

AGM 2023 Saturday 25 March 4 pm.

36 Attendees (list held by Secretary)

Apologies Received by Secretary : Dom Griffiths, Pete Clark, Alison Harris, Lawrence Brown, Isla Cameron, Naomi Paul.

Chair: John Dickie

Minutes: Janet Saunders

Zoom meeting host: Jon Marsden

Minutes of the Meeting

1. **Introduction and Welcome** by the Chairperson and naming of person/s taking the minutes (Janet Saunders, who started for the first half and continued to end of meeting)
2. **Approval of the Minutes from 2022 AGM**, held on 2 April 2022 and pre-circulated in advance of this meeting – **No objections raised: Approved**
3. **Matters Arising** from the 2022 minutes - **None**

4. **Statement by the Club's Treasurer** (pre-circulated report by Humphrey Southall) and questions.
We have about 20k in the club account, I do not think that is ok – we have no statement from National Trip Account, this is concerning to me as the National Treasurer
A new volunteer has been found to take on the Trip Treasurer role.
No questions for the National Treasurer

5. Reports from Officers and Regions

(all reports had been pre-circulated before the meeting)

Questions for officers – None.

6. Election of officers

A list of current officers had been pre-circulated. No objections raised.

From Secretary's report: Thanks to Malcolm Donne for his work as BMC rep who has decided to stand down from the role, and welcome to Peter Billington who has taken over.

National Trips Treasurer Approved to be Hugh Wallis (*Thanks to Adrian Jones who has stood down*)

No Training officer came forward.

Publicity Officer: Esme Roslin is standing down but may continue to oversee a small project (*to be confirmed*), Janet Saunders continues as Website Officer (Thanks to Esme for getting new projects started).

No other changes to officers

7. Constitutional amendments, policy resolutions and other resolutions

Motion to Red Rope AGM 25.3.23

(Printed in full here, Discussion and result in italics)

Motion 1) Dartmoor and Wild Camping

1. We support in principle the right to wild camp responsibly in open access areas
2. We support the proposal from Labour to introduce a new Right to Roam Act
3. *[We agree to support and get involved in a campaign to restore wild camping, including the possibility of contributing financially if a fund is established to help Dartmoor National Park's appeal against the recent High Court ruling on wild camping.] Amended see below*
4. We acknowledge that a new wild camping campaigning movement has emerged following the ruling, and we encourage Red Rope members at a local level to support this movement where possible.

Proposer: Damien Connor and London and Southeast Region.
Seconder: Barbara Segal and Bristol and Southwest Region.

Damien spoke to the motion:

Damien explained the background to this, regarding the change made by a landowner to prevent wild camping on his land at Dartmoor, the initial appeal was rejected but a new appeal is underway to reinstate Wild camping on Dartmoor. Caroline Lucas has also introduced a private members bill and there are other activities underway to introduce a Right to Roam Act in England & Wales.

Amendment to Motion 1: (Also from Damien) delete paragraph 3 and insert new paragraph

3. Red Rope agrees to support and get involved in a campaign to restore wild camping, including making a financial contribution to the Save Dartmoor Backpack/Camping Appeal Fund.

Dave Symonds mentioned support was a vague word.

Damien said this support (3) would involve some financial donation to the appeal, i.e. Dartmoor Preservation Association JustGiving Page, looking to raise £200,000 [official page is Save Dartmoor Backpack Camping Appeal Fund on www.justgiving.com]

Another level would be supporting activities aimed at promoting notion of Right to Roam in legislation Right to Roam and Stars are for Everyone.

Chair asks for voices against.

Humphrey Southall said he felt a donation to support the legal case would be a waste of money because the legal case is not going anywhere.

Dave Symonds – How much is club asked to donate?

Chair – National Committee could decide this, not introducing this issue at this point.

(At this point meeting is quorate with 31)

Kate Ashbrook (Open Spaces Society and VC of Dartmoor Preservation Assoc) commented this case had a good chance of success on legal grounds and public interest grounds. OS Society are contributing a substantial amount to this appeal. The appeal is important to the National Park to let them see support is there.

B Segal suggested a donation might be better given to a smaller organisation rather than the National Park, hence the amendment of item 3, to support other organisations where this could make a bigger impact. Although she still supports the motion.

Damien right of reply – apologies for the late amendment and points out the cause is something the BMC support as well.

Chair – the amendment is within the motion. Moving to a vote.

Vote: 29 in favour

Against: None

Motion 1 Passed as a Resolution

Motion 2) Banding ratio and trip charges

- NC have noted that the ratio of 1:3 between Band 1 and Band 5 is no longer reflected in our trip charges so recommend that it is reinstated with a slight increase to charges for Band 4 and Band 5.
- In response to increased charges at huts and rising food costs we also propose an increase of 10% to all trip charges.
- Trip charges will, from April 1st, 2023, be as follows:
Band 1 £11, Band 2 £16.50, Band 3 £22, Band 4 £27.50, Band 5 £33

Proposed by National Committee

Becky Bates spoke in favour of the motion.

Amendment to Motion 2

Proposed by David Symonds, seconded by Barbara Segal

- Delete “April 1st, 2023” in the third sentence and replace by “January 1st, 2024”
- Add an additional paragraph: “For all trips from 26 March to 31 December 2023, trip members should be invited to pay a supplement of 10% to help with increased costs.

This additional charge should not be mandatory. This will apply for trips listed in the MIS before 25 March 2023.

- Delete from third sentence “from 1 April 2023” and replace with “from 1 January 2024.”
- Add “Trips in 2023 have already been publicised at current rates so it seems inappropriate to enforce an increase retrospectively.”

Dave Symonds speaks to this amendment.

Amended Motion 2

- The National Committee have noted that the ratio of 1:3 between Band 1 and Band 5 is no longer reflected in our trip charges so recommend that it is reinstated with a slight increase to charges for Band 4 and Band 5.
- In response to increased charges at huts and rising food costs we also propose an increase of 10% to all trip charges, starting January 1st, 2024.
- Trip charges will, from January 1st, 2024, be as follows: Band 1 £11, Band 2 £16.50, Band 3 £22, Band 4 £27.50, Band 5, £33 p.p.n.

- For all trips from 26 March to 31 December 2023, except the National Gathering in June, members will be invited to pay a supplement of 10% to help with increased costs. This additional charge should not be mandatory and will apply for trips listed in the MIS before 25 March 2023.
- As trips in 2023 have already been publicised at current rates it seems inappropriate to enforce an increase retrospectively.

Hugh Wallis raised point that we do not have trip account report, but if there is £1000 balance, then it should cover it. Hugh supports the amendment, in that it seems wrong to ask people to pay more on already booked trips.

Humphrey says it seems wrong to push this through without seeing the trip account.

Vote on amendment

For = 19

Against 3

Abstention 1 = Amendment Passed

Amended Motion:

In favour 28 carried

Against 0

Abstain – 2

Amended Motion 2 Passed as a Resolution

Motion 3) Changes to Club Policy G5 Regional Support

**“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. This includes support for regional trips making a financial loss.
- 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.”

Proposed by National Committee

Barbara Segal spoke that it needed clarification.

Steve Wright gave the example of a region losing money on a trip - no indication in the motion of how these would be dealt with.

Hugh Wallis – agree with Steve W – Guidance is needed on why a region might want to claim from national fund.

Pete sums up – there are checks and balances, Treasurer has to refer to NC and they will discuss, so Pete argues that no extra detail is needed. Guidelines could be discussed at NC.

Vote:

28 in favour = Motion Passed as a Resolution

Motion 4) Increase in regional support payment

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

Proposed by National Committee

Any speakers against? None

Straight to a vote

For 31

Against = 0

Passed as a Resolution

Motion 5) Financial Decision taking by the National Committee

“This AGM notes that NC decisions need to be taken quickly to ensure the smooth functioning of the club. The NC only meets three times a year currently and therefore we need to be able to take decisions in between formal meetings. (The quorum for decisions is currently 6 NC members). We agree on the following procedure and create a new B10 of Club Policies (National Committee):

For NC financial decisions that are needed before the next scheduled NC meeting and are not covered in Appendix 3: Club Finances:

1) NC decisions can be approved by email by a minimum of the quorum specified in section 7 c) of the constitution 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. “

Proposed by National Committee

Pete Watson spoke for the motion

Safeguard is in there that someone can object and then there has to be a zoom meeting of the NC

Voting:

For = 28 = Passed

Against – 0

Abstained = 0

Motion 5 passed as a Resolution

Motion 6) Dogs on National Trips

- The Club does not encourage owners to bring dogs on trips and BMC huts do not allow dogs.
- Dogs will only be allowed on trips subject to trip participants being informed in advance and with everyone's agreement.
- Dogs will not be allowed into any trip accommodation at any time including huts, hostels, and cottages - whether the accommodation is dog-friendly or not.
- If present, dogs must be kept in vehicles overnight.
- Assistance dogs may be allowed in accommodation with agreement from all trip participants, and only in accordance with the rules of the accommodation.
- Any damage caused by dogs resulting in cost/lost accommodation deposit will be the dog owner's responsibility, and not the trip's.

Countryside Code: *"Dogs must be kept under effective control to make sure they stay away from wildlife, livestock, horses and other people unless invited. You should always keep your dog on a lead or in sight and be confident your dog will return on command."*

We recommend that regions adopt these rules for their trips.

Proposed by National Committee

Amendment to Motion 6, Dogs on National Trips proposed by Barbara Segal

Bullet point 2: Replace by: "Dogs other than assistance dogs will only be allowed on trips subject to agreement from all participants. In the case of assistance dogs, all trip members will be informed in advance."

Bullet point 3: Add after 'dogs', "other than assistance dogs".

Bullet point 4: Add after 'dogs', "other than assistance dogs".

Bullet point 5: Delete "with agreement from all trip participants, and"

Amended Motion 6 :

- The Club does not encourage owners to bring dogs on trips and BMC huts do not allow dogs.
- Dogs other than assistance dogs will only be allowed on trips subject to agreement from all participants. In the case of assistance dogs, all trip members will be informed in advance.
- Dogs other than assistance dogs will not be allowed into any trip accommodation at any time including huts, hostels, and cottages - whether the accommodation is dog-friendly or not.
- If present, dogs other than assistance dogs must be kept in vehicles overnight.

- Assistance dogs may be allowed in accommodation in accordance with the rules of the accommodation.
- Any damage caused by dogs resulting in cost/lost accommodation deposit will be the dog owner's responsibility, and not the trip's.

Countryside Code: *"Dogs must be kept under effective control to make sure they stay away from wildlife, livestock, horses, and other people unless invited. You should always keep your dog on a lead or in sight and be confident your dog will return on command."*

We recommend that regions adopt these rules for their trips *and acknowledge that some regions actively encourage dogs on trips that are clearly advertised as dog-friendly.*

Amendment to Resolution 6 (from London Region and accepted by proposers)

Delete full stop in final sentence and add the following words:

"and acknowledge that some regions actively encourage dogs on trips that are clearly advertised as dog friendly." [accepted by proposers and added above]

All amendments have already been accepted.

*Becky Bates reports she has been contacted by trip organisers who feel conflicted. Regions are welcome to accept dogs into accommodation and to advertise that.
For National trips we say dogs **not in accommodation***

Discussion

Hugh Wallis – says dogs only welcome if all participants agree, this is ambiguous.

Jo Weller – please show in full the London amendment.

Olya Bowers – Dogs in cars overnight seems cruel to the dog and there may be legal repercussions.

Janey Hewitt – what would happen in a heatwave if the dog cannot come in – has the dog got to stay outside? Is there any flexibility to the rule?

Helen Murrell – what is our situation regarding our public liability insurance? For example, regarding Dogs being left in cars? If a dog killed a sheep what is the club's responsibility?

Chair confirmed that it is the owner's responsibility and our public liability does not cover dogs.

Gill Cox – if everyone has to agree, then what happens with a late participant who doesn't want a dog? This needs to be made clear, some people might say they had the right to come instead of the dog.

Sarah Bates (Trips Sec): In that case the latecomer would be told of the trip conditions, and they would have to accept that or not come.

Nigel Green – the motion seems as reasonably worded as it can be and we need to see how it develops in practise, if passed.

Becky Bates to reply: it is a recommendation, there is no intention to block dogs at all, it is intended as a Guideline

Voting:

For: 22

Against: 2

Abstention: 3

Motion 6 carried as a Resolution.

8. AOB and provisional date for next AGM

Provisional date 13 April 2024 TBC

Any other Questions:

Sarah Bates – Do regions have to send in their accounts in advance of AGM?

Answer – there is no requirement for this.

Chairperson thanked everyone for coming.

Meeting closed circa 5.30