

Hill Walking Report

For the Yorkshire Area Meeting of the BMC on 26th Jan 2015

Hello, I'm Paul Redding and at only my second meeting I have somehow managed to become your Hillwalking rep for the Yorkshire area! In spite of that shock, I am looking forward, with your help, to develop ways we can support and encourage hillwalking within our area. I was brought up in Yorkshire and am a keen hill walker and although I have been trying for the last couple of years to become a mountain leader I also enjoy low-level valley walks in our beautiful county.

We have a couple of things planned but I would very much like to hear from anyone with an interest in hillwalking and/or anyone who has ideas for what we might do – please feel free to email me at the following address: paul@reddingweb.co.uk or by replying to any Yorkshire area mailing.

National Strategy – I was fortunate to attend the first meeting of the national Hillwalking Working Group. This has been set up by the BMC to take forward the hillwalking strategy discussion document approved by the board last year. The minutes of the meeting will be circulated but the overall objectives are to

- Meet the needs of existing BMC hill walking members
- Attract new hill walking members
- Position the BMC as a leading authority on hillwalking and promote the benefits to a wide range of groups

62% of BMC members describe hillwalking as their main activity, although 70% also go climbing. What the BMC offers hill walkers is therefore key to achieving the objectives. I would be happy to hear from members what they would like me to suggest as to what is lacking from the current BMC offer.

BMC Yorkshire Hill Walking Launch 20th April 7.30pm The Wheatley

I am pleased to be able to announce that we will be having a special meeting on Hillwalking on 20th April and would like any member with an interest in hillwalking to come along – all are welcome. Carey Davis, who is the BMC full time hillwalking officer, will be at the meeting to provide details of what the BMC offers hill walkers and what the future plans are. We are also hoping to have a display of /talk on hillwalking gear and accessories. Food will also be provided. More on this later but please put it in your diaries.

Yorkshire Area BMC Meeting 8th June

At the next area meeting we are pleased that Chris Townsend will be giving a talk on the 1200km Scottish Watershed walk. Chris is the BMC hill walking ambassador and is a renowned long distance walker, having completed such routes as the 2600mile Pacific Crest Trail (as featured in the recent film "Wild") and was the first person to climb all of the Munros and Tops in a continuous walk of 1700 miles. He is also author of over 20 books.

Future Ideas

Really this is over to you – please let me know what you want your local area to do for hill walkers and what you would like us to suggest to the national BMC. Some ideas:

- A hill walking meet in May/June
- A local hill walking forum
- Volunteering for local access and conservation work
- Discounts for hill walking gear, maps, training etc.
- Campaigning on hill walking issues
- Library of suggested walks