

BMC North West Area Meeting

16th April 2018, The Black Dog, Belmont

MINUTES

Attendance – 28

BMC Officer in attendance – Jon Garside

Chair – Carl Spencer

Secretary – Andy Say

Area Members:

Les Ainsworth
Mike Arnold
Bill Beveridge
Andy Blackwood
David Brown
Dave Dillon
Paul Evans
Nick Galpin
Steve Garbutt
Lyndon Gill
Tim Greenhalgh
Tom Greenham
Eric Grindle
Stuart Holmes
Trevor Lowe
Stuart Igoe
Brad Jackson
Crag Jones
Ian Lonsdale
Emily Pitts
Adam Richardson
Frank Roberts

Observers: Alison Cairns, Andy Cairns, Dave Brown, Lynn Robinson, Steve Clark

Apologies. Apologies reported to meeting

1. **Welcome.** Alison Cairns, Andy Cairns, Dave Brown, Lynn Robinson, Steve Clark attending from the Peak Area. Lynn Robinson is the BMC VP with responsibility for NW Area.
2. **Minutes of last meeting (5th Feb.) accepted.**
3. **Matters arising from the minutes.**

AS requested to include a list of attendees in minutes.

CS reported on the conclusion of the debate over BMC representation on MTE Council.
4. **Area Rep reports.**
 - a. **Access and guidebooks.** LA reported that: Egerton currently gated whilst construction work is ongoing. Should be open access in 5 weeks.

Montcliffe ongoing saga with owner of some / part of routes!

Brownstones. Now owned by Woodland Trust. Positive dialogue and a written access agreement expected with definition of approved parking. Drainage issues on hold till then.

Houghton. Peregrines have nested. Relations good with all parties.

Stanworth. Difficulties persist with no concrete access agreement.

Guides – LA reported that as soon as finance was arranged then a FA list plus new routes would be published.

b. Clubs. No report.

c. Youth. Stuart Holmes reported on the recent loss of two AYCs from the local area and other resignations (to be raised at NC).

d. Hill Walking. LR reported on the launch of the Mend Our Mountains crowdfunding campaign. It was noted that the withholding of funding from SE meant that the post of Hill Walking Development Officer was not funded by them currently and there was an aspiration to have additional staff for this aspect of work.

There was also a report that some local funding had been made available for work on Pendle Hill.

5. Area Development. AS explained why he had put this on the Agenda. There is current, valid, criticism that Area Meetings are not truly representative of the wider BMC membership and locally we needed to try to take action to remedy this. There was lively debate and many good suggestions:

- a. Possibility of webcasting Area meetings.
- b. Involvement of MTA members in joint events.
- c. Better use of Facebook and Twitter to engage members; whilst Areas do not have 'proxy' arrangements possibly contributions via Facebook might be used.
- d. The use of more varied venues to attract specific groups.
- e. Use of guest speakers to draw in a wider audience (funding available).
- f. The development of a local newsletter.
- g. The possibility of additional, or split, roles at Area to allow for more participation (e.g. Role of Secretary + NC rep might limit opportunities to do other things).
- h. Lynn Robinson also introduced her volunteer strategy paper that had been approved by NC. The Equity Officer has left, leaving a gap in staffing support, but it was felt that more could be done to recognise the contribution of volunteers. George Band Award for Voluntary Contribution: Rehan Siddiqui Award for Contributions to Equity: Young Volunteer Award: Long Service Award are all possible ways to recognise contributions.

Honorary Membership is left for NC to approve and LR is working on a 'code of conduct' for volunteers and others.

LA suggested that there was the possibility that nominations for external Awards (e.g. The Torch Trophy Trust Awards) could be promoted by the BMC

LG suggested that there should be protection for the Patrons' ability to reflect an independence of stance and, if necessary, be a 'friendly critic'.