

BRITISH MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL

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Minutes of Midlands Area Meeting 7 June 2017 Old Edwardians' Sports Club, Solihull

Present: Phil Simister (Chair), Phil Leng (Solihull MC), Mark Hodson (Solihull MC), Sue.Hodson (Individual not BMC), David Jones (WestBrom MC), Michelle Aukland (Bowline Club), Richard Law (Wrekin MC), Richard Greaves (Ceunant MC), Mike Reynolds (Solihull MC), Jane Thompson (BMC Clubs & Partnerships Officer), Alastair Thompson, (Wolverhampton Mountaineering Club), Stuart Jamieson, Rebecca Husband, Claudia Sarner (Bowline Club), Roger Fanner (Solihull MC), John Hunter, Eloise Cambier (ESC Birmingham), Dave Pendleton (Solihull MC), Damian Anson, John Duckett (Coventry MC), John Handley (Coventry MC), Andy Potter (Bowline Club) Ashley Price (Solihull MC), Helen Every (Solihull MC), Tamsin Mayberry (Solihull MC), Mike Dennis (Solihull MC), Jo Goodson (Solihull MC) (27)

1. Welcome and Apologies:

- a. **Welcome:** Phil Simister welcomed everyone to the meeting, also welcome to John Hunter new member that was in attendance.
- b. **Apologies:** Apologies had been received from: John Edwards (Sec), Andy Railton (Access East), Brian Smith & John Churcher.

2. Minutes of the last Meeting:

The circulated minutes were accepted as accurate.
Proposed by Michelle Auckland, Seconded by John Duckett

3. Matters arising from the minutes not covered elsewhere:

It was noted that three members have been voted onto the Executive; Roger Fanner is one of these individuals, who will also be working with the Hill Walking Working Group. Brian Smith is no longer an independent director.

4. Reports from Area Representatives:

- 4.1 **Access West:** Richard Law had nothing to report from Access West.
- 4.2 **Climbing Walls:** No update.
- 4.3 **Access East:** A walkaround has been carried out with new owners at Granitethorpe Quarry near Sapcote, Leics.
- 4.4 **Hill Walking:** David Jones updated that the Hill Walking Working Group had come to the end of its two year plan, and the group had produced a strategic plan that had been forwarded onto National Council. Going forward it was noted that a potential implementation group will be set up to ensure that the strategic plan is actioned.
- 4.5 **Clubs:** Andy Potter updated that there had been one club meeting and is keen to push forward better engagement with clubs, Andy also pointed out that the strategic plan had been sent out to clubs to review. It was noted that the clubs committee meet four times yearly.

5. National Council:

- 5.1 **Report from last meeting:** Roger Fanner had attended the National Council Meeting and gave an in-depth overview on the BMC Organisational Review and its Terms of Reference
- 5.2 **Matters for the next Council Meeting:** None

6. Any other Business, including News from HQ:

- Jane Thompson mentioned the independent review group which had met three times; the group consisted of six people who examine the BMC's organisation, governance and decision-making structures, and make recommendations. A number of focus group meetings are planned, including consultation with area chairs, the Executive and National Council. A membership survey will be undertaken, and an interim report is due out late August 2017.
- Phil Simster updated the area meeting that he had been in the position of chairman for four years and raised the question on how do we communicate the post/position to all Midland Members prior to the vote in November 2017.
- Mend Our Mountains 2 will be implemented in 2018, looking at upgrading around 12/13 high profile footpaths and aiming to raise over £1 million over an 18-month period. More to Follow.

7. Date & location of next meeting:

The next meeting will be held at Old Edwardians Sports Club, Streetsbrook Road, Solihull, B90 3PE on Wed 6th September 2017. After this meeting there will be a talk by Shirin Shabestari who runs expeditions to Damavand, Iran's highest peak and other places through "Persian Pursuits".

After the meeting refreshments were taken, followed by a talk titled "Love on the Rocks" by Phil Leng about his ascent of the Nose of El Capitan which ended with him proposing marriage to his climbing partner Helen.

Written by David Jones standing in for John Edwards.