

Minutes

BMC NE Area meeting

25th February 2016

Durham Climbing Centre

1. Welcome and Introduction

In the absence of Jon Punshon, John Herron acted as chair and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

In attendance:

John Herron
Paul Mitchinson
Steve Goodhart
Matthew Atkinson
Jonathon Sims
Chris Bullock
Nick Colton
Sarah Hawker
Bob McAdam
Philip Power
Viv Kendon

2. Apologies for Absence

Jon Punshon
Graham Harkness
Alan Hinkes
Peter Simcock
Mark Goodings
Steve Jenkins
John Vaughan
Steve Blake
Mark Anstiss
Rich Alderton
Graham Harkness
Steve Heiniger
Martin Ballantine

3. Minutes of previous meeting

the minutes from the previous meeting 03/09/2015 – the minutes were read and one amendment needs to be made regarding Chris Bullock who was named as Ballock in the previous minutes (Action JH)

4. Crampon & Ice Axe incident at Kyloe Out.

In the absence of Steve Blake and John Vaughan an e-mail was read from Steve Blake regarding the incident which explained that it was one of naivety and not one of malice. It is thought that this is a one-off incident which hopefully will not be repeated.

Also Steve's e-mail states no further issues to raise apart from the crag signs which have been printed but still need to be posted at the crag venues. The NMC is now part of the Wired Guides group which produced the recent Pembroke and Lakes selected climbs guide.

This group is supported by the BMC.

Steve was also going to Cotswolds on the 5th March to meet the Marketing Manager. They may be interested in getting behind the Festival in some way?

5. Festival of Climbing 2017 and other potential Developments

The consensus of the debate surrounding the annual; festival of climbing is that the festival should continue but on a biannual 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.

Suggested dates are 16th & 17th June 2017 venue TBD

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6. Forthcoming Events

See section 5 for Festival dates and the youth report

7 Co-ordinators Reports

a) Access

North -

- Unfortunately John Vaughan was unable to attend. John Herron raised the question of access to Ratcheuf Crag where there is a sign stating conservation area. This is a good beginners' crag and it would appear that access has been lost

South-

- There was no access rep from the South. However Jon Punshon forwarded the following information which was NOT relayed at the meeting, One Access item from the South of the area relates to Downholme Quarry near Richmond. This is on MOD land and rules for accessing have been slightly "relaxed". Details can be found on the RAD

b) Youth

- The youth report was given by Chris Balloch of Rock Solid.
- ***Youth Report for minutes of tonight's meeting,***
- Sebastian Halenke, former German Youth, European and World Champion took time out of his busy UK climbing tour to run two master classes with the Rock Solid team at Sunderland Wall and Durham Climbing Centre, both classes were hugely enjoyable and informative for all that took part.
- The Rock Solid Christmas Climb was held at Sunderland Wall, a mixture of climbing games and training with guest instructors Ellie Howard, Dave Barrans and Beth Liddle. Huge thank you to Sunderland Wall for running a BBQ with the proceeds being donated to Rock Solid funds.
- 1st round of the YCS was held at Sunderland Wall with 40 entrants from our region in this year's competition. Thanks to Sunderland Wall for breaking out the BBQ again and organising a mobile chip shop to feed the many competitors and spectators alike.
- New 2016 Northeast and Lakes (Rock Solid) Climbing Team hoodies will be available to order at the 2nd round of the YCS in Keswick. Thank you to all of the regions climbing centres who have contributed to sponsor the hoodies and have their logos printed on them.
- Upcoming events:
- 2nd round of the YCS this weekend (27/02/16) at King Kong Climbing Wall, Keswick. Thanks go to King Kong for stepping in at short notice after Lakeland Wall pulled out.
- 3rd Round YCS 19/03/16 Newcastle Climbing Centre

- BMC Youth Open (Lead) Awesome Walls Liverpool 05/03/16
- BMC Youth Open (Boulder) the Depot Manchester 06/03/16
- YCS Grand Final Ratho 23/04/16
- Scottish Youth Bouldering Championships – Glasgow 07/05/16
- British Junior Bouldering Championships – Manchester 11/06/16

c) Climbing Walls

Unfortunately Mark Goodings tendered his apologies so no report was available

d) Hill Walking

Can we have this as a permanent item on the agenda?

News from Northumberland National Park:

The bridge at Fairhaugh was destroyed in the recent storms; as a result of this, contractors are expected to commence rebuilding work in the Spring/Summer.

The path restoration work on Simonside is all but completed. The pallets have now been collected and are ready for removal.

The windblow on Helpath above Wooler Common, has now been cleared.

From the North Pennines AONB:

There is to be extensive path restoration work carried out on Nine Standards Rigg, however the extent of this is dependent upon funding. There is an estimate of £60,000 for the work, with a donation already agreed by the BMC.

There is to be a Crowdfunding campaign launched on the 14th March, which will hopefully reach the target of £15,000 and maybe stretch as far as £25,000.

A video will be made in and around Kirkby Stephen, featuring the MR Team, as well as various individuals.

HF Holidays, Ramblers Holidays, Sherpa Van, Friends of the Lake District, and many others with an interest in the Coast to Coast etc. have been contacted re. funding. Collection tins and info is to be circulated to local B&Bs. There will be a quote and photos from Julia Bradbury.

When/if the path is completed, Cumbria are happy to have it on the definitive map, however Yorkshire are not so keen.

In June, there will be a guided walk up Little Fell which is on MOD land. This is the only way to access this Nuttall.

The path through Slitt Woods is closed, as it was also a casualty of the storms.

Allen Banks is closed, and the footbridge at Stanhope has now gone.

There is to be a Code of Conduct drawn up by the Access Recreation Group, for larger outdoor events in the AONB.

e) Clubs

Unfortunately Mark Anstiss tendered his apologies so no club report was available

f) National Council

Reports from, and issues to raise to, National Council ought to be added to the agenda. Although I've just seen Alan's message, so neither of us will be there!

There have been two NC meetings since our last area meeting: one in December in Manchester which I attended which included annual reports from all the committees. Nothing controversial came out of the meeting in Manchester.

The second meeting was held recently in Bristol which I was unable to attend (I don't know if Alan went).

Full minutes from both meetings are available on the BMC website for your perusal.

May I bring to your attention to the BMC AGM at Castleton in The Peak Fri 15 - Sun 17 April and encourage you to attend?

The Clubs and Huts seminar will be on the same weekend and should be of interest to club members particularly those involved in the running of their club.

The next NC will be also be the same weekend.

8. AOB

Much of the AOB came from Nick Colton who unfortunately attended on one of our quieter meetings, many thanks to Nick for his attendance and active participation at the meeting Tony Ryan can help with speaker on meeting nights

There are now 3 partnership officers:-

Joanna Rowbotham- Ethnic, Disabled & Women

Jane Thompson – Clubs Partnership Officer

Fiona Saunders – Club Committee

Also IFSC Competition climbing and pushing for Olympics, Areas have stated they support this bid and National Council have agreed

UIAA pushing for Ice Climbing at the Olympics.

Newsletters to encourage attendance at Area meetings are being used in the Peak and Wales.

9. Date of next meeting

19:00 Newcastle Climbing Centre date to be confirmed