

LONDON & SOUTH EAST AREA MEETING

Meeting held at The Old Kings Head, London
on Thursday 6th June 2019 at 7.00pm.

Minutes

**1. Welcome and apologies for absence - Attendance numbers 25 (8 women 17 men)
(see attached list of attendees)**

Chaired Chris Stone (CS) Minutes taken by Robert Dufton (RD)
Apologies – Rya Tibawi

CS welcomed everyone to the meeting, and in particular first time attenders. CS welcomed Jonathan White (who had been elected as a BMC board member at the AGM) and Nick Colton, BMC's Deputy Chief Executive, who was also this evening's guest speaker.

2. Minutes of previous meeting held on 21st March 2019

The minutes of the meeting on 21st March 2019 were approved. 9 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstained.

3. Open Forum Discussion of proposed BMC Values (as part of Vision, Mission and Values)

CS outlined the work that had been done before and at the AGM about developing the vision, mission and values of the BMC. We wanted to discuss the draft values, which would be carried out in an open forum. The following points were made:

- Were we “united”, but rather should we have more than one voice if we were “diverse”
- The draft values didn't cover internal values, e.g. openness and honesty
- Was having personal responsibility for “any” risks too much
- Were the values about the BMC as an organisation or about BMC members
- There was an ambiguity of meaning in “diversity”: we were diverse in our types of climbing but how diverse were we in terms of membership/participation in climbing
- There was scope to add one or two values
- Should values define what we weren't about/ we didn't need to be all things for all people

The group felt that the “adventure” value would be better couched as “We believe in outdoor adventure but in a responsible way”.

CS thanked everyone for their contribution and encouraged people to feed in their views to the Organisational Development Group via email.

4. Open Forum Discussion – Member Engagement

CS and RD introduced the topic of member engagement. This would be held in a “world café” style discussion where members present split into five groups of five people and each group took it in turns to discuss five topics and added their comments to those of the other groups (see attached notes)

5. AGM

CS gave feedback from the AGM.

- 5.1. Jonathan White had been elected as a member of the board of directors.
- 5.2. The workshop on the relationships between the BMC and Clubs had produced useful insights.
- 5.3. CS said that some issues had been raised by members following the AGM regarding processes and discretionary voting. JW informed the room that a governance working group was being established to review the issues and make recommendations for future AGMs

6. National Council

CS reported that the Organisational Development Group were still continuing to review the composition and responsibilities of National Council.

National Council had agreed to co-opt Robert Dufton to fulfil the vacancy of National Council Representative for the London & South East Area until the next area AGM. CS and RD would be attending the next National Council meeting on Saturday

7. Update from Southern Sandstone

- 7.1. CS reported on the meeting of the Southern Sandstone group held on 19 May 2019. Unfortunately there had been an accident recently when the final hold broke on a route, injuring a solo climber. CS emphasized the contribution made by local volunteers.
- 7.2. The Unclimbed Wall would be closed on Saturday 8 June.
- 7.3. An application for planning permission to install the bridge to provide access to the Isolated Buttress was in course of being prepared and submitted.
- 7.4. The next Sandstone users open meeting would be held on Sunday 20 October 2019.

8. Reports from Area Representatives

8.1 Clubs SM mentioned that she was communicating with the nominated "clubs rep" of BMC affiliated clubs. More information would be sent to BMC affiliated clubs about what BMC insurance covered, starting with the university/student clubs. Sport England funds were once again being made available via BMC to clubs e.g. for training novice members. The BMC operated a loan scheme to assist clubs who were carrying out major projects. Up to 75% of the costs might be lent.

8.2 Hillwalking The Mend our Mountains campaign had now closed. Grants were being made for works in the New Forest and South Downs National Parks, benefitting outdoor activities in the L&SE area. £120,000 was being made available to the South Downs National Park.

CS said that there would be a walk on Saturday 29th June 2019 in the Chilterns

Fabrizio Scaglione reported that he would be leading a walk along the Amberley river valley on 20th July 2019.

CS mentioned the rally for climate change on 26 June 2019 details of which were on the BMC website

8.3 Youth- the London & SE area North and South youth teams had come 1st and 3rd respectively in the recent national competition.

9. AOB

- 9.1. The meeting marked the recent sad deaths of Martin Moran and Andy Nesbit when climbing and reflected on their contributions to climbing which had been of national and international importance.
- 9.2. Nick Colton mentioned that the Incident and Near Miss reporting scheme was being piloted for a year. Members were encouraged to use it (both if they were involved or witnessed and such an event). It had been suggested by members.

10. Date and location of next Area Meeting

Thursday 5th September 2019, 7.00pm at the Old Kings Head, followed by guest speaker Mary-Ann Ochota

After the meeting, there was a raffle for a purifying bottle donated by Water-to-Go. The raffle was won by Fabrizio Scaglione.

Nick Colton, BMC's Deputy Chief Executive gave a presentation about his early Alpine experiences.

Minutes written by Robert Dufton

London & South East Area Development – Member Engagement

If you have attended an Area Meeting before, what have you found most enjoyable / interesting?

- Stories and presentations
- Discussion of subs increase
- BMC re-organisation
- Meeting people you would not normally meet
- Networking
- Talks
- Getting ideas of new trips
- Really welcoming atmosphere
- Feel you have voice
- Signs on doors
- Raffle prizes
- Free food good but not necessarily best quality (fried)
- Lots of good discussions

What are your expectations of an Area Meeting?

- Finishing in time for last train
- Time for the speaker
- Time for discussions
- To have the opportunity to talk to different people
- Find out what is going on nationally
- Different events to get involved in
- Personal development
- Information on what the BMC is doing / what is going on
- Free food
- Easy to attend / convenient day and time
- Learn more about local clubs
- Seasonal updates RAD
- Key info
- Meeting other members & like minded people
- Information about other meetings & upcoming events

What issues / topics would you like to be discussed at Area Meetings?

- We don't want laborious / administration - headlines
- Less democracy / debate meetings too laboured
- Peoples / members exciting trips / ventures
- Books to read
- Clean up trips / environment
- Films
- Women's participation
- Getting young people involved
- Where should meetings be hold
- Engagement
- Achievement - clubs / members / BMC
- Skills
- Topical issues at national level e.g. charging of wild camping
- Future activities and initiatives
- More info about courses

What do you think of the format of Area Meetings? Is there anything we should consider changing / doing differently?

- **Positive**
 - Good venue near Waterloo & London Bridge
 - Food good
 - Format good

- **Negative**
 - Business to a minimum 1/2 - 1 hour max
 - Stick to the point
 - Does holding the meeting in a pub discourage members attending?
 - Accessibility?

- **Suggestions**
 - Webinar
 - Veg food only
 - Cake
 - Quiz sometime
 - Adventure update - What have people been up to
 - Different venue - Outside London, at regional climbing wall

What ideas do you have for increasing member engagement in the area including attendance at Area Meetings?

- Focus more on the green agenda - climate change is very topical and people are interested
- Work out where most members live / work and meet there. How many members live in London?
- Guest speakers
- Get more women involved
- Skype / Streaming / Remote connection
- Keep business to a minimum
- Length of meetings
- Times of meetings
- Loyalty to BMC
- Different talks
- Publicity at walls
- Occasionally hold a meeting at a climbing wall
- Engage with meetup groups
- Discuss controversial topics - this is the forum
- Fundraising
- Hills 2 Oceans
- Get clubs to alert members - reps to email club members
- Make it more of an event
- Meet somewhere other than a pub e.g Fairlop Waters

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On Thursday 6th June 2019 at 7.00pm

List of Attendees

Robert Dufton	Not So Trad and Climbers Club
Sophie Hewett	Individual member
Catriona Mitchell	Ibex Mountaineering Club
Jonathan Albert	Individual member
Sherry Macliver	Alpine Club
Jonathan White	Alpine Club and Individual member
Kieron Desmond	North London Mountaineering Club, HMC and Individual member
Fabrizio Scaglione	Individual member
Paul Kaye	Individual member
Chris Stone	Individual member
Mick Cooke	Individual member and RN & RM MC
Martin Armstrong	Individual member and RN & RM MC
Nick Colton	Individual member
Iain Aitchison	DAV
Helen Littlejohn	Individual member
Declan Murphy	Individual member
Karin Christensen	Individual member
Ellen Clancy	Individual member
Victor Solberg	North London Mountaineering Club
Brian Benson	Individual member
David Linley	Individual member
Tim Croker	Rockhoppers MC
Galina Cox	Rockhoppers MC
Jaka Calounova	Rockhoppers MC
Robert Powell	Alpine Club