

AGM Minutes 3 October 2020

Zoom Meeting Host: Jon Marsden

Chair: John Dickie , co-chair Steve Wright

Minutes: Janet Saunders

Meeting Assistants : Barbara Segal, Steve Wright, Jon Marsden (vote counting and moderating)

Note: *This was an online Zoom meeting due to Covid restrictions. The club has purchased a subscription for the purpose of holding meetings – the cost of this meeting was estimated at around £11.00. Voting took place via participants' raising their 'blue hands' through the Zoom interface, which the group 'practised' at the start of the meeting, to very good effect. For counting the votes it was easier to count the 'against' than the numerous 'for' votes. Zoom interface kept a constant count of participant numbers.*

The following names attended the meeting, a few may have turned up an hour late, a few may have dropped out - 68 names recorded in total – occasionally people were using friend's devices which may account for some 'wrong' names (and the few with first names only).

62 participants counted at time of the vote.

1	Mark Alexander	Maia Forrester	Mark Ryle
2	Aileen (Somerset?)	AnneClare Fourcin	Victor Ridding
3	Alison	Catherine Gaze	Barbara Segal
4	Rebekkah Bates	Nigel Green	Janet Saunders
5	Richard Bennet	Janey Hewitt	David Symonds
6	Olya Bowers *	Ian Humphrey	Humphrey Southall
7	Sarah Bates	Margaret Johnson	Hilary Sleiman
8	Angela Brown	Adrian Jones	Fiona Scott
9	Stuart Bloom	Val Johnson	Katherine Taylor
10	Stephen Butters	Nick Kempe	Howard Templeton
11	Clare	Don Kinnibrough	Jan Urquart
12	Isla Cameron	Carola Klein	Robert
13	Gill Cox	Dot Lewis	Stuart and Abby
14	Joanna Clark	Jon Marsden	Susan Milestone
15	Pete Clark	Gerry Matthews	Andrew Worsley
16	Fiona Coyne	Jennifer Mirdamardi	Caroline Weinburger
17	John Dickie	Dermot McKibbin	Janet Wilkinson
18	Dave Doody	Konstanze McCloud	Pete Watson
19	Sean Doolan	Anne Moloney	Philippa Webster
20	Pat Durrant	Liz Murdoch	Hugh Wallis
21	Dave Dobereiner	Uta Praekelt	Steve Wright
22	Colin Knowles	Heather Morris (left early)	Simon (surname unknown)
*	Amber shared with Olya		Damien Connor

1. Constitutional Motion From National Committee: Change of Club Financial Year

Article 6 of the Red Rope Constitution, stating the start of the club's financial year, should be revised by replacing 'July' by 'January' in the first sentence to read, 'The Club's financial year and accounts shall run for a period of twelve months from January 1.'

Article 4a, stating when AGMs must be held, should be revised by replacing 'December 25' with 'June 30' to read, 'An Annual General Meeting (AGM) shall be held not later than June 30 each year.'

Why is this motion important?

Two years ago we standardised our membership subscriptions, so they always run from January to December. The club's main income comes almost entirely from subscriptions.

The end of our financial year has always been June 30. Having a financial year which is very different from the membership year makes little sense for accounting. It also means that our end of year balance (i.e. at the end of June) is misleading. This motion simply makes our financial year match the membership year.

Why bring this motion now?

The date of the AGM needs to be modified now to bring it in line with the modified financial year, although it also has the advantage of allowing us to hold an AGM in April, rather than waiting until September 2021.

Questions and discussion:

1. Hugh Wallis – What should regions do in the light of this proposed change? Regions are supposed to submit their accounts annually to National Treasurer, and they traditionally hold their AGM's in summer. Some guidance is needed.

Humphrey Southall – Thanks for this point - *yes some guidance will be provided to regions.*

2. Nick Kempe – Does this motion intend that the next accounting 'year' is for 6 months or 18 months?
3. and when is next AGM in six months or 18?

Humphrey Southall answered – it will be 6 months accounts, then 12 months from then on.

Nick suggested this is formally agreed at this meeting: HS clarified that the next set of accounts will be from 1st July 2020 to 31 December 2020, then from 1st January 2020 will commence a full year of accounts. There was some debate as to whether this could in fact be legitimately done.

Dave Symonds: The next AGM is in 6 months in April 2021. Hathersage has been booked provisionally, depending on the virus situation, with another Zoom AGM being an alternative.

Motion passed nem con, with 51 votes counted in favour (out of a total of 62 participants at time of voting)

Against: None

NOTE: Although 'voting with blue hands' was practised at the start of the meeting, several members said after the meeting they were unable to/were not sure how to vote – at least one person said they were limited by their device. It would not have affected this outcome, but we must find a way around this in future.

2. Election of officers

All officers are prepared to continue another year.

Publicity - Janet Saunders has appealed for some help with publicity as the job can easily be split (no one has come forward).

Trips Secretary – Becky and Sarah Bates now share this role.

Training Officer – there is a vacancy: in the absence of one, Becky Bates has been arranging training by qualified trainers to take place on specified national trips. Sarah Bates offered to share this training coordination role with Becky for the coming year. Until a Training Officer is appointed the Trips Secretaries will ensure that Training is organised to take place on one trip each year.

Covid Officer? - Question raised by Caroline Weinburger: – does Red Rope have a Covid Officer to coordinate compliance with the guidance & regulations?

Answer – Becky Bates: No. Becky confirmed that this had been considered but the 'Covid Officer' is only needed if activity groups were above 6.

Nick Kempe: suggested that one person co-ordinating Covid would be impossible, there are different rules relating to activities in the 3 different countries and locally. Responsibility for this is best done by local groups.

Sean Doolan: agree with Nick. Welsh regs appear to apply to training sports clubs, less on just outdoor activities. Either way, local procedures & guidance will apply. <https://gov.wales/sport-recreation-and-leisure-guidance-phased-return-html>

Simon: Ramblers Association COVID guidance is useful as well as that from BMC

(Point of information added by minute-taker – BMC have a good summary of information)

All officers re-elected, vote of thanks to NC.

List of officers for the coming year:

National Secretary	David Symonds
Assistant National Secretary	Steve Wright
National Treasurer	Humphrey Southall
Membership Secretary	Gill Platt
National Trips hut-booker	Rebekah Bates & Sarah Bates
Trips Treasurer	Adrian Jones
Training officer (vacancy)*	Sarah Bates & Rebekah Bates coordinate training on national trips
LMC Hut Liaison / Booking Sec	Barbara Segal

Publicity officer	Janet Saunders
IT officer	Dave Doody
MIS editor	Jon Marsden
Bulletin editor	David Symonds
BMC Rep	Malcolm Donne
Ramblers Rep (vacancy)	Barbara Segal acting as Ramblers contact

*Addendum: since the meeting Robert Manby of Scotland RR has volunteered to be Training Officer, for a trial period.

3. Treasurer's Report (Humphrey Southall)

Treasurer's report – (Reports submitted before meeting) HS said he had checked the number of members before the meeting and membership currently stands at 287 paid up members - no questions raised re. the report. Accepted.

4. National Trips (Becky Bates)

All last year's trips were postponed. The February trip is booked but may not happen. An NC sub-committee has been discussing ways of holding trips in future with Covid restrictions, and a number of options were being considered. It looks likely that the best option for trips will be small trips in England for a maximum of 6 people. Until a Training Officer is appointed the Trips Secretaries will ensure that Training is organised to take place on one trip each year.

5. Hut and other matters re. meets and walking

Wales lockdown – Cae Ysgubor is not in the locked-down area but one may need to drive through the other areas to get there. (Barbara Segal)

Dermot McKibbin: Are club members who have a key for the hut in North Wales now not allowed to visit the hut and if so, have they have been informed?

Barbara Segal: Key-holders have been informed as to new booking arrangements at the hut(s) to comply with COVID restrictions.

Short discussion re. walks and the current restrictions:

Liverpool Day Walks – these will very likely be affected by the Welsh restrictions, and the local lockdown – organised day trips not likely to be allowed.

Gill Cox – pointed out that you are allowed to drive through locked-down areas on your way to another open area but not allowed to stop.

Victor Ridding: Snowdon is in Gwynedd so OK to walk, Tryfan is in Clwyd so out of bounds!, I think the Liverpool rules related to indoor meets, not outdoors

No general conclusions drawn...

Hugh Wallis – *guidance is needed for regions from NC as to the Covid restrictions on day walks. Ann-Clare Fourcin suggested regions needed guidance on risk assessments.*

(Point of information added by minute taker – most of this information is available on the BMC website – *NC should note to make regions aware of this as appropriate – to be discussed at NC meeting.*)

6. Any Other Business

1. Suggestion of reduced subs 'offer':

Sue Milestone – Can the club consider giving members a free year on account of the restrictions on walking (and presumably trips)?

HS – pointed out this relates to our BMC affiliation subs, which are a large part of the membership fee.

NC – noted to discuss and communicate to members

2. **Future AGM's** : it was clear to all that attendance at this year's online AGM was about double that of previous 'weekends away' AGMs. A suggestion was made that future AGM's could perhaps be partly 'weekend away' in person and also allow participation online.

Howard Templeton suggested we use Zoom next time for an AGM as a money-saving exercise.

Simon, and Gill Cox: Could have a formal AGM via Zoom and a more social national get together in person?

Humphrey Southall:

Cost of the in-person AGM: If you look at the Treasurers report that was circulated, the difference between AGM income, i.e. what members pay to attend, and expenditure, has varied between about £100 and £400 over the last 3 years

Nigel Green suggested it would be a pity to let the activity weekend nature of the Annual Gathering & AGM disappear, as Red Rope is an activity based club. Several people welcomed this point.

Meeting Closed on time 6.30 pm.

Chairs and all involved thanked for their help with the meeting.

There was a plan to show 2 short films by Mark Ryle – this proved to be technically not possible and so was abandoned. It is planned to distribute the links to the films to member another way.

About a dozen members stayed longer to chat face to face on zoom, which eventually dwindled to 4 who finished around 7.15 pm.

Notes for NC to discuss as a result of the meeting:

1.The Accounting Year motion: Provide guidance to regions about implications of change of year for regions accounts and also dates of local AGM's.

NC need to put in writing (in constitution?) the dates of the accounts as agreed at the meeting.

2.Covid restrictions: NC need to provide some guidance for regions from NC as to the Covid restrictions on day walks. There was also a suggestion that regions needed guidance on risk assessments. (NB. Several people noted the information was present on BMC and Ramblers sites).

3. BMC affiliation subs and cost of Red Rope subs

In the light of a discussion around BMC affiliation costs when no activities could be held - NC noted to discuss the situation, look at ongoing benefits provided by BMC and our continuing affiliation and communicate to members.

4.Future AGMs and use of Zoom – clearly this will be discussed.

5.Note about voting – *Damien Connor said he was unable to vote due to the nature of his device – perhaps in future the Chair should ask if anyone was not able to vote and how they wished to vote. (at least 2 members had difficulty with this). People who raised their e-hand were moved by Zoom to the top left of the screen so making it difficult to see if they were visually raising a physical hand.*

End of Minutes