

Minutes of Red Rope NC Meeting, 28 January 2023, via Zoom

Present: Janet, Jon, Gill, David S, Pete W, Becky, Sarah, Steve, Dom, Humphrey, Barbara, Dave D (part), Peter B (part), Esme (most)

1. **Chairs:** Jon & Steve; Minute-takers: Esme & Barbara
2. **Introductions:** Members introduced themselves
3. **Apologies:** None received

4. Minutes of previous meeting.

Barbara queried the wording of the proposal for taking decisions by email, as this implied that a single objection out of 6 or more members commenting would result in the need for a meeting, unlike in face-to-face or Zoom meetings, where decisions were made by majority voting. Others disagreed that the minutes were incorrect, but it was concluded that clarification might be needed as to the type of issues that could be subject to email decision-making. The minutes were subsequently adopted as correct.

5. Matters arising from the minutes

Minute 5. Trip Finances

The NC needs to know whether trips are losing money or making surpluses, and the factors affecting this. Pending this information the requested transfer of £1500 from the admin account to the trips account has not been actioned. A London member has offered to take over as national trips treasurer if necessary. Becky reported that she had received the accounts for all 2022 trips from Adrian but he may have misunderstood her objective, thinking that she would do an annual summary. [Minute-taker's note: Following the meeting Becky has forwarded the account to Humphrey and has emailed Adrian about continuing in the role, to which he has not yet replied] Humphrey and Becky to involve Adrian in discussing this.

Action: Becky & Humphrey

Minute 7: Regional finances

A draft NC motion outlining a simplified policy was presented by Pete and was accepted subject to minor wording amendments, to be forwarded to Pete by email. [Minute-taker's note: Now finalized and included as an appendix]. This raised the issue of regional contacts, of which there are several types:

- Enquiries from outside Red Rope, including from new members: Links on website

- Regional contact for receiving communications from national officers: On regional reps list
- Regional NC representatives: Not all regions have a named rep and the 'regional NC reps' list no longer exists

Members may have one, two, or three of these roles, depending on the region. Janet, Dave D and Barbara to sort this out.

Humphrey was reminded that the agreed payment to East Anglia region had not yet been made.

Action: Pete re. motion; Humphrey re. payment to E.Anglia; Janet, Barbara & Dave D. re. mailing lists

Minute 11. Finance/Treasurers' Report

Barbara had neglected to raise the issue of the Red Rope money earmarked for the refurbishment of Blea Tarn, but would do so. Dom asked for clarification of the procedure for using the LMC huts and Barbara agreed to include a short piece in the next Bulletin, reminding members of the availability of the huts and the rules governing their use.

Action: Barbara

6. Building Red Rope

Esme gave a comprehensive report on the work that she, Janet and Pete have been doing in this area, including holding two Zoom meetings with interested members from the regions, proposals for organizing walks open to non-members in March and April, and ideas for using local walking events and green & socialist groups to publicise the club. She is putting together a written report on her work, which will be circulated to the NC [and regions?]. NC members thanked Esme for the brilliant work she'd been doing on this. There was a brief discussion about the use of Meetup and Esme will select the best package to make this available to a number of regions at an affordable cost. There was an inconclusive discussion about written material to be distributed to those attending the March/April walks or expressing an interest in Red Rope. Longer term it was agreed that a *Members Handbook* should be produced and Humphrey circulated the very old one. A sub-group of Esme, Gill, Steve, Humphrey and Barbara expressed an interest in working on this. Sarah & Becky had produced a short introduction to trips, which is sent to new members and is on the website.

Action: Esme re Meetup; Janet & David S. re. publicity material for recruitment; the sub-group re. *Members' Handbook*

7. AGM, 25 March 23

Deadlines in the run-up to this are:

11.2.23: All resolutions to reach the national secretary

21.2.23: NC officers' annual reports to be sent to David Symonds

25.2.23 Documents to be circulated to all members

11.3.23 Amendments to resolutions to reach national secretary

London would be proposing a motion on the Dartmoor protest. This was welcomed and Barbara reported that she had told Damien that Bristol/SW would second it.

Action: Pete and David re. circulation of materials; all NC members re. annual reports

8. BREAK

9. Covid Policy

It was agreed that we accept Gill Cox's suggestions. Becky & Sarah to update the guidance to reflect this and circulate to NC members for approval. It was agreed that the provision and cost of LF tests part way through a week-long trip would be funded by the club.

Action: Becky & Sarah

10. National Gathering

Organiser is Gill P. Charges were discussed, in particular those to be levied on members attending for fewer than the three nights. It was agreed that:

- Existing members to pay standard rates plus 10%
 - Members who had joined since last AGM to pay existing rates without the supplement
 - Members attending for only one night should pay one night's charge plus the day rate
 - Members attending for two nights should pay two thirds of their relevant three night charge.
- The Saturday night would be meal, quiz and socializing. A speaker or singer was being considered for the Sunday evening – Jon to investigate a suitable folk singer. Suggestions for a specific speaker, eg from Right to Roam, are welcome but it would need to be someone we know is not boring! Jon has prepared a treasure hunt for the area. Jon had planned a treasure hunt, which could be done at by small groups at any time. A possibility for some training is still being explored with agreement that any outside trainer fees would be paid by Red Rope.

Action: David S re. publicity via Bulletin; Jon re. folk singer; all re. suggestions for speakers and/or training; Gill re. circulation of details to members via WebCollect and arrangements for food/drink/meals etc.

11. Officer reports

Trips

Becky and Sarah had circulated a comprehensive report on trips held in 2022 and those planned for 2023, together with a proposal for increased overnight charges to cover increased costs of food and accommodation, plus the reinstatement of the 3:1 ratio of charges between the highest and lowest bands. Proposal agreed in principle, but reiteration of the need for trip accounts. Becky and Sarah to finalise a motion on this to present to the AGM.

There had been recent issues regarding dogs on trips. It was agreed that dogs would not be allowed in any type of trip accommodation on national trips, regardless of the rules of the accommodation provider. Where accommodation allows, an exception could be made for assistance dogs, with the agreement of trip members. Dogs would be allowed provided they remained outside and slept in vehicles, though other trip members should be informed. Regions would be encouraged to accept these rules. Becky & Sarah will produce an NC motion defining the rules for the **AGM**.

Action: Becky & Sarah

LMC

Red Rope's allowance for group trips to the LMC huts is currently 3 weekends, including one bank holiday weekend. Barbara has asked for a more flexible use of these 7 days, to allow for 3 or 4 night trips, and for this allowance to be increased to 8 nights. This has been informally agreed but needs to be ratified by the LMC committee, which is meeting next week.

Bulletin

David reported that the deadline for material for the next issue was 18 February.

12 AOB: None

Next meetings:

24 June, 4.00.pm. – Saturday afternoon of the National Gathering

14 October, 2.00.pm on Zoom (provisional – may be moved to a weekday evening)

Esme & Barbara, January 2023

Appendix

Revised motion on regional support payments (revised by Pete following discussion at the meeting)

“This AGM agrees to delete the current G5 of our club policies and replace it with the following:

Regional Support

- a) Regions may be supported financially to assist with the administration, promotion, activities, and organisation of our club.

- b) All regions are entitled to receive an annual financial grant based on member numbers, with a minimum of £20, and based on their membership as of April 1st of that year providing there is a regional bank account. The amount per member is to be determined by the AGM. The National Committee may also change the amount if a more urgent change is required.
- c) Any Region requesting additional support from national funds shall notify the National Treasurer of the amount, the reasons for the request, and provide details of the Region's bank account and current income /expenditure.
- d) The National Treasurer is authorised by the National Committee to make these payments following consultation with the National Committee (Policies Appendix 3). Consideration may be made to the nature of the request and the current national financial position. Any disputes may be referred to the National Committee and all parties have recourse to the Grievance procedure (Policies Appendix 4) if necessary.
- e) Regions that have a financial surplus may contribute to national funds."

"This Annual General Meeting agrees to increase the annual regional support payment from £1 per member to £1.50 per member."