



**BRITISH MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL**

177-179 Burton Road  
Manchester M20 2BB  
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## **NORTH WEST AREA ORDINARY MEETING**

Meeting held in hybrid format, at the Forest Hills Hotel, Frodsham  
and online via Zoom on Monday 17th October 2022.

### **MINUTES**

#### **1. Welcome and Apologies**

**In Person:** Agustin Guardiola (Chair), Matthew Thompson, Steve Riley, Chris Calow, Heather Vernon, Dominic Hartin, Andy Holland, Stewart Woodward, Andy Say, John Proctor.

**Online:** Nicole Booth, Paul Evans, Carl Spencer, Matt Bill, Sally Dyke, Richard Toon, Rick Ginns, Les Ainsworth, Dudley Pritchard, Martin Elliot, Graeme Hammond, Coel Hellier, Tim Greenhalgh, Nigel, John, and 2 x anonymous.

**Apologies:** Katie Allen, Steve Charles, Dominic Oughton, Stuart Holmes, Bill Beveridge, Katie Coffield.

#### **2. Minutes of the previous ordinary meeting held on 29th June 2022**

Minutes accepted without amendment.

#### **3. Matters arising from those minutes not covered elsewhere**

None.

#### **4. Reports from Area representatives**

##### **4.1 Access – Lancashire**

Egerton: Removed 28 tyres from the pool due to the pollutants. This is an area of special interest due to the newts and other species. Three large trees at the bottom of Phantom Wall have been cut down; the land owner is not suspected to have done this, as we have an agreement with them. 2019 and 2020 routes becoming overgrown. The BMC is willing to fund as the council is not acting upon this.

**Action:** Volunteers needed to help move some of this.



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Wilton 2: tree in the way.

**Action:** Request to be moved has been made.

Trowbarrow: two rock falls affecting climbing, and one larger fall not affecting climbing.

**Action:** support to remove.

Silverdale: Martin Elliot would like to take over the Silverdale area for access to provide support to Les Ainsworth.

Brownstones: Could parking be improved? Is there any funding available?

Cadshaw Quarry: needs general clean-up.

**Action:** Volunteers needed.

Steve Riley thanked Matthew Thompson and other people who have done a lot of crag cleaning this year.

### 4.2 Access – Cheshire & Merseyside

Mark Hounslea has stepped down as the Access Rep; a replacement is needed.

For Helsby, a clean-up of the low buttress, west and middle tier has been proposed. Could this be an official day?

### 4.3 Clubs

Apologies and no update from Dominic Oughton.

### 4.4 Hill Walking

Three walks managed this year (but not well attended). Another walk scheduled for the end of this month.

**Action:** Richard Toon (Lancashire local access forum) - upland access area (Bowland) deteriorating. Public information, signing, access points are starting to get



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worse. Could BMC support to reverse this deterioration? Champion Bowland (Richard said they would like to speak with Steve Charles).

### 4.5 Youth and Walls

Apologies and no update from Stuart Holmes.

### 5. Fixed Gear Removal Proposal

Winewall quarry: Sunset Wall

**Proposal:** Bolts placed after 2020 should be removed as unnecessary. Against the ethos of the North West Area.

**Action:** More people to use and give feedback. Encourage others to use the wall and see how they find it with these bolts in place. Is it a better place for their addition?

Noggarth: Retro Bolting

**Proposal:** Remove retro bolts. The routes are safe without them, but some crags can be sport and trad. Respecting some of the crags for Trad.

**Action** - publicise the proposal for retro bolting and vote in January.

### 6. Allocation of crag cleaning equipment

Tim Greenhalgh put in a bid and has: 10 Ropes, 10 rope protectors, 10 brushes and an ice axe. To be published on Facebook group and allow for these to be allocated.

### 7. Talk by Dr John Proctor

John's talk was titled "There is no easy way to the bowling green: A day out on Lliwedd".

### 8. Report from most recent Members' Council

Joelie Chisholm - Chief Finance Officer recruited in May.

Neil Hockley – co-opted to the Board as a Nominated Director.

Paul Ratcliffe – Olympic medallist in canoeing, and former Performance Director at British Canoeing, replaces Rab Carrington as chair of the Competition Climbing Performance Group.

A Volunteer Gala weekend was held in early October, and included presentation of



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the annual volunteer awards; the weekend also incorporated the annual specialist committee review.

Membership fees have been increased in-line with annual tracking of cost increases incurred in delivering member services and activities and absorbing as much of the overall inflationary costs as possible.

The meeting also received reports on Sport England funding for BMC and funded partners, and IT investment strategy.

### 9. North West events calendar – upcoming events (walks / conservation)

- Winter Hill in February and March
- Snowdonia in July for 2 days
- A day at the Roaches in September
- Snowdonia, Roaches, Lake district, Area walks tbc.

### 10. Any Other Business

#### 10.1 Discussions:

Should we be working with media outlets to publicise the events that allow access (TV in particular).

**Suggestion:** First or repeat ascent or time critical stories to help push marketing.

#### 10.2 Future Meetings:

Discussions about the format of hybrid where the noise quality was poor.

**Action:** Better microphone?

### 11. Date of next meeting

To Be Confirmed

The Area AGM followed on from the Ordinary Meeting – separate minutes are available.