

BRITISH MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL

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Minutes of The Peak Area Meeting Wednesday 9th September 2015, The Globe Inn, Glossop

Present:

Neil Foster (Chair)	Rob Dyer, BMC
Lynn Robinson (Secretary)	Alan Brown, BMC
Henry Folkard (Access Rep)	Malcolm Baxter
Adam Long (Access Rep)	Mark Vallance, Climbers Club
Mark Warwicker (Access Rep)	Ross Burnage, Buxton Mountaineering Club
Cath Lee (Hill-walking Rep)	Robert Townsend, The Mountain Club, Stafford
Peter Judd (Hill-walking Rep)	Simon Royston
Simon Lee (National Council Rep)	Clonagh Delderfield
Dave Turnbull, CE, BMC	Loris Doyle
Rehan Siddiqui, President, BMC	Phil Kelly
Mina Leslie-Wujastyk, Vice-President, BMC	Mike Pinder
Dan Middleton, BMC	Rab Carrington
Tim Waterhouse, BMC	Colin Nave
Tony Ryan, BMC	Martin Wass
Arun Patel, BMC	Paul Evans
Tina Gardner, BMC	Rebecca Hammond (Peak Climbing Club)
Kate Anwyl, BMC	David Brown (Peak Climbing Club)
Suzanne Jones, BMC	Jenny Hair
Cath Flitcroft, BMC	Steve Clark
Josh Harris, BMC	Claire-Jane Carter
Jim Krawiecki, BMC	Nick Conway
Rob Adie, BMC	Clare Reading (FRCC)
44 people signed in	52 people present

1. Apologies:

Rick Gibbon	Austin Knott	Rob Greenwood
Graeme Hammond	Bill Irving	Andy Hayes
David Parry	Jon Fullwood	Chris Radcliffe
Gill Radcliffe	Kevin Noon	Tim Grice

Neil welcomed everyone to the meeting. The BMC office staff, who were attending the meeting, introduced themselves including Dave Turnbull (Chief Executive) and Rehan Siddiqui (President).

2. Actions from the last meeting (held on 3rd June 2015)

None.

3. Question and Answer Session with the BMC Office Staff

A number of questions were asked to the BMC office staff that were present. These included:

Q – There are area meetings that aren't well attended – what is the BMC doing about it?

A – The attendance to the South Wales, North-east and London areas is particularly low. Emails always go out to members advertising the meetings. Dave commented that different people turn up to the meetings and there is no social cohesion. Over recent years a lot of work to improve attendance at these meetings was started by Martin Kocsis and has been continued by Tony Ryan. It is important to have interesting agendas that will encourage people to attend. The Peak Area has a good balance between BMC business, socialising and talks and is held in good venues. The attendance is highest in the Peak

Area and North Wales and Dave thinks this is down to there being strong communities of outdoor people living in these areas.

Q – What was the purpose of the BMC office restructure?

A – Dave explained that the BMC had had a flat management structure but had grown to the stage that it was no longer really 'fit for purpose'. The office has now been split into five departments and this new structure will hopefully make the organisation more efficient.

Q – What can members do to ensure the funding from Sport's England continues?

A – Dave is hopeful that the funding will continue and the BMC continues to be 100% successful in receiving all the funding it asks for. Members can:

- Encourage people to join the BMC to increase its membership base.
- If they receive a 'phone call regarding the 'Active People's Survey' then please take part, as this is how Sport England measures sport participation in the areas it funds.
- Complete the outdoor surveys that the BMC runs.

Q – Rehan, as President what are your goals whilst you have this position?

A – There are many priorities that I want to see taken forward and built on, including work to strengthen:

- The historical elements of climbing, including archiving material.
- Continuing to ensure access is maintained to crags and the mountains.
- Take forward the equity agenda, including increased BMC participation by women, people from a Black and Minority Ethnic background and people with a disability.
- Promoting hill-walking.
- Promoting youth participation.
- Reviewing competition climbing, especially as to whether it should be an Olympic sport.

4. Update from the Hill Walking Representative – Peter Judd

Peter gave an update, including feedback that the Terry Abraham's talk had been very successful.

The national hill-walkers group are meeting soon and information will be fed back at the next meeting.

On the 28.11.15 Peter, along with our other Hill walking Representative, Cath Lee, will be leading a circular walk around Coombs Moor (just NE of Buxton); everyone is welcome.

Derbyshire County Council have been consulting on their Rights of Way (consultation closed 30.9.15).

5. National Photography Archive proposal

Rab Carrington explained that there isn't a national archive of mountaineering photos. Neither the BMC nor the Mountain Heritage Trust (MHT) have a photo archive. His vision is that there should be one, with all the photos stored in one location:

- To include a database of all the best and most historic images
- For them to be located in one place that people can access.

Rab recognises that this is a huge task, but the BMC has a great volunteer resource, especially through its links with clubs. He's been talking to lots of people, including the Climbers Club and Alpine Club. They're all doing something, but he thinks it requires a co-ordinated approach, for example, if images are going to be digitised, them in what format etc. He is aware it would need to be consistent with ownership and copyright issues. Also, how the project will be funded is still unclear, but Rab is meeting with the MHT to discuss further.

The Peak Climbing Club has images from the 1940's that they don't know what to do with. The Alpine Club is in the process of digitising 30,000 images.

The work could extend to guidebooks and the setting up of clubs, for example, the notes from meetings etc when the Climbers Club was set up.

Rab to discuss further with Paul Evans and Adam Long who both have relevant experience. At the moment Rab has been talking about the idea, rather than taking forward any actions. The funding of the project is unknown at the moment, but the idea of using volunteers and Clubs being able to do a lot of the groundwork is being explored.

Rab wanted to seek the meetings view as to whether people think it is a worthwhile project.

There was general positivity from the meeting and people thought the idea should be taken further.

6. Access Update

As always, there is a detailed update on all access issues in the newsletter.

Main points to note:

- There has been a meeting in relation to Ring Ouzel conservation. The Peak Park is looking at producing some T-shirts and some interpretation boards and they want to engage with climbers.
- There is a discounted rate over the winter at the North Lees campsite for BMC members.

Horseshoe Quarry – the usual appeal for a volunteer (or volunteers) to take on the overseeing / co-ordination of maintenance and land management work at Horseshoe Quarry (a role previously carried out by Henry) produced a positive response, and follow up meetings are to be arranged.

Shooter's Nab – Mark reported that there are still access issues.

Chew Valley – if you take your dog, then keep them on a leash.

7. Rope Grooves

Photos of rope grooves from the Roaches, were passed around. It was unsure as to whether they were caused by bad practice. If anyone witnesses bad practice then please report this to the local area access representative or Rob Dyer at the BMC office.

8. Update from the National Council

Simon Lee explained that the National Council is the equivalent to Parliament, therefore feedback to the two National Council representatives ("MPs" Simon and Rob Greenwood) is essential to get the voice of the Peak Area heard at a national level within the BMC.

An update included:

- There have been local festivals taking place, including at Wilton and Cornwall.
- There has been a re-structuring of the BMC office
- The 2016 AGM will take at the Castleton YHA on the 16th April.

9. Peak Area Newsletter

Dave commented on how impressed he was with the Peak Area newsletter and thanked Martin Wass for his continued work on its production.

All contributions are always 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 4th November.

10. Any Other Business

None.

11. Date, time and venue of the next meeting

Wednesday 18th November, 7.30pm at The Maynard, Grindleford. This will be the AGM and annual quiz.

After supper Emma Flaherty gave an inspirational talk about her incredible journey to climbing her first Font 8a and outlined what her plans are for the future. Thank you so much Emma!

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
- Newsletter editor is Martin Wass. Articles etc always welcome. Please send directly to Martin at: peakarea@gmail.com