

BRITISH MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL

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CLUBS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Clubs Committee meeting held using GoToMeeting, on Wednesday 21 October 2020.

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

Ian Wyatt (IW) *Midlands*, Mike Spooner (MS) *Student rep*, Elizabeth Porter (EP) *Student rep*, Dominic Oughton (DO) *North West*, Peter Barrans (PB) *Yorkshire*, Tim Crocker (TC) *London & SE*, John Holden (JH) *National Clubs*, Jonathan White (JW) *Director*, John Farrow (JF) *Huts Group rep*

Apologies: Martin Corfield (MC) *South West*,
Pete Glasper (PG) *Lakes*

1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence

1.1 PS welcomed everyone to the meeting. Everyone introduced themselves. -

2. Conflicts of Interest

2.1 None stated -

3. Notice of Any Other Business

3.1 - Services Enquiry (PS) -
- Huts (JF)

4. Review of 2020

4.1 JT presented a review of the actions taken throughout 2020, primarily in supporting the clubs and huts networks in response to the Covid-19 restrictions. Slides had been posted on Teamwork.

4.2 MS noted thanks to all those who had inputted in to the work during the year. PS explained that specialist committees report to the Board (5th December), with National Council in attendance, and he will incorporate the review in to his report. He will share this around the committee once complete.

5. Club Networks

5.1 IW reported that the Midlands network met on Monday evening. He was disappointed in the numbers who attended as more had expressed interest, however there was a very positive response from those who attended. There was good discussion and sharing between the clubs, and agreement to run another session after Christmas. It was clear that people were keen to do this type of virtual engagement.

5.2 DO also reported that his Zoom call with the North West clubs had some great interactions and people were keen to repeat it – in fact some members reported at the next North West Area meeting that the only negative was having to wait until Christmas for the next one!

5.3 There is still an issue in getting the right contacts in the clubs to be able to invite to such meetings. JT noted that the BMC only has one contact list, and that is

the central database list – the contacts for clubs are the ones that are on the Excel sheet posted to Teamwork. This was to ensure compliance with the Data Protection Act.

It was suggested that a listing, with notes on the relevant permissions that have been granted, could be posted to Teamwork. JT will discuss the data protection issues with the team in the office. **JT**

MS noted that improving contacts with clubs is in the Clubs Strategy, and suggested that the committee should be pushing for an IT solution. **MS**

5.4 IW offered to share documents and processes with the other reps via Teamwork. He did note that we need to work in partnership with the Areas and the Area meetings so that the Club Networks compliment them. **IW**

5.5 MS suggested that early in 2021 we could link more Network events to discussions about changes to the Articles that are being proposed for the BMC AGM 2021. MC suggested that discussion about Climate Change could be a key topic going forwards.

5.6 PS noted that progress had been made in identifying someone to lead a National Clubs Forum. It was agreed that a meeting should be set up with a small group to discuss this further. **PS**

6. Clubs Strategy

6.1 MS provided an overview of the Strategy. It has been signed off by the Board so it is now for Clubs Comm to move it forwards and to set our priorities. -

6.2 Suggested priorities by the meeting were: -

- MSO & database interactions
- Elements that need Articles changes
- Engaging with other committees / groups in the BMC
- Covid19 impact and the survival of clubs and huts
- Non-standard clubs / non-traditional clubs
- Digital delivery
- Promoting the work of the BMC to clubs (particularly with the positive actions during the past 8 months)
- Formally linking clubs in to policy making (noted that it could be a “quick win”)
- Improving the interaction with MarComms

6.3 Significant discussion took place on the risks that huts are under and potential support that they may need. The financial risk to the huts network is substantial, although many had accessed government support, plus there is potentially some support via Sport Wales and Sport England for huts other support may be needed.

A “Save Our Huts” campaign was considered with options around potential grants needing further consideration. The possibility of another survey going to the clubs with huts was discussed so that the current position over finances could be better understood.

6.4 Agreed to take the other points regarding Strategy implementation off-line and/or in separate meetings due to time restrictions.

7. Specialist Committee review

7.1 PS provided a brief overview of the report and it was noted (by JW) that there are some aspects of the report that conflict with some of the other ODG recommendations and the Board will need to decide which to agree to. -

7.2 PS highlighted two points in the report that were of specific interest to clubs: “having a director with responsibility for clubs is an anomaly that needs correcting”; and the “level to which directors should engage with specialist committees”. -

PS noted that having a director working close with Clubs Comm has been instrumental in some of the recent successes and has been essential in spearheading recent support for clubs, huts and club members. This positive view of the role was echoed by other members. It was also noted that taking away a voice for clubs just after it had been instated would send a very negative message to clubs.

PS also noted that the work of the Core Group over recent months was identified in the report as good practice due to the close working between two specialist committees.

8. Official Documentation for 2021, and onwards

- 8.1 Agreed to take off line. -

9. Updates

- 9.1 Board – JW reported that there have been many changes since the last meeting, with a number of directors stepping down / resigning. If more detail is wanted then everyone is invited to join the Open Forum on 5th November, plus there are minutes on the BMC website. -
- 9.2 National Council – PS reported that there have been very frequent meetings and the provision of more support to the Board. Recent improvements in communications to / from the Board have been made -
JW noted recognition for the work that PS does for National Council, which is significantly greater than other committee chairs and greater than many other elected councillors.
- 9.3 No urgent items from club reps. -
- 9.4 BMC Office - JT introduced Easy Fundraising and explained the benefits to clubs and to the BMC. It was agreed that this would be progressed. -
There are still a few staff on flexible furlough so still delays in some work areas due to reduced capacity.
Greater Manchester will be in Tier 3 within a few days so even more reduction in staff working from the office (although many staff haven't been in to the office since March).

10. Confirmation of Minutes of previous meeting

- 10.1 All asked to get back to JT within 10 days if any amendments to minutes of previous meetings (as available on Teamwork), otherwise they will be accepted as true and accurate record. ALL

11. Teamwork tasks (incl. Matters Arising)

- 11.1 PB reported that there is a lack of action on many of the items and that he had circulated a list to reps earlier in the week. The most important list is under "Support for clubs" as that is where reps can have the most impact and help the most – he is looking for volunteers to help out!
There needs to be a review and either the removal of some actions or more guidance on the details of the actions to better progress them.
MS offered to take some of the actions and roll them together within his work with the BMC Digital Operations Plan.
MS noted that the Equity Steering Group is keen to work with Clubs Comm so a rep is needed to help lead that work area.

12. AOB

12.1 PS provided a link to a Service Enquiry regarding a fatal incident in the Cairngorms in 2013 involving RAF personnel who were members of the RAF MC (a BMC affiliated club). There are some references to the BMC in the enquiry documentation. He has spoken with JW and with Fiona Sanders (as his Clubs Comm predecessor) to ascertain any contact that may have been made with the BMC during the enquiry.
PS to discuss further with JT regarding next steps.

12.2 Huts item already discussed.

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13. Dates of forthcoming Meetings

13.1 Dates for 2021 to be confirmed.

PS

PS closed the meeting by thanking everyone for their work during a difficult year.