

BRITISH MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL

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Members' Council

Notes of the Members' Council meeting held on Tuesday 19th December 2023

In Attendance

Voting Members - Elected Councillors

President	Andy Syme
Peak Area Rep, and Deputy President	Sean Milner
Peak Area Rep	Sam Harris
South -West Area Rep and Council Nominated Director	Trevor Smith
North-East Area Rep	Jonathan White
Midlands Area Rep	Ian Wyatt
Lakes Area Rep	Dave Brown
North-west Area Rep and Council Nominated Director	Andy Say
North-West Area Rep	Bill Beverage
Yorkshire Area Rep	Richard Eden
Cymru North Wales Area Rep	Tarquin Shipley
NEC Indoor Climbing Rep	Stuart Holmes

Standing Observers

Hill Waking Group	Peter Judd
Huts Committee Chair	Lynsey McCauley
Clubs Committee Chair	Paul Justin
Council Nominated Director	Pete Selenieks

Also attending

GB Climbing Head of Performance	Lorraine Brown
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30. Welcome and apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Jon Punshon, Dorian Thomas, and Roger Murray

Ian Wyatt noted that Claudia Sarner's terms as a Councillor has now expired and she will not be extending her term.

Action: Andy Syme to send note of thanks to all Councillors that have left recently.

31. Note Conflicts of Interest

None noted.

32. Urgent Issues for AoB

David Brown: Membership Agenda item. (See AoB below)

33. Update on Previous Actions

- NEC and Indoor Climbing report is with Paul Ratcliffe
- EDI training for MC will be on 06/04/2024, this is planned to be an in-person meeting in Manchester Head Office.
- Gavin to produce membership development progress in due course.
- MC to review its ToR in 2024.

34. LA 28

Lorraine Brown gave a presentation on the preparations and developments required for bid submission to UK Sport re: Los Angeles Olympics 2028. See presentation submitted but **NOTE: This material is confidential and is not to be shared outside group.**

Some points of note are:

- This is an opportunity for transformational change, 2021-2025 a cycle of performance building.
- After Paris 2024 climbing will be firmly established as an Olympic sport and will continue in to the Los Angeles and Brisbane Olympic cycles.
- UKSport has two levels of programme: World Class & Development. The UK is currently at the top of Development and requires substantial programming and environmental developments to move into World Class. This is making the move from qualifying to achieving podiums.
- The UK has doubled the number of eligible athletes from Tokyo to Paris: 4 to 8.
- Bid to be submitted 12/01/2024.
- National Governing Bodies (NGB) will not be asked to be co-contributors for LA 28 bid.

Tarquín Shipley asked if the last point would enable BMC to claw back the £200k overspend? Lorraine Brown: No, the LA 28 bid is specifically for that period.

Stuart Homes asked: How do we strike a balance between being an NGB and a representative body? Lorraine Brown: Agreed this is not currently clear but should be addressed during the review of the BMC's long term strategy.

Pete Selenieks asked: Why are the competition values are different to those of the BMC? Lorraine Brown: This is a subject to be discussed before submission.

35. Budget 2024

Andy Syme read a statement from Roger Murray who was unable to attend this evening.

- As of 15/12/2023 UKSport agreed that BMC accounting and report are satisfactory.
- End of 2023 BMC will be just above its minimum Reserve level.
- There has been a £300k increase in BMC insurance policy cost due to an accident at a crag. A further accident of similar consequence in the near future could render the BMC un-insurable.

Johnathan White asked where the £200k overspend had been spent? Andy Syme: this level of detail has not yet been determined.

Johnathan White: this means the overspend will be carried over into 2024 and this is unacceptable. A discussion followed about the possibility of engaging an external consultant to carry out the investigative and planning work as there appears not to be sufficient capacity

internally to do this. Personnel currently undertaking the task are: Flavia Alzetta, Alan Brown, Iain Dickinson and Rosie Yule.

Andy Syme put up a poll to assess views of those present on asking the Board to explore all possible avenues to resolve this matter. Agree: 93%; Disagree: 7%; Abstain: 0%.

Action: Andy Syme to write to the Board requesting that they investigate engaging an external consultant to expedite overspend detailed investigation.

Action: Andy Syme to send out a note via Teamwork to assess views of Councilors on whether or not to hold an extraordinary council meeting to consider the budget *etc.* in a single agenda item meeting.

35. NomCom Update

Sean Milner advised that:

- A new CEO has been selected, contract under negotiation.
- CEO announcement is due on 22/12/2023
- Two independent Directors have reached the end of their term. One had agreed to continue, the other does not wish to do so. So a job description has been prepared to ensure a skills match for new appointment of an Independent Director. Due to be filled by February 2024.

Jonathan White asked: Given the performance issues in some areas, what will be done differently in 2024? Sean Milner: there is a requirement for continuity. Also some areas of poor performance have been linked to vacancies and lack of capacity.

David Brown asked: When will new CEO be in post? Andy Syme: expected to be end of February 2024.

Task and Finish Group

Sean Milner explained that members of staff, board and council have been selected for more detailed discussion of work between these groups. Invitations are expected to go out before Christmas with meetings to begin in New Year.

38. AoB

David Brown asked: do we think there should be a vision event for the BMC as a whole? Where will the BMC be in five/ten/fifteen years' time?

There was widespread agreement for this suggestion and some discussion as to what may be required to enable it to take place.

Andy Syme: BMC strategy ends next year, this would be good time to address this - vision should precede strategy.

Sean Milner: new CEO will want to be involved in this discussion.

David Brown: this should be led by Council as the Membership representatives. What do members want?

Sam Harris: this should be taken to Area Meetings.

Ian Wyatt: If strategy is due for renew next year then perhaps a way forward could be for Staff, Board, Council and all specialist committees to produce their vision; for this to be

collated into a BMC vision text that could be taken to whole membership for critique, addition, amendment *etc.*

Stuart Holmes: this would be a good topic for the National Forum but this is itself still to be fully developed.

Action: Sean Milner to ensure that membership is a discrete item on the next agenda.

Stuart Holmes: raised a concern that despite the positive comments from GBC, he is still receiving contact from very unhappy and frustrated athletes that not enough is changing fast enough in GBC.

Andy Syme: advised that Stuart pass this information over to Paul Ratcliffe.

Richard Eden: has received a question from athletes concerned that their coach is not able to enter the USA so how will the affect them for LA Olympics? Andy Syme: BMC is obligate to provide a stadium coach.

Andy Syme: Willis is doing very in the Continental Cup; final will be held in Sunderland. There were also Golds and Silver for the Under 18 and 20; current youth World Champion. Preparations are underway for ice climbing to be sports in the Winter Olympics 2030, 2034, 2038.

Jonathan White: Perhaps mountaineering achievements could be added as agenda items at future meetings? Andy Syme: Arun (International Committee) has information on grants from elite to entry level and could provide an update.

Action: Sean Milner to add mountaineering update to future agenda.

39. Date of next meetings

Pre- March 19, 7pm, Zoom

Full- April 6, likely to be in-person, Manchester

Post- April 16, 7pm, Zoom

Item	Action	Involving	Target date
30	Send note of thanks to all Councilors that have left recently.	Andy Syme	Done
35	Write to Board requesting that they investigate engaging an external consultant to expedite overspend detailed investigation.	Andy Syme	Done
35	Send out a note via Teamwork to assess views of Councilors on whether or not to hold an extraordinary council meeting to consider the budget <i>etc.</i> in a single agenda item meeting.	Andy Syme	Done
38	Ensure that Membership is a discrete item on the next agenda.	Sean Milner	For next meeting
38	Add mountaineering update to future agenda.	Sean Milner	Suitable meeting

The above is accepted as an accurate record of the meeting:

26/2/24

Signed

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. G.', written over a horizontal line.

Date
