

Red Rope National Committee
2pm 12th November 2022 (zoom meeting)
MINUTES

No	Agenda Items	Discussion	Action
1	Appoint Chair for meeting and Minutes Taker	Jon Marsden, (Chair; sections 1-8), Pete Watson, Gill Platt, Rebekah Bates, Humphrey Southall, Janet Saunders (Chair; sections 9-14), Dave Symonds, Barbara Segal, Dave Doody, Sarah Bates (Minutes), Esme Roslin (joined meeting after a short while)	
2	Welcome,		
3	Apologies for Absence	Steve Wright, Dominic Griffiths, Heather Morris, Jennifer Mirdamadi	
4	Minutes of previous meeting	Correct	
5	Matters Arising (unless on this Agenda)	There are two lots of minutes: June 11th <i>BS to ask Adrian re trip payments online access</i> – AJ has not yet done this but it needs to be sorted as there are more and more online payments – e.g. most to CY. BS offered to be a signatory. RB is already a signatory to the trips account and a signatory should be able to have online access. RB will contact AJ to organise this. 12. Announcements about events – photos can be emailed/Whatsapp'd to Janet to post on the RR public FB page, if we want to use FB to announce events the info needs to be sent to Janet <u>in advance</u>. ER is also able to post, plus some others – e.g., Merseyside – JS will check who. The public FB page has 400 members so a good way to raise profile. Janet will write a sentence for Jon to send out to all members (On the Members FB page, anyone can post) 15. LMC – discounts for huts - rules have been updated and posted 18. Money to be transferred to Trips account – not yet done. Humphrey needs to see some trips accounts 26. Bank transfers - on agenda, see below 29. NC X3 meetings – has been addressed July 24th Issues from this subsidiary meeting have been addressed	RB/AJ JS HS/AJ JS to let HS know who are the reg. contacts
6	Building Red Rope (Please read officers reports and regional reps meeting report (on website))	PW – a document has been prepared and circulated to NC – new members days etc, with the aim of encouraging activities and trip planning and gradually growing members March/April 23 – special events to be planned – at least one in every region, to be well advertised, accessible and not too challenging, and to be supported financially from admin/NC if necessary Thanks to JS and ER for work they've done preparing a guide to social media Twitter acct to be set up JS/ER/PW – this may be reviewed, and another platform used instead (see below) A best person from each region to be selected to deal with social media	

	etc Esme – introduced herself, a new member and has gained a lot from RR – she wants others to benefit similarly She notes that there could be an alternative to Twitter – e.g., Mastadon – which seems especially/more likely to reach a socially conscious audience There were no disagreements with the guidelines prepared by E/JS/PW Reps from each region can lead on planning in their region but everyone to be involved if possible, so, an email to the whole membership and asking who wants to be involved Provisional plan: In January – ER will run a Zoom meeting with anyone who wants to be involved – she envisages regional breakouts/discussion With subsequent support provided as necessary Posters and leaflets should not be used primarily/too much – online preferable and more far-reaching/useful Use Meetup – and other online platforms Eventbrite – allows further contact for publicity purposes, and an idea of how many are interested Then, in March and April – open walks in all regions to get new people to come along Target ‘events’ - Weds 6th Apr – is National Walking Day – or that week at least, plus other similar events/dates take place JS – when RR started, many had kids – so not just retired are a source of members, newly retired often v busy – so appeal to as wide a range of people DS – the deadline for next Bulletin in Feb, online version is out late Feb – a good vehicle for publicising Esme’s programme BS – that bulletin issue could have x50 extra copies to give away on the events; so would be good to have extra special articles and interest It was agreed that numbers of Extra copies to be decided nearer the time ER – the plans are not set– it all needs to be led by members in/following the Jan. Zoom meeting One issue: cars – lack of – in various regions JS – if this is the case need to look at public transport – but this has to be decided region by region PW - regions need to arrange walks appropriately BS - RR should be about longer hill walks – but JM says it depends on region, and members ER - for the open walks – Eventbrite would be good as it would give an idea of how many attended (in case there were too many) And we should be encouraging new people who don’t necessarily know about hills etc – she has never done hill-walking but now she wants to	ER All regions
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		JS – it will be a good idea to cap numbers, e.g. max. 8 – or whatever is decided, in case too many turn up Regions to be supported financially if necessary (see below) ER – re. the new members days - an easy 'application' from could be devised – for regions to fill in to apply for an amount – that NC/NT could agree to – and allocate funds HS – would prefer a request from regions and then provide the requested amount SB – it would seem more appropriate if the region gave an estimate/'applied' for an allocation of an amount of money (more like how ER envisaged) Proposal Agreed: “New members” months to be organised in 2023 during March and April, with the aim of having at least one walk and/or climb in each region. These events to be advertised as widely as possible. Regions to be assisted financially and organisationally if necessary to achieve this.	PW/ER /JS/HS
7	Regional Finances (See secretary's report) Plus proposal: £182 support payment to East Anglia from National Funds.	<i>Regions to be supported financially if necessary (much of this first part was actually discussed under section 6 (above):</i> HS – providing support to regions needs a system in place, presently he, as National treasurer, has no idea of regional finances <i>Discussion</i> HS – doesn't know which regions have treasurers or how much is in their accounts SB – but don't regions have to send in list of officers and accounts each year following their regional AGM? PW – different regions have different roles/people doing different tasks/different ways of doing things JS – there are 2 roles/addresses for each region that need to be established - NC rep. and regional contact for public contact SB –it does depend on how many/who wants to get involved in organising within the region; not many BS – described Bristol officers PW – proposed that we should set up a sub-committee to discuss process for regional finances/support from National fund Important that the right balance exists between Regions and National organisation Regions don't claim money = why? Policy and sub-clauses are quite complex to claim money. Money could go to regions for various reasons – publicity/hiring rooms/trips were suggested as possible reasons but trips are the main reason and possibly the only reason for significant amounts (see below) A sub-group can discuss and come back with proposals as to how requests should be dealt with and funds allocated	JS let HS know who are the reg. contacts

	HS – 2 WAYS TO TRANSFER MONEY 1. Trips – needs detailed trip accts 2. Money per member <i>Discussion</i> DS – 2018 AGM – voted £1 per head per member – voted in, but regions have not claimed this JS – regions don't bother to ask for the money – because regions don't do accounts – but should. There could be a simple form for regions to fill in to provide the accounts each year (and the officers list?) Some regions don't have a bank account BS – if organising trips, a region really needs decent amount in their account (Possibly £1000) to set up and maintain a forward-running programme of trips What else do regions need money for? JS – to buy a round of drinks at Xmas gathering? – this is an easy way to make members feel part of National RR – if they know the money has come from Nat RR. HS – should email regions – once he knows who the contacts and treasurers are - to let them know about funding RREA refund of money 'lost' on Longthwaite trip due to Covid-related drop -out (see details previously provided by SB to NC) BS – person shouldn't have been refunded, and Covid issue was irrelevant HS – nevertheless, regions should be supported – by a float provided in some way DS – it is not really about the person – but about the float, and regions being supported PW – agreed RB- high-lighted the difference between National and Regional trips – the former with losses covered by Nat. RR, the latter not so JS agreed it was not a Covid issue – socialising should have been discussed between participants in advance VOTE on whether to make a payment to RREA (SB abstained) VOTE on payment in principle – YES Payment of £300 – YES Payment of £500 – voted YES By a Majority vote it was agreed to give a £500 payment to RREA account from national funds. Proposal agreed: The NC to set up a sub committee to review current policy covering regional organisation and finances with a view to making proposals at the AGM 2023. HS and PW agreed to be on this subcommittee. It was also agreed to	HS
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		must go to a zoom or face to face NC DS – an NC decision should be made with a simple majority by email PW – It's difficult to have a proper debate by email – so if 1 person disagrees it should go to a Zoom NC within a week How long to wait for email response – is 48hrs long enough? BS – suggested a majority of the 6 'present' at email and a week for any email replies JM - email decision taking can be difficult and 'face to face'/Zoom, much better HS – issues can need a quick answer, proposes 48hrs for response PW – suggests a minimum of a week Proposal Agreed For NC decisions that are needed before the next scheduled NC meeting 1) NC decisions can be approved by email by a minimum of six NC members where there is unanimous agreement and where a minimum one weeks' notice is allowed for discussion. 2) If the decision is not unanimous any objections will result in a zoom NC being called with a minimum one weeks' notice. 3) Any such decisions to be minuted and posted on the website as soon as possible. 3) This procedure to be widely advertised to the membership. It was agreed that this procedure be explained to those seeking an urgent NC decision. Contact details for NC regional reps to be sent to PW	PW PW JS/BS
10	AGM and future dates Proposed dates 28.1.23 Zoom NC 25.3.23 AGM Zoom 23/24/25 June National Gathering	Jan. Zoom is before deadline for AGM – 2pm start AGM – 4pm start Are Weekday pm NC meetings preferable? – to be discussed later in year, several NC members would prefer an evening meeting to a w/e – if it is Zoom. National Gathering– Venue needs to be found (see below). Question over a NC mtg at N Gathering – some people say no. – see below	
11	Finance (Proposals from Treasurer's report)	HS Two issues 1. <i>Blea Tarn appeal</i>: RR to match donations of £571 to LMC for improvements at Blea Tarn hut but should donations be returned to members as the work has been postponed BS – work can't happen till NT agree lease – but is now back in progress, so money may soon be 'needed' Best idea is to give RR members an update, and keep the money for when it is needed DS – suggested giving LMC until next year? -. BS would let LMC know of this. – perhaps 'informally'	BS

		2. <i>RR funds</i>, most (£15000) is now transferred from the current account to the deposit account But HS is worried about the large amount in deposit acct. – should it be put in an interest account JS – prefers the status quo, and the savings issue to be discussed later DS – why not get a better interest rate - HS could look into it? RB to ask about £1500 transfer from admin to trips account	HS RB
12	Trips (See Trips report: June '23 national gathering, training and covid policy)	HS – National Gathering is funded/organised by admin/Treasurer, but a location is needed RB- NG needs a purpose, or something different and should it be funded by admin unless there is a reason for it? It is too easy for the attenders to be the usual suspects; we need to encourage people who are new to trips PW – suggested subsidising NG for new members and no multiplier for anyone (but standard rates for existing members) HS – is OK with a multiplier, but not for new members, and subsidise/pay for training? RB – said that new members are attending trips and <i>might</i> be less likely to come to NG if it is seen as too cliquey/'National'/outside their regional comfort zone? JS – Training has been subsidised at NG in the past BS – yes to reduction for new members, noted that the venues are usually more expensive, BS is concerned that people don't see RR as a national. club DS – RR seems will always be seen by many as regions first, not ideal but this can be managed. Training not necessarily the answer –but a part of it/positive. JM – doesn't see 'the usual suspects' as entirely a bad thing – good to meet up–, but obviously we must also encourage new people RB – huts aren't cheap, Alex Mac is now £20 per night, and we can often find cottages for not much more than half that. And outdoor centres/hostels are expensive HS – it seems that higher price doesn't put people off – suggesting that a multiplier for everyone but new folk could work HS – suggests personal invitations to new members JS – emphasise a fun w/e, give incentive to new members DS – therefore don't have a NC meeting at NG RB – Agree with Dave; too far to travel for a fun w/e – with a mtg SB – Camping as an option would encourage people who don't want to share bunk rooms (either for Covid or personal reasons) Finding a venue important ASAP	RB/SB/J S/PW
13	BMC representative (We need to co-opt a new rep)	It was agreed to coopt Peter Billington as our new BMC rep. onto the NC. GP and PW have been in touch with him. BMC is based in Manchester so might be useful	GP/PW
14	Any other business	RB – <i>Training</i> we really need to add some on-trip training, can't now be done on currently advertised trips as they are mostly/already booked up. Training at Nat. Gathering would be good. Scrambling/ First Aid	??

		suggested – need to decide/plan it (Note; subsequently considered formal training not best at Nat. Gathering) HS – <i>Covid guidance</i> Following recent Beddgelert trip, review needed, HS suggested contacting Gill Cox -, and update guidance on website, JS – make sure to address issue of members cancelling due to Covid issues, BS – personal preferences- is this a problem – re cars etc These issues to be discussed at next trips sub-group mtg. JM – <i>Meetup</i> – a registered group can have x3 sub-groups, e.g. a nat gp but with x3 regions included for the price, need to make sure the sub-groups are those who will use it. JS £68 for 6mnths, a national group can be used more widely – to be discussed at January publicity sub-group Zoom mtg JS – <i>Eco cards</i> – membership cards to be kept as they are until the plastic runs out (!). Options for the future to be discussed further SB – <i>old trip booking form</i> please could Janet delete it from website as it is now past its use- by date SB - <i>New members</i> – SB has sometimes not received contact details of RREA new members, and has, luckily, found out about them ad hoc – Gill will let SB know about ALL new members – This will also allow trips secs to contact them with the trips info for new members. (SB notes: what about other regions – do they ever have the same issue of not knowing about new members for a while – can a copy of the welcome letter, or similar, be emailed to regional contact, as previously).	PW RB/SB RB/SB+ ER+ JS GP SB/RB
	Date/location of next NC meeting	28.01.23 Zoom, 2pm	PW