



# **BMC North West Area**

**Online (Zoom) meeting  
Tuesday 8th Sept 2020 19:30**

- Slides - on BMC Communities site
- Recorded
- New to Zoom?
- Considerate - mute yourself
- Bear with us - give us feedback
- Timekeeping - speakers keep to time
- Questions - in chat box
- Not a SPAG test
- Problem - message in chat



# Welcome

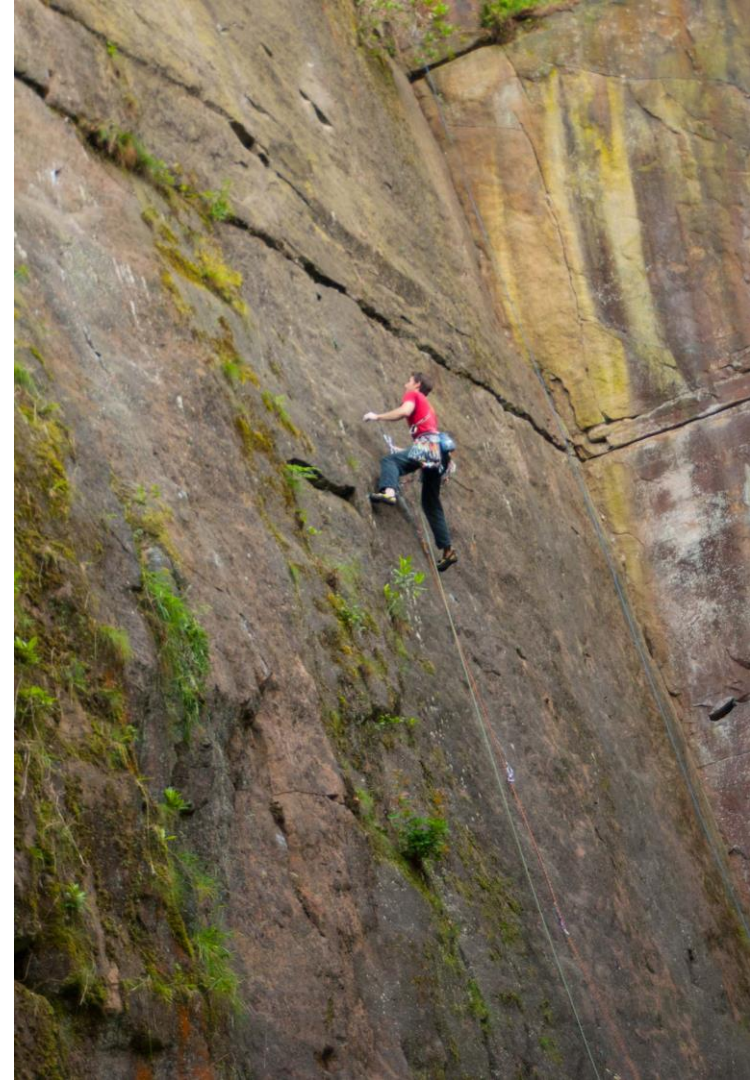
# Agenda

1. Welcome 2 mins
2. Minutes of previous meeting 5 mins
3. Matters arising not covered elsewhere 5 mins
4. BMC on Covid-19, coming out of lockdown 10 mins
5. Reports from Area Volunteers
  - Access 10 mins
  - Clubs 10 mins
  - Hillwalking 5 mins
  - Youth and Walls 5 mins
  - Social Media & comms 5 mins
6. NW Events Calendar 2020 5 mins
7. BMC Strategic Review 5 mins
8. Report from National Council
  - Feedback from recent meetings 5 mins
  - Recent Board Resignations 10 mins
  - ODG update to areas 5 mins
  - Members Council Terms of Reference 5 mins
9. Any other business 5 mins

## Items 2 - 3

**2. Minutes of previous meeting**

**3. Matters arising not covered elsewhere**





# Item 4: BMC's response to COVID-19 - coming out of lockdown

Re-opening huts - <https://www.thebmc.co.uk/covid19-reopening-huts>

Latest on Hillwalking - <https://www.thebmc.co.uk/coronavirus-and-hill-walking-your-questions-answered>

Latest on climbing - <https://www.thebmc.co.uk/climbing-hill-walking-coronavirus-update>

There are only 2 Covid related access issues reported in the North West - thanks to members for being respectful and considerate. The 2 issues are –

1. Possible changes to parking for Thorn Crag in Bowland (still under investigation)
2. Please still avoid Lower Montcliffe for the time being. We are close to getting a resolution, but the negotiations are still at a critical stage.

More details will be covered under “access” and “clubs” items on agenda.



In all cases the emphasis is on **compliance with the law**,  
with recommendations to **keep yourself and others safe**,  
to **avoid “honeypots”** and **stay local**,  
not to assume Mountain Rescue Teams will operate as normal,  
and to **respect** the sensitivities of  
**local communities**.



# **Agenda Item 5**

## **Area Reps Reports**

The volunteers who make the magic happen

**Access & Guides**

**Les Ainsworth & Mark Hounslea**

**Clubs**

**Dominic Oughton**

**Hill Walking**

**Steve Charles & Dave Robinson**

**Youth & Walls**

**Stuart Holmes**

**Social media & comms**

**Roberta Spagnul, Dominic Oughton, Joe Green**

## BMC Access Reps – Covid online meetings

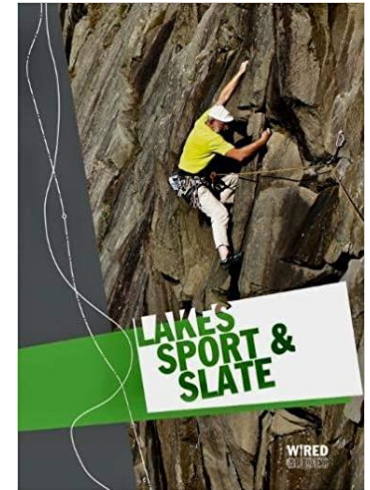
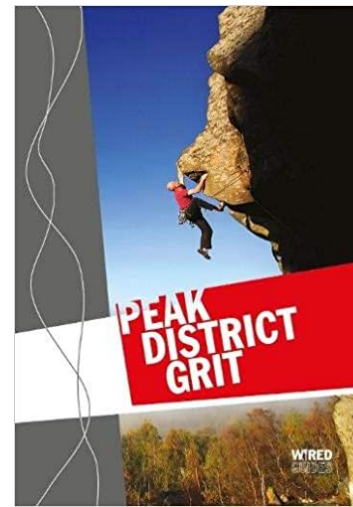
- The BMC has arranged regular (initially weekly, then fortnightly) access rep conference calls during the pandemic.
- Aim has been to detect problems early, nip any issues in the bud, and provide timely guidance to local hillwalkers and climbers.
- PE as area sec has attended all these calls. NW area issues have been very few; participation enabled us to give NW climbers early notice via BMC NW Facebook page of any issues in Lakes, N Wales, Yorkshire or the Peak District.
- These FB posts have had very high reach figures, so as lockdown continues to ease, we will aim to transition this service to more of an “access news for NW climbers and hillwalkers”, which we hope members will continue to find of interest and value.



# Guidebooks

Latest on Wired guides –

- Peak District Grit now on sale
- Lakes Sport and Slate (incl. Warton Main, Barrow Scout Cove) now on sale
- Northern Rock (Lancs, Yorks, North York Moors and Northumberland – expected completion 2021. **Lancs action photo gaps have been identified, photoshoots being scheduled. Volunteers welcome!**
- Lancashire Rock: Further Developments - now almost ready to go to the printers. It has several new route descriptions including full, updated guides to Noggarth and Winewall. The guide should be available at a small cost by late October/early November
- Yorkshire Sport supplement now available, £10.



# Lancs Crags - 1

## Cleanups

- Cleanup to be arranged at Wilton – details TBD
- Loose block reported on route Flingie Bunt at Wilton 1 – to be checked out.

## Parking

- Potential issue / changed parking at Thorn Crag. Obey local signage for now, being investigated.
- Troy Qy - during the week, only park on the road to the qy if you can do so without blocking locals and without parking directly in front of their houses. At weekends, or if parking full, park in a layby just on the Blackburn side of the cafe, then walk down on a track that starts close to the road and then runs parallel to it before veering off to the left to reach the normal access track. This adds about 10 mins each way
- Jumbles: Park as for Ousels and walk in
- Stronstrey Bank: Park at dam at end of Anglezarke Reservoir and walk in.
- Pinfold: no more than 2 cars.

## Avoid or caution

- Outstanding access issues –
  - Withnell Qy
  - Shore Qy
  - Pudsey Qy
  - Castle Qy
  - Lower Montcliffe
- Hall Stones - Potential to upset locals

# Lancs Crags - 2

## Other Lancs News –

- Query raised about the max number of cars at Witches. The correct number is 10 maximum. Please follow the other access instructions from the RAD to maintain good relations with the locals.
- Development work continues at Noggarth. There are now 60 routes there and one new buttress has recently been unearthed.
- The most obvious lines at Winewall have now been climbed, with two completely new buttresses opened up.
- Warton Main quarry – Les Ainsworth & Dave Cronshaw have repaired the stile and debarbed the fence on the approach to Terrace Wall. They also cleaned up the path, which is now clear of brambles etc. Lancashire County Council which owns the quarry wants to remove all the cotoneaster - non native species. Climbers are encouraged to remove any cotoneaster, particularly on the traverse from the right end of the Terrace Wall at The Playground (i.e. P1 of 68 Bouquet of Barbed Wire, or the last pitch of 24 Black Streak in reverse).

# Cheshire Crag

**No particular issues reported since last meeting :**

**Parking at Harmers Wood.** As with any other venue – if the parking is full GO SOMEWHERE ELSE. Do not inconvenience locals.

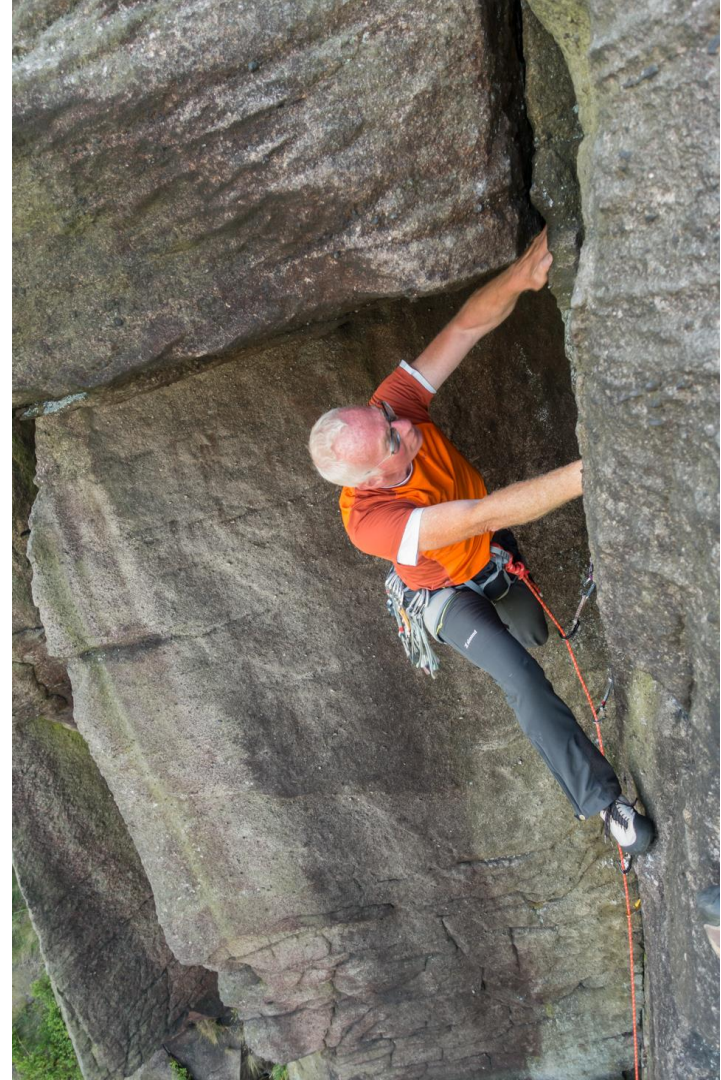




# Chew Valley

The Chew Valley still has very high numbers of day visitors, and parking and litter are ongoing problems. Blocking of some laybys by landowners is also a problem; access reps are aware.

New double yellow lines have been introduced in the Chew Valley, and elsewhere in the Peak (e.g. Yarncliffe) and in Snowdonia. Note that if you park on a verge where double yellow lines are in place, even if all 4 of your wheels are off the carriageway, you can still get ticketed.



# Other Areas Access News - 1

North West members also use Peak, Lakes, N Wales & Yorkshire.

A roundup of news –

## Peak

- The hills and sport climbing venues continue to be busy. On the gritstone, crowds have not been an issue – but the midges have been!
- Take care parking for the Matlock quarries, issues have been reported (e.g. Masson Lees) which have the potential to threaten access.
- Bolt anchors have been installed at Aldery Cliff

<https://thebmc.co.uk/peak-bolt-fund-volunteers-help-install-bolted-anchors-at-bmc-owned-aldery-cliff>





# Other Areas Access News - 2

## North Wales

- High visitor numbers, “fly camping” and litter continue to be a problem in Snowdonia.
- Restrictions for climbing above the Marine Drive on the Great Orme finish today. The normal ticketing system is now back in use.
- The Diamond is now open, installing fixed cables for access.
- Tremadoc busy. It does not look like the café will re-open as a café, so “normal” parking has been lost. BMC reps looking at alternatives. Currently people are parking on the verge below Bwlch Moch - seems to be working OK. The path to Grim Wall direct has been re-made.
- Castle Inn – normal car park is closed. DO NOT move the barriers. See RAD for alternative car park.
- Snowdon Pen-y-pass. The normal car park has been closed and vehicles parked on the road near the summit of the Llanberis pass will be towed. Use the park and ride schemes. Latest – introducing pre-booking scheme
- Gogarth – north and south stack car parks are now open.
- Angel Bay, Little Orme – important seal site. Avoid, check RAD.



## Other Areas Access News - 3



### Lakes

- As with Snowdonia – high visitor numbers and litter are ongoing problems. The dry weather has resulted in some blocks near the top of climbs coming loose. Caution when topping out.
- Some littering reported at Hodge Close.

### Yorkshire

- The Cow and Calf needs a cleanup, this will be organized.
- Yorkshire Sport climbing venues have been popular.





## ROCKAROUNDTHEWORLD

It's a climber's life.



[articles](#) / [showcase](#) / [posts](#)

### CATEGORIES

- Austria
- BeNeLux
- Campervan Stopover
- Canada
- Eastern Europe
  - Bulgaria
  - Croatia
  - Hungary
  - Romania



THE RUINS

Hello – I'm your new (to be co-opted) BMC NW Area Club Coordinator

Dominic Oughton  
[dominic@oughton.uk.com](mailto:dominic@oughton.uk.com)



# What's it all about???

Organisation Development Group  
Workstream 7 - Clubs Working Group  
**Proposed Strategy for Clubs 2020 - 2024**

## Our Goal

**The BMC and Clubs work in partnership to promote our shared mission & values and support a thriving club community**

### Objective 1

The BMC actively seeks the views of clubs and promotes opportunities for clubs to contribute to national and local initiatives

### Objective 2

The BMC facilitates inter-club networks, encourages sharing of good practice and promotes collaboration between clubs

### Objective 3

The BMC focuses its resources to provide targeted, relevant support to address key priorities to ensure the health of clubs

### Objective 4

The BMC recognises and engages with the broad range of clubs and volunteer groups that facilitate participation in mountain sports

# Useful 'pilot' NW Area Clubs Zoom Chat – Priorities Ranked:

- Understand how Clubs can move towards re-starting meets and operating them safely in the 'new normal'
- Understand how Clubs can move to re-open huts with appropriate measures and risk assessment
- Ensure that Clubs derive maximum benefit from their BMC affiliation (and fees) and at the same time support the BMC in delivering its goals
- Share best practice in training for committee members and those 'leading' meets / activities, and how these can be refreshed and maintained
- Strategies for recruiting new (especially younger) members
- Achieving child protection (especially in huts) and allowing under 18 members
- Delivering equity in participation and membership
- Legal structures of Clubs (charity, Ltd company etc) especially regarding liability and risk etc

# Re-starting meets and operating them safely in the 'new normal' :

- Guidelines covering England and Wales have now been published - <https://thebmc.co.uk/covid19-restarting-club-meets>
- Allows up to a maximum of 30 people to participate (actual numbers to be determined based on activity on an event-by-event / club-by-club basis)
- There is a risk assessment / check list which is intended to be as simple as possible
- Different guidance in England & Wales – doesn't try to cover Scotland (see separate work from MCoS)
- Car sharing already subject to general published guidance / rules from governments and is NOT allowed at all in Wales and 'should be avoided where possible' in England, but is permissible with mitigating measures (probably only 2 people for practical purposes)
- Most of the Clubs represented were already experimenting with either ad-hoc groups (eg via WhatsApp or Facebook) or limited meets of up to 6 (or maybe 2 groups of 6) but there was some wariness of 'official meets'.



# How Clubs can re-open huts with appropriate measures & risk assessment

- There is very clear guidance published on the website (and soon to be a recording of the recent webinar which is recommended viewing) <https://www.thebmc.co.uk/covid19-reopening-huts>
- Different regimes in England (max 2 households) and Wales (single household)
- Most of those present were experimenting with opening their huts – Some general guidance includes allowing 72 hours between occupations and clean on the way in and the way out
- General view was that there was so far little appetite for using huts as individual members remain cautious
- Clubs are generally restricting use to members only and requiring advanced booking
- Question – if someone booking e.g. a single household then flouts the rules and brings more people, is the Club liable / insured. Answer – So long as the Club has taken reasonable steps then they should be covered.

# Get involved

- We're running regular weekly 'Club Features' on the BMC NW Area FB page. Why not get in touch to feature your club?
  - Promote your Club
  - Planned future events
- If you are a 'Club' person and want to get involved, prod your secretary to get you signed up as a communications contact.

# Hillwalking - Conservation projects

- Holcombe Moor, Moss Planting 23 March
  - Arranged with local National Trust Ranger
  - No moss available! became Hydrological project
  - CANCELLED
- Snowdonia weekend projects with NT
  - 18/19 April - CANCELLED
  - 22/ 23 August – CANCELLED
- No contact from NT Rangers since?- furloughed?
- No NT Volunteer projects at present
- Volunteer projects seem some way off





# Hillwalking – organised walks

- Focus of SJC has been on conservation projects
- At last meeting did seem to be wish for Area-organised walks, as well as walks from Club meets.
- If anyone wishes to arrange an Area walk meet they are most welcome

# “No Moor Barbecues” Campaign

<https://www.thebmc.co.uk/disposable-bbq-moorland-ban-no-moor-bbq>



- Visit the page.
- Complete the online form  
- it takes 30 secs to write  
to your MP!





# Youth and Walls

**Youth Comps:** this year on hold.

There are plans to go ahead with next years Youth climbing series. But as with all things it will likely be a wait and see

**Walls:** <now opening using ABC framework>.

<https://www.abcwalls.co.uk/news/coronavirus-updates-and-weekly-news/>

<https://www.abcwalls.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/Beyond-Coronavirus-update-3-07May20.pdf>

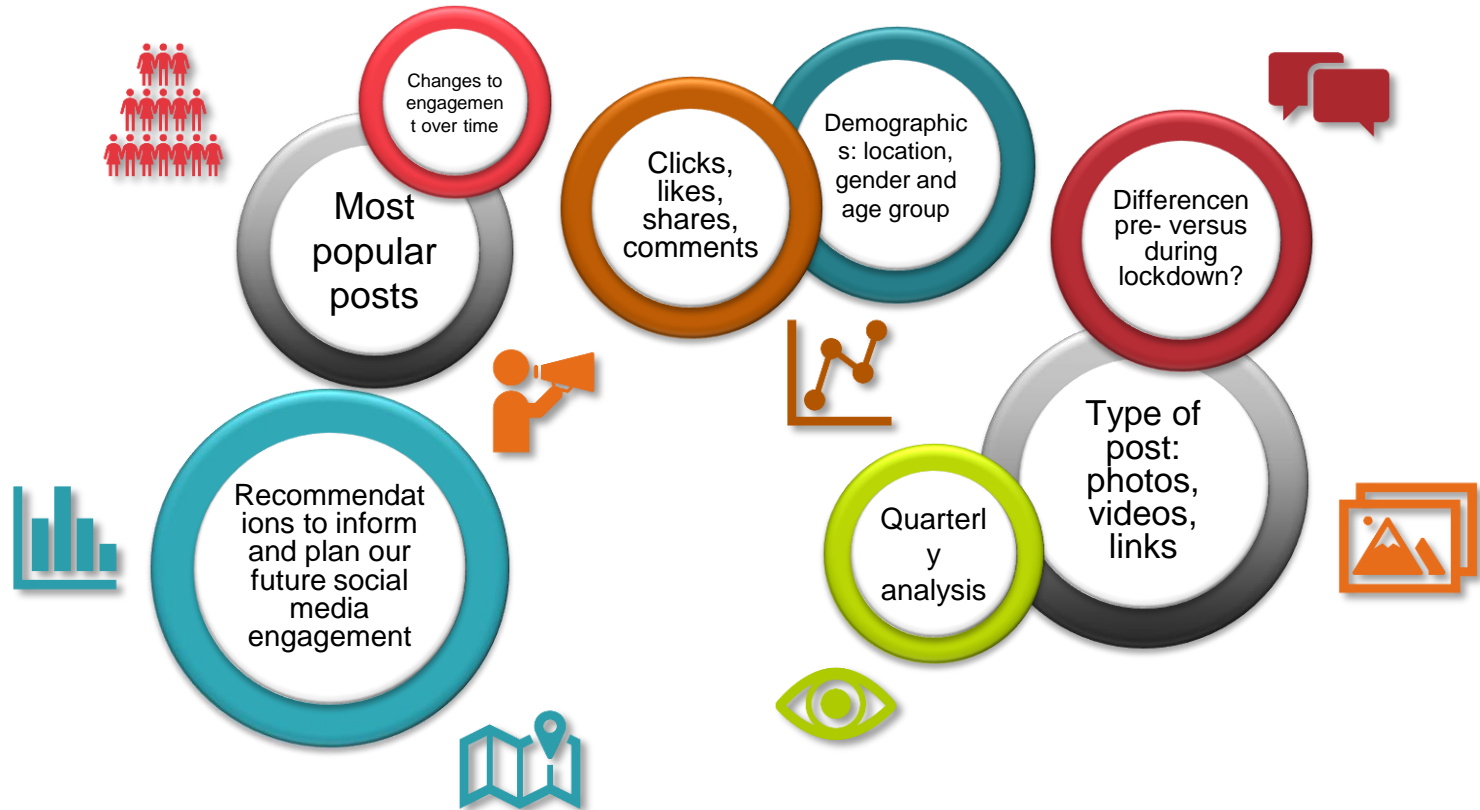
- West View Leisure centre (Preston) is now closed.

**New Elite training centre** - <https://www.thebmc.co.uk/gb-climbing-climbing-works-collaborate-to-create-elite-training-centre>

## **Social Media & Area Communications**

- Scheduling - Thinking Ahead
- Engaging Members
- Promoting Events
- Analysing Data

# BMC NW Facebook analytics – 8<sup>th</sup> September 2020 update




## BMC NW Facebook analytics – Headline findings



Most popular posts


**Posts with higher engagement were posts about**

- ❖ localised access issues
- ❖ 'volunteer spotlight' profiles
- ❖ 'activity promotion' posts (crag clean-ups, post-area meeting summary post)




Clicks, likes, shares, comments

**Little to no posts being shared (max 4)**



Demographics: location, gender and age group

**Little to no changes in demographic make up of those that engage with our page and posts. Same cities, same age and gender groups**



Differences pre- versus during lockdown?

**No substantial difference in post reach and engagement numbers pre- v during v post-lockdown**

**Overall engagement is increasing from Q4 2019 (likely due to posting schedule consistency and content relevancy)**



Type of post: photos, videos, links

**Video posts do consistently well in terms of reach (Q1 and Q2 reach of video posts between 200 and 600+, way above average for all-type posts)**

**In Q2, the two most liked/shared/read posts were 'status' posts about access**

## BMC NW Facebook analytics – Quarterly analysis – Q1 2020 (January to March)

Title	1	2	3	4	5
<b>Most liked posts</b>	<b>**Volunteer Spotlight**</b> Les Ainsworth	You're having a LAFF! Increase your chances	Womenclimb, based in Manchester and run by	Brilliant North West Area Meeting this evening	Come and help clean up a local crag! Deeply Vale
<b>Most commented posts</b>	What do you think about the government's plan to make trespass a criminal offence	Come and help clean up a local crag! Deeply Vale	Walking in crampons is even more of an art	Brilliant North West Area Meeting this evening with	We are actively looking for volunteers to help with
<b>Most shared posts</b>	You're having a LAFF! Increase your chances	Do you know how to choose an ice axe?	<a href="https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/doing-it-scared-">https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/doing-it-scared-</a>	<b>**Dates for your calendar**</b> Updated events	Have your say on Stanage's uncertain future...
<b>Top 5 locations</b>	248 - Manchester	58 - Preston	53 - Bolton	46 - Liverpool	33 - Warrington
<b>Top 5 gender age brackets</b>	M.35-44	M.25-34	M.45-54	F.25-34	F.35-44
<b>Unique users by post</b>	Brilliant North West Area Meeting this evening	<b>**Volunteer Spotlight**</b> Les Ainsworth	Come and help clean up a local crag! Deeply Vale	What do you think about the government's plan to make trespass a criminal offence	You're having a LAFF! Increase your chances
<b>Post (with highest reach) by type</b>	(PHOTO) You're having a LAFF! Increase your chances	(PHOTO) <b>**Dates for your calendar**</b> Updated events	(PHOTO) Come and help clean up a local crag! Deeply Vale	(VIDEO) Womenclimb, based in Manchester and run by	(PHOTO) <b>**Volunteer Spotlight**</b> Les Ainsworth



# BMC NW Facebook analytics – Quarterly analysis – Q2 2020 (April to June)

Title	1	2	3	4	5
<b>Most liked posts</b>	COVID-19 may have put a stop to climbing meets and hut gatherings for now, but it wasn't enough to dampen the community spirit of the Mynydd CC!	"Climbing walls shut, large gatherings banned, flights cancelled....but current government advice (at as 18/03) is that	Check out the latest lockdown-loosening low-down	Morning all. I was chatting to Les Ainsworth yesterday about how to avoid any access issues when returning to climbing in Lancs	Here is the first of our featured Northwest long distance Paths. Hyndburn Clog.
<b>Most commented posts</b>	Montcliffe Access Update: 'Currently some problems, exacerbated by Covid.	During the lockdown, climbers from all across the globe have been getting creative with home climbing solutions. Have you built a home wall?	Morning all. I was chatting to Les Ainsworth yesterday about how to avoid any access issues when returning to climbing in Lancs.	Check out the latest lockdown-loosening low-down	COVID-19 may have put a stop to climbing meets and hut gatherings for now, but it wasn't enough to dampen the community spirit of the Mynydd CC!
<b>Most shared posts</b>	Check out the latest lockdown-loosening low-down	Montcliffe Access Update: 'Currently some problems, exacerbated by Covid. Until further notice I would ask climbers to avoid climbing there'. Les Ainsworth	COVID-19 may have put a stop to climbing meets and hut gatherings for now, but it wasn't enough to dampen the community spirit of the Mynydd CC!	Check out what happens on a typical Club Meet courtesy of this BMC TV video - why not contact your local club ready to get involved after lockdown?	BMC intention to hold virtual AGM
<b>Top 5 locations</b>	Manchester (277)	Preston (59)	Bolton (56)	Liverpool (48)	Warrington (34)
<b>Top 5 gender age brackets</b>	M.35-43	M.25-34	M.45-54	F.25-34	F.35-44
<b>Unique users by post</b>	Montcliffe Access Update: 'Currently some problems, exacerbated by Covid. Until further notice I would ask climbers to avoid climbing there'.	COVID-19 may have put a stop to climbing meets and hut gatherings for now, but it wasn't enough to dampen the community spirit of the Mynydd CC!	Check out the latest lockdown-loosening low-down	Harmers Wood, Witches Quarry, Craig y Longridge and Harpur Hill are among the areas listed, in the north west, to avoid	Morning all. I was chatting to Les Ainsworth yesterday about how to avoid any access issues when returning to climbing in Lancs
<b>Post with highest reach</b>	Montcliffe Access Update: 'Currently some problems, exacerbated by Covid.	Morning all. I was chatting to Les Ainsworth yesterday about how to avoid any access issues when returning to climbing in Lancs.	COVID-19 may have put a stop to climbing meets and hut gatherings for now, but it wasn't enough to dampen the community spirit of the Mynydd CC!	Check out what happens on a typical Club Meet courtesy of this BMC TV video - why not contact your local club ready to get involved after lockdown?	Here are some breaking updates from the BMC Access Reps meeting that might be of interest to NW-based climbers:
<b>Post (with highest reach) by type</b>	(STATUS) Montcliffe Access Update: 'Currently some problems, exacerbated by Covid.	(STATUS) Morning all. I was chatting to Les Ainsworth yesterday about how to avoid any access issues when returning to climbing in Lancs	(LINK) COVID-19 may have put a stop to climbing meets and hut gatherings for now, but it wasn't enough to dampen the community	(VIDEO) Check out what happens on a typical Club Meet courtesy of this BMC TV video - why not contact your local club ready to get	(LINK) Here are some breaking updates from the BMC Access Reps meeting that might be of interest to NW-based climbers:

# Final Agenda Items

## 6. NW Events calendar 2020

## 7. BMC Strategic Plan – member consultation - <https://thebmc.co.uk/2021-strategic-review-consultation>

## 8. Report from most recent National Council

- Feedback from (lots of!) recent meetings - links to further detail. CS & BB
- Recent Board resignations – update
- ODG update to Areas Aug-Sept 2020
- Members Council Terms of Reference

## 9. Any other business



**Thanks**

How was it?

Please pop comments in chat:

What went well?

What could be better?

What was missing that you'd like to see?

**Images:** courtesy of Paul Evans unless otherwise specified

Slide 6 - Stock image: Unsplash

Slide 23 - Provided by Steve Charles

Slide 25 – Craig Hannah

Slide 26 - Stock image: Unsplash



# Resources

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