

BRITISH MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE 189th YORKSHIRE AREA MEETING

Held at 19.30 on Monday 7 June 2010 at the Dyneley Arms, Pool in Wharfedale.

Present:-

David Campbell	YMC, CC, Chair	Jon Garside	BMC Office
Deirdre Collier	CC, Secretary	Paul Clarke	FRCC
Angela Soper	Pinnacle Club/Individual	Ian Blakeley	Individual
Mick Johnson	FRCC, CC, Gritstone Access Representative	Julie Dundas	Individual
James Rowe	Leeds Mountaineering Club	Gareth Morgan	Individual
Anne Chevalier	Craven MC, FRCC, CC, Youth Co-ordinator (Outdoors)	Mike Bebbington	YMC*/CC*
Dave Musgrove	YMC, CC	Glyn Edwards	FRCC
Martin Christmas	Individual. Limestone Access Representative	Alison Kinloch	Individual
Jonathan Richardson	York MC, Climbing Wall Representative	Nigel Baker	YMC
Anne Freund	Pinnacle Club, FRCC	Laurie Morse	YMC
Arthur Salmon	YMC, Individual	Mick Rollason	Individual
Rob Stone	York Alpine Club		

- Welcome & Introductions.** David welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- Apologies for Absence.** Apologies were received from Paul Exley & John Hunt.
- Minutes of the last meeting.** The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as an accurate record.
- Matters Arising.**

Public Consultation on Natural England's proposed extensions to the Lake District & Yorkshire Dales National Parks.

It was noted that the BMC's Access, Conservation & Environment Group does support the proposals and Peter Latimer & Guy Keating had attended the consultation meetings in the Yorkshire Dales and the Lake District.

5. Co-ordinators' Reports

5.1 Gritstone: access & conservation.

Shooters Nab. The recent extensions to crag access were welcomed and it was noted that there would be a BMC notice at the crag re this.

Access for various crags in Blubberhouses Moor & Nidderdale Area. This area is all open access land. The owners would like to introduce some voluntary restrictions – no dogs, no smoking, no access during the nesting season & informing the gamekeeper before going climbing. Discussions ongoing.

Wigstones Access. An alternative & better route to the crag was suggested. For discussion with the Yorkshire Dales National Park. (YDNP).

Caley. Some trees have been clipped around the Sugarloaf Boulder area but more was needed. A request would be made to chop more trees.

5.1 **Caley continued.** Crag clean up on Saturday 26 June at 10.00 noted.

cont.

Birds nest Chevin Buttress. It was noted that tawny owls were nesting here. On RAD climbers were asked to avoid the area until mid June although it was noted that a notice below the crag stated July.

Chevin Quarry. Evidence of dry tooling noted.

5.2 **Limestone: access & conservation.**

Guy Keating. Martin Christmas reported that the main issue was the loss of Guy Keating to the BMC & the Yorkshire Area. Guy had provided much support to access reps & Yorkshire Area over the years and he would be missed. Mick Johnson seconded these comments and said that Guy had been a great help with gritstone access also.

Feizor Nick. Another incident of climbers being asked to leave this crag was reported. The farmer implied that an agreement existed re this and suggested Pot Scar as an alternative. He said that there were nesting birds at the crag and expressed concerns re liability re falling rocks. It was agreed to discuss this again with the YDNP.

MC

Blue Scar. It was noted that the peregrine chicks were still there and the restrictions still in force.

An issue relating to the death of 3 raven chicks was reported. They had not been shot and toxicology was being carried out to check for poisoning.

Great Close Scar. There is an unofficial notice re nesting birds but no evidence of them at the crag. The notice is below the crag but is not visible by the normal crag access. The National Trust staff locally say it is not an NT notice and it is thought that the farmer may be responsible in an effort to stop climbing during the lambing season. Dave Musgrove agreed to try and clarify the position with the YDNP.

DM.

Crummackdale. It was noted that there was now nothing left of the old stiles here. Contacting Cath Flitcroft was suggested.

Foredale Quarry. The farmer has complained about climbers leaving the gate open. A permanent stile was suggested and Dave Musgrove agreed to approach the Access & conservation Trust re this.

DM

5.3 **Youth**

Navigation Day. Anne Chevalier reported that the day had been cancelled as there were no takers. She felt that the lack of support was related to a reluctance re the application process and having to commit so far in advance. She felt that it would be better if participants could just turn up and sign a form on the day. Jon Garside said that it was necessary to have a process to ensure that there was insurance cover.

Anne said she was hoping to arrange another Youth day in September.

5.4 **Climbing Walls.** It was noted that the Leeds University climbing wall had re-opened.

6. **National Council. (NC)**

6.1 **Report from last meeting** – papers circulated from the February & April meetings.

The following points were noted:-

February meeting

- NC had agreed to investigate the concept of an artificial boulder park in/around London and to direct a limited amount of financial support towards this

- 6.1 cont
- There was a discussion re the BMC's requirement that all clubs must declare and pay for all of their members and this was compared with the situation in Scotland where the Mountaineering Council of Scotland requires clubs to declare & pay for only their 'active' members. It had been agreed to refer the matter to the Clubs Committee.

April meeting

- It was noted that Mick Johnson had been elected as one of the 2 NC reps to the BMC Executive Committee.
- Following a discussion re future membership rates NC had agreed that 'the balance between individual & club levels is now about right'.

6.2 Matters for the next meeting

The Climbers Club Loan Request. It was noted that The Climbers Club (CC) had asked the BMC for a loan of £200,000 to assist them in the purchase of Grange Old School in Borrowdale – a property currently rented from the local Church. The term would be 10 years although it was envisaged that it would be repaid earlier. The BMC currently has significant cash reserves and it was suggested by the CC that this loan would therefore have little or no impact on the day to day running of the BMC and that it would provide a better return for the BMC than is currently being received on cash deposits.

There was much discussion about this and the following comments were made:-

- It is not the function of the BMC to lend in this way particularly to an organisation such as the Climbers Club which is a large powerful organisation with access to significant resources.
- If the BMC is to function as a bank it has to be fair to all and offer similar loan facilities to all clubs.
- Even if proposal were agreed the 2.5% rate shown in the possible repayment schedule is totally unacceptable. Rate needs to be a percentage above base rate and not fixed for the whole term.
- Short memories. What if the BMC needs the money before it's repaid?
- Would the BMC membership at large really appreciate the argument re returns on investment in the context of lending to a big, powerful, wealthy club so that it can buy a hut for the exclusive use of its members and guests only particularly when it can easily obtain finance elsewhere?
- Conflict of interest for the person doing both BMC & CC Treasurer roles.
- Conflict of interest for NC Members who are CC members & suggestion that they should absent themselves from the meeting while the matter is discussed & voted upon.
- The purchase of the Grange Hut would not benefit the BMC membership at large as access to CC huts is restricted to CC members and guests. This exclusivity is a major source of concern and even more so in the context of this loan application.

Mick Johnson & Deirdre Collier to report back to NC.

MJ &
DC

7. Clubs Issues.

Clubs Committee. The minutes of the February meeting were tabled.

Declaration of Members. The Clubs Committee had been asked by the BMC to comment upon the proposal to amend the procedures and allow affiliated clubs to declare only their active members and this would be discussed at its next meeting on 10 June. An email from Paul Exley, Area Clubs Committee Rep, regarding this & the associated FRCC Committee Meeting discussion was discussed & the following comments were made:-

- 7.1
- Proposal not supported.
 - Concerns re CL in event of any incident relating to an undeclared member
 - Comparison with Opt Out Option where at least there would have been CL cover for opted out individuals

The Meeting generally supported the views of the FRCC Committee as outlined in the email.

Deirdre Collier to let Paul Exley know the outcome of this discussion.

There were no other clubs issues raised.

DC

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

9. **Hillwalking.** Nothing raised.

10. **Any Other Business.**

The Froggatt to Black Rocks Guide. Jon Garside mentioned the BMC's new Froggatt Guide.

AGM – Chairman stepping down. David Campbell indicated his intention to step down from the role of Chairman to the Yorkshire Area Meeting and asked for volunteers to take over the role.

12. **Date of Next Meeting** Monday 20 September 2010 at 19.30 at the Dyneley Arms, Pool in Wharfedale.

There was no other business and the meeting closed at 21.20.