

BRITISH MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL

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Minutes of the 215th Yorkshire Area Meeting Held at 19.30 on Monday 28 November 2016 at the Wheatley Arms, Ben Rhydding, Ilkley

Present:

James Rowe	Chair, National Council Rep, Leeds MC, CC	Emma Flaherty	BMC VP
Deirdre Collier	Secretary, National Council Rep, Craven MC, FRCC, CC	Mike Bebbington	YMC/FRCC/CC
Jo Rowbottom	BMC Equity & Partnerships Officer	Martin Nash	Individual
Peter Sanderson	Craven MC	Sarah Sharps	Leeds MC
Angela Soper	Pinnacle Club* & FRCC	Peter Roll	Individual
Mick Green	Gritstone Club	Clarke Boulter	Individual
Dave Musgrove	CC, YMC, BMC's Access Management Group	Mark Beecher	Leeds MC,CC
Mick Johnson	CC, FRCC. Gritstone Access Rep	Julie Dundas	Individual
Peri Stracchino	YMC,YAC,CC	Paul Clarke	FRCC
Nigel Baker	YMC, Limestone Access Rep	Dave Skinner	Individual
Lorna Vance	Individual		

Action

- 1 Welcome & Introductions.** James welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- 2 Apologies for Absence.** Apologies were received from Paul Exley, Bev Jowett, Laurie Morse & John Mortimer.
- 3 Minutes of the last meeting.** These were agreed to be a correct record with none disagreeing & 5 abstentions.
- 4 Matters Arising not covered elsewhere.**

4.1 Call by British Cycling for greater countryside access for cyclists –

<https://www.britishcycling.org.uk/campaigning/article/20161115-campaigning-Why-British-Cycling-are-calling-for-greater-countryside-access-for-cyclists->

Dave Musgrove as Chair of the BMC's Access Management Group (AMG) reported that the AMG had discussed this at the June Meeting. There had not been much info or time for the Group to discuss the matter fully. Based on what information was available AMG had agreed the proposal in principle. This agreement was based on 3 considerations:-

1. Many BMC members are cyclists.
2. Improving Access
3. The dangers of road cycling.

However it was felt that paths need to be appropriate for the purpose. The legislation related to public rights of way is archaic - not all bridleways are suitable for cycling while some footpaths are ideal.

Various groups are involved eg Ramblers Association, British Cycling, Sport & Recreation Alliance etc. The next step is to pull together a meeting of all groups involved to discuss. The proposal is not a fait accompli & even if agreed it wouldn't mean a cyclist on every footpath.

Comments made as follows:-

Reference to Scotland & different access laws that permit greater access for cyclists. However a good process is needed to manage such access.

Complicated matter - needs consideration on a case by case basis.

Recognised Code of Conduct would be needed to indicate best practice. Concern that while 90% of cyclists are ok around 10% don't seem to care & danger is that these would not bother to observe any guidance. Clear definitions required.

In response to a query it was clarified that any liability re bridleways is the same as for footpaths & any path redesignation would not change that.

Clarified that British Cycling is not looking to review all footpaths – just those that would be suitable for cycling.

Signage is a big issue – would need to be good.

Comment re risks & reference to Ilkley Moor incident where a runner was hit by a cyclist.

Concerns re the possibility of a 'free for all'.

Responsible access is key.

Example of where cycle paths/bridleways come to a sudden stop – the possibility that this proposal could improve this situation & facilitate the completion of journeys.

It's up to British Cycling to make the case.

Noted that the Ramblers Association have done a letter agreeing in principle but also expressing a lot of concerns. <http://www.ramblers.org.uk/news/news/2016/july/british-cycling-calls-for-increased-access-for-cyclists.aspx>

Feeling that care is needed re the BMC saying it doesn't want anything to do with the proposal – doing that or just saying 'no' could risk alienating a lot of members.

Not necessary to object at this stage but that is subject to seeing the details of the proposal.

5 Co-ordinators' Reports

5.1 Gritstone: Access & Conservation. Mick Johnson reported as follows:-

Almscliff. Recent use as nighttime/lamping climbing venue. Farmer has asked that Almscliff not be used as a night-time climbing venue. RAD updated accordingly.

Shelter Cliff Field Boulders Access. Report that climber asked by farmer not to climb there. Private land.

Crookrise. BMC acquisition imminent – definitely before Christmas.

5.2 Limestone: Access & conservation. Nigel Baker reported that Limestone Access was still generally quiet.

Blue Scar. Previous reports of some confusion re gaining permission to climb. Access Rep will review in 2017. Noted that email contact details for landowner are on BMC's RAD.

5.3 Youth. No report.

5.4 Climbing Walls. No report – there is no Climbing Wall Representative.

5.5 Clubs. No report.

6 Hillwalking. No report.

7 National Council

7.1 Report from September NC Meeting. Draft Meeting Minutes previously circulated. The proposed Rebrand had been discussed & NC had voted to not support the full rebrand to Climb Britain. Possible & future uses of Climb Britain would be considered.

Sport England (SE). Possibility of SE reducing funding it gives to the BMC. Discussion re the BMC becoming financially independent from SE but concerns about the effect of that on & viability of various BMC work programmes. SE also unsure about the division of responsibilities between the BMC's Exec Committee & National Council & may require that Exec Committee takes on more responsibility &

accountability for organisational policy making.

7.2 Matters for the next Meeting.

7.2.1 Area consultation. (Paper tabled)

Deirdre Collier (as one of the then National Council (NC) reps to the Exec Committee), had been involved in discussions at the BMC re how policy/development issues could be handled vis-à-vis communications between Area & National Council. She & Colin Knowles (then the other NC rep to the Exec Committee), both felt that it was sometimes difficult to represent the views of Areas if NC papers weren't received in time to facilitate Area discussion before the NC meeting. Noted that the BMC's Area Meeting Guidance stated that the role of Area NC Reps is '*represent the views of their Area at National Council and to report back to their Area on any relevant decisions or debates at National Council.*' While it was recognised that at times it may be necessary for Area NC Reps to *make quick decisions on issues, so Area Representatives must be prepared to 'think on their feet' and act (including voting) on behalf of their Area* these occasions should be the exception & should not be required on matters as important as the Rebrand.

Noted that Yorkshire had been the only Area to discuss the proposed Rebrand at its June Meeting prior to NC agreeing the proposal. Discussion with the members prior to the NC Meetings was felt to be imperative on matters of such importance.

Following discussion the Meeting agreed that NC Agendas & papers should be available before all Area Meetings to facilitate discussion as appropriate. Suggestion noted re NC suggesting up to 2 issues for discussion at Area Meetings but Meeting felt that Areas also need to be able to decide for themselves what NC Agenda items need discussion.

8 Individual Members Issues. None raised.

9 Any Other Business.

Vote of Thanks. Julie Dundas expressed a vote of thanks to James & Deirdre for all their work. She felt that it had been an especially difficult meeting with a lot of issues.

10 Date of Next Meeting. Monday 6 February 2017 @ 19.30

Following the Meeting **Emma Flaherty, BMC Vice President, & Jo Rowbottom, BMC's Equity & Partnerships Officer**, gave a very good joint presentation re the Women's Development Group, the BMC's Women Outdoors project & the BMC's work with Young People.

Jo has provided the following for further information:-

The Sheffield School girls event <https://www.thebmc.co.uk/inspiring-80-girls-to-take-up-climbing>
Sheffield schools bouldering comp <http://tv.thebmc.co.uk/videos/sheffield-schools-bouldering-competition-2016/>
Women's Sports week activities overview <https://www.thebmc.co.uk/celebrating-womens-sport-week>
Film shown of the women's climbing symposium <http://tv.thebmc.co.uk/videos/womens-climbing-symposium-2016/>
Film of the Lakes Youth Meet 2016 <http://tv.thebmc.co.uk/videos/bmc-lakes-youth-climbing-meet-2016/>
Link to @WomenOutdoors Week pilot article <https://www.thebmc.co.uk/womenoutdoors>

Jo says she'll be building on this this year with more time to plan , and hopefully more budget to better involve local areas and clubs.

If anyone would like to ask Jo about any of this she's contactable on 0161 438 3313 or email Joanna@thebmc.co.uk