

BRITISH MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL

177-179 Burton Road
Manchester M20 2BB

Tel: 0161 445 6111
Fax: 0161 445 4500
Email: jane@thebmc.co.uk

CLUBS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Clubs Committee meeting held at the BMC Offices, Manchester, on Thursday 12th September 2019.

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

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

Apologies: Mike Jimenez (MJ) *Student rep*, Peter Barrans (PB) *Yorkshire*,
Non-attendance: Pete Glasper (PG) *Lakes*

1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence

- 1.1 PS welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Jonathan White. -
-

3. Clubs Comm recruitment

- 2.1 JT explained that all area reps will need to stand for election each year, as per the BMC Articles of Association (Article 28.5). The student reps and national club reps will continue on a three-year cycle.
- 2.2 All members then declared their position for the November Area meetings / .
- PS – will re-stand (South Wales)
PW – will continue until a replacement can be found (South West)
SM – will likely stand down (London & SE)
AP – will stand down at the Area AGM (Midlands)
DB – has come to the end of his terms, but will continue to support Clubs Comm until a replacement has been found (Peak)
OB – will step down (National)
JH – will continue (National)
MJ – has come to the end of his terms (Student)
MS – will continue until ODG has completed and new Student Panel is established (Student)
JF – happy to continue in role (Huts)
-

3. Conflicts of Interest

- 3.1 No conflicts stated for the meeting.
-

4. Confirmation of Minutes of previous meeting

- 4.1 PS had posted an amended version on Teamwork the previous day. It was agreed that any comments to be passed to JT within a week. Otherwise accepted as accurate. -
-

5. Teamwork tasks (incl. Matters Arising)

Deferred as AP delayed in joining the meeting

6. Notice of Any Other Business

- 6.1 Insurance -
Membership fee increase
Climate emergency
-

7. National Council update

- 7.1 PS reported that he had posted an update on Teamwork with important points from the June 2019 meeting.
- 7.2 A discussion took place over the action requiring insurance information to go to clubs. It was explained that JW & JT felt the original draft email that had been produced over the summer was too heavy in content and style to be sent to clubs. JW & JT had agreed that the reworked Insurance Guidance for Clubs would be a more appropriate document to send to the clubs. This will be sent to club contacts once the document has been approved. **AP, JT, JW**
- 7.3 PS reported that a key focus of the September 2019 meeting will be the draft Strategy.
-

8. BMC Board update

- 8.1 Vision, Mission, Values & Strategy
JW reported that the widely circulated draft document had been produced following much consultation, including with members before the AGM. The feedback so far from the online consultation and the Area meetings has been positive with constructive comments provided. He explained that the Vision will be produced at the end of the process (a bit like writing an executive summary after producing the report).
- 8.2 Finance
Actions continue to be taken to improve the budget situation. All committees are currently preparing 2020 budgets for consideration.
- 8.3 Governance
A working group was established following the 2019 AGM to review
- 8.4 Working with the Nominations Committee, a skills matrix for the Board of Directors is being produced. This will identify any skills gaps, and will be particularly beneficial as some directors are coming to the end of their terms in office. This will therefore be used by National Council to support the selection of two Directors from National Council and will be used to support the appointment of a new Independent Director.
- 8.5 JW noted that, particularly with the ODG work, there is an overload of work for the Board members. He made a request that should papers be submitted to the Board they are short and concise.
- 8.6 Discussion took place over the proposed 'digital membership' package that was taken to the July Board meeting. Some concerns were raised over the lack of consultation with Clubs Comm, particularly considering that it is understood that one of the target groups for this package is students after graduation. As many of these students will be members of clubs whilst at university it was felt that engaging with Clubs Comm and SAG could have been useful. Concerns were also raised that with the changes coming in via ODG that now is not the time to implement something new, plus it would need to fit in with the wider ODG work.
-

9. Updates

- 9.1
- JT reported on the Sport England funded programmes
 - Training workshops for club members – available on the website
 - How to train novice members in your club – 2020 dates available on the website; new 'Next Steps' course being piloted in October 2019
 - Family membership support package – launch held back until the autumn as the summer is not a good time to launch new initiatives with clubs.
 - Student Safety Seminar – taking place in October, details on the website
 - Clubs for young people – programme still being developed with some pilot activity being worked on. JT asked whether the committee would support the introduction of a 'Youth Club' category of club membership. The requirements for affiliation would be exactly the same as for all other clubs, but having a defined category would allow for targeted support to be sent to these clubs (at present they tend to sit in with the student clubs, and university club support is not necessarily appropriate for these clubs). The committee agreed to support this proposal.
- JT
-

- 9.3 JT reported on a project, funded by Sport England, that the BMC had been invited to participate in. It is helping the BMC to look at how to engage with the clubs and groups based within climbing walls, on social media etc, and that we don't currently engage with. There is currently a survey available to members and to other individuals who engage with us to help to gather more information about these groups.

As part of the process a meeting was held with members of BMC staff, Directors, Clubs Comm, and key volunteers. One outcome was the production of a table to review what a 'traditional' club looks like (and the links to the requirements in the Articles) and what variants of that model the BMC either currently accepts from member clubs or those variant that we know exist and that we need to consider whether they are suitable for accepting for affiliation.

This project is not intended to change the affiliation requirements to accept many more groups as 'affiliated clubs' but to review what our requirements are, to review what these groups may want from us and to, potentially, consider a new package / membership level for these groups and clubs.

There was general agreement from the committee on the direction of this work, with agreement that this should be a slow process to ensure that what we end up with is the right offer.

10. ODG update

- 10.1 Restructure of Clubs Comm
- This was discussed in detail with the key points noted
- The proposed new structure is designed for the new committee to be more representative of clubs and of their needs, rather than for club members. Club members have the same opportunities as all other BMC members to be represented via the Area structure, plus there will be a new National Councillor for Club Members elected.
 - There are two reporting options available for the new committee – report to the Board or report to National Council.
 - It was felt that ultimately it is more important that the new committee actually delivers on its mandate rather than who it reports to.
 - The meeting voted and agreed that the preference would be for the new committee to report to National Council.
- JW
-
- 10.2 Club reps
- It was noted that the new roles for club reps will be different to the current role, and the change could be challenging to implement.
-

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The new roles have been designed to plug the gaps that clubs have identified. • Because less time will be needed for attending meetings there will be more time available for local engagements with clubs. • A budget for delivering local events is being requested via the current BMC-wide budgeting process. 	
10.3	Updates and discussion on other aspects of ODG work was deferred due to the late running of the meeting.	-
11.	Club guidelines	
11.1	Deferred until November meeting.	-
12.	Reps Reports	
12.1	SM queried as to why the Communications Contact is not on the Excel clubs list – JT has been chasing a change to the report that she runs to provide the list, and will continue to chase.	JT
13.	BMC Office Report	
13.1	-	-
14.	Risk Register	
14.1	Deferred until November meeting.	-
15.	AOB	
15.1	Climate Emergency – more detailed discussion to take place at the November meeting. Request that clubs consider what they can do to make a difference, and to therefore drive change in the BMC / mountaineering from the bottom up.	ALL
15.2	Communications re the membership fee increase. JT explained that a programme of articles and communications are planned over the coming months to explain about the benefits of being a member, about the subs increase etc.	JT
16.	Dates of forthcoming Meetings	
	Sunday 17 th November, Lakes (to link with the Kendal Mountain Film Festival) 2020 to be confirmed once Board / National Council meetings have been agreed.	-
	[Date for your diary - BMC AGM, Saturday 13 th June 2019, Plas y Brenin, with Award Dinner on the Saturday evening]	