

# **Minutes of the London & South East Area Meeting**

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2014**

**The Reach Climbing Wall, Unit 6, Mellish Industrial Estate, London,  
Woolwich SE18 5NU**

## **Welcome and Introduction**

The meeting was attended by 14 members, plus Elizabeth Holley (BMC Regional Development Officer), Rupert Fleming (Area Chair), Ralph Ranford (Area Secretary) and Fran Brown (BMC Ambassador). Apologies were received from the remaining council members.

### **A short question was asked regarding how attendees had heard about the meeting:**

- Facebook: 6
- BMC Community: 1
- UKC: 0
- Newsletter/Email: 2
- Their ClubComms: 1
- Poster: 1
- Word of mouth: 1

## **Conflict of interests**

No conflicts of interest

## **Minutes of the previous meeting held on 20 November 2013**

Available after this meeting on the Community Site

## **Reports from the office / area officer / National Council / local officers**

Elizabeth Holley presented a quick round-up of recent activities, including:

- BMC Open Wales Campaign
- George Band Award
- Portland BMC AGM (26<sup>th</sup> April)
- Training Courses – Sport England Funding
- Equipment Advice – (Highlighted incident with quick draws)
- BMC Disability Symposium
- Subsidised Winter skills courses for Students
- Support for Women's climbing symposium, funded by Sport England
- Mountain Muslims Outreach program in Birmingham.

## Discussion topics

### Upcoming London events

The following upcoming events taking place in London were highlighted:

- Outdoors Show – 15th Feb Excel centre
  - Liz - Club Volunteers needed?
  - Liz – Britain on Foot
  - DMM Workshops – Register on their site via email
  - DMM Break Stuff – DMM Test breaking strengths of equipment.
- BMC Youth Climbing Series (Starts 25<sup>th</sup> Jan)
  - Volunteers Needed to help with running the competition
- BMC Leading Ladder is on going.

### Harrison's Rocks car park / toilet

Residents in the area and climbers at Harrisons rocks gave an update on the issues surrounding the closure/management of Harrisons Car park and toilets.

**Sarah** from the Sandstone Volunteer group gave an update on the current ideas proposed to the Forestry Commission:

- The Forestry Commission held an online Questionnaire for interested parties to voice ideas on how to manage the toilet block and the Car Park.
- CIC (Community Interest Company) has been created to take on the management and maintenance of the toilet block. This was posted on the Questionnaire as one of the ideas, this received numerous votes and high ratings.
  - 187 5 star votes for the idea
  - 96 positive comments about the idea
- For the CIC to successfully manage the toilet block Further funding is needed
- The final decision is still being made by the forestry commission. On 24th January the Forestry Commission will provide an update on their decision
- On the 4th November Stakeholders met for a meeting, this resulted in sport England agreeing to complete maintenance on the toilet block
- Forestry Commission have stated if they cannot find a company to maintain the toilets they will be demolished.
- Parish council are in support of keeping the toilets and car park, to prevent past issues returning of climbers parking and illegally camping in the woods which also caused numerous sanitary issues.

**Malcolm** read a letter from Dennis Grey(ex-Secretary of the BMC).

The letter was calling for BMC members to vote at the upcoming AGM in April to request the BMC to begin lobbying Sport England further for funding, for ongoing maintenance costs.

The CIC will begin pushing to have an item for Harrisons Rocks to be added to the AGM in April.

### **Post meeting talk by BMC Ambassador :Fran Brown**

Fran Brown gave a very interesting and inspiring talk about her journey of Climbing.

### **Date, time and venue of the next meeting**

18<sup>th</sup> April – start time and venue to be confirmed.