

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 at The Old Kings Head, London
On Thursday 7th September 2017 at 7.00pm.

Minutes

1. **Welcome and apologies for absence - Attendance numbers 38**

Chaired Rik Payne (RP) Minutes taken by Lisa Payne (LP)

Apologies - None

2. **Minutes of previous meeting held on 1st June**

Minutes were ratified.

3 **Reports from Area Representatives**

3.1 **Clubs** – Collette O'Neill (SMC) Introduced herself as the new Clubs rep joining Sherry McIver. Having attended the recent Clubs Committee meeting a key aspect is to focus on better engagement with Clubs. A show of hands of the attendees at the meeting has 12 Club members of the 38 present.

A reminder that a clubs survey will be conducted so please look out for it.

3.2 **Youth** – No report

3.3 **Hill walking** – Chris Stone (CS) Next organised walk is on September 30th with another organised on the 11th November. Details on the BMC Community site and BMC London & SE Facebook page. Chris updated the members that despite vocal objections the Future Landscapes Wales report was passed on 6th June.

Chris also showed members the various BMC booklets that are available.

3.4 **Access** – The decision on how to deal with the Isolated buttress will be made at the next HRMG meeting on 8th October, members were encouraged to attend the meeting or contact with Sarah with their views. This information on the meeting and contact information has been published on the BMC L&SE Facebook page.

Volunteers to join the HRMG were requested, with the aim to improve the communications between the SVG/HRMG and the L&SE area. Adrian who is already on the HRMG offered to do this but we also had two offers to take this role on board.

4 **National Council**

4.1 & 4.2 (RP) detailed the timings for the Organisational Review, reading extracts from Ray Wigglesworth's (RW) August Newsletter. (BMC website)

In summary a report in time for the November area meetings from the Review group, follow up in January for the Feb area meetings with an additional April meeting for further discussions ahead of the AGM.

(RP) reminded members that ultimately it's the members who vote on the Organisational review at the AGM in April 2018.

There are still focus groups to be completed, data from the membership survey and focus groups to be collated so things are taking longer than originally hoped, but hard deadlines were set and there is a lot to look at. The first constitution of the BMC written in 1993 which has been in place since, is unlikely to be fit for purpose now and with the BMC being a Ltd Company there are numerous legal requirements for the organisation to follow and changes to the Articles of Association are likely.

(RP) outlined the setup of the review group including RW's background.

Tony Williams stated that since attending a focus group he was confident in (RW's) ability to produce the report and to bring in specific expertise where required.

Other extracts from (RW) Aug newsletter, raised the question of why 1 person's view from the focus group was included in the newsletter. (RP) responded with the need to show that the BMC are listening to all views and (RW) is likely to be showing a balanced picture of the results of the review group to date.

It was noted that current patrons and past presidents all unanimously agreed that Indoor competition climbing should be included within the organisation.

There was a question from a member on why the Governance issue seem to be taking so long since it was discussed last year at the area meeting, (RP) reiterated that the wider organisational review encompassing this, the need to engage with members and the impact of the MoNC on BMC staff day to day duties has slowed this down.

The final statement from the Newsletter "We have done our legal research and looked at the best practice in modern codes of Governance. Now we are simply waiting for the data from the members' survey and results from the two final focus groups and then we should be in a position to complete our report".

Commercial Partnerships – (RP) reported on Cotswold Outdoor/Snow+Rock becoming the first of a number of recommended retail partners and outlined some of the member benefits that would bring. (RP) responded to a question from the floor on when the membership would hear about further partners, confirming that Simon Lee is doing a great job with more in the pipeline, but that due to the sensitive nature and legal aspects of these deals we'd have to wait for any future partnerships to be rubber stamped before any announcements would be made, but hopefully this side of Christmas we could hear more news.

There was general feeling that more detailed information on the criteria and principles of any partnerships should be communicated better by the BMC to its members.

(RP) mentioned a number of items from the CEO report, namely the Mend Our Mountains 2 campaign with the aim to raise £1 million to support 15 pathway projects.

Electronic voting was being seriously considered for future AGM, assuming all legal requirements for a Ltd company were met. This is an ongoing project.

(RP) reported that the ABC (Association of British Climbing walls) advised the National Council in June that it was considering developing a 'membership' package for individual climbers and that this was a potential conflict for the BMC. There is an ongoing dialogue between the BMC and ABC following this announcement.

(RP) stated that he'd much rather see a body like the BMC educating indoor climbers in the do's and don'ts of crag etiquette when climbing outside.

5. AOB - None

Date and location of next Area Meeting

November 23rd 2017 7pm - Guest Speaker Jo Bradshaw

Following the meeting, there was an excellent presentation from Masha Gordon and a raffle prize from Ellis Brigham.

Masha Gordon – Founder of Grit & Rock – A charity to encourage inner city teenage girls to challenge themselves, increase self-confidence and help those in deprived areas develop love for an active lifestyle. Masha is the fastest woman to complete the Explorers Grand Slam; in just 7 months and 19 days, she climbed the seven summits and trekked the North and South Poles.