

BRITISH MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL

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LONDON & SOUTH EAST AREA MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

held at The Old Kings Head, London SE1 1NA
on Thursday 21st November 2019 7.00pm

1. Welcome and Apologies

Chaired by Chris Stone (CS). Minutes taken by Robert Dufton (RD)
Apologies: David Linley, Tony Williams

2. Quorum

25 people present.

3. Minutes of the previous Area AGM held on 22nd November 2018

Approved (For 13, Against 0, Abstaining 0)

4. Matters arising from those minutes not covered elsewhere

None

5. Area Chair's Annual Report

See attached.

6. Election of Officers

- a. Area Chair
Chris Stone proposed by Paul Kay (PK) seconded Sophie Hewell (SH).
Votes: For 21, Against 0, Abstained 0. CS duly elected.
- b. Area Secretary
Robert Dufton proposed by Vic Odell (VO) seconded Sherry Macliver (SM).
Votes: For 21, Against 0, Abstained 0. RD duly elected.
- c. National Council representative -
Robert Dufton proposed by Vic Odell (VO) seconded Ria Tibawi (RT).
Votes: For 24, Against 0, Abstained 0. RD duly elected.
(CS had been elected for a three-year term in 2018)
- d. Clubs Rep – no nominations proposed. CS thanked SM for her services who was stepping down as clubs representative and presented her with a small gift in thanks.
- e. Hill Walking Rep – no nominations proposed.
- f. Climbing Wall Rep – no nominations proposed.

Various attendees indicated to CS that they would be willing to discuss the three roles for which no nominations had been made with a view to possibly standing or agreeing to help. A member suggested it would be helpful in future years to have information circulated well in advance of the AGM about vacant roles, so that people could consider whether to stand.

7. Date of next year's AGM

27 October 2020

Robert Dufton, Secretary

LONDON & SE AREA – CHAIR'S ANNUAL REPORT 2019

As part of the AGM I am required to give a chairs report and I would like to use this opportunity to celebrate the activities that have taken place in the area over the past 12 months as well as acknowledge and thank the volunteers that have given huge amounts of their time to carry out access and conservation work, enable competitions to take place and provide opportunities for members on behalf of the BMC.

The number of members who live in or nominate London & South East as their area currently stands at 23,845 which is 29% of the current BMC membership.

At present we have a following on Facebook of 907.

Many of you will be aware that the main location for outdoor climbing in this area is the collection of crags known as Southern Sandstone, two of which are owned by the BMC. What you may not be aware is that there is a group of volunteers that sit on the Harrison's Rocks Management Group and are a sub-group of the Land Management Group Specialist Committee. They are tasked with looking after the crags and discuss issues including the woodland management plan, cementing and resin work and bolting, focusing mainly on Harrison's and Stone Farm Rocks on behalf of the BMC and its members.

I want to thank Sarah Cullen, chair of the group as well as Damion Beil, Mark Brewster, Emma Harrington, Bob Moulton, Adrian Paisey, Michael Phelan and Tim Skinner for all they work they do as well as Rob Dyer from the BMC office.

I would just like to draw attention to Michael Phelan for the work he has done for Stone Farm Rocks which has included producing a management plan for the crag, installing new signage on behalf of the BMC and working with East Grinstead Climbing Club removing rotting and dangerous tree stumps.

Over the last 12 months Daimon Beil and Emma Harrington have carried out 3 days of clearance work around the Wonderfull area which has encourage climbers to spread out and reduce the impact on 'honeypot' routes as wells as 5 days of re-bolting work on top of the crags replacing in total 45 anchors.

Moving on to competition climbing and the Youth Climbing Series which took place in Spring. The London & South East area is divided into north and south with heats being held at 8 indoor climbing centres. Thank you to all the centres which hosted a heat for the competition and all the volunteers and staff that enabled the competition to take place. In the finals, London & South East members took 10 podium positions. In the team results London & South East North came second and London & South East South came third. Congratulations to everyone who competed. Applications are now open for the 2020 YCS. In July the British Bouldering Championships took place in Sheffield. Nathan Philips who is sponsored by White Spider came first in the men's and Imogen Horrocks from Hampshire came second in the women's

Before leaving climbing, if you were at the last area meeting you would have heard about the summer Rendez vous Hautes Montagnes meet in the Lake District. Local member Rya Tibawi was part of the organising committee and the meet provided a fantastic week of climbing as well as great networking opportunities for women from all over the world.

Moving onto hill walking, in the past year 5 led walks have taken place in the South Downs National Park and Chilterns AONB. 2 of the walks were arranged in partnership with the Chilterns Conservation Board who also co-led and litter picking took place along the route in support of the BMC's Hills 2 Oceans campaign. One of these walks at one point had 19 participants. The last walk was published as part of the October Chilterns Walking Festival and 4 bags of litter were collect from the Neolithic site of Waulud's Bank near Luton. It is hoped this partnership with the Chilterns Conservation Board will continue and more walks will take place next year in the Chiltern's as well as further local partnerships developing with other designated landscapes in the area.

Thank you to everyone who has come on a walk.

At the area meeting we have been honoured to have had great speakers attend and give a variety of talks.

- Elizabeth Bennett spoke about her 2014 expedition to the Djangart range in Kyrgyzstan
- Juan Avendano answered questions about competition climbing and coaching
- Ollie Hunter Smart inspired members with tales from his expedition walking the length of India
- Nick Colton talked about his early experiences in the alps and on the Grande Jorasse

I am incredibly grateful to all of them for giving up their time to come and speak at the meetings.

I would also like to thank all the BMC staff, ODG volunteers and board members who have come to support an area meeting.

Running an area takes a team, and would not be possible with Sherry Macliver, your clubs rep and Robert Dufton, area secretary for all the work they have done and support they have given.

I am sure that there will be people I have forgotten and for that I am sorry, so to everyone else who has volunteered their time for the BMC thank you.

Finally thank you to you for coming and for your input at area meetings.

The BMC is now 75 years old and the past three years have seen many organisational changes take place which I hope most if not all will agree that these are making the BMC a better and much stronger organisation and ensuring the organisation is fully representing its members. Many of these changes have dominated the past year of area meetings. Next year I want to refocus the meetings to a local level to ensure they are relevant to what you want to discuss. In order to do this Robert and I need your help, we need you to tell us what you want to discuss and indicate to us what matters to you.

I have thoroughly enjoyed chairing the area over the past 12 months and I hope to continue as your area chair in 2020.

Thank you
Chris Stone

November 2019