

Minutes

BMC NE Area meeting

11th November 2015

Newcastle Climbing Centre

1. Welcome and Introduction

Jon Punshon welcomed everyone to the meeting.

In attendance:

Jon Punshon
John Herron
Graham Harkness
Philip Powell
Chris Balloch
Fiona Stephenson
Rich Alderton
Ella Diran
Paul Mitchinson
Mike Facchini
Mark Goodings
Jessica Wortley
Martin Ballantine
Steve Blake
Sarah Hawker
Bob McAdam
Mike Conlon
Jonathan Sims
James Higgins
George Murray
Mark Anstiss

2. Apologies for Absence

Alan Hinkes
Adrian Wilson
Martin Shaw
Peter Simcock
Steve Heiniger
Paul Vaughan

3. Minutes of previous meeting

Jon Punshon ran through the minutes from the previous meeting 03/09/2015 – the minutes were read and one amendment needs to be made regarding CMC website changed to Facebook page (Action JH)

4. Single Region Identity

Jon Punshon asked that all members of the regional BMC and club members work together for the benefit of the sport in the North east and reiterated the point that the regional North east Area were not a separate club but all members voice in the area and the first link to the National BMC. We should also be looking at a single identity in the North. The meeting spoke about how to encourage individual members.

5. Festival of Climbing 2016 and other potential Developments

The consensus of the debate surrounding the annual; festival of climbing is that the festival should continue but on a Bi annual basis and the running/organisation of it should be split between the North and South of the region.

Therefore it was decided that the next North East Festival of Climbing should take place in 2017 in the south of the region.

Clubs were to get together to arrange suitable date in line with each individual club event diary for 2017.

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6. Regional Clean Event at Peel Crag - report

This event took place at Peel Crag in September 2015 again organised by Mark Anstiss. Mark reported that several routes were cleaned to the East of Tigers Overhang as well as some of the classic routes to the West of Tigers'

Mark went on to point out that on some of the routes the top out was difficult as well as the paucity of a suitable belay and wished to canvas the meeting with regard to some sensitive placing of stakes. There were no objections from the individual members or clubs and work will continue to research this possibility with the consent of the land owner. Mark will report back at the next meeting on the progress.

Mike Conlon proposed and Jon Punshon seconded a vote of thanks to Mark for his work with regards to the several crag clean ups that have now taken place

7. Forthcoming Events

Thanks were recorded to Mark Goodings for organising the recent outdoor films event at the Tyneside Theatre.

23rd November – Doug Scott Everest the hard way Hartlepool

27th December - Real Rock Event at the Tyneside Theatre

8. Co-ordinators Reports

a) Access

North -

John Vaughan was unavailable to attend the meeting however Steve Blake reported that there were some issues surrounding Shitlington Crag regarding the land owner asking people to leave who were climbing on then open access area of the crag. The area was already aware of this and further action is that Rob Dyer to be informed (Action JP)

South–

- Mike Colon reported that there were some incidents of new fencing being erected on the approach to Esklets Crag and he had already informed Rob Dyer of this. (Action MC to report back at next meeting.

b) Youth

The youth report was given by Chris Balloch of Rock Solid. The Youth open week starts on 14th November at Leeds.

The Youth Climbing series starts in January 2016, venues are Sunderland, Kendal and Newcastle Climbing Centre

Chris also mentioned that the climbing event which took place at Ratho the route standards were set too high and hopefully the route settings would be corrected for this year.

Chris also reported that Sebastian Halenke the German youth champion was visiting the region in December however no venue had been selected as yet.

c) Climbing Wall

Nothing to report from Mark Goodings

d) Hillwalking

Paul Mitchinson reported that the footpath repairs on Simonside would be completed in the next 2 weeks and also in the North Pennines good progress was being made on the footpath over Nine Standards Rigg

e) Clubs

Next meeting is 14th November Mark Anstiss will report back

f) National Council

The minutes of the national council meeting can be accessed by following the attached hyperlink <https://www.thebmc.co.uk/bmc-national-council-september-2015-meeting-minutes>. Mark Anstiss also advised that BMC AGM is to be held in the Peak District in April 2016.

9. Election of officers for 2016

A ballot was taken and the following officers elected for 2016

Chair	Jon Punshon
Secretary	John Herron
Access North	John Vaughan (to be contacted)
Access South	Mike Conlon
Youth	Chris Balloch
Climbing Walls	Mark Goodings
Hillwalking	Paul Mitchinson
Clubs Rep	Mark Anstiss
National Council Rep	Mark Anstiss

10. AOB

None

11. Date of next meeting

Thursday 25th February 2016 19:00 Durham Climbing Centre