

BRITISH MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL

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Minutes of The Peak Area Meeting Wednesday 10th September 2014, The Globe Inn, Glossop

Present:

Neil Foster (Chair)
Lynn Robinson (Secretary)
Henry Folkard (Access Rep)
Cath Flitcroft (BMC)
Rick Gibbon (BMC Access Rep)
Adam Long (Access Rep)
Dan Middleton (BMC)
Clare Reading (FRCC)
Robert Hunter
Steve Clark
Dan Lane
Jules Lane
Marcus Buckley
26 people signed in

Mark Warwicker
Adam Lindley
Tim Grice
Scott Downs
Claire Carter
Rob Greenwood
Tim Waterhouse
Graeme Hammond (Peak Climbing Club)
Rebecca Hammond (Peak Climbing Club)
Phil Ashlreny
Andi Turner
Rebecca Wood
Ian Carr
27 people present

1. Apologies:

Louise Hawson
David Brown

Niall Grimes
Margi Bryant

Charles Skeavington

Neil welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Cath Flitcroft and Dan Middleton from the BMC office.

2. Actions from the last meeting (held on 4th June 2014)

None.

3. Draft Management Plan for Stanage North Lees

A one-sided page has been emailed out to people and comments sent in. Thanks to everyone who sent in comments. The views that the BMC had previously inputted as part of the Stand Up For Stanage campaign have been ignored in the development of this draft plan. The lease of the North Lees campsite is going out to tender.

On a positive note, more ring ouzels have fledged from Stanage than last year; against the negative national trend.

4. Update from meeting regarding access to Limestone crags

Henry and Rob Dyer attended and another meeting, with key activists, is booked for the 30.9.14. Derbyshire Wildlife Trust (DWT) own a lot of limestone climbing areas, and on the whole, it is felt that they are often anti-access.

DWT may be taking over Willersley. This is an important, valuable crag.

Climbers should be encouraged to climb at Water-cum-Jolly.

The CRoW Act is not to be reviewed this side of the election. Climbing routes, and access to them should be viewed just the same as the establishment of a footpath, through common use over a long period of time.

5. Access Volunteer for Limestone

Henry is standing down from this role after many years proactive and invaluable work. An access rep / s is/are required. They would require an activist approach. Ideally more than one person would take on the role. They would receive a really good briefing from Henry, so that the background to the role was fully understood. If anyone is interested, then please get in contact with Henry (henry.folkard@bmcvolunteers.org.uk)

A 'day of climbing' is required. Climbers need to understand that access will be denied if we don't fight for it.

6. Peak Area Limestone Guide

Ian Carr, chair of the BMC Guidebook Committee, gave an update on the BMC Peak Area Limestone Guide. In summary:

- It is split into two volumes – North and South.
- All scripts are now frozen and no new routes are being accepted.
- The scripts are in book format.
- Photos are being inserted. They have lots of sport climbing photos. They still need shots of trad climbing. Send directly to Niall (niall@thebmc.co.uk)
- It is planned to go to the printers soon after Christmas for a Spring publication.

Publication plans after that are the Lancashire Guide, being worked on by Les Ainsworth and then the Southern Limestone Guide.

7. Access Update

Rick Gibbon:

- Chris Tan is trying to organise a clean up at Dovestones, Chew.
- Lots of stakes have been stolen from crags in the Western Peak.

Andi Turner:

- The new paths at The Roaches are progressing well.
- Work on the normal approach to The Roaches is being repaired with slabs and gravel.
- Repair of dry-stone walls are taking place by the Five-Clouds.
- No nesting issues since the last meeting.
- Stuart Brooks has published a guide to The Churnet. A few crags where there are access issues have been left out of the guide. The reason for this is unclear.

If you think there is somewhere where there should be an access link path, then let Henry know, so it can be added to our 'wish list'.

8. Update from BMC Officers

Cath Flitcroft gave the following summary:

- In June the BMC, with other outdoor groups, held a reception at Westminster. A long-term strategy to promote the outdoors has cross-party support. The BMC want outdoor recreation to be included in the main parties' manifestos.
- A conference on Challenge Events is being held at Rheged in five-weeks time.
- Summit magazine will be available, for free download, via an App.

Dan Middleton:

- A successful BMC 'How to place bolts safely' workshop has taken place at Horseshoe Quarry.
- There is an increase in the number of people using the BMC bolt fund.

9. Peak Area Newsletter

One wasn't produced for this meeting. All contributions are welcome. Please send them directly to Martin Wass, editor at: peakarea@gmail.com

The deadline is always two-weeks prior to the next meeting – the next deadline being the **5th November**.

10. Any Other Business

BMC Equity Initiative Update from Margi Bryant, BMC Peak Area volunteer

At the Peak Area Meeting in June, members approved a proposal to pilot a new BMC Equity Initiative in the Peak Area. The idea is to develop some mechanisms at local level to encourage and support people from Black, Asian & Minority Ethnic (BAME) communities who'd like to get into climbing and hillwalking. She reported:

“We're hoping to develop some opportunities through the involvement of BMC-affiliated Clubs, especially those that welcome beginners. We realise that Clubs are very busy over the summer so we contacted them at the beginning of September, asking if they'd like to consider being part of this initiative. Possible ideas include taster sessions for new climbers or walkers, basic non-certificated training (e.g. introduction to map skills for walkers), or supported activities such as guided walks or supervised indoor climbing. It's still early days but we've already had a couple of positive responses.

I've also had talks with our main partner organisation, the Mosaic Network, and am developing contacts with BAME groups in the Peak Area. The Peak District National Park is supportive and there may be the possibility of some “double-branded” BMC/Peak Park activities.”

Anyone who'd like more information about this initiative is very welcome to contact Margi:
margibryant@bmcvolunteers.org.uk

Sherpa Lecture and Master Classes

The BMC and Sherpa are running a series of Autumn lectures. On the 30/10/14 Bassetlaw Hill and Mountain Club are hosting a lecture by Kenton Cool and Neil Gresham – 30th October at High Storrs School, Sheffield – tickets £7.00. Also master classes with Ed Hamer and Neil Gresham are taking place on the afternoon of the 30th at Awesome Walls, Sheffield – tickets £15.00. For tickets and further details, please go to: <https://sites.google.com/site/bassetlawhmc/lecture>

Stanage Festival

Thanks to everyone who volunteered and took part in the Stanage Festival that took place in June. Despite the drizzle and midges, it was very well attended.

11. Date, time and venue of the next meeting

Wednesday 19th November, 7.30pm at The Maynard, Grindleford. This will be the AGM and annual quiz, this year it is being organised by our very own Chair, Neil Foster and Graham Hoey – get revising now!

After supper Andi Turner gave an amazing talk and slide show called “Working Class Centurion” – Cheers Andi - it was fascinating.

AS ALWAYS:

- Chair of the Peak Area is Neil Foster – neil.foster@bmcvolunteers.org.uk
- Access issues/access volunteer work please contact Henry Folkard – henry.folkard@bmcvolunteers.org.uk
- With regard to the meetings, agenda items or any other issues please contact Lynn Robinson, Peak Area Secretary – lynn.robinson@bmcvolunteers.org.uk
- Check out the Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/bmcpeakarea> and ‘like’ us if you can.

A summary of some of the key BMC activities for the period June - August 2014

Access & Conservation

- Published a further reminder on the BMC website about access arrangements for climbing in Cheddar Gorge, including the need for third party liability insurance cover, following a number of incidents in which climbers have recently been caught climbing in areas outside of the access agreement, or climbing without insurance.
- Held a Westminster reception for leading outdoor organisations to encourage parliamentarians to factor the benefits of outdoor recreation into their manifestos and policies ahead of the next general election.
- Publicised the Staffordshire Wildlife Trust's public appeal for funds to restore the footpaths on the Roaches over the next 3 years.
- The BMC Access & Conservation Trust (ACT) contributed £7,000 to help repair a path on the popular route to Dale Head in the Lake District.
- BMC Cheddar Gorge Climbing Warden and activist Martin Crocker accompanied Their Royal Highnesses the Earl and Countess of Wessex on a tour of Cheddar Gorge.
- Produced press release in response to Snowdonia National Park Authority's plans to remove 'false paths' from Snowdon and its warning to families with children to stay away from summits.
- Promoted the BMC access conference on challenge events in the uplands, to be held in Cumbria in October.

Clubs & Huts

- Published the results of the 2014 BMC Club Survey.
- Co-ordinated a series of lectures and masterclasses by Sherpa athletes Neil Gresham and Kenton Cool, to be hosted this autumn by eight BMC affiliated clubs for club and non-club members.

Competition Climbing

- Held the third and final round of the BMC Paraclimbing Series at Manchester Climbing Centre.
- GB Junior Lead Team Captain Molly Thompson-Smith won her first gold medal at the European Youth Cup in Imst, Austria.
- Held the British Bouldering Championships at The Climbing Works in Sheffield.
- Held the BMC Youth Climbing Series Final at the EICA Ratho.
- Held the BMC Open Youth Event at White Spider Climbing (lead climbing) and The Arch Climbing Wall (bouldering) in London.
- Shauna Coxsey finished second overall in the 2014 IFSC Boulder World Cup.

Safety & Skills

- Supplied lower-off simulators to a number of climbing walls around the country to enable indoor climbers to practice lowering off an outdoor sport route; more walls will be supplied with simulators in the coming months.
- Published a range of walking and climbing skills articles on the BMC website including: overcoming a fear of heights; tips for climbing your first trad routes and moving on to multi-pitch adventures; how to speed up on alpine climbs; and how to go deep water soloing.

Technical

- Published a warning on the BMC website about the dangers of worn perma-draws.
- Hosted the UIAA Safety Commission meeting in Bristol, the first time the commission has met in the UK since 1996.
- Published advice on the BMC website about choosing a camping stove.

- Published a free-to-download booklet to help climbers and mountaineers choose, use and maintain ropes.

Youth & Equity

- Promoted the availability of funding to support the development of BME walking and climbing leaders.
- Held a Safeguarding and Protecting Children training course in Sheffield.

BMC Organisation

- Launched the new media centre on the BMC website to help journalists cover stories on climbing, hill walking or mountaineering and issues affecting mountain areas.
- All members of the Executive committee attended a two-day 'Board skills in sport' training course, delivered by the Sport and Recreation Alliance and the Institute of Directors.

Membership

- Promoted opportunities for volunteering with the BMC during Volunteers Week.
- Launched a new app enabling all members to download every issue of Summit magazine for free, and published a special alpine edition for members to download.
- With the support of local BMC volunteers, held a series of climbing and walking festivals to celebrate the BMC's 70th anniversary and to bring together members; these included the Stanage Festival, the Cornish Climbing Festival, the Northumberland Climbing & Hill Walking Festival, and the Bristol Climbing Festival.

Heritage

- Mountain Heritage Trust launched its first exhibition in its new residency at Keswick Museum and Art Gallery.
- Publicised a day of preservation workshops for clubs and individuals, to be run by MHT archivist Maxine Willett at the BMC office on 18 September