

BRITISH MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL

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LONDON & SOUTH EAST AREA MEETING

Meeting held at The Devereux, 20 Devereux Court, Temple, London WC2R 3JJ
on Wednesday 3 February 2016 at 7.00pm.

Minutes

1. Welcome and apologies for absence – Tony Williams (Area Club Rep)

Chaired by Rik Payne (RP)
Minutes taken by Lisa Payne (LP)
BMC Representatives Nick Kurth (NK) & Niall Grimes (NG)

2. Minutes of previous meeting held on Thursday 26 November 2015

Copies were available on the night and attendees asked to review; no issues were raised.

3. Discussion on Area Representatives

- 3.1 Clubs – Tony Williams advised the area Chair that he was regrettably stepping down as the Area Rep for Clubs. We asked for a show of hands from anyone interested in this position and asked them to remain behind at the end to discuss the role. We had interest from James Read and Ben Fillmore. NK briefly outline the role of a Club Rep & the Clubs Committee, Sherry MacIver who has recently joined the Clubs Committee confirmed that they meet 4 times a year, 2 evening meetings and 2 weekend meetings throughout the year.
- 3.2 Youth – Unfortunately the Youth Reps were unable to attend but we asked on their behalf for volunteers to help with organising the YCS for 2016. And confirmed that the 2016 YCS schedule was on the BMC website.
- 3.3 Hill Walking – Our rep was unavailable so nothing of note to report
- 3.4 Climbing Walls – We discussed the earlier confusion of communications from the BMC office regarding the need for a Climbing Walls Rep and reported that Dave Turnbull agreed that there was need to be constructive when dealing with volunteers. It was also emphasised that it was down to the areas to decide on the need for a rep. London & SE with its huge number of climbing walls would benefit from having a Climbing Wall Rep.

4. National Council

- 4.1 Report from last meeting:

- RP reported on the importance of the YCS and GB Team particularly in relation to the bid for inclusion of Climbing in the Olympics. LB confirmed the date for the IOC to make their decision was August 2016.
- RP reported on the discussions from the National Council with regards to the policy on Land Acquisition and whether the BMC should be more proactive in terms of buying land & quarry sites and confirmed that after lengthy talks the current policy of a case by case basis was the right approach.
- RP advised the meeting of the changes to the staffing at the BMC offices and the recent appointments of James McHaffie and Joanna Rowbottom in the roles of Youth and Equity respectively.
- RP reported on the long overdue addition of the first women to receive the BMC Honorary Member Award, those being Gwen Moffatt and Angela Soper.
- RP reminded the members that there were subsidised courses available to Club members on a variety of skills held throughout the year at various venues and they should ensure that their Clubs were aware of them.

4.2 Matters arising from the report - None

4.3 Matters for the next meeting – See AOB

5. Any Other Business

- NG advised that the BMC had recently set up grants for climbers, walkers & mountaineers with cancer as a tribute to John Ellison, the founder of CAC.
- He also mentioned the newly created “Women’s Think Tank”
- And the three surveys/consultations that Sport England are undertaking
- He then took a show of hands for various crags that Members of the London & SE Area might be prepared to go for a day’s climbing
- Vic Odell asked the Chair whether they could ask the BMC whether it had considered the vote on the UIA’s proposal of a change to the articles of the change of name. And whether a decision had been reached on this?
- James Read asked whether the BMC had considered the “World Games” as an alternative should the Olympic bid fail.

6. Date and location of next Area Meeting

Date: Wednesday 1 June 2016, starting at 7pm

Location: The Devereux, WC2R 3JJ

Guest Speaker: Jim Milledge – 50+ Years of Altitude Medical Research

Following the meeting, there was an excellent presentation and part BMC TV funded film called A Iranian Dream by Shirin Shabestari – Persian Pursuits