

BRITISH MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL

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LONDON & SOUTH EAST AREA MEETING

Meeting held at The Ye Olde Cock Tavern, Fleet St, London
On Thursday 1st June 2017 at 7.00pm.

Minutes

1. **Welcome and apologies for absence - Attendance numbers 28**

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

Apologies Sherry Macliver, Tony Williams, Ian Richards, Andrew Bone, Rya Tibawi & Michelle Hart

2. **Minutes of previous meeting held on 12th April**

Minutes were ratified.

3 **Reports from Area Representatives**

3.1 **Clubs** – Collette O'Neill (SMC) joins us as a new Clubs rep joining Sherry to cover the large number of clubs in the area.

A full membership survey will be conducted in the coming months so remember to let you members know to look out for it.

There will be a request, nearer the time, for clubs to send representation to a focus group specifically aimed at gathering information about the decision making structure and the focus of the BMC going forward.

We are also considering how to engage better with clubs to act as voice for you and to provide you with more timely information. Again any ideas would be greatly received

Finally we are reviewing all the work we have been providing in the light of changing priorities of Sports England Funding and considering how we can best access funding for clubs.

Please remember you are always welcome to send a representative to the clubs committee meeting.

We will be meeting in North Wales on the 11 June, please get in contact if you want to come along.

3.2 **Youth** – No report

3.3 **Hill walking** – Chris Stone (CS) Next organised walk is on June 10th, 10miles meeting at Wendover Station.

There will be an organised walk in August in conjunction with the Peaks Hill Walking reps on Sunday 6th, and the possibility to join Chris for a walk on the Saturday.

16th-18th North York Moors festival

Chris updated the members on the Future Landscapes Wales report and the concern from the BMC and other bodies with regard to the omission of the 'Sandford' Principle which is a key conservation safeguard, which ensures that National Parks and AONB's continue to be properly protected and managed for their natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage. None of which is in the FLW report. Chris will provide a link to a standardised letter members can use to make their voices heard on this matter, but time is running out.

3.4 **Access** – Sarah Cullen from HRMG asked us to reiterate that BBQ's/fires are not to be started on the top of routes (!) on the grounds of Harrisons anywhere other than the designated fire pit area. The decision on how to deal with the Isolated buttress will be made at the next HRMG meeting in October, so if you want to have your say please get in touch with Sarah (email address can be provided) or by attending the SVG open meeting on 8th October.

4 **National Council & AGM**

4.1 Report from the last meeting. RP outlined how the AGM and the MoNC went and clarified that the Organisational review was already being discussed since last November and was actioned ahead of the motion and was not as a result of the MoNC being brought to the AGM.

Vic Odell congratulated RP on his handling of the MoNC at the AGM and felt it was very well chaired

Comments from the room highlighted UKC as a strong and useful tool leading up to the MoNC as a way of seeing a mix of views on the subject and that the BMC could take a lesson from the UKC. RP agreed that social media is a key resource and a medium we hope to utilise to reach out to the members in our wider area.

It was noted that although social media was good, at the time of the MoNC there was very little information from the proposers of the motion to the exact nature of the issues.

Vic Odell felt that had there not been an unusually high number of proxy votes received due of the MoNC that the vote on increasing subscriptions would in all likelihood been defeated

NK mentioned that subs had not been increased for 4-5 years and that subscriptions could, as has been discussed in the past, be index linked and increased yearly.

Organisational review including looking at Governance & Strategy.

RP directed members to Ray Wigglesworth's (RW) article on BMC (1st June) with the names of the review group members and that a non-voting secretary role was still required.

NK outlined that the review group timetable is 4-6 months, with consultations with the National Council, areas and finally to the 2018 AGM or an EGM if the work is concluded sooner.

And referred to the survey which is hopefully going out to members in June, where the BMC are keen to hear what it is you like about the BMC.

The results of the survey will need to be properly analysed & collated.

Question from the members – regarding the timetable and processes involved in 'what's next' for the review group.

NK suggested that in addition to the monthly report from (RW) detailing the work achieved, that the report should outline what work is planned in the future.

The members also felt that the TOR's and timetable should be published on the BMC website.

Question from the members as to why there was such small numbers of votes given the BMC has over 82k members and is there something that we can do to engage with a wider membership?

RP discussed the option of being able to vote on line in the future, which is being looked at and also quoted a recent study showing that the hit rate on whether BMC emails are read was significantly low for those under 40 and higher for over 40 year olds but many members simply do not read mailings and emails from the BMC.

5. **London & SE Area AGM date change**

The AGM for our area has in recent years been held in June which is month LP & RP were originally voted in as Secretary & Chair. However we've been asked to see if we can move this in line with other areas which is in November. The current date can easily be moved to September and be in line with the timings from the last AGM but to move it later to November would require the room to vote on the date change. The vote to move the area AGM to November was proposed by (CS) and seconded by Paul Kaye and passed 21 for, 0 against and 2 abstentions.

Date and location of next Area Meeting

September 7th 2017 7pm - Guest Speaker Masha Gordon

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 and amusing presentation from George Cave and a raffle prize from Cotswolds.

George Cave – Trying to climb in Tajikistan

In 1940, a Soviet military officer visited the AK Baikal valley in Tajikistan. Gazing up at a long ridgeline of five peaks, he declared "the passage of this route would have done credit to any master mountaineer". Since then, the climb has never been attempted.

In 2015 George Cave and four friends set out to try and prove themselves as master mountaineers. Between flooding their 4x4 in the river, getting kicked out of Russia without a visa and teaching an army of Tajik children the dance sequence to the Macarena they had as many adventures off the mountains as they did on them.