

# BRITISH MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL

177-179 Burton Road  
Manchester M20 2BB  
[www.thebmc.co.uk](http://www.thebmc.co.uk)

Tel: 0161 445 6111  
Fax: 0161 445 4500  
e-mail: [office@thebmc.co.uk](mailto:office@thebmc.co.uk)

## MINUTES OF THE 188<sup>th</sup> YORKSHIRE AREA MEETING

Held at 19.30 on Monday 22 February 2010 at the Dyneley Arms, Pool in Wharfedale.

### Present:-

David Campbell	YMC, CC, Chair	Andy Blakely	CC
Deirdre Collier	CC, Secretary	Rob Adie	BMC Office
Paul Exley	Leeds MC, FRCC	Paul Clarke	FRCC
Angela Soper	Pinnacle Club/Individual	Ian Blakeley	Individual
Mick Johnson	FRCC, CC, Gritstone Access Representative	Jim Croft	Individual
James Rowe	Leeds Mountaineering Club	Robin Nicholson	Individual
Anne Chevalier	Craven MC, FRCC, CC, Youth Co-ordinator (Outdoors)		
Dave Musgrove	YMC, CC	Mike Bebbington	YMC*/CC*
Martin Christmas	Individual. Limestone Access Representative	Glyn Edwards	FRCC
Jonathan Richardson	York MC, Climbing Wall Representative	Julie Dundas	Individual
David Farrell	Youth Co-ordinator (Indoors)	John Hunt	YMC
Anne Freund	Individual/Pinnacle Club	Chris Hague	Individual
Ewan Russell	Leeds University Union Mountaineering Club*	Steve Harland	Individual
Stuart Holmes	York Climbers	Maria Pellizzaro	Individual
Cathryn Birch	Individual	Rosey Grant	Individual
Will Hunt	Leeds University Union Mountaineering Club	Nigel Baker	YMC

1. **Welcome & Introductions.** David welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. **Apologies for Absence.** Apologies were received from Bev Connor, Alex Thompson, Heather Thomas Smith & Simon Yewdall.
3. **Minutes of the last meeting.** The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as an accurate record.
4. **Matters Arising.**

**Shooters' Nab.** It was noted that the 2010 dates for access were now known and were available on the BMC website. Also the Crag is now available after 6pm on Friday evenings.

**Area Newsletter.** Deirdre said this should be out within the next 2/3 weeks.
5. **Co-ordinators' Reports**
  - 5.1 **Gritstone: access & conservation.**

**Greetland Quarry.** It was noted that someone had been chopping down the tree in the centre of the quarry on the grounds that it shades the crag in Summer. The quarry is owned by the local council and it was agreed that they should be contacted by Area about this.

**Gritstone bouldering venue – drilling of loose flake.** It was noted that there was a posting and some pictures on a bouldering forum re a loose flake. This had been drilled in an attempt to make it more secure. Concerns were expressed regarding the appropriateness of this and whether the individual(s) responsible had the necessary skills and experience.

MJ

**5.1 cont. Heptonstall Quarry.** It was noted that some dry tooling had taken place at this venue. Whilst this was recognised as a legitimate activity concerns were expressed re its use on soft gritstone crags.

**Plompton Rocks.** There was an enquiry re climbing at this venue. It was noted that payment is required for access and that climbing had been discouraged. The current situation was not clear and it was agreed that someone would check it out. Martin Christmas offered to help with H & S guidance if appropriate.

WH

MC

**Caley.** Anne Freund had attended the Chevin Forum Meeting in December 2009 and reported on the problem with trees at Caley. She & Mick Johnson had then met with Richard Marsh, the Chevin Estates Manager, at Caley in January to indicate where it was felt there were problems. Richard had agreed to trim the branches and would like the BMC to organise a clean up at Caley. The main problem was Himalayan Balsam and it was agreed that Mick & Anne would arrange a date for its clearance.

MJ

AF

**(Post meeting note – this has been arranged for Sat 26 June – meet at 10 am at Sugarloaf Boulder which is situated on the main track near the main crag.)**

## **5.2 Limestone: access & conservation.**

**Ravens – National Park guidance & BMC position.** It was again noted that the BMC's revised approach re Ravens did not accord with the National Park's general guidance. It had been agreed to differ and the National Park asked to remove the BMC's logo from the relevant signs.

**Freeze thaw & loose rock.** It was noted that there was a potential for weakening of blocky holds and flakes following the exceptionally cold winter and the freeze/thaw effect of the severe weather on many limestone cliffs. This was felt to be a nationwide problem and not limited to limestone and that perhaps the BMC could put something on the website. Dave Musgrove said he would look at putting a warning put on the Leeds Wall website and it was also suggested that posting could be put on UKC.

Rockfall at Fore Dale and loose rock being pulled off at Castlebergh were noted.

## **5.3 Youth**

**Navigation Day.** Anne Chevalier reported that there would be a Navigation Day on Sunday 23 May on Ilkley Moor or Middleton Woods if the weather was poor. She was also considering arranging a climbing/camping weekend.

**Youth Indoor Climbing.** David Farrell reported on the upcoming Youth climbing series.

## **5.4 Climbing Walls.**

**Harrogate Wall.** It was noted that this had opened on 18 February.

**BMC Climbing Wall Users' Survey.** Rob Adie informed the meeting about this. It was intended to inform the improvement of the BMC's services for climbing walls and provide some information for the Association of British Climbing Walls.

## **6. National Council.**

**6.1 Report from last meeting** – paper circulated. It was noted that the Opt Out proposal had not been agreed by National Council and that there was a further paper regarding the Artificial Crag proposal.

**6.2 Matters for the next meeting**

**6.2.1 Artificial Crag proposal.** This was discussed and the following comments made:-

- What would the BMC get out of it?
- How much would the BMC put into it?
- Sponsorship was agreed to be a good idea but that it should not be by the BMC
- That the BMC should advise on and support the proposal but not provide any financial support.
- Grave reservations still held and more information required.

**6.2.2 Clubs – declaration of members** – discussed under Item 7.1, Clubs' Committee.

**6.2.3 Mountain Safety Forum.** This was generally supported although the Meeting wanted more information regarding the administration, financing and reporting arrangements.

**7. Clubs Issues.**

**7.1 Clubs' Committee.**

**Yorkshire Area Representative.** It was noted that Andy Blakely had stepped down as the Area Representative to the BMC's Clubs' Committee. David Campbell expressed thanks to Andy for undertaking the role & introduced Paul Exley as the new representative.

Paul reported that he'd been to the second meeting of the Committee on 20 February and there had been discussion as follows:-

**Publicity re the Clubs Committee.** One of the other Area representatives had done a draft letter for clubs in his Area outlining the role of the Committee and encouraging them to get involved. This had been agreed to be a good idea and the BMC would circulate further information advising what might be said in such a letter and on the website.

**Possible Club structures.** There had been discussion regarding various possible different structures for clubs and there would be a paper produced about this and a section in the BMC Seminar in October.

**BMC funding for Clubs.** Clubs were encouraged to apply for grants – there would be another round soon and there would be information on the BMC website.

**Declaration of Members.** The Mountaineering Council of Scotland had been under some pressure by Senior Clubs re their having to pay for a lot of elderly members who no longer get out on the hills. This had led to an agreement that the clubs would no longer need to declare all their members and there was now a suggestion that the BMC could do the same.

There was much discussion about this in the (Area) meeting and the following comments were made:-

- Concerns re Civil Liability in the event of any incident relating to an undeclared member.
- Comparison with the Opt Out Option where at least there would have been CL cover for opted out individuals.

- 7.1  
cont
- Issue noted re some clubs with life members who now pay nothing but suggestion that these clubs could charge these members just for the BMC membership element.
  - Much more discussion needed re the issues and particularly with the Clubs Committee.

In summary re the Clubs Committee Paul noted that it had been a good meeting and that the BMC Areas were well represented.

8. **Individual Members issues.** None raised.

9. **Hillwalking.** The following suggestion was noted:-

That it would be good to see more discounted ML courses/assessments via the BMC in the North/Lake District and that it might possible be a good way of getting 'trainees' to meet up and get out there to share experiences and enjoy the hills on an equal par.

10. **Public consultation on Natural England's proposed Extensions to the Lake District and Yorkshire Dales National Park.**

This was discussed and it was noted that in general terms it was better to be in a National Park than not. The closing date for comments was 17 March.

11. **Any Other Business.**

**YMC donation to the BMC.** It was noted that the YMC had donated £243.50 to the BMC's Access & Conservation fund from the sale of guidebooks. A Vote of Thanks to the YMC was expressed on behalf of the BMC.

**New Gritstone Guide.** Robin Nicholson said that he was just starting work on the new YMC Gritstone Guide and asked for anyone interested in helping to contact him.

**Memories of Arthur Dolphin.** Angela Soper reported that this book was now available. It was compiled and edited by Tom Greenwood. It was available from the Gritstone Club - see link - <http://www.gritstoneclub.org.uk/publications/index.htm> and proceeds would go to the Jack Bloor Fund. Jack Bloor was an ex Chairman of the Yorkshire Area Meeting and the Fund was a charitable association which helps young people - see link - <http://www.jackbloor.co.uk/fund>

12. **Date of Next Meeting** Monday 7 June 2010 at 19.30 at the Dyneley Arms, Pool in Wharfedale.

There was no other business and the meeting closed at 20.58.