

BMC North West Area Meeting
5th February 2018, The Belmont Bull, Belmont

MINUTES

Attendance – 20 (including Lynn Robinson: BMC VP, Rab Carrington: ORG)

BMC Officer in attendance – Dave Turnbull (DT)

Chair – Carl Spencer (CS) CS apologised for lack of voice and asked if AS would Chair the meeting.

Secretary – Andy Say (AS)

Apologies.

Andy Blackwood

- 1. Report of last meeting accepted.**
- 2. Matters arising from the minutes.**

BMC representation on MTE.

This had been briefly considered at the last meeting; material circulated to attendees by AS and email indications of opinion canvassed. Emails received indicated a 4:1 rejection of the proposal. Jon Garside again put the case for reduction from 4 reps to 1. AS pointed out that in essence this was a matter for MTE to decide rather than BMC.

The point was made that recreational climbers viewpoint was important. And if there was poor attendance *this* should be addressed.

The matter was put to a vote. For the reduction in BMC reps on MTE – 4: Against – 8.
Abstentions - 5

A subsequent show of hands indicated 7 in favour of a smaller reduction to 3 or 2.

3. Area Rep reports.

- a. Access and guidebooks.** Les Ainsworth reported that Hoghton clean-up arranged for Saturday 10th Feb. and much better relationships with bird monitors. All urged to attend and lend a hand.

Lower Montcliffe. New owner still being obstructive though legal position has been clarified and only a small part of the quarry is owned by that person.

- b. Clubs.** AS neglected to ask for a Clubs report although Richard Toon was present and ready to give one. Apologies.

- c. Youth.** Stuart Holmes again reported on the difficulty of getting volunteers to act as belayers at youth competitions. Mountain Training Association had been approached.

- 4. Future Meeting venues and dates.** AS reported that dates for area meetings had been set at 16th April; 5th June, 11th September and 20th November. He apologised about the confusion surrounding this meeting but it had been put back to allow more time for the Organisational

Review Group to update their proposals. Venues for all meetings would be finalised after the next NC meeting and any decision on dates for BMC AGM and possible EGM in 2018.

It is important that participation is encouraged by trying to use venues which will attract new attendees.

5. National Council Issues. The main focus of the meeting was a consideration of the ORG proposals.

It was emphasised that at present the National Council is seen as the policy and decision making body and the Executive Committee is the body that implements the decisions of NC.

Correspondence had been received by AS from Andy Blackwood expressing concern at lack of costings for the proposals and CS felt that a business plan and risk assessment was essential. This had not been forthcoming. The 'BMC 30' had met with the ORG and pressed them on many issues. It was noted that 95% of the proposals were 'should' rather than 'must'.

There was general concern at the proposed timescale which, it was felt, made detailed discussion impossible and uncertainty about what might be proposed at the forthcoming AGM. There had been reference to '5 or 6' key issues but we didn't know what they were. There was also concern that some of the proposals seemed concerned with policy rather than organisational structure.

Caradog 'Crag' Jones informed the meeting that he had created a website as a repository of documents and opinion pieces in an attempt to facilitate information about, and discussion of, the main issues. AS was asked to circulate a link to all attendees for this site. It was felt that the recent survey was seriously flawed as a means of evaluating support and opinion.

There was discussion of the proposed make-up of the 'Board of Directors' and it was noted that the proposed 'Nominations Committee' was essentially a 'Board' vehicle responsible for nominating Independent Directors and Chair. The make-up of the proposed 'Members Assembly' also caused some concerns with a reduction in Area reps and the inclusion of Specialist Committee Chairs as voting members. Rab Carrington emphasised the vital work that these specialist committees do for the BMC.

Whilst it was acknowledged that there was a stated intent to keep the role of NC/MA as 'policy-makers' and a body that kept the Board to account it was unclear how this was to be done.

In summary there were a few members who were in favour of the proposals, a few who opposed them entirely and a clear majority who wanted more clarity and the opportunity to sift through the proposals and accept and reject on a case-by-case basis.

At the end of the meeting Les Ainsworth proposed, and seconded by Lyndon Gill, that the NC reps. should propose to National Council at its next meeting that a. The next AGM should be in April and should be used to inform and discuss rather than make decisions, b. There may be an EGM later in the year to consider and vote upon those proposals that seemed non-contentious and were broadly endorsed and c. Proposals concerning the main structure of the BMC should not be considered until the AGM of April 2019 to allow sufficient time to achieve a consensus position.

Our thanks to Lynn Robinson and Rab Carrington for attending.