

Minutes of BMC Lakes Area Meeting

held at Penrith Leisure Centre
on Thursday 11th September 2014

1. Welcome, introductions and apologies

Apologies were received from Ewen Turner, Peter Latimer, Ted Rogers.

2. Access updates and news

(i) Castle Rock update- It would seem that the top of the crack is not widening but the bottom is. It is thought that when the rock finally goes it will slide from the bottom. United Utilities have fenced off the area but are not unduly concerned by the state of the rock. There is signage in place to warn of the danger and make people aware of the risk.

(ii) Chapel Head requires a new sign.

(iii) The path Stickle Ghyll is affected until work on the hydro plant is complete.

(iv) Concern was raised over the amount of bracken that is being allowed to spread on the fell side. It was felt that the bracken is encroaching on crags making access difficult. **ACTION POINT** Steve Scott to talk to Dave Turnbull and Rob Dyer.

3. National Council Report

A short report was given using the area meeting briefing notes. A discussion followed on the position of clubs welcoming novice climbers, including how it affects insurance. Polly Sullivan gave a brief outline of the policy within Kendal Mountaineering Club for novice climbers. This has been a success in increasing club membership and has been achieved through training grants from the BMC.

4. Bolt fund update

No update available. **ACTION POINT** James Brumby to discuss with Dan Robinson his requirements for the bolt fund.

5. Any other business

(i) It was requested that people bring to the AGM **ACTION POINT** their list where lower-offs of an industrial standard should be installed.

Volunteers would also be needed to help place the lower-offs.

(ii) Following a discussion on how bird bans on crags have a serious affect on vegetation growth it was decided that a list should be drawn up of crags that need reviving. **ACTION POINT** Ron Kenyon requested that clubs in the area could give thought to 'adopting a crag' at the AGM.

(iii) Mention was given to the BMC Access Conference to be held at Rheged on 9th October. The theme for this year is 'Challenge Events in Upland Areas'.

(iv) Steve Scott shared an idea he picked up recently in France- a reusable pocket that attaches to the outside of ones rucksack to put rubbish in.

This encourages people to take their litter home.

(v) A reminder went out to people that as the winter season approaches only routes in condition should be climbed. **ACTION** Steve Scott to republish the guide to winter climbing in the Lakes via Facebook.

6. Date and time of next meeting

Next meeting is the AGM to be held at Hawkshead Brewery Staveley on Wednesday 26th November, starting at 7.30pm.