

BRITISH MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL

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Minutes of the 219th Yorkshire Area Meeting Held at 19.30 on Monday 27 November 2017 at the Wheatley Arms, Ben Rhydding, Ilkley

Present:

Sarah Sharps	BMC Yorkshire Area Secretary, Leeds MC	Keith Sanders	CC
Lindsay McMorrان	BMC Climbing Walls Rep, Leeds MC	Steve Scott	CC
Andy Syme	BMC Yorkshire Area Chair	Sara Hayes	FRCC, Leeds MC
Mick Green	Gritstone Club & CC	Laurie Morse	YMC
Angela Soper	Pinnacle Club & FRCC	Ann Morse	YMC
John Mortimer	Vibram MC	Simon Worsnop	Individual
John Nightingale	Leeds MC	Martin Nash	Individual
Peri Stracchino	York Alpine Club	Richard Connors	Individual
Paul Clarke	Fell and Rock CC	Kim Buck	Individual
Peter Barrans	Gritstone Club	Ken Suggett	Individual
Fiona Sanders	BMC Clubs Committee & Org Group	Bob Lark	Individual
Chris Martin	Merseyside MC/ The Alpine Club	Jim Hulbert	Individual
Peter Roll	BMC Yorkshire Area Hill Walking Rep	Andrew Thorpe	Individual
Mick Borroff	Yorkshire Ramblers Club	James Tate	Individual
Dave Turnbull	BMC CEO	Adrian Dixon	Individual
Paul Exley	FRCC Leeds MC	Steven Thomas	Individual
Gordon Coventry	Hill and Mountain Walking Club	Peter Scott	Individual
David Campbell	YMC, CC	Tim Stubley	Individual

1. **Welcome & Introductions:** Andy Syme welcomed all to the meeting
2. **Apologies for Absence:** Apologies were received from Deirdre and Peter Sanderson and Beverly Jowett
3. **Minutes of the last meeting:** An incomplete set of minutes were emailed to members, SS apologised and stated the minutes on the BMC website were correct.
4. **Matters Arising not covered elsewhere:** None.
5. **Co-ordinators' Reports**
 - 5.1. **Gritstone: Access & Conservation:** Mick stated as per report attached to agenda:
New notices now provided for owner of Almscliffe re: litter, lamping and drones as well as some re: parking.
Farmer has complained of damage to the wall up to the crag from people using it instead of getting muddy feet.
Whitehouses boulder – has found the owner, access issues still ongoing. The farmer does not want any climbing on this at the current time
Hawkcliffe has a change of owner and issues may arise.
Crookrise is a work in progress re: surveying and a potential Open Day in 2018.
Brimham - concerns were raised re loose rock above Lovers Leap Chimney – Mick has inspected and can see no problem and has advised the Army to not use the chimney if they are concerned. Paul Clarke and friends are busy compiling a comprehensive bouldering guide to Brimham Rocks which will be an excellent addition to climbing there.
 - 5.2. **Limestone: Access & conservation:** Nigel had nothing to report.
 - 5.3. **Youth.** Nothing to report

5.4. **Climbing Walls.** Lindsay McMorran reported there was a Wideboyz Crack School On 6th January; Pete Whittaker and Tom Randall aka the Wideboyz are running three 90 minute crack climbing courses at the Depot, Leeds (10:30am, 12:30pm and 3pm starts). The course can be booked via the depot website and costs £37.

Harrogate climbing centre recently set up the IFSC official 10 m speed climbing route for anyone who is either curious or has decided to train for the Olympics. Current records on the leaderboard stand at 6.43s for males and 10.55s for females.

Winter Climbing Competitions - Gritstone bouldering season is upon us, but when the weather is not co-operating, you can find the usual winter bouldering leagues at City Bloc, the Depot, Rukt, The Climbing Lab, Harrogate CC and Huddersfield CC. Leeds wall have also done a full reset of their main wall.

The Climbing Lab are hosting a Christmas social on Wednesday 13th December. There will be mulled wine, mince pies, a campus competition (free climb if you get to the top), zlagboard competition and all for the price of your normal entry fee. Additionally, the wearer of the best bad Christmas jumper will find themselves with a 1 month climbing pass. Turn up at any time on the day, student discount applies as normal for Wednesday climbing.

5.5. **Clubs.** Pete Barrans reported he has attended two meetings of Clubs Committees in September and November and issued introductory email to 18 club contacts asking for confirmation that the email was to the correct person and asking for a second contact – 6 responses. Would other clubs respond please. Email also summarised salient points from October meeting.

Main issues: All members and clubs are being asked to respond to ORG report by 22 December 2017. Revised Data Protection regulations coming into force in May next year (GDPR). Guidance will be issued in due course by BMC. Clubs seminar being arranged to coincide with AGM.

6. **Hillwalking.** Peter Roll reported:

Hill Walking in Summit and BMC media.

- Having previously met with chief exec. Dave T. and president Nick K. to discuss media share and having received their assurance that BMC Exec. is indeed committed to honouring Nat. Council's wish that Summit devotes around 25% of its coverage to matters of direct interest to hill walkers (averaged over a year), the Hill Walking Implementation Group (HWIG) has continued to press our case by meeting with Alex Messenger (BMC head of marketing and comms). We received assurances that Summit is viewed as an 'all mountain' magazine that aims to be of interest across the whole spectrum. We in turn emphasised the importance of the 25% hill walking coverage promised and pointed out our view that eye-catching imagery is as important as editorial text. We look forward to improvements in future issues and intend to keep a close eye on balance.
- You are invited to submit ideas for future articles of interest to hill walkers: do you have any good ideas (the HWIG has already offered theirs)? For example, perhaps you know of someone who has done an interesting mountain journey/trek, in some little travelled or less well known mountainous region, with a good story to tell? Or maybe you know of a controversial landscape 'hot topic' that is worth exploring and discussing in a future article? And for imagery, do you know anyone who takes stupendous landscape / hill walking photos that are also of the highest technical standard? And so on... If so please let Carey know. He will first-filter any suggestions and forward those with promise to the Summit editorial team.
- At the time of writing Sport England are still withholding funding from the BMC and the Organisational Review Group report is not yet out (though due in less than a week). These two issues have made it impossible for us to move forward with some of the more ambitious parts of our Strategic Plan for Hill Walking (SPFHW) so far. However the HWIG did take the opportunity to place three suggestions for change to a recent BMC Exec. meeting, two of which, I'm pleased to report, received an immediate thumbs up. These are discussed below.

A weekend get-together in 2018 for BMC Hill Walking Reps and others interested in volunteering in this area.

- You will remember that I mentioned this idea in my last email and so a big thankyou to everyone for filling out the questionnaire I sent round at the same time.
- The results are summarised as follows.

Everyone welcomed the idea of a get-together in principle, a 2-day weekend event being the most popular choice, most responders would prefer such an event to be held in winter (with spring or summer being next most popular) and everyone would consider travelling to such an event if held in The Lakes or The Peak District, with almost everyone also prepared to go to N. Wales too. The HWIG put a proposal for such an event to exec., using these results as supporting evidence. I'm pleased to report it received their approval. As well as aiming to support our existing hill walking rep.s, it is likely any such event will also be used to recruit and equip more hill walking volunteers for a wider range of hill walking related roles and also to tell people more about the public campaign phase of Mend-our-Mountains, Make-a-Million (that will launch to the public in March/April '18). So it is now over to the BMC officers to make such an event a reality.

Linking recruitment of more Hill Walker members with the second Mend-our-Mountains campaign.

- Our second accepted suggestion to Exec. centred around the linking of member recruitment to the second Mend-our-Mountains campaign (due to launch to corporate sponsors next week). We see MoM2 as an important opportunity to impress upon the wider hill walking public, though the extensive publicity likely to be generated, that the BMC really is engaged with matters of concern to them. The HWIG hopes to meet again in December. On that occasion we hope to have Dave T. in attendance with the aim of discovering just what plans BMC Exec. themselves might have for taking our SPFHW forward in general and more specifically to discuss planning for the recruitment of more hill walking members, particularly on the back of MoM2. This is of particular importance just now given that the BMC is seeking to grow membership income in order to become more financially independent and of course hill walking offers the largest pool of potential new recruits. Let's hope this important opportunity is not missed.

And finally...

- The HWIG have a number of other matters under discussion for the longer term (including looking at how we might engage more with those who are doing / have done the Gold level D of E award, the possibility of holding some high-profile public debates on hot-topics of interest to hill walkers and how the BMC might be more visible when attempting to influence policy makers when as they form legislation that is likely to have an impact on our uplands in such a way as to be of concern to hill walkers) more about these in future emails.
- But for the time being, do please keep in touch and especially do please let me know of any activities you have been involved in as an Area rep. in your own Areas.

7. National Council

- 7.1. Report from Dec NC Meeting –** The primary discussion related to the Modernisation of BMC governance, which is covered in some detail elsewhere in the agenda. IFSC and the UIAA are open to the creation of a memorandum of understanding between the two organisations.
- BMC representation on Mountain training England - There are two proposals that the BMC reduces its number of voting members from four to one at MTE; and that the observer status of MTE and MTC (on National Council) be replaced with Mountain Training having observer status (a reduction of attendees from two to one). Additionally it was proposed that MTUK, MTE and MTC become National Council paper members. The national council were in favour but considered broader consultation via the Nov area meetings to be important. See 1 page note from BMC.
 - Sport England funding - No funding since 1st April 2017. Interim funding received but no decision re the next period until Dec.
 - The commercial partnerships programme is starting to yield results, with a major partnership with Cotswold Outdoor / Snow+Rock having recently been announced,
 - Mend our Mountains continues to progress, with a soft launch of the next stage in Oct.
 - 2018 AGM in Lake District
 - Lots of specific area items discussed from bracken in the Lakes to the usual access issues. Request items from Yorkshire to go to national council.

7.2. Matters for the next meeting: postponed to next meeting due to Org Review Presentation

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

9. **Any Other Business.** None

10. **Org Review Presentation**

11. **Date of Next Meeting:** 5 Feb at Leeds Wall

Following the meeting there was a talk from James McHaffie.