



Peak Area Meeting

Venue: Dorrie Platts Hall, Bamford, Hope Valley S33 0DY

Time & Date: 7pm, Tuesday 5 July 2022

Meeting Minutes

23 attendees

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.

1. Welcome & Introduction – Andy Reeve

1.1. Please send apologies in advance: Austin Knott, Vikki Hughes, Peter Judd, Alison Cairns, Gary Gibson, Kim Leyland.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting held on Tuesday 26 April 2022

<https://community.thebmc.co.uk/Event.aspx?id=4360>

- Feedback forms- please fill in

3. BMC Crag and Upland Restoration Fund: Dave Turnbull (Head of Access Conservation and Environment) and Louise Hawson

- Survey of Access Reps and more last year. What do people want from BMC. People wanted more support for local projects. Fund of 10k to trial this year. £250-1k per area. Equipment, safety wear etc. Asked for applications. Deadline is 8 July.
- 2 proposals in the Peak. One in the Roaches - foot path restoration work. Other is Jackson Tor - Crag clean-up and graffiti removal.
- Andy's proposal but might be after the deadline: graffiti removal squad. Pool of people and equipment to remove graffiti.
- If anyone has any other thoughts on projects, contact Dave to be considered for funding, key access rep must be happy with it.
- Question: Do you need the volunteers before you put the bid in? Dave: Yes.
- Q: Will it be repeated next year? Dave: Yes, hope so, I've put in for twice the budget.



- Since the survey last year there's been a monthly Access meeting. 4 main themes have come out of the meetings, such as introducing the country code to those new to the outdoors. One of the main things that have come out of them is Reps needing more help. BMC could do a lot more to provide more support.
- Q: Is the budget coming from ACT? No, Access budget.

4. Retro Bolting on Central Buttress: Neil and Andy Reeve

- Limestone crag, old trad routes are becoming popular. Been left alone for a long time, one particular climber has retro bolted some of the route. Results are quite enjoyable. Came to a head recently because one very bold route, White Fright, retro bolted all the top section. Gave it a different name, tried to claim that what he'd bolted wasn't the original route. It's wrong it was the original route. Upset the person who made the original ascent.
- Q: What is retro bolting? Sport route have bolted and drilled protection. Changes the character of the challenges.
- Q: Are there any landowner objections to bolting? Discussion about who owns Central Buttress: Chatsworth or Derbyshire Wildlife Trust
- Lack of strong opinion on retro bolting
- Retro bolting isn't necessarily a bad thing, but the above case feels a bit wrong.
- Bolting is a contentious issue with landowners. Must look after the environment, consider landowners liability issues. Some people find it offensive.
- Climbers bolting at Tissington got in trouble for bolting by walkers. But once bolts are in no one seems to notice.
- Access wise, if turning something into a sport route makes it more popular, can become more of a problem.
- History of first ascent should be kept in guidebooks, that's important.
- Retro bolting can give crags new life.
- So once first ascensionist has passed away, it's more acceptable to retro bolt?

5. Clubs Update- Paul Justin

- At AGM, few changes made. Affiliation to BMC easier. Clubs for under 18s can affiliate. Multi activity clubs can now affiliate. Now a little bit easier for clubs to affiliate.
- Main activity is Find Your Adventure. Participation in climbing and hill walking has grown over the recent years, but BMC membership hasn't matched that growth. Find friends to climb with, transition from indoor to outdoor climbing etc.



- Club Membership has been hammered through Covid. 2021 down 4k-5k club members. Now maybe 1k down vs pre-pandemic. Campaign will continue for another 12 months. Self-funding through the Club Membership.
- 10 webinars over last 12 months.
- Lots of activity such as social media, brand merch etc.
- Castle club from Sheffield presented last week, Peak Area very much involved in the campaign.
- Q: Is the idea to get new people to join Clubs, or BMC members to join clubs? New people to join clubs.
- Q: Is there any data to show whether clubs have struggled through the pandemic or whether clubs are growing? Seem to see both? We have lost clubs, but probably would have lost them anyway. Very small and ageing demographics. Aim of the campaign is to help clubs try to build their membership.
- Q: How are we helping clubs to utilise Social Media? Webinars. But limited support from head office.
- Q: Opportunity for partnerships with clubs and Find Your Adventure? Yes of course: focus for second year.
- **Hill walking Update: Louise Hawson on behalf of Hill Walking Reps**
- Area Walks: BMC Peak Area Walk: Saturday 9th July: Postponed due to covid. New date will be confirmed.
- 25th September there will be an area walk. From Edale, Mend our Mountains funded repairs at Ringing Roger and Back Tor.
- Volunteering Opportunities:
 - Path Repairs at the Roaches: Likely weds 28th Sept and Sun 6th Nov.
 - Conservation Days with NT Kinder and High Peak estate
 - Opportunities to do tree planting on Stanage but later in the winter
- New BMC Hill Walking and Volunteers Co-ordinator: Mariella Sullivan
- Hill walking issues or questions email austin@walkthemoorlands.co.uk

6. Access Update- Henry Folkard

- Proposal from Severn Trent to try and make Derwent reservoirs bigger. Proposal to extend up above top reservoir. National Trust have given permission to the water boards.
- Cressbrook Dale: Contacted by a BMC member who lives in Cressbrook concerned about proposals. Essentially, 71 acres has been sold to a Dragons Dens millionaire. 50 acres of ancient woodland. From a climbing perspective Crag X most affected. Ravensdale crag will also be affected. However we don't yet know



how. Local community is very concerned. She is wanting to live off the grid, grow fruit trees and crops, some work has been done already on the river bed. Wants to host festivals and retreats. The land is subject to a 2-year mortgage, from Stanton estates. Rachel Elnaugh did try to buy land near Rowsley, but that reportedly fell through when Haddon Estates forbade her access to the farm. Community worried about them also wanting to buy houses in the village. Important for recreation, especially walkers. Serious change to the landscape. Also, the issue of a natural nature reserve on the other side of the river. Derbyshire Feathermoss, identified in 1805, only place in the world where this moss grows. Possible severe change in land use.

- Believe they are going to take all the deadwood out of the woods.
- Q: Are they going to need permission to change land use? I should think so, not sure how they are going to live off the land there.
- Any questions or any other thoughts on Access issues?
- Q: Impact on Bouldering in the areas? Ownership of the land has changed, so maybe.
- Q: Why did Stanton estates want to offload this piece of land? Not sure, they have always been very reasonable. No commercial value to the land.
- Vote about whether to send letter to National Park Authority about Cressbrook - Unanimous, all in favour.
- Larch removal planned at Wyming Brook in autumn/winter 2022. May affect parking for Rivelin at Rivelin Dam, as a lot of machinery to store and lot of wood to move. Will confirm as soon as we know more. Same phytophthora ramorum infection that resulted in the removal of larch at Stanage Plantation and Tain Wood (above the campsite) in February.
- Access reps spend much time in representational work with PDNPA, NT, RSPB, DWT, SMP and others which do not get reported at meetings, but is both important and time consuming. Always happy to answer questions about this.
- Kim Leyland (read by Andy) Ouzels are doing well. Peregrines doing well at Moss Rake. Ravensdale restrictions have been extended by 2 weeks. Kestrel restrictions also ended.

7. Members Council Update- Sam Harris

- 5x meetings a year
- Away day in Snowdonia: vision event for hill walking. What is hill walking? Trends such as Social Media, environmental impact, education etc. Now want to do something with the information.



- Succession Planning: someone leaving a role in the BMC leaves, how do we make sure we don't lose that knowledge?
- Member code of conduct. Been sent off for review.
- Environmental and Sustainability Policy: how do we protect mountain environments, how do we become carbon net zero, promoting sustainable meetings.
- Rob Dyer: backfilling his position
- Peter Neden: constituency councillor for members of BMC affiliated clubs.
- How do we support Areas?
- Volunteer pipeline
- What makes a good councillor?
- Proposed Patron nominations
- Any issues to take back to Members Council please ask or come and say hello
- Vision events have gone into the board. Tweaks to strategic plan.

8. Hybrid Meetings: Cost of Living Crisis

- Intending to go Hybrid.
 - Need microphones and tech
 - Would get more people if we were in a pub
 - Would there be an opportunity to go next door to the pub?
 - Can BMC fund IT?

9. Any Other Business

- Newsletter- Vacancy
- Rob Dyer's job has been split into two roles. Has been advertised.
- Mailing Lists for BMC, vital to have a mailing list. Been raised at Members Council. Had a chat with a consultant who works in GDPR, consultant says there is nothing in law that that prevents us having one.
- Couldn't get onto the AGM, some emails are still not getting through to members. Not just an Area thing, a wider problem.
- Remind people to not lower off of fixed gear: need to replace fixed gear as higher levels of traffic.
 - Does get covered off on Mountain Training courses

10. Date and venue of next meetings

W/C 17th October Hybrid Meeting

Will be AGM. There will also be a Quiz.



Entertainment: Percy Bishton

Chair: peak.area@thebmc.co.uk

Secretary: bmcpeakareasec@gmail.com

Access: henry.folkard@bmcvolunteers.org.uk

Clubs: bmcpeakclubs@gmail.com

Hill walking: austin@walkthemoorlands.co.uk

Members Council: Please contact one of the above and we shall forward on your email to Alison or Sam.