

**Minutes**  
**BMC NE Area Meeting**

**01 September 2016**

Durham Climbing Centre

**1. Welcome and Introduction**

Jon Punshon welcomed everyone to the meeting. He opened by changing the agenda to make the item on rebranding last so a full and frank discussion/debate could be had.

In attendance:

Jon Punshon	Chair
John Herron	Sec
Paul Mitchinson	Walking Rep
Mark Anstis	Clubs & National Council Rep
Nick Colton	BMC Deputy CEO
Ian Walton	Youth Rep
Mike Conlon	Access Rep (South)
Jonathon Sims	
Bob McAdam	
Mike Facchini	
Jessica Wortley	
Martin Ballantine	
Martin Shaw	
Stephen Heineger	
Steve Crowe	
Karin Magog	
Jancis Richards	
David Richards	
Martin Shaw	
Simon Lichfield	
Hayley McKenna	

Unfortunately the attendance sheet was lost in transit. Anyone I have missed off this list we will amend these minutes following the next meeting.

**2. Apologies for Absence**

Mark Goodings  
Alan Hinkes

Steve Blake  
Sarah Johnson  
Peter Simcock  
Steve Jennings  
Tom Parkin  
Sam Welby  
Anna Healy  
Franco Cookson

### **3. Minutes of previous meeting**

The minutes from the previous meeting (16/06/2016) were read, and an amendment was needed to the Access Co-ordinators report from the South of the region this section should read:

*Tranmire Rocks*

*The access rep from the South was unable to make the meeting held on 16/06/16 due to being on an expedition. He reported that there was some concern about a suspect buttress on the main crag at Tranmire Rocks.*

The remainder of the minutes were accepted as a true and proper record.

### **4. Recent Climbing Accidents in Northumberland.**

This has stayed on the agenda as there has been another serious accident at Peel Crag.

The incident happened on the evening of Monday 28 August when a climber dislodged a large block at the top of Odysseus, a 15m Severe to the east of Sunset Buttress. It was resolved to reinforce the request to the BMC for funding to conduct some safety seminars. Steve Crowe pointed out that we need to get in our request for funding early and Jon Punshon who is attending the National Council will take this up at that meeting.

### **5. Festival of Climbing 2017 and other potential Developments**

The group organising/managing the festival had their first get together; however, no decisions were made. A Facebook page has been set up and you can follow the progress: [2017 North York Moors BMC Festival](#)

### **6. National Trust (NT) Licencing for Commercial Activities**

It appears that the National Trust are pulling back from their original position.

**Action:** JP to find out position and report back at next meeting.

## 7. Forthcoming Events

It was pointed out that a new climbing wall is to open in the Ouseburn area; a second venue to be managed by Climb Newcastle, no details as yet or proposed opening date.

## 8. Co-ordinators Reports

### a) Access

#### North

- Unfortunately John Vaughan was unable to attend. So there is no report from the access rep North.
- No issues were reported by those in attendance at the meeting.

#### South

Thanks to Mike Conlon for the following report:

- 1) Further to previous notice of a planning application to install a fence on Westerdale Moor, submissions (objections) were made on behalf of BMC, Cleveland MC (CMC), North York Moors National Park (NYMNP), etc.
- 2) There has been some serious vandalism at the Wainstones including the dislodgement of a large capstone and trundling of large blocks down the gullies.
- 3) There has been a maintenance meet co-ordinated by the access rep and the CMC. In addition to CMC members, the Scugdale Outdoor Club and some individuals attended. The NYMNP Authority provided advice and materials. Several drainage ducts were installed to divert spring, others were cleared and additional steps were installed. This has resulted in a significant improvement in the condition of the approach path. The BMC access officer Rob Dyer offered support as required and has sent his appreciation for the initiative.
- 4) As an example of the type of informal crag maintenance undertaken (frequently unnoticed) by individuals, a CMC member Tom, has undertaken considerable work in clearing a large area of Highcliffe Nab. Tom's efforts and those of other individuals who do such work are much appreciated.

## ***b) Youth***

The youth report kindly sent by Ian Walton:

The main change to youth competitions is the change to the regional structure of the YCS. It's been a victim of its own success, and so in order to limit the number of competitors at the final, which even Ratho is struggling to cope with, changes to the regions have been made. As a result, the North East and Lakes region is no more, with the North East joining with Yorkshire, and the Lakes joining with the North West.

Also, and just announced, is the change for the selection procedure for the national team. This will be less reliant on comp results, and more focussed on the athlete development. The new application procedure is available on the BMC website – [GB Climbing Performance Pathway](#)

With the move upwards of the YCS, I will be trying to work with local walls to fill the gap underneath the YCS; pretty well every wall has a junior "academy", and way better standards of coaching than was in place even 4 or 5 years ago (very pleasing to see), and there are many routes to the outdoors for the indoor plastic brigade, organised by the walls and by the BMC.

Comps - this weekend is the Scottish Youth Championships, at which the North East usually has a good representation, and has had some success, and the first round of the BMC Paraclimbing Series, with Aycliffe's Esme Harte, and Sunderland's Hannah Atkinson competing. We also have the BLCCs at Sheffield on 24-25 September. All now starting to see how we can maximise international results in 2017 and beyond!

## ***c) Climbing Walls***

Unfortunately Mark Goodings tendered his apologies so no report was available. Also see section 7 "Forthcoming Events" for details of a new climbing wall in Newcastle.

## ***d) Hill Walking***

Paul Mitchinson reported that he had no news to report as he had not received any replies to his emails to his usual contacts.

## ***e) Clubs***

No report from Mark Anstiss, Clubs Rep.

## ***f) National Council***

Mark Anstiss tendered his apologies at the National Council, so no NC report was available.

## **9. AOB**

Mark Anstiss asked if we could have National Council as a standing item on the agenda from now on.

## **10. Date of next meeting**

Thursday 24 November 2016, starting at 19:30.  
Location; Newcastle Climbing Centre.

## **11. Rebranding**

The Chair set the scene by reading the introduction to the letter sent by BMC Patron Doug Scott to the BMC (It's very worthwhile to read the whole letter).

Nick Colton gave a presentation of the process behind the rebranding decision, following which there was a full and frank discussion/debate by all present about the rebranding.

I will make no attempt to write this all down as I have no skills with shorthand or speed writing, however to sum up the mood of the meeting there was very strong support for no change. There was however some support for a sub-group which might be called Climb Britain. (this sub-group appears to be young indoor wall climbers only, who seem not to be connected to the BMC).