

MINUTES

NORTH EAST AREA COMMITTEE

Area Meeting

Thursday 6th April 2017

7.30pm, Newcastle Climbing Centre, Newcastle.

1. Welcome and Introduction

Jon Punshon welcomed everyone to the meeting

In attendance

Jon Punshon	Chair / National Council
Simon Litchfield	Secretary
Mark Anstiss	Clubs / National Council
Phil Mitchinson	Hillwalking
Franco Cookson	Access North

Bob McAdam

Sarah Hawker

Sarah Johnson

Steve Blake

David Williams

13 in attendance

John Heron

Ian Walton

'Rucksack' Rose

2. Apologies and Absence

Mark Goodings

Mike Conlon

Chris Bullock

Philip Powell

Peter Simcox

Walls

Access South

Youth

Jessica Wortley

Graham Harkness

Steve Heiniger

Alan Hinkes

3. Minutes of previous Meeting

Jon Punshon ran through the minutes from the previous meeting 16/02/2017. With two minor typing amendments, accepted as true and fair.

4. Festival of Climbing

Training day set for day at Wainstones. Informal booking system will be via JP.

Mixed messages received by Franco from the BMC re adverts (ie will they only do it if they produce the adverts and whether this (in the form of image with text overlay) would be free or at the cost of the festival (for which there is no budget)). Free text based ad may go in Summit Mag and on the website. Consideration needs to be given about conflate both festival and safety training on one ad.

5. Accidents in the county (Northumberland) – Updates

- Mountain Rescue to update at next meeting
- Safety Training
 - North of Tyne: Sat 29th April.
 - South of Tyne: Saturday of Festival of Climbing.
 - Members encouraged to drum up uptake. Booking through JP. Aimed at 25s, Students, unwaged, young etc.

6. Co-ordinators reports

Access North

- No success phoning contacts for Heckley

Access South

- Dunholme Quarry on RAD

Wall

- Newton Aycliffe Wall Closed. Disappointing loss to the climbing community.
- Places still available on BMC - FRCC youth Langdale meet.

Hillwalking

- Will report next meeting

Clubs (Full report appended)

- Club training day a success
- Two of three roadshows cancelled owing to lack of numbers.

Youth (Full report appended)

- Latest rounds of YCS a success
- Trophies, however, had the wrong regional titles on (which, given the lack of consultation on redrawing the regions was not well received).
- Parents possibly getting a “little more involved” ie pushing from a collaborative venture in the past, towards a less friendly competitive feel.

7. Strategic Affinity Partnerships (SAPs)

On the request of Simon Lee information was disseminated about the development of SAPs.

Questions arose around:

- the risk of downsides: i.e dubious practices, exploitation of workers, pollution, risk of future scandal and the consequences and impact on the BMC,
- What is the alternative? Fees raises / service cuts (context: by 2021 no Sport England funding). Being seen to be fair to all with many funders (and thereby keep all sweet)?
- Does the changes to governance and structure impact upon the whole organisation and the funding provided by SAPs? ie could funding be stovepiped? Are we sponsoring the team or the BMC?

Given the risks and sense of unease a vote was not taken on the suggested question: ‘Are you in favour of the BMC **developing** [stress added] affinity partnerships?’

Instead a vote was taken on:

*Supporting the BMC **investigating** affinity partnerships (on the condition that the process is cautious, democratic and transparent and that due diligence is undertaken)*

Motion passed: 11 for, 1 against, 1 abstain.

8. National Council

Mark Anstiss updated:

- No NC meeting since last area meet
- Next meeting on the Sunday morning after AGM.
- Governance Working Group totally unrelated to vote of no confidence

9. Vote of No Confidence

The nature of vote of no confidence by Bob Pettigrew et al discussed. This included information in the public domain about the vote. In addition, context (such as Sport England and governance, relationship between Exec and NC) and potential risks and consequences were discussed. It was stressed that members can vote with their own conscience. Feeling of the room was:

That the vote of no confidence is unwelcome unwarranted and damaging.

10. Governance

The nature of BMC governance was widely discussed. The problems of top-down bodies such as the FA were compared with the bottom-up structure of the BMC. The feeling of the room was:

Broad support for the bottom up structure of the BMC as is, even if this potentially means less funding and even if governance mistakes have been made in the past.

11. Strategic Plan

Mark Anstiss set out the timeline and disseminated a draft of the strategic plan.

12. AOB

None

13. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Thursday 8th June, 19:00, Durham Climbing Centre

Appendix 1

Clubs Report to NE area meeting 06th April 2017

Clubs committee last met at the BMC Offices, Manchester, on Thursday 9 March 2017. I was able to attend remotely via Skype. Key issues discussed were the Strategic Plan and the vote of no confidence

The Strategic Plan

The Clubs Committee put forward the following points directly to Dave Turnbull on the draft strategic plan:

- The heritage section should include a recognition of and support to maintain mountaineering huts as part of the rich heritage of clubs
- More emphasis on the need to grow membership to ensure the long-term sustainability of the BMC, particularly with the expected large reduction in Sport England funding
- Greater support is needed to promote the concept of a 'club' and the various guises that it can be, rather than just the pre-conception that they are only large national clubs
- Support is needed for existing clubs to capitalise on the opportunities available by linking with non-affiliated groups and growing their membership
- If a survey were to take place of clubs, then it should go to all club members not just the main club contact

An electronic version of the draft Plan has been shared with NE clubs to gather feedback - I have had no responses so far. Major comments need to be made by early April in preparation for the AGM and April National Council meeting. It is planned that the final plan will be approved at the June National Council Meeting.

The Vote of no-confidence

A mailing went to NE clubs explaining the vote of no confidence situation and encouraging them to support the BMC and request that their members do the same.

Clubs Training Day and Roadshows

The Training Day for Committee Members went very well with good feedback and requests for similar events. One Roadshow (Manchester) went well but two were cancelled due to low numbers.

Mark Anstiss 5/4/17

Appendix 2

Youth Report

BMC North East Area
Newcastle Climbing Centre
06th April 2017



➤ February - YCS Round 2, Sunderland Wall

YCS Round 2 was a great success; each competitor received a free event tee-shirt, courtesy of our sponsors Rock Box, Mantle Climbing UK & Sunderland Wall. A pizza van made delicious pizzas on site and the raffle raised £53.00 for Rock Solid funds. More importantly, the day went a long way in breaking the ice with our new Yorkshire friends.

➤ March - YCS Round 3, Leeds

YCS round 3 was a great day, the North East & Yorkshire parents seemed to finally be bonding together in a friendlier and welcoming atmosphere and a great competition was held.

Then right at the end, the BMC supplied trophies were presented and disruption quickly broke out in the crowd. The trophies were labelled North East & Lakes not North East & Yorkshire.

The BMC Competitions department have issued trophies to the whole country with the old regional names engraved on them.

This may seem a trivial mistake after all it's only a label. But in light of the boundary changes imposed by the BMC without any consultation with the people involved and the disruption this has caused, the trophies with the incorrect regional names just added insult to injury and put back the work we have put in to bond the North East & Yorkshire. I can well understand why our Yorkshire friends feel so grieved.

This lack of care and attention to detail by the BMC Competitions department is inexcusable and at the very least the BMC should make a public apology for the disruption and ill feeling they have caused.

➤ BMC Youth Open Event

Several Rock Solid members travelled down to Reading last weekend for the BMC Youth Open taking part in both the Lead Climbing and Bouldering events.

➤ Upcoming events. YCS Final, Ratho.

Chris Bullock
Treasurer for Rock Solid
Northeast and Yorkshire Youth Climbing Team