



Yorkshire Area Newsletter Spring 2009

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Peak Scar Clearance Work

A group of about 20 members of the Cleveland Mountaineering Club and York Alpine Club worked hard on a cold sunny Saturday afternoon to clear Peak Scar of the logs felled by the Hawnby Estate. The job consisted of a strong man/woman competition, not sure who won, followed by a log-roll down the hill.

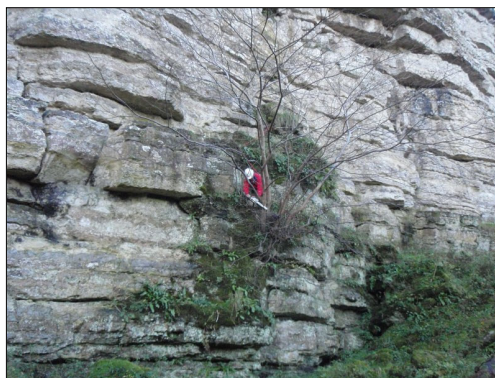


There was a great team spirit on the day and we were kept entertained by a bit of aerial tree surgery from Chris. Thankfully the log-roll did not end the day early and we were all kept going by the tea and biscuits provided out of Pauline's van. The work party continued until we finally had to retreat to the Inn at Hawnby because of poor light.

The Hawnby Estate wrote to thank everyone for their work at Peak Scar.

"From a forestry perspective, the site could not be more inaccessible or difficult and whilst the Estate woodmen were able to fell a reasonable amount of Sycamore close to the crag, we did not feel it was possible to transport the timber lengths to the roadside.

We were very grateful and pleased to see that your work party managed to achieve this in what must have been an arduous day of man handling heavy logs down slippery bank sides! Please accept our thanks for this and the Estate looks forward to the possibility of conducting further crag maintenance works in Peak Scar in future years."



Arran Tulloch

The Boulders of Caley Crag

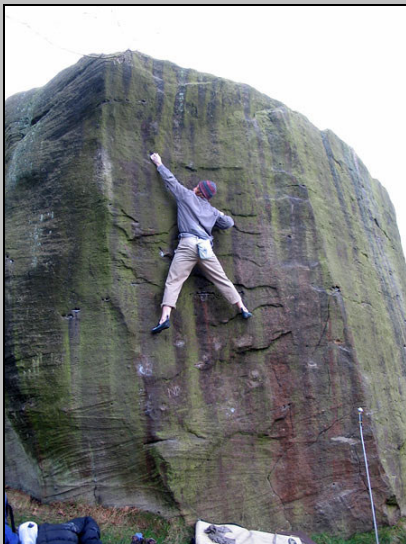
"These are a group of rocks situated on the lower slopes of Otley Chevin overlooking Wharfedale. The rock is a good quality gritstone and there is ample scope for a good afternoon or evenings climbing. In addition to the many excellent, and often quite exposed, boulder problems there are a number of longer routes"

This was the description to Caley Crag in the 1956 "Climbs on Gritstone" with the crag meriting only one page. What a difference from today when Caley is recognised as one of the premier bouldering areas not just in Yorkshire but in the country and attracts climbers from much further afield too. Most other users of the Danefield area cannot fail to have noticed the predominantly young climbers with their brightly coloured bouldering mats. Caley offers problems for every grade of climber and there are still many ongoing "projects" that the top boulderers from all over try to climb from one generation to another.



Today we have dedicated guides, websites and magazines for bouldering - needless to say Caley boulders feature extensively in all of these. More information is available on the sport of bouldering should you fancy getting involved (see the references below) but I think it is worth mentioning that the British Mountaineering Council, which is a body run by climbers for climbers, do recognise the popularity of bouldering and as such print a very useful leaflet "Climbing Outside". This details lots of interesting information about bouldering and other types of climbing.

I have lived near and bouldered at Caley for nearly 40 years now, and one problem I have noticed recently is the occasional piece of sprayed graffiti on some rocks. Please don't do it as it is almost impossible to remove and the rocks mean so much to so many people as I hope this short article has illustrated. Hope to see more of you bouldering at Caley if you fancy having a go!



In the 1982 Yorkshire Gritstone Guide the local bouldering guru Allan Manson stated:

"Now for the piece that you have all been waiting for - where to boulder at Caley. From on top of any convenient position elevated enough to give a commanding panorama look around. Many boulders will be seen. Go forth and climb them. Do not forsake or scorn even the smallest"

For Guides to the Caley Boulders see:-

www.yorkshiregrit.com

Yorkshire Gritstone Bouldering - Alan Cameron Duff - Rockfax Publications

Yorkshire Gritstone: A Rock Climbing Guide – Dave Musgrove - Yorkshire Mountaineering Club
Climber magazine Dec 2005 - nice article on Caley

Article and photos - Michael Johnson

York Alpine Club - a new member's experience

Until recently I didn't see much point in joining a club - I already had a group of mates to climb with. Then a couple of people moved away and joining a club seemed a good way to meet more people to climb with so I sent off an email to the York Alpine Club and politely asked what they got up to. They told me they were an active, BMC affiliated club whose members got up to all sorts of mountainish stuff as well as climbing - hill walking, mountain biking, orienteering, scrambling and bouldering - that they had regular weekly climbing evenings but lots of informal climbing as well, and once a month they had a camping (in summer) or hut (the rest of the year) meet at different crags around the country. They also organise a few longer trips abroad - a climbing trip somewhere Mediterranean in early spring, an alpine trip in the summer and this year a group of people were going ice-climbing in Norway. Sounded good, they seemed friendly enough and no-one looked like an obvious nutter, so I joined.



As it turned out I got a lot more out of joining YAC than just a new set of people to climb with. It's pushed me into trying new activities. I've been winter walking in Scotland, scrambling in the Lakes and North Wales, and ticked my first Munros. I've also been pushed out of my local crag rut and been climbing in the Wye Valley, the Roaches, Northumberland and the Costa Blanca, as well as crags in Yorkshire and the Peak I hadn't visited before. There's a great atmosphere at the hut meets - everyone goes off and does their particular activity during the day, then in the evening we get together again over a meal and a beer or three.

I've also found that although the club isn't about teaching people to climb, people are very willing to help out and pass on their skills, and you learn a lot just from climbing with a wider group of people. Oh, and we've recently adopted a local crag, which means we will be working with the BMC and other local clubs to help keep the crag in a decent state.

I've been pleased to find that being in a club isn't about getting tied up in endless meetings and club regulations, it's just a really good way of meeting other people to get out and do stuff in the hills. Plus the programme of scheduled meets takes a lot of the pain and faff out of organising climbing (or whatever your personal favourite mountain activity is) trips around the country and you can put something back into the club by organising meets or activities yourself.



How to Contact York Alpine Club

* You can meet us at: Brigantes Bar, Micklegate, York on Thursdays from 9.30pm

* Or you could visit our website:
<http://www.yorkalpineclub.org.uk/index.htm>

* Email us: membership@yorkalpineclub.org.uk

* You could even talk to us! Our Club Secretary is Simon Fox Tel: 01904 636100

Article by Peri Stracchino
Photos York Alpine Club

Bouldering Conservation Code

Boulderers are encouraged to follow a conservation code:-

- ❖ No chipping
- ❖ No wire-brushing - use a nylon brush if cleaning holds
- ❖ Use bouldering pads to reduce ground erosion and vegetation damage
- ❖ Clean and dry your footwear to reduce rock damage
- ❖ Don't use resin
- ❖ Minimise chalk use - brush away any excessive build up
- ❖ Dry wet holds with a towel or wait for a windy day
- ❖ Remove carpet patches or towels - they kill off vegetation and create a mess
- ❖ Take all litter home and follow the Countryside Code
- ❖ Leave all vegetation in place - no gardening please

Yorkshire Area Youth Meets

Two Youth meets are being arranged for early summer

The first meet will take place the weekend of **6th and 7th of June**. We'll camp somewhere near Settle on Friday and Saturday night. On Saturday the plan is to walk part of the Elgar Way. We'll start from the centre of Settle and take the Ribble Way up to Stainforth Force. We'll make our way to Catrigg Force, then reach Jubilee Cave (bring a head torch) and will return to Settle via Victoria Cave and Attermire Scar. It's about 8 miles. On Sunday, we'll see how everybody feels but maybe we could do a shorter walk or a climb depending on the weather.

The second meet will take place the weekend of **4th and 5th July**. We'll camp in Hutton Roof. The campsite is very basic (one toilet and one cold tap) but very cheap and the field is huge which allows for a game of football after tea on Saturday night. The plan is to walk on Saturday (last year we walked across Morecombe Bay) and climb on Sunday at Hutton Roof. It all depends on the weather and we'll have to decide nearer the time.

Anybody interested please contact Anne Chevalier on 01943 430 687. Children should be accompanied by one of their parents/guardian.

Yorkshire Area Meeting

The next meeting of the Yorkshire Area will be held on **Monday 8 June at 19.30** at the Ilkley Moor Vaults Pub & Dining Room, Stockeld Road, Ilkley. There'll be the usual topics on the **agenda – Access, Youth, National Council** etc and this time we'll also be discussing the **Clubs' Committee and electing Yorkshire's rep** and also discussing the question of **climbing as an Olympic sport**. Why not come along and join in the discussion. The beer's good and there's free chips and butties at the end of the meeting around 21.00. The agenda and minutes of the last meeting are available on the BMC website or from me.

See you there!

Deirdre Collier
Secretary
Yorkshire Area Meeting

Picture Competition with prizes!

Do you know where these pictures were taken?



If you know please state location name and grid reference and email Deirdre at YorkSec@UKmountaineering.org.uk

There are 2 prizes - one chalk bag and one pair of socks. First correct reply received for each picture wins and first overall gets choice of prize.

Thanks to Angela Soper for the photos.



BMC AGM 2009

The BMC AGM took place on Saturday 25 April at Plas y Brenin in North Wales, where **Rab Carrington became the new BMC President** and **Audrey Seguy joined the ranks as a Vice President**.

Two strong candidates were in the running for the **BMC presidential election** – Rab Carrington and Doug Scott. Rab, who has been a Vice President for the last three years, won the vote by 639 votes to 281. The new President said that he looked forward to the next three years in office. Dr Charles Clarke finished his term as BMC President and was presented with a box of wine to thank him for all his hard work.

Audrey Seguy, nominated for incoming Vice President, showed that her performance as a speaker is as strong as her performance as a climber. The current British bouldering *and* lead climbing champion, introduced herself to the AGM audience and took on some questions before she was voted in by an overwhelming majority of 914 votes to 7. Audrey is Managing Director of the Castle Climbing Centre in London.

Pat Littlejohn and Rehan Siddiqui were re-elected as Vice Presidents and David Lancelly was re-elected as Honorary Treasurer. Thanks go to Brian Griffiths who has retired as Joint Honorary Treasurer. This year saw a high number of proxy and discretionary votes as BMC members who couldn't be at the AGM still wanted their vote to count.

A resolution that **subscription rates for 2010 should remain unchanged** at the levels set for 2009 was agreed by the Meeting.

Prior to the AGM a National Open Forum meeting was held, to enable members to raise and discuss any issues not on the AGM agenda.

Next year's AGM will be held on 24 April 2010 and will probably be of a festival format similar to last year's AGM weekend in Northumberland.

BMC National Council - Meeting Summaries

Saturday 25 April at Plas y Brenin

- The meeting was held on the morning of the BMC AGM and as a result was confined to a fixed 2 hours.
- **BMC policy on climbing as an Olympic sport:** There was lengthy debate on this following a proposal from Rab Carrington that the BMC National Council should try to agree a clear policy position over the summer months. It was finally agreed that an informed debate would be held Area level supported by explanatory articles in Summit magazine and on the BMC website and that National Council should make a decision on the matter at its September meeting.
- **Finance:** The BMC remains in a healthy financial state although the year-end forecast has been revised down to a £42k deficit with the variance on the original budget (a £14.6k surplus) being mainly attributable to a c.£30k reduction in income on savings and the Welsh Officer costs.

- **Clubs:** Since the 7 March National Council meeting the BMC has been finalising the operating procedures for the Clubs Committee and has been preparing a note to all affiliated clubs on the procedures for applying for financial support for website and newsletter development, instructor support etc (ref: new Sport England funding).
- **Area news:** L&SE is running a Youth Meet at Harrison's Rocks in May; The Tremadog Festival and Wilton Clean-up events both had excellent attendance and made real progress cleaning up these crags.
- **Wales:** In order to strengthen the BMC's work across both England and Wales the appointment of an Access & Conservation Officer for Wales had been agreed at the March meeting. Although specified as being for Wales it is envisaged that this post will result in more input generally across both England and Wales. Interviews for the position will take place on 10 June. This will be for a fixed term period of 3 years and the job is likely to be based in North Wales.
- **Policy on new developments in mountaineering:** This had been discussed at the March meeting and there was further discussion at this meeting about how the BMC should assess developments which could have a major influence on the future climbing and mountaineering. The wording of Pat Littlejohn's revised paper (as shown below) was accepted by National Council:

'For many years the BMC's approach towards new developments in climbing (such as climbing walls, the growth of sport climbing and competition climbing) has been to try to accommodate them within the broad church of climbing and mountaineering rather than to see the sport divided into various interest groups. Overall, events have shown this to have been a sound approach. In the past year there have been two significant new developments in climbing: a. Pressure for the BMC to support the concept of climbing becoming an Olympic sport, and b. A move to introduce coaching qualifications for climbing and mountaineering. In order to allay concerns that the BMC may allow/encourage new developments in the sport which threaten the ethos and traditions of British climbing, we would like to outline our approach to new developments. The BMC is open to new developments in climbing whilst ensuring that its core values as an inherently risky, outdoor adventure sport are never compromised. The great majority of climbers pursue their sport for enjoyment and personal fulfilment rather than prizes and medals, and the essential experience is available to all participants irrespective of climbing grade. The BMC will continue to consult with our members as the sport moves forward.'

Saturday 7 March 2009 in Hayfield, Derbyshire

- **Committees:** The Terms of Reference of the revised Child Safeguarding Group were reviewed and agreed.
- **Finance:** The BMC's 2008 year-end surplus was £149k. This was higher than expected due to a Travel Insurance profit share payment and strong take-up of the Direct Debit membership offer.
- **Clubs:** A Clubs Working Group (CWG) was set up in 2008 to consider issues raised by some clubs. At this meeting National Council considered a series of detailed reports and proposals from the CWG. Subject to consideration of further legal advice the National Council agreed to:-
 - a. Establish a Clubs Committee within the BMC. 'Local' clubs will be invited to elect a rep for clubs in their Area (based on BMC Areas) at an Area Meeting and this rep will represent them at the Clubs Committee. In Yorkshire I hope we will be able to do this at our next meeting on 8 June. National Clubs will elect 2 representatives to represent them all and student clubs will have one rep.

All Clubs will be paper members and their representatives can attend the meeting in person subject to the agreement of the meeting Secretary who will be the BMC Clubs Officer.

Please get in touch if you would like more info about this.

- b. Consult all affiliated clubs on the creation of an option which would allow club members the choice to opt out of BMC club membership. They would still pay for and receive civil liability cover and would contribute a small amount to BMC services.
 - c. To consider how the BMC's constitution might be altered to recognise the role of clubs within the BMC
 - d. To wind-up the CWG.
- **Coaching:** The issue of coaching within climbing and mountaineering was discussed in light of a report recommending the establishment of new coaching award scheme. It was agreed that the BMC supported the development of coaching provided that the report was altered to reflect the importance of traditional values and ethics within climbing; it was also agreed that any resulting award syllabus should also reflect these issues.
 - **The Olympics:** In the absence of consensus amongst the Areas on the issue of climbing becoming an Olympic sport - it was agreed that further information and consultation was required before a decision could be reached.
 - **Lakes Festival** – This will take place from 12 to 14 June in the Duddon Valley.

Original summaries by Dave Turnbull, BMC CEO

Additional information by Deirdre Collier, National Council Representative, Yorkshire Area Meeting.

And finally – the second Newsletter . . . !

Originally we talked about doing quarterly Yorkshire Area Newsletters

Then we thought that we'd better start slowly and so we agreed to go for twice yearly

And then . . . as it's turned out it's just as well that we didn't try to be too ambitious. The 1st one came out in June 2008 and as you can see the 2nd one has been a while in production!

Thanks to contributors, to Simon Yewdall for putting it together and to Iain McKenzie from the Midlands Area for general help and support.

Part of the production problem is having enough material for a Newsletter. We'd like to at least stick to the twice yearly schedule but we do need articles, info, photos etc so please get in touch if you've anything you'd like to contribute.

Also if you would be willing to help with the production we'd like to hear from you.

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