

I have shortened the background notes to the motions so this summary fits on 2 sides. DS.

Motion 1: National Trips and the Use of Public Transport and Independent cars

Proposed by: Becky Bates, National Trips organiser; seconded by Adrian Jones.

National trip transport incurred a loss of £350 in the year since the 2018 AGM. This motion supports shared transport by continuing to promote lifts in cars as the cheapest option for the club and its members. It releases those who wish to travel on different dates or to take the train from rules which are restrictive. It is believed that fair reimbursement and the knowledge that cars are needed during trips will keep enough drivers in the pool to offer lifts to those who need them. The motion does not affect train fares to pick up points for lifts in sanctioned cars or on-trip transport which will both remain banded.

- A. Only travel in a vehicle sanctioned by the trip organiser is to be banded
- B. Members attending national trips will be at liberty to use public transport to/from the trip if they so wish, but this will not be banded. Those using this method of travel will cover their own transport costs to/from the trip and will not receive, or give, any subsidy
- C. Trip organisers may make decisions on banded train travel for members who cannot join a sanctioned car eg when all available cars are full

Sections A and B were passed but in response to the vote for Motion 2 being successful, refunds for non-attendance due to 'exceptional circumstances' will be resumed. Clarification of this by a sub-committee will be made asap and at the latest by the end of November.

Motion 2: Trip refunds in Exceptional Circumstances Proposed by West Midlands Red Rope

Red Rope is a Socialist organisation which should seek to be fair to all its members and as such should be able to offer refunds in exceptional circumstances as well as hardship.

A. This motion proposes that we continue to consider refunds in exceptional circumstances. It should be noted that decisions about refunds should be considered by local or national committees and not by the trip organiser as this would be an unfair burden on these individuals.

B. Whatever decision is made about national trips, regions should be free to follow their own procedures in this matter.

Motion 2: both sections were passed.

Motion 3: regarding the extent of club subsidy to an increase in the cost of membership.

Proposed by David Symonds, seconded by Steve Wright.

Background: The BMC are increasing their affiliation charges from £15.20 to £21.20 for members of clubs from 2020. This is mainly linked to a big increase in the cost of insurance after what was described as a 'catastrophic' accident on a climbing wall, leaving a young man with life-long disabilities. However, part of it is to fund a reorganisation of the BMC.

This motion proposes subsidising the increase in Red Rope membership by a banded average of £3 per member, as opposed to the £6 per member agreed by the NC. A £3 subsidy would soften the effect of the increase but not mean that club funds would be used to same extent, saving approximately £900, which could be used in many constructive ways. There would then almost certainly need to be another £3 increase the following year. The NC's proposal is likely to mean that a big increase would simply be deferred.

It is noted that the RR constitution requires membership fees to be decided at an AGM, as stated as part of item 4a: 'An Annual General Meeting (AGM) shall be held to transact the following: to decide Club membership fees and trip rates in the context of a budget for the current financial year.'

Motion 3 was passed.

Motion 4: London RR Region, regarding the BMC Affiliation Fee Increase

London region notes with concern that the BMC are putting up their affiliation fees by £6 per member. We also note that the NC have decided not to increase our membership fees before 2021, by absorbing this cost. However this is not a sustainable long term strategy.

We believe putting up our membership fees by something like £6 (presumably more for those on higher bands), would substantially harm our recruitment (and member retention), making the club less viable. Even now our fees are rather high for the majority of our membership, where the benefits of BMC affiliation are not obvious (insurance and access to mountain huts).

Motion: The incoming NC should set up a working party to look into options and consult the membership on the outcomes (probably with the final recommendation to be presented to the 2020 AGM). Some options to consider are:

- 1. Dis-affiliate from the BMC (those that require insurance could obtain from other organisations such as the Austrian Alpine Club and/or we could investigate a cheaper policy covering 3rd party insurance for all members).**
- 2. Negotiate with the BMC for reduced fees, on the basis that not all our members need such an expensive insurance policy (they may cooperate if the alternative is disaffiliation).**
- 3. Set-up a parallel "Friends of Red Rope" organisation to which people who did not want to use mountain huts could belong. This would not be affiliated to the BMC and hence the membership fees would be much less.**

Motion 4 was passed.