



BRITISH MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL

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NORTH EAST AREA GENERAL MEETING

Gosforth Hotel (NE1 1HQ)
on 27th April at 7.30pm

Minutes

Attendance

NE Area Committee (4). Jon Punshon (Secretary & Members' Council), Adrian Wilson (Clubs Rep), Steve Blake (NE Access Rep), Jonathan White (Members' Council) & Chris Bullock (Youth & Competitions). **NE Area Members (3)** Graham Harkness, John Taylor & John Herron.

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair, Peter McCreedy was abroad so Jon Punshon chaired and minuted the Meeting.

Apologies received from Alan Hinkes, Mike Conlon and Mark Goodings.

There was no BMC Director in attendance, nor a BMC member of staff.

2. Minutes from the previous Area Meeting held on 16th February 2023

The minutes from the previous meeting were agreed but were missing the Clubs report produced by A Wilson. That report will be appended to these minutes, when received.

5. NE Festival of Climbing and BMC AGM

JP shared the outline plans for the AGM / Festival and asked for support for the event. Steve Blake very kindly agreed to produce a programme for the event.

As yet a band for the evening of Saturday 17th June has not been found. Any ideas anyone?

7. Update on local issues

- **Access North.** Steve Blake reported that there had been concerns about open access to ... Berryhill Crag as some PGL staff had allegedly suggested that they had sole access rights. SB has investigated this and informed the meeting that the **alleged restriction does not apply** and the landowner is going to clarify the situation with PG

- **Competition and Youth.** Chris Bullock provided the following report: Entries are still coming in for our Northeast Rock Solid Bouldering competition. We currently have forty-seven entries of which thirteen are from outside the Northeast, with one notable entry coming in from Macau, China. The person is only entering round four when they are over here, but we were incredibly surprised to receive an entry from China.

We are grateful to Black Diamond who have come onboard as primary sponsor and agreed to provide prizes for the competition, but overall sponsor prize donations are down this year. This may be due to the current economy, so if anyone has contacts for sponsors and or prizes, all donations will be gratefully received. We are currently looking at Rock Solid branded merchandise to offer as prizes to make up any shortfall, the budget for this will come out of Rock Solid team funds.

Round 1 – The Valley, Newcastle	-	Saturday	17/06/23.
Round 2 – Friction Bouldering, Gateshead	-	Sunday	16/07/23.
Round 3 – Sunderland wall	-	Saturday	05/08/23.
Round 4 – Durham Climbing Centre	-	Saturday	19/08/23.

- **Youth Climbing Series**

The BMC are holding a YCS training day / meeting for all Area Youth Coordinators (AYC's) held at BMC head office, Manchester on the 24/08/23.

Registration for this years YCS goes live midday 1st June 2023.

Round 1 – Venue to be announced	-	Saturday	16/09/23.
Round 2 – Venue to be announced	-	Saturday	30/09/23.
Round 3 – Venue to be announced	-	Saturday	21/10/23.
Round 4 – Venue to be announced	-	Saturday	04/11/23.
Grand Final – Venue to be announced	-	Sat / Sun	25-26/11/23.

- **Judges**

Again, I would like to make the usual request for volunteer judges, if anyone is interested in helping at youth competitions, please let me know.

- **Competition Podium**

Construction of our competition podium is now complete, and I am looking forward to seeing it in use at events around the region. Huge thank you to all that have helped with this project.

- **Area Youth Meet**

The Fell and Rock-Climbing Club are holding their annual youth meet at their excellent Rawhead farmhouse, Langdale. Friday 23rd June till Sunday 25th June. This is likely to be the only youth meet of the year as the BMC has not replaced the Youth and Equity Officer James McHaffie, so have not announced any youth meets for 2023. Therefore, I would recommend all youth climbers who qualify to apply to attend this meet A.S.A.P. as places are limited.

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8. Members' Council Update. Jon Punshon (JP) and Jonathan White (JW) reported that 6 members of Council had requested a meeting with remaining Councillors to discuss concerns over communication between Members' Council and the Board.

9. Any Other Business

Nil pre notified or raised at the meeting.

10. Date of next meeting

Thursday 15th June. Venue likely to be in Durham.

11. Close meeting

9.30pm

13. Conflict and Climbing in the Dolomites

As part of the meeting, Steve Blake gave a highly informative, well researched insight into WW1 conflict between Austria and Italy in the Dolomites alongside some excellent photos of climbing in the same area, including a detailed account of his ascent of the North Face of Cimegrande by the Comici/Demai route.

Jon Punshon.
01 May 2023