

**Minutes of the BMC North East Area Meeting
held on Thursday 11 June 2015 at 7:30 pm**

**Newcastle Climbing Centre, St Marks Church 285 Shields Road,
Newcastle upon Tyne, Tyne & Wear NE6 2UQ**

In attendance:

Mark Anstiss	Acting Chair (Wanney's Climbing Club)
John Herron	Secretary
Paul Mitchinson	Hill Walking Rep
Nick Colton	BMC Deputy CEO
Jessica Wortley	Sunderland Mountaineering Club
Martin Ballantine	Sunderland Mountaineering Club
Wendy Ryby	Wanney's Climbing Club
Mike Fachini	Individual Member
Georgina Keyte	Newcastle University Mountaineering Club
Gregory Ashby	Newcastle University Mountaineering Club
Martin Shaw	Individual Member
Stephen Heiniger	Individual Member
Bill Renshaw	Northumbrian Mountaineering Club

Apologies for Absence

Jon Punshon	Chair
Alan Hinkes	
John Dalrymple	Northumbrian Mountaineering Club
John Vaughan	
Ian Walton	Area Youth Co-ordinator
Mark Williams	
Mark Gooding	Climbing Wall Representative
James Higgins	
Mike Conlon	

1. Welcome and Introduction

Mark Anstiss opened the meeting and welcomed all present. Particular thanks were expressed to Mark Goodings and Newcastle Climbing Centre for hosting the meeting and the excellent refreshments.

2. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held at Durham Climbing Centre on 05/03/2015 were discussed and deemed a true and proper record by those present at that meeting

3. Festival of Climbing

The North East festival of Climbing will take place over the weekend of 3-5 July and will be based at Highburn House campsite Wooler and the Angel Inn Wooler. Details were discussed as on appendix 2 of the agenda. Paul Mitchinson explained that most of the arrangements were finalised. John Herron asked whether it would be possible to attempt to organise free passes up the College valley to enable easy access to Henhole crag.

4. Regional Clean-up Event – Peel Crag

Mark Anstiss reported that the crag clean-up this year will take place at Peel Crag, concentrating on the routes to the East of Tigers Overhang. The clean-up will take place over the weekend of 5-6 September with the format as in previous years: camping at Winsheilds Campsite; route cleaning on Saturday followed by BBQ and beer; then enjoying the fruits of your labour by climbing the cleaned routes on Sunday (weather permitting).

5. Proposed BMC talent development strategy 2016 - 2021

Appendix 1 of the agenda was discussed in some detail and luckily for us BMC Deputy CEO Nick Colton was on hand to explain the detail of the proposed strategy. Nick also pointed us in the direction of several documents (BMC Strategic Plan and Sport England Active People survey) where BMC funding stream is derived. Basically the intention is to move away from talented youngsters only coming from the competition side of climbing and look at the greater spread of talent from those who do not participate in competition.

6 National Updates

BMC Strategic plan was discussed at some length along with the email from Phil Simister (Chair of BMC Midlands Area). In essence it was felt that the North East Area agreed with the word change proposed by Phil.

Mark Anstiss is attending the National Council which is meeting in Malham on Saturday 13 June and will ensure our voice is heard.

7. Co-ordinators Reports

Access

North - Although John Vaughan was unable to attend he did send the following information:

Bowden Doors Following the wall collapse in the Triple crack area over the winter this has been adequately dealt with by the NMC.

Back Bowden Parking has been an issue from time to time and NMC are looking to update some signage in that area.

Shitlington It was reported that some climbers had been accosted at the crag, although it was unknown if this was at the part of the crag where there is open access and the officer is aware of the problem.

Kyloe John Herron reported that he had visited this crag on Sunday 7 June when there were at least 50 climbers at the crag. The parking at the roadside was very indiscriminate and may lead to problems with the land owner.

As there were no representatives from the south of the region present I have left the details from the last minutes pertaining to that area.

South - As the rep from the South of the region there are no updates.

Walls

Mark Goodings was not present so there was no report.

Youth

Ian Walton is away at Ratho EIMC on Youth business so there was no report. Nick Colton advised that FRCC were to host an Outdoor Youth Meet on 4-5 July based at Raw Head Cottage in Langdale and urged regions and clubs to support it.

Hill Walking

Paul Mitchinson reported that the BMC Hill Walking Working Group met in Clapham to look at how to promote hill walking within the organisation and within clubs. Paul also asked those present from the clubs to ascertain from their membership what they would like from: a) Hill walking rep (Paul); b) BMC; and to report back to him

8. AOB

No further business.

9. Date of next meeting

Provisionally, 7.30pm, Thursday 3 September 2015 at Durham Climbing Centre.