

MINUTES

NORTH EAST AREA COMMITTEE

Meeting and AGM

Thursday 24th November 2016

7.30pm. Newcastle Climbing Centre, St Marks Church, Byker, Newcastle upon Tyne.

1. Welcome and Introduction

Jon Punshon welcomed everyone to the meeting

In attendance

Jon Punshon	Chair
John Herron	Secretary
Mark Anstiss	Clubs & National Council Rep
Mike Conlon	Access Rep (South)

Simon Litchfield
Franco Cookson
Chris Bullock
Denise Waugh
Callum Adam
Rich Fletcher
Mark Goodings
Jessica Wortley

Martin Ballantine
Pete Hutchinson
Luis Alberto Sanchez
Jonathan Sims
Philip Powell
Graham Harkness
Bob McCadam
Paul Mitchinson

2. Apologies and Absence

P. Simcock
Alan Hinks
Ian Walton
Martin Shaw

John Vauhan
Steve Heiniger
Mark Fletcher (Endless Adventure)

3. Minutes of previous Meeting

Jon Punshon ran through the minutes from the previous meeting 01/09/2016. Philip Park and Graham Harkness to be added to attendance record, otherwise accepted as true and correct.

4. Climb Britain Update

BMC has pulled back completely from rebranding to Climb Britain. Climb Britain may have a different role in within the BMC, but that will be discussed with members in due course. Credit given that BMC have listened in the aftermath.

Noted that it would be appreciated if BMC consult members more, but reminded that Executive Officers make operational decisions to ensure the practical running of the organisation.

5. Festival of Climbing

J. Sims reported progress including:

- Date: 16th – 18th June 2017
- Coordinators and Welfare Officer appointed
- 2 potential camp sites identified
- Pubs identified: Black Swan (Kirby) - Friday Eve including pub quiz, Jet Miners (Broughton) Saturday night including night guest speaker (tbc)
- Looking into supporting other activities including hiking and mountain biking.
- There are options for youth element at the festival.
 - C Bullock (Rock Hard) can assist putting a team together for the festival.

Suggestion to ask BMC TV to come along

6. Accidents in the county (Northumberland) – Updates

In response to 2 incidents at Peel Crag and 1 at Kyaloe JP has requested support from head office to for safety awareness days (esp. loose block awareness at Peel Crag). BMC reported that they run some days, however, NE area would like to run this, including free instruction day at local crag.

CMC reported the loss of a member on the Long Climb on Ben Nevis.

7. Co-ordinators reports

Access North: (J. Vauhan not present).

- S.Litchfield: Whiteheugh Crag – no longer permitted to drive to park under the crag. Reported to RAD but no action taken. Matter will be followed up.

Access South (Mike Conlon):

- Downholme Quarry – access arrangements updated details on RAD
- MC attended Upland Footpath Workshop at Rheged –key message not to extend paths unless you can maintain them. Slides of erosion on Yorkshire 3 Peaks
- Reminded of ACT (arm's length fund administered by the BMC for charity status) – worth applying for funding (as few requests received). Scugdale had path improvements through it.

Youth

See Email report

Climbing Walls (Mark Goodings)

- Many forthcoming winter competitions reported
- Climb Newcastle break in – E9 items stolen. No further equipment taken
- Newcastle Climbing centre – hosting Para Climbing Comp Final. 11 Categories – all encouraged to attend and support

Hillwalking

Pleased with decision not to rebrand to Climb Britain. Paul Mitchinson to send out report

National Council (Jon Punshon and Mark Anstiss)

The minutes of the national council meeting can be accessed by following hyperlink:

<https://www.thebmc.co.uk/bmc-national-council-minutes>

- Rebranding: the National Council was largely a single item agenda: rebranding. BMC asked area Representatives/Chairs to feedback from the regions and Doug Scott spoke against. *Vote: National Council does not support rebranding (11 for, 0 against, 8 abstentions)*
- Funding: projected shortfall (c.a. £80k) in 2016 cycle. BMC aiming for break-even budget for 2017.

Sport England has recently issued an updated Governance Code for all bodies in receipt of Sport England funding. There are concerns that the structure of the BMC may not fit well with the new code and at next National Council there will be discussion around the remit of the Executive and National Council.

Sport England are reducing funding. In light of these reductions and the questions on governance (above) there was some discussion at National Council as to whether the BMC should look at the medium term goal of not being financially dependent on Sport England funding, no consensus was reached.

Sport England funds grass roots sports, this is distinct from UK Sport which funds Olympic success.

- Competition Climbing: This is a possible candidate for Climb Britain as an alternative use and will be discussed further at next National Council. In view of the news that climbing will be included in the Tokyo Olympics there was discussion as to how best to manage climbing as an Olympic sport. There was no appetite for competition climbing to break away into a separate body (although it was noted that the option has been considered by the Competitions Committee). A vote on our future approach was taken.

Vote by National Council for Competitions to stay under BMC umbrella (15 for, 2 against, 1 abstention)

There is concern from the Competitions Committee that with the Olympics etc competition climbing may reach a point more money is required than the BMC can give

Clubs (Mark Anstiss)

The BMC are working on a refreshed Strategy and Mission Statement and the Clubs Committee are working to ensure that Clubs are properly represented in it. The Committee Terms of Reference and Operating Procedures were tidied up.

It was agreed to have a role of Huts Group representative on the committee to allow improved links with the Huts Group.

- Sport England funding trimmed back which will have an impact on the grants programme for clubs
- Club seminar: no Seminar in 2017 but a number of 'Roadshows' – nearest in Manchester Sat 18 Feb 2017
- Club renewal of membership system is going electronic for 2017 renewal

8. Election of Officers for 2017

A ballot was taken and the following officers elected for 2016

Chair	Jon Punshon	Youth	Chris Bullock
Secretary	Simon Litchfield	Climbing Walls	Mark Gooding
Access North	Franco Cookson	Hillwalking	Paul Mitchinson
Access South	Mike Conlon	Clubs	Mark Anstiss

National Council Representatives: Mark Anstiss and Jon Punshon

- Under consideration – addition of an Entertainment Secretary role.
- Thanks to be sent to John Vaughan for his efforts.
- Whether there is a maximum term length for positions to be investigated by next meeting.

9. AOB

- Great North Air Ambulance: £900k shortfall as a result of Autumn Budget statement. Could be a good charity to support in the NE Climbing Festival
- Marsden Cove: Good bouldering venue. Questions over its use as a dry tooling area.
- Slideshow / talk for next meeting: Franco to speak.
- Disappointment at the absence of a BMC officer at the meeting

10. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Thursday 16th February 2017, 19:00, Durham Climbing Centre