

BRITISH MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL

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Minutes of the 211th Yorkshire Area Meeting Held at 19.30 on Monday 1 February 2016 at the Wheatley Arms, Ben Rhydding, Ilkley

Present:

James Rowe	Chair, National Council Rep, Leeds MC, CC	Dave Turnbull	BMC CEO
Deirdre Collier	Secretary, National Council Rep, Craven MC*, FRCC, CC	Ed Poulter	UWFRA
Nigel Baker	Limestone Access Rep	Andy Newing	Individual
Paul Redding	Hill Walking Rep	Tony Rogan	Individual
Huw Goodall	Individual	David Burnett	Craven MC
Paul Exley	FRCC, Leeds MC, Clubs Committee Rep	Katie Farrell	Individual
Mike Bebbington	YMC/FRCC/CC	John Mortimer	Vibram MC*
Angela Soper	Pinnacle Club* & FRCC	Paul Bishop	Individual
David Warburton	Cleveland MC	Dave Musgrove	CC, YMC
Steve Howe	Individual	Philippa Hill	Individual
Sara Hayes	Leeds MC	Jimmy Smith	Individual
Paul Clarke	FRCC	Laurie Morse	YMC
Melanie Bryan	Individual	Levi Kimberling	Individual
Josh Kimberling	Individual	Matt Ringrose	
John Nightingale	Individual	Claire Scott	Individual
Stephen Hutton	Individual	Bill Burgess	Individual
Tim Brayshaw	Individual	Warren Yabsley	Guest
Michael Roger	Guest	Edwina Harrison	Guest
Michael Brian	Individual	Hazel Normandale	Individual
Peter Ferguson	Individual	Jill Ferguson	Guest
David Handley	YRC	Albert Chapman	YRC

Plus c another 30 attendees who didn't sign in.

Action

- 1 **Welcome & Introductions.** James welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- 2 **Apologies for Absence.** Apologies were received from Julie Dundas, Mick Johnson & Bev Jowett.
- 3 **Minutes of the last meeting.** These were agreed to be a correct record.
- 4 **Matters Arising not covered elsewhere**
- 4.1 **2016 Festival.** No progress with this & now not feasible for 2016. To revisit. ? have a presence at local walking festivals.
- 5 **Co-ordinators' Reports**
- 5.1 **Gritstone: Access & Conservation.** Mick Johnson had sent a report as follows:-
Dovestones. Ongoing. Notice at base of crag – no climbing & trespassers will be prosecuted. Landowner had put up the sign during the Tour de France to discourage people from climbing on the rocks when there were vast numbers of visitors. He has no problem with people using the rocks for climbing & would arrange for the sign to be removed. A59 in the area closed at the time so not possible to check at the time but to be followed up when road is open.
(Post meeting note – Nicky Bunting, North Yorkshire County Council Rights of Way Officer subsequently walked around Dovestones & found one sign which she removed.)
Brimham Rocks. Previous report of University Group at crag being asked re risk assessment. The National Trust has an online risk assessment form & similar also available from North Yorkshire County Council. Work re this ongoing.
Crookrise Crag. Dave Turnbull reported that discussions with the Yorkshire Dales National Park

Authority (YDNPA) about the acquisition of Crookrise are ongoing; the Park's valuation of the site is higher than that of the District Valuer.

- 5.2 Limestone: Access & conservation.** Nigel Baker reported that Limestone Access was generally quiet at present.

Threshfield Quarry. Dave Musgrove reported positive news after 3 years of discussions. Meeting with Tarmac's new Estates Manager & Area Operations Manager both of whom are positive re the possibility of climbing in the Quarry. More work to do but possibility of starting development of the Central Corridor area later this year.

- 5.3 Youth.** Dave Turnbull reported that James McHaffie had recently started working for the BMC as Youth & Partnerships Officer to help improve the BMC's services to young people.

- 5.4 Climbing Walls.** There is no Area Climbing Wall representative due to lack of interest. JR had asked about Area climbing Wall reps at the December Meeting of the National Council. Noted that some Areas have Climbing Wall reps & the BMC's position re wall reps hadn't changed. Reference to Area Meeting Guidance document which states '*BMC Areas may choose to appoint a Climbing Wall Rep to liaise with climbing walls and wall users and to refer any relevant issues to the Area. Amongst other things the Walls Rep can take responsibility for ensuring the display of BMC literature at climbing walls.*' For further consideration by Area.

- 5.5 Clubs.** Paul Exley's report from the Clubs Committee Meeting of 28 January had been previously circulated.

Noted that the Huts Booking System referred to was still in the very early stages of being investigated re feasibility. Even if it was felt to be feasible there was a long way to go before a system could be available.

- 6 Hillwalking.** Paul Redding's Hill Walking Report had been previously circulated. He said that there was a Hill Walking Working Group Meeting the following week & asked that people contact him re any issues &/or re info.

The **BMC's Mend Our Mountains campaign** was noted – to be launched. Of particular interest here are the proposed repairs to the Swine Tail path on Ingleborough which has been put forward by the YDNPA for funding. This gets a lot of use & the proposed crowdfunding could be very helpful in helping to fund the repairs. Dave Turnbull said that the BMC was being more pro-active in the Mend our Mountains campaign & that the BMC's Access & Conservation Trust (ACT) was heavily involved.

Link here- <https://www.thebmc.co.uk/bmc-calls-on-the-public-to-help-mend-our-mountains-amid-fears-of-footpath-decline>

April Hill Walking Meeting. Paul reported that there would be another dedicated Hill Walking Meeting in April preceded by a walk. He was hoping to hold the Meeting in a different part of the Area & asked people to get in touch if they had any suggestions re suitable venues & associated walks.

7 National Council

- 7.1 Report from last NC Meeting.** Draft Meeting Minutes previously circulated.

Honorary Membership – Angela Soper. Noted that Angela Soper (along with Gwen Moffat) had been offered BMC Honorary Membership. Angela reviewed her involvement with the BMC from the early days of being a climbing wall rep through to being a BMC VP when the big issue was relocation of the BMC Office due to lack of space.

The BMC, since its inception in 1944, had never had a female honorary member. The Meeting expressed its congratulations to Angela on this great honour.

Dave Turnbull said that the BMC was considering what more it could do for its female members & that the honouring of Gwen and Angela was one of the first results of the new BMC Women's Think Tank, which had its initial meeting in Sheffield on 2 December.

He also mentioned the This Girl Can campaign which had been well received & would be repeated – see link - <https://www.thebmc.co.uk/this-girl-can-climb>

Also that the BMC was going to try & have a crèche facility at the AGM & also to offer to cover childcare expenses to help women with childcare responsibilities to try to get to meetings.

7.2 **Matters for the next NC Meeting.** None raised.

8 **? Hold one Area Meeting per year at a different venue. Specific proposals for consideration are sought.**

No suggestions had been received. Suggestion to hold such a meeting in association with a hill walking meeting - ? in April prior to the BMC's AGM. For consideration.

PR/DC

9 **Individual Members Issues.** None raised.

10 **Any Other Business.**

Yorkshire Mountaineering Club contribution of £350 to the ACT re guidebook sales. Dave Turnbull reported on this expressing his thanks to the YMC for their support.

Climbers against Cancer – CAC. Dave Turnbull referred to the recent death of John Ellison, the founder of Climbers against Cancer – see link -

<https://www.thebmc.co.uk/bmc-proudly-becomes-partner-of-cac>

John had been a long term BMC volunteer & in his memory the BMC was setting up a one off Climbers with Cancer fund which would make available to climbers or hill walkers who have suffered or are suffering from cancer 5 awards of £1000 – see link -

<https://www.thebmc.co.uk/climbers-with-cancer-new-bmc-grant-scheme-in-tribute-to-john-ellison>

Alex Honnold UK tour – Dave Turnbull reported that the BMC will be bringing Alex Honnold to the UK in May for a mini lecture tour, filming for BMC TV and climbing.

Dave Turnbull also reported that the BMC is planning on having a **bigger Hill Walking presence at the Keswick Mountain Festival.**

BMC branding exercise. Dave Turnbull reported that using funding from Sport England the BMC was undertaking a branding exercise looking at the BMC as a brand & its fitness for purpose. Likely outcomes would probably be a new logo & also possibly a name change.

11 **Date of Next Meeting.** TBA ? April Hill Walking. *(Post Meeting note – next Meeting will be held on Monday 11 April at the Wheatley Arms, Ben Rhydding at 7.30 pm – info to follow. It will be preceded by a 3 hour walk on Ilkley Moor starting at 1pm visiting some of its pre-historic monuments.)*

There was no other business & the Meeting finished at 8.23 pm.

Following this, Ed Poulter, leader of the 2015 BMC-funded Unexplored Karakoram expedition, which visited the Rongdo valley in the Indian Karakoram, talked about the expedition.