

BMC North West Area Meeting
11 September 2017, The Grey Mare, Belthorn

MINUTES

Attendance – 9

BMC Officer in attendance – Dave Turnbull (DT)

Chair – Carl Spencer (CS)

Secretary – Andy Say (AS)

There were introductions for those attending their first meeting.

1. Apologies.

Richard Toon, Stuart Igoe, Les Ainsworth (LA) Robin Mueller, Dave Mann.

CS asked that all remember Nick Bond, who had recently passed away following long term illness with cancer. Nick was a long time NW activist and friend to many in the area.

2. Minutes accepted.

3. Matters arising from the minutes.

There was discussion of the outcome of the MoNC at the AGM and progress on the airline hand cabin baggage issue. Ongoing. AS to prepare an article for the BMC website/Summit.

4. Area Rep reports.

- a. Access and guidebooks.** Continued problems with a fairly restrictive approach at Hoghton. There was discussion of the access issue at Lester Mill Quarry and the use of new barbed wire fencing on CroW land.

Mend our Mountains. DT reported on the success of the previous campaign and outlined the planning for the launch of a new MoM as a partnership with the national parks.

There was some discussion of crag purchase and the issue of paid parking.

- b. Clubs.** No report.

5. Wilton Fest.

Tim Greenhalgh reported that over 400 attendees had made this a great success – largest attendance at any BMC festival. All the seminars had been well attended. £1,402 had been raised for Climbers Against Cancer. All present applauded TG for the organisation of this very successful event. CS commented that the very high attendance at this event may have affected area meeting attendance.

- 6. BMC commercial partnerships.** There was discussion of the recently agreed partnership with Cotswold. Most felt that such a partnership did little harm and could benefit the BMC financially although there were some reservations expressed about the level of benefit to

individual members and the impact on smaller independent retailers. AS suggested that 'equipment' and 'mapping' could be more problematic.

- 7. Governance Action Plan and Structural Review.** DT outlined the background to the review of Governance. This had been a decision reached in February by the National Council and had been given impetus by the Motion of No Confidence at the AGM. This motion had repercussions for the BMC relationship with Sport England and continuation of funding.

The process had been to appoint an independent Chair – Ray Wigglesworth – who is assisted by a small group comprised of independent directors and representatives from the Exec. and National Council. The confidential process has involved member surveys and focus groups with specific volunteer sectors. Essentially the group is looking at the priorities of the BMC and the future direction and seeking a governance system and organisational structure that fits best practice.

One problem that needs to be addressed is member involvement.

8. Any other business.

1. CS raised the issue of the new data protection regulations (GDPR), which will apply from 25 May 2018.
2. AS referred to the last National Council meeting and the information that the Association of British Climbing Walls (ABC) was investigating the possibility of a membership scheme for wall users.

Next meeting – 20/11/2017

Venue – The Anderton Centre, Rivington, PR6 9HG