

BRITISH MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL

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Minutes of the 213th Yorkshire Area Meeting

Held at 19.30 on Monday 13 June 2016

at the Wheatley Arms, Ben Rhydding, Ilkley

Present:

James Rowe	Chair, National Council Rep, Leeds MC, CC	Jo Rowbottom	BMC
Mick Johnson	CC, FRCC. Gritstone Access Rep	Anne Freund	FRCC, Pinnacle Club
Deirdre Collier	Secretary, National Council Rep, Craven MC*, FRCC, CC	Andy Houseman	
Nigel Baker	Limestone Access Rep	Peter Sanderson	Craven MCI
Paul Redding	Hill Walking Rep	Taija Torvela	Leeds MC
Fiona Burnett	Craven MC	Shirley Emptage	Craven MC
Paul Exley	FRCC, Leeds MC, Clubs Committee Rep	Cath Exley	LeedsMC, FRCC
Mike Bebbington	YMC/FRCC/CC	John Mortimer	Vibram MC
Angela Soper	Pinnacle Club* & FRCC	Chris Shilladay	Individual
Dave Musgrove	CC, YMC	Paul Clarke	FRCC
Laurie Morse	YMC	Ann Morse	YMC
Melanie Bryan	Individual	John Nightingale	Leeds MC
Mick Green	Gritstone Club, CC	Graham Willis	YMC
Tom Bell	Alpine Club	Chris Low	Individual
N Lowry	Individual	L Allin	Individual
Stewart McConnell	Individual	Richard Ramsden	Individual
Steve Marshall		Sarah Sharps	Leeds MC

Action

- 1 **Welcome & Introductions.** James welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- 2 **Apologies for Absence.** Apologies were received from Bev Jowett & Tony Maskill Rogan.
- 3 **Minutes of the last meeting.** These were agreed to be a correct record.
- 4 **Matters Arising not covered elsewhere**
- 4.1 **Crookrise Crag.** Noted that the Yorkshire Dales national Park had agreed to sell Crookrise to the BMC.
- 5 **Co-ordinators' Reports**
- 5.1 **Gritstone: Access & Conservation. Mick Johnson reported as follows:-**

Snowden Crag Access issues. Popular bouldering venue on Access land. Farmer/landowner has blocked off parking area. Potential parking space just below crag but is in private drive – potential for further issues if used by climbers.

Brimham Rocks. Previous report of University Group at crag being asked re risk assessment. The National Trust has an online risk assessment form & similar also available from North Yorkshire County Council. Noted that the National Trust has no associated liability particularly re organised groups. **MJ**

Caley. Previous tree clearance work noted & query re any further work planned. Area below Adrenaline Rush in particular need of attention. MJ to ask. **MJ**
- 5.2 **Limestone: Access & conservation.** Nigel Baker reported that Limestone Access was still generally quiet. He referred to access restrictions related to nesting birds & asked that climbers check RAD re these.
- 5.3 **Youth. No report.**

5.4 **Climbing Walls.** No report – there is no Climbing Wall Representative.

5.5 **Clubs.** Paul Exley reported that the next meeting of the Clubs Committee was in 2 weeks.

Noted that further work re a possible online Huts Booking System will continue when the results of the BMC's Huts Survey are known.

6 **Hillwalking.** Paul Redding reported as follows:-

Role of the Area Hill Walking Rep.

Hill Walking themed Area Meeting on 11 April preceded by a walk around Ilkley Moor.

Walk up Ingleborough prior to next meeting on 5 September planned.

BMC's Hill Walking Working Group – recent focus on Mend our Mountains & Mountain Magpie campaigns.

Hill Walking resources available on the BMC's website.

7 **National Council**

7.1 **Report from February NC Meeting.** Meeting Minutes previously circulated.

7.2 **Report from April NC Meeting** – Draft Meeting Minutes previously circulated.

7.3 **Matters for the next Meeting.**

7.3.1 **Strategic Plan Review.** No info/paper received in time so unable to discuss.

7.3.2 **Commercial Development & Branding.** Paper tabled. Sport England funded work followed by some telephone interviews & focus group meetings with the Hill Walking Working Group, the Women's Development Group & BMC staff.

Process culminated in a recommendation to rebrand the BMC in order to modernise, connect with new & younger audiences of climbers & hill walkers & also to develop the commercial potential.

A specific name & new logo had been discussed by the Executive Committee & would be presented in full to National Council at its next meeting.

Comments made as follows:-

- Reason for lack of specific info re proposed new name understood but still concerns expressed re perceived 'secrecy'.
- Overall general support for rebranding idea but would like to see what is presented in NC & have chance to discuss.
- The term 'BMC' felt to be anachronistic.

7.3.3 **BMC Vision & Mission statements.** Paper tabled. Comments as follows:-

- Existing statement felt to be unwieldy & prescriptive – limits flexibility & ability to respond to change.
- A view that BMC should '*promote rights of access*' rather than '*negotiate access improvements*'
- Does vision need to indicate BMC as NGB for Sport Climbing?

7.3.4 **2020 Olympics.** Paper tabled.

Noted that the International Olympic Committee (IOC) Executive Board agreed to formally support the inclusion of 5 new sports to the 2020 Olympics. One of these is sport climbing. The decision subject to full ratification by the full IOC session but seems likely to be included.

A query was raised re associated funding.

8 **Individual Members Issues.** None raised.

10 Any Other Business.

The recent death of Ken Wilson was noted. He had been very influential in British Climbing over a long period & had been a very influential supporter & critic of the BMC. He had been a great character & was a great loss.

11 Date of Next Meeting. Monday 5 September @ 19.30

Following this, Andy Houseman gave a presentation - 'Link Sar' - about his recent trip to Pakistan. Please see link for further information - <https://www.thebmc.co.uk/griffith-and-houseman-climbed-link-sar-west-in-the-karakoram>