

BRITISH MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL

177-179 Burton Road
Manchester M20 2BB
www.thebmc.co.uk

Tel: 0161 445 6111
Fax: 0161 445 4500
e-mail: office@thebmc.co.uk

MINUTES OF THE YORKSHIRE AREA MEETING

Held at 19.30 on Monday 7 September 2009 at The Ilkley Moor Vaults Pub & Dining Room, Ilkley.

Present:-

David Campbell	Chair	Deirdre Collier	Secretary
Andy Blakely	CC/Craven MC	Rob Adie	BMC Office
Angela Soper	Pinnacle Club/Individual	Barry Clarke	CC
Robin Nicholson	Individual	Martin Christmas	Limestone Access Rep
Paul Exley	FRCC	John Hunt	YMC
Mike Bebbington	YMC/CC	Dave Musgrove	YMC
Paul Clarke	FRCC	Alison Kinloch	Calderdale MC
Arthur Salmon	Yorkshire Ramblers Club	Julie Dundas	Individual Member
Jonathan Richardson	Climbing Walls Rep	Kim Stead	Craven MC/Individual
Steve McCain	Craven MC/Individual	Andy McCue	Individual
Alex Thompson	University of Huddersfield Mountaineering Society		
Anne Chevalier	Craven MC, CC, FRCC, Area Youth Co-ordinator (Outdoors)		

1. **Welcome & Introductions.** David welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. **Apologies for Absence.** Apologies were received from Bev Connor, Mick Johnson & Bob Wightman.
3. **Minutes of the last meeting.** The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as an accurate record.

4. **Matters Arising.**

Crummackdale stile. Dave Musgrove reported that this hasn't yet been addressed as he hasn't yet met with the Yorkshire Dales National Park. (YDNP)

Kinsey Cave. Ongoing.

Fall at Castlebergh Crag. It was reported that the climbers were using double ropes and that the climber who fell had tied on in the middle as the ropes had become tangled and wouldn't pull through. He appears to have untied at the top and subsequently tied back on the wrong side of the lower off.

5. **Co-ordinators' Reports**

5.1 **Gritstone: access & conservation.**

Caley clean up. Martin Christmas reported that this has been agreed using hand tools only. Interest from Leeds University Club in helping was noted and Deirdre agreed to ask the contact to get in touch with Mick Johnson.

David Campbell said he would help out.

DCa

Ilkley Moor 2012 Olympics Arts Council Commission. Concerns had been raised regarding a proposed project involving writing and performing poems inspired by Ilkley's Cow & Calf Rocks. The original stated intention was to inscribe the poem into the rocks of the moor and incorporate them into the Quarry. However subsequent publicity indicated that 'the historic landscape will not be damaged' and that something may be projected on to the rocks together with a show in the Quarry. The meeting felt that as long as the rocks were not being actually touched then there was no cause for concern.

5.2 Limestone: access & conservation.

Bird bans. Martin Christmas reported that there had been successful bird ban observance and continuation of good relationships with the YDNP.

Feizor Nick. Deirdre agreed to ask Guy Keating re the follow up to access problems at this crag.

DCo

Foredale Quarry. Dave Musgrove reported that all had gone well at Foredale despite many people visiting the crag.

Kilnsey Path. It was noted that a couple of areas of the path need further attention.

5.3 Youth.

Hutton Roof Climbing/camping meet. Anne Chevalier reported that this meet had been well attended but only by Craven MC members. She wondered if this was because it had been an informal meet and not widely advertised.

Child Protection Training. Anne reported that she had done the first part of this 2 part training.

5.4 Climbing Walls. No formal report.

Bouldering Walls. The popularity of new bouldering walls in Leeds was noted.

Huddersfield Climbing Wall is moving to a new sports centre.

6 Voluntary Nesting Restrictions for the Common Raven – review of current position.

Dave Musgrove referred to Guy Keating's paper which had been circulated and tabled. There appear to be ever increasing requests to restrict access because of nesting birds. It was noted that ravens are doing quite well in Britain and are spreading back across the country. They are not a red listed or protected species and the anecdotal evidence is that they are quite tolerant of climbers.

Following discussion it was agreed that, as suggested in Guy's paper, a less restrictive approach would be appropriate i.e. no agreement to voluntary restrictions re exclusion zones/crags between specified dates but rather informing climbers that ravens are present on certain crags/routes or request they avoid routes which cross or pass near the nest site.

7 National Council

7.1 Report from the last meeting.

A report had been circulated and tabled.

Clubs Committee. Elections for Area reps were being held at the September round of Area Meetings. It was noted that the original date of 11 September for election of the National club reps had now been put back to 25 September.

Access & Conservation (Wales) Officer. The appointment of Elfyn Jones was noted.

Treasurer's report. Year end forecast now deficit of £42K as a result of A & C Wales Officer appointment and reduced investment returns.

CEO's report. Membership up by 3266 on same time in 2008.

7 National Council

7.2 Matters for the next meeting.

7.2.1 Climbing as an Olympic sport.

Rob Adie, BMC Climbing Walls & Competitions Officer talked to this referring to the recent Summit Article which had also been available on the BMC website. He had been visiting all Areas to discuss this. Points made were that if it is going to happen then it would be better for the BMC to be involved as it would be easier to exert influence. It was felt that the concerns expressed may be valid but that the BMC should be trusted to take them on board and ensure that the core values of climbing were protected.

Following discussion a vote was taken as follows: - For 16, Against 2, Abstentions 4.

7.2.2 Review of BMC AGM proxy voting procedure.

The relevant paper had not been received and so discussion was limited.

7.2.1 The BMC's Work & Services for Hillwalkers.

The relevant paper had not been received and so no discussion took place.

7.2.4 Coaching in Mountaineering. It was felt that there was some lack of clarity about exactly what was meant by the term 'coaching'. However, following discussion it was felt that it shouldn't be restricted to indoors & sport climbing & bouldering.

8 Election of Yorkshire Area Representative to BMC Clubs Committee.

No nominations had been made from Yorkshire Area Clubs. In the event of this occurring the BMC had issued guidance to Area Chairs re accepting volunteers and Andy Blakely volunteered. There were no other volunteers. (There was a suggestion for someone not present but it was not felt to be appropriate for the individual concerned and in any case they were not present to confirm their interest.) There was much support for Andy's election and no objections expressed and so the meeting agreed his election.

9. Clubs' Issues.

Thanks to the BMC for funding for the Club website and Newsletter & for instructor support were expressed from Calderdale MC.

Thanks to the BMC for funding for the Club website were expressed from the Yorkshire Ramblers Club.

10. Individual Members issues. None raised.

11. Area Newsletter.

Deirdre suggested that the third Newsletter be produced for January 2010 with a copy date to be decided but likely to be sometime in November.

12 Any Other Business.

BMC Clubs Seminar. The BMC is holding a seminar for Clubs on 28 November 2009 at the BMC Office. Deirdre agreed to email Yorkshire Clubs re this.

DCo

13. Date of Next Meeting (& AGM) Monday 30 November 2009 at 19.00.