

## BRITISH MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL

177-179 Burton Road  
Manchester M20 2BB  
www.thebmc.co.uk

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

### BMC NATIONAL COUNCIL

Minutes of the 61st National Council meeting held on Saturday 15 September 2018,  
Thornbridge Outdoors, Great Longstone.

#### In attendance

##### Voting members:

President	Lynn Robinson	(LR)	Chair
Vice President	John Roberts	(JR)	
Honorary Treasurer	Graham Richmond	(GR)	
CEO	Dave Turnbull	(DT)	
Cymru North Wales	Anthony Eccles	(AE)	
Cymru South Wales	Will Kilner	(WK)	
Cymru South Wales	Steve Quinton	(SQ)	
Lakes	Fiona Sanders	(FS)	
Lakes	Mike Parsons	(MP)	
London & South East	Lisa Payne	(LP)	
London & South East	Rik Payne	(RP)	
Midlands	Claudia Sarner	(CSa)	
Midlands	Roger Fanner	(RF)	
North East	Mark Anstiss	(MA)	
North West	Andy Say	(ASa)	
North West	Carl Spencer	(CSp)	
Peak	David Brown	(DB)	
Peak	Alison Cairns	(AC)	
South West	Helen Wilson	(HW)	
Yorkshire	Andy Syme	(ASy)	
Yorkshire	Mick Green	(MG)	

##### Observers:

Independent Director	Amanda Parshall	(AP)	
Independent Director	Matthew Bradbury	(MB)	
Independent Director	Simon McCalla	(SM)	
Association of British Climbing Walls	Rich Emerson	(RE)	
Clubs Committee	Peter Salenieks	(PS)	
Land Management Group	Martin Wragg	(MW)	
Mountain Training	Guy Jarvis	(GJ)	

##### Others in attendance:

Deputy CEO	Nick Colton	(NC)	
Secretary	Tony Ryan	(TR)	
Clubs & Partnerships Officer	Jane Thompson	(JT)	

Prior to commencement of agenda-related business, BMC clubs & partnerships Officer Jane Thompson gave a presentation, followed by a Q&A session, on the impact of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) on BMC volunteers involved in managing data. The presentation will be uploaded to Teamwork for National Council members to view.

Note: \* = supporting paper circulated.

<b>1. Welcome, apologies and notification of items for AOB</b>	<b>Actions</b>
<b>1.1 Welcome</b>	
1.1.1 Lynn Robinson welcomed everyone to the meeting, particularly John Roberts and Amanda Parshall, both newly elected at the June AGM as vice-president and independent director respectively.	
1.1.2 LR thanked everyone for their support in the run-up to the AGM, the outcome of which gave a strong mandate for the BMC to proceed with the ORG Phase II recommendations. The adopted Articles of Association (AoA) clarify the position of the Board of Directors (BoD) and National Council (NC); the role of NC being to ensure the BoD acts upon the wishes of members and to hold the Board to account for its actions as necessary.	
<b>1.2 Apologies</b>	
1.3.1 Apologies received from: Cressida Allwood, Iain Dickinson, Jackie Bryson, Emma Flaherty, Dan Lane, Dave Musgrove, Jon Punshon, and Mike Rosser.	
<b>1.3 AOB</b>	
1.3.1 Calendar of events (LR) – note: not discussed due to time constraints.	
<b>2. Minutes of the previous meeting*</b>	
<b>2.1 Accuracy of previous minutes</b>	
2.1.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 15 June 2018 were agreed as an accurate record and were duly signed by the Chair.	<b>Agreed</b>
<b>2.2 Actions from previous minutes</b>	
2.2.1 Ref. 5.2.1: Develop and circulate Code of Conduct	<b>In Progress</b>
2.2.2 Ref. 5.3.2: Send out abridged Exec minutes to NC members	<b>Done</b>
2.2.3 Ref. 5.3.4: Produce and circulate 'Conduct of Councillors' paper	<b>In Progress</b>
2.2.4 Ref. 6.1.1: Investigate missing figures from line 54 of budget Graham Richmond explained that the figures had not been included due to uncertainty of grant funding.	<b>Done</b>
2.2.5 Ref. 8.1.1: 2019 meeting dates, circulate draft to Sept NC meeting	<b>Done</b>
<b>2.3 Minute taking policy</b>	
2.3.1 Rik Payne reminded the meeting that the June meeting had agreed to the trial of a 'halfway house' format for the minutes, i.e. incorporating some context, but not as full as previous minutes, and not just a straight record of decisions. The June meeting had also agreed it might be useful to record meetings if any technical issues could be resolved.	
<b>3. Matters arising not covered elsewhere</b>	
3.1 Will Kilner asked about progress on the recommendations which the June 2018 National Council meeting had agreed could be implemented outside of the work of the Implementation Group.	
<b>4. Constitutional issues</b>	
<b>4.1 Implementation Group*</b>	
4.1.1 John Roberts gave an update on the work of the group.	
4.1.2 The Project Manager role had been accepted by one of the candidates (Dave Stanley) interviewed earlier in the week.	

- 4.1.3 It was proposed that the group's name be changed to the Organisational Development Group (ODG), which more accurately reflects its role and mandate.

Andy Say felt the proposed name change was positive; the meeting unanimously agreed to change the name to the Organisational Development Group.

**Agreed**

- 4.1.4 The ODG's work has been divided into eight workstreams, four which are largely operational and Board led, and four which are largely policy related and National Council / member led. The Board workstreams are: Strategy and Vision; Operations and Finance; Culture, Leadership and Management; Corporate Structure. The National Council workstreams are: Governance; Policy; Partnerships; Membership Engagement.

Naturally, there will be some overlap of the workstreams, as well as the need to form sub-groups to address particular aspects of the work.

- 4.1.5 JR suggested the main objectives of today's meeting are to:

- a) review the Terms of Reference of both the ODG and the Governance workstream;
- b) respond to actions in the Governance workstream plan; and
- c) provide input to, and nominate members for the NC Reconstitution sub-group.

- 4.1.6 **a. Terms of Reference**

The ODG is defined as a sub-committee of the BoD, and its role is to make recommendations to the BoD to enable it to implement organisational change in line with the spirit of the recommendations of the Organisational Review. The ToR set out the aim and scope, objectives, responsibilities, and ways of working of the ODG.

Alison Cairns felt the grammatical sense of 2.2 could be improved, and in 2.3 of the ODG ToR, ASy suggested that 'must seek consensus from the Board' should be changed to 'must seek a decision from the Board'.

As general recommendations, Mick Green asked to see succinct documents, and Anthony Eccles urged the use of plain English.

The aim of the Governance workstream, as described in its ToR, is to ensure the correct governance framework and structures are in place to effectively administer the BMC, and hold the BoD to account. It is expected the work will result in a rewrite of elements of the 2018 AoA.

JR to amend the ToR in view of the above comments and present to the 17 Oct BoD meeting.

**JR**

- 4.1.7 **b. Governance workstream plan**

There are eight distinct areas for the workstream to review; Board Structure; Recruitment of Chair; National Council structure; Memorandum of Understanding (MoU); Board Communications; Legal and Compliance Strategy; Specialist Committees and Working Groups; further updates to the AoA identified following the ORG Phase I process.

- 4.1.8 With regard to recruiting a NC member for the MoU sub-group, Will Kilner suggested Carl Spencer for the role. CSp said he was interested, and felt the MoU was important in winning back the trust of those who had proposed the Option B AGM resolution.

A vote was taken, proposed by WK and seconded by Fiona Sanders. The meeting unanimously agreed CSp for the MoU sub-group.

**Agreed**

Andy Syme added that a Board member needed to be appointed to this workstream.

- 4.1.9 ASy asked members to review the 2018 AoA and identify any further areas they believe need clarification; comments to be sent to him by 30 November.

**Noted**

The Governance workstream ToR and plans were accepted by NC, subject to any changes coming out of feedback from the November area meetings.

**Noted**

4.1.10 **c. National Council reconstitution**

LR noted that the arrangements for the transitional period (ref: Schedule 2 of the new AoA) commit the BMC to holding the next AGM in Quarter 1 of 2019. Saturday 30 March is the proposed date and accordingly, the 45 clear day deadline for submission resolutions and nominations is Tuesday 12 February.

The AGM date was agreed. The potential venue was discussed. There was no strong feeling from NC, therefore LR said that she would ask the office to proceed with investigating and booking a venue.

**Agreed**

**LR**

There was a discussion about what could realistically be achieved by the AGM, and whether there was an option to postpone the AGM (or hold a General Meeting later in the year) if agreement on reconstitution could not be agreed by then.

It was noted some members might feel the process was being rushed without sufficient consultation, whereas others did not want it to drag on. Simon McCalla said ultimately the Board has to decide what is critical to take to the AGM.

It was agreed to reschedule the reconstitution process to the 2020 AGM, balanced against our commitment to Sport England to deliver a new organisational structure.

**Agreed**

- 4.1.11 The NC Reconstitution sub-group is to include two NC members, one with in-depth knowledge of the ORG process, and one with interest in this area. ASa and FS expressed interest in the former role, Mark Anstiss and David Brown in the latter. Following a vote, ASa and MA were appointed.

**Noted**

Two further members of the group remain to be appointed: a specialist committee / working group rep; and a partners' rep. Rich Emerson noted that the Climb Group (BMC, MTE, MTUK, ABC, ABCTT) meets on 17 September and could consider this point.

**4.2 President and Chair role descriptions\***

- 4.2.1 LR introduced the paper, noting the responsibility matrix is not a definitive list and that some flexibility is needed given that it is not yet known who will be appointed as chair.

- 4.2.2 Martin Wragg commented that the matrix included responsibility for the BMC Land & Property Trust, but not for the BMC's other two subsidiaries, the Access & Conservation Trust (ACT) and the Mountain Heritage Trust (MHT). (post meeting note: this is because LPT specifically requires the President to be a trustee whereas the other trusts do not).

- 4.2.3 There was a discussion about whether the MoU should feature in the role descriptions. Several members felt that the MoU should function as a backstop for when things go wrong in the relationship between the Board and National Council/Members' Assembly. SMC felt the MoU should reflect a convergence of wills, not a difference.
- 4.2.4 Guy Jarvis referred to the MoU between the Mountain Training Boards, which works as a guide for joint understanding and partnership working, rather than a backstop, for which its effectiveness would be limited anyway by the fact that it's not a legal contract.
- It was agreed to add a note to the President role description referring to the MoU. **Agreed**
- 4.2.5 WK felt the matrix should include responsibility for bodies in Wales, including the Welsh Assembly and Sport Wales. **Agreed**
- 4.2.6 Nick Colton felt the new EU Mountaineering Association (EUMA) should be added to the UIAA and IFSC liaison responsibilities. **Agreed**
- 4.2.7 Agreed to revise role descriptions and responsibilities matrix and circulate via Teamwork. **LR/DT**
- 4.3 2019 dates (National Council, Board, Finance, Areas, AGM)\***
- 4.3.1 ASy pointed out the February NC date was just before a Board meeting, and asked whether it may be better if it came after. The Board meeting date had been set in relation to the 45 clear day AGM resolution / nomination deadline, and it was felt that a meeting just after the deadline would be useful. The timing of the NC meeting was linked to the scheduling of the Jan/Feb Area meetings.
- 4.3.2 Lisa Payne reminded the meeting of the decision made at the Sept 2017 meeting to hold NC meetings within a 'central beltway'.
- 4.3.3 FS wondered whether holding Area meetings after NC might be more effective. RP felt the primary direction of communications was upwards therefore it made sense to hold Area meetings before NC.
- 4.3.4 The meeting expressed a preference for the AGM to be in an outdoor location, rather than an urban one. WK said many outdoor education centres should be able to accommodate us at that time of the year.
- 4.3.5 The proposed 2019 NC and Area meetings dates were approved; the Board will decide its meeting dates following appointment of Chair. **Agreed**
- 5. Policy issues**
- 5.1 Strategic Plan\***
- 5.1.1 DT began by explaining the evolution of the draft document as presented. For the past 10 years or more the BMC's strategic plan has been a lengthy, text heavy document which has listed all of the BMC's work and has not been a particularly accessible way of demonstrating to members the strategic focus of the BMC's work.
- 5.1.2 In mid-2016 DT had begun a process of reviewing current best practice in other sports – including cycling, tennis, canoeing, rugby union and sailing – and concluded that the BMC should produce a new form of strategic plan, i.e. an attractive 4-8 page high level and accessible document, full colour (graphics and imagery) and text light.

An initial scoping document was produced in late 2016 and this formed the starting point for discussion at a two-day joint NC and Executive Committee workshop in early February 2017. Further to this a draft plan was presented to the Feb 2017 NC meeting. The process was then overtaken by the motion of no confidence and ORG, and went on hold for c.18 months.

- 5.1.3 DT noted that whilst the draft document as presented had been reviewed by members of the Board it remains very much a work in progress which requires initial feedback by National Council members, and amendment, before being put out to the wider membership. It was noted the detailed review and implementation of the ORG recommendations would very likely form the main focus of the BMC's work over the period of the new strategic plan.

The document was discussed section-by-section and the following points were agreed:

5.1.4 **a. Agreed consultation process**

- Seek feedback on initial draft from board members (Aug / Sep 2018)
- Initial discussion at National Council on 15 September
- Circulate and discuss amongst BMC staff
- Post on BMC website and invite feedback
- Update and circulate to 17 October Board meeting for discussion
- Update and circulate to the November Area meetings
- Review at the 1 December National Council meeting
- Depending on progress: Board to agree in January 2019 or further discussion by the Areas & National Council with a view to final agreement February

5.1.5 **b. Purpose & function of the BMC**

There was general agreement to the use of Past / Present / Future (see below) as a way of describing the BMC's overall purpose and function; some minor wording amendments were recorded.

**Past:** Where we've come from – promoting our heritage, values & ethics.

- Acting as the guardian of the unique ethics of British climbing & mountaineering.
- Celebrating the rich history and heritage of British climbing & mountaineering.
- Maintaining the historical record of British climbing & mountaineering.

**Present:** Where we are now – meeting the needs of members.

- Preserving the freedoms and protecting the interests of climbers & mountaineers.
- Working with partners; supporting clubs, individuals and the transition from indoor to outdoor climbing and into clubs.
- Providing services, information and guidance to help members pursue their activities in a well informed and environmentally sensitive way.

**Future:** Where we're going – keeping an eye to the future.

- Supporting activities, events and opportunities for newcomers to climbing & mountaineering.
- Connecting and communicating with all those with an interest in our activities.
- Promoting British climbing & mountaineering ethics and heritage amongst new generations.

As a guideline DT asked for views on the how much BMC time and resource should be assigned to each category – Past / Present / Future; he suggested perhaps 20% / 60% / 20%. This was not discussed in detail although no immediate reservations were expressed so this may be a reasonable proposition.

#### 5.1.6 **c. Vision and mission statements**

There was a discussion about whether the review of vision and mission statements should form part of the strategic planning process (i.e. based on the timeline in 5.1.4. above) or whether it should be a standalone facilitated process. No firm conclusion was reached on this point.

The pros and cons of the existing vision and mission statements and suggested new statements were discussed. Some NC members felt the existing statements should be retained for the time being while others felt the BMC's vision statement, *'The organisation that every climber and hill walker wants to join'* is not truly a vision statement and should be changed, and also that the mission statement requires updating.

There was no appetite for one of the vision statement suggestions, *'A nation inspired to climb and walk'*.

Several NC members supported one of the suggested mission statements, i.e:

*'To promote the interests and protect the freedoms of climbers, hill walkers and mountaineers; to celebrate our heritage, promote sustainable access to the cliff and mountain environment and engage new generations in the development of our activities'*.

#### 5.1.7 **d. Organisational values**

The Feb 2017 strategy workshop had identified a number of key organisational values as follows:

*Integrity / Authority / Reliability / Inclusivity*

This was discussed in brief with the conclusion further thought is needed.

AP and others suggested that more meaningful 'BMC specific' values should be identified. Examples might include:

*Member focused / Open to all / Respecting our heritage / Promoting responsible access / Conserving cliffs & mountains / In touch with new generations*

#### 5.1.8 **e. Strategic priorities**

The draft document identified the following three key strategic priorities (each of which included detailed tasks and actions):

##### **1. Organisational Development and Change**

Detailed evaluation and implementation of the Organisational Review Phase II recommendations.

##### **2. Financial Stability and Resource Allocation**

Detailed review of BMC's financial structures, funding options and resource allocation in the light of evolving organisational priorities.

### 3. Volunteers and Staff

Implementation of measures to encourage and support volunteers; new HR procedures to review and monitor the efficiency of the staff and office.

It was agreed that this should be amended to include an additional priority focused on members, i.e. to improve the BMC's support for members and broader participants in climbing and hill walking activities (note: precise wording to be defined).

DT

#### 5.1.9 f. Additional points noted

- The link between the ORG headline recommendations and the key strategic priorities should be made clearer (point made by FS).
- The 'Strategy Wheel' graphic may need further amendment (e.g. to include increased prominence of 'Members').
- An additional document may be needed to set out the detailed processes through which the BMC will address its strategic priorities; a business plan will be needed alongside the strategic plan (point made by MB).
- The principle of using the ORG recommendations as the focus for the strategic plan was agreed as a reasonable way to proceed.

#### 5.2 Climbing in the Olympics: draft position paper\*

5.2.1 DT presented a draft paper which attempted to set out the BMC's position on climbing as an Olympic sport. The paper had been produced by DT in response to ORG recommendation 15 that: *'The BMC should give clarity to members, partners and stakeholders on its level of support for the Olympics.'*

Board members had commented on an earlier draft and the text had been agreed by Competitions Committee chair and key volunteers and staff involved with competition climbing. Comments from NC members were invited in advance of the paper being published on the BMC website.

5.2.2 The following points were agreed:

- a. Add a reference to the BMC's relationship to the UIAA and IFSC viz competition climbing and the Olympics.
- b. Redraft to clarify the BMC's commitment to transparency over the financing of competition climbing.
- c. Amend specific wording of the fourth bullet point under the section headed 'Clarification of the BMC's current position', by removing 'new and potential' so that it reads, *'...the BMC will work closely with these organisations to help climbers develop their interest and involvement in the sport'*.

With the above changes the document was agreed.

Agreed

#### 5.3 Code of Conduct for members

5.3.1 NC reported that the working group had met the previous evening. Feedback received on the draft document suggests the tone is not yet quite right and that further work is needed.

Nick Colton

5.3.2 AC felt we should reconsider the name, and MA asked who the Code related to, and queried whether we should be telling members how to behave. RP felt the Code should balance rights with responsibilities. It was suggested we look at what other organisations do, e.g. the Ramblers, National Trust and NHS Trusts.

#### 5.4 Land Acquisition Policy\*



5.4.1 MW advised that the Land Management Group had managed the BMC properties for c.15 years, and that the current acquisition policy dates from the beginning of that period. The new draft sets out more fully the procedures to be followed when a potential acquisition is evaluated.

5.4.2 MB asked whether a disposal policy had ever been considered. ASa felt that most members would have an expectation that any acquisition made by the BMC would be in perpetuity.

5.4.3 The updated policy was agreed.

**Agreed**

LR asked MW to pass on thanks to the LMG for its work.

## **6. Reports**

### **6.1 Partners\***

6.1.1 **Mountain Training\***. GJ thanked National Council for the invitation to submit a report, which outlined the latest policy / development work, governance-related activity and finance / funding news; he commended the report to the meeting.

6.1.2 **Mountaineering Scotland**. DT reported on a recent meeting with the new MS CEO Stuart Younie, and LR added that she had spoken with the President, Mike Watson.

6.1.3 DT also reported on a recent meeting with representatives from the Alpine Club and an SRA event where he had had a lengthy discussion with the incoming CEO of Sport England, Tim Hollingsworth, who replaces Jennie Price in November. He also referred to the Climb Group meeting on 17 September.

### **6.2 Areas\***

6.2.1 **Cymru North Wales\***. AE reported that 25 people attended the meeting, including LR.

At Craig y Forwyn, the BMC is still in negotiation with the landowner of the central (Great Wall) section of the crag but these negotiations have been delayed at the request of the landowners, until a planning application for the redevelopment of the caravan park has been resolved.

Climbers have been reminded to ensure the gate to the agreed parking area is not left open, otherwise access may be jeopardised.

On the Great Orme, Conwy Council has given permission for the access path to Lower Pen Trwyn to be improved, with the addition of some steps (in the lower part only).

A live weather system is soon to be installed on the summit of Snowdon, and will be linked from the BMC website.

An application will be made to the BMC Access & Conservation Trust for funds to install a new bridge at Nant Peris (on the path to Elidir Fawr) to replace the one washed away.

The 2019 Eisteddfod will be held in Llanrwst (2-10 August). Clwb Mynydda Cymru will have a stand and has asked if the BMC would like to be involved.

6.2.2 **Cymru South Wales\***. Steve Quinton reported that 16 people attended the meeting, which was held to coincide with the BMC Gower Climbing Festival.

A number of belay stakes have been replaced in Pembrokeshire, and this has exhausted the BMC supply of stakes. A policy for checking, maintaining and replacing belay stakes would be useful, as well as consideration of other sustainable solutions for lack of cliff-top belays.

Elfyn Jones reported that little progress had been made since the Welsh Government access consultation, and there is still no sign of improvements to coastal access.

The meeting also discussed how to make meetings more informative and to focus on local issues rather than organisational procedures and governance. It also discussed how to get more support from BMC office for festival organisers which could improve attendance and make the events easier to organise. LR had attended the meeting and emphasised her desire to see that BMC volunteers are well supported.

- 6.2.3 **Lakes\***. FS reported that 28 people attended the meeting, with attendance helped by the pre-meeting publication of an area newsletter and a review of other communication methods employed to engage members.

The meeting covered two main issues: footpath construction in the national park, and parking, particularly at Seathwaite, Borrowdale.

Some members had expressed concerns about the approach taken by Fix the Fells (FTF) to footpath construction and maintenance. A site visit with FTF has been arranged, and FTF reps will be invited to the next area meeting.

At Seathwaite, the road head is a major access point for the central fells including Scafell Pike, and the available parking does not meet the demand.

The national park's plans seem to promote growth in tourism without an appropriate short or medium term transport plan, particularly to relieve car parking problems at the honey pot valley heads.

The area would like NC and the Board to work with the National Trust and other agencies to influence the national park authority to make its transport plan more practical in the short term.

DT advised that we already have good contacts with the National Trust and agreed to speak with the Assistant Director of Operations (Cumbria) and report back to FS and MP.

DT

- 6.2.4 **London & SE\***. RP reported that 20 people attended the meeting.

A Sandstone Open Meeting will be held on 7 Oct, where the issue of the bridge at Harrison's Rocks will be debated for the final time, following which a decision will be made by the Land Management Group and the Harrison's Rocks Management Group.

Vic Odell (CC President) had attended the meeting and asked that his concerns be conveyed that no BMC officers or Board members attended the memorial service for former BMC president Mark Vallance.

RP and LP will be standing down from their respective roles of area chair and area secretary after the November meeting, as they will be moving out of the area; RP will remain as an area rep on NC until after the AGM on 30 March. LR thanked them both for the great support they had given the area and the BMC.

6.2.5 **Midlands\***. Roger Fanner reported that 37 people had attended the meeting.

Claudia Sarner said several clubs in the area had reported a proportion of their membership was unhappy with BMC affiliation for various reasons. The Bowline CC has proposed that the BMC reviews its club affiliation process including consideration of a two-tier membership scheme.

There was some discussion about how best to respond to this proposal, as well as generally improving engagement with clubs and better articulating the benefits of club affiliation.

DT said that a debate on club members having optional affiliation to the BMC had occurred in 2008-9 and that was once again on the Clubs Committee agenda. DT also offered to attend a meeting of the Bowline CC to discuss this in more detail.

6.2.6 **North East\***. MA reported on a poorly attended meeting (9 people), in part due to members having lost interest due to the focus on constitutional / governance / issues over the past 12+ months.

The area is planning a 2019 climbing and walking festival on 11/12 May; it is also enthusiastic about the possibility of hosting a youth meet in 2019.

6.2.7 **North West\***. CSp reported that 9 people attended the meeting. A very successful WiltonFest event had taken place shortly before the meeting at which regular attendees had the opportunity to discuss issues informally.

The meeting had discussed whether Area meetings should be held after NC, during the Phase II implementation period, to enable the NC reps to report more effectively to the areas.

6.2.8 **Peak\***. AC reported that 54 people attended the meeting, slightly down on the typical attendance figure.

Negotiations on the precautionary access restrictions at Ravensdale are ongoing.

A meeting has been arranged in October for people interested in volunteering as Peak access reps, and to consider the coverage by reps within the area.

A new area festival, celebrating South Peak limestone is taking place during the NC weekend, and the annual Outside Crag Clean Up was held last weekend, with support from the BMC.

Concern was raised about whether the BMC's involvement in organising or promoting 'mass participation events' such as the Great Ridge Walk or the Women's Trad Festival was contributing to erosion and overcrowding problems. The general feeling at the meeting was that the BMC does a good job of promoting environmental responsibility and running events sensitively.

6.2.9 **South West**. Helen Wilson reported that 12 people attended the meeting.

The meeting agreed an amendment to the South Devon fixed gear policy, permitting belay bolts on natural cliffs to be set back from the crag top should other belay solutions be failing.

A series of sea cliff safety films are now on BMC TV and the 'teamBMC' channel on YouTube; there are six films covering: approaching a route; conditions and decision making; abseil, retreat & escape; fixed gear; rock quality; medicine & emergencies. Difficulties persist with attempts to build relationships with the coastguard service.

Pete Callaghan had submitted a progress report to the meeting on the working group which is tasked, under the guidance of the Training, Youth & Walls Committee, with developing a proposal for an incident reporting system.

6.2.10 **Yorkshire\***. ASy reported that 27 people attended the meeting.

Access issues at Malham and Kilnsey, particularly with regard to parking, have not been so prominent this year.

A clean-up day at Brimham Rocks is planned for 29 September co-ordinated by Paul Clarke.

Baldon Town Council is planning to redevelop the site of Ian Clough Hall, and is likely to demolish the building. The area is keen to see Ian's name retained when the redevelopment plans are finalised.

The area is considering holding a climbing and walking festival.

**6.3 Board of Directors\***

6.3.1 RP reported there had been two Board meetings since the previous NC meeting, the first a brief meeting following the AGM, at which an Interim Chair (SMc) was appointed. The meeting also agreed to reconstitute the Nominations Committee, to enable it to undertake the recruitment of a full-time Chair.

6.3.2 At the second meeting, held in mid-July, the Board considered the important role-split between the President and Chair, and plans for implementing the ORG Phase II recommendations were discussed in detail.

6.3.3 SMc advised that summaries of Board meetings are now produced and published on the BMC website within a day or two of each meeting, and that redacted minutes are similarly published as soon as they are completed.

6.4.4 CSp said the abridged minutes of the May Exec meeting were not available at the June NC meeting. An action from the June meeting was for those minutes to be circulated to NC members, and this was done by Tony Ryan on 13 July along with the draft minutes of the June NC meeting.

**6.4 President**

6.4.1 LR gave a verbal report of her activities since the AGM; she had also published a report on the BMC website in early August.

6.4.2 LR has been busy actively meeting members, volunteers and partners including: judging at the Junior British Bouldering Championships; attending the Women's Trad Festival; meeting hill walking reps and members of the Hill Walking Working Group, visiting Plas y Brenin and Ogwen Valley Mountain Rescue; attending the Gower Climbing Festival and some of the September area meetings.

6.4.3 LR also plans to attend the Women's Climbing Symposium (London) and is speaking at the Women in Adventure Sport conference (Glenmore Lodge) in October.

## **6.5 CEO & Office**

- 6.5.1 DT gave a verbal report. He felt that the AGM had given the BMC a strong mandate to continue the development of the organisational change proposed by the ORG. Care will need to be taken with the additional level of bureaucracy required to integrate the work of the ODG with that of National Council and the Board.
- 6.5.2 Sport England has given verbal confirmation that it will continue to provide funding to the BMC following the decisive AGM vote.
- 6.5.3 The crowdfunding campaign period for Mend Our Mountains: Make One Million has now begun, and DT plans to provide more support to the campaign now that governance issues are not consuming so much time and resource.

## **6.6 Finance\***

- 6.6.1 Graham Richmond advised that Sport England grant money had been approved but not yet received.
- 6.6.2 The budget (assuming grant application is agreed) was set with an expected surplus of £23k with the current year-end forecast being £8k.
- 6.6.3 Negative adjustments included legal costs of the governance changes and further costs due to the change in AGM date.
- 6.6.4 Positive adjustments included a small increase in travel insurance income, strong sales of the new Peak Limestone South guidebook and a surplus made by the Alpine Skills lecture series.
- 6.6.5 Membership was up by 1.65%, from 83,960 at 01/06/17 to 85,345 at 01/06/18.
- 6.6.6 Cash reserves are up on the previous year. The balance sheet still remains healthy, with the net current assets figure standing at £657k.

## **7. Club applications for membership**

### **7.1 Applications accepted since previous meeting\***

- 7.1.1 Three new club affiliation applications had been processed and accepted since the June National Council meeting: Crystal Palace Outdoor Climbing Club (accepted 4 July); Defence Army Academy (accepted 17 July); Senderismo en Londres Ltd (Hiking in London Ltd) (accepted 14 August).

## **8. AOB**

### **8.1 Hill walking strategy**

- 8.1.1 RF reported there had been little progress on implementation of the strategy, due mainly to Sport England funding issues. The strategy is to be resubmitted to the Board, and Peter Judd would like to attend the December NC meeting to give an update.
- 8.1.2 DT said discussions with Sport England were still in flux, and that it appears unlikely they are prepared to fund the work.

### **8.2 National Council communications**

- 8.2.1 MP felt NC members should come to meeting to contribute, not to be informed, and this necessitated timely circulation of papers, to allow people to digest the contents in advance of meetings, and for the meetings to be run efficiently.

- 8.2.2 AC advised that a communications sub-group, of which she is a member, is looking at how to make NC function better in its current format. MA said it could consider co-opting additional NC reps to support this work.
- 8.2.3 AC also suggested we should revitalise the use of Slack, an online discussion forum used in the run-up to the AGM. RP felt there is a risk of using too many platforms, such as Teamwork, Slack and Trello. More discussion required.
- 8.2.4 The issue of circulation of meeting papers beyond NC was also discussed. Some papers need to go before NC before they can be further distributed, and NC needs to agree a process for the status of papers.

**9. Date and venue of next meeting**

9.1 10.00am Saturday 1 December 2018 – BMC office, Manchester.

The meeting finished at 18:00.

Summary of action points from the 61<sup>st</sup> meeting:

Ref	Action	Who	By
4.1.6	Amend ODG ToR and take to 17 Oct Board meeting	JR	17 Oct
4.1.10	Instruct office to find and book venue for 2019 AGM	DT	asap
4.2.7	Revise President / Chair role descriptions and responsibilities matrix	LR/DT	17 Oct
5.1.8	Update draft Strategic Plan and issue as a consultation document.	DT	17 Oct
5.3.1	Address tone of Code of Conduct doc for members	NC	1 Dec
6.2.3	Contact National Trust re: Lakes parking / transport issues; report to MP & FS.	DT	1 Oct

**The above was accepted as an accurate record of the meeting:**

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Lynn Robinson, President