

## BRITISH MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL

177-179 Burton Road  
Manchester M20 2BB

Tel: 0161 445 6111  
www.thebmc.co.uk

### Members' Council

Approved minutes of the Members' Council meeting held at the Bredbury Hall Hotel, Stockport on Saturday 13 November 2021 at 9.30am.

#### In attendance:

#### Voting Members

Elected Councillors

	President	Andy Syme	AS		
	Cymru South Wales	Steve Quinton	SQ		
	Lakes	Fiona Sanders*1	FS		
	London & South East (and Deputy to the President)	Chris Stone	CSt		
	Midlands	David Jones*2	DJ	Claudia Sarnar	CSa
	North West	Bill Beveridge	BB	Carl Spencer*1	CSp
	Peak	David Brown	DB	Alison Cairns	AC
	South West	Helen Wilson	HW	Philip Wilson	PW
	Yorkshire	Mick Green	MG		
	Nationally Elected Councillor for Hill Walkers	Rose Gare-Simmons	RGS		
	Nationally Elected Councillor for Indoor Climbers	Stuart Holmes	SH		
	Nationally Elected Councillor for Mountaineers	Aaron Hodgson	AH		
	Nationally Elected Councillor for Rock Climbers	Steve Clark	SC		
	Constituency Councillor for Mountain Training candidates	Oli Lewis	OL		
Specialist Councillors	Clubs Committee	Peter Salenieks*1	PS		
	Training, Youth & Walls Committee	Abbi Blakey	AB		

\*1 = also Council Nominated Director

\*2 = also Huts Group observer

#### Observers

Specialist Committees

Board of Directors

Hill Walking Group	Peter Judd	PJ
Specialist Committee Review	Roger Murray	RM
Nominated Director (Clubs)	Jonathan White	JW

#### Others

Minute taker	Tony Ryan	TR	
BMC Technical Officer also responsible for Climbing Walls	Dan Middleton	DM	Joined by Zoom for Vision Event only
Mountaineering Scotland Development Officer	Jamie Smith	JS	Joined by Zoom for Vision Event only

\* denotes supporting paper(s) circulated prior to meeting

Item	Topic and Main Aspects Considered	Decision / Action	Who	When
<b>13</b>	<b>Vision Event – Indoor Climbing</b>			
13.1	The Council discussed the 'vision' for indoor climbing. This session was led by SH with support from DM. See addendum at end of paper for output summary.			
<b>14</b>	<b>Welcome &amp; apologies for absence</b>			
14.1	The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, which was the first in-person Council meeting since December 2019.			
14.1.1	The Chair advised that the split of in-person and online full Council meetings in 2022 would be discussed at the post-meeting on 7 December; evening pre-meetings and post-meetings would continue to be held on Zoom.			
14.2	Apologies for absence were received from: Rab Carrington, John Cousins, Paul Davies, Paul Drew, Robert Dufton, Martyn Hurn, Guy Jarvis, Tarquin Shipley, and Andy Tickle.			
<b>15</b>	<b>Note Conflicts of Interest</b>			
15.1	No conflicts were declared.			
<b>16</b>	<b>Urgent issues for AOB</b>			
16.1	Two issues were raised: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Specialist Committee review meeting;</li> <li>2. BMC attendance at WiltonFest.</li> </ol>			
<b>17</b>	<b>Minutes of previous meetings and outstanding actions*</b>			
17.1	Minutes: The Chair advised that draft minutes of the meeting held on 2 November were now online on Teamwork for Council members to view; two outstanding queries needed to be clarified (by OL and JW), and the draft minutes would be added to the 7 December post-meeting for approval.	<b>Add 2 Nov minutes approval to 7 Dec agenda</b>	<b>AS</b>	<b>Done by TR 15 Nov</b>
17.2	Outstanding actions: The Chair reported that only two new actions had been created since the 2 November meeting, and both were in hand.			

Item	Topic and Main Aspects Considered	Decision / Action	Who	When
<b>18</b>	<b>Ethos &amp; Ethics Task &amp; Finish Group: Terms of Reference*</b>			
<b>18a.1</b>	The Chair advised that Council would be asked to agree to the formation of a BMC Policies Review 2021-22 Task & Finish Group (T&FG) in accordance with the Terms of Reference (ToR) published in the paper for this agenda item.			
18a.1.1	SQ gave some background into the reasoning for a review of policies; the first aim is to identify and communicate the policies that we already have, so that all involved in the organisation are aware of them. Many policies have not been reviewed for a number of years, and it is possible that we are missing some nationally agreed policies on some important topics. The overall aim of the T&FG is to ensure that the BMC has a plan to ensure we have agreed and effective policies on key areas affecting members.			
18a.1.2	The relationship between BMC policies and the Code of Practice was discussed.			
18a.1.3	It was suggested that we could learn from other, similar organisations, and might also wish to consider the UIAA Tyrol Declaration on Best Practice in Mountain Sports.			
18a.1.4	The question of whether Board members should be excluded from the T&FG was asked, and Council felt that they should not be excluded.			
18a.1.5	Council members interested in joining the group were asked to contact SQ. There is scope for involvement in the review of specific policies.			
<b>18b.1</b>	Separately, Council would be asked whether the BMC Participation Statement is in need of review.			
18b.1.1	An initiation document had been published, defining the approach to reviewing the current Participation Statement, and Council members would be asked to agree to review the Participation Statement in accordance with this document.			
18b.1.2	Discussion revolved around the purpose of the Participation Statement, and what might be missing from the current version, and also whether different activities within mountaineering (as defined by the Articles of Association) might require different statements.			
18b.1.3	It was generally felt that a review is needed, but that the approach to it needs consideration.			

Item	Topic and Main Aspects Considered	Decision / Action	Who	When
18b.1.4	The Chair advised that if Council voted not to review the Participation Statement now, it didn't stop Council from initiating a review in the future.			
18c.1	Two votes were scheduled for this agenda item, to be taken later as part of agenda item 35.			
<b>19</b>	<b>Councillor Tasks and Roles &amp; Skills Survey*</b>			
19.1	MG had published a paper to facilitate discussion on continued evolution of the processes and documentation to support the efficient and effective operation of Council.			
19.1.1	It is up to Council how it organises itself and undertakes its work, and MG wanted to know whether Council felt that the direction of travel in the working processes of Council was broadly right.			
19.1.2	MG intends to follow up the paper with conversations, and comments can also be posted to the document on Teamwork.			
<b>20</b>	<b>Code of Practice Review*</b>			
20.1	PS presented the paper authored by himself, AS and HW, and explained the update of the Code of Practice (CoP) following the transition from National Council to Members' Council.			
20.1.1	Updating the CoP has provided the opportunity to align it with the Board CoP, where applicable, including a clause on communications, and the maintenance of alignment between the two codes is intended to minimise conflicting expectations for those Councillors who are also Directors and are bound by both codes.			
20.1.2	The meeting discussed the reference to collective responsibility (under section 6, Standards, of the code) and its legal meaning in respect of the Board, which does not apply in the same way to the Council.			
20.1.3	It was agreed that the wording in section 6 of the Code should be amended from: <i>Accept personal and collective responsibility for the success of the Council, to:</i> <i>Each Councillor should accept personal responsibility for the success of the Council.</i>			
20.1.4	A vote was scheduled for this agenda item, to be taken later as part of agenda item 35.			
<b>21</b>	<b>Council Priorities 2022*</b>			

Item	Topic and Main Aspects Considered	Decision / Action	Who	When
21.1	The Chair explained that the purpose of the paper was to seek to clarify the priorities Council wishes to implement in 2022, to address conflicts of resources and time where necessary.			
21.1.1	Council discussed the priorities listed in the paper, and different approaches which might highlight priorities, including a comprehensive list of work Council wishes to carry out, reference to the Councillor Tasks list, and using a 'risk' approach to highlight importance and urgency.			
21.1.2	The Chair felt it was incumbent upon Council to tell him what Council wished to prioritise.			
21.1.3	It was agreed to use the 7 December meeting to appoint three people to produce the Council's 2021 Annual Report.	<b>Add 2021 Council Annual Report to 7 Dec agenda</b>	<b>AS</b>	<b>Done</b>
<b>22</b>	<b>Support for North East Area</b>			
22.1	JW, who is the allocated director for the North East Area, reported on the recent Area AGM, which failed to recruit members to the vacant Area Chair and Area Representatives roles, although the meeting did successfully elect members to most of the other Area volunteer roles. He felt that the Area could do with some support from Council, at least in the short term, including provision of a Chair for the next Area Meeting in January.			
22.1.1	Other Councillors reported similar concerns with regard to volunteer recruitment in their Areas, along with broader member engagement issues.			
22.1.2	The meeting discussed how the North East Area might be supported, and whether combining its meetings with another Area (Lakes, Yorkshire or North West) might be practicable and useful until a new Chair can be appointed.			
22.1.3	OL and CSt both offered to chair the next North East Area Meeting, if required, which is scheduled for Thursday 20 January 2022; it was agreed that OL would chair the meeting, and CSt would attend to pass on his experience as Chair of another Area. Post-meeting Note: see message on <a href="#">Support for NE</a>	<b>NOTED TR to advise Area Sec</b>	<b>TR</b>	<b>ASAP</b>
22.1.4	HW referred to a '10-point plan' for Area recruitment, and suggested it could be resurrected. Post-meeting Note: see message on <a href="#">Support for NE</a>	<b>HW to circulate to CSt</b>	<b>HW</b>	<b>ASAP</b>
22.1.5	On the wider issue of volunteer recruitment, there was some discussion around the creation of 'pipelines' to ensure a constant flow of volunteers is managed more effectively. CSt felt that the Ramblers do this well, and we could learn from their approach.			

Item	Topic and Main Aspects Considered	Decision / Action	Who	When
<b>23</b>	<b>Review of Outcomes from Previous Vision Events*</b>			
<b>23.1</b>	The paper for this agenda item provided an overview and summary of the Rock Climbing Vision Event (VE) held as part of the 17 July Council meeting.			
23.1.1	The draft outcomes of the VE are detailed in the paper, including a BMC Rock Climbing Vision statement and clear highlighting of areas of celebration of BMC work and potential future pitfalls in the vision area. Council were asked to comment on the paper by 7 December, the date of the Council post-meeting.	<b>Comment on paper by 7 Dec Council meeting</b>	<b>All</b>	<b>ASAP</b>
23.1.2	The next step is to produce a final document, following further consultation with Specialist Committee chairs.	<b>Ask Specialist Committee Chairs to comment on paper by 7 Dec Council meeting</b>	<b>TR</b>	<b>ASAP</b>
23.1.3	The working group will take the finalised documents in the context of the latest strategic plan and produce a summary planning document. If necessary the working group will ask Council to support recommendations to any required adjustments to the BMC strategic plan or to other areas of BMC work. It is also planned to use the documents to inform a member's Open Forum on the general Rock Climbing Vision subject area in a few months' time.			
<b>24</b>	<b>Vision Event Team Identification &amp; Update for next two Council Meetings*</b>			
<b>24.1</b>	The paper for this agenda item outlined the proposal to run a Mountaineering VE as a facilitated session at the Council meeting on 1 February 2022.			
24.1.1	The session will seek to answer three basic questions, which aim to identify what we mean by mountaineering, and to identify both a best and worst case scenario for the future of mountaineering, so that we might move towards what we want to see whilst guarding against what we don't want to happen.			
24.1.2	The meeting discussed the need to make discussions relevant for those stakeholder and partners identified as invitees to the VE.  AB commented that she had not been invited to get involved in the Indoor Climbing VE, even though she is the representative for the Training, Youth & Walls Committee on Council.			
<b>24.2</b>	For the Hill Walking VE, which will part of the Council meeting currently scheduled for 14 May 2022, Council needs to identify who should lead that session. Obvious candidates are PJ (as Chair of the Hill Walking Group) and RGS (as NEC for Hill Walkers).			

Item	Topic and Main Aspects Considered	Decision / Action	Who	When
24.2.1	Other Councillors who could support the VE are DJ and CSt (as current/former Hill Walking Reps) and OL (as CC for Mountain Training Candidates).			
<b>25</b>	<b>Member Code of Conduct Task &amp; Finish Group Report</b>			
25.1	This agenda item will be covered during the extra Council meeting scheduled for Tuesday 23 November.			
25.1.1	The Chair advised that the group's report had not yet been submitted by Rik Payne.			
<b>26</b>	<b>Final Report of the Role of the President Task &amp; Finish Group</b>			
26.1	This agenda item will be covered during the extra Council meeting scheduled for Tuesday 23 November.			
<b>27</b>	<b>UIAA &amp; EUMA Update*</b>			
27.1	The Chair had attended the International Climbing & Mountaineering Federation (UIAA) and the European Union of Mountaineering Associations (EUMA) General Assemblies (GA) in October.			
27.1.1	The paper for this agenda item summarised the BMC's previous, current and proposed future engagement with both organisations.			
27.1.2	SC asked about BMC engagement with the International Federation of Sport Climbing (IFSC), which is the world governing body for competition climbing. The Chair said that engagement with the IFSC was being led by Lorraine Brown (GB Climbing Head of Performance) and Paul Davies (BMC CEO), who were both currently attending the IFSC Plenary Assembly in Portugal.			
<b>28</b>	<b>Clubs Update*</b>			
28.1	The paper for this agenda item provided a detailed report on the success of the 'Find Your Adventure' campaign to help rebuild the membership of our existing clubs following the attrition during the Covid pandemic.			
28.1.1	The results of the campaign so far are very positive in terms of the number of clubs who have signed up to the campaign (18 clubs), attendance at webinars (56 clubs), sign-up to email newsletters (316 individuals), and increases in club membership (1383 members).			

Item	Topic and Main Aspects Considered	Decision / Action	Who	When
28.1.2	The Clubs Committee will make appropriate requests for ongoing investments in the 2022 budget.			
<b>29</b>	<b>New Club Application*</b>			
<b>29.1</b>	PS advised that we had received an application for affiliation from British Canyoneers, which describes itself as the first official amateur club for canyoning / canyoneering in the UK.			
29.1.1	The application requires approval from Council as per Reserved Matters, since it requires Council to consider the range of activities that would be acceptable within “Mountaineering Activities”.			
29.1.2	It specifically requires consideration of the range of activities that sit on the fringe of the definition of Mountaineering, as stated in the BMC Articles of Association, and to consider whether a club which has a principle object within a broader sphere of mountain activities may be a suitable candidate for acceptance as a BMC affiliated club.			
29.1.3	The meeting discussed whether affiliation to the BMC would have an impact on the BMC's resources in terms of information provision, and policies relating to fixed equipment.			
29.1.4	Discussion also revolved around potential implication of governing / representative body status for the activity of canyoning.			
29.1.5	Two votes were scheduled for this agenda item, to be taken later as part of agenda item 35.			
<b>30</b>	<b>BMC Youth Panel*</b>			
<b>30.1</b>	The proposal to establish a BMC Youth Panel, to strengthen the voice of young people within the organisation, will be discussed at the 7 December Council meeting.	<b>Add to 7 Dec agenda</b>	<b>AS</b>	<b>ASAP</b>
<b>31</b>	<b>Volunteer Recommendations Implementation Group Update*</b>			
<b>31.1</b>	The paper for this agenda item provided an update on the work of the group.			
<b>32</b>	<b>Memorandum of Understanding – agree composition of, and timeline for, Task &amp; Finish Group</b>			



Item	Topic and Main Aspects Considered	Decision / Action	Who	When
32.1	The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) must be reviewed when the Chair of either Board or Council is changed, and RM will take over from Paul Drew as Chair of the Board in December.			
32.1.1	Council was asked whether it wanted to establish a T&FG to undertake the review, or let both Chairs carry out this work.			
32.1.2	It was agreed that the Chair and RM would undertake the process, and bring an amended version of the MoU to the Council meeting on 12 February 2022.	<b>Review and amend MoU and bring to 12 Feb Council mtg</b>	<b>AS / RM</b>	<b>31 Jan 22</b>
32.1.3	In the meantime, the Chair and RM will sign the current MoU on 1 December.	<b>Sign current version of MoU</b>	<b>AS / RM</b>	<b>1 Dec</b>
<b>33</b>	<b>Board Report Substantive Discussion Points</b>			
33.1	No points raised for discussion			
<b>34</b>	<b>Lord Greaves Award*</b>			
34.1	The Chair explained the background to the establishment of the award following the sudden death of Lord Greaves in March 2021, and the recent communications about the award, which included reference to the fact that Council had agreed to continue with the award in 2022, and invited members to nominate persons for the 2022 award.			
34.1.1	Although Council had not formally agreed to continue the award, the meeting felt that all volunteer awards so far established should continue as annual awards, but it was also agreed that certain awards might have a finite lifespan.			
34.1.2	The meeting discussed whether a review of all awards should now be considered, and the Chair felt that the proposed Awards & Honours Panel should be established before any review was undertaken.			
34.1.3	A paper is being presented to the Council meeting on 7 December, which includes draft ToR for the formation of an Awards & Honours Panel, and it was agreed that the draft ToR should include a one-off review of the current awards as an additional part of the panel's remit. Council will be asked to support the formation of this panel on 7 December.	<b>Add one-off task to review relevance and lifetime of all current awards to draft ToR</b>	<b>CSt</b>	<b>1 Dec</b>
<b>35</b>	<b>Votes / Agreements</b>			

Item	Topic and Main Aspects Considered	Decision / Action	Who	When
<b>35a.1</b>	<b>Item 18a - BMC Policies Review 2021-22 Task &amp; Finish Group ToR</b>			
35a.1.1	VOTE: do you agree the proposed to form the BMC Policies Task & Finish Group in accordance with the ToR, subject to any recommendations in the meeting?			
35a.1.2	RESULT: agreed unanimously (16 votes in favour).	<b>Agreed SQ to initiate meetings</b>	<b>SQ</b>	<b>Ongoing</b>
<b>35b.1</b>	<b>Item 18b – Participation Statement work initiation</b>			
35b.1.1	VOTE: do you agree the proposed to review the Participation Statement in accordance with the Initiation document?			
35b.1.2	RESULT: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agree to the proposal, subject to any recommendations within the meeting – 10 votes.</li> <li>• Do not agree to the proposal – 4 votes.</li> <li>• Abstentions – 2 votes.</li> </ul>	<b>Agreed SQ to initiate meetings</b>	<b>SQ</b>	<b>Ongoing</b>
<b>35c.1</b>	<b>Item 20 – Code of Practice Review</b>			
35c.1.1	AGREEMENT: Council agrees the Code of Practice (issue 0, draft d) should be issued as Version 2 of the Members' Council Code of Practice, with the change of wording agreed in item 20.1.3.	Note: was to be issued as V1 Members' Council CoP		
35c.1.2	RESULT: Yes = 21; No = 0; Abstentions = 2.	<b>Agreed Publish on Teamwork Publish in Members' Council area of website</b>	<b>HW/PS TR</b>	<b>ASAP</b>
<b>35d.1</b>	<b>Item 29 – British Canyoneers</b>			
35d.1.1	VOTE: should the Council consider canyoning as an accepted discipline of mountaineering under Article 9.6.1(a)?			
35d.1.2	RESULT: Yes = 15; No = 0; Abstentions = 1.	<b>Agreed BMC Staff to action application under normal processes</b>	<b>TR</b>	<b>ASAP</b>
<b>35e.1</b>	VOTE: if Council does not consider canyoning to be an accepted discipline of mountaineering, does Council consider it to be in the best interests of the sport and the BMC for the Board to admit British Canyoneers as an affiliated club under Article 9.6.1 (d)?			
35e.1.1	No vote necessary following acceptance by vote under item 35d.			
<b>35f.1</b>	<b>Item 34 – Lord Greaves Award</b>			

Item	Topic and Main Aspects Considered	Decision / Action	Who	When
35f.1.1	VOTE: Council supports the formal continuation of the Lord Greaves Award.			
35f.1.2	RESULT: Yes = 14; No = 0; Abstentions = 2.	<b>Agreed</b> <b>Notify Jane Thompson and</b> <b>replace appropriate web page</b> <b>text removed on 2 Nov</b>	<b>TR</b>	<b>ASAP</b>
<b>36</b>	<b>Any Other Business</b>			
<b>36.1</b>	<b>T-shirts for volunteers</b>			
36.1.1	The Chair understood that some newly printed t-shirts for BMC volunteers would be brought to the Council meeting by TR, but he was not aware of this expectation.			
36.1.2	HW asked whether some t-shirts could be taken up to the Kendal Mountain Festival for volunteers who are supporting BMC staff during the weekend.	<b>Check status and distribution</b> <b>plan of BMC volunteer t-shirts</b>	<b>TR</b>	<b>Done</b> Still in production AS to liaise with BMC Office on distribution when available.
<b>36.2</b>	<b>Specialist Committee Review</b>			
36.2.1	RM advised that the annual review of all Specialist Committees will take place on Saturday 15 January 2022; the intent is to have an in-person meeting.			
36.2.2	Instruction sheets for committee chairs to complete will be available to distribute next week; these will be slightly reduced from last year's versions, with a focus on past performance and future plans.			
36.2.3	JW felt that the instruction sheets should continue to include committee membership information.			
36.2.4	DB asked whether there was a guarantee of quorate Board attendance at the meeting, to enable committee plans to be formally approved. RM said there was no guarantee, but as previously a feedback process will be run through the T&FG.			
<b>36.3</b>	<b>WiltonFest</b>			

Item	Topic and Main Aspects Considered	Decision / Action	Who	When
36.3.1	BB reported that there was disappointment, including from event organiser Tim Greenhalgh, that there was no official BMC presence at the festival, held on Saturday 4 September.			
36.3.2	CSp thought that the lack of BMC presence wasn't as challenging to the event as the lack of funding following withdrawal of funding to 2021 area festival events; amongst other things, this impacted on the provision of temporary toilet facilities. But the lack of presence did mean that potential sales by the BMC shop were lost.			
36.3.3	The Chair said that funding was a Board decision, but JW said that the Board didn't make a specific decision about funding for WiltonFest.			
36.3.4	The Chair suggested that Council (through the Chair and CNDs) would propose to the Board that Area Festivals are actively supported going forward. A vote by agreement was taken on this suggestion, and was unanimously agreed by Council (23 votes in favour).	<b>Agreed</b> <b>Need to represent support to the Board.</b>	<b>AS &amp; CNDs</b>	<b>24 Nov</b>
<b>37</b>	<b>Dates of next meetings</b>			
<b>37.1</b>	The next Council meeting will be an extra meeting scheduled for Tuesday 23 November (6.30-8.00pm), covering two specific topics: 1. Members Code of Conduct T&F Group Report (30 mins) 2. Presidential Review T&F Group Report (60 mins)			
<b>37.2</b>	The follow-up to today's meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 7 December, starting at 7.00pm.			
<b>37.3</b>	As noted under 36.2, there will be a Specialist Committee review meeting on Saturday 15 January; time, location and nature (in-person, online, hybrid) to be confirmed.			
<b>37.4</b>	The fourth full Council meeting will be held on Saturday 12 February 2022, with pre-meeting on Tuesday 1 February, and post-meeting on Tuesday 1 March.			
	There being no other business, the Chair closed the meeting at 16:40.			

**Summary of actions:**

See [3<sup>rd</sup> MC Outstanding Actions](#) (link only available to Council members)

Item	Action	Involving	Target date
17.1	Add 2 Nov minutes approval to 7 Dec agenda	AS	ASAP (Done)
21.1.3	Add 2021 Council Annual Report to 7 Dec agenda	AS	ASAP (Done)
22.1.3	Advise NE Area Secretary of Council support plans for Area	TR	ASAP (Done)
22.1.4	Send '10-point plan' for Area recruitment to CSt	HW	ASAP
23.1.1	Comment on Rock Climbing Vision Event paper by 7 Dec meeting	All	ASAP
23.1.2	Ask Specialist Committee Chairs to comment on Rock Climbing Vision Event paper by 7 Dec meeting	TR	ASAP
30.1	Add BMC Youth Panel discussion to 7 Dec agenda	AS	ASAP (Done)
32.1.2	Review and amend MoU and bring to 12 Feb Council mtg	AS / RM	31 Jan 2022
32.1.3	Sign current version of MoU	AS / RM	1 Dec 2021
34.1.3	Add one-off task to review relevance and lifetime of all current awards to draft ToR	CSt	1 Dec 2021
35a.1.2	Initiate meetings of BMC Policies Review 2021-22 Task & Finish Group	SQ	Ongoing
35b.1.2	Initiate Participation Statement Review meetings	SQ	Ongoing
35c.1.2	Publish Members' Council Code of Practice on Teamwork	PS/HW	ASAP
35c.1.2	Publish Members' Council Code of Practice on Members' Council page on BMC website	TR	ASAP
35d.1.2	BMC Staff to action British Canyoneers application under normal processes	TR	ASAP
35f.1.2	Notify Jane Thompson and replace appropriate web page text removed on 2 Nov	TR	ASAP (Done)
36.1.2	Check status and distribution plan of BMC volunteer t-shirts	TR	ASAP
36.3.4	Propose to the Board that Area Festivals are actively supported going forward.	AS & CNDs	24 Nov

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



8 December 2021

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Andy Syme, Chair**

## **Indoor Climbing Vision Event Output Summary (Minutes Addendum)**

9:30-12:30am, 13 November 2021

Indoor climbing is a major BMC participation area. The BMC is the national representative body for England and Wales, and with regards to competition climbing the national governing body. Participation has increased progressively over the last decade.

Amongst current members there is a prominent trend in crossover between indoor climbing, rock climbing, mountaineering and hill walking. However, there is a large participation within indoor climbing that is not currently captured via BMC membership.

When considering future planning there would be a huge potential to increase BMC membership by looking at a way to entice indoor climbers to join as members.

The BMC currently does lots of work that directly applies to indoor climbing such as promoting safety & best practice, indoor competitions and workshops & training courses.

However, a few discussions were based around current membership benefits at the structured price point potentially not being relevant to an indoor climbing-only audience.

This Members' Council-led work aims to form a more detailed shared vision of the future of indoor climbing, alongside the BMC strategic plan; with similar aims in the other three areas of hill walking, rock climbing and mountaineering. A shared vision of what we would prefer the BMC work on indoor climbing to look like medium term, including building on strengths and dealing with challenges, will help us better implement the strategic plan, and suggest adjustments if necessary, to achieve continued success.

The Members council vision event took place on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2021. We had an in-person meeting with a couple of participants joining via zoom.

The morning session consisted of a short presentation on the history of indoor climbing, a discussion around any issues or implications affecting the advancement of indoor climbing. We then went in to the main event which was the vision event for indoor climbing.

We discussed the overall concept of what indoor climbing would look like in 2032. This was based upon the idea of a decade from now and considering the next couple of Olympic cycles and the expected exposure.

The main questions asked were:

- **Who** will be climbing, what does this range of people look like?
- **What** are climbers doing, and what do the activities they do encompass?
- **Where** does the activity occur? What does the spectrum of venues cover and how is it distributed?

The following are statements from working groups within each section:

## Who

- Climbing is diverse and representative of the community.
- Climbing is accessible to all.
- Community hub, Old/Young cross generation links.
- The next generation are inspired to achieve their dreams.
- Support community, youth + parents/guardian support.
- When I go to a climbing venue I will be part of a community with the same values and ethos.
- An indoor climber is someone who identifies as an indoor climber.
- Inclusive.
- People.
- Style.
- Aspirational.
- All young people should have the opportunity to experience climbing.
- Accessible to all.
- Community of people who identify as climbers and that indoor climbing is their sport or activity.
- Community hubs.
- Equity and diversity.
- Available to all irrespective of anything.
- Equity and diversity is very good for BMC activity + BMC should support and celebrate this.

## What

- A diverse sport and recreation.
- Accessible, safe, sustainable and fun.
- Diverse (with role models visible in the media).
- A distinct but equal discipline within the 'mountaineering' community.
- Wider recognition of the health benefits of indoor climbing.
- Routes set for all.
- A mainstream activity, sport recreation in the eyes of the public.
- Where indoor climbing is being done as the activity in its own right.
- Any form of climbing on artificial instructors not just indoors.
- Remove term indoor.
- Make risk exciting.
- British indoor climbing to be in the top 3 countries within 10 years.
- The UK to be within top 3 countries within 3 years in competition.
- Affordable.

- A career opportunity.
- Attainable, i.e. travel/transport networks in relation to geographical location.
- Broad, all disciplines including dry tooling.
- With an informed approach to risk (links to insurance).
- Aware of opportunities and benefits of climbing.
- Enjoyment, play, risk, technical challenge, achievement.

### **Where**

- More outdoor 'indoor' facilities, e.g. outdoor covered walls such as at Imst (in Austria).
- Not on natural features or faces.
- Locations accessible to all.
- Shared spaces.
- Countrywide in every community.
- Any artificial structure.
- Anywhere accessible.
- Indoor to outdoor (more sport routes).
- Indoor to outdoor.

### **How does the Vision event feed in to the future planning of the BMC?**

It is a representative view of the members council and its constituent members that any future plans and strategies should be benchmarked against the common themes.



