

# 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 Electric Mountain, Llanberis, Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2017.

Present: Chair Fiona Sanders (FS) *National Clubs*  
Secretary Jane Thompson (JT)

Dave Brown (DB) *Peak*, Peter Salenieks (PS) *Cymru South*, David Fisher (DF) *South West*, Collette O'Neil (CO) *London & SE*, John Farrow (JF) *Huts link*, and via Skype Mike Spooner (MS) *Student rep*, and Trevor Smith (TS) *co-opted*  
Observer: Chris Bonner (Southampton Climbing Club)

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### 1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence

- 1.1 Apologies received from Oliver Birkill (OB) *National Clubs*, Richard Toon (RT) *North West*, Andy Potter (AP) *Midlands*, Sherry Macliver (SM) *London & SE*, Mark Anstiss (MA) *North East*, Michael Jimenez (MJ) *Student rep*, Will Kilner (WK) *Exec* -

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### 2. Conflicts of Interest

- 2.1 FS is on the Organisational Review Group -  
No other conflicts noted

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### 3. Confirmation of Minutes of previous meeting

- 3.1 Minutes agreed -

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### 4. Matters Arising not on the agenda (Action List)

- 4.1 Updates on actions made to the Action List (see end of minutes)  
4.2 Discussion took place around the format and content of the Annual Report. It was accepted that it is unlikely that changes to the new style would be made so it was agreed that a recommendation be made that the content that used to be in the Annual Report, i.e. club list, would be available in an appendix-style format on the BMC website. This recommendation to be made in the Autumn. **FS**

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### 5. Notice of any other business

- 5.1 Welsh Assembly discussion -  
5.2 Huts Insurance query  
5.3 Glen Brittle hut

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### 6. Sport England Funding

- This discussion expanded in to wider funding and prioritisation of support for clubs -  
6.1 JT reported that the BMC has not yet received a funding agreement or any money from Sport England. It is hoped that a month-on-month agreement may be made during the coming week. Longer-term investment will depend on the outcome of the

- Organisational Review and changes to the governance of the BMC.
- 6.2 FS reported that she was planning on meeting with DT during the coming week and wanted to take the views of the Committee regarding the priorities for funding activities for clubs. **FS**
- The meeting agreed that top priorities would be
- Training for Club Officers
  - Seminar / Roadshow (including Student Seminar)
  - Training your Novice Club Members weekends
  - Student Advisory Group
- Modernisation of the guidance notes would be a slightly lower priority with Training Workshops slightly lower again.
- It was noted that the only element of the above that we may receive funding from Sport England for is the Training your Novice Club Members.
- 6.3 During the discussions the following points were agreed to be important to note during funding negotiations **FS**
- Clubs have a moral right to a proportion of the BMC resources, including funding.
  - It is key to ensure that there is training for club officers (specific to both general clubs and student clubs)
  - It is important that there are still a good range of opportunities to aide in the promotion and justification of BMC membership
  - The BMC is a representative body
- 6.4 Following the meeting between FS & DT is planned to hold a meeting with FS, JT, DT and Alan Brown to finalise funding for club activity. **FS**

**7. National Council (from April meeting)**

- FS reported on the previous National Council meeting
- 7.1 National Council set up a Nominations Committee to look at recruitment of Presidents, Exec members, Patrons, and National Council members. It has now also been tasked to review the role of the Patron and what is expected of them. This group proposed that National Council appoint Nick Kurth as Acting President until the next AGM. **-**
- 7.2 Simon Lee, BMC Commercial Manager, is looking at developing partnerships with commercial organisations in a bid to bring more money in to the BMC to balance out what will be lost through reduced funding from Sport England. There is a list of requirements that potential organisations must meet including having suitable environmental and work ethics, that their aims are aligned to the BMC aims, and that they won't be able to influence BMC policy.
- 7.3 A review was initiated at the February NC meeting to look at governance of the BMC, this was further debated and the remit extended at the April meeting to be a full Organisational Review with an agreed Terms of Reference. There are six people on the group - three are targeted with undertaking a membership survey and delivering focus groups, and the other three targeted with reviewing the governance of the BMC. **-**
- The survey will be live soon with a deadline of completion during the summer in preparation for a report being produced for September.
- Emails will be sent out to members to keep them updated on progress.
- Clubs Comm members are asked to inform their clubs of the survey and focus groups and encourage them to participate. JT & FS to produce text for members to send out via email to their clubs. **ALL FS & JT**

**8. Strategic Plan**

- 8.1 The Strategic Plan is on hold to some degree due to the Organisational Review that is taking place. The draft plan had little reference to clubs and to huts, but the meeting agreed that the final document should fundamentally include points about

clubs and huts.

- 8.2 The following were agreed as key areas that should be included within the strategy.
- Engaging and communicating with clubs members
  - Further promoting the values and opportunities of the BMC to club members
  - Supporting clubs to develop volunteers and to support volunteers within clubs
  - Supporting the student population within clubs
  - Supporting clubs to develop their members
  - Developing huts and maintaining mountaineering heritage via huts
- FS requested that any further thoughts or comments to be made to her prior to 17<sup>th</sup> June (next National Council meeting)
- ALL**

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## 9. Review of IT Strategy

- 9.1 TS gave an overview of the current situation and noted that there is great potential to improve systems within the BMC through the use of IT but capacity is an issue . for example, the MSO has brought significant improvements but was outsourced for development and therefore had a greater cost associated with it. It was noted that Clubs Comm should be making suggestions for improvements but not driving those improvements . that should be the role of the Exec member with responsibility for IT. There needs to be recognition that some of the desired developments from Clubs Comm probably take low priority against some of the other planned IT developments.
- 9.2 JT to contact all Clubs Comm members to request 1-2 additional people to join TS and PS in reviewing the existing IT document and identify what is needed with a proposal to go to the September Clubs Comm meeting for further discussion.
- JT**  
**TS&PS**

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## 10. Engaging with clubs

- 10.1 Clubs Seminar - It was agreed that for 2018 a Clubs Seminar will be held alongside the BMC AGM (date and location to be confirmed at National Council on 17<sup>th</sup> June). Funding will need to be sought from the BMC to run this event. **FS**
- 10.2 Training Events . It had already been agreed that these events are important, reference item 6. Funding will need to be sought from the BMC to continue to run these events. **FS**
- 10.3 Student Clubs . MS & MJ have been contacting student clubs and promoting the Student Action Group. They are slowly getting more interest and response to mailings. Discussion took place about student clubs moving in-and-out of affiliation depending on who is leading the club. It was noted that sometimes SU/AUç put pressure on to clubs. TS to circulate the document showing club membership levels over recent years. MS noted that many student clubs have SU staff contact emails and so wonders how many of the emails actually reach the clubs. MS, MJ, FS and JT to meet (skype) to discuss ways forwards. **TS**  
**MS, MJ, FS, JT**
- 10.4 Profiling . FS reminded members that they need to ensure that they have an understanding of the clubs in their area and start engaging with clubs to find out what support they need. **ALL**
- 10.5 Support . It was agreed to undertake a survey of clubs in the autumn. JT to find the last survey questions and circulate to Clubs Comm members with the aim of approving the questions at the September meeting. TS suggested that a help deskçbe offered to clubs. It was noted that the function already exists but could be made more visible. JT to add to the top of the guidance notes page on the website, on emails etc. **JT**  
**JT**

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## 11. Area Issues

9.1 DB updated the meeting on the situation with the Aldery Cliff in the Peak District.

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**12. BMC Office report**

12.1 JT asked the meeting whether she should continue to encourage clubs to engage with national campaigns to help to recruit members (such as through Women in Sport week) as the response so far has been poor. The general feeling is that this should continue but if dates can be sourced earlier that would be beneficial. JT to continue. **JT**

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**13. AOB**

13.1 Welsh Assembly discussion . PS reported that the Welsh Government discussion on the *Future Landscape Wales* that took place earlier in the week resulted in the motion being passed to take forward, but the Sandford Principle was not addressed. We now need to wait to see what further lobbying or support is needed to protect the National Parks in Wales. **PS**

13.2 Huts Insurance query . JF reported that London MC has raised issues with the insurance available for club members when working on a club hut. The club is in discussion with Perkins Slade regarding this issue, but JF reported that the BMC Huts Group and the MS Huts Group are also working to get clarity on this issues and to ensure that club members are covered. JF to update once further information is known. **JF**

13.3 Glen Brittle hut . JF reported that the GBMH is now listed within the BMC policy and so is fully covered by insurance. Another issue had been identified regarding the liability of the trustees and that is being worked through. JF to update if required. **JF**

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**14. Dates of forthcoming Meetings**

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September, BMC Offices Manchester  
Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November, Peak District venue tbc

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## Clubs Committee Action Sheet

Red . Action not started    Amber . Action underway  
Green . Action complete    Ongoing . Long-term action

Action	Meeting when action initially set	To be done by whom	Action taken	
Action Sheet	Mar 17	ALL	All to update this sheet prior to the next meeting	O
Volunteer Strategy	Sept 16	FS	03/17 - Spoken to Tony and it's in progress 06/17 . Lynn Robinson now leading on this	A
Hut guidance, clubs working together	Sept 16	RT	03/17 - RT to complete	R
Clubs as area meeting agenda item	Sept 16	ALL	03/17 - Completed in some Areas. To be actioned in all other Areas.	A
Older members paper - article	Sept 16	FS & JT	FS - reported back at Dec NC JT . article in production	A
Engaging with your clubs	Nov 16	All	03/17 - Ongoing . deferred to next meeting	A
Wired guides	Nov 16	FS	06/17 - FS to complete	R
JT to include information about local Area support in the New Club Pack	Mar 17	JT	09/17 - Included in pack. Pack going through final proof reading	A
Guidance for clubs in recruiting females, younger people and ethnic minorities	Mar 17	JT	03/17 . JT spoken with Jo Rowbottom re guidance for ethnic minorities and females. A guidance for young people is being produced	A
Lakes, Yorks and N Wales are without a rep. London & SE are short of one rep. Suggestions requested	Mar 17		06/17 . COA appointed in London & SE 06/17 . Lakes & Yorks still without a rep 09/17 . Yorks appointed a rep	A
Changes to camping arrangements in the Loch Lommond & Trossachs NP	Mar 17	ALL	Comments to TS if issues arise with this change	O
Club list to be available in an appendix-style with Annual Report	June 17	FS	Request to be made in September	O
FS to meet with DT regarding funding priorities for clubs	June 17	FS		R
Members to inform their clubs of Membership Survey and focus groups and encourage participation.	June 17	All		R
JT & FS to produce text for members to send out via email to their clubs	June 17	FS & JT		R
All to feedback thoughts on priorities for Strategic Plan by 17 June	June 17	ALL		R
1-2 additional people to review IT strategy document	June 17	JT	Done . request circulated	G
Review of IT strategy to be presented to Sept meeting	June 17	TS & PS	On agenda	A
Clubs Seminar to held alongside 2018 AGM	June 17	FS	Done . request made. AGM to be held in Lakes on 28-29 April 2018	G
Funding to be sought to run training events	June 17	FS	Funding agreed for Club Officer Training, still awaiting Sport England funding	A
TS to circulate club membership levels document	June 17	TS	Done	G
Student Club Skype call to take place to discuss Advisory Group	June 17	MS MJ FS JT	Done - MS FS JT spoke on 26 <sup>th</sup> June	G
Members reminded to continue to profile their clubs	June 17	ALL		R
JT to find questions from last Clubs Survey and circulate to the committee	June 17	JT	09/17 Questions found. Timing of survey to be reviewed	A
JT to add help desk to guidance notes page	June 17	JT	Completed	G
JT to continue to promote national campaigns that lay help clubs to recruit members	June 17	JT		O
PS to update committee with Future Landscape Wales progress	June 17	PS		R
JF to update committee on insurance for members working on a club hut	June 17	JF	Responses received from Perkins Slade. Further guidance to be provided to clubs.	G

JF to update on liability of trustees at BMC huts	June 17	JF		R
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