

BRITISH MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL

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HARRISONS ROCKS MANAGEMENT GROUP (HRMG)

Minutes of the Harrison's Rocks Management Group meeting held in Groombridge on Monday 11 October 2004.

Present:	Bob Moulton	Chair
	Geoff Pearson	BMC
	John Galloway	BMC
	Nigel Head	BMC
	Graham West	BMC
	Tim Skinner	BMC
	Sylvia Sutton	Local Resident
	Sarah Cullen	BMC + Local Resident
	Guy Keating	BMC Officer

Actions

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Chris Tullis, Lynda Meyers, Tim Daniells and George Atkins

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting on 17.5.04

Agreed for accuracy

3. Matters Arising

Page 2 chippings laid down on the resurfaced car-park, and barbeques/cooking under the toilet block roof banned.

4. Harrison's Rocks Work and Site Managers Report

- a. Chris Tullis has reported that the proposed program of cement work has not been fully completed, but that a number of chipped holds have been filled in, and GW commented that a good job had been made of this, but that other small chipped holds had appeared since – CT to get filled in. CT had also tried filling in some graffiti but the lettering showed up – NH.to speak to CT as to a method for make the cement work blend in.
- b. Mike Vetterlain has reported the proposed resin work could not be completed at the crag due to the inclement summer, but most of the requisite survey work had been completed.
- c. The belay bolt at the top of *Slimfinger Crack* was reported to CT by GK some 3-4 weeks ago following a report of its 'looseness' from a members of the public. CT already knew of this bolt, and concluded that its placement integrity was not currently of concern, but that he would continue to monitor the placement.

CT

NH

- d. Ground erosion maintenance – nothing significant to report.
- e. Woodland management – nothing significant to report.
- f. Croydon MC have intimated they will be working voluntarily over the weekend of 16th and 17th Oct. focussing on picking litter, scrub clearance, and ditch work.
- g. CT has reported the varnish work on the toilet block soffit and the paving slab work had been completed.
- h. BM commented the crag and facilities are currently in very good condition.

5. Sandstone code of practice

- a. GP reported on (and passed around the meeting) the draft artwork of the new COP. He also commented that the leaflet still requires some positional tweaking of the photos and the inclusion of the BMC's new logos. Thanks were extended to JG and Steve Jackson as well as to GP for their work on the leaflet. **GP**
- b. GK reported the ACT funding application had been received and would be imminently distributed to the trustees and the ACG for comment, and also that the bid would probably be successful. BM commented that contributory CC funding would, in all likelihood, be 'inevitable,' and that GP should commence with printing once the artwork was finalised.
- c. The question was raised of 'where the boxes of leaflets would be stored once printed', and BM will ask CT to store the boxes and also arrange for a dispensing holder to be built and located on the car-park notice board. **BM**
- d. Tim Skinner agreed to distribute to climbing shops and centres in his area, and JG commented it also needs to be distributed to local clubs. GP to draw up a draft list of local clubs, shops and walls for the COP to be sent to – it was agreed to send one copy to each club and to ask them if they wanted further copies for distribution to members. CT (Richard Hayden also) to be asked to provide details of groups to whom COPs should be sent. **GP**
BM
- e. The question was raised on postcode-specific distribution to BMC members in the SE, through inclusion in the Spring edition of Summit. (Addition – GK has looked in to this and is pleased to report it is possible) **GK**
- f. Also possibly to insert in the new CC guide - BM reported that Cordee would charge approx 5p per guide to insert in the guides as they were sent out.

6. Health and Safety

- a. No accidents have been reported since the last meeting
- b. BM commented the production of an emergency plan to address serious accidents and medical evacuation procedures had not been progressed. **BM**

7. Notice Boards

- a. Car-park: BM stated that Matt Heason had been working on the new notice boards for the BMC but the process had stalled, and needs to be followed up. Any new signage would need to include the new BMC logos. **GK**
- b. At the entrances to the Rocks: BM reported that CT had taken down the new boards, had cleaned them and was sealing them in – CT thought that they looked OK now. BM was awaiting the outcome of bids for funding similar notice boards at the other crags, including two for Stone Farm.

- 8. Notices for Boulderers**
Subject to any comments at the meeting that evening, a more permanent fixture was required. BM to follow up with CT. **BM**
- 9. Sport England Issues**
- a. BM detailed the developments since the last meeting: Dave Turnbull's passing discussion with Sport England, meeting between DT and local climbers, and site meeting between DT (BM also) and the Forestry Commission. Also commenting that since this meeting no further contact been initiated from the BMC. It was agreed that the issue needs to be progressed through official channels by the BMC, if at all possible before the CEO's sabbatical. GK and BM to chase up with DT. **GK/BM**
 - b. BM stated he had written to Joe Jagger (who's errant son went from being one type of rock-star to being another...) to thank him for his contribution to sandstone climbing as one of the purchasers of the Rocks for climbers.
- 10 The BMC's Future Policy Review**
- a. BM detailed the inception of the Land Management Group and it's reporting to the Access & Conservation Group, that HRMG would report to the LMG, and other details contained within the Future Policy Review documents.
 - b. BM also stated his intention to stand down from his position as the chair of the HRMG (after 8 years) within the foreseeable future.
 - c. JG led the rest of the group in thanking BM for his 'commitment and dedication to the cause' over the years
- 11 Financial Report**
BM asked GK to clarify HRMG's financial situation, as no one present financial statement had been forthcoming from the BMC. JG questioned if the 'Repair Fund' funds were 'ring-fenced' within the BMC's central funds. BM reported the BMC Treasurer as confirming to him the previous week. GK to ascertain the position and to issue with the minutes. **GK**
- 12 Stone Farm Rocks**
- a. GW detailed the 3 phases of work required at the rocks (subject to ACT funding bids) 1) Tree clearance work 2) Tree planting 3) Wood chippings. Also detailing an approach made to EN for funds towards the enhancement of the areas SSSI status, and the fact he would require operational expenses for his time and towards the use of his hainsaw..BM questioned the replanting scheme, particularly in regard to future crag shading, and GW provided details on species, typical growth rates, and the value of conserving this type of semi-ancient woodland. GW confirmed that the views from the foot of the Rocks would be preserved.
 - b. As for the previously mentioned reason in **4b**, MV has not undertaken any resin work at SFR. **GW**
 - c. GW reported on the completed management plan.
 - d. BM asked the group for a volunteer to arrange for the fencing below the Inaccessible Boulder to be replaced by post and rail fencing, including contact the landowner and arranging for the replacement of the broken access stile. The responsibility for the stile was uncertain, but if was the neighbours responsibility and they wouldn't do it, then it was felt it's in climber's interests to do this. Unfortunately, the group was reticent in coming forward, and a volunteer was not identified. BM to raise at the meeting that evening. **BM**

13 **Any Other Business**

- a. The flake on *West Wall* had been reported as being loose at the last meeting, and as such should be glued in place before its permanent groundwards decent. CT was getting Frank Shannon to do the work. NH detailed the stability work he had undertaken on *Serenade Arête* at Bowles 20 years ago, which had lasted the course, and suggested a similar thing for the loose flake. The group concurred. NH to pass on his experience to CT.
- b. SS announced she would be resigning from HRMG, and the group thanked her for the 21 years of attendance and views from a local residents' perspective. SS replied that although she hadn't really understand much of what had been discussed over the 21 years (technical climbing jargon) she had enjoyed making the tea!
- c. GP reported on the plans for the BMC to lay on a 'travelling roadshow/ Meet the BMC' session in the area. The Harrison's car-park on the day of the Annual Open Meeting (in May) seemed the best option.
- d. JG detailed his intention to investigate the possibility of a installing a 'Fontainbleauesque' artificial bouldering circuit in the woods near Harrison's, and the group gave JG there full support in taking this further.

NH

14 **Date of Next Meeting**

- Jan 17th - 2pm Stone Farm site visit
- Meeting 4pm Groombridge Hall.