

BRITISH MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL

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LONDON & SOUTH EAST AREA MEETING

Meeting held at The Ye Olde Cock Tavern, Fleet St, London
On Wednesday 12th April 2017 at 7.00pm.

Minutes

1. **Welcome and apologies for absence - Attendance numbers 39**

Chaired Rik Payne (RP) Minutes taken by Lisa Payne (LP)

BMC Representatives Nick Kurth (NK) & Carey Davies (CD) & Simon Lee (SL) Brian Smith (BS)

2. **Minutes of previous meeting held on 26th January**

Minutes were ratified.

3 **Reports from Area Representatives**

3.1 **Clubs** – Sherry Macliver (SM) discussed the recent Clubs roadshows which replaced the Clubs seminar at the AGM. Of the 67 clubs in the region only 9 attended the training day but the club roadshow on the Saturday was cancelled due to poor sign up. It was generally felt that either the location needed to be more central London based or alongside the AGM as before.

3.2 **Youth** – No report from our 4 AYC's. (RP) reported the date for the finals on 29th April
And thanked those who responded for help with the competition held earlier in the year at the Reach

3.3 **Hill walking** – Chris Stone (CS) Mend our Mountains has completed 12k of repair work to paths in the Brecon Beacons.

Publication of the Green Guide to challenge events is available to download on the BMC Website
Chilterns walking festival 15th May

An area walk is being arranged for the 6th May, please look out for more info on the FB page or from (SM) clubs rep on how to sign up. Starting point, Boxhill 11 miles.

Additional walking meets are being arranged in August in conjunction with the Peak Area hill walking reps.

4 **Affinity Partnerships**

(SL) explained his new role, looking at ways to cover any deficit in funding brought about by Government's overall reduction in funding for sports organisations.

The loss of funding in the future means the BMC needs to think about finding other funding streams, look at trimming costs or potentially reducing programs, increasing subs and growing membership as alternatives to the deficit.

The BMC already have a commercial presence with the shop, guidebooks & insurance, another area to explore is to enter a relationship with an organisation in return for financial support.

Areas currently being looked are Mapping, Equipment, Outdoor Clothing and a Large Retailer.

Many other organisations already do this successfully (Ramblers, Scouts, and British Cycling etc.) and not looking at this now could put the BMC behind other organisations also forced into looking for funding through partnerships.

Reservations covered, were the reputational risk should there be negative press/product failure etc. with a partner and we risk upsetting smaller retailers.

(NK) the £500-600K pa Sport England funding will decrease year on year and it's felt that the BMC has the commercial potential to create its own money.

A number of questions were raised as follows

Vic Odell (VC) - A matrix/paper of principles for partnerships, to ensure the ethical and moral policies of the partnerships are in keeping with those of the BMC needs to come back to the areas as this is considered the key to finding the right partnerships.

A question from the floor asking whether UK companies would be given top priorities and (SL) confirmed this would be the case.

Stewart Fletcher - How do we protect smaller retailers? (SL) There are still many opportunities within the BMC to work with smaller retailers, and any partnership contracts would have safeguards built in to maintain those relationships. (RP) For example Cold Mountain Kit sponsored this evening's meeting with a great raffle prize and discount for BMC members.

(RP) Funding from Government will decrease across the board, so steps need to be taken to protect the access & conservation work, Clubs training and support programs and so much more that the BMC provide every year. Income from other streams such as commercial partnerships will help protect these programs.

A show of hands had 34 in favour of commercial partnerships, 0 abstentions and 0 no's

The meeting was asked to get in touch with (SL) should they have any contacts that could prove useful.

5. **BMC AGM & Motion of No Confidence**

(RP) briefly covered the background to the motion then asked attendees for questions/concerns surrounding this.

(VO) mentioned that a number of the larger clubs are actively collecting proxy votes and are not in favour of the motion. It's his opinion that the people behind the motion didn't realise the repercussions this motion would have.

(RP) discussed the issues around governance and that this was something the NC and Exec had already been discussing for some time with an independently chaired review group being created to look at the roles and responsibilities and governance of the BMC. This needs to be done promptly but properly.

(VO) & (RP) both felt that any work on this needed to be fed back to members at area meetings.

(NK) the ToR's (Terms of Reference) will be working hard to improve engagement with our 82k members.

(SM) wanted to better understand the review being independent, feeling it should be outside looking in & not inside looking in.

(RP) The review group would have an independent Chair, (names being looked at now) to ensure that such concerns are covered. A working group which could potentially including patrons, NC members, and Exec members past & present, past BMC presidents etc. The make-up of this to be agreed by NC. The working group would talk to other groups of members/clubs etc. to consult with as many people as possible. Its important Membership supports this so consultation is key.

(VO) queried a paper Rab Carrington sent to Rehan Siddiqui in March as nothing had come back from the BMC. (NK) Stated that the paper has been used to assist in drafting the ToR for the governance review group.

Question from the floor – What would happen if the motion went through, is there a plan?

(NK) There would likely be an immediate EGM with a vote to allow the present Exec to temporarily stay on for a handover period until a new Executive board is appointed.

Question from the floor – Was the re-branding linked to the Olympics? (RP) No, the decision surrounding the re-branding wasn't linked to climbing being included in the 2020 Olympics. The NC discussed the possibility of announcing the re-branding to tie in with the announcement of climbing being included in the Olympics to increase the publicity.

A show of hands for or against the MoNC showed 37 against the motion – 0 for the motion and 2 abstentions.

5. **AOB**

(CD) Hill walking officer - gave a brief talk about the work of the BMC Mend Our Mountains campaign and its plans for another campaign, "Mend our mountains – Make a Million"

Applications for projects are already coming in and new ways of fund raising were discussed.

(NK) questioned whether funding for National Parks would be cut based on our funding provisions, but (CD) felt that what we contribute is a drop in the ocean and wouldn't affect the funding the NP gets.

(BS) The high profile of the campaign will help to encourage new members and highlight the BMC in terms of funding opportunities.

Date and location of next Area Meeting

June 8th 2017 7pm - Guest Speaker George Cave

Venue to be confirmed as the Ye Olde Cock inn & other pubs in the chain have been sold to investors and will be closed for functions while refurbishment takes place.

So we need another venue – suggestions welcome

Following the meeting, there was an excellent presentation from James McHaffie and a raffle prize of a 30m DMM rope from Cold Mountain kit.