

Red Rope National Committee meeting via Zoom, Thursday 7th May 2026 Minutes

Start time. 6.30 pm.

Present

Rebekah Bates, Sarah Bates, Damien Connor, Jon Marsden, Janet Saunders, Humphrey Southall, Hugh Wallis, Pete Watson, Sue Whittle

Agenda Item (Not taken in numerical order)	Action
1. Chairperson: Pete Watson, minutes: Jon Marsden	
2. Welcome, introductions	
3. Apologies for absence: Mickey McDiarmid, Gill Platt, Dave Symonds, Steve Wright	
New banding system and trip finances- Humphrey commented that consequences were unpredictable as it was unknown how many members would opt for each band, but the club finances are sufficient to take the risk of a temporary shortfall pending the realignment of membership fees and trip and transport charges, in response to members' choices and the new band distribution that results. WebCollect will have to be changed to work on the basis of the new bands. Hugh Wallis raised issues of when and how new trip rates and charges will be introduced. It was agreed that the band distribution would be known by the time of the AGM (17th March 2027) and trips from 1st April 2027 will be run using new trip charges.	Membership to be informed of new bands and charges by late September, via the bulletin. Janet to put them on the website Janet, Gill and Humphrey to form a sub group to implement these changes. WebCollect may be able to offer advice and guidance. Report back to next NC meeting. Hugh to draft proposals for new trip charges, transport costs etc for agreement at AGM (or earlier).
7. Website maintenance and budget Janet raised the issue of the need to change the Wordpress theme on which our website runs (currently "Maidenhair"), and migrate the data to a new one. The new theme should be a standard one that will be automatically updated. Janet has been in contact with a company in Nottingham and a freelancer. Sue's brother Andy may also be able to help. From her research, Janet found the cost is very difficult to know, but it could be around £1000. Humphrey stated that up to £2000 would be acceptable as a budget.	Sue to send Andy's contact details to Janet. The meeting agreed to go ahead on this basis.

Monthly maintenance? Not strictly necessary as Bronwen can handle this. 6.58pm: Sue left the meeting. 7.00pm: At this point and before also leaving the meeting, Humphrey said that he intends to stand down at the next AGM. Pete said he intends to do the same.	See under AoB
4, 5: Minutes of previous meeting (Jan 26) and Matters Arising: No discussion needed on AGM decision to authorise the NC to set new membership fees. Nor on the agreement that there should be one face-to-face meeting a year. We welcome Bob Blenkinsop to the NC. Code of Conduct finalised Pete stated that agenda items 1, 3, 5, 7, and 8 require a policy change.	Janet to put Code of Conduct on website Steve to action this and make changes to the constitution. Janet to update the website accordingly.
6. Action points No action points spreadsheet available	
8. National Gathering Gill no longer organiser. Janet is taking on organising activities; Sue will organise food; Trips Group, who will meet in June, will deal with transport. Jon will offer a treasure hunt and will run the bar. Humphrey has offered to do some training on using the OS App. Need a contact point for enquiries 10 bookings have been received so far.	It needs to be clear to attenders that there will be a bar at cost price, so no need to bring own drinks. Janet to follow up with Humphrey To be handled by Sarah and Becky via the trips address. Jon to put in MIS.
9b Trips group: It was noted that more regions are organising trips, which is good. Some weekend trips are needed, which suit people who are working, and are potentially more appealing for members wanting to try a trip for the first time. Less forbidding than the idea of a full week's trip. Sarah: have changes been made to the trip booking form?	Hugh will make them if not.
9. Regional reps In Gill's absence the meeting clarified that there should be a contact for every region, and that the regional rep (not necessarily the same person) should keep a list of regional members.	

Possibly there are specific regions where Gill has a problem sending or receiving information. Seeking clarity on the role of Regional reps, it was found there is no real job description in any of our policy documents, but that it was mainly a question of maintaining the flow of information between the NC and the membership.	Pete to clarify with Gill Description of the role of the regional reps should be available on the website. Steve to locate Job Description and Janet to put it on the website.
10. Next meeting: 2nd July 6.30pm via Zoom	JM to publicise in MIS
11. Any Other Business a. Vacancies on committee: National Secretary, National Treasurer and Bulletin Editor have all stated their intention to step down's position. We need to send out an email appealing for possible members to fill these roles as well as other roles currently vacant. b. Facebook pages: Becky commented that the use of the members' page shows an increased willingness to engage and share so it is a pity the public page is limited. Could we offer regions the opportunity for such access and include guidelines on permission/safety? c. Janet commented that scenic photos are the best for public pages – not people's faces, unless the photographer has taken the trouble to get consent.	a. To be discussed at next NC meeting b. Janet to look into this.