

BRITISH MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL

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BMC NATIONAL COUNCIL

Minutes of the 48th National Council meeting held at
YHA Castleton Losehill Hall, Derbyshire, Friday 15 April 2016.

In attendance

Voting members:

Vice-President	Nick Kurth	(NK)	Chair
Vice-President	Rupert Davies	(RD)	
Outgoing Vice-President	Mina Leslie-Wujastyk	(MLW)	
Incoming Vice-President	Emma Flaherty	(EF)	
Honorary Treasurer	John Simpson	(JS)	
CEO	Dave Turnbull	(DT)	
Cymru Wales (North)	Anthony Eccles	(AE)	
Cymru Wales (North)	Jim Kelly	(JK)	
Lakes	Peter Sterling	(PS)	
London & SE	Lisa Payne	(LP)	
London & SE	Rik Payne	(RP)	
Midlands	Roger Fanner	(RF)	
North East	Mark Anstiss	(MA)	
North West	Tim Greenhalgh	(TG)	
Peak	David Brown	(DB)	
Peak	Rob Greenwood	(RG)	
Yorkshire	Deirdre Collier	(DC)	
Yorkshire	James Rowe	(JR)	

Observers:

Independent Director	Brian Smith	(BS)
Access Management Group	Dave Musgrove	(DM)
Clubs	Trevor Smith	(TS)
Land Management Group	Martin Wragg	(MW)
MT Cymru	Mike Rosser	(MR)
Plas y Brenin	Jackie Bryson	(JB)

Staff:

Deputy CEO	Nick Colton	(NC)
Secretary	Tony Ryan	(TR)
AGM Guest Speaker	Frank Cannings	(FC)

Note: * = supporting paper circulated.

Actions

1. Welcome & apologies for absence

1.1 Welcome

- 1.1.1 Nick Kurth chaired the meeting in place of Rehan Siddiqui who was recovering from a major hip operation. NK welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Nick Bond, Alan Hinkes, Will Kilner, Colin Knowles, Iain McCallum, Gareth Palmer, Ted Rogers, Kamala Sen, Rehan Siddiqui, Phil Simister, Ian Walton and Kate Worthington.

1.2 Conflicts of Interest in relation to agenda items

- 1.2.1 No conflicts were declared.

2. Note issues for AOB

- 2.1** Timing of 2017 April National Council – Roger Fanner
National Trust activity licensing pilot scheme – Rik Payne
Risk management review update – Nick Colton
- 3. Minutes of the previous meeting***
- 3.1** 5.3.1 CEO Report: Mark Anstiss requested confirmation that club renewals can now be processed online; DT to confirm. **Action: DT**
- 3.2 Actions from previous minutes**
- 3.2.1** Ref 3.2.1: Convene annual Budget Review Group in July – ongoing. **Action: JS**
- 3.2.2** Ref 3.2.2: Investigate possible amalgamation of Huts & Clubs committees – Deirdre Collier noted that there was little enthusiasm from either committee – DC to discuss further with Fiona Sanders. **Action: DC**
- 3.2.3** Ref 3.2.4: Draft BMC statement of support re. fixed equipment – DT paper to be re-circulated to all areas for discussion. **Action: DT**
- 3.2.4** Ref 3.2.5: Minor wording changes to purchase & leasing policy – LMG to consider at May meeting. **Action: RD**
- 3.2.5** Ref 5.1.6: Investigate Wales funding opportunities – various conversations have taken place – May meeting planned – ongoing. **Action: DT**
- 3.2.6** Ref 5.3.1: Breakdown of data on new members – DT to check progress with Arun Patel and provide update at June meeting. **Action: DT**
- 3.2.7** Ref 6.4: FinCom reps – Rik Payne has offered to sit on FinCom on behalf of National Council. **Action: All**
- 3.2.8** Ref 7.3.1: MHT name change – not opposed to proposal – timing not quite right re. possible BMC re-branding – ongoing. **Action: DT/CK**
- 3.2.9** Ref 9.1.1: Quarries paper – No LMG meeting since Feb NC – ongoing. **Action: RD**
- 3.2.10** Ref 9.2.1: Chalk overuse – Rob Dyer to speak to Rob Greenwood. **Action: DT**
- 3.2.11** Ref 9.3.1 – ‘Clubs and Young People’ on June NC agenda – check with Kate Anwyl.
The minutes of the April 2016 meeting were signed by the Vice-President. **Action: TR**
Agreed
- 4. Matters arising not covered elsewhere**
- 4.1** None.
- 5. Reports**
- 5.1 Areas**
- 5.1.1 Lakes.** Peter Sterling reported that the area had not held a meeting since February National Council.
- 5.1.2 North West.** Tim Greenhalgh reported WiltonFest 2016 will take place on Saturday 3 September, and there are a number of local crag clean-ups planned, including at Cadshaw and Egerton.
- He also advised that bolting policy for the area had been agreed.
- The area has met infrequently during the past 18 months – it’s not clear why, as the area is quite active in other respects. TR to engage with Carl Spencer to re-establish a meeting schedule. **Action: TR**
- The meeting expressed its best regards to former area chair Nick Bond who is suffering from ill health at the moment. **Noted**
- 5.1.3 London & SE.** No meeting since February National Council. Lisa Payne reported that there is a possibility of a London-based clubs workshop event.

- 5.1.4 **South West***. No area rep in attendance. The previous area meeting was held in Bristol on 26 March, during the Easter weekend, and included a proposal for a clean-up of Avon's Suspension Bridge Buttress and feedback on the February scrub clearance day at Avon's Main Wall.

The area is seeking a replacement for Martin Crocker as BMC Cheddar Warden.

Iain Butterworth had reported at the meeting that shotguns had been heard being fired at Fairy Cave Quarry. Climbers are asked to contact the police if they see or hear any further instances of this activity. Iain will be stepping down as access rep for Somerset & the Mendips at the end of the year.

- 5.1.5 **Midlands**. No meeting since February National Council. Roger Fanner said that progress on the Leicestershire climbing guidebook appears to have stalled.

- 5.1.6 **North East**. MA reported that the area had met in February (after National Council). A dry tooling incident at Kyloe appears to have been a case of naivety, and the climbers involved have apologised for their actions, but the incident does raise the issue of effective communication of climbing ethics.

The NE Climbing & Walking Festival will be held every other year from 2017 (no event in 2016) and alternate between a base in the south (2017) and the north of the area. The NMC has agreed a publishing deal with Wired Guides.

- 5.1.7 **Peak**. Rob Greenwood reported that the April meeting was attended by c.80 people; discussions included the National Trust licensing proposal and the BMC Women's Development Group. Kim Leyland had spoken about the ring ouzel survey, and Claire Carter had given a presentation which included a showing of 'Operation Moffat'.

The annual Outside crag clean-up is on Sat 11 June, and is being re-branded as a BMC event; previous events have been sponsored by Wild Country.

- 5.1.8 **Cymru Wales (North)***. Jim Kelly reported that the April meeting was attended by 43 people. The BMC Cymru Wales newsletter is now available in English and Welsh. Hannah Hughes is also posting in Welsh on the BMC Cymru Wales Facebook page.

Over 7,500 people responded to the Welsh government's Green Paper on improving access to the outdoors. We await the government's response.

The meeting expressed concern about the National Trust licensing proposal, even though none of the pilot schemes are in Wales. Developments with the Glyn Rhonwy pumped storage scheme and the Snowdon Partnership were also discussed.

Upcoming BMC events include TremFest (7-8 May) and an area hill walking day (4 June) organised by area hill walking rep Anthony Eccles.

- 5.1.9 **Cymru Wales (South)**. No rep in attendance and no area report submitted, but the area did meet on 17 Feb in Cardiff, and the minutes of the meeting are available on the BMC Local Areas site.

The hill walking day in the Brecon Beacons, originally planned for 6 Feb but cancelled due to bad weather, has been rescheduled for 7 May. The Gower Climbing Festival is on 16-18 Sept.

- 5.1.10 **Yorkshire***. Over 20 people attended the April 'hill walking special' area meeting, which was preceded by a walk on Ilkley Moor.

Mark Allum of YDNPA talked about about the park authority's position regarding paths and their maintenance, and Chris Grogan gave a presentation about the Dales High Way (90-mile walk). Carey Davies spoke about what the BMC does for hill walkers.

5.2 **Finance***

- 5.2.1 The budget for 2015 was set with an expected surplus of £11k; the year ended with a £47k surplus.

Major positive variances included reduced balancing payment on civil liability insurance, better than expected travel insurance income, and lower than budgeted salary costs. Negative variances included reduced margin on publications, redundancy and legal costs brought about by restructuring, and competitions budget overspend.

JS reported that the next meeting of the Finance Committee will be on Monday 18 April.

5.3 **CEO report**

- 5.3.1 DT gave a verbal report in which he summarised several major issues including:

- Plans to refurbish the BMC office (July/August).
- The Sport England 2017-21 funding application (deadline autumn 2017).
- The need to re-visit the BMC strategic plan at the June meeting (to include reference to encouraging climbing on British crags, and the importance of supporting Wales as part of the BMC's work).

6. **Constitutional issues**

6.1 **AGM agenda***

- 6.1.1 AGM agenda as presented agreed.

Agreed

6.2 **Annual Report***

- 6.2.1 The new-format report was well received. It is available as a PDF on the website, and a limited number were printed, primarily for distribution at the AGM. The meeting requested the distribution plan for 2016 report be looked at.

**Action:
TR**

RF made a plea for more acknowledgment of the achievements of paraclimbers in the annual report and members' handbook.

Noted

6.3 **National Council (review of membership & observers)***

- 6.3.1 MA pointed out that due to an oversight, Alan Hinkes had been omitted from the list of members (as North East area rep).

**Action:
KA**

DT asked whether people on the list who don't attend should be removed, and whether there were any unrepresented groups or organisations that ought to be on the list.

RG suggested that the Women's Development Group (WDG) and RP suggested the Association of British Climbing Walls (ABC).

- 6.3.2 NK proposed that the ABC be added and Mountain Rescue England & Wales be removed.
Proposed – RP; Seconded – JK
Vote – unanimous
Action KA
- MLW proposed that the WDG be added.
Proposed – MLW; Seconded – MA
Vote – unanimous
Action KA
- BS queried the status of independent directors as National Council observers but not voting members as we look to increase the number of independents on the Executive.
- 7. Policy issues**
- 7.1 Hill walking update**
- 7.1.1 BS reported that the Hill Walking Working Group is in its second year; currently the key project is a hill walking strategy paper, which will be presented to National Council.
- Mend Our Mountains has been very successful in raising funds, and also raising awareness of footpath erosion and maintenance. JK suggested we could be more pro-active in raising funds at BMC events.
- The Mountain Magpie litter pick campaign will be launched in mid-May.
- AE added that the Real3Peaks Challenge clean-up event will once again take place in October.
- All BMC areas now have at least one elected hill walking rep, and our communications with hill walkers are improving, as is our lobbying work on behalf of walkers. BS felt that we need to capitalise on commercial and media opportunities.
- 8. Club applications for membership***
- 8.1 An application had been received from Camramblers Walking Club, which is based in the North West area and currently has 48 members.
- No objections were received to the application.
Agreed
- 9. AOB**
- 9.1 Timing of 2017 April National Council**
- 9.1.1 RF made the point (on behalf of Phil Simister) that not everyone who had wished to attend had been able to make it to the meeting.
Noted
- 9.2 National Trust activity licensing pilot scheme**
- 9.2.1 DM reported that the scheme was discussed at the last Access Management Group meeting, and subsequently Cath Flitcroft, Elfyn Jones and Rob Dyer held a teleconference with the NT.
- The public response has been quite negative, and this has been reflected in media coverage. In addition, the news that a parish council has voted to impose a charge on parkrun participants has raised awareness of charging for activities which have so far been free of charge.
- The issue is on the AMG's agenda; DM will report back to National Council.
Action: DM
- 9.3 Risk management review update**

- 9.3.1 NC reported on the review of the BMC's risk management procedures, including a review of documentation undertaken by Mike Rosser. The Executive had agreed to implement the recommendations, and a first draft of new documentation had been completed.

MR added that the new documentation provides a clearer audit trail.

10. Date of next meeting

- 10.1 9.30am – 1.30pm, Saturday 18 June 2016, Plas y Brenin, Capel Curig

Summary of action points from the 48th meeting:

Ref	Action	Involving	Target date
3.2.1	Convene annual budget review meeting - ongoing	JS	June / July
3.2.2	Liaise with Fiona Sanders on Clubs and Huts amalgamation	DC	June
3.2.3	Re-circulate fixed equipment paper	DT	Immediate
3.2.4	LMG to consider purchasing and leasing policy word changes	RD	May
3.2.5	Investigate Wales funding opportunities	DT	May
3.2.6	New member data – check progress – update June meeting	DT	June
3.2.8	MHT name change - ongoing	DT / CK	Ongoing
3.2.9	Quarries paper - ongoing	RD	Ongoing
3.2.10	Chalk overuse	DT	Immediate
3.2.11	Clubs and Young People on June NC agenda	TR	June
5.1.2	Re-engage with North West area and area meeting schedule	TR	Immediate
6.2.1	Annual Report – distribution plan	TR	Immediate
6.3.1	Add Alan Hinkes to National Council membership list	KA	Immediate
6.3.2	Add ABC and WDG to member list; remove MREW	KA / DT	Immediate
9.2.1	AMG response to NT activity licensing scheme	DM	Ongoing

The above accepted as an accurate record of the meeting:

Signed _____ Date _____
 Rehan Siddiqui, President & Chair