



NORTH EAST AREA ORDINARY MEETING

Meeting held on Zoom
On 21 May 2020

MINUTES

Attendance: -

MarkAnstiss	Chair / NC	Will Armstrong
Simon Litchfield	Secretary	Gemma Ayre
Mike Conlon	Access South	Chris Bullock
Chris Stone	BMC Director	Richard Davies
Rob Dyer	BMC Office	Mark Goodings
Lynn Robinson	BMC President	Graham Harkness
Jonathan White	Director	Philip Powell
Jon Punshon	NC	
John Ainsley		16 in attendance

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The chair Mark Anstiss opened the meeting. Apologies were received from: Paul Mitchinson.

2. Quorum

It was noted that a quorum was present in accordance with [Article 28.6.1 of the British Mountaineering Council's articles of association (the "Articles")].

3. Minutes from the previous meeting held on 12th March 2020

3.1. The minutes from the previous meeting held on 12th March 2020, a draft of which had been produced to the meeting were approved.

4. Matters Arising

4.1 Jon Punshon has joined the Board.

4.2 Membership renewal being affected by COVID-19 could have a financial impact on finances.

- Some staff members furloughed.
- Reserves may have to be drawn upon.
- Organisation likely to survive.
- J. White noted: travel insurance represents a loss of income. $\frac{3}{4}$ income = membership, which is largely holding steady.

4.3 Richard D has spoken to Lucy: re Quarries. Little progress made owing to COVID-19, but well connected with numerous parties in the area.

5. Covid-19 Update

5.1 Access Group formed a position post govt. announcement. Including a range of skills, medical, legal etc.

- Two advice papers on BMC website.

5.2 Steve Blake – has contacted all NE climbing groups about his views.

5.3 Letter of law is that people can go out in UK. But we should be risk averse.

- Potential for bad feelings towards incomers (i.e. city – country divide).
- Should be sensitive to local concerns.
- Note local restrictions and 'permissive' arrangements.
- Rescues will be reputationally damaging for climbing.
- Mountain Rescue - we should consider the risk we place on them.

5.4 Mark Goodings noted re Mountain Rescue:

1. June MR training will start again.
2. Be sensible.
3. They have only limited PPE.
4. Team members are often also key workers.

5.5. Access

- Rob Dyer talked about future guidance to be issued in a forthcoming article.
- Sensitivities at Shaftoe and potentially Bowden(s).

5.6 Walls

- Some EU countries opening walls.
- Examples include only every other line being available to climb on.
- Patrons having to come prepared to climb – no changing rooms.

5.7 Clubs and Huts

J. White gave an update on the work done by clubs and huts:

- Were generally well prepared post foot and mouth.
- Govt. small business £10k have helped bridge gaps, but different authorities have done it in different ways.
- Clubs should get in contact with Head office if struggling.
- No generalised advice about clubs to be given about starting up, given the range of numbers, locations activities etc.
- Open dorm huts are likely to be a low priority in terms of opening given risks involved.
- Working with YHA.

6. AGM

Lynn Newton reported about AGM plans:

- Date 13 July.
- Saftey measures: Reduced agenda, Held online, Proxy voting, Register online etc.

7. Other business raised by LN

7.1 Climbing blind TV programme: Rehan Siddiqui Award winner.

7.2 Codey won youth award.

7.3 George Band, Ron Kenyon & Peter Judd.

7.4 Caff – re equality steering group. BMC have gained intermediate standard for equality by Sport England. See website for details.

7.5 ODG some work put on hold owing to COVID-19 and limited space to discuss at 2020 AGM.

8. AOB

Feedback given to Chirs Stone by Mike Conlon and Richard Davies about instructions and acknowledgments.

9. Date of next Area Ordinary Meeting

3rd September 7.00.