

BMC Specialist Committee: 2018 Report and 2019 Forward Plans

Committee name	International Committee		
No. of meetings in 2018	2	Average attendance	7

Changes required to Terms of Reference & Membership

- Ian Parnell is now the Chair of the committee.

Summary of key achievements & outputs (2018)

BMC grants were paid to 17 overseas expeditions, to the total value of £12,225.

- In addition, Julie Tullis grants were awarded to 5 trips (some of whom also received BMC grants) to a total value of £1,250, and one grant of £1,000 from the Jeremy Willson trust.
- In total, this amounted to £14,475 in grants.
- Close liaison with the Mount Everest Foundation and other grant giving bodies, on the distribution of overseas expedition awards.
- Electronic database of expedition reports updated.
- British expedition success publicized on the BMC website.
- Following publicity on the BMC website and social media channels the issue of alpine mentoring for young British alpinists saw the formation of an informal group of young mountaineers. It was decided that this group would join and revitalize the Alpine Climbing Group (ACG), an affiliated group of the Alpine Club that has historically attracted the most talented young British alpinists. Following discussions, memberships are now being formalized and a program of events will be put in place for 2019 and beyond included exchanges with Slovenia and Poland, Scottish winter gatherings and expedition planning advice. This initiative has been a joint effort with the Alpine Club and MEF, both of whom are looking at providing funds to assist with the groups program of activities.
- Following the committee's recommendations that the BMC joins the EUMA (the European Union Mountaineering Association that is now based in Brussels) so that the BMC will have more knowledge and influence as members, the BMC has now joined the EUMA.
- We requested that the UIAA General Assembly discuss the issues that arise out of rescues in Himalayan countries, particularly Nepal, that appear to involve an element of fraud, such that some insurance companies are considering putting up insurance premiums considerably and at least one other is considering not insuring trips to Nepal.
- We have been liaising with a club in India that has concerns about possible restrictions within India that have been discussed following accidents involving a number of commercial mountaineering trips.

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

- There was no BMC Winter International Meet in 2018 because of financial considerations and also because of uncertainty over the likelihood of winter conditions in Scotland.

Summary of key projects for 2019

a) Using BMC funds to help selected British Expeditions maintain a high standard of objectives and

success.

b) Liaison with other organisations, such as the Mount Everest Foundation, which award expedition grants.

c) Arranging representation on, and support for, foreign meets, international exchanges etc.

d) Arranging an international summer climbing meet in the UK during 2019.

e) Continue updating and expanding the Expeditions Database with web publication of expedition reports.

f) Publicizing our expedition success and participation in international meets and foreign exchanges on the BMC website, etc.

g) Providing an International voice on potential access problems, negotiations with foreign governments, and international incidents/events.

h) Continue assisting the UIAA with its work and liaising with the new newly formed EUMA.

i) Maintaining the future of our international meets and grants.

j) Enrolling young, keen and talented mountaineer(s) as new member(s) of the committee.

k) Continue with our attempt to persuade Himalayan countries to liberalise their expedition rules.

This is very much a long-term project, and something of a “holy grail” for world mountaineering.

l) Continue to assist with the development of the mentor program for young British alpinists through the newly revived ACG.

Update on UIAA / IFSC representatives (if applicable)

- Anne Arran is our representative on the UIAA General Assembly.
- Anne Arran is our representative on the UIAA Management Committee.
- Doug Scott represents us on the “Traditional Values Working Group” of the UIAA.
- Phil Wickens is our representative on the UIAA Mountaineering Commission.
- Anne Arran is our representative on the newly formed European Union Mountaineering Association (EUMA) that is based in Brussels.

Additional comments

- There will be a discussion between interested parties – to include the BMC, the Alpine Club, Mountaineering Scotland, and the Scottish Mountaineering Club - about the possibility of running a joint Winter Meet in Scotland during 2020.

Completed by	Ian Parnell (Chair) & Nick Colton
Date	20 November 2018
Agreed by Board	1 December 2018