

MINUTES

NORTH EAST AREA COMMITTEE

Thursday 8th June 2017

7.30pm. Durham Climbing Centre, Durham.

1. Welcome and Introduction

Jon Punshon welcomed everyone to the meeting.

In attendance

Jon Punshon	Chair / National Council
Simon Litchfield	Secretary
Franco Cookson	Access North
Mike Conlon	Access South
Chris Bullock	Youth
Nick Colton	BMC Deputy CEO

Bob McAdam
Sarah Hawker
Graham Harkness
Philip Powell

Mike Facchini
Ian Walton
Gordon Hull
Mike Vasey

14 in attendance

2. Apologies and Absence

Mark Anstiss Clubs / National Council
Mark Goodings Walls
Jessica Wortley
Martin Ballatine

Steve Blake
Steve Heiniger
Alan Hinkes
Paul Mitchison

Hill walking

3. Minutes of previous Meeting

Jon Punshon ran through the minutes from the previous meeting 6/04/2017. Accepted as true and fair.

4. Festival of Climbing

- 2 speakers – Local chap & Ben Bransby
- DMM will provide:
 - Quiz prizes
 - Demo racks
- Steve Crowe updating pdf guides and so mini-guides can be provided
- Hub at campsite giving advice re: crag choices / access.
 - Default for Sat – Ravenscar and Wainstones
- Maps to be provided for walks / rides
- BMC provided banners
- JP: Has banners to provide
- Concerns over designated field (as it is a bit stubbly). M.Conlon on the case
- A couple of toilets (if glorious weather could be an issue)

- Members encouraged to spread the word! Email out to local clubs.
- Instruction re-participation. Now open to all. Send towards Mike Conlon.

5. **Accidents in the county (Northumberland) – Updates**

- 2 non-serious call-outs this summer.
- Perceived increased call-out to crags

6. **National Council Update / AGM**

AGM

- Vote of No Confidence – Not accepted (7:1 against).
- Rehan Siddiqui President stood down on personal reasons. VP Nick Kurth to be acting President.

Governance

- BMC must comply with company law 2006 act, ie directors and exec must be responsible and have primacy (as opposed to National Council).
- Sport England uneasy re: current fudged position.
- Retired judge Ray Wigglesworth (independent of BMC) has been voted in to lead the organisational / governance review.
 - Update to be written (on BMC web) each month
 - Survey of members
 - Members will be consulted and able to vote on recommendations.

Strategic Affinity Partnerships (SAPs)

- Consequence of anticipated funding cuts
- Have broadened approach following feedback

Other business

- Ian Walton has proposed Rehan Siddiqui for honorary membership of the BMC.

7. **Co-ordinators reports**

Access North

- Howlerhirst – peregrine ban until end of month

Access South

- Kay Nest – can now park at farm
- Climbers should be reminded to follow access arrangements shown on RAD.
- Conservation: peregrines at a crag in S. Moors but not to be listed as ban as there is a market for the chicks.

Youth

- See youth report (appended).

Walls

- See wall report (appended)
- World cup being hosted in Ratho 23-25th Sept

Hill walking

- See hill walking report (appended)

8. AOB

- Rock Antics Newton Aycliffe – probably not reopening.

9. Date and Time of Next Meeting

- Thursday 7th September, 19:00, Newcastle Climbing Centre

DRAFT

Hillwalking Reps Report 08.06.17

North Pennines AONB: The Nine Standards stuff has gone very well. Interesting that this was going on at the same time, but separate from Mend Our Mountains.

BMC funded of course.

Webpage here... <http://www.northpennines.org.uk/our-work/peatland-programme/raising-the-standard/>

And the film <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=moHspL05FYM> is well worth a look just to understand what a huge amount of work goes into something that we hope in time hill walkers will just stride across without a second thought... the GoPro shots are good, sort of an access heavy Apocalypse Now!

The Pennine Way People project that we did last year has been offered a small amount of continuation funding, so the volunteer path adopters (Champions) and work parties can continue – Might task days be something to offer to your membership?

I am doing the Little Fell Warcop MOD Ranges walk on 8th July (still a few places left).

We had Claire Balding out on Isaac's Tea Trail as part of her Radio 4 Ramblings Programme.
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b08jclmm>

Still an open offer on our Access and Recreation Working Group for a BMC rep.

We should really discuss improving the climbing pages on our visitor focussed <http://www.explorenorthpennines.org.uk/recreation-opportunity/climbing> website. I noticed just now that we mention Goldsborough in the pre-amble but don't have an entry for it. Might be an article in there somewhere.

NNP: The Sill officially opens on Saturday 29th July. There will be familiarisation visits in the preceding two weeks. I am not sure how the invitees are being selected.

The section of path from Lordenshaws car park up to The Beacon has/is having further work carried out on it which is a mix of slabs and pitching. The materials were flown up late February/early March and the contractors laid the slabs in March/April. The pitching contractors are still onsite pitching the section up onto the Beacon, and will probably be there until mid-July. some point – but don't hold me to that!

MR Stuff: More crag rescues; all of which are genuine accidents. We are called out alongside NEAS and GNAS.

Wanney's – climber broke ankle.

Hepburn – bad landing.

In both cases, the fellow climbers were aware of what to do.

All climbers involved in recent incidents have been experienced.

From an MR point of view, it is worth flagging up the fact that indoor climbers don't seem to be making the transition to outdoors very smoothly.

Youth Report

The YCS Final in Ratho was a huge success for the North East and Yorkshire this year with many of our young competitors achieving podium positions and the regional team taking third place overall. A fantastic result for all involved.

The Youth Competition season is in full swing, with North East & Yorkshire competitors reaching the finals in all of the national competitions held so far; which include the Open Youth Events in Reading, the Scottish Boulder Championships in Glasgow and the Welsh Climbing Championships in Caernarfon.

As usual the Scottish Boulder Championships in particular were very well attended by the team. Unfortunately the British Airways Crisis hit on the day of the competition which affected competitors from around the UK and Ireland getting home. I'm proud to say that everyone rose to the challenge with offers of lifts to mainline train stations and even accommodation to those affected, which just goes to show what a great sport climbing is.

Upcoming events

- BMC British Junior Bouldering Championships. The Depot, Manchester, 17th June 2017
- BMC Lakes Youth Meet run by Fell & Rock Climbing Club. Raw Head Barn, 30th Jun – 2nd July
- BMC Trad Climbing days for young people, various location around the UK, July / Aug / Sept

Wall Report

- Most NE centres have their summer programmes in place; check individual centres for more details.
- Climb Newcastle has announced name of their new centre, "The Valley", which is due to open this autumn.
- BMC are running a range of outdoor courses for individuals; check the BMC website for more details.
- Newcastle Climbing Centre will host this year's final of BMC Para Comp in December.
- Final of YCS 17 took place in April with the Northeast / Yorkshire section had some great results; please see [BMC web link for full results](#).