

Bedford Mountaineering Club

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2025 At the Robertson Lamb Hut at 17:00 6th December

1. Apologies for absence.

John Clark, Barry, Mandy, Rupert, Ben, Jane

Mandy and Rupert, Jane and Ben all tabled letters which were discussed.

16 members were present with 1 prospective member.

2. Approval of the 2024 AGM minutes

The minutes were approved with two abstentions.

3. Matters arising.

None

4. Treasurer's Report

Leanne referred to her report and tabled a financial spreadsheet which showed a small profit was made over the year. (First November 2024 to 31st October 2025.) The meets analysis showed a small loss which was not unusual. One item of concern was the larger than normal deposits which have been paid out for 2026 and have reduced our cash balance. Leanne was concerned about 2027 and said we would need to carefully manage the year's deposits.

Jane's email about the club commitment to the Scottish and Howgills trips was discussed. While Matt and Chris were happy that sufficient canvassing of interest had been undertaken, it was agreed that in future we would get deposits and commitments before booking special trips.

5. Membership Secretary's Report.

Jane's report was read out. The highlights were 41 members, 2 more than last year, plus several prospective members.

The BMC has increased its fees slightly but Jane thought we could stay at our current £35 annual membership charge.

A vote of thanks to Jane was proposed by Steve, seconded by Simon, to general approval.

6. Meets Secretary's Report.

Matt gave a report for 2025 saying we lost money on Coppermines and George Starkey. He would not rebook Coppermines because there are cheaper huts nearby but it was worth continuing to use George Starkey even though we were likely to lose a little money. For 2026 he pointed out he had, with the committee's backing, branched out to new areas. He defended the Scottish booking pointing out it was a BMC hut and we had only booked 10 places. Steve was concerned the hut was rather tired and the beds were alpine style, which would not suit everybody for a week.

Exmoor was a good climbing area and the expensive Howgills booking had received backing from some members when it was suggested.

7. Meets Admin Report

Chris reported the meets admin and the Google spreadsheet booking were going well. There needs to be better communication between meets booking, treasurer and meets admin so fees known about and can be paid on time.

8. Website Secretary's Report.

Chris reported that the website has been improved over the last year with Keith's meet reports including photographs.

Keith has been developing a new more modern looking website and will be taking over the running of the website in the new year.

We are about to pay for a domain name. Mike suggested Bedfordmountaineering.uk. We will pay for a wordpress site using that domain name. This will allow a site with more features because we can use plugins and other paid-for features.

John Isard, who used to run the club website, was supportive.

9. Marketing Secretary's Report.

Keith referenced his report, highlighting the new logo, the development of a new website, the social media work and the work with educational institutions to attract new (younger) members.

He outlined a raft of activities planned for next year and asked for members help in identifying and helping with opportunities to increase our exposure to the community.

Steve emphasised the importance of Facebook.

The Bedford River Festival was mentioned. Frank was concerned it had gone downhill but Mollie reported her canoe club got a lot out of it.

Keith thanked Mandy for facilitating the new logo, Frank for getting articles published and Steve for his support in regaining Facebook and Instagram access.

10. Election of Officers.

No nominations were received for any of the positions.

The positions of Club Secretary and Membership Secretary were vacant because Ben and Jane had stood down.

Franks was happy to continue as Club Chairman.

Leanne volunteered to combine the Treasurer and the Membership role.

Keith was happy to take on the website admin as well as the Marketing Secretary's role.

Chris took on the Club Secretary's role together with Meets Admin.

Matt continued as Meets Secretary.

The meeting approved the new committee unanimously.

11. Setting of Hut costs for 2026.

Most of the committee were in favour of raising the nightly charge to £20. Most of the members, including those who had written in, thought it should be less. There was some discussion about whether we should have differing rates for huts but this was felt to be too complicated.

A motion that the cost per night should be set at £17.50 was passed with only a couple against.

12. Setting of Membership fee at £35 for 2026.

The motion was passed unanimously.

13. Vote on Revised Constitution.

After some words of explanation the new constitution v2 was approved by the meeting.

It was later noticed the financial year set out in the constitution was incorrect. This has been changed for version 2.1

Jane suggested the constitution should be changed to allow for payment of half fees from 1st July and 1/3 from 1st October but the committee felt this could be implemented without changing the constitution.

14. Vote on holding the AGM at the Christmas Meet or in Bedford.

The meeting (and the corresponding members) voted to hold future AGMs in Bedford with remote access (if feasible, to be confirmed). There were three votes against.

Leanne has suggested we may be able to use a scout hut at minimal cost.

15. Vote on whether to continue the Christmas Dinner (as prepared by Mike) at the Christmas meet.

The meeting overwhelmingly voted to retain the Christmas dinner at the Christmas Meet.

A vote of thanks to Mike for his supreme efforts and his offer to cook again next year was passed by acclaim.

16. Any Other Business

The date and place of the monthly socials are yet to be decided. The spreadsheet thoughtfully provided by Erik only showed there is no clear consensus. One for the committee to ponder.

It was suggested we could share huts with other clubs in order to access some of the larger huts. It was agreed this should be investigated.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at about 18:20.