



## Peak Area Meeting

Venue: Zoom

Time & Date: 7pm, Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2021

### Minutes

*If anything to be discussed gives rise to a conflict of interest for anyone, please declare it at the start of the meeting.*

**Please be aware a link and details of the online meeting will be sent to your membership e-mail. Any issues please contact the BMC ahead of the meeting.**

**<https://community.thebmc.co.uk/Event.aspx?id=4283>**

#### 1. Welcome & Introduction – Andy Reeve

Gareth Pierce passed away and a minutes silence was observed.

#### 2. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> April.

2.1. <https://community.thebmc.co.uk/Event.aspx?id=4283>

No amendments, if you do spot any you can e-mail them in.

#### 3. Clubs Update

**Paul Justin -**

##### 3.1. Peak Area clubs forums

In march we started the first of the peak area club forums. Just an opportunity for clubs to get together for an hour or two via zoom and have an informal chat. The peak area is not one of the biggest for clubs with around 15 clubs in total, about 6 clubs have attended so far. Most of what's been discussed has been Covid related but hopefully that will change going forwards.

##### 3.2. BMC National initiative to promote club membership - 'Find Your Adventure'

BMC campaign launching on 19<sup>th</sup> July to drive club membership.

Covid pandemic has hammered club membership, student members halved and normal members down by 10 %. However there has been a big increase in the number of people interested in the outdoors, now numbering around 3 million. The BMC will commit funding and some resource to help with a campaign. Asking clubs who want to grow membership to sign up to a charter. The idea is that the advertising attracts people to the



BMC which then directs them to a club. Trying to grow membership back to where we were pre pandemic. One thousand new members would be needed to cover the cost of the campaign. The key objective is to get new people joining. The marketing is about joining clubs not the BMC. The BMC role is to facilitate the introduction. Adverts aimed at non-BMC members to find a local club and join up.

Q –Where did 3 million come from?

A – Active lives survey.

Q – In terms of the promotion will you be contacting National Parks and National Trust as whilst they're not sporting clubs they like responsible climbers/walkers so might join in promotion?

A – Good point, answer is yes, looking at a range of partners to help with promotion but both those are at the top of the list.

#### **4. Hillwalking Update**

**Peter Judd -**

##### 4.1. Peak Area hill walk

The area hill walk took place on the 6<sup>th</sup> June, 16 people came including the BMC's new CEO! Walked to Kinder Downfall and around, stopping to look at an aircraft wreck. Big thank you to everyone who came and especially those who helped run the day – Austin, Vikki & Jason.

##### 4.2. MoM – Great Ridge project successful completion

MoM Great Ridge work finished at the end of May. There was an archaeologist watching the work as there's lots of archaeological work along the path, nothing was disturbed but just shows the effort that goes into this sort of work. Part of the wall which runs along the Great Ridge path apparently dates back to medieval times as it is believed to be a boundary wall for a royal hunting forest. There's also been re-seeding along the path so hopefully some of the grasses and flora will return.

##### 4.3. Volunteering opportunities

If you're a keen hillwalker and interested in volunteering then have a look [www.thebmc.co.uk/bmc-jobs](http://www.thebmc.co.uk/bmc-jobs), the deadline is something like the 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> July. If you know someone who is keen then let them know, particularly if anyone is from a less well represented background.

Q - Event organising is mentioned, would you need to have a qualification?

A – Not at all. Lots of things constitute an event not only leading a walk, also not necessary for people to have a qualification in leading walks just experience and knowledge.



#### 4.4. Another Hill walk

Next area hill walk - 14<sup>th</sup> August at Tegg's Nose & Shutlingsloe. Event details will be going out soon and information on how to book. About 11.5 miles long. Email Peter if you want to be kept in the loop on when booking details go live.

#### 4.5. National Trust conservation day - 26<sup>th</sup> September

Some people may remember sphagnum moss planting, due to the pandemic we haven't been able to do anything recently but now we have an opportunity to aid in the removal of invasive species. On the 26<sup>th</sup> September near Snakes Pass. If you want to be given a heads up on when the booking system opens then drop Peter an email. They only want 16 people so won't be opening it up until much closer.

[peak10roam-bmc@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:peak10roam-bmc@yahoo.co.uk)

Q – Congratulations must be nice to see all your hard work coming to fruition with MoM.

A – It's not just my hard work but nice that after 3 years we've finally seen a finish.

Q – Any feedback on the area walk from Paul Davis?

A – Yes he was very complimentary and had his ear bent by me and was glad to meet some members and is keen.

### 5. Access Update

#### Louise Hawson -

##### 5.1. General access update

The national core access group put a call out for new volunteers so hopefully we will be welcoming some new people at the next meeting. This is good as that group had got really small and this will hopefully bring in expertise on things like planning and conservation. This is important as at a national level its clear we can't rely on our historic access rights. We are keeping an eye on the Police crimes and sentences courts bill. There's a big part aimed at travelling communities but depending on the wording it also targets wild camping. So there's lots of work going on about wording. At the moment if you wild camp without permission its a civil offence but in this bill it could become a criminal offence which is awful. Also looking at the agriculture bill which includes the land management scheme which deals with landscapes and access within that. Farming in protected landscapes looks at what does it mean and how this affects access and how farmers can be rewarded not just for biological and ecological improvements but also access.



There's also the fire and litter campaigns which you will see out in the peaks. You will also hear more about this as COP26 is in Glasgow which is all about climate.

### 5.2. Proposed new parking charges at Stanage and Burbage

At their meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> April National Park approved introducing parking charges, including Dennis knoll, hooks Carr and upper Burbage bridge. This is now going to public consultation so we'll be keeping an eye on that. Also an increase of about 16 % at all sites. Our current position is that we don't object to charges per say but at Dennis knoll its pointless due to the size of the car park. There are also concerns over whether it will make people just park for free at non busy times hence leading to the destruction of verges.

Q – No-one carries cash so why not round prices up or down to round numbers? And the annual perm is significantly cheaper than other National Parks.

Q – Yes permits are really cheap, and not many people have them, this is why the price is increasing. The number of people who buy them outweighs the admin costs of them.

Q – Derbyshire seem to have bought a job lot of yellow lines, I appreciate the problem of parking on verges but pushing people off verges by yellow lining everywhere makes it busier. Adding yellow lines means parking needs making bigger. Otherwise reducing parking with no other solution.

A – One thing we're pushing for is a joined up approach between County Council, National Park and National Trust. Currently there's no one approach as to how do we deal with these problems, reducing cars, stopping dangerous parking etc.

Q – If we are encouraging lots more people to the peaks but then reducing parking then there has to be some way to get people to visit but in a constructive way.

### 5.3. Hollin Bank larch removal

Phytophthora ramorum in larch at Hollin bank plantation. When this disease is found larch have to be removed, found in larch on Hollins bank plantation so all larch have to be removed by the end of September. Been told it would take 2 weeks and wouldn't be occurring at weekends, bridleway through will be closed but there will be a diversion. Diversion will not be suitable for mountain bikes. Also means a partial closure of the car park. No dates yet which is frustrating. Once we have a date we know the parks comms team are pretty good so keep an eye out and we will try to get the message out.

Q – How many trees are they chopping down?

A- All of the larch, this will have a significant impact on the landscape but working towards native re-wilding. The plan had been to remove larch gradually but this has speeded it up. The rewilding will be more scattered trees and all native which should create a better and more natural landscape and environment.



#### 5.4. Dirtlow Rake

Never been that accessible. Its really only a minor hard bouldering but has been used a few more times as people have been out over the summer. There is no public right of way and the farmer has said he doesn't give access. So no rights of way and no access. RAD updated.

Q – Is anyone else doing access or just Louise?

A – Lots of people but Louise is the only one online.

Q – Just wanted to bring to people's attention there's a new landowner of rights rock in lower churner near Powys/Staffordshire.

### **6. Members Council Update**

#### **Alison Cairns -**

##### 6.1. Update & report from previous meeting

At the AGM on May 15<sup>th</sup> the National Council was formally renamed the Members' Council, and our first meeting in the newly restructured form was held the following day on May 16<sup>th</sup>.

Since the last Peak Area meeting there have been 3 meetings in total.

##### May 16<sup>th</sup> - full meeting

New President Andy Syme, and the restructure meant we had 3 new Councillors (NECs for Rock Climbing and Hill Walking) plus additional Voting Members from some of the Specialist Committees (although not all of these were in attendance at this meeting).

We are still looking to recruit an NEC for Indoor Climbing, as well as Constituency Councillors for Club and Mountain Training Members – it was agreed that we would co-opt suitable people into these roles until the next AGM.

Discussed the introduction of 'Vision Events' at future Council meetings, to focus on specific activities/areas of interest to members, aligned to the strategy. The first of these will focus on Rock Climbing, and the lead organiser is Steve Clark (NEC for Rock Climbing).

A Volunteer Strategy Implementation Task & Finish Group is being set up in order to bring together various strands, including the volunteer strategy developed by Volunteers Officer Jane Thompson, the R33 working group recommendations on volunteer support, and the Area Review recommendations. This is to be headed up by Chris Stone.

##### June 8<sup>th</sup> - interim meeting



This was a follow up to the previous meeting, with some carry-over unfinished business (including the area reports), as well as some updates.

We are looking into the Area Youth Coordinator role, after many years of confusion over what exactly the role entails (and thus difficulty in recruiting as in our area). It is likely that the role will be split into two – one focusing specifically on the YCS and the other a broader remit covering competitions and youth activities more generally.

July 5<sup>th</sup> – interim meeting

This was mainly concerned with discussing the internal organisation of Council. In common with most of the Areas, we are looking into how to hold future Council meetings – Zoom versus Face to Face. As there are pros & cons to each, it is likely that we will alternate, with an aspiration that one of the FTF meetings (most likely in the autumn) should incorporate a wider joint event to include Area Officers and/or Specialist Committees (still to be investigated & budgeted).

The use of hybrid meetings is being trialled by London & SE Area as part of the Volunteer Strategy Implementation. Please contact Chris Stone (L&SE Chair) for more information on this.

There was an update on the Leadership Effectiveness sessions held with the Board, and involving some members of Council and Specialist Committees. The Board is using the results of these to improve future ways of working.

Candidates have been identified for co-option to the roles of Indoor Climbing NEC and Mountain Training Constituency Councillor. We are still looking for someone to fill the role of Club Members Constituency Councillor.

Other Matters

As mentioned at the last meeting we will be recruiting for a new Area Rep to replace Dave who reaches the end of his 6 year stint in October. We will be producing a full advert & role description, but in the meantime anyone who thinks they might be interested in the position please don't hesitate to contact me for an informal chat.

Q – key thing is we've had a lot of reports where we've suggested things need doing. The point of this is all those things we identified as needing to do are actually done.

Q – really keen on changing the members council and putting members first, so if interested get in touch.

Andy reeve: Secretary position also available.



Paul Drew:

Brief update on things from the board. The BMC is still struggling to some degree with membership & income. Our membership has stopped falling but insurance is still low. Hopefully with travel announcements insurance will pick up. Have taken actions to prevent deficit. We are still using flexi furlough. Capacity within the office is down.

We are looking at our member benefits and packages. Becoming clear that a one size fits all package is not appropriate so pushing for new members. First time we have started to see membership increase. Potentially looking at RPI increases on membership. Costs do go up with inflation and salaries etc. Also had an advert go out today for a new officer, this is for long term security even though there will be a short term cost. Anyone with experience should apply. Finally the Olympics is just around the corner, we have a new get climbing campaign in conjunction with other organisations which is about generating interest from people who see climbing on tv and getting them involved by signposting them to the BMC/local walls/ local clubs etc. Can go to the British bouldering championships in Sheffield.

Q - One size fits all membership not being appropriate, what is this?

A – we've already started with digital membership which is more aimed at indoor climbers. We know we aren't reaching hill walkers and the membership isn't suitable for them. So looking at how we can reach them, tweaking what we do. At the moment our offer is pretty similar no matter what you do so trying to make it slightly more targeted but nothing too drastic.

Q – Good to get a sense of what's happening with the membership & finances. Interesting to look at what's emphasised with hill walkers as when I did mountain training no-one understood what the BMC where or what they did.

A – we get a high drop out rate for people getting mountain training and then dropping out as soon as they can.

Q – Question around corporate sponsorship group lots of people say they've been approached by organisations so is there guidance or a set of principals on which we will be making decisions?

A – Yes, there's two main angles, a thread on competition climbing so most nations have a sponsor or two so we would like a sponsor. A lot of this is around reach so how many people can you reach. But yes need to find organisations that have similar values and goals.

A – future Olympic sports being looked at so we need to go across the board not just focusing on competition climbing.



## 7. Any Other Business

7.1. Lynn Robinson: bouldering competition on Saturday, first people to turn up get in.

7.2. Poll on meeting start time & days

First poll is on start time. We have gone for a 7pm start time for last two meetings: Do people prefer to start at 7 or 7.30?

7pm 57.1 %

7.30pm 35.7 %

Abstained 7.1 %

Second poll on the steer being given from the members council about the days we have meetings on, to do with zoom accounts. Do we want to vary which day we hold a meeting on or always stick with the one day?

Stick the same 40 %

Variety is the spice of life 60 %

Abstained 0 %

Andy Syme – worth saying we're looking at doing a combined meeting so at the start having all national things together then go into meeting rooms to discuss local things then come back together to hear a group speaker.

Ana – what would happen if areas have different length meetings for example in the Peaks we have a lot of access stuff.

Andy Syme – be up to area chair to keep it to time.

Andy Reeve - With the dates we've been given the next AGM will be in October how does this fit with terms outlined in TORs?

Andy Syme – Will be fine.

7.3. Matting at midhope moor goes to planning permission it's 6 days online, no access reps can be there but have made written representation.

## 8. Date and venue of next meetings: 7pm Monday 18<sup>th</sup> October