

# 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 online  
on Tuesday 24 January 2023

### Minutes

#### 1. Welcome and apologies for absence

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

CS welcomed everyone to the meeting which was attended by 9 members virtually. CS welcomed Caroline Worboys, Senior Independent Director of the BMC to the meeting, and our guest speaker Mary-Ann Ochota.

There were no apologies

#### 2. Minutes of previous meeting held on 20 October 2022

The minutes of the meeting on 20 October 2022 were approved.

CW reported on the intention to upgrade the BMC website, including the hill-walking microsite

#### 3. Co-option of Members' Council representative

CS reported that Stella Sudekum has offered herself for co-option

SS introduced herself as a US citizen who moved to the UK eight years ago and was interested in outdoors activities. SS lives in Snaresbrook and is currently most often outdoors in Essex and Hertfordshire.

RD thanked SS for putting herself forward for co-option. He offered to support CS in her future induction.

SS was co-opted unanimously until the 2023 LSE AGM on the basis that by the time of her first Council meeting- (21 February 2023) she would fulfil the criteria of at least one year's membership of BMC.

#### 4. Update from Southern Sandstone (Harrison's Rocks Management Group)

CS reported the following on behalf of the Harrison's Rocks Management Group:

- The rocks were in winter conditions i.e. should only be climbed on when fully dried out in compliance with the SS Code of Practice
- The car park at Harrison's shuts at 17.00

#### 5. Area Reps update

##### 5.1 Clubs

No update on behalf of Will the LSE club reps.

Olly offered to promote activities of clubs via social media.

M-AO inquired about the possibility of events in the area, including club events, being on a BMC calendar. CW offered to find out if this was a feature in the future website upgrade.

## 5.2 Hillwalking

FS reported on:

- The outcome of the court case about wild camping on Dartmoor
- Programme of four area hill walks starting: 16 April 2023, London/Kent to be led by Olly; 20 May Chilterns/Wendover with Jim; 10 June Coastal (possibly Seven Sisters) with Vincent; 1 July South Downs Way with Fabrizio
- Chilterns Walking Festival 2023
- Mapping review and opportunities to feedback. Olly added that in the LSE area it was Downland which had inaccuracies in mapping with respect to CROW. John Fullwood Access and Conservation Officer for England and Wales best person to report English access issues to [jon.fullwood@thebmc.co.uk](mailto:jon.fullwood@thebmc.co.uk)

## 5.3 Youth

Tanya Sage the Area Youth Climbing Series Coordinator reported:

- Youth series grand final in Swindon over two days. LSE won the trophy
- TS attended a judging course led by the Chief Judge for the International [Jf
- TS and Scott will put together course materials and teach other area co-ordinators about communication about judging
- Four nations bouldering competition has started
- There was a need for more volunteers to assist at area youth climbing competitions, particularly in judging for which training is provided.

## 5.4 Social Media

Olly reported:

- New Instagram account (200 followers)
- All LSE club social media accounts now being followed
- Lot of content from climbing walls (as commercial businesses)
- Walks programme would be promoted on Facebook

M-AO asked about contacting Olly in relation to Ridgeway Festival events. Olly suggested contacting him via the Instagram page

## 6. Organisational update

CW gave an organisational update.

Q4 for BMC so emphasis on financial planning and budgeting. BMC performance reporting improved across the organisation.

Membership trends still uncertain post Covid.

Additional emphasis on safeguarding.

Budget for 2023 with KPIs in place.

Sport England funding secured. Contracts signed or in final stages with ABI and NICAS..

Sport England funding for BMC in partnership with Plas y Brenin. Work on producing "Exploring the hills safely" which was presented to SE who responded positively and who want to work with BMC and PyB more closely.

Board approved hill-walking strategy in October 2023. New complaints procedure.

John Wilmott has joined the board as an independent director. Significant experience in insurance and senior leadership. Personally interested in hill-walking and the DoE awards scheme.

Helen Murphy has joined staff to lead safeguarding for the BMC and sector as a whole.

CS reported on Members' Council held in November 2022.

CS reported on future LSE meetings:

27 April 2023 hybrid meeting at Alpine Club,

25 July virtual

19 October Alpine Club for AGM and hybrid meeting

CS fed back on visit by BMC President to UIA AGM in Canada. UK will be hosting UIA Spring meet in Leeds 5-7 May.

Council reviewing ethics and ethos policy. These are member facing policies. Participation statement also being reconsidered.

## **7. Any other business**

RD reported on the first LGBTQ outdoor climbing festival which would be taking place in the Peak District 19-21 May 2023 in partnership with the BMC.

M-AO reported as a trustee of John Muir Trust on the launch of their wild places register, inviting people to submit details of their favourite wild places via a JMT survey.

## **8. Date of next Area Meeting**

27 April 2023 at the Alpine Club/hybrid

Formal part of the meeting finished at 20.00.

CS introduced the guest speaker Mary-Ann Ochota. She is a broadcaster, writer and anthropologist. She is a BMC hill-walking ambassador and Patron of The Ridgeway at 50 year of celebrations.

CS thanked Mary-Ann for an outstanding talk.

Minutes written by Robert Dufton