

Minutes of BMC NW Area meeting

The Black Dog, Belmont

20th April 2015

Attendance was ~20. BMC rep Dan Middleton

1. Minutes of last meeting

Accepted as correct.

2. National Council Business

A summary of National Council business was presented. Particular attention was drawn to the new improved insurance now on offer as a result of changing the insurers. Cover and wording are both better and combined business/climbing trips can now be covered.

3. Club business

No rep: skipped.

4. Access and cleanup reports

- a) Castle St Quarry, Todmorden: progress, trial access on the cards.
- b) Stanworth: Owners will permit climbing when tipping finished.
- c) Wiltons: Wilton 3 "No access" sign, which is not legal is still there. It is CROW land: a long-standing issue being dealt with
- d) Gauxholme: Ask for access, 4 decent routes out of 5.
- e) Shore Quarry: New owners say no climbing.
- f) Lester Mill: UU say water over Evil Wall is a council problem, but if they don't deal with it UU will.

5. Guidebooks

Lancs Guide: Niall working on it. Text and photos mostly complete but 6 action shots could be improved. Expected early 2016.

It was suggested that, as the production of definitive guides is a service, it is best to maximise sales at the expense of margin. Possible (~20%?) club discounts for clubs bulk buying (5 or more?) suggested as a way to achieve this. Suggestions supported by the meeting.

6. Hill walking

There are now 12 area hill walking reps but walkers are not joining BMC whose focus is on walking in the higher UK mountains. Factors around low interest are:

- Walkers prefer a meeting plus walk to just a pub meeting
- There are few young members
- BMC perceived as not offering much to walkers
- Attendance dropping at clubs in general
- Scottish mag better than Summit for walkers

Suggested possible actions to improve matters are:

- Hill and mountain skills courses, perhaps packaged with BMC membership
- Multi-club walking meets (one in Wales in Sept)
- Advertising
- Presence at honeypots (e.g. 3 peaks, Catbells)
- Funding is available for clubs and festivals
- Focus on regional/national issues such as access. Cadshaw Bridge proposals an example of where BMC could be seen to help if they go ahead. Publicise these sort of activities

7. Fixed gear and lower-offs

Some specific examples were discussed and agreed:

- Supercrack: keep lower-off
- Add some specified lower-offs at Wilton
- Place/replace bolts in Daytona Wall

For the rest it was agreed to hold a meeting to discuss the actions for routes identified in the guide as having fixed pro in need of replacement. Les to be asked to supply a list of the affected routes.

8. AOB

1) **Anglezarke abseil point:** Groups don't like/use the Lester Mill ab point. It was accepted that they could use Elaine in Anglezarke, which isn't done much, as a place to abseil.. It was agreed the meeting should suggest that this be publicised via the MTA (Mountain Training Assoc) and the BMC and UKC websites to try and head off the practice of setting abseils down more popular routes.

2) **Dave Cronshaw:** Dave has been made an honorary member of the BMC after a submission by Les. Les gave examples of why it was appropriate (new routes, guidebook work, crag cleaning etc).