

BMC Midlands Area Minutes – 4th June 2014

Old Edwardians' Sports Club, Solihull

Attendance: 40

Apologies: 2

1 Minutes of last meeting agreed as accurate (proposed: Roger Fanner, seconded: John Edwards).

2 Matters arising Jo Goodson was appointed as Access Rep East (proposed: Phil Simister, seconded: Al Taylor).

3 West Midlands Guidebook, Leicestershire Guidebook

Progress for both a prospective West Midlands guidebook and the Leicestershire guidebook has stalled. It is now looking less likely that the two can be combined into a single Midlands guide as was hoped; however, the real issue is that the task of producing either a Leicestershire Guide or a Midlands Guide requires someone to project manage its completion.

4 Discussion - Does the BMC take hillwalking seriously enough?

Roger Fanner presented & illustrated the argument that the BMC's own website & magazine significantly gives hardly any mention of hill walking as a mountaineering activity. Carey Davies (BMC Hillwalking Officer) replied for the BMC by agreeing that not enough was being done but he pointed out that there had been a large improvement and quoted examples to justify this. A vibrant debate was held and the general tenor of the meeting was that, despite the good work done by the BMC, there was a PERCEPTION that it was not sufficiently interested in hill walking and that this affected both its ability to retain members and attract new members.

A vote was held as to whether the meeting share the perception that the BMC does not take hillwalking seriously enough (Agree: 17, Disagree: 4).

The representatives due to attend were mandated to take this negative perception to National Council after which the Area would discuss their response at the next meeting on 10 Sep 14.

5 Does the BMC need to revert to having 5 National Council meetings a year?

Discussion postponed until the next meeting.

6 Access West

Richard tried to find information on Peregrines nesting this year but could not discover anything. No other issues.

7 Access East

Jo Goodson introduced herself. She is trying to get a feel for the whole of the Eastern part of the Midlands Area and part of that involved inviting members to tell

her where they climb at crags in the East Midlands - contact Jo through the BMC website (Local Areas, Midlands [it should come up if you have registered correctly], scroll to bottom, click on Jo's profile, Send message).

8 Climbing Walls

John Churcher has been in contact with walls in the area and has sent out a short survey to get more detail about exactly what they have e.g. How many top ropes? Lead sections? How many routes? He has been in touch with the management of the Crystal Wall in Stourbridge about reopening it to the general public and is yet to have an update from their meeting.

9 National Council

A summary of some of the key BMC activities for the period March-May 2014 was circulated to attendees.

10 Youth

Youth climbing series national finals are being held at Ratho in Edinburgh on the 28th June. 32 competitors from the Midlands will be going. There is sponsorship from Evolv for the kids, who will be supplied with hoodies and chalk bags.

Outdoors climbing activity for the Midlands youth is being planned for a possible trial in September with the first official day next year. Once the logistics are sorted for this the plan is also to run a walking and navigation meet.

11 Next Meeting

10th September 2014

8pm – Meeting will be followed by guest speaker, mountaineer Nick Colton.

Venue: Old Edwardians' Sports Club, Solihull

Following the meeting the attendees enjoyed an interesting and entertaining talk by George Cave "Bread, Chess & Mountains involving Tales from the Bristol Djangart expedition to find unclimbed peaks on the Kyrgyz/Chinese border"

Written by Claudia Sarner