

BRITISH MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE 200TH YORKSHIRE AREA MEETING

Held at 19:41 on Monday 20th May 2013 at the Dyneley Arms, Pool in Wharfedale.

Present:-

James Rowe	Chair, Leeds MC, CC	David Campbell	CC, YMC, Individual
Mark Beecher	Secretary, Leeds MC, AC	Vicky Lisle	Leeds MC
Dan Middleton	BMC Officer	Angela Soper	Pinnacle Club, FRCC
Rob Greenwood	BMC Officer	Glynn Edwards	FRCC
Dave Musgrove	Limestone A&C Rep	Paul Clarke	FRCC
Bev Jowett	NC rep, Individual	Mick Green	Gritstone Club
Phil Toothill	Vibram MC	Laurie Morse	YMC
Deirdre Collier	CC	Sue Keinhorst	Craven

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:** John Hunt, Kat Adam, Paul Exley, Mick Johnson, Paul Farrell, Nigel Baker, Mike Bebbington.
3. **Minutes of the last meeting.** The Minutes were agreed as a correct record of the Meeting.
4. **Matters Arising not covered elsewhere.**

4. Better Bolts Campaign funding has been agreed and the bolts order is about to be dispatched.

6.1 BJ provided an update on mountain biking insurance from the National Council meeting.

5. Co-ordinators' Reports

5.1. Gritstone : access & conservation.

MJ in absentia - Nothing to report

Earl Crag and Chevin: An update from MJ was requested.

Brimham: It was noted that a clean-up day at Brimham was being organised by Harrogate Climbing Centre on **June 1st** and the BMC should offer to help.¹²

Eavestones: Due to the clearance of a recently fallen large tree which blocked the path to the northern side of the lower lake the rope and no-entry sign which used to obstruct the path at this point has also disappeared and not been replaced. There is still no formal access agreement for climbing but it seems the owners are not actively discouraging access on this side any more.

5.2. Limestone : access & conservation.

High Stony Bank & Langcliffe: Access restrictions re breeding Ravens have already been lifted at High Stony. There is concern that the Peregrine nest at Langcliffe is no longer occupied this year and this restriction may be lifted in the near future following further checks.

Threshfield Quarry: Owned by Lafarge Tarmac, ceased to be a working quarry in 2000. Lafarge Tarmac have since leased the "floor" of the lower two quarries to "Threshfield Quarry Development Trust" (TQDT) retaining responsibility for the "walls" and opening the quarry base to the public with footpaths and H&S signage. Collaboration is now underway – that will hopefully serve as a model for other quarries in the

¹ <http://www.ukclimbing.com/forums/t.php?n=549817>

² <http://www.harrogateclimbingcentre.com/brimham-rocks-litter-pick/>

future – between the BMC, Craven DC, Upper Wharfedale Rescue, Yorkshire Dales National Park and TQDT to formally allow rock climbing to take place here (potential for several hundred mid-grade-range sport routes). The Trust have agreed in principle that climbing would be acceptable as part of their remit and CDC's Sports development officer is very positive about the proposal. The National Park is also supportive and have confirmed there are no current environmental issues that would preclude the activity. Dave Turnbull has asked that the area committee be consulted and if in agreement then central BMC endorsement will be provided. The area committee were in unanimous agreement. BMC quarries officer Neil Hewittson has contacted Lafarge Tarmac's PR department who are arranging a meeting with the key stakeholders to move things forward, expected to be held in 2-3 months time (following internal restructuring on their part).

Wetherby crag: MG requested DM to contact Wetherby Parish Council or NYCC re removal of 'rubble' from the landing zones as a result of a (presumed) council tree-pruning and tidy-up.

Giggleswick Hollywood Bowl: A bolt pulled out of Illywacker (F7b+) fortunately no-one was injured. DM has spoken to a local activist who will replace the bolt having confirmed that the route was semi-re-bolted just pre-2005 guidebook publication. The offending bolt was not, however, replaced at that time as it appeared OK. Its vintage is unknown.

5.3. **Youth.** Nothing to report.

5.4. **Climbing Walls.** Nothing to report.

5.5. **Clubs'** See notes that were sent following the last meeting³ and are on the BMC website.

5.6. **Hillwalking.** No report. BJ said she was prepared to contact Pately Bridge Walking Festival for possible future attendance at the meetings.

6. **National Council**

6.1. **Report from February 2013 meeting.** Summary available here:
<https://www.thebmc.co.uk/Handlers/DownloadHandler.ashx?id=1036>

SportEngland has performed an audit of the BMC and of key note was the feedback loop from NC to local areas which NC is working towards improving.

6.2. **Matters for the next meeting. Trespass** – DCa raised a concern regarding the implications outlined in Catherine Flitcroft's posting in the May BMC Newsletter. That is, the government is looking at a significant change in law, making trespass a criminal offence under the Anti-Social Behaviour Bill. Yorkshire would welcome an update!

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

8. **Any Other Business.**

8.1. Due to time constraints a detailed discussion on increasing area meeting attendance will be rolled forward to the next meeting, however, the following points were made: venue nearer a motorway / main roads, host at a local climbing wall, controversial topics to add to the agenda, use local clubs to host, improve advertising and increase social media engagement.

8.2. Rob Greenwood gave a short presentation on his new role and the two key parts; helping individuals move from climbing inside to outside with the help of local climbing walls etc. and increasing club membership.

8.3. Dan Middleton provided a thought provoking demonstration of gear reliability with his gear breaking machine.

There was no other business and the Meeting closed at 21.00.

Next meeting will be 9th **September 2013** at the Dyneley Arms with a start time of **19.30**.

³ <http://community.thebmc.co.uk/Event.aspx?view=report&id=2809>