

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 Thursday 26th January 2017 at 7.00pm.

Minutes

1. **Welcome and apologies for absence – Tony Williams – Attendance numbers 35**

Chaired Rik Payne (RP) Minutes taken by Lisa Payne (LP)
BMC Representatives Nick Kurth (NK) & (DT) Dave Turnbull

2. **Minutes of previous meeting held on 10th November**

Minutes were ratified.

3 **Reports from Area Representatives**

3.1 **Clubs** – Sherry Macliver (SM) discussed the upcoming roadshows which replaces the Clubs seminar at the AGM. Details on the training for the Club's committee members has been slow in being confirmed from the BMC office. Energies have been going into the Sport England funding bids. (DT) confirmed that grants & training grants for clubs will be going in next month but the level of funding is likely to be smaller.

(SM) confirmed that all affiliated clubs contacts should have the details for the Members Services Online by now.

3.2 **Youth** – No report from our 4 AYC's but there are several comps happening this weekend. The Youth Series at the Reach is still looking for volunteers to judge and belay.

3.3 **Hill walking** –Chris Stone (CS) has begun making contact with reps from AONB's, National Trails and National Parks within the area. Details of upcoming walking events, conservation activities and access issues will be posted on the London & SE FB page. Chilterns are running their first walking festival from 15th-29th May. There is a charity walk on The Ridgeway on 24th & 25th June.

Volunteers to adopt a section of The Ridgeway are being sought.

Terry Abraham's Life of a Mountain Blencathra is premiering on the BBC in Feb.

A show of hands was taken for anyone interested in going on organised walks.

3.4 **Access** – (RP) asked for a volunteer to assess an issue at a boulder site in London. No one in attendance had heard of the site. Gavin volunteered to take a look and report back.

4 **National Council (NC)**

4.1 **NC Agenda ahead of area meetings** - from our last area meeting we put forward several points to National Council. One was to have the papers & agenda ahead of the area meetings so we can discuss issues at area meetings in advance. (RP) confirmed that a mechanism for ensuring most papers and agenda are now made available 1 month prior to NC and therefore several weeks before Area meetings.
(NK) extended thanks to Vic Odell for raising this at the last area meeting.

Patrons – (RP) confirmed that this is part of the discussions at the next NC meeting. (RP) quoted from the BMC's paper on Patrons, "*The BMC Patrons can be considered as the senior ambassadors of the organisation; they are influential individuals, who are highly respected for their achievements and who can be drawn on to support the BMC in times of need.*"

A list of current patrons was read out along with the nomination for Rab Carrington to become a Patron. The general view from the attendees on this nomination were very positive.

There was a question regarding a younger generation of Patrons, but as (RP) explained that is exactly why we have BMC's ambassadors.

There were queries on the transparency of the process and whether there was a look towards gender equality in this area?

It was agreed that we would reflect the area's concerns regarding gender equality in this area at the NC and if anyone had suggestions for a female Patron to contact us.

Governance – this issue was raised by Vic Odell at the last area meeting and is also being discussed at length by NC and Exec.

(RP) wanted to make clear that the issue of Governance isn't a Sport England lead issue, but something that the BMC have been looking at for some time.

To date some decisions (strategic planning etc.) are being made by the Exec and some by the National Council, but only members of the Exec can be held accountable for the actions of the BMC by outside organisations.

(NK) said the most important job of NC is to reflect the views of the members. There is a need for decisions to be made effectively and a list of responsibilities has been put into a matrix to see which jobs the Exec/NC should be doing. There isn't clarity at this point but there needs to be soon.

(RP) explained that there is a crossover with Exec & NC. Members of the Exec sit on NC meetings and NC members are elected onto the Exec, so the two decision making bodies are not completely separate entities.

There was a show of hands that agreed that as long as there was accountability for decision making within the BMC that attendees weren't concerned with where those decisions were made.

A suggestion was made for an organisational chart on the BMC website.

Hill Walking group – This has come to the end of its 2 year term. (DT) said that there were current discussions and the issue would be discussed at the next NC meeting on 11th.

Subs – (RP) discussed the possibility of an increase to Subs in 2018.

(DT) confirmed that the last increase was in 2014 and before that 2009. In answer to a query from the members, the membership has steadily increased since the last increase to Subs.

There are deficits and these can't be sustained indefinitely, much depends on what funding will be available but regardless of the funding issue lots of good things have been happening while keeping the organisation level.

There would be a differential increase across individual & Club members and other membership groups. So there won't be one blanket increase for all members.

Olympics update – Rob Adie is going to organise an afternoon where a group, including some of our coaches and someone from UK Sport, will look at what it takes to win at the Olympics. From there UK Sport will have a better understanding of what is needed for athletes.

(RP) Reiterated that the Olympics is in addition to what the BMC does and will not impact the core work and values of the BMC.

5. **Any Other Business**

(DT) updated members on the MOM campaign and that there would be a second campaign with crowd funding & more defined partnerships with the aim of making this a bigger and longer running campaign running from May 2017 for 12-18 months.

BMC has also agreed to continue it's funding for the next 4 years for Mountaineering Scotland towards access and conservation work.

The purchase of Crookrise Crag is being finalised

On Line Access Database RAD is being tested in the office and though will not initially be available on apps, this will follow.

(RP) made attendees aware that due to the sale of the Devereux, the next meeting may not be here and to watch for updates for a new venue – **any suggestions for a centrally located London venue with projector facilities – please let us know.**

• **Date and location of next Area Meeting**

April 13th 2017 7pm - Venue to be confirmed
Guest Speaker James Mchaffie

Following the meeting, there was an excellent presentation from Heather Geluk

Heather's adventures have taken her to some of the harshest, most remote places on the planet, where determination is every bit as important as skill when it comes to survival. She's toughed it out in some of the world's most extreme environments (and we're not referring here to her 'day job' as a business consultant!) and has been in situations where effective leadership and communication has determined whether people lived or died. She has spent over 15 months in the past 6 years climbing throughout Nepal, Tibet, Peru, Argentina, Tanzania, France, Iran and the UK and has put in dozens of vertical miles on some of the highest mountains in the world including Everest, Lhotse, Makalu, Shishapangma and Ama Dablam.

You can find out more about 'The People You Meet along the Way' here along with some of Heather's travel writing. .

<http://www.peopleyoumeetalongtheway.blogspot.com>