

NORTH EAST AREA COMMITTEE

Meeting

Thursday 13th June 2019

7:00pm. Newcastle Climbing Centre, Newcastle.

MINUTES

1. Welcome and Introduction

Mark Anstiss welcomed everyone to the meeting

In attendance

Mark Anstiss
Simon Litchfield
Chris Bullock

Chair / National council
Secretary
Youth

Sarah Hawker
Gordon Hull
Bob McAdam

Lynn Robinson (BMC)
Niall Grimes (BMC)
8 in attendance

2. Apologies and Absence

Steve Blake
Mike Conlon
Franco Cookson
Jon Punshon

Access North
Access South
Access North
National Council

Paul Michinson
Mark Goodings
Jon Herron

3. Minutes of previous Meeting

Mark Anstiss (MA) ran through the minutes from the previous meeting 31/01/2019.

Clarifications and actions:

- 3.1 2 AYC posts are filled but could have one from NE
- 4.1 Mike Conlon may sit on North Pennines working group.
- ClimbOnline pages have been updated since last meeting.

Otherwise accepted as fair and true.

4. Reports from National Council

MA delivered a report from last National Council meeting:

- Focussed on governance.
- Noted that he raised the issues of Raised Head Office attendance at NE meetings (noted, as per attendance list above).
- Subs increase agreed to be taken to AGM owing to insurance claim against the BMC.

Chris Bullock (CB) enquired about the Youth Climbing Series.

- He noted that there are rumours that Sheffield area will join Yorkshire (making the area unmanageably large?)

5. ODG

MA: Gave an update on work. Proposals to go to National Council in next two weeks, which will go to area meetings and members thereafter (c.a. 1 month after NC). Three strands:

- 1) Membership engagement (through digital engagement)
- 2) Clubs and partner organisation interactions
- 3) Composition of National Council.

Lynn Robinson (LR): Thanked MA for his work on the ODG and gave an update on board strategy development.

- Outline to go to NC (incl: Mission, Vision and Values).
- Four values: community, sustainability, adventures and heritage

Sarah Hawker (SH): Would prefer Surveys to be sent as surveys and not as newsletters.

MA: Noted that we may be able to do local surveys in future.

Simon Litchfield: Noted that the opposite argument to SH's point could be made. Ie some prefer to have less proliferation of emails in inbox

LR: Rab Carrington leading on competitions review. E.g. examining proposals for a subsidiary for competition climbing.

Welsh connections being examined. Particularly around funding streams (e.g. welsh assembly and ensuring that we don't just get seen as Sport England by proxy), Access and Conservation.

MA: Added more detail on Insurance Claim against BMC
Claim was at a wall club meet (ground fall with belayer being sued). Future safe belaying campaign being looked at.

MA: AGM governance being examined. Compliance Officer appointed

6. Events

CB reported on Youth Meet at Wooler

- Well attended with youth and adults
- Plans to make it an annual event
- Youth hostel size will support 20 youths (a larger number than previous events).

SL: Commented on Festival of Climbing

- Reported that possibly less well attended than the previous events.
- Youth Meet and Festival should try not to clash in future years.

Forthcoming events

CB: Asked why no events in BMC Competitions calendar? Needs a spring clean as there are two calendars (which should possibly be boiled down into one, with old one deleted).

7. Coordinators Reports

Youth (See appended)

CB: - Need to examine qualifying vs. points at Youth series events (as some higher scoring but fewer event attending competitors did not qualify owing to number of events attended).
- Issue of date change revisited (see previous minutes).

- MA - Noted that this issue was raised at National Council.
- No reason that NE cannot have a rep on the AYC. Volunteers required.
- CB - Re-raised issue of boundaries.
- Raised issue of volunteers requiring coordination in advance rather than ad-hoc on the day.
- LR: Feedback taken.

Access South (report attached)

Hillwalker

Gordon Hull (GH)

- Everest Challenge. During Lakes challenge and took summit magazine and asked other walkers whether they are members / aware of the BMC. None were. On Facebook there are a lot of people communicating about the outdoors albeit without the BMC.

MA - What should the BMC be doing to attract more hillwalkers?

- GH - What alternative methods are there of communication. When e.g. YHA card also gives 15% off at certain partners.
- Is there enough hillwalking content on the website?

Niall Grimes (NG) Enquired what content GH would like?

- SH: - Is the issue not what needs to be in Summit, but should the BMC be getting a column in other magazines such as Trail.

LH - Have you (GH) heard of Hills to Oceans?

GH - Yes, would be good to promote in wider magazines.

No vote was taken, but there was a sense that examining whether the BMC could have a frequent column in magazines (excl. Summit) may be desirable.

Clubs

- Fiona Sanders (Lakes Area Rep) is giving a strong voice for clubs in the BMC, plus a nominated director with a clubs hat is on the board.

8. AOB

Crag Lough

- A number of cleaned routes
- Ravens nesting on Hadrian's East and Grads Groove.
- Ceiling of £10 at car park

9. Date of next meeting

12th Sept 2019, 19:00 Durham Climbing Centre

Youth Report

- **Youth Climbing Series 2019**

The Grand Final of the YCS took place over the weekend of the 27th / 28th April in Sheffield. Over 250 took part, thanks to Awesome Walls and the Depot Climbing Centre for hosting the event.

- **Scottish Bouldering Championships**

Over 200 competitors turned out for the Scottish Youth bouldering Championships at Eden Rock Edinburgh, including a large contingent from the North East who tuned in some very good results, well done to all who took part. I have received nothing but glowing reports on how the event was organised and run like clockwork. Well done Climb Scotland

- **Northumberland Youth Meet**

The Northumberland Youth Meet took place over the weekend of the 11th & 12th May. This is the first time we have held a youth meet in Northumberland, and it was so successful we are already planning to repeat the event next year with a bigger youth entry. Our thanks go to Wooler Youth Hostel for hosting us and their superb facilities are the reason we can accommodate an increased entry next year.

The Next planned youth Meets are the Lakes Meet in July and North Wales Meet in August, with North East Climbers attending both events.

Access and Conservation Report (South)

Scugdale – General improvements continue to be undertaken by the new farmer, including excavating a drainage ditch up the hillside. This added to the efforts of CMC work parties has improved the condition of the path up to the crag.

The popularity of the crag raises continuing concerns re potential parking issues. Climbers are encouraged to car share where possible or use alternative approaches.

Peakscar – The Hawnby Estate has reinstated the fence between the road and crag. At the time of writing, the stiles that used to exist have not been replaced. Currently the only access is at each end of the fence requiring a bit of a walk from routes in the middle of the crag. As access to the crag is with the permission of the Estate with which there are currently good relations, climbers are asked to show consideration and walk round. Approaches have been made and the Estate has agreed to the installation of two stiles which the BMC will fund and the CMC will provide a work party, all as a gesture of goodwill.

Stanhope Quarries – Development continues as does contact between activists and BMC Access interests. It is fair to say there have been mixed reviews with continuing concern about loose rock etc. These have been reflected in the BMC RAD entry and include reference to the BMC Participation Statement. Topos are available, a link to which can be found on the RAD along with details of a bolt fund.