Facebook more to drive people to click through to our website.

Bulletin Editor's report – Dave Symonds

I thought the standard of contributions to the current bulletin was very high, so it would be great if that can be maintained, or even surpassed! The deadline for the next edition is November 11. One page equals about 750 words and images should be in jpeg or tiff format.

Lancashire Mountaineering Club Liaison Report – Barbara Segal

Usage of LMC huts

We currently have 34 members with key fobs to Cae Ysgubor, but individual usage of the huts is still quite low – 38 bed nights since last year's AGM, compared with 48 for the previous year. Quite a few of these stays are extensions to regional or national trips, so visits not linked to RR group activities are few. Only 4 nights have been spent at The Loft by RR members in the past year. Our three group bookings in 2019 included one national trip and one NC meeting, so there was only one regional trip. Note that there is information on the Red Rope website outlining procedures for booking and using the huts here: <https://www.redrope.org.uk/activities/club-hut/>

Reserved periods at the huts now to include RR members

There's recently been some confusion as to whether RR members could use the huts during periods designated for 'LMC members + family & guests only'. It's now been agreed that RR members can also stay at the huts at these times, and this has been made clear on the LMC calendar.

Survey on RR input to the huts

Members with keys to Cae Ysgubor were surveyed in May to ask whether they'd be willing to contribute to the maintenance/development of the LMC huts by joining some kind of work group or contributing financially. Around half of key-holders completed the survey and most respondents were willing to help with work on the huts. Other members have also expressed a willingness to take part in this. 8 respondents said they'd be willing to make a financial contribution.

Contributions to the LMC appeal for the renovation/development of the huts

LMC need to raise a considerable amount to carry out much needed work at The Loft at Blea Tarn. Our NC agreed to donate £1,000 from club funds and this has already been paid to LMC. Additionally the NC agreed to match donations from individual RR members. An appeal for this will shortly go out to all RR members via WebCollect. A raffle will be held at the Annual Gathering to raise additional money. [added note: This raised around £45]

LMC has proposed that there will be work parties on two consecutive weekends in March 2020 – one for LMC members and one for RR members - to redecorate Cae Ysgubor. Dates are not yet available but should be finalised at the Cae Ysgubor management committee meeting on 2 November.

Cae Ysgubor Management Committee

David Symonds and I attended the annual committee meeting held in October 2018 and will be attending this year's meeting on 2 November. In addition, Roger Greenhaigh, an active LMC rep on the committee, is also a member of Merseyside Red Rope.

Appendix 4 – AGM Motions

Motion No 1 - National Trips: Use of Public Transport and Independent cars

Proposed by: Becky Bates, seconded by Adrian Jones

Background: National trip transport incurred a loss of £350 in the year since the 2018 AGM. Analysis of trip accounts and discussion with trip organisers identified the following:

1. A significant change in transport arrangements over the last 5 years with increased use of public transport/independent cars and reduced use of shared cars sanctioned by trip organiser
2. The average banding on trips to be 2.6
3. Members using shared cars restricted to trip dates, others travelling independently on their chosen dates, banded if by train and not banded if by car
4. Travel restrictions, fear of fast or dangerous drivers, dangerously overloaded cars, early starts/having to rush putting people off shared transport and joining trips
5. Drivers less keen to offer lifts
6. Members below Band 3 unable to source a train fare comparable in cost to the club of a place in a shared car and Bands above 3 finding the multiplier on train fares prohibitive

This Motion supports shared transport by continuing to promote lifts in cars as the cheapest option for the club and its members. It releases those who wish to travel on different dates or to take the train from rules which are restrictive. It is believed that fair reimbursement and the knowledge that cars are needed during trips will keep enough drivers in the pool to offer lifts to those who need them.

The motion does not affect train fares to pick up points for lifts in sanctioned cars or on- trip transport which will both remain banded.

Motions:

- A. Only travel in a vehicle sanctioned by the trip organiser is to be banded
- B. Members attending national trips will be at liberty to use public transport to/from the trip if they so wish, but this will not be banded. Those using this method of travel will cover their own transport costs to/from the trip and will not receive, or give, any subsidy
- C. Trip organisers may make decisions on banded train travel for members who cannot join a sanctioned car eg when all available cars are full

Motion No 2: Trip refunds in Exceptional Circumstances (West Midlands Region)

Proposed: Gill Cox; seconded Steve Wright.

a) It is noted that the NC committee have decided that refunds for cancellations will no longer be considered in exceptional circumstances but instead referred to a committee which will look at hardship. The committee decided that this change could be made without recourse to an AGM motion. Hardship would presumably have to be decided by some sort of means test and is not the same as exceptional circumstances (which might include for instance illness or death in the family). We therefore consider that this change cannot be made without an AGM motion.

Red Rope is a Socialist organisation which should seek to be fair to all its members and as such should be able to offer refunds in exceptional circumstances as well as hardship and this motion therefore proposes that we continue to consider refunds in exceptional circumstances.

It should be noted that decisions about refunds should be considered by local or national committees and not by the trip organiser or by the national trips organiser (as this would be an unfair burden on these individuals).

b) Whatever decision is made about national trips, regions should be free to follow their own procedures in this matter.

Motion No 3, Club subsidy towards an increase in the cost of membership.

Proposed by David Symonds, seconded by Steve Wright.

Background: The BMC are increasing their affiliation charges from £15.20 to £21.20 for members of clubs from 2020. This is mainly linked to a big increase in the cost of insurance after what was described as a ‘catastrophic’ accident on a climbing wall, leaving a young man with life-long disabilities. The BMC stated, ‘Past increases and comparisons with other organisations show BMC subscriptions compare favourably with other similar UK based sporting organisations and overseas mountaineering associations. Over the last decade, the BMC has increased subscriptions on two occasions only: 2014 (£1.50 uplift for all membership categories) and 2018 (£2.50 uplift for individual members, £1.00 for club members).’

In response to this the Red Rope National Committee decided at their June meeting 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 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.

However, it subsequently came to light that the RR constitution requires membership fees to be decided at an AGM, as stated as part of item 4a: ‘An Annual General Meeting (AGM) shall be held to transact the following: to decide Club membership fees and trip rates in the context of a budget for the current financial year.’

The increase in the BMC affiliation charge has been limited over the last decade. Apart from providing insurance, path maintenance, access campaigns and up to date information, being an affiliated BMC member gives individuals the benefit of a 10 to 15% discount in most gear shops, which can off-set the cost of affiliation.

Motion: The increase in Red Rope membership should be subsidised by a banded average of £3 per member, as opposed to the £6 per member agreed by the NC. A £3 subsidy would soften the effect of the increase but not mean that club funds would be used to the same extent, saving approximately £900 which could be used in many constructive ways. There would then almost certainly need to be another £3 increase the following year. The NC’s proposal is likely to mean that a big increase would simply be deferred.

(I realise that a National Secretary proposing a motion which contravenes a decision made at an NC meeting is unusual and I have discussed this with the NC. It is not intended as any kind of general criticism of the excellent work of the committee.)

Motion 4: Regarding the BMC Affiliation Fee Increase (London Region)

The region notes with concern that the BMC are putting up their affiliation fees by £6 per member. We also note that the NC have decided not to increase our membership fees before 2021, by absorbing this cost. However this is not a sustainable long term strategy. We believe putting up our membership fees by something like £6 (presumably more for those on higher bands), would substantially harm our recruitment (and member retention), making the club less viable. Even now our fees are rather high for the majority of our membership, where the benefits of BMC affiliation are not obvious (insurance and access to mountain huts).

Motion: The incoming NC should set up a working party to look into options (*to minimise or avoid large increases in membership fees*) and consult the membership on the outcomes (with the final recommendation to be presented to the 2020 AGM). Some options to consider are:

1. Dis-affiliate from the BMC (those that require insurance could obtain from other organisations such as the Austrian Alpine Club and/or we could investigate a cheaper policy covering 3rd party insurance for all members).
2. Negotiate with the BMC for reduced fees, on the basis that not all our members need such an expensive insurance policy (they may cooperate if the alternative is disaffiliation).
3. Set-up a parallel "Friends of Red Rope" organisation to which people who did not want to use mountain huts could belong. This would not be affiliated to the BMC and hence the membership fees would be much less.