

# 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 on Zoom on Tuesday 3 May 2022 at 7.00pm.

### In attendance:

#### Voting Members

Elected Councillors

President	Andy Syme	AS
Cymru North Wales	Tarquin Shipley	TQ
Cymru South Wales	Steve Quinton	SQ
Lakes	Mike Parsons	MP
London & South East	Chris Stone*1	CS
Midlands	Claudia Sarnar	CSa
Midlands	David Jones*2	DJ
North East	Jon Punshon	JP
North West	Carl Spencer*3	CSp
Peak	Alison Cairns	AC
Yorkshire	Martin Christmas	MC

Specialist Councillors

Clubs Committee	Peter Salenieks*3	PS
Competition Climbing Performance Group	Joelie Chisholm	JC
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

#### Observers

Specialist Committees  
Board of Directors

Hill Walking Group	Peter Judd	PJ
Chair	Roger Murray	RM
Nominated Director (Clubs)	Jonathan White	JW
Chief Executive	Paul Davies	PD

#### Others

BMC staff

Minute taker	Tony Ryan	TR
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\*1 = also Deputy to the President

\*2 = also Huts Group Observer

\*3 = also Council Nominated Director

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

Item	Topic and Main Aspects Considered	Decision / Action	Who	When
<b>1</b>	<b>Welcome &amp; apologies for absence</b>			
1.1	The President welcomed everyone to the meeting, including Martin Christmas, co-opted at the April Yorkshire Area Meeting as Area Representative, and Jon Punshon, similarly co-opted by the North East Area as Area Representative.			
1.1.1	The Chair explained that in addition to co-opting MC, the Yorkshire Area had also agreed that another member, Richard Eden could understudy Mick Green, who will be stepping down as Area Representative at the end of the year. In order to effectively understudy, the Area wished to get the agreement of Council for Richard to attend some online Council meetings later this year as an observer; Council agreed to this request.	<b>Provide Richard Eden with Zoom links for online Council meetings</b>	<b>TR</b>	<b>ASAP</b>
1.1.2	JP explained that the North East Area had been suffering from a volunteer recruitment crisis and dwindling meeting attendance, but under the newly co-opted Chair (Peter McCreedy), who along with JP has also been co-opted as Area Representative, there is a small group of members who are keen to re-establish the Area.			
1.2	Apologies were received from: Abbi Blakey, Robert Dufton, Oli Lewis, Fiona Sanders, Helen Wilson, and Philip Wilson.			
<b>2</b>	<b>Note Conflicts of Interest</b>			
2.1	None declared.			
<b>3</b>	<b>Urgent issues for AOB</b>			
3.1	None requested.			
3.2	The Chair wished to flag up some items of business, namely the Volunteer Gala planned for October, the 2023 AGM, and the recently held EUMA General Assembly (GA) and UIAA Spring Meet.			
	NOTE: EUMA = European Union of Mountaineering Associations UIAA = International Climbing and Mountaineering Federation			

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3.2.1	<b>Volunteer Gala:</b> Invitations have been emailed; some places are still available, so another push will be made to fill those places. Some confusion had been reported about the way the survey and booking form had been presented, and the Chair said that he would review the invitation process before volunteers' officer Jane Thompson sends it out again.	<b>Review the Volunteer Gala invitation process before sending out further invitations</b>	<b>AS</b>	<b>ASAP</b>
3.2.2	<b>2023 AGM:</b> Chief commercial officer Gavin Finch has picked up the basic plan, and will manage the planning of the event within his department.			
3.2.3	<b>EUMA GA and UIAA Spring Meet:</b> A bid to host the 2023 EUMA GA in Leeds has been successful. The UIAA is keen to align its Spring Meet with the EUMA GA, and we have agreed, subject to approval by the BMC Board of Directors, to host the UIAA GA in the same period as the EUMA GA.			
3.2.4	It may be possible to align a BMC Volunteer Gala event with the above events in late April or early May 2023.			
<b>4</b>	<b>Review of Outstanding Actions</b> <a href="#">See Outstanding Actions</a> (link only available to Council members)			
4.1	The meeting reviewed the list of outstanding actions managed as Tasks on Teamwork.			
<b>5</b>	<b>Support for Areas</b>			
5.1	This agenda item was not covered during the meeting, although a related discussion took place during item 6 (Area Reports). It was agreed that 'Support for Areas' should be added to the agenda for the 14 May Council meeting.	<b>Add Support for Areas to 14 May Council meeting agenda</b>	<b>AS</b>	<b>ASAP</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Area Reports</b>			
<b>6.1</b>	<b>Cymru North Wales</b>			
6.1.1	TS reported that Tom Carrick, the new access & conservation officer for Wales, had attended the meeting.			
6.1.2	Steve Owen Williams from Partneriaeth Ogwen gave a presentation on the new e-minibus scheme to run at weekends from Bethesda to the Ogwen Valley, which was well received by members.			
6.1.3	Area Chair Tim Jepson gave an update on the BMC Welsh-themed area festival, Hongian Ffest, taking place in Blaenau Ffestiniog during the last weekend of May.			

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6.1.4	Reporting on a decision made at the previous Area Meeting, a letter has now been sent by the Area Chair to both the Snowdonia National Park Authority and the BMC Access & Conservation Trust, requesting that no more Mend Our Mountains funds be spent in Snowdonia without agreement through consultation with both user and resident groups.			
6.1.5	Following discussion, the Area Meeting asked Tim Jepson to write to BMC CEO Paul Davies, to ask for an explanation as to why three members of staff attended the IFSC General Assembly in Salt Lake City in March, which the Area Chair felt was incompatible with the BMC's Climate Emergency Declaration.			
<b>6.2</b>	<b>Cymru South Wales*</b>			
6.2.1	SQ reported that the meeting had been updated on a range of local and national activities, including Council and Board matters, policy work being led by policy & campaigns officer Eben Muse, Area Festivals and climbing competitions scheduled for later in the year, and local access initiatives.			
6.2.2	To overcome any financial barriers to participating in climbing competitions, it was suggested that we should investigate subsidising entries and travel costs for disadvantaged competitors, in order to broaden participation – the issue to be discussed at BMC Cymru Committee.			
6.2.3	CSa pointed out that entry fees for Youth Climbing Series events are half-price for competitors whose families are on Income Support or Universal Credit. To help with reduction of travel costs, CSa will ask competitions programme manager Zoe Spriggins to ensure that we promote the <a href="#">BMC Liftshare</a> to potential entrants.			
6.2.4	The Student Clubs Rep is moving out of the Area, but a replacement has volunteered – Jacob Isaac from Swansea University – and will be co-opted up to the next Area AGM.			
<b>6.3</b>	<b>Lakes</b>			
6.3.1	MP reported that the meeting had included a sustainable transport discussion, for which Emma Moody, the National Park Authority's Lead Strategy Adviser on Recreation and Sustainable Transport, had joined the meeting. The discussion had revealed that there is no common approach across the valleys within the national park.			
<b>6.4</b>	<b>London &amp; South East*</b>			
6.4.1	CSt reported that there are ongoing bolt issues at Harrison's Rocks which Harrison's Rocks Management Group, BMC access officer Rob Dyer, and BMC technical officer Dan Middleton are working to resolve.			

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6.4.1	The Area Meeting discussed the wealth of information held by the BMC, but the difficulty often experienced in accessing it, due in part to the management of content on the BMC website. The Chair suggested that a BMC Wiki might be a way to manage and share information.			
6.4.2	CSt wished to thank the Alpine Club for hosting the meeting.			
<b>6.5</b>	<b>Midlands*</b>			
6.5.1	DJ reported that a member had expressed interest in the vacant Area Chair role, and requested clarification of the co-option process. The Chair suggested that Council's approval of a co-option could be done at the 14 May Council meeting if the Area wished to raise it as an AOB agenda item, and subsequent approval by the Area could be done at the next Area Meeting.			
6.5.2	Updates were provided by Ian Wyatt and Jane Thompson on club-related activity, by Claudia Sarner on youth, and by Andy Harper on access.			
<b>6.6</b>	<b>North East</b>			
6.6.1	JP expressed thanks to the Lakes Area for agreeing to host the April meeting as a joint meeting with the North East. He thought that the Area would probably want to hold at least one more joint meeting until the North East Area is sufficiently active to hold its own meetings once again.			
<b>6.7</b>	<b>North West</b>			
6.7.1	SH reported that the Area Meeting had agreed a fixed equipment policy. The Chair asked that the policy be sent to SQ for sharing with the Ethos and Ethics Task & Finish Group.	<b>Send NW Area fixed equipment policy to SQ</b>	<b>CSp</b>	<b>ASAP</b>
6.7.2	Some recent quarry landfill activity had been reported.			
6.7.3	A mass trespass of Hoghton Quarry is being considered.			
<b>6.8</b>	<b>Peak*</b>			
6.8.1	AC reported that the meeting included a discussion on sustainable transport led by BMC access officer Cath Flitcroft and local access rep Louise Hawson, Chair of the BMC Sustainability Working Group, which will feed into the BMC policy being developed by Cath.			
6.8.2	A formal access agreement to the main climbing area at Wildcat has been agreed, and although this has meant losing access to some outlying crags, it was broadly welcomed.			

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6.8.3	Meeting attendance is still low compared to pre-pandemic attendance, and the possible impact on attendance by the introduction of GDPR data protection rules, and the BMC's interpretation of these rules, was discussed both at the Area Meeting and within this Council meeting.			
6.8.4	Members attending meetings are reporting that they haven't received email invitations, and some Area Chairs and Secretaries feel that the email contact lists of regular meeting attendees they used to hold prior to the introduction of GDPR were more effective at reaching those members who want to attend Area Meetings.			
6.8.5	The meeting attendance discussion also covered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The mix of online and in-person meetings;</li> <li>• Meeting budget and the difficulty of sourcing suitable venues within this budget;</li> <li>• Membership database issues regarding opting in (or out) of BMC emails;</li> <li>• Communicating Area Meeting information to non-members;</li> <li>• IT equipment required to host hybrid meetings.</li> </ul>			
6.8.6	It was agreed that CSt would contact BMC HR & office manager Kate Anwyl, who is one of two staff members who are BMC Data Protection Officers, to start a conversation about how we might resolve the uncertainty some members have with regard to their email opt-in/opt-out status.	<b>Contact Kate Anwyl re. email opt-in/opt-out status of member records</b>	<b>CSt</b>	<b>ASAP</b>
6.8.9	It was also agreed that TR would contact all Areas to ask them to tell us what they think they need (money and equipment) to run two online and two in-person/hybrid meetings this year, and ask whether they want to run more than two in-person/hybrid meetings.	<b>Contact Area Officers re. online / in-person meeting mix, and support for them</b>	<b>TR</b>	<b>ASAP</b>
<b>6.9</b>	<b>South West*</b>			
6.9.1	No Area Representative in attendance, but a report had been submitted.			
6.9.2	PS had attended the meeting and reported that access issues occupied most of the meeting; these included a new agreement with English Heritage for climbing on Tintagel Head.			
6.9.3	Overenthusiastic removal of loose rock was also discussed, asking whether an influx of climbers new to outdoor climbing was contributing to more examples of this activity, and whether it was an issue nationally; if so, how should it be addressed?			
<b>6.10</b>	<b>Yorkshire*</b>			

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6.10.1	MC reported that lamping (night climbing using high-powered lights, not hunting nocturnal animals) seems to be a concern in the Area, and that further discussion will take place at the next Area Meeting, but the Area would like to see more of a national focus on lamping before the Autumn/Winter.			
6.10.2	The Chair suggested to SQ that a policy on lamping should be added to the current work on BMC policies being undertaken by the Ethos & Ethics Task & Finish Group, with the aim of producing a national policy this summer.	<b>Add policy on lamping to work of Ethos &amp; Ethics T&amp;FG</b>	<b>SQ</b>	<b>30 Sep</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Constituency Reports</b>			
<b>7.1</b>	<b>Nationally Elected Councillor for Hill Walkers</b>			
7.1.1	RGS had to leave the meeting before this agenda item was covered.			
<b>7.2</b>	<b>Nationally Elected Councillor for Indoor Climbers</b>			
7.2.1	No report			
<b>7.3</b>	<b>Nationally Elected Councillor for Mountaineers</b>			
7.3.1	AH reported that the group is working on the outcomes of the Vision Event (VE) held on 12 February – the summary of the VE has now been added to the 12 February Council meeting minutes.			
<b>7.4</b>	<b>Nationally Elected Councillor for Rock Climbers</b>			
7.4.1	SC reported that the final version of the Rock Climbing Vision Event Summary Report is now on Teamwork.			
7.4.2	PD invited the NECs to provide staff with a brief overview of the VEs. The Chair felt that it would be best to include the Hill Walking VE, scheduled for the 14 May Council meeting, in the overview.	<b>Provide VE overview to staff after hill walking VE on 14 May</b>	<b>AH, RGS, SC, SH</b>	<b>31 May</b>
<b>7.5</b>	<b>Constituency Councillor for Mountain Training Candidates</b>			
7.5.1	Oli Lewis had sent his apologies for absence; no report submitted.			
<b>7.6</b>	<b>Constituency Councillor for members of BMC Affiliated Clubs</b>			
7.6.1	The Chair reported that no one is standing at the AGM for this role, but a member has recently expressed interest. Council would need to decide what to do at the 14 May Council meeting, and he suggested that Council could co-opt the interested member as a trial.	<b>Add Constituency Councillor action decision to 14 May meeting agenda</b>	<b>AS</b>	<b>ASAP</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Board Report</b>			

Item	Topic and Main Aspects Considered	Decision / Action	Who	When
<b>8.1</b>	<b>CEO Report*</b>			
8.1.1	PD briefly summarised the content of his report, which included updates on recent and upcoming recruitment, event activity, progression of the strategy for indoor climbing, membership growth, travel insurance sales, and the 2021 year-end financial results.			
8.1.2	CSt asked whether there was any particular focus on developing sections of the website. PD advised that a simplified timeline, developed by chief commercial officer Gavin Finch, and based on a more detailed timeline of IT projects produced by IT & database co-ordinator Alvin Foy, is available and can be circulated to Council.	<b>Circulate simplified IT development timeline to Council</b>	<b>PD</b>	<b>ASAP</b>
<b>8.2</b>	<b>Chair Report*</b>			
8.2.1	RM briefly summarised the content of his report, which included updates on the upcoming AGM and proposed changes to the Articles, Sport England funding, the formalisation of an International Strategy Group to represent the interests of British mountaineers on the international stage which would enable the International Mountaineering Committee to focus on the core work of grants and expeditions, and the formation of a steering group to oversee progress and delivery of the remaining change recommended by the Organisational Review.			
8.2.2	The meeting discussed the format of separate reports from different Board members, noting the possibility of duplication and increased reporting requirements, and agreed to continue with the format to the end of the year, and then evaluate the process.	<b>Review and evaluate reporting process at end of year meeting</b>	<b>AS, PD, RM &amp; CNDs</b>	<b>25 Oct</b>
<b>8.3</b>	<b>CND Report*</b>			
8.3.1	The report provided an overview of the work of the CNDs in respect of the work of the Board, as well as listing individual activities undertaken by the three CNDs.			
8.3.2	There were no questions or comments on the report.			
<b>9</b>	<b>Votes / Agreements</b>			
9.1	No votes or agreements were taken.			
<b>10</b>	<b>AOB</b>			
10.1	No AOB items discussed.			
<b>11</b>	<b>Date of next Meeting</b>			



Item	Topic and Main Aspects Considered	Decision / Action	Who	When
11.1	Saturday 14 May (9.30am start) – full meeting – Llanberis, and on Zoom Tuesday 7 June (7.00pm start) – post-meeting – on Zoom			
11.1.1	Zoom links for above meetings are on the <a href="#">Teamwork Calendar</a> .			
	There being no further business, AS closed the meeting at 9.30pm.			

**Summary of actions:** See [5<sup>th</sup> Members' Council Outstanding Actions](#) (link only available to Council members)

Item	Action	Involving	Target date
1.1.1	Provide Richard Eden with Zoom links for online Council meetings	TR	ASAP
3.2.1	Review the Volunteer Gala invitation process before sending out further invitations	AS	ASAP
5.1	Add Support for Areas to 14 May Council meeting agenda	AS	ASAP
6.7.1	Send NW Area fixed equipment policy to SQ	CSp	ASAP
6.8.6	Contact Kate Anwyl re. email opt-in/opt-out status of member records	CSt	ASAP
6.8.9	Contact Area Officers re. online / in-person meeting mix, and support for them	TR	ASAP
6.10.2	Add policy on lamping to work of Ethos & Ethics T&FG	SQ	30 Sep
7.4.2	Provide VE overview to staff after hill walking VE on 14 May	AH, RGS, SC, SH	31 May
7.6.1	Add Constituency Councillor action decision to 14 May meeting agenda	AS	ASAP
8.1.2	Circulate simplified IT development timeline to Council	PD	ASAP
8.2.2	Review and evaluate reporting process at end of year meeting.	AS, PD, RM & CNDs	25 Oct

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

Signed  Date 10/6/22

**Andy Syme, Chair**