

BRITISH MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL

177-179 Burton Road
Manchester M20 2BB

Tel: 0161 445 4747
Fax: 0161 445 4500
email:office@thebmc.co.uk

HARRISONS ROCKS MANAGEMENT GROUP (HRMG)

Minutes of the meeting held on October 15th 2007 at Evolution Climbing Wall, Plumyfeather Farm, Lye Green at 19:30, with a site visit at Harrisons at 17:30.

Present:	Tim Skinner	Chair
	Geoff Pearson	BMC
	Bob Moulton	BMC
	Nigel Head	BMC
	Chris Tullis	Site Warden
	Sarah Cullen	BMC
	Sarah Butler	Local Resident

- | | | Action |
|----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| 1 | Welcome and Apologies
Apologies were received from Tim Daniells, Martin Bryce and Richard Hayden. | |
| 2 | Minutes of the last meeting (21.05.07)
Agreed. | TS |
| 3 | Matters Arising not covered in other items below We have not heard from Lynda Myers about her replacement from Wealden DC. TS to chase. | |
| 4 | Future ownership and management arrangements | |
| 4a | The Rocks Sport England (Zoe Dixon) want to visit rocks. This will be arranged via CT – BM to put them in touch. Sport England wants to wrap up the whole deal at the same time as handing over the car park lease.
An outstanding problem is that the map attached to the deeds (produced by Sport England) doesn't agree with the one produced by BM and NH. Dave Turnbull is discussing how to resolve this with the BMC solicitor. | BM/CT |
| | To ensure that the map issue is resolved quickly (and in our favour) NH proposed that he contact Dave Turnbull to clarify what is happening and to remind him that the delay in handing over the ownership is costing the BMC money (the BMC only gets the £5000/year from Sport England once the rocks are handed over). It's in Sport England's interests too to resolve this quickly as the car park is getting more dilapidated. All committee members are welcome to contact Dave Turnbull to put this case to him. | NH |
| 4b | The Car Park nothing to report. | |
| 4c | The Campsite nothing to report. | |
| 5 | Harrison's Rocks Work and Site Manager's Report | |
| 5a | Cement work still to do – can be done on a dry day, so CT will do this shortly. | CT |
| 5b | Resin work Steve Reed may be able to work with Mike Vetterlein on this. TS to talk to them. | TS |

- 5c Bolts** the requested work has been done, and the cables on the bolts checked (CT). Otherwise, little work was done over the summer. CT removed the old bolt on top of Isolated Buttress. Right circle needs a bolt on top. TS will amend the bolt report accordingly. TS brought proofs of notices to be hung from key bolts reminding climbers of the importance of using long slings. TS to feed back that the group doesn't want the notices to be too big, that the grab in the pictures needs to be the right way up, that the group needs to approve the pictures (Graham Adcock is supplying new ones) and that the group preferred the green/yellow colour combination. The group wondered if a diagram might be clearer than photos. Steve Jackson is producing the notices. **CT/TS**
- 5d Woodland Management & Ground Erosion work** Following the site visit prior to the meeting by TS, CT, BM and Graham Adcock from the Sandstone Volunteers Group, a plan has been drawn up of the tree/scrub clearance needed at the rocks. Graham will rally the SVG troops to work on this in December and/or January. The idea is to remove many of the saplings close to the rocks, especially the sycamores, to trim some branches from larger trees where they stop light and air getting to the crag, and to use the resulting brash to close off some of the new paths that have started to appear. The drainage channel below Squat Tower needs re-digging. **TS**
- 5e Car Park and Toilet Block** the bench by the noticeboard was burnt by climbers. The car park is still being used at night, but this is not causing problems. **CT**
The toilets are in need of maintenance. All leak, the handwashers don't work (because they drip, and the water is metered, CT turns off the supply), they need painting, and the electrics are still uncertified. CT to put together an assessment to send to Dave Turnbull, before sending it on to Sport England.
- 5f Signs** The bouldering notice at North Boulder needs replacing. **CT**
- 6 Health and Safety**
- 6a Notes of any Accidents in the Accident Book** There were no accidents to report. CT met the fire brigade, who checked access. The ambulance service has also replied to TS's letter about this.
- 6b Future Health and Safety Inspections** **TS** circulated the revised risk assessment, which all approved. The group felt that it should read simply 'BMC' top right. TS to carry on developing this. **TS**
- 7 Financial Report**
- 7a HRMG Budget** TS circulated the BMC financial report, which raised the following points: **TS**
TS should query why we are paying the BMC legal fees.
So far we have received £2264 from the car park this year. CT reported many people were not paying.
TS to ask Alan Brown to separate out CT's payments for rocks maintenance and car park maintenance; and to re-label the section currently called 'management contract' as there is no contract. The group also felt that Stone Farm should have separate accounts.
- 8 Stone Farm Rocks**

- 8a Woodland Management & Ground Erosion work** the work here is still required. This work is fairly technical, so CT will do it, possibly with the help of a small group of volunteers. The 'island' around the small oak tree needs doing. Revetement repairs are needed under Remote. Some brashing is needed at the top beyond Stone Farm Chimney. CT no longer has a 4x4 to get gear on site. He can get the wood to the car park, but not from the road to the rocks. He could possibly borrow a tractor from Blacklands, or from Tresco (the new owners of the cycling place) – who could be approached to manage the site in future. CT will reserve three days to do this work. **TS/CT/S VG**
- 8b Resin work** a small amount is still needed in various locations. Tim will speak to Mike Vetterlein and Steve Reed about this as well. CT has checked the bolts.
- 8c Noticeboards** The bouldering notice on the fence near Inaccessible Boulder needs refixing, and we need a new graffiti notice in the same area. **CT**
- 9 Charitable Trust** TD is working on this (hence his absence from the meeting). Ideally it needs to be set up before the transfer of the rocks. TS to ask TD for a progress report. **TD/TS**
- 10 AOB**
- 10a Minutes** the importance of getting minutes out quickly was noted, to enable GP to send them to the London & SE meeting. The group discussed putting the minutes online. TS to discuss with Martin Bryce. MB would ensure the flow of minutes to the BMC and to Steve Jackson for the Sandstone Volunteers Group. They will also be put up on the car park notice boards to ensure wide readership. **SB/TS/M B**
- 10b Driveway** CT asked who is responsible for keeping the main drive to Harrisons clear. It is the Forestry Commission – the group agreed to remind them to do this if it has not cleared by early next year.
- 10c Sandstone leaders' award (for group leaders)** this was set up ten years ago and is well used by Kent, but little by East Sussex and Surrey. The SLA is important because the single pitch award doesn't cover sandstone. There's a rumour that the award has died (although this isn't true). Does the group need to do anything ? CT felt that East Sussex and Surrey would follow Kent's lead, so there is no problem. TS felt it was not part of HRMG's remit to promote awards, though we could encourage others. We could suggest to the BMC that they promote the SLA, and talk to their training officer about running sandstone-specific seminars for leaders. TS to email John Garside at the BMC. **TS**
- 11 Date of Next Meeting** The next meeting will be held at Evolution climbing wall on Monday January 14th 2008, at 7pm. There will be no site meeting