

BRITISH MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE 199TH YORKSHIRE AREA MEETING

Held at 19:39 on Monday 4th February 2013 at the Dyneley Arms, Pool in Wharfedale.

Present:-

James Rowe	Chair, Leeds MC, CC	Dave Robson	Individual
Mark Beecher	Secretary, Leeds MC, AC	Helen Costelloe	Leeds MC
Niall Grimes	BMC Officer	Angela Soper	Pinnacle Club, FRCC
Mick Johnson	A&C Gritstone rep, CC, FRCC	Paul Clarke	FRCC
Paul Exley	Clubs rep, Leeds MC, FRCC	Mick Green	Gritstone Club
Bev Jowett	NC rep, Individual	Laurie Morse	YMC
Paul Farrell	Youth indoors rep	Nigel Baker	YMC

1. **Welcome & Introductions.** James welcomed everyone to the meeting and the Officers introduced themselves. Everyone else in the room introduced themselves.
2. **Apologies for absence:** Alison Wood, John Hunt, Debra Halcrow, Deidre Collier, Dave Musgrove, Kat Adam and Julie Dundas.
3. **Minutes of the last meeting.** The Minutes were agreed as a correct record of the Meeting.
4. **Matters Arising not covered elsewhere.**

4. PC asked for an update on the Better Bolts Campaign request since BMC funding has been agreed.

5. Co-ordinators' Reports

5.1. Gritstone : access & conservation.

Baildon Bank: Meetings held with Bradford Council & Adi Gill (local activist) about graffiti removal. General outcome, is that Council clean up acceptable but need to use different chemical cleaning on other sections where key routes are. MJ and Rob Dyer in liaison with Council. Additionally, rock-fall noted on UKC.

Chevin: Leeds City Council have agreed to belay stakes at the top of the quarry (anticipate c6 stakes required) and MJ has also gained Warden approval regarding pruning the birch and ash trees. It was commented that surrounding land is currently up for sale which may impact future access.

Hawkestones: Signs need replacing (but seemingly not an urgent matter as no-one has contacted MJ re access issues) and is now in hand thanks to Rob Dyer.

Mytholm Steeps Quarry: MJ has liaised with Calderdale Council, so tree clearance date TBA.

Robin Hood Rocks: local activist to clean.

Earl Crag: Local outdoor centre (LOC) requested placement of belay stakes for abseiling purposes. MJ written to LOC expressing concern as abseils would fall over key routes and to exercise caution over using the loose quarry at the western end of the crag. No response. Hence meeting arranged with Dan McKinley (Director LOC).

Denholme Quarry: A nearby venue that is privately owned has had some dry-tooling development. Activists want to publicise in an appropriate way so have sought advice. MJ and Rob Dyer liaising re next steps.

Guissecliffe: Peregrin ban, so meeting with landowner TBA.

5.2. Limestone : access & conservation.

Quarries: National working group met 4/2/13, of which our Limestone Rep, Dave Musgrove was part of, so no further news until outcomes communicated.

- 5.3. **Youth.** The Youth Climbing Series is due to start on 16th February at the Harrogate wall followed by round 2 at Harrogate on 16th March and then 20th April at Leeds Wall. The top 3 from each age category will go through to the final at Ratho in June.¹

- 5.4. **Climbing Walls.** No report

- 5.5. **Clubs'.** No meeting has been held since the last report. PE commented that another survey is due to be issued soon.

- 5.6. **Hillwalking.** No report.

6. National Council

- 6.1. **Report from December 2012 meeting.** A summary has been requested from Dave Turnbull by several people but currently not available.

The BMC is currently looking for new blood for the various committees and also possibly rationalising the committees.

The question of insurance for cycling activities was raised; a clarification is due to be issued imminently. NB asked whether this would increase the premium.

The contract for the Access rep that works for Mountaineering Council of Scotland (MCofS) on behalf of the BMC is due for renewal. A presentation / debate on their work and role is planned at the next NC.

The BMC has been successful in securing funding for the new national hill walking and regional reps. DC has suggested inviting them to our area meetings soon.

- 6.2. **Matters for the next meeting.** A request for a summary of the meeting which can be distributed to the members in our area.

- 6.3. **Drilled Equipment Policy.** MG questioned whether the policy should reference the technical supporting documents on bolting etc. It was also questioned where and what context the document was intended for. On review; the dry-tooling paragraph does not read well in the context of the rest of the document but it was noted this may be due to a lack of a policy on dry-tooling itself.

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

8. Any Other Business.

- 8.1. **Otley Mini Mountain Festival².** Dave Robson from the festival was in attendance and commented that the festival had gone well and commented that he would be happy to help arrange films, speakers, book signings, meetings etc with a BMC theme in the future at the Otley Courthouse. Any ideas please email via the website and he will pick them up. MJ and Martin Kocsis had manned the stand at the festival.

- 8.2. Calderdale Local Access Forum had contacted Rob Dyer for people to sit on the forum. JR to forward information to PC, BJ and Calderdale Mountaineering Club.

There was no other business and the Meeting closed at 20.42.

Next meeting will be the 200th (!) meeting **20th May 2013** Dyneley Arms with a start time of **19.30**.

¹ <http://www.thebmc.co.uk/bmc-youth-climbing-series-enter-online>

² <http://www.otleycourthouse.org.uk/whats-on/>