



Peak Area Meeting

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

Time & Date: 7pm, Wednesday 19th October 2022

Attendees: 21 present, 13 online

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.

Apologies: Caroline Brunt, Martin Wragg, Sam Harris

1. Welcome & Introduction

Andy- starts meeting at 7.23pm due to microphone issues.

2. Peak Area AGM- Andy Reeve

How voting works: in person in the room and a poll on Zoom.

Some roles are a 1 year term, some are two.

Anyone here want to stand?

Chair, Sec, Members Council x1, Club Rep, Hillwalking Rep, Access Reps

2.1 Chairs Report: As is mandated to me, here's the BMC Chairs report.

Good: new regular venue in Bamford Hall, Sam as Sec, Sam H as Members Council. Great talk by Percy Bishton, no car days in Hope Valley, Peak Area Clubs have had a boost, Hillwalking have been busy with events, Access Reps fighting the good fight. 2 successful bids for crag and upland restoration fund: Roaches and cleaning graffiti.

Bad: Apprentice wall has a wall against the crag. Serious ongoing access issue in Cressbrook Dale. Meeting attendance is down, but better Hybrid.



The ugly: Bolt on holds have been added to Wildcat. Discussion point later this evening. Warning here, shape attitudes in our community. Care and respect as well as access for all.

2.2 Election of Officers:

Chair: Andy Reeve= 100% No abstains

Secretary: Samantha Rigby= 100%

Members Council Rep: Sean Milner: 100%

Clubs Rep: Paul Justin: 100%

Hillwalking Reps: Peter Judd and Austin Knott: 100%

Access Reps: Henry Folkard, Louise, Peter, Austin, Andy, Ian, Kim and Colin, Mark and Matt Cooke: 100%

2.3 Leaving the team: Thank you to Vikki for all her work.

Special thanks to Alison for 5 years, have a leaving gift.

Also thanks to Claudia for her work with Youth Climbing, need VOLUNTEER judges for Saturday.

End of AGM: 7.40pm

3. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 5th July

<https://community.thebmc.co.uk/Event.aspx?view=report&id=4410>

Any corrections or amendments? No.

4. Hillwalking Update- Austin Knott

Peter not here, Austin presenting.

2022 Retrospective- 3x hill walks (one didn't take place due to covid)

Peter also attends Kinder and High Peak Advisory Group

Austin attends Peak LAF and Staffs LAF

Roaches path repairs.

BMC national HW Group specialist committee. Sarah and Bev also on committee.



Peter keeping an eye on Midhope Moor. Synthetic mat across the moor. Matting still in place.

Sun 30th Oct Invasive Species (Sitka Spruce) Removal Day- email Peter to attend. If MA member, book and get CPD.

16th November: Roaches path repair.

Open to ideas for Hill Walks and Repairs

Welcome ideas/help to lead walks- be gratefully received .

Dartmoor Wild Camping: only area you can legally wild camp. Landowner has challenged existing wording, hearing in the high courts.

Lake District BMC walk this weekend hosted by Rose Gare Simmons

Crag and Upland restoration fund. There is still money in the fund, can bid for up to 1k. Reiterating, money hasn't been spent. If we don't spend it, budget will be reduced next year.

Outdoors for all, Cath Flitcroft on BMC website, google BMC outdoors for all. Primeminister, will see whats going on with some outdoors organisations. We believe everyone should be free to access the outdoors.

Dave Turnbulls Access Network sessions online- next one access legislation and practice

CROW 2000 (Amendment) Bill: expand the bill. Caroline Lucas. Write to MP and ask them to consider bill.

Gala Weekend: Peter presented.

Email Peter or Austin if you would like to get in touch: austin@walkthemoorlands.co.uk, for Peter please contact the Chair or Secretary.

5. Wildcat- John Fullwood- BMC Access Officer for England

Locally and nationally significant crag. Bought by Manor Adventure. When bought it said they would ban access to the crag in its entirety. Rob negotiated a softening- had to abseil in.

Access arrangement worked ok for a few months. Recently found out via Social Media that Manor Adventure have created artificial routes. Internet backlash, negative commentary from climbers, it got back to Manor Adventure, access now banned from crag.

Have been in touch, trying to quieten it down online, we need the space to negotiate. Speaking to Manor Adventure tomorrow or day after.



Causes tension- climbers will want to speak out. But in doing so, it makes the access situation more difficult. What is our priority...access to the crag, or being loud about what they've done. Local climbers want to explore option to get back to the crag.

Before this, access to Upper Tor had been lost anyway.

Worth mentioning the local climbers are neighbours, so for them it is very sensitive. They have agreements for water etc.

Bottomline is, they own the crag. BMC is working on keeping communication channels open.

6. High Tor Trees

Spray markings on trees on High Tor. Includes abseil tree. Big ash tree at the back, behind original route. Contacted council, confirmed that they're taking the trees down- Ash die back. We've primed them that we might need a replacement- belay bolts. Requested onsite meeting.

7. Sustainable Transport- Louise Hawson

Still talking to Hope Valley Climate Action and Danny, Estate Management for the Eastern Moors.

Danny and Louise had a meeting with Marianne, Planning meeting to look at opportunities in Sheffield area.

Storage no car- logistically very difficult to manage- poor public transport.

Now talking about broader ideas, extending quiet lanes. Priority to walkers and cyclists rather than cars...

Demand response bus routes? Could it really help in the honey pot areas?

"Use the Bus Week" in Hope Valley

There are challenges with buses, especially for boulderers!

Sheffield Outdoor City- cycle routes out of Sheffield, that don't include main roads.

Change the way we behave- but without changing access!

Monday- Sustainable Transport for Climbers and Walkers, National BMC meeting. Put together a vision. Support conversations. Need to be innovative.

Leave some cycling routes fun! DCC often make routes flat and easy.



8. Access Update- Henry Folkard

Henry Folkard-More to say than we have time to say them in. Thank Louise for Stange Open Forum.

More concessionary routes have been added thanks to Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL).

Asked to address the land through the Woolpacks on Kinder. NT couldn't do a path there as privately owned.

Kinder and High Peak meeting on Saturday.

Trying to increase Bridleway provision-Windy Knoll.

Wolfscote Hill- OS map not accurate. Was a concessionary route, that has been withdrawn.

Cath Flitcroft- working hard at national level.

BMC impact on Caroline Lucas's bill.

Masson Lees- for sale.

No update on extending the Derwent Reservoirs.

More Hen Harriers bred this year than in previous years.

Midhope Moor- it is actually an offense if the matting isn't removed. BMC to take action: vote 100%

North East Quarry- check the RAD for where to park.

Horseshoe- Barrister holds the rights to hanging fat mine,

Cressbrook Dale- email from Caroline Brook, Cressbrook resident, BMC Member. The only grounds on which that the BMC can take a position, are not the virtue of what the lady is trying to do there, is the landscape character, the effect on amenity and recreation. Move to get a Tree protection order put on the woods. Unanimous to write to authorities again on behalf of the BMC? 100% of vote

Thanks to Ian, Jon and Louise.

9. Clubs Update- Paul Justin



National Level:

'Find Your Adventure' campaign to promote club membership continues. Next Webinar in November is targeted at Student clubs, who were particularly hard hit by the covid lockdowns.

Work on-going to benefit from the changes to the BMC articles at the AGM, widening the criteria for clubs to affiliate to the BMC. Particular early focus for this initiative is on clubs for young people.

Peter Neden has been appointed as Members Council constituency councillor for club members. Peter will also sit on Clubs Committee.

Jonathon White, the board member with responsibility for clubs stood down from the board at the end of his term. We await news on which board member will pick up the clubs brief.

Peak Area

The Peak Area Clubs forums continue, with the next one planned for 14th November. These are on line meetings for Peak area clubs that provide an opportunity for clubs to discuss topics of mutual interest, share ideas and feed back to the BMC. Whilst the invite goes out to the club designated BMC contact, any Peak Area club members are welcome to attend.

They should contact either their club BMC contact or Paul Justin

(bmcpeakclubs@gmail.com)

Questions:

Q: Is the BMC promoting links between Student Clubs and Senior Clubs

A: Some clubs already have links with local student clubs. Clubs committee sees the benefits of links, both in supporting student clubs with skills and committee support and in promoting continued club membership post graduation. It's 'on the list' as part the of the club membership campaign but little concrete progress currently.

Q: Large 'Instagram' groups are becoming a feature out on the hills, with some concerns expressed in social media groups recently about how safely they are led. Is there a way for the BMC to promote club membership as one way to improve knowledge within these groups.

A: The changes to the articles agreed at the AGM are designed to give the BMC more scope to affiliate a wider range of outdoor groups into the clubs network. Clubs don't now have to have a fully democratic structure (eg AGM electing a committee every year) as long as they are clearly run for the benefit of their members and not for profit. This provides a possible route for 'clubs' based around social media to affiliate to the BMC.



Pete Salenieks: Introduced himself and gave brief overview of his role, invited conversation to continue outside the meeting.

10. Members Council Update- Alison Cairns

Been a pleasure to represent.

Council more stable and productive.

Welcome Sean. Sam who couldn't be here tonight. Between them will do a fab job.

This day was broken up into two sessions: a morning session, Vision Event focusing on Outdoor Climbing, and an afternoon session which covered regular topics.

Afternoon Session

Board Reporting

Suggestion to move towards quarterly board reporting, this to speed up the rate at which information gathering is performed by aligning council and area meet dates.

Deputy President Election: Chris Stone, from London & South East re-elected as Deputy President

Vision Event Identification: Decision on the next two vision events, where MC discuss their role in the

BMC and how we can improve on them: Rock Climbing and Indoor Climbing

to take place in Nov 22 and Feb 23 respectively

Review of the MoU and Participation Statement: Documents being updated and aligned with current BMC needs.

2nd August (Post Meeting Zoom)

Vision Events Feedback to the board



Started with reports from all NECs about the session they had with the Board in July, during which they presented on what had come out of the previous year, vision events, including some that they would like included in the next financial strategic plan.

MC discussed the importance of establishing partnerships with climbing walls and indoor climbers, as the BMC needs to make its position clearer on where it stands with indoor climbing as a whole.

Should BMC Cymru support a private members' bill in the Senedd to make it a statutory obligation on all Local Authority schools in Wales to provide all children with a residential outdoor experience during their schooling?

- o MC voted in favour

Ethos and Ethics Task: Finish Group have submitted their paper

- o This provides an outline of all of the BMCs ethos and ethics policies and how they affect members

11. Any Other Business- Andy Reeve

- Whillans Hut

Mike Beatty standing down, looking for a new warden or treasurer. Andy to write to Mike to say thank you.

12. Date and venue of next meetings

TBC

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 Sean or Sam.