



## BRITISH MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL

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### NORTH EAST AREA AGM

*Hybrid meeting planned but was not possible to execute*

Gosforth Hotel, High Street Gosforth.  
on 30th November at 7.00pm

### Minutes

#### Attendance (13)

**NE Area Committee (6).** Peter McCreedy (Chair), Jon Punshon (Secretary & Members' Council), Jonathan White (Members' Council), Simon Litchfield (Social Media), Chris Bullock (Youth & Competitions) Adrian Wilson (Clubs). **NE Area Members (7).** Josh Petty, Ella Farley, Cameron Smith, Andy Suggett, Rob Gilbert, John Spencer & Bob McAdam.

**Apologies for absence (9).** Alan Hinkes, John Herron, Steve Blake, Graham Harkness, Mark Anstiss, Mike Colon, Catherine Williams, Tony Williams & Fred Williams.

Jessica Wortley and Andy Syme attempted to log in but were unable to activate the link as the online facility had not been set up.

#### 1. Minutes from the previous Area Meeting held on 21 September 2023.

The outgoing Chair Peter McCreedy welcomed everyone to the AGM and noted how good it was to see new faces and particularly younger faces at the meeting, and as they are the future of all the forms of mountaineering in the area, all were encouraged to make these BMC NE meetings relevant to them.

The minutes from the previous Area Meeting were approved.

#### 2. Elections.

Thanks was formally recorded for Steve Blake for many years excellent service as the Northumberland and Newcastle Access Rep and good luck in recovering from recent surgery.

For this round of local area AGM's the BMC was trialling an on-line voting system that the NE Area had chosen to participate in

Voting resulted in the following positions being filled:

		Meeting votes	On line votes	Total
Chair	Josh Petty	(13F, 0A, 0Ab)		13

Secretary	Jon Punshon	(13F, 0A, 0Ab)		13
Access North	Ella Farley	(13F, 0A, 0Ab)	(17F, 0A, 1Ab)	30
Access Central	Remains vacant			
Youth	Fred Williams	(12F, 0A, 1Ab)	(17F, 0A, 1Ab)	29
Hillwalking	Remains vacant			
Climbing Wall Rep	Remains vacant			

Positions not elected at the meeting, but incumbents eligible and willing to continue:

Members' Council	Jon Punshon
Member's Council	Jonathan White
Competition	Chris Bullock
Access South	Mike Conlon
Club	Adrian Wilson
Social Media	Simon Lichfield

### 3. **Update on local issues.**

#### **Hillwalking.**

No report

#### **Access North.**

No report

#### **Access Central.**

No report

#### **South Area.**

No report

#### **Competition and Youth.**

Chris Bullock provided a detailed report - Appendix 1.

#### **Clubs.**

AW reported that there has been much discussion concerning the BMC Participation statement and safeguarding issues. It has been difficult to network with other local clubs and gain insights into their views. AW noted that it had been quite a frustrating year on Clubs Committee, but a new chair had just been appointed and we were looking forward to a higher drive and output. JW noted that a lot of work goes on behind the scenes to support clubs, such as support with child protection matters and work to support a family and club and influence a coroner dealing with a death on a club meet. If clubs have issues, there are usually either other clubs or specialists that we can call on for support.

In discussion issues were raised concerning etiquette at crags - recent concerns about dirty rock shoes and climbing on wet vulnerable rock at crags. From this final point it was agreed that the solution to these issues lies in engaging all local clubs including University Clubs. The new members of the committee were recognised as better placed to reach in particular the student clubs and other young climbers, and were encouraged to do so. Members noted that some might not have been made aware of local ethics, particular following the skills fade in student clubs due to covid where knowledge normally handed down might have been

missed. EF asked whether a talk on local environmental etiquette at a future meeting would be useful – all agreed that it would be.

4. **Members' Council Update.**

5. **Actions.**

Design and document a role description for the Youth rep. [FW & JW – next meeting]

Query insurance cover for youth meet in Northumberland, probably Wooler YHA to replace BMC Youth Meet previously organised by James McHaffie scheduled for Spring 2024. [JPu]

Arrange handover session for Access North position [SB & EF]

Speak to Lewis Hobson about Central Access role – position vacant as no contact for the last year and no response over willingness to continue. Seek another volunteer if not [JPe]

6. **Any Other Business.**

Big vote of thanks to Peter McCreedy for an excellent year's service to the NE Area as Chair and best wishes for his new role in Sweden.

7. **Date of next meeting.**

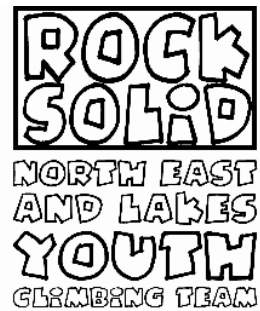
Thursday 29th Feb 2024

8. **Close meeting.**

About 10.30

*Jon Punshon (Secretary).*  
*30th November 2023.*

## Appendix 1



### Youth Report

#### Youth Climbing Series.

The Grand Final of the 2023 Youth Climbing Series took place last weekend at the Parthian Climbing Centre, Southampton. The event was extremely successful, having been very well organised and run. Climbers from the Northeast and Lakes who had qualified to compete, all did the region proud with some exceptional displays of climbing in a competition which as expected was of a very high standard.

#### Regional Training Days.

Climb Scotland the Youth section of MCoS have been approached, with a view to allowing Rock Solid to join in with their program of youth training which we hope will benefit both organisations and continue our long standing cross boarder relationship.

#### Rock Solid Inter Wall Trophy 2024.

16<sup>th</sup> March is the proposed date for the inaugural Rock Solid Inter-Wall Trophy

This is a new competition in which we are inviting climbing walls from around the Northeast and Lakes to submit a team of eight climbers, four under 16's and four under 12's. Individual 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place medals will be presented for each age category, but this is a team competition. Team scores will be added together, and the winning climbing wall receives the trophy and bragging rites for the next twelve months.

Rock Solid has commissioned a Trophy and Medals from Core Climbing Holds; the Trophy will be engraved with the winning walls name each year and held for twelve months.

Invites to the event will be sent out soon to all regional climbing centres.

#### 2024 Rock Solid Bouldering series.

Planning is well underway for next year's Bouldering series; we are currently organising venues for the four rounds which start in June. We would like to thank all the Northeast climbing walls who have really embraced this event and helped us make it the success it is. We are extremely grateful for all their support and wish everyone a successful 2024 season.

**Chris Bullock**