

# BRITISH MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL

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## Notes from the Meeting of the BMC Peak Area Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2016 The Maynard, Grindleford

### Present:

Andy Hayes (ABMSAC)	Ian Mateer (ABMSAC)	John Cook (Castle MC)
Spencer Ramsey	Sue Lewis	Chris Gale
Alan Cash	Stephen Coughlan	Phil Robins
Francesca Bethell-Collins	Adam Long (Access rep)	Mark Warwicker
Rick Gibbon (Access rep)	Mel Brown	Rob Dyer (BMC Access Officer)
Joanna Rowbottom (BMC Equity Officer)	Tim Grice	Henry Folkard (Access rep)
Andy Tickle (Derbyshire Penine Club & Friends of the Peak District)	Robert Townsend (The Mountain Club, Stafford)	Mike Rhodes (PDNPA Access & ROW Manager)
Sue Smith (PDNPA Access Officer)	Jo Astill	Bill Irving
Frag Last	Steve Clegg	Christine Renouf
Sally Newton	Alan Malone	Kim Leyland
Hannah Kippax	Emma Flaherty	Amy Wilson
Mina Leslie-Wujastyk	Brian McAlindon	Joe Shearring
Penny Orr	Becca Lounds	Iain Moodie
Lynn Robinson	Chris Radcliffe	Gill Radcliffe
Pete Thorpe	Clare Reading (FRCC)	Neil Foster
Andy Elliott	Lynn Elliott	Dave Turnbull (BMC Chief Exec)
Tony Woodford	Steve Clark	Fiona Jones
Hamish Forbes	Steve Burns	Valerie Partington
Simon Lee (UK Bouldering)	Mike Pollitt	Kelvin Prime
Pete Tapping	John Bayliss	Neile Hewertson
David Brown	Claire Carter	Will Pettet-Smith
James Jacobs	Dan Jenkin	Toby Wright
Peter Judd (Hillwalking rep)	Cath Lee (Hillwalking Rep)	Martyn Smith (Powers MC)
Norman Rice (Powers MC)	Louise Hawson (Access Rep)	Greg Bristol (Peak CC)
John Beatty (Rucksack Club)	Becky Hammond (secretary)	Rob Greenwood (chair)
Peter Hammond (Castle MC)	Graeme Hammond	<b>Total signed in = 79</b>
Carey Davies (BMC Hillwalking Officer)	Luke Barley (National Trust)	<b>Total present = 80</b>

### 1. Apologies –

Austin Knott  
Rebekah Newman  
John Fulwood

Dave Parry  
Mark Rankine

John Coefield  
Pam Storer

### 2. Actions from the last meeting

Action	Who	Complete?
Standing Stones – Regional Access Database to be updated	Rob Dyer	Yes

### 3. BMC Equity Officer – Jo Rowbottom

Jo has recently started as the BMC's Equity and Partnerships Officer. Her role is to engage under-represented groups at all levels in the BMC. Four main areas of activity:

- People with disabilities: 1 in 5 of the general population, under-represented in sports. Want to link with other organisations to increase participation.

- Black and minority ethnic communities: there are barriers associated with imagery and accessing information
- Mental health: benefits of exercise and being outdoors
- Women and girls: e.g. resources for walls and clubs to increase and maintain participation, and a women's recruitment drive

#### 4. **Women's Development Group** – Lynn Robinson

The WDG have held two meetings so far involving approximately 30 women. The next meeting will be in May. Two main areas of focus:

- Increasing and maintaining participation in climbing, hillwalking & mountaineering (observed a drop off when girls reach around 18 years old)
- Increasing female participation in the BMC at a local and national level (women are under-represented compared to the overall membership).

This is falling into four themes: clubs; mountain guides, instructors & industry; committee work; and general participation.

Outcomes already achieved: the first female honorary members have been announced (Angela Soper and Gwen Moffat); increasing number of features on the BMC website and in the members handbook; a specific session at the BMC AGM.

Jo Rowbottom has put together a list of volunteering vacancies and is actively women into these roles. The Women's Climbing Symposium has become a big event with 250 participants and 50 volunteers. In response to a question, Jo said that she is working with climbing walls etc to increase participation, and needs to provide resources for clubs (e.g. posters): this could be complemented by Clubs Committee work also.

Dave Turnbull stressed that this has full buy in from everyone. There will be a crèche at the AGM for the first time, with consideration to rolling out at other events. The BMC is giving financial support to the Pinnacle Club's Women's International Meet this summer, and funded the "Women in Adventure" sessions at the ShAFF.

#### 5. **Access updates**

- *National Trust Outdoor Activities Licensing* Rob Dyer

There's a good summary on the BMC website at <https://www.thebmc.co.uk/national-trust-activity-licence-update> The NT have expressed a wish for guidance from the BMC about how to implement this. It is a pilot scheme at the moment (21 sites around the country, including Longshaw estate). The BMC have concerns, but the NT are open to input. The NT's objectives are to reduce the manage the impact of groups and generate some income to repair damage. Concerns include: the concept of paying for access (especially on CRoW land); the definition of commercial (chargeable) vs educational (exempt); lack of flexibility (for providers to respond to late bookings, last minute changes, weather, etc). NT property managers appear to have varying views and it's up to them exactly how they implement it.

The BMC want to collect feedback from outdoor activity providers in the pilot areas. They will be putting forward a case that any educational use should not be charged (e.g. training courses) and favouring an opt-in or badge scheme. As well as national discussions, there are local discussions going on between Peak Area access reps and local NT staff. Luke Barley emphasised that they want people to talk to them, and pointed out that educational group membership already exists.

Points discussed:

- The NT viewed the "countryside only" membership as a failure because people viewed it as a free parking ticket
- There are many micro-businesses doing navigationa training, guided walking etc in the Peak district, but not all based in the area. The system needs to work for them with regard to admin, flexibility, last minute bookings/change of plan etc.
- A lot of outdoor providers would like to put something back.
- How to make all providers aware?
- Suggested idea of bringing together a group of providers for consultation/feedback
- Support for the idea of repayment in kind i.e. volunteering
- It's understood that the Fell Runners Association are negotiating a national agreement to cover all their fell races (to reduce admin burden on local organisers)
- Whatever the scheme is, it will need to be "opt in" due to issues of enforcing it.
- Asking for voluntary donations at access points, village toilets, carparks etc yields very little income
- Many visitors pay to park, pay for the toilets, etc and don't realise that that money hasn't gone to the National Trust but in their mind they've paid for their day out
- Could be a precedent for other landowners

- Concerns that this could be the thin end of the wedge

**Action point: Rob/Becky to correspond with Adge Last, Cath Lee, Henry Folkard and Ruth Tweedy (National Trust) regarding providing group feedback**

- *Ring Ouzels* Kim Leyland

Ring Ouzels look like blackbirds but with a white “collar”. There are around 6,000 pairs in the UK (6 million blackbirds) and the population is declining. They migrate to north Africa in winter and come to the UK in spring. They need a very specialist habitat: short grass for the young (which feed on invertebrates) then berries (e.g. Rowan) to feed up before they fly back to Africa.

Kim is running a Ring Ouzel survey on the Eastern Edges. A joint effort between National Trust, PDNPA and Eastern Moors, continuing and pulling together previous work by Bill Gordon, Adam Long and others. The aim is to find out how many pairs there are. Access arrangements will remain the same, with signs put up when nesting pairs are found. The decision to put up signs is on a case by case basis, balancing the need to avoid disturbance whilst not attracting unwanted attention. This has worked well previously (failures have been due to predators, not human disturbance).

If you see or hear Ring Ouzels please report your sightings (see <http://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/visiting/stanage-and-north-lees/ring-ouzel> for details of how). They make a “chack chack chack” sound if distressed – please move away if you hear it.

- *Anston Stones Wood* Rob Dyer

This is a limestone bouldering venue east of Sheffield. It is owned by the local parish council. “No climbing” signs have appeared. The site is a SSSI but Natural England have said it’s okay to climb there. Rob Dyer is trying to work with the parish council

- *Other access updates*
  - Moors for the Future community science project – information available online about things you can look out for including Ring Ouzels
  - The Peak District Access Fund Report is available online at [www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/access](http://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/access)
  - The Peak District Local Access Forum maintains a “wish list” of access improvements – tell Henry if there’s anything you’d like adding.
  - Stanage Pole being re-erected on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> April – BMC members will be helping
  - Drones: recent incident of a drone being flown very close to the crag (by a non-climber) at Stanage Popular End: the climbers felt intimidated by its presence but felt unable to challenge the person controlling it.
    - Civil Aviation Authority rule-of-thumb is that the operator must be able to see the drone at all times, and drones fitted with cameras must not be flown within 50 metres of other people or directly over other people. There’s a useful summary here: <http://www.derbyshire.police.uk/Safety-advice/Drones-Your-responsibility/Drones-Your-Responsibilities.aspx>
    - The PDNP and National Trust disapprove of drones
    - Ring Ouzels don’t like them
    - If you see drone footage on social media, take the opportunity to explain that you don’t like it and why.
    - The Civil Aviation Authority recommend calling the local police on 101 to report illegal drone use.

6. **National Council Report** – David Brown  
See David’s notes at the end of this document.

7. **Hillwalking update** – Cath Lee & Peter Judd (Hillwalking Reps) and Carey Davies (BMC Hillwalking Officer)

Carey gave an update on the Mend Our Mountains crowdfunding campaign. The target is £100,000 (between eight projects in eight national parks). The Peak project is for footpath repairs on Ringing Roger (on Kinder Scout), and around £4,000 has been raised of a £10,000 target. The campaign needs more “rewards” (which are offered in return for donations). If anyone can help with leaflets, posters, pledges or offering rewards of any size please talk to Peter Judd.

Hillwalking Working Group meeting two days after the area meeting. Making good progress with the Hillwalking Strategy.

Friends of the Peak have a fundraising walk on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> May: 5, 11 or 18 miles along the Hayfield skyline.

8. **Update from BMC Officers** – Dave Turnbull

- The organizational restructuring is complete. The BMC office now has enough toilets for the staff, and there is further work to be done to increase the amount of usable space. They decided not to move offices because the office is in a good location, moving would be expensive, the building was valued less than anticipated, and installing a mezzanine floor would probably be sufficient for the next 10 years.
- Sport Climbing may be announced in August for the 2020 Olympics
- The BMC has made £5000 available for five grants to climbers affected by cancer following the death of John Ellison who founded Climbers Against Cancer. There have been 20 applicants.

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9. **Peak Area Newsletter**

Many thanks to Simon Lee and John Coefield who have taken over production of the newsletter from Martin Wass. Items for the next newsletter should be sent by 25<sup>th</sup> May – email [peakarea@gmail.com](mailto:peakarea@gmail.com).

10. **Any other business**

The Outside crag clean up will be on 11<sup>th</sup> June.

11. **Date, time and venue of the next meeting**

Wed 8th June 2016, 8.00pm, at the Winking Man, Buxton Road, Upper Hulme, Leek. There will probably be a walk organised beforehand.

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*The meeting was followed by a talk by Claire Carter and a showing of the film Operation Moffat.*

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**AS ALWAYS:**

- Chair of the Peak Area is Rob Greenwood – [robgreenwood@bmcvolunteers.org.uk](mailto:robgreenwood@bmcvolunteers.org.uk)
- Access issues/access volunteer work please contact Henry Folkard – [henry.folkard@bmcvolunteers.org.uk](mailto:henry.folkard@bmcvolunteers.org.uk)
- With regard to the meetings, agenda items or any other issues please contact Becky Hammond, Peak Area Secretary – [becky@bmcvolunteers.org.uk](mailto:becky@bmcvolunteers.org.uk)
- Check out the Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/bmcpeakarea> and 'like' us if you can
- Articles for the newsletter are always welcome: please send them to [peakarea@gmail.com](mailto:peakarea@gmail.com)

BMC – National Council Meeting Summary  
Saturday 6 February 2016 in Bristol

A half-day meeting but there was a lot of discussion on a wide range of topics. Most relevant issues:

- **Area Reports/Issues -**
  - **Yorkshire:** the acquisition of Crookrise is still under discussion with the Yorkshire Dales National Park.  
A positive meeting with Tarmac has yielded the possibility of the development of climbing in Threshfield Quarry.  
The YMC has donated a further £350 from Guidebook Sales to the BMC Access & Conservation Trust.
  - **Midlands:** feel that BMC support and guidance is required to help Members exploit the climbing potential in numerous disused quarries within the Midlands.
  - **South West:** there is a proposal to develop Trebarwith Quarry in North Cornwall. The responses by rescue services to recent incidents at Bosigran and at the Dewerstone were still causing concern: the lack of co-ordination had the potential to seriously impact response times and outcomes. After significant discussion it was agreed that the BMC Head Office staff should take up the matter with the relevant bodies.
  - **Cymru Wales (North):** The need/desire for printed meeting publicity/records to be bi-lingual was raised, and Plas-y-Brenin (who have similar issues) offered support. There are problems with funding some BMC activities in Wales; Sport England does not generally support spending in Wales and Sport Wales will not fund a sport with its headquarters in England! There was a lot of discussion and no doubt there will be a lot more – if the Welsh Areas (North and South) devolve it would have significant consequences on the BMC.
  - **Lakes:** changes have been proposed for the Cumbria Bolt Fund but re-bolting at Humphrey Head will go ahead in spring.  
Publication of the new Borrowdale Guide has been delayed and the associated LakesFest event has been cancelled.
- **Treasurer's Report:** Finances are still on target to make a small surplus. Increased Membership has contributed to this situation but also the slide in travel insurance sales appears to have slowed or stopped.
- **Chief Executive Officer's Report:** Dave Turnbull – reported that there has been an annual 2,800 increase in Membership to 81,000.  
The sports marketing agency b-focussed has begun a review of the BMC's commercial capabilities, including membership, and the BMC are preparing the bid for Sport England funding for 2017-21 (representing ~20-25% of BMC income).  
Club renewals can now be processed on line, and soon there will be a new BMC Shop module and an up-grade of the Regional Access Database (RAD).
- Health & Safety policy and procedures are being reviewed with a view to being more consistent for BMC events and will address liability issues.
- **Mountain Heritage Trust:** Mountain Heritage is a BMC constituted Trust which is substantially funded by the BMC. There was a long discussion on Mountain Heritage and the Trust will be encouraged to raise awareness of its work, make it more accessible and raise funds.
- Awareness campaign on the Overuse of Chalk
- **AGM:** Lots of discussion on the AGM including the walks which The Peak Area Hill Walking Reps are leading, and the Clubs and Huts Seminar.

David Brown, Peak Area Representative on National Council