**BRITISH MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL**

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**CLUBS COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the Clubs Committee meeting held at Britannia Country House Hotel, Manchester, on Thursday 29 September 2016.

Present: Chair Fiona Sanders (FS) *National Clubs*

Secretary Jane Thompson (JT)

Richard Toon (RT) *North West*, Dave Brown (DB) *Peak*, Will Kilner (WK) *Cymru South,* David Fisher (DF) *South West,* Sherry Macliver (SM) *London & SE,* Trevor Smith (TS) *co-opted,* and *(*via Skype) Mike Spooner (MS) *Student rep*

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| **1.** | **Welcome and Apologies for Absence** |  |
| 1.1 | Apologies received from  Michael Jimenez (MJ) *Student rep*, Mark Anstiss (MA) *North East*, Paul Exley (PE) *Yorkshire*, Ben Filmore (BF) *London & SE*, John Farrow (JF) *National Clubs,*  Non-attendance Kelvyn James (KJ) *Lakes,* Michelle Auckland (MA) *Midlands*  Deirdre Collier (DC) had recently resigned from the Executive Committee and will therefore no longer be the rep to the Clubs Committee*.* | - |
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| **2.** | **Conflicts of Interest** |  |
| 2.1 | WK noted that he delivers on the club workshop programme | - |
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| **3.** | **Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting** |  |
| 3.1 | Agreed | - |
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| **4.** | **Matters Arising not on the agenda** |  |
| 4.1 | FS to pick up role descriptions | **FS** |
| 4.2 | Ongoing as has been a delay in MSO launch | **JT** |
| 4.3 | Refer to Area Reports (item 16) for London update | **-** |
| 4.4 | Webpage with Clubs Comm minutes now on the BMC website | **-** |
| 4.5 | JT not received any updates from those who agreed to update guidance notes. List to be re-sent | **JT** |
| 4.6 | JT received some of the information on huts developments for the article but still waiting on remaining – JT to chase | **JT** |
| 4.7 | Actions completed re National Council | **-** |
| 4.8 | The meeting noted that any potential discussions by Exec / National Council on membership categories for indoor climbers or age-related bands should include discussions about Life Membership (similar to that of National Trust or Friends of Lakes). The meeting noted that it believed that clubs wouldn’t necessarily have too many issues with a Life Membership category but that it may add an administrative burden to volunteers with an additional membership level required in clubs. | **DB** |
| 4.9 | FS to pick up feedback on BMC Annual Report as DC is no longer on the Clubs Committee. | **FS** |
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| **5.** | **Notice of any other business** |  |
| 5.1 | None noted | **-** |
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| **6.** | **Appointment to the Clubs Committee for 2016** |  |
| 6.1 | Following on from discussions at the June meeting it was noted that the following appointments would be needed  Lakes & Yorkshire – election for new reps  North West, Peak, National, Student – election / re-election |  |
| 6.2 | JT to inform Area Secretaries / Chairman of need for elections in Areas above  JT to contact National Clubs regarding nominating suitable candidates, JT to then manage election process  JT to communicate with students regarding applications for the position. FS,TS & JT to review applications before approval by Clubs Committee | **JT**  **JT**  **JT**  **FS&TS** |
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| **7.** | **Feedback from National Council** |  |
| 7.1 | As has been announced, following feedback from the recent discussion meetings the proposed re-brand will not take place; ‘Climb Britain’ is being considered for another use yet to be determined. Processes are being reviewed to ensure that appropriate discussions / consultation take place in the future.  Discussion took place on how reps could engage better with their clubs to ensure that they have a good understanding of their views. It was suggested that Area reps work with the Area Chairman/Secretary to ensure that club items feature on every agenda, including an update from the summary of minutes that FS produces after each meeting.  It was agreed to include ‘engaging with clubs’ as an item on the November agenda. | **-**  **All**  **JT** |
| 7.2 | FS reported that National Council was informed that the grant from Sport England for 2017-21 is likely to reduce significantly. Cuts will therefore need to be made and various financial scenarios are being produced. A greater focus on increasing income from elsewhere is needed to mitigate against these cuts. |  |
| 7.3 | FS reported that National Council agreed that competition climbing is definitely a fundamental element of the BMC and a good pathway in to life-long participation. Discussions about the management of the British team for 2020 is ongoing. It was agreed to include an item on the November agenda for how clubs could take the most benefit from 2020 Olympics focus. | **JT** |
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| **8.** | **Open day (afternoon) for clubs** |  |
| 8.1 | Various options for engagement opportunities and training opportunities for club members were discussed with the following agreed (conditional upon dates and venues being available)   * Don’t hold an open afternoon for clubs at the office, the 9th March will just be a standard Clubs Committee meeting. * Trial a ‘Clubs Roadshow’ in (probably) London and Midlands, plus Sheffield for student clubs * Hold a Training Day for ‘New Club Officers’ in the South / South East   JT to review dates and locations as all to be fitted in before the end of March and at weekends.  FS, JT & TS to agree a programme / focus for the Roadshows. | **JT**  **JT, FS, TS** |
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| **9.** | **BMC Vision and Mission statements** |  |
| 9.1 | DB circulated a paper that had originally gone to National Council in June. It was discussed whether ‘clubs’ should feature within the statement, and it was agreed that it should be. The proposal is that the fourth bullet point on the mission statement should read ‘*Provide support, services and information for members and clubs.*’  FS to raise with DT and Exec.  DB to also write independently as Peak NC rep | **FS**  **DB** |
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| **10.** | **IT Strategy Document** |  |
| 10.1 | TS updated on the Membership Services Online (MSO) system. It will be released to student clubs after the Student Seminar. TS & JT will briefly introduce it at the Seminar. General clubs to pilot it later in October so to be ready for all clubs to start using from January. |  |
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| **11.** | **WebCollect system** |  |
| 11.1 | RT explained the WebCollect system that Lancashire MC uses that covers areas such as registrations, annual subscription payments, one-off payments (i.e. dinner meet) and has proved to be a time saving system for both the treasurer and membership secretary.  The meeting felt that this would be appropriate to advise clubs about and so required further investigation. Discussions to take place at Roadshows and National Clubs meeting to identify any other systems that may exist so that clubs can be offered a choice of options. | **FS TS JT** |
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| **12.** | **Student Clubs Working Group update** |  |
| 12.1 | MS noted key points on the previously circulated paper. MS, TS and JT will be at the Student Seminar on 8-9 October and will be talking to student clubs about the support they require and the issues that they are facing. | **MS TS JT** |
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| **13.** | **Clubs Seminar 2017 planning** | **-** |
| 13.1 | Agreed not to hold a seminar in 2017 as the date of the AGM is not appropriate being too close to Easter. Reference item 8. |  |
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| **14.** | **Supporting Older Members** |  |
| 14.1 | Discussion took place on the previously circulated document that was presented at the last National Council meeting. It was noted that several of the points raised in the paper were relevant for other groups / ages and not just older members, and also noted that issues for older climbers were often mirrored by issues for older walkers. |  |
| 14.2 | It was agreed that the paper would be turned in to an article for clubs to offer them advice on how to support older members / recruit older members. | **JT** |
| 14.3 | It was agreed that offering a special rate within the BMC was additional pressure on finances and unlikely to gain many more members. Better to focus on directing these climbers to local clubs. |  |
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| **15.** | **Clubs & Climbing Walls** |  |
| 14.1 | A brief discussion took place around clubs associated with climbing walls and their appropriateness for affiliation to the BMC. JT, FS & WK to review a club as per a request by National Council | **FS WK JT** |
| 14.2 | A brief discussion took place around supporting the establishment of (BMC affiliated) climbing clubs at climbing walls. FS, WK and JT to review the area with an item to be put on the November agenda. | **FS WK JT** |
| 14.3 | One issue with new clubs is that the minimum number of members required to affiliate to the BMC is 20. It was agreed that this was too large and clubs should be supported to develop not restricted by minimum numbers. JT reported that she was struggling to find out how to start making changes to reduce the minimum number as she keeps hitting barriers. FS agreed to raise with DT. | **FS** |
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| **16.** | **Area Issues** |  |
| 16.1 | JT apologised to those members who had submitted reports as the paper hadn’t been circulated prior to the meeting. |  |
| 16.2 | SM explained the process that had taken place in London to increase engagement with clubs and noted that the clubs particularly appreciated the following areas that we offer - training opportunities, the grants programme and opportunities to share ideas with other clubs. It was also suggested there is a need for having information about suitable (recommended) accommodation in areas where there is no or limited access to club huts (i.e. Pembroke, South West etc.).  It was noted that there is information on UKC that may be suitable. SM to check out the information and decision then to be made as to the best option for clubs. | **SM** |
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| **17.** | **BMC Office Report** |  |
| 17.1 | Nothing additional to note and no questions asked. |  |
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| **18.** | **AOB** |  |
| 18.1 | None noted. |  |
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| **19.** | **Dates of forthcoming Meetings** |  |
| 19.1 | Saturday 12th November, Peak District (Roaches, Whillans Hut)  Thursday 9th March, BMC Offices Manchester |  |
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