

BRITISH MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL

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Minutes of the 203rd Yorkshire Area Meeting

Held at 19.30 on Monday 3 February 2014

Present:

James Rowe	Chair. Leeds MC, CC	Mike Bebbington	YMC, CC, FRCC
Deirdre Collier	Secretary. CC, Individual	Laurie Morse	YMC
Mick Johnson	A & C Gritstone Rep. FRCC, CC	Paul Clarke	FRCC
Beverley Jowett	NC Rep. Individual	Jon Garside	BMC Officer
Paul Exley	Clubs Committee Rep. Leeds MC, FRCC	Chris Gill	Individual
Stephen Spellman	Individual	Pat Quiney	Individual
Richard Taylor	Individual	John Hollingworth	Kendal MC
Julie Dundas	Individual		

Action

1 Welcome & Introductions

James welcomed everyone to the meeting & all present introduced themselves.

2 Apologies for Absence.

Apologies were received from Nigel Baker, David Campbell, Glyn Edwards, David Farrell, Mick Green, John Hunt, Dave Musgrove, Heather Thomas-Smith, Angela Soper & the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority.

3 Minutes of the last meeting.

The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as an accurate record.

4 Matters Arising not on the Agenda

It was noted that production had re-commenced of the summaries of the National Council Meetings.

Paul Clarke reported that the access issues re Sewell's Cave were resolved & that they were not climber related.

Re presentations Deirdre Collier reported that she had been in touch with Sam Smith's brewery & it appeared that there was a total ban on audio visual presentations as a means of ensuring compliance with performing rights legislation because the brewery does not pay the relevant dues. This situation may change in the near future & although the Dyneley Arms was felt to be a good venue it was agreed to seek an alternative for the June meeting.

DC

5 Co-ordinators' Reports

5.1 Gritstone: Access & Conservation.

Sandy Bank Quarry

Mick Johnson reported that schools have been using Sandy Bank Quarry at Pannal near Harrogate for abseiling & the chief instructor at the Leeds climbing wall had contacted him regarding this usage. After inspection, Mick had concluded that the BMC should not be supporting this.

Woodhouse Scar – nothing further heard re the proposed crag clean up.

Caley

It was noted that a further clear up of the Himalyan Balsam was needed. Mick Johnson said that on the last occasion few people had turned up to help & so it was agreed to promote it further via social media. James Rowe said he would promote it on UK Bouldering & Jon Garside suggested BMC involvement with beer & food afterwards.

JR

Beverley Jowett reported that Harrogate Climbing Centre in conjunction with the National Trust had organized a litter pick at Brimham on 1 June with bacon butties to be followed by climbing.

5.2 Limestone: Access & conservation

Dave Musgrove was absent but had sent a message saying that there were no new Limestone issues to report although he reminded all that Bird Bans for Ravens would start on 5 February at the regular sites in particular High Stoney Bank & Langcliffe.

Action from Tarmac re Threshfield Quarry was still awaited.

5.3 Youth.

David Farrell had sent a report re the Youth Climbing Series. Sixty children had competed at the Leeds Wall. Round 2 would be on 1 March again at the Leeds Wall & Round 3 would be on 29 March at Harrogate Climbing Centre

5.4 Climbing Walls. There is no Climbing Wall representative but no issues were reported.

5.5 Clubs.

Paul Exley had previously circulated a report from the last meeting of the Clubs Committee which had been held on 30 January. It had been preceded by a drop in session for clubs.

The proposed increase in BMC subscriptions had been discussed & it was felt that a small increase each year was preferable to a larger one less frequently. Concerns had been expressed that the proposed increase was across the board with club & individual members paying the same increase.

The Clubs Committee was also concerned re difficulties recruiting club members & the BMC was to email individual members suggesting that they may wish to join a club.

Paul reported that he had been working on Health & Safety & Data Protection for the Clubs Committee & had shared the FRCC policies on these which could be adapted as appropriate.

It was noted that there appeared to be some problems recruiting representatives to the Clubs Committee & it was suggested that the BMC could possibly help the process by emailing clubs & Areas to inform them of the process & timescales for nominations as had happened when the Committee was first set up.

5.5.1 BMC proposal to increase subscriptions by £1.50 in 2015.

There was no further discussion re this. A vote was taken – 12 for, 0 against & 3 abstentions.

5.6 Hillwalking.

Deirdre Collier reported that she had met with Carey Davies, the BMC's Hillwalking Development Officer. He would be attending the Yorkshire Area Meeting on 9 June.

She also reported that she was planning on attending the BMC's Hillwalking Engagement Day on Fri 7 February and that over 30 people were expected to attend.

In discussion re how to promote hillwalking it was suggested that anyone knowing about a walking festival could let the BMC know. If made aware the BMC could support hillwalking festivals by manning a stand at the festival & this would also help promote the BMC to hillwalkers.

It was noted that according to Sport England's most recent survey hillwalking participation rates appeared to have fallen significantly. The meeting did not think that this was a true picture but it was a concern as Sport England provides some funding to the BMC which might be at risk unless it could be demonstrated that participation rates were not actually falling.

Beverley Jowett reported that minorities were under represented in hillwalking & mountaineering & that the BMC's Equity Steering Group was doing work on this.

There was a query re how to gain support for promotion of a walk. It was suggested that the enquirer should develop a business proposal for the attention of Rob Dyer.

Leeds North West MP Greg Mulholland's work with the Britain on Foot initiative was noted.

6 National Council

6.1 Report from last NC Meeting.

A summary had been circulated. It was noted that following a review at the BMC which had identified some savings the 2014 year end forecast had been revised to a deficit of £93K instead of a deficit of

£149K as stated in the report . This had led to the reduction of 50p to £1.50 in the proposed annual subscription increase.

There was much discussion about the impact that the spread of Rockfax guides was having on the viability of definitive guidebooks & what might be done to support the ongoing production of definitive guides.

6.2 Matters for the next meeting. None raised.

7 Barn conversion proposals & National Parks.

There was much discussion re this with various opinions being expressed. A vote was taken & the Meeting unanimously opposed the proposals.

8 Individual Member's Issues – None raised.

9 Any Other Business.

Mike Bebbington reported that the YMC had donated £376 to the BMC's Access funds from the sale of guidebooks in 2013.

10 Date, time and venue of the next meeting.

Monday 9 June at 19.30. Venue to be advised.