

MINUTES

NORTH EAST AREA COMMITTEE and AGM Meeting

Thursday 28th November 2019

7:00pm. Newcastle Climbing Centre, Newcastle.

1. Welcome and Introduction

Jon Punshon welcomed everyone to the meeting

In attendance

Simon Litchfield

Jon Punshon

Chris Bullock

Franco Cookson

Secretary

National Council

Youth

Access North

Steve Blake

Richard Davies

Rob Dyer (BMC)

Graeme Harkness

Tom Hetherington

Karl Telfer

Philip Powell

Bob McAdam

Jonathan White (BMC Dir)

13 in attendance

2. Apologies and Absence

Mark Anstiss

Mike Conlon

Jon Herron

Chair / National council

Access South

Mark Goodings

Paul Mitchinson

3. Minutes of previous Meeting

The minutes were not available and will be discussed at the next meeting.

4. BMC Volunteer Awards

Nominations welcomed. Details of awards given including:

- The George Band Award;
- The Rehan Siddiqui Award;
- The Young Volunteer of the Year Award.

A nomination form can be downloaded from the BMC website; the deadline for nominations is Tuesday 31 March 2020.

Members suggested that Ian Walton and Mike Conlon could be candidates.

- IW: Youth, Competitions. NE and Lakes. Single handed kept NE youth running over a number of years.
- MC: Detailed reports, many crags.

Volunteer Survey also advertised to the group. Details on the BMC website.

5. Report From NC

Notes to be circulated via email.

Major issue: two NC board members need to stand down and new directors must be elected at next NC meeting.

- One of board to step down is a mountain training link.
- John Punshon could provide this link...
- Vote: NE Area Supportive (unanimous, JP and BMC Head Office reps abstained).

JW gave verbal update on issues, including:

- BMC Strategic Plan
- Competitions
- Wales
- Budget

6. Area Festivals

Rob Dyer explained the new process.

- Applications to be made by early 2020.

Vote: the group decided that if on reflection members who had previously run events wished to replicate an even in 2020, then the group would be supportive for a bid.

7. Coordinators' Report

Access North

- Kyloe In The Woods thinning works taking place. Restrictions in place
 - o On the RAD
 - o SB: to ask Kyloe specific questions and any news post online.
- RD thanked for his work and superglue.

Access South

- RD has had site visits to newly developed venues.
 - Stanhope Dene: only specific uses permitted. I.e. not including recreation.
 - o Landowner concerned about clause in sale agreement.
 - o Practising solicitor has provided advice on how to proceed.
 - Ashes Quarry: owner initially concerned about liability.
 - o BMC won't agree money for access to crags.
 - o No formal access: RAD states this
 - Hownsgill: land agent formally does not allow climbing.
 - o RD has asked for a meeting with landowner, having provided assuring info.
 - o Similar access approach to Ashes.
- NB: A gun club uses the quarry and fields above every second Sunday Feb – June. A change to the RAD will reflect this.

Youth

- Report appended

CB Questioned:

- Why Youth Competitions quota of 80 introduced?
- Why first timers / entry comp level have to join BMC to join a competition?
- Why can competition climbers in regions, switch regions?

RD will follow up.

CB will be stepping down as youth representative.

A vote of thanks was given to Chris Bullock for his work over the years.

Clubs

JW reported: clubs wanted a stronger structure and voice in the BMC. New structure in development ready for AGM.

Hillwalking

No report

8. AGM

Chair	Mark Anstiss
Secretary	Simon Litchfield
National Council	Mark Anstiss / Jon Punshon
Access North	Steve Blake
Access Durham	Franco Cookson
Access South	Mike Conlon
Walls	Unfilled
Youth	Unfilled
Clubs	Unfilled
Hillwalking	Unfilled

All of the above proposed, seconded and voted unanimously.

The unfilled roles can be co-opted

9. AOB

- 1) Vote of recognition was given to Franco Cookson for his newly published North York Moors Guidebook.
"Its really good... yeah" F.Cookson 2019.
- 2) In a year, possibly consider a Christmas event for next year.
- 3) Mountain Training and BMC met with regards to how belaying is taught.
 - After a dropping incident and multi million pound insurance claim at Sunderland.
 - DAV model for recording issues and initiating change.

10. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Thursday 12 March 2020, 19:00, Durham Climbing Centre.

Youth Report

- **Youth Climbing Series 2020**

Entries are open for this years YCS, there have been several changes to the rules this year,

- 1) A limit on the number of entries into the regional rounds has been imposed, the limit for the North East and Yorkshire has been set at 80. Whilst 80 is quite a reasonable limit for us, it's still an artificial limit imposed on the region. Having too many children entering our regional rounds is a problem we would love to have, and it would be for our regions to tackle.
We are committed to encouraging children to take part in climbing and would never turn anyone away due to having too many.
- 2) All entrants must be BMC members. This is yet another added expense for first time entrants. The YCS is an entry level competition aimed at attracting young people into climbing competition. The costs of which are increasing year on year. Parents are already expected to pay Entry to the YCS, Hotel and Travel costs to the rounds, and now a yearly membership the BMC, all for a competition which may be a one off from the parent's point of view. The YCS needs to be made cheaper to enter not more expensive.
- 3) Competitors may elect to enter other regions other than their own. Why? the YCS is an Interregional competition. Some parents from the North East have latched onto this with a view to entering the Scottish regions, as it's quicker and easier to enter the large venues of Glasgow and Edinburgh then travel to some of the small south Yorkshire venues.

- **Future Youth Competitions**

Following a disagreement between the BMC and Climb Cymru / Climb Scotland, regarding how competitions are run, Climb Scotland are investigating the possibility of running youth competition without BMC involvement, this idea is receiving a great deal of support from within our region and beyond. Many people in the youth climbing / competition sector are disillusioned by the way the BMC are doing things and are ready to offer their full support to the Climb Scotland initiative

- **NE Youth Rep vacancy**

I am stepping down as North East Youth Rep at the AGM. As my children have become adults and are no longer part of the youth climbing scene, I feel it's time the I moved aside to let someone whom represents the current youth generation take over. I would like to thank all those who have supported me and more importantly youth climbing whilst I have been in the role and hope you will continue to do so for the next youth rep.

Kind regards

Chris