

BMC Specialist Committee: 2018 Report and 2019 Forward Plans

Committee name	Huts Group		
No. of meetings in 2018	1	Average attendance	6

Changes required to Terms of Reference & Membership

- Terms of Reference: no change.
- Membership: sadly Tim Edwards was killed in a climbing accident.
- BMC officer: Jane Thompson has replaced Dan Middleton, who provided support for the group for nine months in 2018.

Summary of key achievements & outputs (2018)

- Huts survey results from clubs analysed and collated; report delivered to members.
- Answered queries received from affiliated clubs and members about the following matters:
 - The compliance of an electrical system when using storage batteries with the terms of the hut insurance policy.
 - Corporation Tax
 - Dogs in mountain huts
 - Electronic locks
 - Fire safety and fire doors
 - Hut booking policies
 - Classification of huts: they are not classed as houses in multiple occupation (HMOs).
 - Private water supplies: more stringent regulations involving inspections and tests of the supplies by local authorities came into force in 2018.
 - Renewing leases and rent negotiations in particular clubs with huts leased from the National Trust.
 - Safeguarding children in mountain huts
 - Combined Liability Insurance policy: cover for prospective members, club covered for its liability for guests on meets but the guests themselves are not covered by the policy.
 - Employers' Liability Insurance policy: covers only 'light maintenance work' this cover is not sufficient where volunteers carry out more strenuous maintenance work and working at heights when repairing roofs. Clubs can consult the insurers about the work they plan, their methodology and safety precautions.
- Revised Guidelines:
 - G6 Combined Liability Protection
 - G10.2 Private Water Supplies (Scotland)
 - G15 Employers' Liability Insurance
- Guidelines Under Review:
 - G1 CASCs – to be withdrawn and replaced by a guideline setting out the types of organisations clubs may choose to form.
 - G10.1 Private Water Supplies (England & Wales); new regulations for England and Wales with effect from 2018
 - G10.2 Private Water Supplies (Scotland)
 - Reviewing and updating of the Guidelines for Hut Managers in conjunction with John Leftley, Convenor of Mountaineering Scotland's Huts Advisory Group.
- The Group's Chair (Iain McCallum) serves on the Alex McIntyre Memorial Hut (AMMH) Committee as Finance Manager and trustee.

- Group's Chair also serves on the BMC's Child Safeguarding Group.

Was there anything you hoped to achieve in 2018, but didn't / couldn't? If so, why not?

- The planned hut seminar was cancelled due to lack of interest. However, a talk about the survey results was delivered to members at the AGM.

Summary of key projects for 2019

- Organise a hut seminar?
- Continue reviewing and updating guidelines for hut managers.
- Continue to prepare half yearly Current Matters Reports.
- Continue to liaise with the MS Huts Advisory Group (HAG) on matters of common interest.
- Liaise with the Clubs Committee on matters of common interest.
- Encourage and support the efforts of the Committees of National Huts where they wish to improve and update these properties and their facilities, and to adopt best practice.
- Encourage clubs with huts to have a representative on the Huts Group.

Update on UIAA / IFSC representatives (if applicable)

- Not applicable.

Additional comments

- New chair needs to be appointed by the BMC.
- More members would be helpful.

Completed by	Iain McCallum & Jane Thompson
Date	16 November 2018
Agreed by Board	1 December 2018