



Yorkshire Area ORDINARY MEETING 28/07/21

Meeting to be held via Zoom

AGENDA

If anything to be discussed on this agenda gives rise to a conflict of interest for anyone, please declare it at the start of the meeting.

Start time 7.30pm

1. **Welcome and apologies for absence** **Jim Hulbert & Will Points**
 - 1.1 Stuart Wetherell
2. **Introduction to the BMC and Area Meetings**
3. **Minutes of previous meeting**
 - 3.1 None
4. **Actions from previous meeting**
 - 4.1 None
5. **Matters arising not covered elsewhere**
 - 5.1 None
6. **Members Council Update** **Mick Green**
 - 6.1 Andy Syme has been voted as president so now looking for 1 additional representative. Our aim is to find a suitable candidate, rather than push to fill a gap, so proposal is having an election and proper process, starting with advertising and feedback from the Members Council in terms of what the "role profile" or "candidate profile" could be. Ideally, we would be looking to hold the election in the next area meeting.
 - 6.2 Andy also passed on some information regarding the recent activities conducted by the members council, including a rock climbing workshop. Each meeting has a workshop focussing on different areas (indoor climbing, mountaineering and hill walking the next 3). Access issues we also discussed, but a clear move away from governance. It was also clear that there was a slight gap on the council regarding indoor climbing knowledge, so this could be an area of focus (one suggestion from Andy H was asking Chris Whitehead at Freeklime)
 - 6.3 Discussion also around youth volunteers for BMC youth & equity officer James McHaffie to support/arrange youth climbing and hillwalking events as group across the country, however this wouldn't be led/managed through the BMC areas. Area expressed no concerns but wanted to ensure Area was kept informed.
 - 6.4 AGM attendance also under review, with the idea of having a "weekend meet" including an AGM in 2023. Events could be hosted during the day, plus dinner etc. General agreement from the attendees.
7. **Reports from Area Representatives**
 - 7.1 **Gritstone: Access and Conservation**
 - 7.1.1 Messaged received on Facebook regarding some cleaning at Ilkley (Transparent Wall), will be promoted on social media
 - 7.1.2 Message received on Facebook regarding access issues at West Nab. Further investigation required, will respond on Facebook and seek further clarity.
 - 7.1.3 Andy commented the Rylstones was also clearly not as popular given the state of many routes. Will look at promoting this venue on social media.

7.2 **Limestone: Access and Conservation**

- 7.2.1 Incident at Castleberg crags a few months ago that sadly ended in a fatality for the lone climber. The crag remains closed whilst the investigation continues. No indication at this time that access will be permanently restricted.
- 7.2.2 Blue scar is nearly open again! Sign up with the area owner to get access permission (see RAD).
- 7.2.3 Appears to be an increase in rockfall at the big 3 Yorkshire crags, likely due to weather, so suggestion was made to promote the use of helmets (lids) and warn of the dangers of limestone

7.3 **Clubs**

Pete Barrans

- 7.3.1 No update since the last meeting, but Andy S did signpost us to a new feature on the BMC website regarding signposting visitors to their local clubs

7.4 **Youth Outdoor**

- 7.4.1 No update

7.5 **Climbing Walls**

- 7.5.1 We believe that Depot is building a new wall in Leeds (unconfirmed)
- 7.5.2 Relatively new wall in Bradford (Climbing Hub) briefly mentioned

7.6 **Hillwalking**

- 7.6.1 Beamsley beacon was discussed at the previous meeting due to access issues, believed to be from locals blocking the area. Hill Walking rep Chris Page investigated and shared a report with Jim: one area is industrial work so can't be used; another area he cleared out small household objects and parked; and a final third area could cause local challenges if people park in front of houses, which is allowed but not necessarily popular with the local community. Further follow up will be undertaken by Jim.

8. **Update from the Board**

- 8.1 Two new directors elected (more information see BMC website), but sadly previous chair (Gareth) recently passed away whilst out hill walking.
- 8.2 Membership levels are still low, and funding is eating into the BMC savings. This situation continues to be assessed, and the BMC staff remain part-time/on furlough. However, last couple of months have started to see membership numbers slowly climb again, so hopefully this will continue.
- 8.3 RPI subs increases are also under consideration, feedback on which is welcome.
- 8.4 Chief Commercial Office recruitment is ongoing but due to end soon
- 8.5 Olympic Climbing, and Shauna Coxsey, start at on Aug 3rd 9am for the heats. Ski mountaineering is also due to be an additional sport event in 2026 in Milano Cortina
- 8.6 Discussion around the use of Eventbrite and zoom for meetings. Consensus was that Eventbrite was adding complexity and not needed, and that zoom is likely to continue to be useful, so just sharing a zoom link directly would be more beneficial. In addition, London area due to trial combined in-person/zoom meetings and we are keen to do the same!

9. **Any Other Business**

10. **Date, time and location of next Area Meeting**

- 10.1 Next meeting is on November 3rd, on Zoom, but an in-person meeting will also be considered closer to the time.

11. **Talk (estimated start time of 8:30pm)**

Andy Higson (Blackdog Outdoors)

- 11.1 Excellent! Talk recorded so can be shared on social media/viewed online once uploaded

12. **Q&A**

13. **Close Meeting.**

Jim Hulbert

Peak of 9 people in attendance