

Summary from Board Meeting held on 13 December 2021

Finances

- The finances are still difficult, but membership is now clearly growing again, albeit still less quickly than growth within the sector.
- Phase 1 of the Sport England bid was submitted on the 12th November with an indication of whether the BMC and funded partners will be invited to participate in the Phase 2 submission along with a maximum level of funding being indicated prior to Christmas 2021. The BMC is keen to ensure MoUs, clarifying areas of interest of all parties, are signed with all partners prior to completion of the Sport England bid process. The CEO will be working on the MoU with the funded partners and will bring a draft to the Board in January 2022.

2022 Budget

- The budget for 2022 was approved with two Board conditions attached:
 - Find Your Adventure to be added as cost neutral
 - International Committee grant funding to be at least £10k – so additional funding found through savings elsewhere.
- This will result in an increased deficit from circa £100K to circa £250k but this is recoverable in 3-4 years assuming the expenditure has the desired effect on membership growth and would be decreased if the Sport England bid is successful.

Membership strategy

- The Board gave the CEO a mandate to push on with developing new and improved membership offers particularly for indoor climbers and hillwalkers. Normal organic growth is being assumed for outdoor climbers and mountaineers. The new membership offers are to be brought to the Board in a paper prior to end 1Q 2022
- Membership strategy must bake in Equality Diversity and Inclusion. The CEO needs to add targets.

Third Party Liability Insurance

The aim is to mitigate risks of further large insurance claims and thus manage costs.

- Unanimous agreement to approve recommendation 1 – “Develop a formal structured training scheme to be introduced into all Student Clubs ahead of the September 2022 academic year”.
- Further work is required on other options to quantify how we can further mitigate the risks.

Partners' Assembly - Your Movement Matters

The Board discussed the results of Your Movement Matters survey, which focuses on demographics. It agreed to incorporate the findings into the Membership Strategy and the results are scheduled to be published early in February 2022 and will be made available through the BMC website.

Anti-doping Policy

Board approved adopting the UKAD rules

Safeguarding and Health & Safety

These items are to be reinstated twice annually into the Board agenda.

Indoor climbing

It is agreed that the status quo around providing support for the typical indoor climber cannot continue. Currently Dan Middleton is leading on Indoor Climbing for the typical participant and it is agreed that improvements need to be made. The CEO has tasked Jon Garside with moving this forward.

‘Gold medal’ for the BMC

In preparation for the 2000 Olympics the UK men’s rowing eight adopted a phrase “will it make the boat go faster?” which underpinned everything they did to achieve their Gold Medal. The intent is that the BMC adopt the same approach over the next 3 years

The concept of the ‘Gold Medal’ is that it forms an overarching focus for Board and staff when making decisions. The Board has agreed a gold medal of:

100,000 engaged members by 2024

The BMC needs to be a representative body with influence in the wider community. To be a representative body, the BMC needs to have a significant (and growing) membership base. An engaged membership also means a satisfied membership base.

An engaged member means different things to different people, but ultimately an engaged member is one who would recommend membership of the BMC to others and voluntarily participates in activities that support the ethos and aims of the BMC.

AGM

Reluctantly, the Board agreed that in 2022 the AGM will be virtual only and will be on the evening of Wednesday 18th May. There will be opportunities for members to engage with Board in the lead up to the AGM – either via a specific Q&A session or open forum. Communication will be prepared for members prior to any engagement with the Board and in advance of the AGM.

Gala dinner for Volunteers

The Board have agreed to underwrite a Volunteer Gala Dinner and sponsorship opportunities are being investigated. The Gala dinner will involve 3 elements:

1. Sat PM – Training for Volunteers
2. Sat Night – Dinner and award of Volunteer Award trophies (2020, 2021 & 2022)
3. Sun AM – Specialist open forums/meetings, to allow information sharing between specialist committees, and area volunteers.

Plan for future summaries from the Board

Going forward it is our intention to provide summaries from the Board on a quarterly basis. There are several reasons for this as follows:

- Ensure consistency both with what the Board reports at Members’ Council and is reported in the minutes from the meetings of the Board
- In the process improve the quality of what is reported in the summaries
- Reduce the workload associated with reporting – which is substantial, impacting hard delivery by the staff and not sustainable for an organisation where much of this work falls on volunteers.