

BRITISH MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL

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HARRISONS ROCKS MANAGEMENT GROUP (HRMG)

Minutes of the meeting held on May 19th 2009 at Evolution Climbing Wall, Plumyfeather Farm, Lye Green at 19:00, preceded by a site inspection at 17:00.

Present:	Tim Skinner	Chair
	Geoff Pearson	BMC
	Steve Durkin	BMC
	Johanna Howell	Wealden DC
	Nigel Head	BMC
	Chris Tullis	Site Warden
	Martin Bryce	BMC
	Sarah Cullen	BMC

Action

1 Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received from Bob Moulton. TS welcomed Steve and Johanna to the group.

2 Minutes of the last meeting (13/01/09)

These were agreed.

3 Matters Arising not covered in other items below

- 3a **Replacement for Lynda Myers** TS had contacted Wealden District Council and Johanna had kindly agreed to attend the meetings. TS said that a community representative was still needed from the Groombridge community and he would contact Sarah Butler as she knew someone who might fit the bill. **TS**

4 Future ownership and management arrangements

- 4a **The Rocks** BM and TS met with Bill Renshaw in February and he then met with Sport England. He had reported back that the management agreement was nearly agreed (this had been merged with the sponsorship agreement) but that there was one clause that was causing problems, to do with Sport England's request that the BMC indemnify its employees when on site. The BMC is not happy with this and is seeking clarification. **BM**

- 4b **The Car Park** TS had emailed Sport England regarding the condition survey but had received no reply. However, BM had reported that they have agreed to do one. CT asked that he be informed of the date so that he could be on site. **BM**

- 4c **The Campsite** SD said campsite monies should go to the Julie Tullis Memorial Trust. CT said he could easily put the money into that account. TS will check with Alan Brown at the BMC that the car park and campsite monies should be kept separate. NH said the VAT being paid on the car park would cease if the money went to a charitable trust. **TS**

5 Harrison's Rocks Work and Site Manager's Report

- 5a **Cement work** The rope groove on Wailing Wall still needs filling. TS and SD also identified a couple of other places during the site visit, namely Blackeye Wall, The Flakes, Archers Wall and Right Circle. SC said that some work was needed at the top of Two Toed Sloth. CT said that he had found someone to do the work and would approach them as soon as possible. **CT**

- 5b Resin work** A few areas need some work and TS will send a list to Steve Reed, although he will no doubt find other areas once the work is underway. **TS**
- 5c Bolts** The bolts above Right Circle still need doing. TS and SD also thought a set may be needed above the Root Routes, to help protect what is left of the roots. CT and SC thought it might be worth putting a set on the ledge level with the jammed boulder on Isolated Buttress (above Wailing Wall/Eliminate) to protect the upper wall. **CT**
- 5d Woodland Management & Ground Erosion work** Croydon MC and the SVG had a very successful work day on the 25th of April, which was noted with much thanks. TS said that he wanted to carry out a more ambitious woodland management program, and would arrange a meeting with the local tree preservation officer. JH suggested that we should involve the local conservation officer and said she would be happy to come to the meeting as well. CT said it would be best to meet with a tree surgeon first to help us create a plan. TS will talk to Graham Adcock from the SVG and arrange a meeting with one of our volunteer tree surgeons. The wood chips still need to be moved down to the rocks. Some ground work is still needed on the paths below Sagittarius, Wellington's Block, Isolated Buttress and Easy Cleft Right. There is a dangerously loose boulder in the gully to the right of Small Wall which CT will remove as soon as possible. The channel below St Gotthard needs digging out again. The rhododendrons above Unclimbed Wall have spread and need to be cut back. **TS/CT**
- 5e Car Park and Toilet** CT said he had problems with non-climbing youths using the campsite and having parties. Maybe a registration scheme might help. GP suggested making it a BMC-only site. JH said pre-booking might be necessary from a liability point of view. CT said a noticeboard setting out the rules would help. He also wanted to replace the missing Forestry Commission sign that had gone from the point where the track met the road - maybe with the red BMC sign or a sign to Birchden Wood. GP said previous HRMG meetings were against excessive signage. CT said a large lump of sandstone with a small sign would do the job. TS was in favour of a small sign but no huge lump of sandstone. CT said further down the road a larger sign with a gate that could be closed if necessary would do the trick. MB said this would also help prevent any problems such as those that the residents had suffered last year. NH suggested a wooden pole across the road. CT will talk to Forestry Commission. TS said he had checked the toilets following a complaint at the open meeting about their cleanliness – as usual he had not found anything wrong with them, apart from the fact that the whole building is in urgent need of repair. CT said children had been shoving grass into the top of the money box to stop the money going in and then returning to steal the money that was then sitting on the grass. Gravel had been put in the keyhole to the safe, rendering access to it impossible, so CT can't remove the money that is in it – he was not sure what to do next but will keep on trying. **CT**
- 5f Signs** Nothing to report.
- 6 Health and Safety**
- 6a Notes of any Accidents in the Accident Book** There were no accidents to report.
- 6b Future Health and Safety Inspections** TS presented the latest risk assessment form and the group said it was good. TS will send it to the BMC. **TS**

- 7 Financial Report**
- 7a HRMG Budget** Alan Brown had made the requested changes to the layout. He also reported that Dave Turnbull had agreed to cover the £534 legal costs but might ask HRMG for a contribution if the sum got much bigger – this was agreed.
- 8 Stone Farm Rocks**
- 8a Woodland Management & Ground Erosion work** TS mentioned comments at the Open Meeting about serious erosion below Front Face and in the descent gully next to Pinnacle Buttress Arete. CT suggested a very big trunk of wood against the rock at the bottom of the gully, with some notches to step into, which would help protect the rock. CT plans a site visit to look at the Front Face issue. NH had access to lots of the right sort of wood but no transport. CT agreed to talk to him about acquiring it for HRMG use. **CT/NH**
- 8b Resin work** TS has spoken to Steve Reed about a survey to see what other repairs are needed and will remind him again, although at the open meeting Chris Gibson said he was willing to do some work – TS will contact him as well. **TS**
- 8c Signs** Nothing to report.
- 9 Charitable Trust** SD is now looking into this and will report back as soon as possible. MB raised the issue of appointing the trustees and it was agreed we would wait for SD to report on our options. **SD**
- 10 AOB**
None.
- 11 Date of Next Meeting** The next meeting will be held at Evolution climbing wall on Tuesday October 13th 2009, at 19.00.