

LONDON & SOUTH EAST AREA MEETING

Meeting held at The Old Kings Head, London
on Thursday 5 September 2019 at 7.00pm.

Minutes

**1. Welcome and apologies for absence - Attendance numbers 15 (4 women 11 men)
(see attached list of attendees)**

Chaired Chris Stone (CS) Minutes taken by Robert Dufton (RD)
Apologies – Paul Russell

CS welcomed everyone to the meeting, and in particular first time attenders. CS welcomed Rik Payne (RP) (Member of National Council reconstitution working group, who was a BMC board member, and the previous chair of the London & South East area) and David Turnbull, BMC's Chief Executive Officer (DT).

2. Minutes of previous meeting held on 6 June 2019

The minutes of the meeting on 6 June 2019 were approved. 7 For, 0 Against, 2 Abstained.

3. Matters arising

None which were not on the agenda.

4. Feedback from open forum discussion on 6 June on member engagement, and next steps

CS outlined the key themes from the open forum discussion which had been held at the previous meeting. The themes had been recorded in full, and CS and RD had also grouped them thematically and considered the suggestions which members had made. CS outlined some of the main next steps to be implemented.

- Heat map analysis by RD showed a widely spread LSE area membership in terms of home address and therefore the present approach of holding most LSE area meetings in London still made sense
- Possibility of holding the June 2020 area meeting at Bowles to coincide with a Southern Sandstone Open Meeting – probably on a Sunday
- Earlier start for food eg from 18.30 to allow more informal time to meet other members and network
- Local area “noticeboard” as a regular agenda item (as per this meeting)
- Increase marketing of area meeting, eg at climbing walls (CS had undertaken some of this already)
- Members’ presentation at area meeting. Riya Tibawi (RT) would be doing this later in this meeting
- More discussion of general topics eg environmental campaigning, as well as BMC business
- More use of digital communication channels
- Skills session, eg one meeting pa with an expert speaker (a member suggested an alternative might be to try to combine a LSE area meeting with an established skills event, eg Winter Skills

DT offered services of BMC office to send out and collate surveys of area members via Survey Monkey.

CS thanked everyone for their contribution.

5. Update from Organisational Development Group

CS updated members on the current work and upcoming decisions and encouraged members to respond via current surveys/consultations regarding the latest release of papers.

5.1 Strategic Plan: out for consultation.

Mission Statement. One member suggested making “cliff” plural

Values. Members asked whether “sustainability” related to the whole environment with which BMC was interested or not. Also did “respect” mean to British traditions or to global? One member asked about “personal responsibility”. CS responded that National Council had debated this fully. DT explained that the phrase related to the participation statement.

Strategic Themes. RP queried the reference to “GB Climbing”. DT explained that this was an existing brand name which BMC had used for seven years to cover its work in competitions. Sherry MacLiver (SMacL) said the use of colours implied links between the strategic themes and the enablers which were not intended and recommended a different visual treatment. DT agreed to amend this. DT outlined that the strategic themes were not yet prioritised but that this would need to be done through a resource allocation process. Martin Lilley (ML) suggested that the enablers were not presented in a list as that implied a hierarchy but instead presented in a ring of circles. Tony Williams (TW) said he was supportive overall but questioned if too much was included and whether there was an appropriate level of resource for the work. He felt many club members would prefer to see a slimmed down approach.

Vision Statement. This would be drafted after the strategic planning process was completed in order to reflect the priorities, but there would be a future opportunity to comment.

CS concluded the discussion of the Strategic Plan by again encouraging members to respond to the survey even if this was only to record their agreement with the proposals. The deadline for responses was 16 September 2019.

5.2 Reconstitution of National Council

CS outlined the main proposed changes. Members present supported the proposals concerning:

- The new reconstituted structure. A query was raised about the importance of ensuring there is a crossover of members joining and leaving the council, ensuring the whole council doesn't change at the same time.
- The new suggested name (Members' Council)

5.3 Clubs and Partnerships

CS outlined the current papers available. Members present supported the proposals concerning:

- The partnerships proposal
- Club representation and club strategy. TW queried the proposition that most clubs wanted more involvement. He felt most club members didn't want this. RT said the ODG club working group was very strongly evidence based. On balance members present supported the proposals.
- Member engagement recommendations.

6. National Council

(covered under agenda item 5)

7. Update from Southern Sandstone

7.1. CS reported on the meeting of the Southern Sandstone group and thanked Michael Phelan for the installation of a new sign at Stone Farm Rocks. The design for a new sign for Harrisons is currently being signed off.

7.2. An application for planning permission to install the bridge to provide access to the Isolated Buttress was still being prepared and would then be submitted.

7.3. CS asked the meeting to record its thanks to all the volunteers connected with Southern Sandstone.

7.4. The next Sandstone users open meeting would be held on Sunday 20 October 2019.

Following the area meeting the time and location has been confirmed for 1:30 at Bowles

8. Reports from Area Representatives

8.1 Clubs SMacL explained there was no update as the club reps were meeting next week. She drew attention to the new training programme for club members which offered highly discounted courses.

8.2 Hillwalking

CS reported on the success of a litter pick walk on 29th June 2019 in the Chilterns in partnership the Chilterns Conservation board. Another litter pick walk would be held on 12th October near Luton.

CS reported that it was hoped that another hill walking symposium would be held in 2020 and the work of the Hill Walking implementation group is continuing following Carey Davies (Hill Walking Officer) leaving the BMC.

The bi-annual Access Conference will take place in November and details will be published shortly.

8.3 Youth- No updates

9. Area "Noticeboard"

RT reported on the successful 51st international meet of Rendez-vous Hautes Montagnes which had been held in Langdale, only the fourth time in the UK since 1948. BMC had provided financial support. The President Lynn Robinson had attended as had Angela Soper. The meeting congratulated RT and the other organisers on the success of this important climbing event.

Future events

- Outdoor first aid training 26 and 27 October in London (RD said he was attending)
- Reel Rock Film Tour 28 November 2019
- BBC London News (04/09/2019) – Lynn Robinson appeared with Jo Neame discussing climbing in the Olympics

10. AOB

At the request of TW, DT updated members on the circumstances which had led to a claim by a BMC member on the insurance policy. A BMC member had belayed another member at an indoor wall. The accident may have been as a result of thinner ropes being used in old-fashioned belay devices. The BMC was taking advice from the technical group and also from other national climbing bodies abroad. The BMC would launch a better belaying campaign. The campaign needed to be directed at experienced members as well as newer climbers.

11. Date of next Area Meeting and AGM

Thursday 21 November 2019, 7.00pm, followed by guest speaker Jesse Dufton. The location would be confirmed

After the meeting, there was a quiz. Prizes were generously sponsored by Cicerone, the BMC and Clif Bar.

Minutes written by Robert Dufton

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List of Attendees

Robert Dufton	Not So Trad, Climbers Club and individual member
Catriona Mitchell	Ibex Mountaineering Club
Sherry Macliver	Alpine Club
Kieron Desmond	North London Mountaineering Club, HMC and individual member
Fabrizio Scaglione	Individual member
Paul Kaye	Individual member
Chris Stone	Individual member
Declan Murphy	Individual member
David Linley	Individual member
Tony Williams	London Mountaineering Club, Climbers Club
Rya Tibani	Climbers Club and individual member
Dave Turnbull	Climbers Club and individual member
Martin Lilley	Barts and the London Alpine Club
Rik Payne	Individual member
Karolina Kudzjavceva	