

MINUTES

NORTH EAST AREA COMMITTEE

Meeting and AGM

Thursday 16th February 2017

7.00pm. Durham Climbing Centre, Durham.

1. Welcome and Introduction

Jon Punshon welcomed everyone to the meeting

In attendance

Jon Punshon

Simon Litchfield

Mark Anstiss

Franco Cookson

Mike Conlon

Chris Bullock

Chair / National Council

Secretary

Clubs / National Council

Access North

Access South

Youth

Denise Waugh

Martin Vasey

Mike Vasey

Rob Dyer

Martin Ballatine

Jessica Wortley

Anna Healy

Bob McAdam

Philip Powell

24 in attendance

Peter Hay

Rosemary Hay

Graham Harkness

Megan Denman-Cleaver

Gordon Hull

Naomi

Karin Magog

2. Apologies and Absence

Mark Goodings

Paul Mitchinson

Steve Heiniger

John Herron

Walls

Hillwalking

Alan Hinkes

Ben Pearce

Peter Simcox

Johnny Sims

3. Minutes of previous Meeting

Jon Punshon ran through the minutes from the previous meeting 24/11/2016. Accepted as true and fair.

4. Matters arising from the previous meeting

Mark Anstiss advised that, Secretary, Chair, National Council and Club posts are limited to 5 years. Other committee positions have maximum term.

5. Festival of Climbing

MC and FC updated on progress as Johnny Sims was unable to attend.

Location: Fletchers farm and field at Great Ayton.
Possible free camping (depending on funding). Camping £5 per person per night.
Possibly worth a discussing for numbers for camping (Wooler was unlimited with a max fee of £200 agree with site).

Funding/Costs: Approval given from BCM for funding

Facilities On-site barn and bar for a social hub (£100 rental)

Entertainment: Quiz for Friday
Options being examined for Sat, including:
- Buffet at £9.95 per head (JP at pervious festivals budgeted for 40)
- Speaker (to be identified). Rob Dyer advised to contact Suzanne or Becky in head office who may be able to advise on who may be a speaker (Franco to action). JP to contact Phil Simmister (Midlands Chair who invites many speakers).

Youth involvement: Nothing special to be put on but can join in as long as supervised by adults.

6. Other Events

Roadshows
MA – Students on is this Saturday

7. Accidents in the county (Northumberland) – Updates

Funding: Dave Turnbull has agreed to fund two training days with two instructors on each of the days
Location One day north or Tyne (Bowden suggested) and one day south Tyne (Wainstones (taller) or Scugdale)
Dates: North of Tyne: earlier better prior to students leaving Uni. Mid April proposed.
South of Tyne: Tie it in with the Festival of Climbing. (MC / FC to take forward).
Registration To get a grasp on numbers Rob Dyer suggested asking for intent using web forms (he can advise)
Itinerary: Open agenda days but must it is not about being taught to climb, but it is about safety techniques and fragility of natural rock.
Promotion: Publicity is the key. BMC Marketing team can assist. FB, etc.
Participants: Open to all, promote through uni / local walls / clubs.
Youth: Consult with Nick Colton in terms of issues regarding young people. E.g. safeguarding, parental / guardian permission, DBS etc.
Project lead: JP noted his conflict of interest owing to commercial interest, however, members were happy for him to lead.
Next steps: JP will circulate plans prior to next meeting.

Noted: -Cumbria are running outdoor courses for youth (but they are picky about who they choose).
- BMC, run a number of youth courses with James McCaffie (albeit further south).

8. Co-ordinators reports

Access

- New Regional Access Database massively updated with increased functionality including: photos, pdf, user comments, topos, weather feed, tidal feed, parking info, a map based system where data and pins can be dropped, almost all crags included.
<https://www.thebmc.co.uk/modules/RAD/>
- Dogs on access land. Owners permitted to restrict dogs to short leads at certain times and apply for 5 year bans.
- 28 day access restrictions can be enforced (incl. Esklets, Simonside and Ravensheugh) (often happen midweek March – April). Problems with advertising. Restrictions, however, don't apply to public rights to way and cannot be on weekends and holidays

Access North (Franco Cookson):

Kyloe In	Trees felled to improve conditions.
Bertle Stone (Hepburn)	Storm blown trees cleared.
Heckley	Rob Dyer to open discussions again.

Access South (Mike Conlon):

- Oxnop Scar (Swaledale, beyond Muker towards Wharfedale) any history of climbing?

Youth (Chris Bullock)

See Attachments

Climbing Walls (Mark Goodings sent apologies but submitted report)

See Attachments

Hillwalking (

See Attachments

National Council accepted recommendations of Hillwalking Working Group. Strategic Plan and Report circulated.

MA reported – Sport England made enthusiastic noises about potentially funding the first year of implementation of the strategy.

National Council (Jon Punshon and Mark Anstiss)

JP: The BMC have given a new 1 year post of Commercial Rep to Simon Lee. His remit is to seek to raise funds for the BMC in the light of diminishing funding from Sports Council. NC – encouraged him think big in terms of linking with commercial organisations (e.g Landrover etc), though not with organisations which may cause jealousy within the outdoors sector. Need to find ways of getting foot into doors: - ideas welcomed.

MA:

December NC:

- Major item was terms of reference for the committees. Accepted without major revisions.
- Discussions re: raising sub fees

January NC.

- South Wales now a separate area.
- Discussions about how the BMC works. Is it a democratic organisation where the NC is the policy making body and the executive are responsible for making things happen operationally. However, in

reality governance is muddled. Sport England commented on this and a Working Group will be formed outside of NC and the Executive to look at this.

- The meeting was asked whether members considered the BMC democratic?

CB: Youth unhappy that split and amalgamation of youth competitions in the north without consultation.

Overall (in the light of the Climb Britain fiasco) information flow is the issue. I.e. asking what member think.

- Hillwalking Strategy accepted in full.
- Graeme Richmond new treasurer
- Vice President: Libby Peters rescinded interest in the role. Gender balance an issue.
- New patrons. Examining gender balance in these roles would be positive.
- AGM: Scheduled for 22 Apr2017. All welcome to attend.
- Sub increases. NC approved an increase of £2.50 for individual members and £1 for affiliate clubs members. Context forecast c.a. £ 100,000k deficit.
- Olympics: UK Sport will get back to BMC in Sept about funding for the Olympics.

9. AOB

Rob Dyer reported the new Great End conditions page for winter conditions, monitoring air and turf temperatures: <https://www.thebmc.co.uk/great-end-winter-conditions>

Franco Cookson delivered a short slideshow / talk after the meeting.
Further talks would be welcomed.

10. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Thursday 6th April 2017, 19:00, Newcastle Climbing Centre

Youth Report

- **Irish Lead Climbing Championships, Londonderry 26th November 2016**

Sam Bullock travelled to Londonderry to take part in the Irish Lead Climbing Championships and brought home a Silver Medal in the Boys Cat A Group. This adds to the Gold medal he previously won in Ireland.

- **New Year Climb, Sunderland 2nd January 2017**

Rock Solid help a training day at Sunderland wall over the New Year holidays, in preparation for this year's YCS. Invites went out to our old colleges from Cumbria, as well as our new friends in Yorkshire.

Both areas attended, and I am please to report that the 3 families that made the trip up from Yorkshire seemed to be suitable impressed with what Rock Solid had to offer and reported this back to other parents in Yorkshire.

- **YCS Round 1, Huddersfield 28th January 2017**

72 Young Climbers took part in round 1.

This was the first chance Rock Solid had to speak directly to all of the entrants of this year's YCS. The Yorkshire region does not have a support group of their own, so this was our chance to explain who we are, what we do and ask those that wish to join us. The Staff at Huddersfield Climbing Centre put on a warm welcome and allowed us to put up posters for Rock Solid around the climbing centre, which attracted a lot of interest.

- **Rock Solid 2017 Team Kit**

The new BMC North East & Yorkshire region required new team kit for this year's Youth Team.

Having discussed designs with the people of Yorkshire, who felt that they would like to keep the Yorkshire Rose in the design, we incorporated this but into In order to balance the design with the North East we felt that an emblem of our own was required, so we enquired if the Angel of the North could be used. Our design team have incorporated both emblems into the word Youth and we are very pleased with the results.

An Initial order of 34 Hoodies have been placed and will be ready to roll out at YCS Round two. Subsequent orders will be available for round three in Leeds. Tee Shirts and other accessories will be on offer after this.

- **Upcoming events**

- **YCS Round 2, Sunderland Wall 25th February 2017**

Every entrant at YCS round two will receive a free event Tee-shirt paid for by Rock Solid sponsors.

An official photographer will be taking pictures which will be available online afterwards. A pizza van will be parked at the entrance of the climbing wall, making fresh Pizza for lunch. We currently have 53 entrants but hope this will rise before online entry closes.

- **YCS Round 3, Leeds Climbing Centre. 25th March 2017**
- **BMC Lead Cup, Round 1, Reading Climbing Centre. 1st April 2017**
- **BMC Open Youth Bouldering Event. Oakwood Climbing Centre, 2nd April 2017**
- **YCS Final, Ratho, 29th April 2017**
- **Scottish Youth Bouldering Championships. TCA Glasgow, 27th May 2017**
- **BMC Welsh Climbing Championships. Beacon Climbing Centre, 3rd June 2017**

The Welsh championships are incorporating BMC Lead Cup Round two.

- **BMC British Junior Bouldering Championships. The Depot, Manchester, 17th June 2017**

DRAFT