

BRITISH MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL

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BMC CLUBS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the inaugural meeting held on Monday 26th October 2009 at the BMC offices, Manchester at 1900hrs.

Present:	John Farrow	(National) (Chair)
	Fiona Sanders	(National)
	Andy Blakely	(Yorkshire)
	Martin Dale	(Lakes)
	Rob Greaves	(Wales)
	Steve Gille	(North West)
	Ed Proctor	(Midlands)
	Dave Turnbull	(BMC CEO)
	Rab Carrington	(BMC President)
	Martin Kocsis	(Secretary & BMC Clubs' Officer)

Actions

1.0 Welcome & Introductions

1.1 RC chaired the first part of the meeting which began with a round of introductions. Tony Wilson (London Area) was not present due to the BMC office using the wrong email address to contact him about the meeting.

2.0 Appointment of Chair

2.1 RC invited nominations and suggestions about who should chair the Committee. DT referred to the operating procedures and explained that the position of chair was an annual appointment. AB proposed John Farrow for the position. JF accepted the nomination and this was unanimously agreed.

Agreed

2.2 SG suggested that in the future the chair should alternate between a regional and a national club representative. This was felt to be an issue for consideration by the Committee at a later date.

3.0 Operational considerations

3.1 The frequency of meetings was discussed. DT explained that the other BMC Specialist Committees tended to meet 3-5 times per year. JF suggested that the Committee should meet as necessary. It was felt that quarterly meetings might be appropriate.

3.2 It was noted that the Committee can co-opt up to three members. JF proposed co-opting Paul Exley (F&RCC) due to the experience and knowledge of club issues. SG raised a concern about the Committee possibly becoming top heavy with national clubs which could be to the detriment of smaller / regional clubs. RC echoed this point. AB said that he had no problem with the suggestion. It was finally agreed that in the first instance Paul Exley should be invited onto the Committee as an observer.

Agreed

- 3.3 DT reported that the MCoFS had asked if it could send a representative to the Clubs Committee. It was agreed that this would be acceptable as an observer. **Agreed**
- 3.4 DT suggested that the Committee might want to consider co-opting a student club representative at some stage.
- 3.5 RG was unclear about the purpose of co-opting new members i.e. is it for the specific skills that they might have, or to help address specific issues that the Committee might have to deal with. FS suggested we should wait for a couple of meetings before co-opting any new members.
- 3.6 JF summed up that the mood of the meeting was to defer the co-opting to a future meeting. **Agreed**
- 3.7 JF agreed to attend the December National Council meeting to make a presentation on behalf of the Clubs Committee.
- 3.8 DT asked what information from these meetings should be circulated to the other affiliated clubs i.e. meeting summaries or full minutes.
- After discussion it was agreed that the Committee would publish its minutes on the BMC website with an email to all club secretaries referring them to the minutes. The minutes will be available to all clubs including student clubs. **Agreed**
- 4.0 Programme of work**
- The work programme of the Clubs Committee was discussed.
- 4.1 JF noted that the Midland Association of Mountaineers (MAM) was consulting its members on the proposition that it become a mutual society as had the FRCC. He suggested it might be useful to investigate the benefits of this sort of arrangement.
- 4.2 RC said that he would like to see young members' clubs (e.g. from climbing walls) being considered as part of the Committee's work. EP suggested that the Committee had its work cut out in the area of young people in clubs. He noted that there were only c.20 club youth officers within the total c.320 clubs.
- 4.3 FS wanted the Committee to look at funding issues and what smaller clubs might need from the BMC.
- 4.4 SG suggested that as this was a new Committee – it should be publicised in the BMC's media and the Area Meetings, and that local clubs should be encouraged to get involved with the Committee through attending Area Meetings.
- 4.5 FS suggested that we should be recruiting clubs to help with individual items (e.g. 4.1-4.4 above) above instead of waiting for them to come up with ideas. JF suggested that in that case we need to identify examples of good practice.
- 4.6 DT asked what the office should be doing for clubs. He outlined some of many things that the BMC already does (e.g. seminars and technical guidance information) and made it clear that the Committee could have a role in advising on the administrative and support services offered by the office.

- 4.7 The following action points were eventually agreed:
- a. JF to produce a paper on the benefits of Mutual Society status. **Action JF**
 - b. EP to produce a paper on how clubs might encourage younger people to join clubs. **Action EP**
 - c. FS to produce a paper on funding and support available to clubs through the BMC. **Action FS**
 - d. SG to produce a paper on publicising the Clubs Committee and how best to engage with clubs. **Action SG**
- 5.0 Club member “opt out” consultation**
- 5.1 RG began by saying that he thought the consultation document was clear and fair and that the result was conclusive. AB expressed the opposite view i.e. that the document and the results of the consultation exercise were flawed and unreliable. He believed that in c.50% of the replies opposing the opt-out, the clubs in question had misunderstood the proposal. He cited the response from the F&RCC as an example of this. FS disagreed and felt this was a misleading statement as the F&RCC had in fact debated the matter at great length and were very clear about the nature of the proposal.
- 5.2 SG said that whatever the size of the club, they had an equal voice to the larger ones. He also noted that there was a clear majority against the proposal and that we should take the numbers at face value.
- 5.3 JF said that the advantage of the opt-out is that it would satisfy the vocal minority within clubs. He felt that the cost of losing a small percentage of such members would be far outweighed by the loss of a single major club if the vocal minority got their own way.
- 5.4 EP said that whatever the problems may or may not be, we cannot go back to clubs with another survey and that we should move forward.
- 5.5 After a wide-ranging discussion of the results, the Clubs Committee eventually agreed not to take the opt-out proposal any further. **Agreed**
- 6.0 Any other business**
- 6.1 SG requested an updated contact list of Committee members. **Action MK**
- 6.2 EP asked the BMC to try to develop a more efficient way of list and locating clubs on the BMC website (i.e. rather than having to download the entire pdf Club List). **Action MK**
- 6.3 EP suggested having ClubCom meetings somewhere decent at weekends (e.g. Plas y Brenin) so we can all go and have some fun afterwards.
- 6.4 In preparation for the Club Seminar on the 28th November 2009, it was also suggested that a questionnaire be sent out to clubs asking them what their burning issues are.
- 7. Date and place of next meeting**

7.1 Saturday 6th February 2010, North Wales (specific venue to be confirmed)

ACTIONS FROM THE MINUTES

3.2	Invite Paul Exley to Committee Meetings	MK	By next meeting
3.3	Write to the MCofS to invite a representative to join the ClubCom as an observer and for them to attend the Club Seminar.	DT	By next meeting
4.7 a	Produce paper on benefits of Mutual Society status	JF	By next meeting
4.7 b	Prepare discussion paper on young people in clubs	EP	By next meeting
4.7 c	Prepare discussion paper on (sources of) funding for clubs	FS	By next meeting
4.7 d	Prepare discussion paper on promoting the ClubCom's activities.	SG	By next meeting
6.1	Update the ClubCom membership list and circulate.	MK	By 1 st November
6.2	Find out what can be done about this.	MK	By next meeting
6.4	Prepare club seminar questionnaire.	MK, JF	By 7 th November

The above minutes are accepted as an accurate record of the meeting:

Signed _____ Date _____

John Farrow, Chair