

Meeting Minutes

BMC NE Area, Thursday 4th December 2014 7:30 pm

Newcastle Climbing Centre, St Marks Church House, 285 Shields Rd, Newcastle upon Tyne, Tyne and Wear NE6 2UQ

In attendance:

John Punshon (Chair)
John Herron (Secretary)
Mark Goodings (NE Walls Officer)
Paul Mitchinson (NE Hillwalking Officer) (MTLA)
Ian Walton (NE Youth Officer)
James Higgins (Wanneys CC)
Richard Alderton
Phillip Powell (FRCC)
Bob McAdam (NMC, CC, FRCC)
Bob Tridgett
Gordon Hull
Mike Murdon (Durham Mountain Sports)
Adam Pennington
Mike Faccini
Mike Conlon
Martin Ballantine
Jessica Worthy
Graham Harkness
Wendy Rigby
Rose Hakin

1. Welcome and Introduction

John Punshon opened the meeting and welcomed all present. Particular thanks were expressed to the Newcastle Climbing Centre for hosting the meeting and providing excellent refreshments.

2. Apologies for Absence:

Alan Hinkes (NE National Council Representative)
John Vaughan (NE Access Officer, North) (NMC)
Mark Anstiss (Wanneys CC)
John Dalrymple (NMC)
Liam Dervev
Ben Pierce
Jim Elder

3. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held at Durham Climbing Centre on 11th September 2014 were discussed and deemed a true and proper record.

4. AGM

In the absence of any proposals or seconding there were no objections from the floor to the re-election of all officers from 2013-14. Those officers re-elected unopposed are:

Chair = Jon Punshon

Secretary = John Herron

Youth Rep = Ian Walton

Walking Rep = Paul Mitchinson

Walls Rep = Mark Goodings

Access Rep (North) = Paul Vaughan

Mike Conlon has replaced Peter Hay as Access Rep (South)

5. Report on Regional Clean up event at Crag Lough

As Mark Anstiss was not present a full report of the weekend was not presented. Hopefully Mark can present this at the next meeting. It was noted however that there were 15-20 persons in attendance with about 10 staying overnight.

It was thought that it would be good to move on to Peel Crag next year as the venue (camp site etc.) were tried and tested. It was also discussed that some of the sandstone crags could benefit from a clean-up.

Mike Conlon was also asked to contribute as to whether some of the crags in the South of the region could benefit from some TLC.

6. Festival of Climbing July 2015

There was a discussion centring about the two previous events.

Mark Goodings and Paul Mitchinson have taken the lead in the run up to this year's event. Next year's event will be on the weekend of 4th / 5th July again located in Wooler and will coincide with Wooler Outdoor Week and the Chevy Chase.

This will make it a large event with Wooler being particularly busy that weekend. It was reiterated that the venues for the last year should be used again as they were very successful. These were free camping to BMC members at Highfield House Campsite located at the West end of Wooler and the use of The Angel who were very accommodating during the 2014 event

7 National Updates

There was no National Update given as there was no National Rep present at the meeting. The region were disappointed that once again there was no National Rep present nor was there a phone call to say no one from National Office would be attending the meeting.

8 Forthcoming Events

- a) NE & Lakes Indoor climbing competitions, January, February & March these will be held at Newcastle Climbing Centre, Sunderland Climbing Wall and Kendall Climbing Wall
- b) Real rock 9 29/12/14 – Tyneside Cinema Tickets available from Newcastle Climbing Centre
- c) BMC Young Persons Meet – Nick Colton from BMC will be present for more information contact Mark Goodings
- d) Rose Hakin informed us that in April next year the Pennine Way will be 50 and it is hoped to walk the route on its birthday. It was proposed that we should look to celebrate by walking some of the route in our region.

9 Coordinators reports

a) Access

South (Mike Conlon) It was pointed that North York's National Parks were losing their dedicated access officer as part of the national cuts to funding. The Land Manager will now look at these issues. Also the budget for footpath repair will shrink. Mike also pointed out that the UK climbing database for crags did not always have up to date information and RAD should be used on the BMC website.

CMC have had a recent meet at Scugdale and noticed path deterioration

North (John Vaughan) Unfortunately John was not present at the meeting so no issues from the North of the region were discussed

b) Youth

Most walls now have "Academies" for talented kids. Still comp centred, but hopefully changing. Anyone interested should contact BMC for advice on running outdoor days / events if you are not a qualified MIA or equivalent.

Recent comp results

International

Sid Graham from Tynemouth and Kieren Patterson from Ferryhill have both represented GB in Euro bouldering events. Sid has been suffering some ill health earlier in the year. Best wishes to her to allow her to progress in 2015.

Sam Bullock, Wallsend, has had a mega year in youth C category – 2nd in YCS final, 3rd in Junior BBC, 2nd in junior BLCC and 1st in Irish Lead Championship. He now has to deal with the youth B boys, but has support from

Kirsten Pyper from Medomsley has come up through the ranks and finished 3rd in a very strong field at the youth open last weekend in Sheffield, and has been selected to represent GB climbing in her age category.

Now good squad of youngsters (7 or 8) all representing the North East at national comps and doing well! We operate, under the Rock Solid banner, monthly coaching sessions at various walls throughout the region with Ian Dunn, the GB Junior team manager and coach.

2015 YCS starts Jan 24th here at Newcastle Climbing Centre. All welcome; if anyone knows of any keen youngsters aged 7 to 17, point them in the direction of the BMC website for entry forms.

Also of interest for wall managers, the BMC are developing courses for route setting specifically for small people. Pilot went very well. Contact In Dunn or Jon Garside for details.

c) Climbing Walls

this aspect is already covered in the Youth Report and Forthcoming events section of the minutes.

It was noted however that there will be a new climbing wall opening in Newton Aycliffe opening to be February 2015

d) Walking

Paul Mitchinson who had earlier reported a locked gate over a footpath in the northern Cheviots had followed this up and discovered that the gate was locked to deter motor bikes as the farm in question had suffered at the hands of scrambling bikes.

Paul also attended the BMC walking conference at Rheged and made contact with the BMC walking representative Carey Davis.

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AOB

- a. It was pointed out that members should be aware that logging has been taking place near to Simonside Crag.
- b. The meeting pledged its support to the anti – zip wire lobby in Glenridding, Lakes.
- c. The meeting was informed that planning permission had been refused for the proposed wind farm east of Bowden Doors Crag. It was recognised that the BMC NE group had lobbied the planners to reject this proposed development and it was felt that common sense had prevailed!
- d. It was pointed out that 2015 is the 50th anniversary Pennine Way long distance footpath and that BMC members might like to join the mass walks of the northern sections.

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Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on 05 March 2015 at Durham Climbing Centre. Please note that the start time will be slightly earlier at 18:30. This is to accommodate a presentation by Excelsior Academy, who will talk about their trek to Everest Base Camp. The meeting will start at 19:00