

## BRITISH MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL

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### MINUTES OF THE 196<sup>TH</sup> YORKSHIRE AREA MEETING

Held at 19:40 on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2012 at the Dyneley Arms, Pool in Wharfedale.

Present:-

James Rowe	Chair, Leeds MC, CC	Ali Homayoonpoor	YMC
Mark Beecher	Secretary, Leeds MC, AC	Beverley Jowett	National Council Rep, Individual
Niall Grimes	BMC Guidebooks Officer	Julie Dundas	Individual
Katrina Adam	CC, LMC	Mick Johnson	Access & Conservation Limestone, FRCC, CC
Adi Gill	Individual	Keirnan Brook	Gritstone Club
Dave Musgrove	Access & Conservation Limestone, YMC	Mick Green	Gritstone Club
Nigel Baker	YMC	Will Hunt	Leeds University Union MC
Paul Clarke	FRCC	Mike Bebbington	YMC, FRCC, CC
Robin Nicholson	Individual		

#### Action

1. **Welcome & Introductions.** James welcomed everyone to the meeting and the Officers introduced themselves.
2. **Apologies for absence:** Deidre Collier, Chris Wright, Paul Exley, John Hunt and Laurie Morse. Apology for late arrival received for Dave Musgrove.
3. **Minutes of the last meeting.** The Minutes were agreed as a correct record of the Meeting.
4. **Matters Arising not covered elsewhere.** Hill walking to be raised under section 9.
5. **Co-ordinators' Reports**

#### 5.1. Gritstone : access & conservation.

**Chevin & Caley crags:** MJ will attend meeting on 13/6/12 where all Otley Chevin activities are to be discussed. The clearing of bracken and birch is being undertaken by organised conservation volunteers as part of an education course. Climbers in general are to be encouraged to clear the Himalayan Balsam on their visits and can prune small branches that are overhanging boulders. Re strimming, the Estate Manager has given MJ informal approval for the Sugarloaf area but would not want it happening en masse because of concerns re insurance and liability.

There is a meeting 8/6/12 at the White **Heavestones:** access issues to boulders/buttruss as on private land (owned by Stern family) whose representative complained to Rob Dyer; BMC Landowner Liability Handbook posted and awaiting further contact from the Sterns. However, informally a farmer commented to regional meeting attendee who was climbing there 26-27 May re number of cars (in spite of fact that a lot of walkers also use the public right of way close by).

**Guissecliff:** Merlins (small bird of prey) are residents each year on this 50% CROW and 50% privately owned land. However, it is the recent appearance of nesting Peregrines that has required the negotiation of a seasonal ban on Buttresses 3, 4 & 5; but "Cosmic Buttress" and "Creation Wall" not affected. RAD updated. Furthermore, landowner contacted Natural England and is awaiting response with Guissecliff being a "SSSI" site, access under negotiation between Rob Dyer, Mick Johnson and Natural England.

**Thruscross/Cat crags** (near Blubberhouses): general landowner/access issues TBA (once Yorkshire Water liaised with). (Is in the midst of Access Land, registered on some maps as having No Access, hence to be confirmed before 'development' (cleaning) and inclusion in the next guidebook occurs.)

**Heptonstall Quarry:** Volunteers (JR, BJ, Rob Dyer, Alex and Huddersfield University MC) thanked for efforts on the clean up day which was agreed as a great example of collaboration with Calderdale Council resulting in new stakes at the top of the Quarry as well as extensive tree pruning and bramble clearing.

**Giggleswick Quarry:** No change since February's meeting i.e. meeting in January 2012 with owners (Hansons) Quarry Manager & Estate Manager. Owners wish to sell to BMC with post-development profit claw-back caveats. However, currently we do not wish to extend insurance liability let alone purchase. Therefore, recommendation to owners may be to suggest joint ventures (e.g. inclusion of mountain biking facilities); but given that this quarry – for climbing use – is in its infancy, it was agreed that we would wait for input from Giggleswick Parish Council.

## 5.2. Limestone : access & conservation.

No report. Understanding is no significant change

**High Stoney Bank:** the raven has flown! Therefore, full access again.

**Blue Scar:** Open to BMC members subject to form completion and approval beforehand.

**Limestone Access – Generic:** From the beginning of February until mid-May or mid-July, there are raven and peregrine bans respectively on several crags in the county. Specifically, ~~High Stoney Bank~~; **Blue Scar**; **Trollers Ghyll** (Old Man's Crag section); **Trow Gill** (left-hand end section) and **Langcliff** (including Skyline Buttress). For the latter crag, the raven ban may be lifted after this season as that bird type has not nested there for several years. Checking on RAD was encouraged.

5.3. **Youth.** No coordinator and no report. It was noted that the Area should have a plan in place to fill this post, particularly given the push to engage the 16-25 year old age bracket with the BMC and outdoor activities.

5.4. **Climbing Walls.** No comment.

## 6. National Council

6.1. **Report from April 2012 meeting.** A brief summary given by JR and BJ.

6.2. **Matters for the next meeting.** The dates of the upcoming Lakes Climbing Festival and Houghton Quarry cleanup were queried.

6.2.1.

**reas view on wind turbines.** No strong opinions were expressed and satisfied to view on a case by case basis.

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7. **Clubs' Issues.** No comments.

8. **Individual Members' Issues.** None raised.

9. **Hillwalking.** Chris Wright (represented by KA) is requesting input from members. CW to contact organisers of Otley and Pateley Bridge Walking Festival(s), and maybe send the new BMC walking booklets, and possibly Ramblers Association. BMC to challenge hill-walkers perception (of the BMC including area meetings – what can we do for them?). CW to look for guidance from the new BMC Walking Engagement Officer.

## 10. Any Other Business.

10.1. MJ commented he had received an invitation to attend a free Child Protection Awareness Course in Buxton on 6<sup>th</sup> June. MJ to send details to MB for distribution to the club contacts.

10.2. Guidebook. Still hoping to have Volume 1 out before the end of the year. Photos are still welcome for Volume 2.

There was no other business and the Meeting closed at 20.52.

Next meeting 17<sup>th</sup> September Dyneley Arms.