

# Minutes of BMC NW Area meeting and AGM

The Black Dog, Belmont

24<sup>th</sup> November 2014

Attendance ~22.

## Area meeting

The secretary acted as chair in absence of a chairperson.

### 1. Minutes of last meeting

Secretary apologised for late posting of minutes. Copies were circulated and accepted as correct except for misspelling of Hoghton.

### 2. National Council business

- 1) **Hillwalking:** The establishment of a hill walking working group was noted and the BMC document on the area meetings page was referenced for details.
- 2) **Reports from National Council reps:** No report as rep was ill and could not attend. Whilst illness can happen at short notice which leaves deputies unable to step in, this event nevertheless indicated a weakness in communication channels. It was agreed that Reps and deputies should have each other's email contact details to facilitate effective use of deputies.
- 3) **Area meeting briefing notes:** It was agreed that the BMC area briefing notes should be posted on the Area meetings page prior to each meeting.

### 3. Club business

Club rep in Australia so no report.

### 4. Access and cleanup reports

- a) Cheshire issues: there may be possible issues at Pex Hill after a dog went over the edge?
- b) Lancs issues:
  - a. **Wilton 2& 4:** There are air rifle holes in the rock and mess. A meeting with the club that uses Wilton 2 & 4 was positive: they do not like this either. A cleanup of Wilton 4 is planned for 10th Jan 2015.
  - b. **Wilton 3:** There are more issues here including use in non- shooting hours with no flags and an aggressive attitude to other users (witnessed by police). The "Private no access" sign is not legal and may be ignored.
  - c. **Anglezarke and Lester Mill:** The agreed programmes of bolt replacement have yet to be implemented.
  - d. **General:** Top cleanup actions that were promised as alternatives to the placement of lower-offs in some locations have not been done.

## **5. Guidebooks**

The Lancashire bouldering guide has been issued and is well received. The contents were summarised by Robin Müller. Copies were available (and bought) at the meeting.

The Lancashire crag guide is still progressing. Action shots, that should show enough of the route to give it identity, or any shots that give local flavour, are still wanted.

There is a list of Lancashire grit routes of E5 and above with details of current best style of ascent etc. A copy was circulated.

## **6. Hold chipping**

Drilled holes in the bouldering area at Hoghton may be recent attempts at chipping although there was some evidence that they may pre-date the use of this area for climbing. It was agreed as a matter of policy that hold chipping/drilling is unacceptable and that, apart from long-established and accepted routes such as Cheat, any new chipped holds that are discovered can be filled in without the need for further debate or reference to an area meeting.

## **7. AOB**

- 1) **Notification of area meetings:** The secretary apologised for forgetting to circulate email notifications of this meeting at a reasonable time ahead of the meeting and promised to do better in future.
- 2) **Conduct of discussions:** In the light of the events leading to the previous chairman's resignation it was noted that issues and disagreements should be raised within the meetings and not after the event via personal attacks on social media. If it is felt that a point has not been adequately discussed you can always request that it be revisited at future meetings. In all cases discussion should be of the issues and not involve personal attacks on people with different views. NW climbing is a broad church and this should be regarded as a healthy factor.
- 3) **Bolting policy:** Although there was extensive discussion at the June 2014 area meeting about the criteria for deciding when it was acceptable/desirable to place bolt lower-offs there are no formal area guidelines on this. The existing guidance document covers only the like-for-like replacement of corroded pegs. It was agreed that the next area meeting should review the existing guidance and extend it to cover guidance on the addition of bolt lower-offs. To facilitate this the secretary agreed to draft and post a preliminary update of the guidance document prior to the next meeting as a basis for discussion.
- 4) **Wilton Fest:** There was a vote of thanks for the organisers.
- 5) **Status of events:** It was noted that meetings such as Wilton Fest or similar are not organised as an area meeting (e.g. no prior notice of agenda or formal minutes) and should not be treated as such.
- 6) **Youth rep:** There is a vacancy for an area rep to attend BMC meetings on young persons' training. The rep should be aged 14-18 (may be accompanied). Any interested parties contact Jon Garside at the BMC offices.

# **AGM**

## **1. Election of Officers**

Chairman: Carl Spencer was proposed and seconded and elected unopposed.

Secretary: Harold Walmsley was re-elected unopposed (Has he served too long? Is there a time limit?).

National Council reps: Nick Bond was re-elected unopposed as 1st rep. There were no candidates for 2nd rep so the structure with 1 rep and 3 reserves was retained. The 3 reserves were Carl Spencer, Stuart Holmes and Tim Greenhalgh.

Club rep: Dick Toon was re-elected unopposed.

Hill walking rep (new post): Dave Robinson was appointed as the hill walking rep

Access reps: The format of subdividing where there are areas of special interest to different people was retained. Reps re-elected unopposed were: Les Ainsworth (Lancashire), Paul Horan (Witches Quarry area), Mark Hounslea (Cheshire) and Dom Hartin (Rochdale).