

BRITISH MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL

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LONDON & SOUTH EAST AREA MEETING

Meeting held at the Alpine Club and online
on Thursday 19 April 2022

Minutes

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

Chaired Chris Stone (CS) Minutes taken by Robert Dufton (RD)

Apologies – Daimon Beail and Fabrizio Scaglione

CS welcomed everyone to the meeting which was attended by 11 members in person and 6 virtually. CS introduced, and thanked, Will Green who had agreed to become the Area Club Co-ordinator. CS welcomed two BMC board members: Caroline Worboys (Independent non-executive director) (CW) and Paul Davies (chief executive) (PD).

2. Introduction to the Alpine Club

CS thanked the Alpine Club, and in particular the Hon Secretary Sherry MacIver (SM) and the Office Manager Paige Newman, for generously agreeing to host the meeting and for assisting with the arrangements and the event.

SM introduced the work of the Alpine Club, focussed on what it does as a members' club, and the three different memberships: Full, Aspirant and UK Aspirant. SM also described the AC exhibition "Glaciers".

3. Minutes of previous meeting held on 19 January 2022

The minutes of the meeting on 19 January 2022 were approved.

4. Area Reps update

4.1 Clubs

Will Green introduced himself. He outlined his work to-date in contacting climbing clubs based in the LSE area and plans to engage more fully with them to understand their needs, and to work with the BMC Clubs Officer Jane Thompson to see how BMC could best support clubs. The key areas of interest were:

- Club contacts
- Upskilling novices
- Committee member training
- Interclub networking
- Ethical and sustainable banking
- Best practice advice

PD responded to WG presentation and members' questions about these issues, and about how to sustain and develop the interest of new members.

4.2 Hill Walking

CS reported on:

- Four BMC webinars about hill walking running between 27/04 and 19/05/22
- Hill walking festivals in other areas
- The upcoming Chilterns walking festival 21/05 to 5/06/22.

4.3 Southern Sandstone

CS reported on behalf of the Harrison's Rocks Management Group. There had been a workday on 12 and 13 March to clear debris from Storm Eunice thanks to the many volunteers who took part. A programme of bolt removal and replacement was underway. There would be a further work day on 23/04/22

4.4 Youth

Tanya Sage the Area Youth Climbing Series Co-ordinator reported:

The series would start September 2022, with the grand final in late November. There was a need for more volunteers to assist at area youth climbing competitions, particularly in judging for which training was provided.

No questions.

5 Board and AGM update

CW introduced herself. She had a keen interest in the outdoors and lived in the LSE area.

CW reported that a virtual AGM would be held on 18/05/22. She encouraged members to take part, vote in advance or give a proxy. The main item of business was to amend the Articles to clarify the BMC's ability to promote itself to potential new members.

CW said the BMC overall financial outcome for 2021 was a deficit of £100k which was better than budgeted. The reserves stood at £1.1m. UK Sport had awarded BMC £560k for elite sports. The club membership was growing. The 2022 business plan forecast a deficit. Growing total membership was a key aim.

A volunteer gala weekend was scheduled for 8 and 9 October 2022.

BMC was co-ordinating a group of partner organisations to host Ukrainian climbers in the UK.

PD said that the other change to the Articles was to bring them up to date reflecting the new types of climbing clubs.

CS added further encouragement to members to take part in the AGM. The President Andy Syme would be indicating in advance how he would cast proxy votes.

PD reported on the work being done on hill walking linked to national mental health day with an event at Hathersage on 13/06/22. The BMC had two new campaigns, encouraging members to mend or repair old gear and "Take Action" to reduce environmental impact.

6 Members Council update

CS outlined the recent vision event on mountaineering. This was the latest in the series.

7. Date of next Area Meetings

Thursday 30 June online (new date)

Thursday 20 October hybrid (at the Alpine Club)