

BRITISH MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL

177-179 Burton Road
Manchester M20 2BB
www.thebmc.co.uk

Tel: 0161 445 6111
Fax: 0161 445 4500
e-mail: office@thebmc.co.uk

Minutes of the 220th Yorkshire Area Meeting Held at 19.30 on Monday 5 February 2018 at the Leeds Wall, Geldard Road, Leeds.

Present:

Sarah Sharps	BMC Yorkshire Area Secretary, Leeds MC	Arthur Salmon	Yorkshire Ramblers
Andy Syme	BMC Yorkshire Area Chair	Iain McKenna	Individual
Rob Dyer	BMC Access Officer	Dan Hedges	Individual
Peter Barrans	BMC Yorkshire Area Clubs Rep	Steven Thomas	Individual
Mick Green	National Council Rep, Gritstone Club & CC	Ali Wood	Climbers Club
Peter Roll	BMC Yorkshire Area Hill walking rep	Beverly Jowett	Individual
David Farrell	BMC Yorkshire Area Youth Indoor Rep	Dave Falcus	Individual
Karl Harrison	LMC	Debbie Walpole	Individual
Paul Clarke	FRCC	John Nightingale	LMC
Jim Hulbert	Individual	Adrian Lockwood	Individual
Dave Musgrove	BMC Access Management Group		

1. **Welcome & Introductions:** Andy Syme welcomed all to the meeting
2. **Apologies for Absence:** Apologies were received from Angela Soper, Deidre Sanderson, Will Hunt, Nigel Baker
3. **Minutes of the last meeting:** Dave Farrar happy to continue as Youth indoor rep - proposer Paul Clarke, seconder Bev Jowett.
4. **Matters Arising not covered elsewhere:** none.
5. **Co-ordinators' Reports**

5.1. **Gritstone: Access & Conservation:**

Brimham - passive cows to be placed on Brimham Moor away from the climbing area. A major fence will be erected to keep cattle in but stiles and gates will be placed. Cows graze differently to sheep, so conservation should be preserved. Ranger seems keen to work with us. Trees around boulders to be taken down - this needs discussion with ranger. Area had no objections with cattle plans. Paul Clarke proposed, Adrian Lockwood seconded, unanimous vote positive.

Crookrise - Survey of lower boundary done and surveying pins have been left in which means we can clear out the area easier. Access have a meeting there next Monday. Trees will be marked to be removed. Access will also discover which boulders are on our land and which aren't by speaking to the neighbouring landowner. Rob Dyer had a meeting with Bolton Abbey estate re: the barbed wire at the top of the wall. We have been told we must keep this livestock proof but hopefully we can get it moved to the top of the wall. It was queried if it was possible to also put in a stile lower down and it was said it will be looked at on Monday.

Barden Moor: Agreement terminates when Yorkshire Dales National Park says so. However it would not make much difference to climbers, as only 2 days difference between current agreement and CROW access rules (landowners can shut off access for up to 28 days a year).

Flasby Fell - some climbers littered with pellets - asked YDNP for advice. Look CLA website for access rights for shooting, there must be signage. Hopefully this was a one off, please report if anything else happens.

Whitehouses - someone has put a 'do not climb' sign on the crag and smashed all the start holds off the boulder. Not sure who has done this, Mick Green was in contact with the tenant farmer and the landowner. The landowner is happy with climbers using the area. Mick is back next weekend and will

investigate. Our collective behaviour has caused this destruction and it is too late to get it back now. Unfortunately it is a wider problem, has happened all over the country. Landowners get nothing from us being there, it is up to us to be on our best behaviour to keep access. Could easily happen elsewhere in our area and we must police this ourselves. The BMC has an app for access information - The Regional Access Database or RAD app - with all crags access information. It was mentioned that there were also issues with Kilnsey access - Bev Jowett said that her husband knows the landowner and will speak with them and Rob Dyer re: signage. Clarity is needed as to where to park - if a map was available with it clearly marked out this would be very useful. It would be worth getting more prolific climbers to talk about this online. Rob Dyer is planning an article on parking at crags.

5.2. **Limestone: Access & conservation:** Nothing to report

5.3. **Youth.** Dave Farrar report that we are in the middle of youth climbing series, last one was Huddersfield Wall and around 75 kids attended. Next one is 3rd March at Leeds Wall - they have 3 routes and 3 boulders to climb and those older than 10 are leading.

5.4. **Climbing Walls.** Lindsay McMorran did not attend but emailed information: All the usual winter bouldering comps are ongoing. The depot Leeds have recently started Rock Tots (1-4 years) and Rock Kids (4-7 years) sessions on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday mornings and are reasonably flexible about the age boundary to accommodate families with two kids. Each adult can supervise two kids in the centre including babies so it's really family friendly. Info on times and how to book can be found on their website.

5.5. **Clubs.** Pete Barrans asked clubs to get in touch if any issues - no response. On the 16th March there is a training for clubs meeting, about how to run a club etc. in Gloucestershire. Will be another one run at June AGM. GDPR - articles on BMC website but needs more guidance. Hut survey to be reported on at June AGM. Clubs and diversity was mentioned and it was queried how do you implement it.

6. **Hillwalking.** Peter Roll – Mend our Mountains is ongoing, see BMC site for further details. Issue with access to a stile, it was locked with a padlock and chain on Addingham Moor. It was queried if it was a new shooting syndicate however nothing has been logged. Potential hillwalking meeting in April, must wait for NC meeting to see what further information needs discussion re: ORG review.

7. **National Council**

7.1. **Report from December Meeting.** No comments

7.2. **Matters for the next meeting:**

7.2.1. **Item 5.1 - Org report and implementation.** Feedback from second survey - updated 2nd of March. Will agree principles at AGM, there will be another meeting in November. Looking at electronic voting system - not sure if possible. Need to take to AGM in June to be voted on in November meeting.

Area comments: There doesn't seem to be a clear channel to board of directors. Why are there so many independents and non-execs. Seems there are no enough 'do-ers', wrong total. Concern about clarity of roles - what responsibilities do the independents have? Is it too big, should we start smaller? Seems to be a lot of corporate roles. Members assembly should be running this, to set the direction and execs should then be responsible for delivering this. Cost, there is no mention of cost, how will it be paid for? Is there a cost benefit analysis? Online voting - area all in favour, 1 abstention. Paul Clarke proposed, Jim Hulbert seconded. Area would like costing and timescale for November meeting. Peter Barrans proposed, Mick Green seconded. All agree none opposed.

It was mentioned that ORG group will stop after this review and the council will take over. 5000 members responded to survey out of 86,000 members which was double what they expected.

- 7.2.2. **Item 6.1 BMC representation on mountain training boards** – There are 4 BMC members on the England board and only 1 for Wales – plan is to drop it down to 1 on each, area voted 8 for 0 against 10 abstained. Area in favour.
- 7.2.3. **Item 6.3 – Subscription issues** - Concession rates for younger members, those under 18. Seniors could also get a lower rate, reducing insurance cost by opting out of climbing. Student rate, but club member means already BMC member. BMC is looking at membership perks upheaval. Kids already get discounts on competitions. It was questioned whether we could give clubs the option to opt non-climbers out. Area feels younger members concession rate is a good idea and a general review of subscriptions.

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

9. **Any Other Business.** GDPR - Karl Harrison stated there were no template policies and the legislation comes in in May - need guidance on this as soon as possible.

10. **Date of Next Meeting:** 16th April at Wheatley Arms.