

BRITISH MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL

177-179 Burton Road
Manchester M20 2BB
www.thebmc.co.uk

Tel: 0161 445 6111
Fax: 0161 445 4500
Email: office@thebmc.co.uk

LONDON & SOUTH EAST AREA MEETING

Meeting held by zoom call
on Wednesday 28 April 2021 at 19.00

Minutes

1. Welcome and apologies for absence - Attendance numbers 21 (maximum)

Chaired Chris Stone (CS) Minutes taken by Robert Dufton (RD)

Apologies – Daimon Beail

CS welcomed everyone to the meeting, in particular Lynn Robinson, BMC President. Also Adrian Paisley, Chair of the Harrison's Rocks Management Group would be joining the meeting later.

CS introduced the area officers. RD Area Secretary (and along with CS a LSE National Council representative), Fabrizio Scaliogne (FS) and Tom Bennett (TB) Hill walking reps, Tim Crocker (TC) Club Rep and Tanya Sage (TS) Area Youth Co-ordinator.

There were no members of the executive attending.

2. Minutes of previous meeting held on 24 February 2021

The minutes of the meeting on 24 February 2021 were approved (Y11, A1, N0, NVM 2).

3. President's Report

CS invited LR to speak.

LR thanked everyone for attending the meeting. LR apologised that she would have to leave the meeting in order to attend two other BMC area meetings this evening.

LR reported on the upcoming AGM and encouraged members to participate in the AGM and vote.

LR reported on the success of the Women's Adventure Film Awards for which she had been a judge.

LR explained that her term of office would be ending at the AGM. She thanked everyone connected with the area in particular those who volunteered and championed its work.

CS thanked Lynn on behalf of the LSE area for everything that Lynn had done for the BMC and reminded members that Lynn had been the area's last in-person speaker at our March 2020 meeting.

There were no questions for LR.

4. Area Reps update

4.1 Clubs

Tim Crocker, area clubs rep, gave a report.

- TC reported on the plan to create a LSE club network to be attended by club representatives. Jane Thompson BMC Clubs officer would also attend. Agenda to be determined by the reps. Opportunity for BMC to disseminate info and answer questions. TC had attended a pilot area club network held for Midlands clubs and it was very useful. TC encouraged members who were club members to encourage their club's BMC rep to take part.

- Sherry MacIver (SM) asked if there was a network for national clubs as well. TC said that this was also planned.

4.2 Hillwalking

Fabrizio Scaliogne gave an update on behalf of himself and Tom Bennett. FS reported on the proposed legislation which might criminalize trespass and certain aspects of camping. The BMC was campaigning for more clarity.

FS publicised the BMC video about good practice for wild-camping. "Respect the Wild". (CS subsequently showed the video.)

FS intends to restart organised hillwalking events.

FS commended the BMC hillwalking podcast series.

4.3 Youth

Tanya Sage the Area Youth coordinator said that there was nothing to report, other than that a lot of the indoor climbing walls had opened. The BMC had set very tentative dates for a youth climbing competition with rounds starting in September/October and culminating with national finals in November.

5. National Council update

Peter Salenieks and Carl Spencer had been appointed as Council Nominated Board Directors

Paul McKoen has been appointed as CFO.

BMC has received progression funding from UK Sport for the GB Climbing team and Lorraine Brown has been appointed as national coach.

BMC staff are still partly on furlough

Area terms of reference have been adopted in lieu of Articles to more effectively manage areas. Any further change would require evidence of the consultation with area members. In the lieu of change by mutual agreement by the governing units, the matter would come to a Members EGM or AGM.

The first meeting of the new Members' Council (assuming it was approved at the AGM) would take place on Sunday 16 May.

Council agreed on the allocation of the remaining two specialist councillor positions. These would go to the Training, Youth and Walls committee and the Equity Steering committee.

Area reps would only have one vote. CS and RD would confer and ensure agreement on how to vote.

FS is standing for election as the National Elected Councillor for hill walking. CS wished him well and encouraged LSE areas to vote for him.

CS encouraged members to continue to use the BMC shop.

6. Southern Sandstone/Harrison's Rocks Management Group Update

Adrian Paisley, the chair of the HR MG updated the meeting about Southern Sandstone.

- Crags drying out nicely. Bowles open but check before going in case. Eridge still closed. HRMG waiting to meet them to discuss re-opening. Smaller crag use remains sensitive. Please check the Regional Access Database, if anyone is planning to attend and please park sensitively.
- Next Sandstone users open meeting is taking place on 11 May.

Graham Adcock said meeting with Eridge Rocks owner was taking place on 4 May.

CS thanked Adrian and all members of the HRMG and volunteers.

7. BMC AGM

The AGM will be held on 15 May 2021 virtually starting at 09.00. Details will be sent to all members shortly about how to attend and vote. CS encouraged members to give directed proxy votes. The names of the winners of the BMC national volunteering awards would also be announced.

8. Area "Noticeboard"

CS encourage members to flag up anything they wanted to discuss by emailing the area reps at: LondonSE.Area@thebmc.co.uk

CS and RD encouraged members to take part in the “Movement” survey being promoted by a consortium of outdoor bodies.

9. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

10. Date of next Area Meetings

The next area meeting would provisionally be held on Wednesday 14 July. Location tbc.

Guest Speaker

CS introduced Andy Gattiker, National Trails and Rights of Way Lead at the South Downs National Park Authority. Andy spoke about the South Downs, including the impact of the grant to the South Downs National Park for footpath repairs which had been made from the BMC’s Mend Our Mountains fundraising campaign.

CS declared the meeting closed at 20.30

Minutes written by Robert Dufton