

BRITISH MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL

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CLUBS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Clubs Committee meeting held at the BMC Offices, Manchester, on Thursday 17th January 2019.

Present: Chair Peter Salenieks (PS) *Cymru South Wales*,
Secretary Jane Thompson (JT) *BMC Clubs Officer*

Mike Spooner (MS) *Student rep*, Dave Brown (DB) *Peak*, Philip Wilson (PW) *South West*,
Sherry Macliver (SM) *London & SE*, Rik Payne (RP) *BMC Board*, John Farrow (JF) *Huts*
Group rep
Via Skype - Andy Potter (AP) *Midlands*, Oliver Birkill (OB) *National Clubs*, John Holden
(JH) *National Clubs*

Apologies: Peter Barrans (PB) *Yorkshire*, Mike Jimenez (MJ) *Student rep*

1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence

- 1.1 PS welcomed everyone to the meeting. As it was JH's first meeting everyone introduced themselves. -

3. Clubs Comm recruitment

- 2.1 Two volunteers have come forward for the Lakes, with one nominated as primary point of contact for Clubs' Committee. There are still vacancies for reps in North East, North West, London & SE and Cymru North Wales. Noted that JT circulates information to clubs in areas without a rep.
- 2.2 PS reported that he had offered to support the Cymru North Wales Area by acting as a point of contact for the clubs in the area while there was no rep from the area, with the agreement of the area. This was put to the committee, voted on, and the committee agreed that PS could also represent Cymru North Wales.

3. Conflicts of Interest

- 3.1 No conflicts stated for the meeting.
- 3.2 JT to circulate the BMC Conflicts of Interest form for 2019 to committee members. **JT**

4. Confirmation of Minutes of previous meeting

- 4.1 Accepted as a true record. -

5. Teamwork tasks (incl. Matters Arising)

- 5.1 AP explained that he had re-ordered the tasks on Teamwork (TW) to match with the objectives of the committee and make it easier to see where time is spent. He led a review of the Tasks on TW - updates were identified and amended on TW during the meeting. Noted that RP has raised matters of IT support with the Board. They will need to be raised again after the AGM. -

6.	Notice of Any Other Business	
6.1	None requested	-
7.	National Council update (items from the Dec meeting)	
7.1	<p>PS reported that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The presentation & report on behalf of Clubs Comm was well received by National Council. All specialist committee reports will be posted on the BMC website. A large part of the meeting was focused on ODG work. There will be changes to the Safeguarding Policy soon, this will provide a specific focus on both children and on vulnerable adults. 	
8.	Phase 2 Implementation (ODG)	
8.1	<p>MS briefed the committee on the work of the group that is looking at the support to clubs. The group forms part of the 'Partnerships' work stream (WS 7), which is being led by Fiona Sanders (former Chair of Clubs Comm) MS, JH and JT sit on the group.</p> <p>MS gave a presentation on research that had taken place to date and noted that the focus of the work is split between 'Representation & Influence' and 'Products & Services'.</p> <p>MS to add the presentation to TW.</p>	- MS
8.2	Much discussion took place on the membership stats and the club profiling work. Noted that the BMC doesn't collect data to determine the ethnic distribution of members and understand any gaps.	
8.3	<p>Much discussion took place on the influencing pathway slide, with views shared on how clubs can and should exert influence.</p> <p>The Chair of Clubs Comm attends National Council (NC) as a specialist committee observer without a vote. Noted that PS attends all NC meetings.</p> <p>It was agreed that one of the weaknesses in the system is reliance on a single Club Contact. JT noted that uptake of the Communications Contact offer to clubs had been slow and requested that reps encourage their clubs to use it.</p>	All
8.4	Thanks were recorded to the ODG Clubs group, and a request to pass the thanks on to those not in the meeting was made.	JT
8.5	PS reported on the progress made by the working group looking at Recommendation 33 on the reconstitution of National Council. He represents specialist committees. It met for the first time on 10 January and there will be communications coming to Clubs Comm in due course.	PS
9.	Updates	
9.1	<p>Sport England – the targets have been signed off and the legal agreement is due to arrive in the office soon. After this the funding will be released to the BMC.</p> <p>JT explained that the funding includes provision to develop clubs in climbing walls focusing on young people, support existing clubs to develop their family membership offer, support the training courses for volunteers in clubs, plus there will be more transition courses (indoor to outdoor climbing) and more safety resources (such as for winter walking) produced.</p>	-
9.3	GDPR & IT – JT explained to the committee that clubs can now use Membership Services Online (MSO) to: update the Main Club Contact and the Communications Contact, change the contact email address for the club (the one to be used on the BMC website), and add a Meeting Address that will be used on the mapping function to show where the club is based (e.g. a club can use a climbing wall or a pub, etc.)	-

JT explained that clubs will soon have the facility to update the information about their club and about their hut directly through MSO.

10. Reviewing the Annual Communications Cycle

- 10.1 PS had posted the updated version of the cycle on to TW following the changes suggested at the previous meeting. This was accepted by the committee. Within the context of a digital communications strategy that under consideration by the ODG, greater use should be made of the BMC Facebook page for club-related items. -
- 10.2 In order to stimulate two-way communication with clubs, it was suggested that a key topic (or topics) will be sent to clubs for their views prior to the next Clubs Comm meeting. It was agreed that this would need to be with the clubs 2-3 months before the next meeting and that the request for information would be along the lines of 'what does your club think about...?'. PS
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11. Staff (office) support to clubs

- 11.1 PS reported that he and AP had both spoken with Dave Turnbull about the reduction in support to clubs now that JT has the additional responsibilities for huts and volunteers. PS will continue to follow this up. PS
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12. Reps Reports

- 8.1 PW reported that contact had been made with a marketing expert in the SW who was keen to support clubs. It was agreed that more information about the offer was needed and that the BMC marketing team may need to be involved for comment. It was agreed that PW & JT would speak with the individual at the next SW Area meeting. PW & JT
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13. BMC Office Report

- 9.1 JT noted that an e-newsletter would be sent to all club members within the next couple of working days. -
- 9.2 JT requested that the committee members give thought to the BMC Club Loan Scheme in preparation for further discussion at the next meeting. JT to add to the agenda. All
JT
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14. AOB

- 14.1 Following the two deaths on Ben Nevis over the Christmas period discussion took place on how clubs and volunteers should deal with such incidents and potential enquiries from the press. Clubs can make their own decisions on requests for comment from the media. Clubs' Committee members should refer enquiries to the BMC office. DB noted that a paper had been drafted a number of years ago by former members of the committee. He offered to check out where the information was so that it can be used to support clubs. DB
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15. Dates of forthcoming Meetings

Sun 2nd June, North Wales, Plas y Brenin
Thursday 12th September, Manchester office
Sunday 17th November, Lakes (to link with the Kendal Mountain Film Festival)
