

MINUTES

NORTH EAST AREA COMMITTEE

Meeting

Thursday 31st January 2019

7:00pm. Durham Climbing Centre, Durham.

1. Welcome and Introduction

Mark Anstiss welcomed everyone to the meeting

In attendance

Mark Anstiss	Chair / National council
Simon Litchfield	Secretary
Jon Punshon	National Council
Chris Bullock	Youth

Steve Blake

Joanne Boyd

Matthew Breadin (ROF59 Climbing Centre)

Nick Caisley

Richard Davies

Mike Facchini

Bob McAdam

McKenna

Paul Mitchinson

Caitriona Veide

Simon Wilson (North Pennines ANOB)

David Williams

2. Apologies and Absence

Mike Conlon

Franco Cookson

Steve Heiniger

Alan Hinkes

Access South

Access North

Mark Goodings

Jon Herron

Nigel Choppin

3. Minutes of previous Meeting

Mark Anstiss ran through the minutes from the previous meeting 31/11/2018.

One amendment: Chris Bullock is the youth rep, the AYC post is vacant.

Otherwise accepted as fair and true.

4. Simon Wilson AONB Report

SW presented a slideshow on Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), including:

- History, size, access role, improvements (e.g. 9 Standards, Pennine Way etc), literature (incl. self-guided walks), venues (incl. climbing, skiing, cycling, horse riding).
- What they don't have (Wild Camping, Full climbing list, circular long distance route, self-guided running routes).

BMC representative is invited to join Access and Recreation working group. Currently, there are occasional spurs of activity involving the BMC. The BMC has an access and conservation group. Opportunity formalise links

North Pennines AONB would be keen to be part of Mend Our Mountains

NB. Holwick Scars now open. ClimbOnline needs updating. MA to contact Steve Crowe.

Mike Facchini – are there landowner tensions?

SW Occasionally, mostly with landowners with rights of way, however, it is occasional.

Mike Facchini – Shooting estate conflicts?

SW Most entering into estate agreements with management plans.

MA: SW formally thanked for his contribution

5. Reports from National Council / ODG

On Honister NC voted for the BMC to write to the National Park Authority against the decision. National Park Authority won't make a decision until the Secretary of State has made a decision:

Last NC mostly concerned with governance. Interviews next week for 3 Nominated Directors to sit on the Board.

Sport England funding essentially in place

Work on the reconstitution of National Council continues (noted that the role of NC changed at the last AGM a large part of their new role is to hold the Board to account on behalf of members and could be thought of as them acting "as a critical friend" to the Board). Details of representation of members being discussed. Working paper on the ODG website.

Proposal Paper from Lynn Robinson for a BMC Deputy President

- 3 options highlighted (see report appended)

Not intended as a successor (or vice president), it is there for cases where the President is elsewhere (e.g. on a climbing trip), or otherwise indisposed (e.g. ill health)

MA – Advice from ODG is that option c is not simply not practical for implementation, given the proximity of the AGM and the time required for notice of business and candidates, and the updates to the draft Articles that would be required

Steve Blake Would be happy for the Council to make a choice, but this could rile the members who see a democratic deficit if the council makes an appointment. "Rock and hard place".

Chris Bullock The question of "who cares"? can be raised, when they cannot send anyone to the North East meeting (again).

MA The election of a Deputy also risks being seen as electing an assumed successor.

Mike Facchini Could help if the term was time limited.

SB Might help if we get a vote to support the principle of the Council selecting a Deputy.

Jon Punshon Need to break the perception of VPs being the President's mates. Perhaps better to have some temporary stand-ins and wait for a year.

Mark Anstiss There needs to be someone there, in case there is an issue. However, such scenarios have been a rare occurrence historically

Jon Punshon The BMC have been accused of rushing things in recent years.

A vote was taken

- a) Do nothing (No votes)
- b) Interim VP between 2019 and 2020 AGM, elected from within NC limited for 1 year. (7 in favour) (0 Against) (5 Abstentions)
- c) To be voted by members at AGM (0 in favour)

NC (Interim State) Terms of Reference

See document appended.

Memorandum of Understanding

See document appended

6. Festival of Walking and Climbing

Progress being made, communications, advertising to stepped up in the run up to 11^{-12th} May

7. Youth Climbing Meet / Youth Report

Fully organised. Numbers building. Still available.

- Should be advertised at YCS.
- DCC will advertise
- James McHaffie the main contact in Head Office

8. Youth Report / Youth Climbing Series

See report attached

Chris Bullock reports:

- Change goes against many years of existing practice
- Adding links to update existing pages (makes the assumption people will re-read a page).
- People upset about the tone of BMC response (Nick Colton only respondent to acknowledge that things could be done better and it would contribute to a review)
 - o Rumour that 108 children missed out on our only grass route competition.
- BMC should follow rules of IFSC on entry deadlines.
- Fewer parental volunteers at the comps as a result.
 - o And who checks the volunteer credentials?
- No financial gain for walls (ie the demand for two wall setters whose rate exceeds the take)
- Where does the entry fee money go?

MA:

- Believes that the BMC subsidizes. Will ask for the breakdown.
- Previous rule bending upset (hence the decision to firm up).

Caitriona Veide (who has sent Nick Colton a long email):

- The date was suboptimal.
- NE feeling marginalised.
 - o Region changes (without consultation): too large and no integration.

MA: In terms of communication, how many parents are BMC members? ie. trying to get a sense of how to communicate with non-members.

CV - Don't know

MA - Is there a limit on the number of Youth Coordinators? As Yorkshire has two and the North East is vacant.

Summary Main Issues

- 1) Tone in response of BMC to representations made by parents
- 2) Communication (how is this best done i.e. which channels, but this may self-rectify in light of recent events)
- 3) Slicker admin (fewer mistakes, i.e. no trophy mistakes, no changes without consultation etc).

Caitriona Veide reported on behalf of a young para climber who has won a number of para-climbing series events.

- No or contradictory BMC support
- Have put barriers in terms of getting classification
- Bad advice – told to go to France at their own expense for classification and on arrival was turned down.

9. Subs

Paper appended

- 2009 – 14 (no increase)
- There has been a very significant claim on the 3rd Party liability insurance and BMC's premium will go up by £175k.
- Finance and audit committee proposed increased subs by £5 for individuals and £2 for club members so as to break even (or £6 and £3 to cover additional ODG changes).
- Any subs increase must be passed at AGM.

Mike Facchini

Disparity between club and individual member increases.

Steve Blake

Clubs and individual member benefits (and thus costs) should move together

10. Co-ordinators Reports

Access North

Steve Blake

- From UKB. Stalker, accompanied by a member by Scottish Woodlands employee stopped a climber on the agreed route. Land manager apologised and confirmed agreed approach and will be educating the stalker and his staff.
- Felling to take place at area left on the gate. Posted by Franco Cookson on Facebook. Everyone to keep gate clear for wagons
 - o SB to post on Facebook and contact Rob Dyer.

Access South

Mike Conlon (updated provided by email)

Clemitts:

Rob Dyer reports some positive progress with the new Land Agent, which sound promising for Clemitts and other crags on the Dawney Estate.

Beacon Scar:

CMC members have had a number of maintenance visits in the last month, more to be done but should be worth a visit in the spring.

Stanhope Dene:

I met with one of the developers and I have shared with him some information and advice from Rob Dyer but have not yet had a response.

Richard Davis

- c.a 80 routes bolted.
- Ownership – used to be owned by church. Recently sold, but unclear on present ownership
- Local (non climbers) very positive
- Some very quick drying

Question about BMC funding for bolts? BMC pay for bolts in quarries that they own?

Question whether it is worth a bolt fund for this?

Jon Punshon

- If it takes off, we should find out the ownership before more monies are invested.
- We should thank Richard for the effort made thus far.
- Should ask Rob Dyer to do it on our behalf.

Hillwalking

- Report to be circulated

Walls

- Matt Breadin attended the meeting and is happy to fill role. If role is required.
- Chris Bullock suggested facilitating shared comps and coordination between walls

11. AOB

None

12. BMC AGM

31st March in Buxton

13. Date and Time of Next Meeting

13th June 2019, 19:00, Newcastle Climbing Centre (6th as a backstop)