

BRITISH MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL

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LONDON & SOUTH EAST AREA MEETING

held at the Alpine Club, 55 Charlotte Street, London EC2 and online
on Thursday 19TH October 2023 19.30

Minutes

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

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

CS welcomed everyone to the meeting. Total attendance was 11 (7 people present in person and 4 people online).

Apologies were received from Caroline Worboys, Senior Independent Board Director. .

2. Minutes of previous meeting held on 25 July 2023

The minutes of the meeting on 25 July 2023 were approved. There were no matters arising.

3. Update from Southern Sandstone (Harrison's Rocks Management Group)

CS reported the following on behalf of the Harrison's Rocks Management Group:

- A programme of work has been taking place at Harrison's Rocks to replace potentially defective bolts.
- All the replacements are in, the anchor tests have been successful and they are now in use.
- Thank you to Daimon and other HRMG volunteers for carrying out this essential work.
- We will soon be entering Winter Season when then carpark will close early.
- Conditions in the winter season tend to mean that much of the rock is out of condition. Damp and often saturated in parts. Dry and climbable rock is often limited and restricted to certain more open areas. As such the following advice should be adhered to.
- Only climb on properly dry rock – this will usually take multiple days of dry weather in a row before a visit, and even then nothing is guaranteed.
- If you are unsure, leave climbing for another day. It might be frustrating to travel only to find the crag isn't in condition, but we all need to have the long term sustainability of the crags in mind. Once holds are snapped or damaged, they cannot be replaced.
- Always follow the guidance in the [Sandstone Code of Practice](#) to ensure you have an enjoyable climb and do your bit to protect these amazing but fragile sandstone crags.
- Next HRMG meeting - Monday 13th November.

4. Reports from area representatives

4.1 Clubs

No report from Will Green..

4.2 Hillwalking

[CS](#) thanked OH-P for leading a successful walk on the North Downs. CS mentioned the Chilterns Walking Festival which was happening this month.

4.3 Youth

Tanya Sage the Area Youth Climbing Series Coordinator gave a report. The Youth Climbing competition series had started on 16 September 2023. The London North and South groups were doing well. The National finals would be held in at Parthian in Southampton on the 25th and 26th November?

4.4 Social media

Olly reported on social media activity and the metrics used to see how this was progressing. There were increasing numbers of followers of LSE on social media.

5. Members Council and Organisational update

As there were no area reps on Members' Council no report was available.

No member of the board was present and so there was no board update.

6. Area noticeboard

Mike reported on the success of a new programme called the Mountain Adventure Fund which was sponsored by an insurance company to enable young people from London to experience the countryside of North Wales.

Mike reported that the project to revitalise Tyn y Berth, the outdoor education centre formerly run by the London Borough of Lewisham had stalled. The local community was keen to see a solution for the building which would provide public benefit.

7. Date of next Area Meeting

The next area meeting would be held in February (via Teams). Robert and Olly would confer about dates for all area meetings of next year.

8. Any other business

RD spoke about Chris' huge contribution as chair of the LSE region over the past five years. In addition, Chris had been an area representative on Members Council for over four years until earlier this year. Further he had also served on the overall BMC Board of Directors, which was the most senior level of volunteering. In all these additional roles Chris had taken on responsibilities as a chair or member of a number of sub-committees and working parties. His contribution would be much missed in the area and in the BMC as a whole. RD wished Chris well in his new role on promotion as Head of Arts at the Mulberry School Group. RD presented Chris with a book of walks near Tunbridge Wells in Kent.

The meeting thanked Chris in the customary way.

Chris thanked Robert for his kind words. He explained that he had recently moved to Tunbridge Wells.

Meeting finished at 20.15. Minutes written by Robert Duffton