

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 6 December 2022 at 7.00pm.

In attendance:

Voting Members

Elected Councillors

President, and Chair of the meeting (The Chair)	Andy Syme	AS		
Cymru North Wales	Tarquin Shipley	TQ		
Cymru South Wales	Steve Quinton	SQ		
Lakes	Mike Parsons	MP		
London & South East	Chris Stone	CSt	Who is also Deputy to the President	
Midlands	Claudia Sarnar	CSa		
North East	Jon Punshon	JP		
North East	Jonathan White	JW		
North West	Bill Beveridge	BB		
North West	Carl Spencer	CSp	Who is also a Council Nominated Director	
Peak District	Sam Harris	SHa		
Peak District	Sean Milner	SM		
South West	Philip Wilson	PW		
Nationally Elected Councillor for Indoor Climbers	Stuart Holmes	SHo		
Nationally Elected Councillor for Rock Climbers	Steve Clark	SC		
Specialist Councillors	Clubs Committee	Peter Salenieks	PS	Who is also a Council Nominated Director

Standing Observers

Specialist Committees

Hill Walking Group	Peter Judd	PJ	
Pwyllgor Cymru - Wales Committee	Neal Hockley	NH	Who is also a Nominated Director
Board of Directors	Chair of the Board	Roger Murray	RM

Others

BMC staff

Minute taker Tony Ryan TR

* denotes supporting paper(s) circulated prior to meeting

Item	Topic and Main Aspects Considered	Decision / Action	Who	When
32	Welcome & apologies for absence			
32.1	The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from: Abbi Blakey, Paul Davies, Paul Ratcliffe, Fiona Sanders, Trevor Smith, Andy Tickle.			
33	Note Conflicts of Interest			
33.1	No conflicts declared.			
34	Urgent issues for AOB			
34.1	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dartmoor – peaceful protests against wild camping High Court case (Trevor Smith) 2. Board Support / Nominated Director vacancy (SC) 			
35	Minutes of previous meetings and Outstanding Actions*			
35.1	Minutes of previous meeting held on 12 November 2022			
35.1.1	The draft minutes of the meeting had been posted on Teamwork. JW had commented to request some additions to the minutes: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In minute 18.1.1, which itself was a request to amend the minute 10.1.4 of the 25 Oct minutes which have been approved, JW wanted the minutes to record that he was very much against the Board's decision to leave a Nominated Director position vacant. 2. In minute 21.1.2, JW said the Participation Statement review group had received legal advice from Paul Debney, who is a BMC Honorary Legal Advisor, but Council felt that this was not formal advice. Council agreed that the minutes should not be changed, and that the BMC's Honorary Legal Advisors, as well as former vice-president Rupert Davies, should be contacted to ask if they would be willing to provide pro bono legal advice. JP cautioned that legal advice is not definitive. 3. In minute 21.1.3, it was noted that the view of the Clubs Committee on the Participation Statement review had been collected – no need to revise minutes. 4. In minute 27.1.4, JW requested that the minutes record more detail around the level of projected loss / subsidy of the IFSC World Cup event held at Ratho, and that a justification for running the event at a loss was that the Board had agreed to support the Volunteer Gala, which was seen as having a similar reach / benefit. The Chair agreed that the minutes should include the range of losses (£30-90k) forecasted. 	<p>This is noted in minutes, but approved and published minutes are not going to be amended.</p> <p>Contact honorary legal advisors and Rupert Davies to enquire about legal advice</p>	SQ	Done - see Teamwork

Item	Topic and Main Aspects Considered	Decision / Action	Who	When
35.1.2	With these agreed amendments, the minutes of the 12 November 2022 Council meeting were approved.	Post approved 12 Nov 2022 meeting minutes on website	TR	Done
35.2	Outstanding Actions			
35.2.1	The meeting reviewed the list of outstanding actions managed as Tasks on Teamwork; see Outstanding Actions (link only available to Council members).			
35.2.2	CSp expressed concern that the agreement with funded partners had not yet been signed.			
35.2.3	The issue of comms to members about subscription increases brought about discussion on the timing of comms for next year.			
35.2.4	CSt agreed to chase up any councillors who had not yet completed the Council surveys.	Ask those who have not completed Council surveys to do so	CSt	ASAP
36	Recommendation to appoint two new Patrons*			
36.1	After approaches to the potential Patron previously proposed had proved unsuccessful, CSt reported that the Awards & Honours Panel had met on 15 November to consider a list of potential Patrons submitted by Members' Council, the Access Management Group and access & conservation staff, and now wished to recommend two people. If Council agrees with the recommendations, the two people would be contacted following due diligence checks. During the meeting, another potential Patron was suggested and discussed, along with the two people recommended by the panel.			
36.1.1	A Poll was scheduled for later in the meeting – see item 44.2			
37	Support for Areas / Area Review update*			
37.1	CSt reported on the online forum held on 8 November to discuss with Area volunteers how to increase Area Meeting attendance and improve member engagement at the meetings.			
37.1.1	The issue of Area volunteers holding member contact information in respect of compliance with GDPR was raised again. CSt advised that he would follow up with Kate Anwyl, one of the BMC's data protection officers, and Gavin Finch, chief commercial officer.	Speak to Kate Anwyl and Gavin Finch about GDPR interpretation	CSt	ASAP
37.1.2	For approval of the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Area Member Engagement Review Task & Finish Group, Councillors were asked to comment on the ToR on Teamwork by the end of this month, so that CSt could update the ToR.	Comment on Area Review T&FG ToR	All	31 Dec 22

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37.1.3	The group needs volunteers; if sufficient councillors and other volunteers put themselves forward, the group can proceed with its work; if not, the matter can be discussed at the 8 th Council pre-meeting on 21 February 2023.			
38	Annual Volunteer Awards 2023 update			
38.1	CSt reported that nomination information for the 2023 awards would be published soon. 2022 was the first year a scoring system was used to rate the nominees, and some small changes have been made to the system to increase the likelihood of a clear winner.			
38.1.1	The Awards & Honours Panel felt that the Lord Greaves Award (for voluntary contribution to BMC Access and Conservation work), which was introduced in 2021, should continue as an annual award.	Noted		
38.1.2	The Chair advised that the Board had agreed a budget of £22k for the 2023 Volunteer Gala; this is slightly less than the inaugural 2022 event received, but it was felt was probably a sufficient amount, if done as a combined event, and if not he hoped he would receive a positive response to a request to the Board to fund any gaps.			
39	UIAA, EUMA, IFSC update			
39.1	The Chair reported on recent meetings and developments at the international federations.			
39.2	UIAA (International Climbing and Mountaineering Federation)			
39.2.1	The UIAA held its General Assembly in October in Canada.			
39.2.2	The Training Panel became an independent commission separate from the Mountaineering Commission this year, and is presided over by Steve Long. Phil Wickens has left, and Victor Saunders has joined the Mountaineering Commission.			
39.2.3	The Legal Affairs Commission, which was created this year, is seeking to expand its membership, and is specifically looking for lawyers from Switzerland, Germany and the UK to support its activities. The Chair will ask Emma Hope, BMC marketing manager, if comms can go out to members to search for potential candidates.	Request comms to members re. UIAA Legal Affairs Commission vacancy	AS	ASAP
39.3	EUMA (European Union of Mountaineering Associations)			
39.3.1	Nothing to report since previous report.			

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39.4	IFSC (International Federation of Sport Climbing)																		
39.4.1	The IFSC held a symposium (called the Climbing Summit) in Turin in November. Various topics were presented and discussed, with a particular focus on athletes, including strategy, governance, events, media and development of Sport Climbing.																		
39.4.2	It was noted that the IFSC President has noted the issues for 'multi-activity' National Federations and is looking at how to ensure they can remain compliant with IFSC & IOC requirements (e.g. Athlete representation at Board level) without changing the ethos and structures of the Federations.																		
39.5	CSp asked whether reports were produced by UK-based representatives attending meetings. The Chair said that there was no formal requirement, but that going forward, with the establishment of a new BMC committee, the International Strategy Group, there would be a need for reporting.																		
40	Council dates finalisation*																		
40.1	The Chair reported that the date of the 2023 BMC AGM has yet to be confirmed, but it will be on 10 or 17 June, and we are looking at combining the AGM with an Area Festival. Until the AGM date and time is set, we can't set the date and time of the June Council full meeting, which we want to hold on the same weekend in the same location.																		
40.1.1	The date of the annual Specialist Committee Review also needs to be set, and will be on one of the weekends of 2-3, 9-10 or 16-17 September.	Set date for 2023 Specialist Committee Review meeting	RM/AS	ASAP															
40.1.2	Looking at the dates of Council meetings in the paper for this item, Council agreed the following schedule:	Agreed																	
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>PRE-MEETING</th> <th>FULL MEETING</th> <th>POST-MEETING</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Tue 21 FEB</td> <td>Sat 11 MAR (Zoom)</td> <td>Tue 28 MAR</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tue 23 MAY</td> <td>Same weekend (10-11 or 16-17 JUN) as AGM & Board meeting (Hybrid)</td> <td>Tue 04 JUL</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tue 15 AUG</td> <td>Same weekend (2-3, 9-10 or 16-17 SEP) as Specialist Committee Review (Hybrid)</td> <td>No meeting unless required</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tue 14 NOV</td> <td>Sat 2 DEC (Zoom)</td> <td>Tue 19 DEC</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	PRE-MEETING	FULL MEETING	POST-MEETING	Tue 21 FEB	Sat 11 MAR (Zoom)	Tue 28 MAR	Tue 23 MAY	Same weekend (10-11 or 16-17 JUN) as AGM & Board meeting (Hybrid)	Tue 04 JUL	Tue 15 AUG	Same weekend (2-3, 9-10 or 16-17 SEP) as Specialist Committee Review (Hybrid)	No meeting unless required	Tue 14 NOV	Sat 2 DEC (Zoom)	Tue 19 DEC			
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40.1.3	On the subject of the Specialist Committee Review, there was discussion about whether to include the Finance & Audit Committee as a presenting committee. As there is limited time on the day to cover all the committees, the Chair suggested that a follow-up meeting on Zoom on the Wednesday after the main meeting could be added to provide more overall time for the review. PS said that recent review meetings hadn't been Board quorate, and asked whether anything could be done to address this.																		
40.1.4	JW suggested that a review of the BMC's trusts (Access & Conservation, Mountain Heritage, and Land & Property) could be incorporated into the AGM weekend programme. The Chair replied that Council had previously discussed how to engage with the trusts during the AGM weekend.	Request Board consider including BMC Trusts within AGM Programme	AS	ASAP															
40.1.5	Looking at the dates of the Area Meetings in the paper for this item, Council agreed the following schedule:																		
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	Areas can choose to hold their meeting on their preferred date within those periods.																		
40.1.6	For the process of Area Reps reporting to Council following Area Meetings, the report template will be modified to focus on points that Areas wish discuss in Council.	Modify Area Report template	AS/TR	16 Jan 22															
41	Ethos & Ethics Policy Task & Finish Group update																		
41.1	SQ provided a verbal update on the work of the group in relation to more than 30 policies identified for review.																		
41.1.1	The next steps will be to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify people to review/check specific policies; Create a colour coding system to show status of policies; Create a location on the website for hosting all policies. 																		

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41.1.2	Post meeting note: SQ uploaded a simplified and updated version of the group's working document to the Council Chat project on Teamwork, so that councillors could comment on whether those policies marked as 'requiring review or update' needed minor edits, updating or a full review. SQ also asked for volunteers to support the review of those policies not yet assigned to someone.	Comment on policies via file on Teamwork.	All	ASAP
42	Participant Learning Vision Event output summary approval*			
42.1	SHo advised that the document he had uploaded to Teamwork is a working document and the he would appreciate input, particularly on the suggestion of using a matrix to review events against a set of criteria	Comment on Participant Learning VE output summary on Teamwork	All	ASAP
42.1.1	It was agreed that SHo could take the summary to the Training, Walls & Youth Committee meeting on 7 December, and ask for feedback, which he would then report to Council.	Report Council on feedback from TYWC on Participant Learning VE output summary	SHo	ASAP
43	CND Report*			
43.1	The Chair thanked the CNDs for producing the report.			
43.1.1	PS said that the CNDs would welcome any questions offline.			
44	Votes / Agreements			
44.1	NomCom Rep appointment			
44.1.1	The Chair advised that RM had been unable to produce a role specification in time for the meeting, so a vote on the appointment would be postponed.			
44.1.2	Prior to the meeting SM had expressed interest in standing for appointment, and in the meeting JP and JW expressed interest in standing.			
44.1.3	It was agreed that RM would produce a role specification, so that appointment could be made at either the 21 February pre-meeting or 11 March full meeting.	Produce role description for NomCom Rep	RM	1 Feb 22
44.2	Patron appointment			
44.2.1	The Chair confirmed that it would be an agreement, as opposed to a vote.			
44.2.2	Councillors were asked to vote on the following poll:			

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	<p>Subject due diligence checks, Council wishes the following to be approached as soon as possible and asked to be patrons of the BMC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. The two individuals recommended by the Awards & Honours Panel; B. The two individuals recommended by the Awards & Honours Panel, plus the individual suggested in the meeting; C. Other combination; D. None of these; E. Abstain. 			
44.2.3	<p>RESULT: A = 7; B = 12; C = 0; D=0; E=1.</p> <p>Council recommended that all three individuals be approached following due diligence checks.</p>	<p>Approach potential Patrons following due diligence checks</p>	<p>AS</p>	<p>ASAP</p>
44.2.4	<p>CSt said that he would report Council's recommendation to the Awards & Honours Panel.</p>			
45	AOB			
45.1	Dartmoor – peaceful protests against wild camping High Court case			
45.1.1	<p>Trevor Smith (South West Area Rep) was unable to attend the meeting, but had emailed TR to request that Council be made aware of two peaceful protests planned for Princetown in Dartmoor National Park on Sunday 11 December (which Trevor would be attending) and London on Monday 12 December, when the case is due before the High Court.</p>			
45.2	Board Support / Nominated Director vacancy			
45.2.1	<p>The Chair reported that conversations had taken place about the possibility of an observer being added to the Board's resources while the Nominated Director vacancy remained. The observer wouldn't be a director, but could provide additional support for liaison with Specialist Committees as well as carrying out other roles.</p>			
45.2.2	<p>The Chair asked Council whether it wanted to make this request and offer support, and asked RM for his thoughts.</p>			
45.2.3	<p>A show of hands indicated majority support for the suggestion, with two councillors unsure and two abstaining.</p>			
45.2.4	<p>RM said that he would relay Council's opinion to Caroline Worboys, the Senior Independent Director. He explained that one of the reasons that the Board has held off appointing someone is that it has identified a lack of expertise within the Board for competition climbing</p>			

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	governance, and has identified someone who could bring that expertise into the Board and help the Board hold that area of the BMC's work to account.			
45.2.5	SC raised the issue of sharing financial information between Board and Council. RM said that Council has two representatives on the Finance & Audit Committee who it can ask to provide relevant information.			
45.2.6	JW said that there are 13 director portfolios (including the portfolio held by the Governance & Compliance Officer), which therefore requires 12 directors and the officer for complete oversight.			
46	Date of next Meetings			
46.1	The first round of 2023 meetings (8 th Members' Council) will be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuesday 21 February (7.00pm) – pre-meeting – on Zoom • Saturday 11 March (9.30am) – full meeting – on Zoom • Tuesday 28 March (7.00pm) – post-meeting – on Zoom 			
46.1.1	Zoom links for above meetings are on the Teamwork Calendar .			
	There being no further business, the Chair closed the meeting at 9.20pm.			

Summary of actions: See [7th Members' Council Outstanding Actions](#) (link only available to Council members)

Item	Action	Involving	Target date
35.1.1	Contact honorary legal advisors and Rupert Davies to enquire about legal advice	SQ	ASAP
35.1.2	Post approved 12 November meeting minutes on website	TR	ASAP
35.2.4	Ask those who have not completed Council surveys to do so	CSt	ASAP
37.1.1	Speak to Kate Anwyl and Gavin Finch about GDPR interpretation	CSt	ASAP
37.1.2	Comment on Area Review T&FG ToR	All	31 Dec 2022
39.2.3	Request comms to members re. UIAA Legal Affairs Commission vacancy	AS	ASAP
40.1.1	Set date for 2023 Specialist Committee Review meeting	RM/AS	ASAP
40.1.4	Request Board consider including BMC Trusts within AGM Programme	AS	ASAP
40.1.6	Modify Area Report template	AS/TR	16 Jan 2023
41.1.2	Comment on policies via file on Teamwork	All	ASAP
42.1	Comment on Participant Learning VE output summary on Teamwork	All	ASAP
42.1.1	Report Council on feedback from TYWC on Participant Learning VE output summary	SHo	ASAP
44.1.3	Produce role description for NomCom Rep	RM	1 Feb 2022
44.2.3	Approach potential Patrons following due diligence checks	AS	ASAP

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



8/2/23

Signed _____ Date _____

Andy Syme, Chair