

**BMC North West Area Meeting**  
**10<sup>th</sup> September 2018, The Black Dog, Belmont**

**MINUTES**

Attendance – 9.

BMC Officer in attendance – No-one

Chair – Carl Spencer    Secretary – Andy Say

Area Members –

Les Ainsworth  
Paul Evans  
Lyndon Gill  
Jim Gregson  
Stuart Igoe  
Don Martin  
Andy Say  
Carl Spencer  
George Westenholme

Observers: None

1. **Apologies.** Apologies reported to meeting: Eric Grindle, Crag Jones, John Roberts, Stuart Holmes, David Xiberas, Emily Pitts, Richard Toon

2. **Minutes of last meeting (4<sup>th</sup> June.)**

3c should read 'He also reported on the loss of two AYC's'

5. should read BMC and not BMNC!

AS reported that John Roberts had sent apologies for that meeting received after the event. He felt it appropriate to record that as a postscript to the minutes rather than incorporate into the minutes of the meeting.

Minutes accepted.

3. **Matters arising from the minutes.**

There was some confusion surrounding the issues David Xiberas had raised and the response from Nick Colton at National Council. AS to follow up with Nick Colton and CS to communicate with DX. Issue had possibly been resolved.

4. **Area Rep reports.**

- a. **Access and guidebooks.** Brownstones. No action on access agreement. Drainage issues on hold till then.

Montcliffe. LA reported that the owner of the land at issue is reasonable.

LA then expressed some concerns about the role of Access volunteers in the future. To date he has felt he is working for, and with the support of, Area members. In future the Board will have direct responsibility for all access issues. He queried where actual decision making will lie. This centralisation may lead to lack of autonomy for volunteers.

CS responded that the relationships of the parts of the BMC were still a work in progress and issues such as this were yet to be considered. It is planned that there will be a 'liability' working party set up to consider these issues.

New routes are up to date and they, along with a FA list, may be ready around Christmas.

- b. Clubs.** No report. AS commented that the Area desperately needs an engaged Clubs Rep and had noted that the Clubs Committee had been asking for a volunteer for the NW.
- c. Youth.** The structure of Youth competition is to be re-organised and timetables changed. AS noted the reference to two new 'talent co-ordinators' employed by the BMC.

Few problems over belaying at the Ratho competition but local events still struggle.

- d. Hillwalking** No report. A similar situation to that of Clubs Rep. SI felt that there might be a lack of concrete direction with volunteers being left to their own devices. AS to raise at NC the issue of induction / training / networking for volunteers.
- 5. AGM.** CS reported on the result of the AGM and the NC meeting prior. The BMC currently has an 'interim' governance arrangement in place. The senior Independent Director is acting as Chair of the Board whilst a new 'Independent Chair' is sought.

Currently there are 8 workstreams in place for the ongoing development of the ORG recommendations. Over the summer all has been quiet but a recent teleconference had determined that 4 workstreams would be 'Board led' and 4 'NC led'.

It was noted that Pete Sterling of NC had originally been developing a Memorandum of Understanding to govern relationships between Board and NC but had felt that his opposition to the proposals meant that he had to resign and left NC.

There was some discussion about the possibility that a legal challenge might be mounted to the AGM process and result.

- 6. Next National Council meeting.** It was noted that papers relating to agenda items on Land Acquisition Policy / Olympics / Future Strategy had not been received and therefore the Area could pass no comment. AS had circulated the introduction to a Code of Conduct paper. LG felt strongly that any such policy should allow freedom of speech, even if it was critical, from Patrons, Honorary Members and Ordinary Members.

**7. AOB.**

**Club Affiliation.** It was reported that some Clubs are considering their position re.affiliation to the BMC and issues had been raised about Data Protection with Clubs transferring data to the BMC. The biggest issue would seem to centre around 3<sup>rd</sup> party liability cover for Club officers and members. AS said he would raise this under NC Agenda item 7.

**Concerns over Executive Committee actions.** There were concerns raised that the Exec.of the BMC had not been acting in compliance with the Articles in the past. The re-branding issue and the selection of a new Independent Director were cited. It has to be acknowledged that there is, in some quarters, a lack of trust and faith in the Exec. And now the Board. It was suggested that the NC Reps should request the recording of all Board meetings as well as NC meetings to ensure that there was an extant record should minutes be challenged. Access to those recordings could be by Patrons / Hon Members or others.

**Next meeting (AGM) to be determined.**