

BRITISH MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE 191st YORKSHIRE AREA MEETING

Held at 19.30 on Monday 14 February at the Dyneley Arms, Pool in Wharfedale.

Present:-

Dave Musgrove	Chair, Individual.	Mick Johnson	FRCC*, CC
Deirdre Collier	Secretary, CC	Julie Dundas	Individual
Angela Soper	Pinnacle Club, FRCC	Robin Nicholson	Individual
David Warburton	Leeds University Mountaineering Club	Paul Clarke	FRCC
Huw Goodall	Leeds University Mountaineering Club	Laurie Morse	YMC
Debra Halcrow	York Alpine Club	Dan Middleton	BMC
James Rowe	Leeds Mountaineering Club, CC		
Mike Bebbington	YMC*, FRCC, CC		
Paul Exley	Leeds MC, FRCC		
Peri Stracchino	York Alpine Club		
Anne Chevalier	CC, FRCC, Craven MC, Area Youth Co-ordinator (Outdoors)		

Action

- 1 Welcome & Introductions.** Dave welcomed everyone to the meeting & said that in the absence of an elected Chair he had agreed to chair the meeting.
- 2 Apologies for Absence.** Apologies were received from Nigel Baker, Ian Blakeley, Martin Christmas, Glyn Edwards, John Hunt, Arthur Salmon & Dick Winslow.
- 3 Minutes of the last meeting.** These were agreed as a correct record of the Meeting.

4 Matters Arising. There were no matters arising.

5 Co-ordinators' Reports

5.1 Gritstone: Access & Conservation.

Access to Cat Crag, Brandrith, Upper Huller Stones & Sypeland. A further letter had been sent to the Land Agents re this but no response had been received. Letter says that no dogs, no smoking, avoidance during the nesting season & closures under CROW were agreed but that it was not agreed that climbers should inform the gamekeeper before going climbing as this is Open Access land.

Eavestones. It was noted that the 'Private. Keep Out' signs were still in place but there was no Estate name or contact details. Ongoing.

New Gritstone Guide. It was noted that this is nearly ready.

5.2 Limestone Access & Conservation.

Foredale/Crummackdale access. Dave Musgrove had met with Steve Hastie, the Yorkshire Dales National Park Ranger to discuss access. Gate needs to be kept closed before 1 June so that sheep are kept off the moor. After 1 June they may access the moor but the gate then needs leaving open so that they may get down to the only source of water. This is a confusing situation and the possibility of putting in a stile or a separate gate for climbers' access is being considered.

Beggar's Stile – Confusion re access. It was originally thought that the crag was on Open Access land but this is not borne out by the Open Access website.

Blue Scar. It was noted that efforts were being made to improve the parking situation before the start of climbing.

DM

Feizor Nick. No further progress. Dave Musgrove agreed to follow this up.

Kilnsey – The toileting problem had been discussed at National Council and it was noted that a discussion paper was being produced re a composting toilet option.

- 5.3 Youth.** Anne Chevalier reported that a walk is planned for May/June possibly in an urban setting with a view to attracting a wider range of ethnic groups – maybe somewhere along the Millennium Way.

Also a climbing day was being planned for June/July at Windgather.

She was hoping to keep it relatively informal and not have an application process as this seemed to be a deterrent to prospective participants.

The events would be posted on the BMC website and it would be made clear that there would not be any instructors and that parents would have full responsibility for their children.

- 5.4 Climbing Walls.** It was noted that a new climbing wall would soon be opening in Brighthouse.

6 National Council.

- 6.1 Report from the last meeting.** This had been previously circulated.

It was noted that a Clubs/Conflicts of Interests Statement had been agreed.

- 6.2 Matters for the Next Meeting.**

- 6.2.1 Draft Loan Fund Policy** – This was felt to be a good document and the amount of work that had gone into its production was acknowledged.

2012 Subscriptions. The Meeting supported the proposal to maintain the current subscription level for 2012.

Volunteer Award. It was noted that the BMC is establishing an annual award to recognise exceptional voluntary effort(s) within the organisation. The award will be presented at the BMC Annual Dinner.

Travel Insurance. It was noted that the underwriters for the BMC's travel insurance had changed. Several queries were raised and it was agreed that individuals would take them up with the BMC.

Better Bolts Campaign. In response to a query re this Dan Middleton said that the process of assessing bids was ongoing. He informed the meeting that a portable equipment tester was being made which would test bolts in situ. It would be available for demonstration at Area Meetings.

7 Clubs Issues.

- 7.1 Clubs Committee.** Paul Exley reported back from the Clubs Committee meeting which had been held on Thursday 3 February.

It was noted that the Chair had not been re-elected to office and that had led to concerns about the term of office as one year was not felt to be long enough for a Chair to be effective. The Clubs Committee would be reviewing the Operating Procedures with a view to addressing this.

Also discussed was a survey of clubs to find out how the BMC & the Clubs Committee can bring benefits to clubs.

Other items discussed were the BMC's Travel Insurance, the Draft Loan Fund Policy, 2012 subscriptions & topics for the 2011 Huts/Clubs Seminar.

8 Individual Members Issues. None raised.

9 Hillwalking.

9.1 Whernside Path & the Three Peaks Project. Concerns had been raised re the very poor condition of the descent path on Whernside. It was noted that work on this section of path is planned for this year subject to funding.

The Three Peaks Project raises funding which goes towards path maintenance & the BMC is one of the corporate members. There was some discussion about how funding may be raised to support such work including asking those undertaking the 3 Peaks walk to contribute £1 towards the cost via an honesty box in the Horton in Ribblesdale car park or just to add 10p to the car parking charge.

10 Yorkshire Dales National Park Budget Consultation

The Meeting had been asked by the BMC to discuss this.

The Meeting discussed this but felt that it was difficult to understand what impact the proposed budget cuts would have as there wasn't specific detail in the consultation document. Concerns were expressed specifically about the impact on Open Access, Rights of Way & Definitive Mapping work.

It was agreed to invite someone from the YDNPA to the next Meeting (June) to explain it all.

DC

Deirdre agreed to respond to the BMC.

DC

11 Election of Area Chairman. James Rowe was co-opted as Area Chairman.

12 Any Other Business.

Yorkshire Mountaineering Club Donation to the BMC's Access Fund. Mike Bebbington reported that the Yorkshire Mountaineering Club had donated £246.50 to the BMC's Access Fund from the sale of guidebooks in 2010.

Annual Nesting Restrictions Poster. Dan Middleton tabled the 2011 leaflets and said that posters were downloadable – see link - <http://www.thebmc.co.uk/Download.aspx?id=279>

Victoria Cave. The Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority had produced a document about Victoria Cave which discussed management issues relating to the cave with a view to better protecting the archaeological heritage and making the site safer.

Some of the proposals could impinge on climbing. Dave Musgrove had sent in a report following receipt of comments. No response had yet been received but he will keep the Meeting informed.

DM

13 Date of Next Meeting. Monday 6 June 2011 @ 19.30.

There was no other business and the meeting closed at 20.56.