

# 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 Kings Head, London  
on Thursday 19 November 2019 at 7.30pm.

### Minutes

#### 1. Welcome and apologies for absence - Attendance numbers 25 ( women 10 men 15) (see attached list of attendees)

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

CS welcomed everyone to the meeting (which followed the AGM), and in particular first time attenders.  
CS welcomed Cath Flitcroft, BMC's Access and Conservation Office (CF).

#### 2. Minutes of previous meeting held on 5 September 2019

The minutes of the meeting on 5 September 2019 were approved, subject to the correction of the date of the foundation of Rendez-vous Hautes Montagnes in 1968, not 1948. 8 For, 0 Against, 4 Abstained.

#### 3. Matters arising

None which were not on the agenda.

#### 4. Update on BMC Strategy and Organisational Development Group

CS updated members on the current work including: a paper concerning BMC Cymru which would go to the Board and the National Council before wider circulation to members; the final report of the competitions working group which will go to the Board; and the start of the review of specialist groups.

#### 5. BMC Climate Change Emergency Declaration

CF gave a presentation about the climate change emergency declaration and its wider context as part of the BMC's Climate Change Project. This included working with the Carbon Trust on an opportunity to make an off-setting donation linked to the insurance policy, the Moors for the Future work in the Peak District National Park and, working with outdoor providers on reducing the carbon footprint of climbing and related activities. CS thanked CF for her presentation and said that the subject of the Climate Change Project and the Emergency Declaration would be addressed in greater detail at a future area meeting.

#### 6. Southern Sandstone

CS reported on:

- Anti-social behaviour at Bowles
- No climbing at Yew Crack Buttress at Eridge Rocks (and the need to check the RAD often)
- Birchden car park gate was now locked at night
- A Sandstone users open meeting had been held on Sunday 20 October 2019
- a discussion by Harrison's Rocks Management Group about the possibility of holding a Southern Sandstone festival on 12 September 2019 in the style of other BMC sponsored climbing festivals including an evening BBQ, a Southern Sandstone open meeting, a quiz and stalls. CS asked anyone who was interested in joining a working party to organise this to contact him directly.
- RT asked about progress with the installation of a bridge to the Isolated Buttress. CS said that an application for planning permission had now been submitted.

## 7. Reports from Area Representatives

**8.1 Clubs** Sherry Macliver (SM) explained that a meeting of the clubs committee had been held in Kendal but she had not been able to attend. She understood that many climbing clubs were concerned about declining membership and that there had been a discussion about alternatives for people who were only organised through social media and didn't want to take on the responsibility of running a formal club.

### 8.2 Hillwalking

CS reported on the success of a litter pick walk on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2019 near Luton – four bags had been filled.

CS reported that another hill walking symposium would be held on 14 and 15 March 2020 in Ambleside. As this was now a priority for BMC, it was hoped further similar events would be held.

CS reported on discussions at the BMC Access and Conservation Trust's recent "Changing Behaviours" conference and how these would feed into future national BMC policies.

CS reported that a motion had been passed at the Peak District area meeting for consideration by National Council. This stated: *National Council urges the Board and senior officers to ensure that future work plans and resource allocation arising out of the new strategic plan properly embrace the hill walking aspects of strategic themes 2 & 3 of the plan, and do so in a proportion that reflects the very significant share of our membership who presently identify hill walking as their primary activity.*

**8.3 Youth**- CS reported that the next regional heat in the Youth Climbing Series would take place on Saturday 25 January 2020, and that the deadline for entries was 15 January 2020.

## 8. Matters to take to National Council

CS reported that the board was reviewing the terms of a proposed new membership category which would offer digital only membership and which was aimed at people who were only hill-walkers and/or indoor climbers. Members present debated the pros and cons of making all BMC membership "paper-free". An informal vote showed that there was divided opinion about this idea. It was agreed that further consultation with members would be needed about this suggestion.

## 9. Area "Noticeboard"

The Winter Skills lecture series was underway. Tickets were still available for 26 November 2019. The Brit Rock film tour was in Brighton on 23 November and Reading on 29 November.

## 10 Dates of 2020 Area Meetings

CS explained that it was intended to trial holding meetings not always on Thursdays and using a more varied format in terms of theme and location. Provisional unconfirmed dates/proposed meetings were:

Tuesday 10 March (location tbc)

Thursday 21 May (high profile venue tbc, on theme of Access and Conservation)

Saturday 12 September (as part of a Southern Sandstone festival)

Tuesday 27 October 2020 (future AGM and area meeting in partnership with Ski Club of Great Britain)

## 11 AOB

Nominations were open for the volunteer recognition awards. Deadline was 31 March 2020.

A training day for club committee members was being held on 19 January 2020 in London

A raffle was held with the ticket drawn by the guest speaker Jesse Dufton which was won by SM. Prizes were generously sponsored by Cicerone.

After the meeting Robert introduced the guest speaker Jesse Dufton (no relation). Jesse gave an inspiring presentation about his recent ascent of The Old Man of Hoy, with his climbing partner (and wife) Molly, the first time the route had been led by a blind climbing. Jesse and Molly answered questions about their feat and about their climbing experiences, including Jesse's membership of the Team GB Paraclimbing squad.

Members present warmly thanked Jesse and Molly for their presentation and wished them every future happiness and success.

Minutes written by Robert Dufton

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### **List of Attendees**

<b>Robert Dufton</b>	<b>Not So Trad and Climbers Club</b>
<b>Sophie Hewett</b>	<b>Individual member</b>
<b>Catriona Mitchell</b>	<b>Ibex Mountaineering Club</b>
<b>Sherry Macliver</b>	<b>Alpine Club</b>
<b>Kieron Desmond</b>	<b>North London Mountaineering Club, HMC and Individual member</b>
<b>Fabrizio Scaglione</b>	<b>Individual member</b>
<b>Paul Kay</b>	<b>Individual member</b>
<b>Chris Stone</b>	<b>Individual member</b>
<b>Tim Croker</b>	<b>Rockhoppers MC</b>
<b>Debora Guisardo</b>	<b>Individual member</b>
<b>Rosemary Scott</b>	<b>Fell and Rock Climbing Club</b>
<b>Matt Freeburn</b>	<b>Individual member</b>
<b>Eve Arnould</b>	<b>Individual member</b>
<b>Claudia Richardson</b>	<b>Exmoor Climbing Club</b>
<b>Paul Kay</b>	<b>Individual member</b>
<b>Penny Rawle</b>	<b>Bremex Club and individual member</b>
<b>Steve Rawle</b>	<b>Bremex Club</b>
<b>Vic Odell</b>	<b>Climbers Club</b>
<b>Martin Lilley</b>	<b>Barts &amp; London Alpine Club and individual member</b>
<b>Marton Sasvari</b>	<b>Individual member</b>
<b>Bo Grezelai</b>	<b>Individual member</b>
<b>Jim Robinson</b>	<b>SAKMC</b>
<b>Rya Tibari</b>	<b>Climbers Club and individual member</b>
<b>Chris Pryke</b>	<b>Individual member</b>