



## Peak Area Meeting

Venue: Zoom

Time & Date: 7pm, Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2022

### Minutes

*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.*

**Please be aware a link and details of the online meeting will be sent to your membership e-mail. Any issues please contact the BMC ahead of the meeting.**

<https://community.thebmc.co.uk/Event.aspx?id=4313>

#### 1. Welcome & Introduction – Andy Reeve

1.1. Apologies: Vikki Hughes

#### 2. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> October

2.1. <https://community.thebmc.co.uk/Event.aspx?id=4313>

#### 3. Clubs Update

Paul Justin:

In 2021 Clubs committee levels key initiative was the find your adventure campaign, a drive to encourage non-BMC affiliated members to join the BMC through clubs. There were 5 webinars run for clubs throughout the year and all online in the clubs section of the BMC website so people can catch them if you missed it. Find your adventure continues into 2022, it's a good driver of membership and has more than paid for its costs.

Club 2.0 initiative will launch in 2022. Its aim is to try and make the BMC more accessible to non-traditional clubs. There's a high number of people who access the outdoors via clubs who don't meet the tight BMC guidelines for affiliation so looking to see if the guidelines can be changed.

At the Peak level the big drive was to try and reconnect with the local clubs. Ran 3 club networking events. Those sessions became more and more driven around what the clubs wanted to talk to each other about. They will continue in 2022. Open to anybody but targeted primarily at club committee members. If interested contact your club and ask for details.



#### 4. Hillwalking Update

Austin Knott & Peter Judd:

Peter -

Midhope Moor Planning Permission

Inspector found in favour of the PDNPA in relation to the plastic matting that runs across protected moorland. The Peak park had refused retrospective planning permission and the BMC have put in objections to the matting at every stage. At the end of last year the inspector decided in favour of the Peak District National Park and the grounds for his decision were based on points the BMC had raised.

Austin -

Area Walks

There were a few walks last year as a BMC Peak area. The most recent Hartington walk had a good turnout. It was a 10 mile walk with good weather apart from the start. Currently working behind the scenes to organise walks from April onwards. Also talking to other areas about putting on joint area walks.

Conservation volunteering days.

Opportunity to work with the National trust to organise more volunteer days.

South west peak activities started 3 years ago and there was some activity but then Covid hit. They are now close to the end of their funding – end of march, so there are events coming up sporadically at short notice. There are some tree planting events but keep an eye out. [www.southwestpeak.co.uk/activities](http://www.southwestpeak.co.uk/activities)

Staffordshire Moorlands Walking Festival

22<sup>nd</sup> April - 2<sup>nd</sup> May.

Peter -

Hiking essentials – webinars in the spring. There will be a small charge but look out for news on BMC website.

Training essentials courses for BMC club members on [beyondtheedge.co.uk](http://beyondtheedge.co.uk)



## 5. Access Update

### 5.1. Wild cat

Ian Milward –

Access situation with Wildcat. Met with the site manager to discuss how climbers can maintain access to crags, particularly the main crag, now it has been acquired by an outdoor activity centre. As an outdoor activity centre lots of safeguarding issues so gone from a site with non-agreed but non-opposed access to a site with very sensitive access. Currently trying to negotiate continued access for climbers whilst recognising the sensitivity of situation. After this meeting we have a better understanding of the sensitivities and activities involved so now we as access reps need to think of compromises and make a formal response.

Henry Folkard – ‘No one wins from conflict’ but it is the business model of the activity centre that they have a secure site from which people, other than their clients, are excluded. What has not been helpful has been the comments made on various websites. Please don’t say anything inflammatory now. Rob Dyer is working on access and the BMC will be represented at the planning authority’s meeting so no need for members to post. Will ask at planning permission that we don’t object to change in use perse but work out a way to maintain access for climbers as well.

Ian Milward – negative comments by climbers on the actual planning permission application are not confrontational, purely making their points heard. The unhelpful comments mentioned were most likely alluding to comments on social media.

Andy Reeve – UK Climbing did pull a thread where some of the comments were getting heated. Would it be best if at the moment people held off climbing there?

Ian Milward – at the moment people are being asked to move on, it might smooth out negotiations if people abstained.

Henry Folkard – BMC has offered assistance depending on what the solution is and as far as they can.

Louise Hawson – really difficult when the concerns are around safeguarding for children. Difficult to argue with that. But we are not the only ones concerned about access. Locals want access for a cycle lane and a footpath so there are wider concerns and we will be trying to negotiate and find the best way forwards for everyone.

### 5.2. Cole Hill

Henry Folkard -



Had issues at Cole hill for a while. Rob Dyer received a phone call stating that all climbing there must cease but now the owners have completely changed. They're talking about more climbing, not less, and holding a symposium with the quarry industry about how more quarries can be used for climbing and maybe even a climbing festival. This does show how different people within an organisation can have different views.

Access Rep overview -

Just wanted to highlight some of the work the access reps do. We attend meetings at the Sheffield moors partnership. Represent members interest on the A57 link. Represented the BMC on the Midhope moor & Rushey dyke flat moorland pathways and won both. There's Ring ouzel work by Kim Leyland. Everything we do is about maintaining and improving access for climbers and hill walkers in a way which is consistent with conserving the landscape and enhancing biodiversity. On an even bigger scale there's the work on the glover review, a huge piece of work. National park society webinar. Huge amount of background work behind the scenes.

Lots of deer this year. Seen around Ringinglow and Stanage.

Spirit of Kinder take place on 23<sup>rd</sup> April in Hayfield Village

### 5.3. Sustainable transport – Stanage Proposals

Louise Hawson -

May have seen in the news before Christmas that there were headlines around having a 'car free' day at Stanage. Proposal has come from the Hope Valley travelling light project on climate change which looks at sustainable transport in a rural area. One idea was a car free day at Stanage. They are still talking through the idea and how it would work. The current proposal is that the roads closed would be the road out from Ringinglow past Burbage round and out towards Bamford and the road from Burbage down to millstones. The idea was it would be 2 or 3 Sundays in the summer with shuttle buses running from main transport hubs such as Dore train station. There would be no parking at the edge of the car free zone.

This would lead to increased access for cyclists but decreased access for walkers and climbers. Also worried about the parking impact as even if you tell people not to drive they probably will. Stanage forum has raised the impact of parking and the BMC has raised the issue of access.

Breaking news: Wouldn't just be car free on Stanage but would be a wider car free day in the Hope valley to increase access to the whole of Hope valley with wider transport access.



Some of the issues with this are that local businesses could be hit hard. Hathersage has a big problem with parking but that's also why it is able to support so many cafes/pubs etc. Also concerns over how will people be informed, won't actually stop people driving.

#### 5.4. National Access

Catherine Flitcroft -

The government published their response at midnight last Friday to the Glover review. Their response lacks substance and there's no mention around access or activities and how these will be funded. They also want to increase the national parks ability to give out fixed penalty notices. Thoughts and comments will be on the facebook page so will gather thoughts there.

Working with DEFRA on how farming schemes and how access will be seen as a desirable option.

Also developed checklists on things we can do to reduce our environmental impact and work generated through things like the National Park webinar which Cath attended recently.

## 6. Members Council Update

### 6.1. Specialist committee review

Alison Cairns -

We had a busy end to the year, with 4 meetings held since the last Peak Area meeting in October.

Minutes of all Members' Council meetings can be found at <https://www.thebmc.co.uk/bmc-members-council-minutes>

Nov 2nd - interim meeting (pre)

This was mostly given over to reports from all the Areas & other Constituencies, the CEO and Board Chair

Nov 13th - full meeting – in person!

This was our first face to face gathering since pre-Covid times – the chance to catch up and actually chat with everyone after so long was much appreciated.

Indoor Climbing Vision Event - in the morning we held our second 'Vision Event' hosted by Stuart Holmes, the new NEC representing Indoor Climbers. We discussed the overall concept of what indoor climbing would look like in 2032, a decade from now and thus including the next couple of Olympic cycles and the expected resultant increase in exposure. The aim was to produce a shared vision of what we would prefer the BMC work on indoor



climbing to look like in the medium term, including building on strengths and dealing with challenges, in order to help us better implement the strategic plan, and if necessary suggest adjustments, to achieve continued success.

The main questions asked were:

- Who will be climbing, what does this range of people look like?
- What are climbers doing, and what do the activities they do encompass?
- Where does the activity occur?
- What does the spectrum of venues cover and how is it distributed?

More details, including a summary of the outputs, can be found in the meeting minutes.

The remainder of the meeting covered the following topics:

- The formation and ToRs of a BMC Policies Review 2021-22 Task & Finish Group, and whether the Participation Statement should be reviewed ASAP (both were agreed)
- Updating the MC Code of Practice
- Support for the North East Area, which currently has no Chair or MC Reps
- Application for BMC affiliation by British Canyoneers (approved)
- Continuation of the Lord Greaves award, subject to review by the proposed Awards & Honours Panel (see Dec 7th meeting)
- Lack of official BMC presence at WiltonFest in September

Nov 23rd - interim meeting (additional)

An additional meeting to consider in detail the following items, for which there hadn't been time at the previous meeting:

- Councillor Guidance for Social Media Interaction
- Report from the Task & Finish Group looking into the future Role of the President

Dec 7th – interim meeting (follow-up)

This covered the following topics:

- The formation and ToRs of an Awards & Honours Panel



- Creation of Director Portfolios, formalising the relationship between the Board and various bodies within the BMC
- Production of a Members' Council Annual Report (as per the ToRs)
- Formation of a new Youth Panel
- Formation of an Ambassadorial President Task & Finish Group, to take forward the work of the previous group looking into the future Role of the President

#### Other Matters

The annual Specialist Committees Review was the subject of a dedicated meeting on January 15th – this is a Board meeting to which Members' Council is invited. The SCs report on the previous year's activities, their plans for the coming year and present their ToRs for approval (by the Board).

Due to the ongoing Covid situation the decision has been made to change several meetings (including this one and the February MC meeting) from 'in person' back to online. In addition the BMC AGM in May will once again be online.

#### 6.2. Specialist committee review

David Brown –

The BMC can't exist without specialist committees.

All the following specialist committees were reviewed: Clubs committee; Huts Group; Access Management Group; Land Management Group; Equity Steering Group; Training Youth & Walls Committee; Competition climbing performance group; committee for Wales; hill walking groups; international committee; technical committee; health & safety group; safeguarding; guidebooks.

The finance & audit committee – wasn't reviewed as it needs a much more radical overview.

If anyone wants to get involved in any of those groups. It requires a lot of time and effort, a good understanding of the BMC, professional qualifications as its quite complex. But have a look.

#### **7. Any Other Business**

Paul Davies –



The financial outcome deficit is significantly lower than was planned. Covid bad but also delivered less so cost less. Forecasting a bigger deficit next year to deliver everything and get back up to speed.

Bid in at Sport England. If successful will go towards indoor climbing.

Introduction to Gavin and ambition to grow to 100,000 engaged members. More focus on youth and hill walking and diversity.

Your movement matters survey trying to see how the BMC are doing at the moment. Trying to make our work more visible.

Area festivals – bids close on the 31<sup>st</sup> January contact office for more info.

In the process of trying to find more patrons.

Anyone who's unsubscribed at any point from e-mails since GDPR who wants them contact the BMC head office [office@thebmc.co.uk](mailto:office@thebmc.co.uk).

Spencer Ramsey – Dropped out of online AGM last year, others who also dropped out and couldn't rejoin.

Paul Davies – Looked into it and can't work out why people dropped out but once out no way of finding out who was waiting to get in so adding things in this time to stop that from happening.

Andy Reeve – Anyone interested in being newsletter editor for the peak area please get in touch. Suggest it to others as well.

Gavin Finch – Want to improve outreach and support the BMC in its challenging growth targets over the next few years.

**8. Date and venue of next meetings:** Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April hopefully in person!