

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 King's Head, London
on Thursday 22nd November 2018 at 7.00pm.

Minutes

1. **Welcome and apologies for absence - Attendance numbers 33 (10 women 23 men)**
 - a. Chaired Rik Payne (RP) Minutes taken by Lisa Payne (LP)
 - b. BMC attendance Lynn Robinson (LR); Carey Davies (CD) Gareth Pierce (GP)
 - c. Apologies – Tony Williams & David Linley
 - d. (RP) Introduced the attendees to Lynn, Gareth & Carey briefly outlining their roles in the BMC.
2. **Minutes of previous meeting held on 6th September 2018**
 - a. Minutes were ratified.
3. **2019-2023 Strategic Plan update**
 - a. (RP) ran through the report explaining the timetable and the key stages.
 - b. The discussion then moved on to the costs of running projects within the BMC and a member (AM) asked what proportion of the income from subs is from Clubs. (RP) said he thought it was around 10% The conversation went on to discuss the frequently raised question, "What does the BMC do for me?" Vic Odell (VO) stated that he thought this strategy of marketing was unhelpful. He went on to say that the BMC does a lot for all its members rather than on a purely individual basis and the marketing should take this approach, anything else is misguided.
 - c. (RP) discussed the importance of having an association with Sport England (SE) without it, it could be the death knell on the influence the BMC has within Government when it comes to lobbying.
 - d. (AM) asked what the BMC does in terms of lobbying. (RP) & (CD) explained these included the areas to access, conservation, land management, influence within parliamentary groups etc.
 - e. Robert Duffton (RD) wanted clarification on exactly who would be agreeing the BMC's Vision, Mission and Values as this was seen as a crucial step that required membership engagement. (RP) said that the process would be feedback through National Council to be discussed with the Board and could be discussed at the AGM next year. (VO) wanted to know if this was going to be feed back to the areas. Sherry Macliver (SM) felt that the period given to this (6 months) was not sufficient to do this properly and ensure member engagement. She went on to say that this would be an opportunity to get members constructively involved.
 - f. It was agreed to feed this concern over timing back to National Council.
 - g. Jonathan White (JW) referenced a study that Crag Jones had done, looking into the subs and whether growing the membership would actually cost the BMC more in terms of its additional costs to service a larger membership and therefore there would be less money available to fund projects & good causes. He went on to say that if this study was accurate that the Board should take a serious look at the costs in growing the membership to understand if this is the correct strategy for the BMC.
 - h. (RP) responded that the Board should certainly understand the costs in growing the membership and would take (JW's) comments to the National Council.
4. **National Council**
 - a. **Report from National Council**
 - b. (RP) reported on the work of the ODG – its members and the various work streams highlighting work stream 8, member engagement being of utmost importance. A member (AM) asked what the strategies were for engaging with the membership. (RP) responded

that area meetings/Summit/website updates and monthly updates from the ODG would be the key forms for this feedback.

- c. (LR) mentioned more live streaming and forums allowing members to email in questions and have open discussions such as the one held in May.
- d. (AM) wanted to know if more forums have been scheduled in line with the strategic plan and work of the ODG. (JW) said that there was a few months of work to do and then an open forum would be a great idea.
- e. (AM) added that it would be a prime opportunity to test out and have a conversation about what the BMC does for its members and the Vision, Mission and Values of the BMC.
- f. **Matters to take to National Council**
 - i. Timings on the Vision, Mission and Values aspect of the strategic plan.
 - ii. Suggestion of planning in forums as a way to engage with members during the timings set out on the strategic plan.
 - iii. Ref. Crag Jones study into subs and whether growing the membership would actually cost more rather than provide additional funds.
 - iv. The "What does the BMC do for me" approach was felt to be misguided and a better marketing approach would be to look at what the BMC does for all of its members.

5. Reports from Area Representatives

- a. **Clubs** (SM) stated that all items had been covered within previous discussions.
- b. **Hill walking** Chris Stone (CS) A lead walk is taking a place on Saturday 8th December, leaving from Wendover Station at 10:30. 15Km through Wendover Wood and up to Coombe Hill.
- c. The crowdfunding campaign for Mend Our Mountains: Make One Million has now ended bringing the total raised to £565,000. Donations can still be made via the Mend Our Mountains website.
- d. The first Hill Walking Symposium will take place this weekend in Castleton in the Peak District. Updates will be posted on BMC social media on Facebook and Twitter (@Team_BMC and @BMC_Walk).
- e. There are two public consultations currently taking place concerning Designated Landscapes. Nationally, DEFRA is undertaking a review of designated landscapes. At present they are inviting views from the public on the future of our National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The call for evidence closes on 18th December. The BMC is currently preparing its response. More information can be found on the BMC or DEFRA website.
- f. The Chilterns Conservation Board is also seeking public opinion on the Chilterns AONB draft Management Plan (2019-24). You do not need to read the full report to respond, in particular they would like feedback on their Vision and General Policies. Consultation closes on 31st December. Visit Chilternsaonb.org for more information.
- g. **Access** (RP) reported on the decision from the Harrison's Rocks Management Group (HRMG) was that a bridge would be installed on the Isolated Buttress.
- h. **Youth** (RP) mentioned that there was a need for another Area Youth Co-ordinator (AYC) for the North London region.
- i. **Climbing wall rep** (CS) asked if there was any interest in someone volunteering to be the climbing wall rep for the area. One member expressed interest.

6. AOB

- a. Ria Tibawi (RT) announced that the International Women's Climbing Network would be holding its summer meet in the UK for 2019. This year is its 50th anniversary. The UK has only hosted 4 out of the last 51 years and would encourage women to attend.
- b. (LR) spoke about the success of this year's Kendal Film festival and her passion for recognising the work of volunteers within the BMC. The deadline for nominations for the George Band, Rehan Siddiqui & Young Volunteer awards is on the 31st January.
- c. (LR) also stated that it's the BMC's 75th anniversary next year and all ideas for celebrating this would be welcomed.
- d. Jonathan White (JW) pointed out that the minutes of last year's AGM should be ratified at this year's AGM and there were two points within those minutes than needed looking at and amending. These points were agreed by the room.

- e. **NOTE:** (RP) subsequently contacted the BMC office to check the procedure for altering previous minutes and was advised that as the minutes had already been ratified it was not suitable to change them. Therefore, the minutes of the 2017 AGM have not been changed, but the follow addition has been added at the end of the minutes.
- i. *“Additonal comments to these minutes made at the L&SE Area AGM 2018.*
 - ii. *Vic Odell (VO) questioned the imbalance of the proposed board, with only 4 (sic) of the 11 members of the board as electable positions. And would want to see a higher percentage of elected members on the board.*
 - iii. *(ORG) explained this wouldn't then comply with Companies Act 2006, but to allay concerns, there would be a quorum of 5 and BMC staff alone would not be able to form a quorum.*
 - iv. **Post meeting note:** *Jonathan White raise the following point at, and it was accepted by, the L&SE 2018 AGM “It is Sport England not the companies act 2006 that requires a maximum of one third of elected board members”*
 - v. *(VO) stated that when he was a director there was never an issue between National Council (NC) and the Exec. His issue then was that he felt the CEO controlled everything and the Executive Committee had no control over the BMC office and there is no clear sight between the staff and the Executive Committee and a lack of oversight over the BMC office, also the board seems to be the “be all and end all” of the organisation, and it shouldn't be.*
 - vi. *(ORG) The structure of the Board needs to be legally compliant with Companies Act 2006 and National Council cannot be legally liable.*
 - vii. **Post meeting note:** *Jonathan White raise the following point at, and it was accepted by, the L&SE 2018 AGM “While, the National Council could be held legally liable under the Articles in force during 2017, preferably the BMC should have a structure where it would not be.”*

7. Date and location of next Area Meeting

- a. Thursday 24th January 2019, 7.00pm at the Old King's Head - Guest Speaker Juan Avendano.
- b. Following the meeting, there was an excellent presentation from Elizabeth Bennett and a raffle prize from Cotswold Outdoor.

Minutes completed by Lisa Payne