

2024 Annual General Meeting

Saturday, April 13th

Held on-line by Zoom (hosted by Jon Marsden)

Chair: John Dickie

Minutes: Steve Wright, Pete Watson

Present: 41 members (including the above)

Apologies: Peter Walker, Humphrey Southall, Steve Butters, Nigel Green, Alice Lyons, Brian Greer, Aileen Somerset, Pete Clark, Janet Saunders

Minutes of the Meeting

1. **Introduction and Welcome** by the Chair and noting the minutes recorders
2. **Minutes of the 2023 AGM** – No objections raised, so approved as correct record
3. **Matters arising** (not on the agenda) – Pete Watson reported that the club had donated over £200 to the campaign to restore wild camping on Dartmoor and continued to encourage support for Right to Roam events.
4. **Financial report** – Treasurer not able to be present but Annual Report had been circulated in advance to all members. No queries were made by those present. Annual Report approved unanimously.
5. **Other Officers Reports** – Also circulated in advance. No queries raised, Reports approved unanimously
6. **Election of Officers**
A new post, Safeguarding Officer, was required. Sue Whittle had offered to stand for this position. Also, Brian Greer had agreed to act as our Auditor. For all other posts, the existing officers were prepared to stand and no other candidates had been put forward.

The meeting agreed to elect all officers en bloc. Officers elected unanimously.

- a. **National Secretary** – Peter Watson
- b. **National Treasurer** – Humphrey Southall
- c. **Other Officers** – listed at the end of these minutes

It should be noted that a number of posts were unfilled – Training, Publicity, Huts Liaison, Ramblers Representative

7. Motions and Policy Amendments

Motion 1 – comprising 5 parts as follows (in summary):

- a. **Introducing a 50% minimum deposit for trip payments, with balance due 1 month before the trip date**
- b. **Halving cancellation charges**
- c. **Discontinuing Early Booking Discount**
- d. **Caping trip transport charges at Band 3 rate**
- e. **A variety of policy clarifications relating to trip finances. In particular, allowing car drivers to be reimbursed from home for the agreed use of their car as part of the trip transport.**

Proposed by: Hugh Wallis (Trips Treasurer), **Seconded by:** Becky Bates (Joint Trips Secretary).

Chair proposed dealing with each part as a separate motion for introduction, discussion and voting. Alternative proposal from the floor that all be introduced as one, then discussion and voting on each one individually.

This latter approach was adopted by 12 votes to 7, with all others abstaining

Motion was introduced by Hugh Wallis, the aim of the proposals being to make policies relating to trip payments, cancellations and trip transport more equitable, whilst at the same time the whole package would enable trips to be more financially viable, given significant recent increases in hut charges.

Implementation will be immediately following this AGM with the exception of item c) (ending EBD) which will come into effect for trips starting after 1st January 2025.

Items a) to c) were non-controversial and voting was

Motion 1a passed: For the motion 24, against 2, abstentions not recorded

Motion 1b passed: For the motion 25, against 0, abstentions not recorded

Motion 1c passed: For the motion 26, against 2, abstentions not recorded

Motion 1d was opposed by Barbara Segal who deemed the cap to be contrary to the club's objectives of more well enough members subsidising those less well-off. To her it seemed that this was tantamount to a move to abandon our income band principles. The Trips Secretary responded that neither she nor the majority of the National Committee saw it like this, with the banding principle being maintained for trip charges in general and that in future trip charges for bands 4 and 5 would be likely to be raised to provide the subsidy required, although there was no need or intention to do so this year. National trips would be monitored to identify any adverse effects from this policy amendment.

Voting for this section of the motion:-

Motion 1d passed: For the motion 18, against 8, abstentions not recorded

Motion 1e was opposed by Richard Bennet who thought section vii) relating to use of ferries was unfair. The Trips Treasurer clarified the clause in that whilst the ferry costs would be shared equally between those in a car, each would then be reimbursed according to their income band.

Voting for this section of the motion:-

Motion 1e passed: For the motion 22, against 2, abstentions not recorded

Motion 2 – Remove provision for non-members to pay Band 3 plus 50% and ask them to assess their banding based on their relevant income, in the same way as they would when joining the club.

Proposed by: Mark Ryle, **Seconded by:** Maia Forrester

This would supersede the wording of existing Policy G4(p) [to become G4(o) since Motion 1 was passed]

“Non-members will pay the equivalent of Band 3 on their first trip, unless they deem it appropriate to pay more. Subsequently, they will pay the equivalent of Band 3 plus an additional 50% of their nightly charge.”

will be replaced by:

“Non-members will be asked to assess their membership-equivalent band based on their self-assessment of their income and pay the appropriate nightly rate for the trip.”

Motion passed – For the motion 25, against 0, abstentions not recorded

Motion 3 - For a Ceasefire in Gaza

Supported by London Region

London Red Rope notes that:

As of 1 March 2024, over 30,000 people out of a population of just over 2 million have been killed in Gaza since 7 October 2023 (nearly 5 months). Over half of these are children. Three out of four people in Gaza are displaced with over 50% of homes, schools, places of worship and universities severely damaged or destroyed. The Gaza health system has almost collapsed without medication or essential supplies. The World Food Programme warns most people in Gaza are at risk of starvation. At least 110 Palestinians were killed on 29 February 2024 whilst seeking food to survive

The Red Rope AGM therefore resolves:

- a) That our secretary writes to the Foreign Secretary, the Shadow Foreign Secretary and to all Mayors in which Red Rope has regional branches requesting that they call for:
 - an immediate ceasefire
 - humanitarian agencies to be allowed to bring necessary humanitarian aid into Gaza

- that Israel unconditionally allows such aid to be safely distributed to the population of displaced, traumatised and injured people
- b) That our Secretary makes a statement to be publicised on all our social media accounts expressing our support for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza

Proposed by: Wendy Pettifer, **Seconded by:** Miriam Beeks

Motion passed: For the motion 27, against 0, abstentions not recorded

Request from Pete Watson for assistance from Wendy to clarify to whom the motion should be sent. Barbara Segal proposed sending a copy of the motion to BMC too.

8. Proposal to set up a group to consider our use of online companies

Proposed by: Pete Clark

John Dickie as chair of the meeting stated that Pete Clark didn't feel the need for discussion on this item, and John invited people to contact Pete through his email address if interested.

9. Any Other Business

1) National Gathering catering

Gill Platt asked for help with cooking at the Gathering for the Saturday night meal. Gill Cox volunteered to be the cook.

2) Safeguarding

Sue Whittle as the new Safeguarding Officer proposed that we agree to comply with those parts of BMC safeguarding policy that apply to us, until we have our own safeguarding policy. She will propose a new policy for next year.

Gill Cox stated that the existing policy needed to be revised. Sue proposed that if there is conflict between our policy and BMC, that BMC policy takes primacy for our club to remain insured. This was agreed nem con.

3) Member recovering from accident

Pete Watson reported that he had sent a card on behalf of the club.

4) Problem with members paying multiple times if they are also members of other clubs affiliated to BMC/ Mountaineering Scotland

Raised by Richard Bennett. Agreed it should be discussed at the next NC meeting.

Sue Whittle reported that if as member contacts BMC they will get a rebate if they are a member of more than one club.

5) Steve Wright proposed that we give a donation to Brecon Mountain Rescue, and that, as a general principle, we give donations to any mountain rescue team who has been called out in support of our members.

It was agreed to propose a £100 donation to Brecon Mountain Rescue. Steve Wright will circulate proposal to NC members.

(Subsequent to meeting: the mountain rescue teams involved in this rescue were Central Beacons and Black Mountains and there is continuing email discussion as to the exact amounts to donate)

A general policy about making donations to Mountain Rescue to be discussed at next NC meeting.

6) Gerry Mathews urged club members to donate blood as stocks are low.

7) Trudi Warner. Hugh Wallis reported that Trudi is in court on Thursday for showing a sign asking juries to convict according to their conscience. He proposed we send a message of solidarity and asked if people could attend court to support her. Gerry Mathews reported that there was a week of action at the courts in London. Campaign is called Defend our Juries. Pete Watson has circulated information prior to the AGM to members.

10) Provisional date of AGM 2025, April 5th

Meeting Ended

Club Officers 2024-25

Secretary: Pete Watson

Assistant Secretary: Steve Wright

Treasurer: Humphrey Southall

National Trips Organisers: Becky Bates/Sarah Bates

National Trips Treasurer: Hugh Wallis

Membership Secretary: Gill Platt

Bulletin Editor: Dave Symonds

Website Officer: Janet Saunders

Monthly Information Sheet Editor: Jon Marsden

BMC rep: Peter Billington

Mountaineering Scotland Rep: Helen Todd

Safeguarding Officer: Sue Whittle

Auditor: Brian Greer

IT Officer: Dave Doody

Ramblers Rep: Vacant

Training Officer: Vacant

Publicity Officer: Vacant

Hut Liaison Officer: Vacant