

# MINUTES

## NORTH EAST AREA COMMITTEE

### Meeting

Thursday 08<sup>th</sup> February 2018

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
Chris Bullock	Youth
Franco Cookson	Access North
Mike Conlon	Access South
Paul Mitchinson	Hillwalking

Martin Ballantine  
Steve Blake  
Jason Brewitt  
Nigel Chopping  
Graham Harkness  
John Herron  
18 in attendance

Liz King  
Trevor Langhorn  
Alastair McDonald  
John Nelson  
+1

#### 2. Apologies and Absence

Mark Goodings	Walls	Dave Turnbull	BMC
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Owing to transport failure, no representative from BMC head attended the meeting.

#### 3. Minutes of previous Meeting

Jon Punshon ran through the minutes from the previous meeting 30/11/2017. Accepted as fair and true. No matters arising from previous minutes.

#### 4. Organisational Review (ORG)

JP Introduced the background to the ORG.

- Criticisms are being made by some (a minority?)
  - Concerns that current member organisation likely to be more top down (power shifting away from National Council).
  - Sport England pressure / expectations (and whether the BMC are subservient).
- There has been a suggestion to delay AGM to allow for more time.

- Reported that North West meeting (07/02/18) fed back that :
  - the BMC should review and evolve at its own pace.
  - AGM should remain at current date to allow further member feedback, ORG can be voted at either an EGM or AGM 2019

NB: unclear how many attended meeting (numbers usually low)

Mark Anstiss:

- His personal primary concern that much not to rush (as many suggestions are being redrafted)
- Clarified that AGM timeframe is enshrined constitutionally (albeit within certain boundaries).

Liz King:

- Caution is wise. Once the new executive structure is put in place, one cannot go back.
- RYA had a similar reorganisation and head office appointed officers now tell members what to do.
- RYA has forgotten it is a members organisation and beholden to Sport England funding.

MA: - "Keys handed over is a risk"

- JP - BMC needs to be both open to all and the competitive side needs a governing body
- LK - RYA has a similar pie chart in terms of member activities vs competitive sailing
- JP - Company Law – Executive calls the shots ie National Council
- Could be a charity? But these have to be in the interest for all and not just for members.

Graham Harkness:

- The handover of power appears not widely understood.

Simon Litchfield:

- Corporate manslaughter mentioned as risk for NC members.

JP / MA: This may have just been scaremongering

MA: Articles need amending but key message need to be communication between board and members in future structure is key.

JP: Quote "BMC is on track to achieve compliance by April 2018" from Sport England with regards to compliance. This has caused criticism of timeframe.

Steve Blake:

Sport England tail should not be wagging the dog. Uncomfortable about the long arm of Sport England coming and calling the shots (in a manner that RYA have), even if this means the BMC shrinks.

Martin Ballantine

- What happens if we reform and the funding is cut anyway? Answer: no guarantees

Trevor Langhorn

- What other options are there? MA: Many options looked at in ORG

JP: - ORG also includes many good things – like proper staff appraisal, training, etc in Head Office.

The Indoor Sport Climbing (ie competition not just bolts) Issue was revisited.

LK: - Access requires a lobbyist organisation with as many voices as possible.

SB: - Sport climbing such as tiny fraction of the BMC (therefore, many voices will remain)

MA: - Item 24 in ORG – quote about Sport climbing subsidiary. Has not heard any objections to this.  
- Not all Sport England funding goes to Sport climbing.

Franco Cookson

- Climb Britain fiasco resulted in a feeling that exec not listening (or even asking) members, affinity partnerships appear rushed through, the proposals also seem to result in less democracy.

MA: - The detail in the ORG sets out some of the checks and balances.

TL: - Will the AGM vote be as a block for all the recommendations or as individual points?

JP: - This has been discussed as the block idea has been criticised

MA: - Concerns raised about the nominations committee and democratic deficit– ie there is a risk that the person for election could be a shortlist of 1.

FC: - We need to make a fundamental decision ie so much detail but lack of clarity of principle. Is losing SE funding such a disaster? What projects would fall? Ie if three pounds were added to subs Summit would be covered. Ie what does BMC TV cost

JP: - What steer for NC?

**1) Reform should be at the pace required without pressure from outside influence. We, therefore, need to slow down in order to discuss it sufficiently.**

Vote: Unanimous

**2) Merit in REF 24 (separation of core and competitive)**

**3) The executive should implement the wishes of the membership (ie the membership should have the right to vote down the executive, after implementation of change).**

Vote: three abstentions

**4) Could the BMC provide details on other options and alternative structures available? ORG should share this. Esp. how charity status has been dismissed? In addition what analysis has been done on the pros and cons of this?**

Define slow down:

**5) We need time for responses for our four points, especially with representatives from Head office and the ORG attending our meetings. There should be more than one meeting to discuss redrafted proposals**

Vote on the 5 points above: unanimous

## **5. BMC representation on Mountain Training England**

JP: - Introduced the issue set out in the papers (BMC have four seats and rarely send four members).

SB: - Happy to reduce numbers

SB: - Side issue: Concern MTE and the way in which registration has to go through the BMC (ie people have to join the BMC to then register on a MTE).

- LK: - Same with the RYA  
MA: - Anyone on the MTE board will be BMC members (as they have to be).

Vote: unanimous to approve the change

## **6. Co-ordinators reports**

### Access North

Whiteheugh – Access issue. Can't park in old place owing to ownership changed. Steve Blake on local access forum may raise this as an issue.  
South Yardhope – Inductions can only be done on weekdays.  
Kyloe In Access – Resolved pending sign. KEEP TO THE TRACK  
Bowden – General rock damage – voluntary abstinence?

### Access South

Grant application:  
Tranmire: stile ordered.  
Scugdale: awaiting drier period for works  
Beacon Scar: CMC clean up has taken place  
Peak scar: if birds return potentially instigate a bird ban if they return (concerns over ease of access to steal chicks and eggs).

### Clubs

- GDPR (data protection) updated law. May have to update practices, but if small clubs compliant with data protection then things may be okay. Keep on top of it.
- Caution required
- Little info on BMC website.

### Walls

- Newton Aycliffe – wall open again.

### Hillwalking

- North Pennines ANOB – is a geological interpretation linked guide of bouldering centred in Teesdale. Is this a good thing to do? Answer: why not (although the wording of the question was not fully understood).
- Northumberland – new paving stones installed on Cairn Hill.
- Mountain Rescue – some stuff happened – non climbing related.

### Youth

- Report appended
- Thanks to Ian Walton for his role as AYC and Chair of the competitions committee.

## **9. National Council**

- 1) Specialist committees reported
- 2) ORG discussion dominated (see above)

## **10. Election of Officers for 2018**

Secretary: Simon Litchfield  
NC: Jon Punsion and Mark Anstiss

Youth Chris Bullock  
Hillwalking: Paul Mitchinson  
Access North: Franco Cookson and Steve Blake  
Access South: Mike Conlon  
Chair: Mark Anstiss  
Vote: all elected unanimously

Not filed: Walls: Matt @ Newton Aycliffe to be approached by Steve Blake  
Clubs: Unfilled

**AOB Vote of thanks for JP**

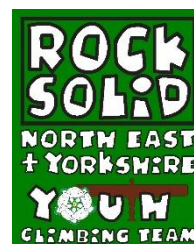
**11. Date and Time of Next Meeting**  
Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> April, 19:00, Durham Climbing Centre. TBC

DRAFT

# Rock Solid

## North East & Yorkshire

### Youth Climbing Team



BMC North East Area Committee  
Newcastle Climbing Centre  
08<sup>th</sup> February 2018

#### Youth Report

The first round of this year's YCS took place at Huddersfield Climbing Centre with 76 young climbers taking part. Round 2 (Leeds Wall) and 3 (Sunderland Wall) will both take place in March, as the Open Youth Climbing Competitions are taking place in February.

The Lead event takes place at Awesome Walls Sheffield on the 24<sup>th</sup> Feb and the Bouldering event is at The Depot Climbing Centre, Nottingham on the 25<sup>th</sup> Feb.

The Area Youth Coordinator for the North East, Ian Walton has decided to step down as AYC to pursue other roles in the BMC. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Ian for all the years of hard work and dedication he has put in, benefiting several generations of North East children. He is a great asset to North East Climbing, We will all miss him as AYC, but I hope he will still be around for a long time to come.

#### Upcoming Events

24 <sup>th</sup> Feb	OYE Lead	Awesome Walls, Sheffield
25 <sup>th</sup> Feb	OYE Boulder	The Depot, Nottingham
3 <sup>rd</sup> March	YCS Round 2	Leeds Wall
24 <sup>th</sup> March	YCS Round 3	Sunderland Wall
28 <sup>th</sup> April	YCS Final	Ratho

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Rock Solid Climbing Club