

BRITISH MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL

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Minutes of the BMC Yorkshire Local Area

Hill Walking Meeting

Held at 19.30 on Monday 24 April 2017 at
the Wheatley Arms, Ben Rhydding, Ilkley

Present:

Peter Roll	Individual	Angela Soper	Pinnacle Club, FRCC
Tony Maskill-Rogan	Individual	James Rowe	Leeds MC, CC
Carey Davies	BMC	Adrian Lockwood	CC
Dan Davis	Individual	Arthur Salmon	Yorkshire Ramblers C
Lindsay McMorran	Leeds MC	Ann Morse	YMC
Roger Gaynor	Individual	Laurie Morse	YMC
Michael Ainscough	Individual	Ian Hargreaves	Gritstone Club
Andy Syme	Individual	Pete Scott	Individual
Mark Allum	Dales National Park	Val Kerr	Individual
Nigel Baker	YMC	Helen Brayshaw	Individual
Deirdre Sanderson	Craven MC, CC, FRCC	Tim Brayshaw	Individual
Peter Sanderson	Craven MC, CC, FRCC	Roger Fox	Individual
Paul Clarke	FRCC	Janet Hatton	Individual
John Hunt	YMC		
Peter Roll	Individual		
Tony Maskill-Rogan	Individual		

- Welcome & Introductions:** Andy and Peter welcomed everyone to the meeting
- Andy Syme gave a quick informal update from the BMC AGM. The current President Rehan Siddiqui is to resign citing personal reasons. Andy also said that the no confidence motion was unsuccessful. For a more detailed report on the AGM please see the following article: <https://www.thebmc.co.uk/bombshell-at-bmc-agm>
- Carey Davies BMC Hill Walking Officer gave a presentation on the BMC Hill Walking Strategy, the work done from funds raised from the highly successful Mend Our Mountains fundraising initiative last year. He went onto provide a heads-up on Mend Our Mountains II initiative to raise £1 million over a year and to encourage outdoor enthusiasts to engage with hills, mountains and all 15 National Parks. Questions were asked about the overlap between the BMC Hillwalking and the Ramblers association. In many ways the 2 organizations do overlap and Carey mentioned that there is good cooperation between them. If there is any distinction it was that the BMC is the natural home for adventurous hill walkers.
- Mark Allum Head of Access and Engagement for the Yorkshire Dales National Park gave a presentation provocatively entitled 'Crowds – do we want them?' This concerned the challenge the Authority has to strike a balance of conserving the landscape and providing access for all. In particular, large scale events, these often introduce new people to the National Park but have an impact of the environment. He outlined that for large scale events to be successful, that the National park authority needed as much notice as possible.

Mark also touched on the demographics of National Park visitors, his concerns were that the majority were well-healed older age groups. There are successful activities that the Authority are involved in to attract a broader range of visitors but more could be done.

The attracting a more diverse and representative range of visitor is an area that the BMC should be actively involved in. The severe drop in those taking the Mountain Leader Training course was mentioned as a reason why younger age groups were not visiting the part. I was also asked if I knew of local areas that could be used for the wild camping as part of the ML training. Could the recently acquired Crookrise be used for this purpose? Transportation was also highlighted as an issue

Takeaways from the evening:

- If organizing large scales events in a national park inform them at the earliest possible opportunity.
- 2 hurdles to introducing a younger and more diverse population to the National Park are the apparent drop in qualified Mountain leaders. Transport and non-car access are also factors.
 - The BMC could be seen as in a good position to address these issues.

I would be keen to know if there are any projects the affiliated club and member are doing in these areas. In particular to talk to the member who ran the Bradford based charity that were finding particular problems, to see if we can help.

I would also like to know of wild-camping experiences in the Yorkshire area and beyond member have had regarding access. Where can Mountain Leader trainees go in the local area?

Peter Roll

Yorkshire Area Hill-walking Rep

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Tony Maskill-Rogan of Abbey Walks did a great presentation on the St. Bernard's Way, a 1,573km / 977 mile brand new long distance walking route from Rievaulx Abbey in Yorkshire to Citeaux near Dijon in France. Apologies to Tony for the technical problems.

More info can be found on the following website: <http://www.abbeywalks.co.uk/>