

MINUTES

NORTH EAST AREA COMMITTEE

Meeting

Thursday 30th November 2017

7.00pm. The Honest Lawyer, Durham.

1. Welcome and Introduction

Jon Punshon welcomed everyone to the meeting.

In attendance:

Jon Punshon	Chair / National Council
Simon Litchfield	Secretary
Mark Anstiss	Clubs / National Council
Paul Mitchinson	Hillwalking
Mike Conlon	Access South
Mark Goodings	Walls

Nick Colton	BMC
Ray Wigglesworth	Organisational Review Group
Fiona Sanders	Organisational Review Group

Steve Blake	Jancis Richards
Stephen Goodhart	Keith Sanders
Graham Harkness	Peter Simcock
Sarah Hawker	Peter Steward
Stephen Heiniger	Richard Tyler
John Herron	Ian Walton
Bob McAdam	Amanda Wigglesworth
David Richards	
24 in attendance	

2. Apologies and Absence

Martin Ballantine		Alan Hinkes
Chris Bullock	Youth	Jessica Wortley
Franco Cookson	Access North	

3. Minutes of previous Meeting

In order to progress to the long agenda the minutes from the previous meeting 7/09/2017 will be reviewed at the next meeting.

4. Organisational Report

A formal presentation by Ray Wigglesworth (RW) and Fiona Sanders (FS) was given on: *BMC Independent Organisational Review Group Summary and Key Recommendations*. Feedback welcomed via org@thebmc.co.uk

- Mark Anstiss Difficulties for club committees to meet to discuss and difficulties opening shared documents.
Currently all directors elected at AGM. Proposed only 3 member directors and independent chair elected at AGM – is this a dilution of democracy?
RW – This is current best practice.
- Steve Blake Specialist Committees and Working Groups? Who and what?
FS – (SC Policy) Competition , Clubs, Technical, Training and Youth, Access & Conservation, International (WG Opps) Huts etc.
SB - Wired guidebook co-op. Currently fluid relationship with BMC. Maybe have a role on Partner / WG so that there is a formal link and relationship clarified.
- MA Member Survey is self-selecting. Is this a weakness? What done to assuage concerns?
FS – One of four sources incl: focus groups, legal etc. Sufficient numbers (e.g. 5k means that it is sufficiently large to be representative .
- Mike Conlon Members' Assembly area representatives – could these elected by ballot?
FS / RW – tweaks under consideration. Need to understand legal implications.
- Sarah Hawker Is it for the local area to decide who is on MA?
FS / RW – yes. Possibly one plus one reserve.
- Ian Walton Where do subsidiaries fit within the reporting structure?
FS / RW Anticipate on Partners Assembly.
- MC Digital strategy, could this include UKC to hit non-member or non-RAD users.
FS – recognises need to find ways to get to all activists, members and non-members. Therefore, yes.
MC – should UKC be partners.
Member discussion as to partner composition as this is a private company, as are UKB etc.
- John Punshon Sport England has 3 tiers of governance depending on funding level, i.e. level 3 and governance is most crucial. Where does the proposed response fit?
FS – have looked at good governance not just for Sport England. This is about us as a membership organisation shaping how we want our organisation to be. Looking at the end we believe that this proposal meets the requirements of Sports England.
- Ian Walton Is Sport England money for projects only?
Nick Colton. Yes, Sport England money is for the icing on the cake, not core activities.
- MA Last review said BMC should be continually review. Risk of drift. What will be done to make sure this happens?
1) *Written in AA that it should be reviewed every three years*
2) *Internal board review of Board*
3) *Codes of Governance*
MA – part 2 should be viewed my Members' Assembly.
RW – we will ensure that this is in the Articles.

- Peter Simcox Timescale?
FS – Implementation plan – one to three year journey. Some things need tweaking, others are larger. M&AAs need approving at AGM.
- JP Members' Assembly and Board of Directors link is crucial. As Dave is on NC and Nick Colton attends there is a direct flow of info. The proposal doesn't show a great flow mechanism.
FS - there will be communications protocol to ensure this takes place in future.
- IW Exec and supervisory board.
FS - Different legal systems not in UK.
- MA NC loses a lot of power under new structure; while he is supportive it can only work if communications works. Members' views under proposed structures could be lost if comms not good.
RW – certain things written into constitution to enshrine this.
- NC Finance not reporting to members? There should be a meeting of the Finance / Audit Committee, the Board of Directors *and* Members' Assembly.
FS – Legal caution required so that Members' Assembly don't become de-facto directors and thus liable. Recommendation is for Members' Assembly to be strategic rather than operational for this reason.
- MA Nominations committee?
FS - Responsible for all Board Members and paid position appointments.
- Richard Tyler Costs?
FS - not in ORG's terms of reference. National Council will have to look at costs of recommendations. There will be implications.
NC – Commercial partnerships – this is intended to reduce need to ask membership and Sport England.
- MA Managing volunteers? Has role disappeared?
NC - Post disappeared, but there was a volunteer working on it. Waiting for Sport England funding. Traditionally not seen as core, but as part of this review views of what is core are changing.
- Jancis Has the BMC become a political organisation? Has its core interest been lost? Too organised?
FS – this is what this is about – how can we make the role and organisation clear while still delivering in a changing world.
- Graham Harkness Indoor climbing with its own body.
FS – making this a subsidiary but this recognises that most climbers are also indoor climbers and many go from in to out as an access route.
M Conlon – Distinction between indoor and competition.
S Blake – Difference between elite comp and normal comp.
Peter Steward – People don't want to spend money on the Olympics.
FS - BMC not spending money sending people to the Olympics. Hence the subsidiary
NC – Olympians paid by British Olympic Association.

FS – Issue of diversity too. It is a pathway for youth and much more diverse.

JP Where were the tensions when making decisions in the ORG?
FS / RW – mostly minor (little words and re-re-re-writing) as had a mandate and terms of reference.

IW Good to see looking for a long term (10+ year).

5. Co-ordinators reports

Access South

Mike Conlon to make a funding request from Crag Care Fund and Access and Conservation Trust. This is to make improvements including:

- Stile at Tranmire
- Address quagmire at Scugdale

6. End of Meeting

Owing to inclement weather and pressing time the meeting was curtailed.

7. Matters not discussed

- BMC representation on Mountain Training England
- Access North (see report appended)
- Youth (see report appended)
- Walls (see report appended)
- Other standing items.

The AGM was postponed until the next meeting.

8. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Thursday 8th February, 19:30, Newcastle Climbing Centre