

RECCE EXPENSES – a policy for South Devon Ramblers

Background and rationale

South Devon Ramblers have run holiday weeks and short breaks for several years. These have involved the use of a coach, a hotel which accommodates everyone together, some excursions plus a walks programme planned well in advance. The success of past years is attributable in no small way, it is strongly felt, to the detailed recce work done to ensure that the participants get to do the best walks available without worrying about map-reading or losing their way.

This formula has proved popular for many years and it is the firm intention of the club to continue offering such breaks.

The many leaders have often given their time generously and have also incurred costs which to date have been sometimes, not always, partially offset with surpluses generated in the charges to members, through the happy chance of the exchange rate working in our favour, **free places and some single supplements (not charged) by coach companies or hotels**, and/or by a collection for leaders, to which members have willingly donated.

Two disadvantages of this system are clear:

- Firstly it relies too much on both goodwill as well as events beyond our control.
- Secondly it may deter people from coming forward who are less able to offer to recce without some degree of certainty that there will be help with expenses. This goes very much against our wish to involve our members more widely in leading walks.

The establishment of guiding principles.

At the committee meeting in April 2016 some principles were agreed by the committee as a way forward:

1. From 2017 onward a levy will be made at the time of planning a holiday or break, typically in the region of £10 per head in order to build up a fund out of which recce expenses may be paid.
2. This fund may be augmented through 'free places' rather than these being used to lower the cost to all participants.
3. The policy confirms the intention to offer '**assistance with** recce expenses' rather than reimbursing in full. This phrase should be used where possible.
4. While we are not asking for a detailed account keeping, it is always a good practice to retain records of cost incurred.

