

BRITISH MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL

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Minutes of the 221st Yorkshire Area Meeting Held at 19.30 on Monday 16 April 2018 at the Wheatley Arms, Ben Rhydding, Ilkley.

Present:

Sarah Sharps	BMC Yorkshire Area Secretary, Leeds MC	Steven Thomas	Individual
Andy Syme	BMC Yorkshire Area Chair	Dave Perry	Individual
Mick Green	National Council Rep, Gritstone Club & CC	John Mortimer	Vibram MC
Peter Barrans	BMC Yorkshire Area Clubs Rep	Patrick Hickie	Individual
Peter Roll	BMC Yorkshire Area Hill walking rep	Martin Nas	Individual
Paul Clarke	FRCC	Jim Hulbert	Individual
Angela Soper	FRCC, Pinnacle Club	Joshua Kirby	Individual
Anne Freund	FRCC, Pinnacle Club	Craig Hartley	Individual
Carey Davies	BMC Hill Walking Development Officer	2 attendees didn't sign in	

1. **Welcome & Introductions:** Andy Syme welcomed all to the meeting
2. **Apologies for Absence:** Apologies were received from Stuart Wetherall
3. **Minutes of the last meeting:** John Mortimer sent his apologies for the last meeting and this was missed off the minutes, Dave Farrar was appointed and this needs adding to minutes also, SS to amend.
4. **Matters Arising not covered elsewhere:** none.
5. **Co-ordinators' Reports**

Gritstone: Access & Conservation:

Whitehouses - Mick thanked Paul Clarke for aiding him in investigating the damage done at Whitehouses boulder. The landowner has been discovered, admitted he had done the damage and he had decided he did not want any more climbing there. He could not be persuaded otherwise. He has got upset at just a small number of people parking inconsiderately and he did not like the lamping sessions either. Unfortunately this has resulted in the end of climbing there. Maybe this is a sound lesson and people may leave when asked to leave.

Brimham – Paul Clarke mentioned that there is an area at Brimham which you have to request access to via mobile – landlord is happy and very approachable. Easy to organise just have to be sensible. Tree felling is in discussion with rangers, Rob Dyer BMC Access officer has a meeting with them in September about this.

Almscliffe – People still walking on the wall – could we possibly mend the path to stop this? We have a good working relationship with the farmer. There are new BMC signs saying don't walk on the wall and he is happy with them. Rob Dyer suggested going down with some hardcore to put around the area near the stile but we cannot afford to help with the whole path. It would be a good gesture of goodwill.

Crookrise – Opening weekend 2-3rd June 2018. Rob Dyer is in charge of the project. There will be a Summit article and activities are planned, lots of groundwork has already been done. An extra stile is due to go in to aid with access.

Generally we as a community of climbers need to have a good relationship with the local community.

5.1. **Limestone: Access & conservation:** Nothing to report – Dan Turner is hoping to ease the parking at Kilnsey, working with the local farmer in looking to open a field to aid with this but would only be maximum of 28 days a year. A sign is due to go on the verge.

5.2. **Youth:** Nothing to report

5.3. **Climbing Walls:** Lindsay McMorran did not attend but emailed information: For anyone who wants to try climbing outdoors or learn to lead trad or sport climbs outside, Leeds wall run a variety of courses with dates throughout April and May. They can be booked via the Leeds Wall website at <http://www.theleedswall.co.uk/cms/index.php/courses>

On 12th May Huddersfield Climbing Centre are hosting The Festival of Routes - a day of sponsored climbing between 10 am and 6 pm

Cost: £1 per person per route payable on the day – will include:

- Flash-18 Summer bouldering competition Round 1 (Score cards £1.00)
- Leading Ladder Competition – With prizes (one day competition)
- Knotted rope climb
- Raffle

All donations from the day will go towards Community Action Nepal.

This will be followed at 7pm by a talk from Doug Scott and Paul 'Tut' Braithwaite called "The Hard Road To Everest". The cost of tickets for the talk is £15pp (£13 concession). More information can be found at: <http://www.huddersfieldclimbingcentre.com/events/hard-road-everest/>

5.4. **Clubs.** Pete Barrans reported that he had attended meeting of Clubs Committee in February at BMC in Manchester. Mend Our Mountains Fund Raising is underway for clubs and individuals. A newsletter will be issued very shortly regarding this. Q1 Issue 2 Clubs Committee Update 2018 issued to all clubs in March. Feedback from clubs remains minimal.

Main issues:

- ORG Report has been passed to BMC, which will be debated at the AGM.
- Revised Data Protection regulations coming into force in May this year. Good guidance and proformas are available on the BMC website.
- MOM and getting involved in fund raising.
- Clubs seminar being arranged to coincide with AGM on 16 June in Keswick, details to be issued shortly - topics will include:
 - GDPR - Guidance for Clubs
 - MSO - how to use it and its benefits in terms of GDPR
 - Governance of clubs - options and benefits of alternatives
 - Benefits of full BMC Memberships for Club Members

- Recruitment
 - Forum - Club issues and an opportunity to input into BMC policy
6. **Hillwalking.** Peter Roll (& Carey Davies) – Mend our Mountains is ongoing, crowdfunding will begin in the autumn but until then they are trying to get more people involved. A fundraising pack has been launched which you can find on the BMC website. Clubs committee to get involved, will be running own events – students clubs etc. Angela Soper inquired if there were to be posters or leaflets available for the general public and Carey stated not currently as we had to be careful how we spend money to get the fundraising outcome. MoM is to launch in Cotwolds, there will be collection boxes and posters in all stores. If anyone wants anything please email Carey. Peter Roll inquired if we as an area could co-ordinate some activities, use BMC social media etc. MoM is after all going to repair the path on Whernside, path is in a right state and desperately needs work. To look at getting collection boxes and posters at local climbing walls – Lindsay to follow up.
 7. **ORG Presentation** – Andy Syme presented one of the presentations from the BMC regarding the ORG review – you can find this at: <https://thebmc.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/articles/360003137414-Area-Slide-Decks>
The area voted on the proposition Are you happy with the articles 1d which allow the BMC to attain compliance with the SE code, noting the improvements in the position of Sport England.
Area voted unanimously in favour (17) – Non against, no abstentions. See additional detail below.
 8. **Finance Report** – Last year loss of £100k. Sport England grant to reduce. Proposal 1 will cost £20k. If we get no grant from Sport England will need to increase Subs - £3.40 on membership fees, £1.43 for clubs. Area understands the logic of subs increase and is in favour, though believes it should not be necessary (see 7 above).
 9. **Individual Members Issues.** None raised.
 10. **Any Other Business.** None
 11. **Date of Next Meeting:** 4th June at the Wheatley Arms.

Yorkshire Area IG report – 16th April 2018

Andy Syme (Chair & NC), Mick Green (NC) & Sarah Sharps (Area Secretary)

Number attending –

The numbers attending were relatively small compared to usual. Our Secretary felt that this was mainly due to the change in policy, not to send email reminders, as a result of the GDPR

Presentation and discussions re activities of the IG

Andy Syme presented the work of the IG using the shorter 20-slide presentation. The presentation was well understood. It was well accepted and the members appreciated the effort put in by the IG. Andy was complemented on his efforts and in particular on the improving position with Sport England. Other sports had specific relaxations relating to their specific needs so the BMC had a reasonable expectation of a similar consideration in the continuing negotiations.

The meeting: -

- was clear on the current position with respect to Sport England code compliance, but accepted that it wasn't the final position as negotiations were continuing.
- was confident in the process being adopted and believed that the IG were doing a good job and were in a position to achieve the best reasonable result on behalf of the members.
- felt that the 'costs' and risks associated with complying with SE requirements were small when one considers the level of control that the membership ultimately have on the composition of the board.
- felt that the benefits of becoming code compliant were considerable.
- was happy that we take a set of Articles similar to 1d to the AGM that represent the best position that the IG can achieve over and above the current set (where **Approve** has been replaced by **Consult**)
- felt the BMC should continue its efforts to obtain public funding

In an additional discussion there was a clear reminder that all the above certainly wasn't been totally driven by sport England. The reality is that the SE code is not all bad and the BMC clearly needs to improve its organisation so it was felt that everything is moving the same direction – with some convergence to finally negotiate.

This discussion emphasised the need to proceed to Proposal 2 in a timely and affective manner - organisation, roles and responsibilities being key components of this next stage. Careful planning and a programme are needed ASAP.

The voting on the IG matters

The voting was fully in favour of 1a, 1b and 1d.

No one was particularly challenged by 1c, but generally accepted that the BMC was now a much larger organisation and that the number should be increased from the 25.

On the subs - the meeting didn't object to an increase in fees if that was really needed. However there was no push to pay additional subs to avoid the SE governance requirements, which is consistent with the pragmatic view of seeking public funding.