

BMC North West Area Meeting

23 January 2017, The Depot Climbing Centre, Manchester

MINUTES

Attendance – 12

BMC Officer in attendance – Jon Garside: BMC / MTE training officer

Chair – Carl Spencer

Apologies.

Les Ainsworth; Tim Greenhalgh; Mike Hounsley.

1. Minutes accepted.

2. Matters arising from the minutes.

- a. Shivers Arete peg. NB waiting for dry weather to make replacement.
- b. Cadshaw footbridge. All in place but no progress to report.

3. Area Rep reports.

- a. **Access.** Les had relayed a verbal report to Carl but essentially there had been no change since the November meeting. Les offered to produce a separate written report prior to the next meeting in advance of the better weather.
- b. **Clubs.** No report. It was felt that clubs should be targeted in order to get reps attending meetings. Email them via Richard Toon's list? There was a BMC 'club roadshow' in operation with a meeting being held at the BMC offices for local clubs. BMC had agreed to a minimum club size of 10 (reduced from 20). RT getting mailing list of local clubs.
- c. **Youth.** No report.
- d. **Climbing Walls.** Stuart Holmes reported on comps and current partnership with Lakes area. 120 entrants for joint area comps. It was pointed out that belayers are in short supply. MTA might be a source? It was suggested that some walls (especially 'leisure centre' walls) had a poor understanding of BMC work and limited communication (e.g comps with clashing dates). Could we invite wall managers to meetings? SH suggested that much could be done by Technical Advisors; is a central register possible?
- e. **Clubs. Hill walking.** Dave Robinson reported on the success of the Mend Our Mountains campaign. Jon Garside responded to queries about participation with figures from the BMC member survey and also reported that a good Natural England survey was accessible on the web. Suggested that 'mountain clean-ups'

could be planned as well as 'crag clean-ups'. Stuart Igoe reported on moves to declare the West Pennine Moors a SSSI.

4. **National Council.** Nick Bond reported that work was ongoing with regard to Governance and Finance but this was a work in progress and little to report at this stage.
5. **Guidebooks.** Carl Spencer reported that Les Ainsworth was considering a free pamphlet of New Routes in the area. A decision was needed about the old on-line guide. Consensus was that it could be taken down – replaced by a summary of the new guide.
6. **Communications.** There was discussion about how the Facebook group is used. Could it be spread wider to more participants?
7. **AOB.**
 1. There was discussion of the selection process for the Development Squad. JG reported on the intent behind the process – not selecting currently good comp climbers but looking for potential.
 2. The current state of belay stakes at Denham was raised. Suggestions were made about sourcing replacements and liaison with Dan Middleton at BMC.

Date of next meeting

Monday 3rd April 2017, Black Dog Belmont

Minutes taken by Andy Say