

## BRITISH MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL

177-179 Burton Road  
Manchester M20 2BB

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### Members' Council

Approved minutes of the Members' Council meeting held on Zoom on Tuesday 1 March 2022 at 7.00pm.

#### In attendance:

#### Voting Members

##### Elected Councillors

President	Andy Syme	AS	
Cymru South Wales	Steve Quinton	SQ	
Lakes	Fiona Sanders*1	FS	
London & South East	Robert Dufton	RD	Chris Stone*2 CS
Midlands	David Jones*3	DJ	
North West	Bill Beveridge	NN	
Peak	Alison Cairns	AC	
South West	Helen Wilson	HW	Philip Wilson PW
Yorkshire	Mick Green	MG	

##### Specialist Councillors

Clubs Committee	Peter Salenieks	PS	
Training, Youth & Walls Committee	Abbi Blakey	AB	
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	

\*1 also Council Nominated Director

\*2 also Deputy to the President

\*3 also Huts Group Observer

#### Observers

##### Specialist Committees

##### Board of Directors

Hill Walking Group	Peter Judd	PJ	
Chair	Roger Murray	RM	
Chief Executive	Paul Davies	PD	
Mountain Training	John Cousins	JC	

##### Partners

#### Others

##### BMC staff

Minute taker	Tony Ryan	TR	
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\* denotes supporting paper(s) circulated prior to meeting

Item	Topic and Main Aspects Considered	Decision / Action	Who	When
<b>31</b>	<b>Welcome &amp; apologies for absence</b>			
31.1	The President welcomed everyone to the meeting.			
31.2	Apologies were received from: Rose Gare-Simmons, Sam Harris, and Jonathan White.			
31.3	<p>With reference to the military invasion of Ukraine by Russia, AS noted that statements have been issued by two international federations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• International Climbing and Mountaineering Federation (UIAA): cancelling two Ice Climbing World Cup events scheduled to place in Russia in March, and condemning Russia's actions in Ukraine;</li> <li>• International Federation of Sport Climbing (IFSC): suspending a Boulder &amp; Speed World Cup event scheduled to take in Russia in April, and expressing solidarity with the people of Ukraine.</li> </ul> <p>The International Olympic Committee (IOC) also issued a strong condemnation of the breach of the Olympic Truce by the Russian government and the government of Belarus, and the International Ski Mountaineering Federation (ISMF) has issued a statement supporting the IOC statement.</p>			
31.3.1	PD advised that we will be writing to those international federations of which we are a member (UIAA, IFSC and ISMF) to welcome their statements, advise them of the actions we as a national body will take, and implore them to go further in their own actions and statements.			
<b>32</b>	<b>Note Conflicts of Interest</b>			
32.1	None declared.			
<b>33</b>	<b>Urgent issues for AOB</b>			
33.1	None requested.			
<b>34</b>	<p><b>Review of Outstanding Actions</b></p> <p><a href="#">See Outstanding Actions</a> (link only available to Council members)</p>			

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34.1	The meeting reviewed the list of outstanding actions managed as Tasks on Teamwork.			
<b>35</b>	<b>Review of Articles and Policy on “actively seeking increased participation”*</b>			
35.1	The paper for this agenda item recommends that the BMC reviews and updates its policy on participation, which has not been reviewed since the Future Policy Review 2003-05, which includes a statement that it is inappropriate for the BMC to actively seek increased participation because of environmental and safety reasons.			
35.1.1	AS noted that several Councillors had commented on the paper on Teamwork.			
35.1.2	AB advised that the Training, Youth & Walls Committee was supportive of the proposal.			
35.1.3	RD explained that our commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) justifies the need to review and change the policy as it is a, potential, barrier to encouraging participation.			
35.1.4	JC felt that the BMC needed to be in the centre of the partner network and aligned on policy. The proposed changes would help achieve that.			
35.1.5	The meeting discussed the importance of correct phrasing in any proposed changes to the Articles, including the form of words to be presented for discussion at the following evening’s Open Forum on Article changes, and of messaging to ensure that members clearly understand the reason for the proposed changes.			
35.1.6	The potential impact of increasing participation was also discussed. It was noted that participation has grown significantly in spite of the policy and there were advantages in engaging early to mitigate the effects of this.			
35.1.7	The meeting discussed the wording of the vote to be taken on this agenda item, and a vote was scheduled for later in the meeting under item 41.			
<b>36</b>	<b>AoA changes to support Clubs 2.0*</b>			
36.1	The BMC Clubs Strategy includes broadening the definition of the criteria for clubs to affiliate to the BMC. The amended criteria will open up BMC Club affiliation to organisations such as youth groups, climbing wall and sports centre-based clubs, and clubs that are director/parent led but operated on a not for profit basis. Changing the club affiliation criteria			

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	will require a change to the current BMC Articles of Association at the 2022 BMC AGM, and this paper requests Members' Council to approve the principles for these changes. The exact wording will be agreed following consultation at the Open Forum, feedback from this paper, and legal advice.			
36.1.1	RD gave an example of a club which might benefit from the amended criteria, which is a Facebook group of more than 400 very diverse climbers, with a vibrant meets programme, and questioned whether the retention of the eligibility requirement for a club's headquarters to be in Great Britain might prove an obstacle for such a club.			
36.1.2	This issue of affiliation for clubs whose members don't pay an annual membership fee has yet to be resolved, and is not covered in the proposed changes.			
36.1.3	A vote was scheduled on this agenda item for later in the meeting under item 41.			
<b>37</b>	<b>Member Code of Conduct</b>			
37.1	CS gave an update. Comments had been posted on Teamwork since the Council meeting on 12 February, and the group would now re-write the code to include a more positive emphasis on values, and then bring back to Council.			
37.1.1	CS requested that any Councillor who felt differently about the need for the code should say so.			
37.1.2	AS reminded the meeting that there is a separate but linked piece of work required in respect of a complaint procedure, which will be developed by AS, RM and PD.	<b>AS, RM &amp; PD to decide how a unified complaints procedure can be implemented</b>	<b>AS, RM, PD</b>	<b>30 June</b>
<b>38</b>	<b>July Vision Event Topic</b>			
38.1	Following the 12 February Council meeting, a discussion thread had been created on Teamwork, and from the comments on that thread, it seemed that the suggestion of introducing a fifth Vision Event (VE) topic was welcome.			
38.1.1	The meeting discussed what topics might be suitable for inclusion, and whether a particular theme (e.g. climate change; equality, diversity and inclusion) might have value. CS reminded Council that the four VEs on Hill Walking, Indoor Climbing, Mountaineering and Rock Climbing wouldn't simply be repeated in the same way next year.			

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38.1.2	The July VE will be agreed at the May Council meeting.	<b>Add July VE decision to May Council agenda</b>	<b>AS</b>	<b>15 April</b>
38.1.3	RM requested that Council bring a summary of the four VEs held to the Board as soon as possible after the fourth VE (Hill Walking) in May. AS agreed to add a co-ordination session for all VEs to the July Council agenda to enable a report to be provided for the Board on actions proposed from the VEs.	<b>Add co-ordination session for all VEs at July Council meeting</b>	<b>AS</b>	<b>10 June</b>
	Note – There is a Board meeting on 27 July (after 16 July full Council meeting)	<b>Provide report to Board on actions requested from VEs</b>	<b>AS</b>	<b>27 July</b>
<b>39</b>	<b>Councillor Succession Planning*</b>			
<b>39.1</b>	FS ran through the presentation produced by the Task & Finish Group comprising, DJ, FS, PS and HW, which has been considering how Council ensures that it supports Councillors to act as Council Nominated Directors (CNDs) in a way that adds value to the Board over the long term.			
39.1.1	FS summarised the situation with regard to the terms of office of the three current CNDs, highlighting some issues with the role and recruitment process, including the tradition of a CND standing down when their term on Council is finished, and asking Council to consider how to address these issues to ensure we will have three CNDs in two years' time.			
39.1.2	The group had produced five recommendations for improving support to CNDs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Clarity about the term of office, and work towards a 'one CND off – one CND on' approach;</li> <li>2. Make the role less heavy duty in terms of time;</li> <li>3. Make the role of CND accessible to more Council members;</li> <li>4. Improve Councillors' understanding of the role of Board, BMC structure and governance;</li> <li>5. Request that the Board review the Skills matrix and expectation from the Board.</li> </ul>			
39.1.3	The group had also undertaken an assessment of the number of BMC members engaged with the BMC at different levels, particularly as volunteers, to produce a recruitment funnel showing the potential pool of volunteers at local and national levels who could progress through the funnel to become CNDs.			

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39.1.4	The lack of a proper pathway from grassroots volunteer to CND means that the recruitment of Councillors with the skills and enthusiasm to be CNDs is restricted. A number of ways to create a route from local to national volunteer were suggested by the group.			
39.1.5	There was a suggestion in the meeting that support should be widened to include partners without a similar recruitment funnel.			
39.1.6	The question of a CND continuing on Council when their Council term of office (but not CND term) has been completed was discussed, as was the issue of appointing someone from outside Council to act as a CND.			
39.1.7	Broadly the Council felt the work was very positive and should be progressed. FS agreed to do this with the existing group and provide more detailed proposals. If any Councillor is keen to get involved with the group, contact FS.			
<b>40</b>	<b>North East Area Co-option</b>			
40.1	AS summarised the current situation in the Area. Some members had expressed interest in volunteering following publicity of the vacancies on the Area Facebook, and a Zoom meeting had been held to explain the role and function of the Areas and the specific vacant roles.			
40.1.1	AS explained that the Articles enable an Area Chair to co-opt an Area Representative, and an Area Representative to co-opt an Area Chair, with agreement of Council, until the next Area AGM, but the North East Area does not currently have an Area Chair or Area Rep.			
40.1.2	Following the Zoom meeting, two members had put themselves forward for the roles and support for these co-options had been formally requested by the Area Secretary: Peter McCreedy for Area Chair and Area Rep; Jon Punshon for Area Rep.			
	Votes on co-option of these members to the roles were scheduled for later in the meeting under item 41.			
<b>41</b>	<b>Votes / Agreements</b>			
41.1	<b>Item 35 - Review of Articles and Policy on “actively seeking increased participation”</b>			
41.1.1	AGREEMENT: Should the BMC present the changes to the Articles as outlined in the paper to the Open Forum on Wednesday 2 March?: A. Yes B. No			

Item	Topic and Main Aspects Considered	Decision / Action	Who	When
	C. Abstain			
41.1.2	RESULT: A = 17 votes; B = 1 vote; C = 1 vote  It was agreed that the proposed changes to the Articles would be presented to the Open Forum on 2 March.	<b>Agreed</b>		
<b>41.2</b>	<b>Item 36 - AoA changes to support Clubs 2.0</b>			
41.2.1	AGREEMENT: The Council agrees the principles underlying the proposed amendments and agrees the proposed amendments, subject to any further amendments resulting from the Open Forum: A. Agree B. Disagree C. Abstain			
41.2.2	RESULT: A = 19 votes; B = 0 votes; C = 1 vote  Council agreed the underlying principles and the proposed amendments, subject to any further amendments resulting from the Open Forum.	<b>Agreed</b>		
<b>41.3</b>	<b>Item 40 - North East Area Co-option</b>			
41.3.1	VOTE: The Council Agrees to the co-option of Peter McCreedy as Area Chair until the next local AGM: A. Yes B. No C. Abstain D. Non-Voting Member			
41.3.2	RESULT: A = 13 votes; B = 0 votes; C = 2 votes; D = 4 votes  Peter McCreedy is co-opted as North East Area Chair until the next Area AGM.	<b>Noted</b>		
<b>41.4</b>	<b>Item 40 - North East Area Co-option</b>			
41.4.1	VOTE: The Council Agrees to the co-option of Peter McCreedy as Area Representative until the next local AGM: A. Yes B. No C. Abstain D. Non-Voting Member			

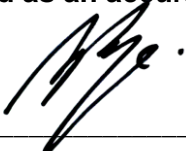
Item	Topic and Main Aspects Considered	Decision / Action	Who	When
41.4.2	RESULT: A = 13 votes; B = 0 votes; C = 1 vote; D = 5 votes  Peter McCreedy is co-opted as North East Area Representative until the next Area AGM.	<b>Noted</b>		
<b>41.5</b>	<b>Item 40 - North East Area Co-option</b>			
41.5.1	VOTE: The Council Agrees to the co-option of Jon Punshon as Area Representative until the next local AGM: A. Yes B. No C. Abstain D. Non-Voting Member			
41.5.2	RESULT: A = 11 votes; B = 0 votes; C = 3 vote; D = 5 votes  Jon Punshon is co-opted as North East Area Representative until the next Area AGM.	<b>Noted</b>		
<b>42</b>	<b>AOB</b>			
42.1	None requested.			
<b>43</b>	<b>Date of next meetings</b>			
<b>43.1</b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup> Members' Council:</b> Tuesday 3 May (7.00pm start) – pre-meeting – on Zoom Saturday 14 May (9.30am start) – full meeting – Hybrid (probably in North Wales) Tuesday 7 June (7.00pm start) – post-meeting – on Zoom			
43.1.1	Zoom links for above meetings are on the <a href="#">Teamwork Calendar</a> .  There being no further business, AS closed the meeting at 9.55pm.			



**Summary of actions:** See [4<sup>th</sup> Members' Council Outstanding Actions](#) (link only available to Council members)

Item	Action	Involving	Target date
37.1.2	Decide how a unified complaints procedure can be implemented	AS, RM, PD	30 June 2022
38.1.2	Add July VE decision to May Council agenda	AS	15 April 2022
38.1.3	Add co-ordination session for all VEs at July Council meeting	AS	10 June 2022
38.1.3	Provide report to Board on actions requested from VEs	AS	27 July 2022

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

Signed  \_\_\_\_\_ Date **04/04/22** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Andy Syme, Chair**