

# BRITISH MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL

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## LONDON & SOUTH EAST AREA MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

held at the Alpine Club, 55 Charlotte Street, London EC2 and online  
on Thursday 19<sup>TH</sup> October 2023 19.00

### 1. Welcome and Apologies

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).

No apologies had been received.

### 2. Introduction to the Alpine Club

CS thanked the Alpine Club, and in particular the Hon Secretary Sherry MacIver for generously agreeing to host the meeting and for assisting with the arrangements and the event.

Members enjoyed viewing the exhibition "Contemporary Mountain Photography". The exhibition is open by appointment.

Sherry was happy to answer questions about the work of the Alpine Club and membership.

### 3 Quorum

Quorum of five voting members: There were seven voting members present in the room and four voting members present online.

### 4 Agreement to hybrid voting

Agreed

### 5 Approval of minutes of previous AGM held on 20 October 2022

The minutes of the last AGM held on 20 October 2022 were approved.  
Yes 9 (CS and RD did not vote)

### 6 Matters arising

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the 2022 AGM.

### 7 Area chair's report

CS gave his annual report as area chair (attached) and thanked the volunteers in the area.

The meeting thanked CS for his report and for all the work he had done as Chair.

**Chair**

CS read out/displayed a brief statement from Oliver (Olly) Hicks-Pattison which read: “

*I recently started as the deputy head of marketing and comms at Greenwich Students Union, and over the past 6.5 years have worked at the Ramblers as the senior campaigns officer. In this role I led on campaigns to improve access to the outdoors, often alongside the BMC. And I have been the BMC London and SE area social media rep for the past year.*

*I am particularly interested in access campaigning at the BMC, am a keen hill walker and indoor climber, am completing my mountain leader qualification and whenever possible I will head off up a mountain.”*

Oliver Hicks-Pattison was elected as chair of the London & South East Area.  
Proposer Chris Stone and seconder Mike  
Unanimous

**Secretary**

Robert Dufton was re-elected as secretary of the London & South East Area.  
Proposer Sherry and seconder Olly  
Unanimous

**Members' Council Representatives**

Oliver Hicks-Pattison was elected as a representative of the London & South East Area on Members' Council.  
Proposer Robert and seconder Peter  
Unanimous

**Area Clubs Coordinator rep**

Will Green was re-elected as area clubs coordinator  
Robert proposer and Chris seconder.  
Unanimous

**Hill walking rep**

No candidate.

**Climbing wall rep**

No candidate.

**Social media rep**

Olly was elected as social media rep for the London & South East area.  
Proposer Chris and seconder Robert  
Unanimous

CS noted that area access reps in the LSE area are the Harrison's Rocks management group.

CS noted that the area youth competition coordinator role is appointed centrally by BMC

## **9 Date of next year's AGM**

Date will be confirmed

## **10 Close of meeting**

19.30

Robert Dufton, Secretary

## Chair's Annual Report

### London & South East Area AGM

19th October 2023

It so wonderful to be back at the Alpine Club again for our AGM which has now become the home of our hybrid meetings. I would like to start of first by thanking Sherry MacIver for enabling the meetings to take place here in the lecture hall and to thank you for the warm hospitality you always show. This year we have held four meetings, two online and two hybrid. Whilst we have continued to see a reduction in attendance arising from the pandemic, I am pleased that the meetings continue to be to most accessible they have every been.

Clubs have always been a fundamental part of the BMC, and indeed it is because of clubs that the BMC exists. It is therefore very fitting that we are in the headquarters of one of the founding clubs. We have over 58 affiliated clubs based in the area and I would like to acknowledge the work carried out by hundreds of volunteer club officers who dedicated countless of hours of their time, without whom, clubs would simply not be able to function. I would like to thank your Area Clubs Co-Ordinator Will Green who

In the London & South East Area we have two BMC owned crags, Harrison's Rocks and Stone Farm Rocks which are part of group of crags known as Southern Sandstone. Management and conservation of these crags is carried out by a very dedicated team of volunteers who sit on the Harrison's Rocks Management Group chaired by Adrian Paisey. I wish to thank Adrian as well as Daimon Beail, Mark Brewster, Sarah Cullen, Emma Harrington, Michael Phelan and Tim Skinner for all the work they do, much of which goes unseen but without it the future of these very popular crags would be in jeopardy. This year much work has taken place to replace defective bolts and anchors. This has been no small undertaking and I would like to thank Daimon in particular for carrying out this work.

I also wish to thank Graham Adcock who manages the Sandstone Volunteers Group and organises the volunteer workdays. Thank you to all those who supported workdays earlier in the year. The Stone Farm Rocks and Harrison's Rocks works days were both highly successful and very well attended with all intended work being completed. It was particularly encouraging both events were attended by many new volunteers from local clubs and climbing walls out for the first time.

The 2023 Youth Climbing Series is currently underway but looking back to the 2022 competition it was great to see London & South East (South) come top in the team results and 11 competitors from this area take secure places. A massive thank you to Tanya Sage and the other Area Youth Climbing Series Co-ordinators, without whom the competition would not be able to take place. Thanks, must also go to all the volunteers including parents, that support the competition days by registering competitors, belaying, and judging.

I would like to thank Fabrizio Scaglione for the work he did as your hillwalking rep. Sadly Fabrizio stepped down earlier in the year however I am delighted that he will continue to sit on the hillwalking specialist committee and support the hillwalking work of the BMC at a national level. Olly Hicks-Pattison, as well as your social media rep led a brilliant walk in the Kent hills in spring.

Olly has been doing a fantastic job at reaching area members through social media. The number of followers on our Facebook page continues to grow and currently stands at 1,511. Thanks to Olly, we also now have an active and growing Instagram account.

As you will gather, running an area takes a team and I am incredibly grateful to Robert Dufton for everything he does and the support he has given me as your Area Secretary. Robert has contributed so much of his time and expertise to the BMC and earlier this year it was great to see this recognised as he was awarded the 2023 Rehan Siddiqui Award.

Although I have singled out some volunteers, there are hundreds that support the organisation and they all should be recognised for their dedication and support to make the BMC what it is ensuring representing the members is at the heart of it.

I would also like to take this opportunity to recognise the hard work and dedication of the BMC staff and to thank them for everything they have done and continue to do.

I started volunteering for the area seven years ago, first as hill-walking reaper and then a couple of years later I took over as chair and council rep. Unfortunately, due to work related reasons, earlier this year I made the difficult decision to step back from the BMC. I have truly had a wonderful time volunteering for the organisation, and I have met so many amazing people. There have been ups and downs as there are in any organisation and the BMC has been through many changes in recent times however what hasn't changed is its core mission to represent and champion the interests of all members and indeed the wider hill walking, climbing (indoor or outdoor!) and mountaineering community.

Finally, I wish the new area chair all the very best and I would like to end by saying thank you to you, the members, who support the work of the BMC.

Chris Stone

October 2023