

BRITISH MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL

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Minutes of Midlands Area Meeting 10 Sep 2014 Old Edwardians' Sports Club, Solihull

Present: Phil Simister (Chair), Andy Brown (WBMC), Andy Kempster, Andy Railton (Bowline Club), Charles Gameson (National Council Rep - CG), Claire Laxton (Bromsgrove), Dave Holland, Dave Jones, Harune Malik, Harry Wilson, Ian Blanche, Ian Wyatt (Solihull MC), Jan Hubbard (Bowline Club), Juliette Edwards, Mahroof Malik, Matt Gordon (Bowline Club), Michelle Aukland, Mike Beaumont, Mike Reynolds (Solihull MC), Nick Colton (BMC Dep Chief Exec), Paul Robinson, Penelope Aeshois (Bromsgrove), Pete Lubrano (Solihull MC), Phil Bailey (Mountain Club of Stafford), Rob Tipper (Yeti Club), Roger Fanner (Solihull MC), Ross Lewis (Solihull MC), Stephen Wright, Steve Bates, Tamsin Mayberry (Solihull MC), Terrie-Anne Yardley, Tony Hayward (Solihull MC).

Actions:

CG - Charles Gameson
CS - Claudia sarner

1. Welcome and Apologies:

- a. **Welcome:** Phil Simister welcomed everyone to the area meeting.
- b. **Apologies:** Apologies had been received from: Claudia Sarner (cttee Sec & Nat Council Rep - CS), John Churcher (cttee Climbing Wall Rep), Jo Goodson (cttee Access East Rep), Phil Mullington (FRCC), Richard Law (cttee Access West Rep).

2. **Minutes of the last Meeting:** The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as accurate (proposed: Andy Brown, seconded: Charles Gameson).

3. **Actions from the Last Meeting:** Actions from the last meeting will be covered under 'feedback from National Council'.

4. Matters Arising (not covered elsewhere):

- a. **Midlands Rock Guide:** The efforts to update and/or produce a new Leicestershire and West Midlands guide (hard copy or online) will not be combined at this stage.
- b. **Leicestership Guidebook:** We have had a volunteer to project manage the completion of the Leicestershire Guide and work has already started. In turn this has given the activists in the Leicester area renewed enthusiasm for its completion.
- c. **Does the BMC need to revert to having 5 meetings a year:** the issue is already on the National Council agenda so does not need to be discussed at Area.

d. Outdoor activities for Midlands Youth, as a conversion from indoor climbing: A pilot event has been put back six months due to enhanced commitments being taken at work by the Youth Rep.

5. Reports

a. Access West: Richard Law is ill but has nothing to report.

b. Access West: Jo Goodson is detained on work but is continuing to produce a database of all possible climbing areas throughout the east side of the BMC Area.

c. Climbing Walls: John Churcher is climbing with GB Paraclimbing Team at Gijon at the moment. He has continued building links with all the Midlands climbing walls and additionally most of them have agreed to stock spare copies of the current BMC Members' Handbook on their counter to act as publicity for the BMC.

d. Youth: Ian Blanch reported the following:

i. Midlands Youth Climbing Series (MYCS): there will be 5 rounds, starting at Alter Rock in Derby on the 18th October 2014.

ii. BMC YCS:

- National event starts Jan 24th 2015.
- 3 rounds in the Midlands and the top 3 from each age category go forward to the national final in Edinburgh on the 25th April.

iii. Introduction to Outdoor Climbing/Walking: Plans to run an event next year with a plan to introduce the youth of the Midlands to outside climbing. In the early stages of planning.

iv. Dominic Vincent who used to compete in the BMC YCS for the Midlands has just got a bronze at the European Youth Cup bouldering competition in Arco, Italy.

6. National Council:

a. Report from last Nat Council meeting (hill walking):

- Roger Fanner attended the last Nat Council meeting in place of Charles Gameson, along with Claudia Sarner. He gave a précis of the debate at Nat Council that had ensued after he had presented the motion that had been carried at Area that "The BMC does not take hill walking seriously enough".
- He then gave a brief précis of the Strategy Document produced by Carey Davies and Dave Turnbull in response to the Midlands motion.
- The Chairman added his support to the excellence of the Strategy Document.

b. Issue for next Nat Council Meeting - Subscriptions:

- Charles Gameson described the intension of the Exec to replace the current pattern of requesting increases in subscriptions of the AGM with an escalator based on RPI.
- There was a brief discussion on the issue. During that discussion the Area felt that this issue needed to be discussed at and passed by the AGM
- A mandate was agreed (no objections) for the two Nat Council reps to argue that the issue of Subscriptions had to be dealt with at the AGM as a matter of precedent - discrete increases always having been requested of an AGM to date.

**CG
CS**

7. Midlands Area Proposal: The Chairman explained that this proposal was intended as a collaborative intent. It had been 'passed by' the Chief Exec and was also going to be presented to the Yorkshire Area

"The Midlands Area proposes that the BMC sets up a working group, made up of representatives from each area, to support the Executive in implementing a strategy for hill walking - to emulate, and not diminish, the excellent service already provided to climbers, better to serve and inform our hill walking members and to attract new members."

**CG
CS**

- Proposed: Charles Gameson
- Seconded: Mike Beaumont
- Carried: unanimously
- Abstentions: none

8. Any Other Business: none

9. Date & location of next meeting:

- 19 Nov 2014 at Old Eds. Solihull
- This will be the AGM
- Speaker not yet organised

**Phil Simister
Chairman**