

Hill Walking Report for the BMC Yorkshire Area Meeting on 1st February 2016

1. Hill walking rep role – for those of you new to BMC meetings, the Hill walking rep's role is:
 - To ensure hill walking appears on Area Meeting agendas regularly and to suggest ways the Area can develop its hill walking work (e.g. by identifying key local issues, suggesting debate topics, and inviting speakers)
 - Act as a focus for hill walking members in the area. Help hill walking-interested members with queries, concerns or requests for support to find the right BMC staff or volunteers who might be able to assist them.
 - To assist the Area in addressing hill walking-related access issues.
 - Communicate developments coming from the HWWG back to Areas and in turn relay opinions on priorities from Areas back to the HWWG.
 - Be on the look-out for opportunities to include hill walking in existing area events
2. I am a member of the HWWG (hill walking working group), which has been formed to put hillwalking more on the BMC agenda at national and area meetings. The next meeting is on the 8th February. The key forward plans for 2016 are:
 - Mend our Mountains (see below)
 - Supporting the access and conservation trust (ACT) to deliver the
 - 'Mountain Magpie' campaign. This is the brainchild of a Lakeland-based guide and BMC hillwalking rep Matt le Voi who recently coined the idea of encouraging people to take photos of litter they've cleaned up, post on twitter and tag it [#mountainmagpie](#)
 - Hold series of volunteer-led hill walking events throughout spring and summer
 - Work more closely with Clubs Committee to support hill walking provision in clubs
 - Support effort to build on the positive growth of hill walking content within Summit
 - Have a full input into the review of BMC membership benefits package
 - Continue to make the argument for recognition of hill walking as the biggest potential growth area for the BMC, as re-enforced by OIA and Sport England research
3. Mend Our Mountains – new BMC crowdfunding campaign to repair damaged paths. Supported by Chris Bonnington and Dough Scott and seven national parks including the Yorkshire Dales. Yorkshire Dales has put forward Swine Tale path up Ingleborough. Estimated 60,000 people a year use it and there is now a 500m stretch of eroded ground that needs urgent work. It costs the National Park £28 to maintain each metre of the 40km three peaks path and cuts to National Park budgets means that there is no money to do the urgent repairs required.
4. Resources – there are now an increasing number of resources for Hillwalkers on the BMC website. Go to www.tv.thebmc.co.uk/channels/walking/ for videos including mountain walking skills and great walks in the lake district
5. April Meeting – the next area meeting is proposed to be dedicated to Hillwalking and there will be a walk beforehand. More details later.

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Please get in touch by email: paul@reddingweb.co.uk