

MINUTES

NORTH EAST AREA COMMITTEE and AGM Meeting

Thursday 29th November 2018

7:00pm. Newcastle Climbing Centre, Newcastle.

1. Welcome and Introduction

Mark Anstiss welcomed everyone to the meeting

In attendance

Mark Anstiss	Chair / National council
Simon Litchfield	Secretary
Chris Bullock	Youth
Mike Conlon	Access South
Franco Cookson	Access North
Jon Punshon	National Council

Steve Blake

Kev Burn

Nigel Choppin

Mark Dack

Stephen Dack

Mike Facchini

Graeme Harkness

Sarah Hawker

20 in attendance

John Herron

Bob McAdam

Philip Powell

Jon Spencer

David Williams

Nick Colton BMC Officer

2. Apologies and Absence

Mark Goodings

Steve Heiniger

Alan Hinkes

Paul Mitchinson

Peter Simcock

3. Minutes of previous Meeting

Mark Anstiss ran through the minutes from the previous meeting 06/09/2018.

One amendment: p.3 Franco saw the merits of arguments on both sides. Otherwise accepted as fair and true.

4. Matters arising / Actions

- *Newcastle upon Climb*

Constructive meetings and dialogue have taken place.

They decided not to affiliate with the BMC, but contacts have been made and established.

- *BMC should establish an idiot's guide to how the Olympics will be scored.*

The office likely to do it once the exact system has been announced.

- *Have we received monies from Sport England?*

No, they are dependent on certain KPIs being agreed but expectation that they will be received.

Some pathway funding has been received already.

- *Festival of climbing (see section below)*
- *Youth Meet (see section below)*

5. Scheduling talks during meetings

- November's talk cancelled owing to an issue with rooms in the climbing centre
- Suggested that it should take place afterwards the meeting
- Arguments raised on both sides (ie pre- and post- meeting) and where the focus of the whole evening should be.
- Compromise: time dictated by speaker.

6. Report from National Council

MA presented a report from NC

- BMC position worded in relation to Olympic sport climbing
- BMC expects to meet its budget
- 85,000k members
- AGM 31st March 2019 in Buxton

Documents relating to the Strategic Planning Process for the next three years can be found on BMC website

ODG Work

- New Chairman of the Board of the BMC : Gareth Pierce
- Proposed plan for strategic review circulated (also available online)
- BMC to have a subsidiary for Wales / Sport Climbing subsidiary. Work beginning on this.
- Looking at further membership engagement. E.g social media, polls etc. Initial meetings taking place to discuss ideas.

7. Festival of Walking and Climbing

- Cash to be received from BMC
- Facebook page created

8. Youth Climbing Meet / Youth Report

Youth Meet

- Chris Bullock arranged for 11/12th May.
- James McHaffie coming up to be part of it
- Same date as other festival so will coordinate both (so as augment).
- Wooler Youth Hostel will provide accommodation.

Youth Report / Competitions

- CB presented on future events and changes including comps: 2 in Yorkshire and 2 in NE
- New training scheme – 'Indoor Climbing Assistant' for 16+ youth. One event to be run in NE.
 - o Not a climbing instructor qualification but one for people interested in being an assistant of a climbing instructor.

9. Other events

Nick Colton enquired whether a safeguarding course would be of interest? If you get 20 people an event could be run. Sports Coach UK national even. 3 hour event and certificated for attendees.

- Meeting asked to enquire with members
- Add it to advert for next meeting.

10. Co-ordinators Reports

Access North

Steve Blake

- Stabiliser funded by the BMC used on northern sandstone crags
- BMC funded stakes for Spittal

Access South

Mike Conlon

- Redmire Quarry / Thornybank Hill. In Yorkshire area
 - o Still technically a working quarry. Rob Dyer – little leeway on its status
- Masham Moor (also Yorkshire). Ashhead Crag. Climber reported being aggressively approached by a gamekeeper. Rob Dyer – should be reported to police, which will establish a body of evidence.
- Clemmitts. Land manager has changed, stalling progress.
 - o Speculated that there is increasing tension on grouse moors?

Steve Blake questioned about whether any notices were posted by gamekeepers on the days of the incident (as gamekeepers may add restrictions for up to 28 day p.a.).

- Rockfall reported at Highcliff Nab
- CMC Work Meet – Scugdale remedial work undertaken.

Hillwalking

- See report appended

Clubs

- Still no Clubs' Officer. Would welcome a volunteer, especially one with IT services for BMC purposes.

Walls

- Post still vacant.

11. Awards

Nominations welcomed for:

- George Band Award
- Rohan Siddiqi Award
- Young Volunteer of the Year Award

12. AOB

Graham Harness presented on the Honister Zipwire

- Local planning committee approved despite planners recommending not. Friends of the Lake District have objected and asked for it to be reviewed by the Secretary of State on the basis of the Sandford Principle.
- FRCC supported the Friends of the Lake District by also submitting a letter to the Secretary of State.

Question to Nick Colton by GH: Could the BMC support the objection in a similar manner?

NC to speak to Access Officer and Fiona Sanders / Mike Parson (to seek the view of the Lakes area).

- Steve Blake: Hazard MOD jets stopped Thirlmere zipwire
- Jon Punshon: it is worth considering that Honister is not “unspoilt” with working mines compared to other areas in the Lakes.
- 2 issues:
 - o Whether the planning committee has overstepped their authority.

- The emotional issue of development in the Lakes

North East Bolts: Jon Punshon presented.

- Suggested actively seeking a bolted venue in the North East.
- Rock climbing instructors have to visit a sport climbing venue to qualify and venues are far afield.
- Pressures from indoor to out transition.

Stanhope Dene mentioned

- Questions about rock quality
- Access?

Steve Blake counter-argument

- Rothbury Quarry not on access land. Currently no problem with few low impact visits.
- Access land bolting – is this malicious damage?
- From experience, is there a quarry with easy routes?

Franco Cookson: Haughton Graveyard?

- JP: Friends of Haughton Graveyard wouldn't want greater visitor numbers but may countenance some improvements to bolts

FC: Roseberry Topping? Whitestone Cliff? Off the main crag

- Mike Conlon: bolting Whitestone Cliff would upset many.
- FC: For clarification not suggesting the main crag at Whitestone Cliff.

JP Question raised as a partly theoretical exercise, for which there is possibly no answer

Graham Harkness: responsibility for bolt maintenance?

- Nick Colton: Use at your own risk.

13. Election of Officers

Chair:	Mark Anstiss
Secretary:	Simon Litchfield
National Council	Mark Anstiss / John Punshon
Youth	Vacant (though Chris Bullock will continue to be a rep)
Hillwalking	Paul Mitchinson
Access North	Steve Blake / Franco Cookson
Access South	Mike Conlon
Walls & Clubs	Vacant
Votes all unanimous	

14. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Thursday 31st January 2019, 19:00, Durham Climbing Centre

Hillwalking Coordinators Report November 2018

A good bit of **Mend our Mountains news**. The crowdfunding phase came to an end at the start of the month and the money raised via that route exceeded the amount raised via the same route last time, which is excellent news. Even better, the whole campaign has now reached an amazing £565,000. All this to help repair and make robust some of our most used (abused?) upland footpaths plus protect their fragile surroundings allowing them to recover. Huge credit goes to Carey and Inigo who have worked so hard and done so much to make a success of the campaign so far. And it's not over yet, still a few months to go (so do encourage folks to chip in via <https://mendmountains.thebmc.co.uk>) and if you have an idea to fund raise yourself, go for it!

It appears that with the resumption of Sport England funding it's **quite possible that the BMC will appoint a new officer** likely to be responsible for developing Partnerships that lead to activities/events with some other organisations. I understand that their roles may well have a significant hill walking focus. This should hopefully lead to exploration of mutually beneficial new relationships with organisations that might include National Trust, Duke of Edinburgh Awards Scheme, YHA, Forestry Commission perhaps. (This would contribute usefully towards our Strategic Plan for Hill Walking's theme 2 "Understanding Hill Walking's Popularity" and theme 6 "Develop an active and welcoming community").

The first **Hill Walking Symposium** took place on 24th/25th Nov. There was an excellent programme of activities including hearing about all that's been going on within the BMC for hill walkers recently, workshops, inspiring speakers and some excellent walks to interesting places, plus an important opportunity to discuss where next in the campaign for improved access for hill walking. The new president also came along for part of the weekend. Around 50 people attended.

The government has initiated a **review of National Parks and Designated Landscapes** (<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/national-parks-review-launched>) known by some as the Glover Review. Of course most of our favourite upland hill walking areas are (or should be) part of such places, so this matters for us. The BMC Access Officer for Policy Dr Cath Flitcroft is presently working toward forming the BMC's response to the review's consultation phase. If you have thoughts about our parks, which landscapes should be part of them, how they are (or should be) run and so on then do please get in touch.

Are any members interested in having a social walk (and a beer) over Xmas/New Year? If so, get in touch and we'll organize something.

BMC North East Area Committee
Newcastle Climbing Centre
29th November 2018

Youth Report

- Youth Climbing Series 2019

Youth Climbing Series starts in January, there is a change to the format this year with four regional rounds; 2 x Bouldering and 2 x Roped with the National Final taking place over two days.

Registration is now open on the BMC web site.

Our region; the North East & Yorkshire, rounds will be held at

Round 1: The Depot Climbing Centre,	Leeds	(Boulder)
Round 2: ROF 59,	Newton Aycliffe	(Roped)
Round 3: The Valley Bouldering Centre,	Newcastle	(Boulder)
Round 4: The Big Depot Climbing Centre,	Leeds	(Roped)

- Northumberland Youth Climbing Meet

The BMC have agreed to hold a Youth Climbing Meet in Northumberland in May. This will be based at Wooler Youth Hostel and is open to 11 to 17 Year olds.

The dates 11th and 12th May, clash with the Festival of Walking and Climbing at Chollerford however, a way round this is to advertise this as the youth part of the festival, with the kids at Wooler and the Adults at Chollerford.

- Indoor Climbing Assistant

Mountain Training are launching a new program called Indoor Climbing Assistant. Open to people 16+ it's aimed at teachers, scout leaders, youth worker, parents, volunteers, etc, who are keen to assist in the delivery of indoor climbing. Registration for this will be open in January and we already have keen interest from our group to take part. The North East course will be run by Jon Chamberlin's Adventure Training North East.

- Climbing Fundamentals

Following on from the successful BMC foundation coaching course for young people we organised at Climb Newcastle we are holding a number on Climbing Fundamentals courses for young people throughout 2019. These will be run by Andy Swann 's Climb for Life at a number of North East venues.