

NORTH EAST AREA COMMITTEE

Meeting

Meeting held on Thursday 7 September 2017, 7.00pm

Newcastle Climbing Centre, Newcastle

MINUTES

1. Welcome and Introduction

Jon Punshon welcomed everyone to the meeting

In attendance:

Jon Punshon	Chair / National Council
Simon Litchfield	Secretary
Franco Cookson	Access North
Chris Bullock	Youth
Mark Anstiss	Clubs / National Council
Paul Mitchison	Hillwalking

Simon Lee	BMC Commercial Partnerships Manager
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Steve Blake	Geoff Potts
Bob McAdam	Martin Ballantine
Sarah Hawker	Mark Oliver
Graham Harkness	John Herron
Philip Powell	+2
Jessica Wortley	
Denise Waugh	
20 in attendance	

2. Apologies and Absence

Mark Goodings	Walls	Steve Heiniger
Mike Conlon	Access South	

The death of Peter Hay was noted, with commiserations sent to the family. His contributions to the BMC, including 30 years as access representative, were valued. To be raised at NC as significant service may warrant a central response too.

3. Minutes of previous Meeting

Jon Punshon ran through the minutes from the previous meeting 8/06/2017. Accepted as true and fair.

4. Festival of Climbing

Formal thanks conveyed, including all the volunteers. Sense of welcoming was great, with visitors from as far afield as Spain.

Repeat. Proposed and seconded: agreement in principle: 2019 in the north.

5. Accidents in the county (Northumberland) – Updates

Re-advertise second event.

- Focus on student marketing prior to winter arrives.
- Funding still in place from BMC.

6. National Council Update / Matters to take to NC

- Most attention paid to governance review (See section 7)
- Still leftover sentiments from some members who led motion of no confidence.
- Funding (see sections 8)

MA asked whether members wanted him to take anything to NC re: section 8

7. Governance Review Update

- Governance review pushed prior to AGM
- Delayed prior to this meeting
- Online survey conducted re: governance
- Needs to meet legal requirements and also the guidelines of Sport England (20% funding from SE)
- Regular (monthly) updates available on BMC website
 - o SB commented that one challenge faced is online “commentary” vs. those people that take an active role e.g. attending meetings.
 - o MA noted the challenge of engaging with overall membership in thousands vs. just those who attend meetings and thereby give input.
- Outcomes will be voted on by member at AGM. As will board members.

8. Funding (Simon Lee)

Background Sport England report:

- There would be year on year decreases of funding
- Rebranding
- Commercial partnership funding

On his role

- Tried to attend meetings (many held on same night which is why he did not attend NE)
- Random poll online (6k responses 74% in favour)
- Voted on by NC (unanimous approval to go ahead with endorsement)
- Looking for 4 or 5 partnerships (ie not exclusive) which will bring in about the same funding as insurance c.a £200k, but without additional officer time)
- Looking at sponsors for climbing teams, competitions etc
- General examination of finances (e.g. VAT arrangements with HMRC, how to get full VAT reclaim, Giftaid etc)
 - o Member concerns about what happens to the BMC.
 - Sustainability? Is it really desirable for BMC to expand in Sheffield?
 - How commercial does the BMC desire to be.
 - MA reported that the role and nature of the BMC is being discussed.
 - o Franco enquired whether Summit could be digitised to save costs?

- Almost certainly in 15 years, that is the direction, but Summit remains an important member communication tool
- JP enquired about the risk in terms of other retailers
 - Blacks, Field & Trek, etc part of Mike Ashley empire etc.
- Decision making process questions
 - Mark Anstiss noted that the NE concerns were in a minority (1 of 9 areas)
 - Policy voted on at NC. Terms of reference agreed by NC. Resounding agreement at NC.
 - The best partnerships put to Exec after NC, they voted on it

Cotswolds Retail Partnership

Cotswolds have a dept dedicated to it as they do it with Scouts and DOE.

- 20% in first month, 15% thereafter
- Significant volunteers get 20%
- Offers prior to Christmas etc

Sport England has not paid BMC since April (will not pay until progress with Governance Review).

9. Co-ordinators reports

Access North

- RAD up to date
- No bird bans
- Heckley still an (non-)issue.
 - SB reports that farmer's son is a climber, who has not issue. But the shooting access is the land owner. Sensibly climb out of shooting season.

Access South

- See report appended

Youth

- See youth report (appended).
- Appeals for the Walls to work together
 - E.g. Youth Open – e.g. bouldering one day, rope on the next.
 - Need to talk to Mark Goodings

Walls

- See wall report (appended)
- Steve Blake: suggest Newton Aycliffe may reopen.

Hill walking

- Steve Blake – Local Access forum in National Park, will look to get BMC rep.

Clubs

- 21st Sept next meeting in Cttee Manchester, any club member can attend
- Clubs seminar is yearly on the same weekend as the AGM.
- Report appended

10. AOB

Hold stabilisation at Bowden

- Dan Varian has been doing some repair work (e.g. the crack) and wanted to raise the issue to see whether there is any collaboration worth doing.
 - o Superglue works well
 - o Is advocating using less aggressive shoes
- Steve Blake: reports collaboration with southern sandstone group
 - o Would recommend 50% pva
 - o Many climbs stabilised (e.g. Vienna)
 - o Superglue only relevant to very small area
 - o **Could the BMC provide funding for large volume of stabiliser?**
- **Probably worth a BMC guide similar to the "how to bolt" guide / possibly an issue for Dan in Head Office**
 - o Do not get on the rope

Increasing Participation

- Low numbers and low number of female representation.
- 26% member are female, 10-15% at meetings
- 24% chairs / secs are female
- 12% NC members are female
- More cake needed
- Possibly more events.
- Disseminate info earlier.

11. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Thursday 27th November, 19:00, Durham

Appendix

Clubs update

Thank you to all those clubs that promoted the recent Organisational Review survey to their members. There was over 5,000 responses in total, including a good spread from club members.

If any North East club members are in Manchester on Thursday, 21st September, they are invited to attend the next Clubs Committee meeting at the BMC office in the evening to hear what we're doing, contribute, etc.

Feedback on what North East clubs would you like to see provided in the annual clubs seminar (planned to run during the BMC AGM weekend in the Lake District on 27th – 29th April 2018.) is invited, and of course North East club members are encouraged to attend.

After the successful training session for club committee officers, held near London earlier this year, we will also be putting on a training session at the BMC offices in Manchester on 3rd December. So if you feel that you or any of your committee members could benefit from some training, keep the date available. We will put out more information shortly.

Mark Anstiss