

BRITISH MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL

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Minutes of the 209th Yorkshire Area Meeting Held at 19.30 on Monday 7 September 2015 at the Wheatley Arms, Ben Rhydding, Ilkley

Present:

James Rowe	Chair, National Council Rep, Leeds MC, CC	Rob Dyer	BMC
Deirdre Collier	Secretary, National Council Rep, Craven MC, FRCC, CC	Howard Driver	UWFRA
Alan Scowcroft	Craven MC, Alpine Club	John Smith	FRCC
Paul Exley	FRCC, Leeds MC, Clubs Committee Rep	Paul Bishop	
Mick Green	Gritstone Club	John Mortimer	Vibram MC*
Angela Soper	Pinnacle Club* & FRCC	Trevor Brewster	Individual
Paul Redding	Hill Walking Rep. Individual	Jill Woodman	Individual
Nigel Baker	Limestone Access Rep (elected in Meeting). YMC, Individual	Roger Gaynor	Individual
Anne Freund	FRCC, Pinnacle Club	Ian Hargreaves	Gritstone Club
Dave Musgrove	CC, YMC	Mark Fitzpatrick	Individual
Alan Kay	Yorkshire Ramblers Club	Sue Keinhorst	Individual
Mick Johnson	CC, FRCC. Gritstone Access Rep	Julie Dundas	Individual
Chris Morris	Wok & Rice Club	Bill Burgess	Individual
John Thurston		Ursh Thurston	
Adrian Walker		Steve Howe	Individual
Adrian Pilling	Individual	Carol Pilling	FRCC
David Farrel	Youth Rep	Andy Hudson	Craven MC
Belinda Swift	Pinnacle Club		

Action

- 1 **Welcome & Introductions.** James welcomed everyone to the meeting, in particular Howard Driver & Alan Scowcroft from Upper Wharfedale Fell Rescue Association (UWFRA) as the Meeting's speakers & Rob Dyer, BMC Access & Conservation Officer

- 2 **Apologies for Absence.** Apologies were received from Paul Clarke, Bev Jowett & Laurie Morse.

- 3 **Minutes of the last meeting.** These were agreed to be a correct record.

- 4 **Matters Arising not covered elsewhere**

4.1 2016 Festival

Paul Redding said he'd attended the NE Area Festival in July & felt that it would be reasonable for Yorkshire Area to organise a similar event. There had been a pub meet on the Saturday evening with a talk & food & walking & climbing organised for both the Saturday & Sunday. He said that he felt it would be reasonable for Yorkshire Area to organise a similar event. It didn't need to be huge but would help showcase the Area. It would require a small group of interested volunteers to organise the event & some climbers to organise climbing. He said he would organise the hill walking. The BMC had provided some funding for festivals elsewhere. The event would probably need to be held outside of the main school holidays. Various possible venues were suggested.

Adrian & Carol Pilling volunteered to help out with the organisation. Dave Musgrove offered to co-ordinate the climbing, suggest venues etc & to talk to one or two others re helping out.

More volunteers are needed but agreed in principle to proceed with the idea

DM/AP/
CP

All

- 5 **Co-ordinators' Reports**

- 5.1 **Gritstone: Access & Conservation.** Mick Johnson reported as follows:-

Dovestones. No progress yet re the notice at base of crag – no climbing & trespassers will be prosecuted. Open Access land. Rob Dyer to help investigate.

Caley. Mick had been unable to attend the meeting.

Bridestones. Drill holes noted - speculated to be either by cavers practising SRT or possibly associated with motorbike trials race flag positions, but should now have been filled in.

RD &
MJ

- 5.2 Limestone: Access & conservation.** Nigel Baker reported that Limestone Access had generally been fairly quiet.
- Oxenber.** Clearup suggested re overgrowth eg little thorn bushes etc. Waiting to hear back from original enquirer.
- Moughton Nab.** Some climbers told they couldn't climb here by Foredale Quarry landowner. They stood their ground & so far as is known there have not been any further problems since. Noted that access is best achieved from the other side rather than past Foredale farm.
- 5.3 Youth.** David Farrell reported on the 2015 Youth Climbing Series (YCS). He said that it had been the biggest turnout ever over the 3 rounds & that Yorkshire was 3rd overall in the final.
- He mentioned a new climbing wall opening at Huddersfield.
- YCS 2016 dates as follows:- 23 January, 23 February & 19 March. All welcome.
- 5.4 Climbing Walls.** There is no Climbing Wall representative.
- Noted that a new bouldering all is opening in Kirkstall, Leeds & that a new climbing wall had opened in Ilkley – a Clip 'n Climb wall.
- 5.5 Clubs.**
- Paul Exley reported that the Clubs Committee would have 4 meetings in 2015, some at the BMC Office & some elsewhere.
- The Committee had developed a Discussion Document relating to the BMC's strategy towards clubs & their role within the BMC. Some key points were around helping clubs develop, increase membership & developing the clubs sections on the BMC's website.
- He said that a paper had been sent to the National Clubs with c 15 questions re their views & how they can help the Clubs Committee achieve their objectives.
- 6 Hillwalking.** Paul Redding said that the BMC would like to see hill walking discussed more on Area Meeting Agendas. His role as Area Hill Walking Rep was to ensure hill walking discussions happened at Area Meetings, to facilitate communications from the BMC's Hill Walking Working Group, to provide an Area led hill walking focus & report back any problems to the BMC.
- He reported on a walk up Ingleborough that he'd arranged in July & said that he was happy to do more subject to interest – please let Paul know if you are interested in more Area hill walks – email address - info@reddingweb.co.uk
- He referred to specifics re the BMC & hill walking – eg there is more hill walking content in Summit, more hill walking videos on BMC TV etc.
- Mountain Magpie Campaign – to identify where there are issues with litter & help clear it up – take pictures & send to #MountainMagpie.
- He mentioned working with the Access & Conservation people & Rob Dyer said that there was a proposal to have a campaign in 2016 for funding re the worst paths needing repair across the UK. Paul asked that any significant path problems be identified to him.
- He also mentioned BMC supported Hill & Mountain Skills courses with Plas y Brenin which anyone could access.
- Mick Johnson mentioned a new book by Yorkshireman Bernard Newman – The Lakeland Fells; 60 Walks.
- 7 National Council**
- 7.1 Report from last NC Meeting.** As neither James Rowe nor Deirdre Collier had attended the June NC Meeting Dave Musgrove reported back. Specific points as follows:-
- BMC staffing restructure** – started earlier in the year in an attempt to modernise the structure so that there were fewer people reporting directly to the CEO. Areas unlikely to be affected.
- Governance/Strategic Plan.** Discussion of the roles of NC & the Executive Committee & who makes what decisions. May require changes to the Memorandum & Articles of Association.
- Options for the 2016 AGM.** The proposal to hold this at Ratho with a view to increasing the involvement of young people was not agreed. Now likely to be held in the Sheffield/Peak District Area.
- Bracken.** The Lakes Area would like the BMC to help sort out the problem with bracken which is an

All

All

issue in some areas. The National Trust have been fencing off areas of land to keep sheep off but this has led to rewilding of these areas & subsequent significant bracken growth. Some work has been done re control but it is not easy. A European Directive has banned the relevant chemical used to kill off bracken & so the only way to deal with it is to get people to walk to the relevant area & deal with it. The BMC didn't feel it could dictate policy re this to other organisations & so it is up to Local Areas to deal with it locally together with the landowners.

Quarries. A BMC Working Group re Quarries was set up 3 years ago to consider the issues associated with developing quarries for climbing. There are several issues re liability & BMC Exec Committee member Rupert Davies who is a barrister is involved in the discussions. ? hold a conference/event for all stakeholders to discuss the issues.

Threshfield Quarry. Ongoing local issue. It is hoped that eventually permission will be granted re climbing.

Mountain Heritage Trust. Are trying to raise money & have also asked the BMC to extend existing funding period.

7.2 Successful Area Meetings – The Future.

Noted that a Meeting re this had been held at the BMC on 16 July which Deirdre Collier had attended as an Area Secretary. The report of that meeting had been circulated & there was some discussion of the points raised. More use of Facebook with possible more involvement of individuals was suggested. DC to discuss with Suzanne Jones at the BMC.

DC

7.3 Matters for the Next NC Meeting

7.3.1. Wider availability of National Council Meeting Meeting Minutes.

Noted that Area had previously supported a proposal to make NC Meeting Minutes available on the BMC website. Following further discussion a vote was taken re this proposal – 35 (out of 36 attendees) in favour, none against & one abstention.

Post meeting note – this was agreed by NC.

8 Individual Members' Issues. None raised.

9 Any Other Business.

Meeting Venues. Suggestion that one Meeting per year be held at a different venue. In view of time constraints this was deferred for discussion at a future Area Meeting.

Next Meeting. Monday 30 November @ 7.0 pm to include the AGM.

There was no other business & this part of the Meeting closed @ 8.35 pm.

Following this Alan Scowcroft & Howard Driver from Upper Wharfedale Fell Rescue Association gave a presentation about 'The Work of the Upper Wharfedale Fell Rescue Association'.

Post Meeting notes –

A collection in aid of UWFRA was held during the Meeting & raised £100.71

Please see link for UWFRA - <http://www.uwfra.org.uk/> & Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/UWFRA>