

BRITISH MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL

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Minutes of Midlands Area Meeting 23 Nov 2016 Old Edwardians' Sports Club, Solihull

Present: Phil Simister (Chair), John Edwards (Sec), John Churcher (Solihull MC), Ian Cornish (Solihull MC), Ash Price (Solihull MC), Phil Leng (Solihull MC), Tony Hayward (Solihull MC), Helen Every (Solihull MC), Jo Goodson (Solihull MC), M. Reynolds (Solihull MC), Ian Wyatt (Solihull MC), Rob Trezise (Solihull MC), Alex Tayler (Solihull MC), M. Hobson (Solihull MC), Haj Ley (Solihull MC), Dave Rickerby (Solihull MC), Clare Lubrano (Solihull MC), Pete Lubrano (Solihull MC), Richard Law (Wrekin MC), Andy Railton (Bowline Club), Zoe Pickering (Bowline Club), David Jones (WestBrom MC), Jan Hubbard (Bowline Club), Claudia Sarner (Bowline Club), Andy Potter (Bowline Club), M.Gordon (Bowline Club), Elaine Little (Bear Rock), Colin Little (Bear Rock), Rosi Yule (SAKMC), Stuart Chester (SAKMC), Colin Green (Nuneaton MC), Michele Kondakor (Nuneaton MC), Eileen Walsh (Nuneaton MC), Phil Blatch (Lichfield MC), Stuart Webb (M.A.M.), Rob Tipper (Yeti Club), Harry Wilson (Yeti Club), Paul O'Shea (C&C), Joe Norris (Mercian MC), James McHaffie (BMC Ambassador).

Independent members: Roger Fanner, Stuart Jamieson, Rebecca Husband, John Marston, Craig Shelley, Luke Bowman, Steve Johnson, Guy Morley, Kerry Elford, Neil Currie, Richard Twilton, Rosie Hudson, Michele Blake. **(53)**

1. Welcome and Apologies:

- a. **Welcome:** Phil Simister welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologised if he sounded a bit jet-lagged but he only landed from Edinburgh at 6.30pm and he has to fly back 0715 tomorrow to be back at work 10am.
- b. **Apologies:** Apologies had been received from: Brian Smith, Phil Mullington, Ian Blanch.

2. **Minutes of the last Meeting:** The circulated minutes were agreed to be accurate.
(proposed: Richard Law, seconded: Claudia Sarner).

3. **Matters arising from the minutes not covered elsewhere:** None.

4. Reports:

- 4.1 **Access East:** Andy Railton said he was still waiting for Markfield to hold their management meeting.
- 4.2 **Access West:** Richard Law said things were very quiet. Nothing to report.
- 4.3 **Climbing Walls:** John Churcher had nothing to report. It was confirmed that the new climbing wall in Solihull was aiming to open before the next Midland Area meeting.
- 4.4 **Youth:** Ian Blanch had not sent a report. Claudia Sarner mentioned that the Peak and Midlands youth competitions were now linked into one.
- 4.5 **Hill Walking:** David Jones said the committee had a meeting next week at which they would discuss strategy to be submitted to National Council.
- 4.6 **Club Issues:** Michelle Aukland had not sent a report.

5. **National Council Report from last meeting:** Roger Fanner pointed out that his full report was available on the back of the meeting agenda and that he would only give a brief summary. Most of the other area meetings felt the same way as the Midlands about the "Climb Britain" proposal so, after a 6 hour meeting, the BMC reversed its decision to rebrand, although it still owns the new name. There are still problems ahead, however, with funding from Sport England likely to taper off over the next 4 years and next year's budget likely to be £70,000 - £140,000 in the red. On the plus side, BMC membership is up 1,700 from last year to 80,000 although we are still not attracting young people.

Matters for next Council Meeting: The next major issue for National Council is the management structure of the BMC and the way that Sport England want an organisation to adapt in order to receive future

funding. The first question is whether the BMC meets this new format and, if not, the second question is whether it should be changed in order to meet the demands of Sport England. Roger Fanner had circulated a doc to National Council members pointing out that unlike most of the 'sports funded' bodies climbing does not have rules or umpires and instead has a peculiar ethos of its own. The next council meeting will have to debate both whether the BMC has to change and what the consequences are. The point was raised from the floor that Sports Climbing DID have rules but the meeting felt that the BMC should still be the governing body for competition climbing. There was general concern that the BMC remains a democratic organisation.

6. Annual General Meeting: New area committee elected as per separate minutes

7. Any Other Business: None. Meeting closed

8. Date & location of next meeting:

- Wed 1st February 2017 at Old Edwardians Sports Club, Solihull.
- Speaker will be Emma Flaherty – BMC's new Vice President, who has roles in PE and Sports Management as well as helping organise the annual Women's Climbing Symposium. She is an avid traveler and climber, leading up to E4 on trad and font 8a when bouldering.

Following the meeting refreshments were taken and then attendees enjoyed a series of reminiscences on some of his climbing trips and companions by James McHaffie, accompanied by some spectacular shots of extreme verticality.

Written by John Edwards