

BMC Lakes Area Meeting
Minutes of the meeting held at Kendal Climbing Wall
on Wednesday 22 April 2015

Attendance: 15

BMC Officers: Dave Turnbull, Carey Davies

Apologies: Anne Salisbury, Max Biden, Dan Robinson

Matters arising from Action Points of 26 November 2014 meeting

- 1 James Bumby (JB) has Access contacts now for all areas within the Lakes apart from Western Crags. All details are posted on BMC website.
- 2 Chapel Head signage now replaced.
- 3 Zip Wire proposals within the Lakes Area - It was decided that this be tabled for the next meeting and a full discussion will take place.
- 4 Hill Walking Rep. There have been two names put forward for this position.
- 5 Walking and Climbing Festival. This is too late to organise for this year. FRCC will be publishing a new Duddon Guide in 2016 and it was proposed to hold a Festival following its launch returning to the Duddon Valley.
- 6 Adopt a crag. Kelvyn James (KJ) should be given a list of all Clubs with an interest in the Lakes Area at the BMC Clubs Seminar on 25 April. Hold any action for this matter until then.

Access

- 1 Birkrigg Common. Signage has appeared banning all access including climbing. JB will pursue this with the assistance of Rob Dyer.
- 2 National Park has placed pockets of land up for sale. It is the official view of the BMC that this land should remain in public ownership. However in the event of a sale, ownership should pass to sympathetic bodies.
- 3 Fencing at Thirlmere by United Utilities is going to a public enquiry.
- 4 Bird restrictions are in place with no problems (yet).
- 5 The White guide has been published- it was suggested that we revisit this next winter. KJ suggested that some guides be placed outdoors at crags car parks. The information provided in the guide will assist people in recognising if the route is 'in condition' and may also prevent accidents when routes are not.
- 6 United Utilities is to open up some land above Hawes for walking.
- 7 Fix the Fells are busy with a repair programme.
- 8 Mountain Liaison group will meet late April - Bracken and Lyme's disease will be on the agenda.
- 9 Cathedral Quarry is owned and managed by the National Trust; they have been working with a quarry and mines inspector and have asked if we would be in favour of a (by hand) clean up exercise. A big lump

has fallen off 'Night Of The Hot Pies.' It was agreed that this would be beneficial.

- 10 Wasdale Head has seen some improvements to car parking and toilets.
- 11 A website has been launched to work with all bodies involved in National 3 Peak challenges. The objective is to make these bodies more sympathetic to local issues, encouraging good practice and Education. www.threepeakschallenge.uk

National Council Report

- 1 Bracken has been discussed at length with the suggestion of a working group of all bodies affected to form a national opinion.
- 2 Dave Turnbull (DT) gave a brief summary of changes to the BMC Insurance, following problems of non payment of claims from the previous insurers.
- 3 BMC AGM 24-26 April at Plas y Brenin.
- 4 Sport England withdrew a small amount of funding from the BMC for Climbing Walls based upon participation. This money has now been awarded to the Association of British Climbing Walls. The BMC has now revitalised its relationship with the ABC.
- 5 A new membership satisfaction survey is scheduled for next year.
- 6 BMC involvement with quarries has been tabled for discussion at June's NC meeting.
- 7 A new four-year strategic plan has been agreed with concentration on Hill Walking, Young People and Membership Development.

There followed a discussion on how the BMC attracts membership and its refocus on hill walking. The potential of large numbers of hill walkers appeared attractive, with the statistical evidence coming from the collaborative campaigning with the OIA (Outdoor Industries Association).

The interrelated subject of how we make BMC Lakes region meetings better attended was also debated without any conclusions emerging. Venue attractiveness and interesting speaker were agreed as important factors but the geography with all cities around the periphery was seen as problematic. No conclusions were reached at this stage.

Bolts

- 1 Tilberthwaite is next on the list for work.

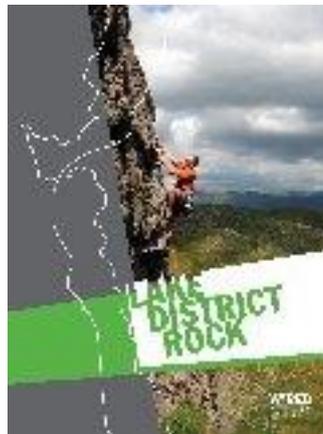
Clubs

- 1 The Clubs committee are holding a seminar at the AGM. A database of all clubs with an active interest in each area will be given to the reps; this will enable better communication.
- 2 KJ said his objective was to promote the BMC for all clubs.

The BMC/FRCC are organising a Youth Meet on 3-5 July at Raw Head Langdale. They are seeking assistance from adults willing to help. The age range is 12-18. Please contact Ron Kenyon (RK - ron@jaggedlakes.plus.com) for further details.

There is a new edition of Lake District Rock, covering the best that Lakeland has to offer the climber; it will be on the shelves in June. This publication replaces the best-selling 2003 guide as the guide of choice for visiting climbers. Jointly published with WIRED guides – a collaboration of not-for-profit publishers including the FRCC, BMC, SMC, CC and YMC – this guide is the first of an exciting new series that will cover the whole of Britain.

Lake District Rock contains over 1500 climbs on 85 crags and features clear maps, crisp photo-diagram coverage for every crag and sensational images. The banners and sidebar reflect the familiar FRCC colours making it easy to find each section. Dow, Coppermines & Slate, Duddon & Eskdale and Borrowdale receive the 'modern' treatment, and Bramcrag Quarry has a complete makeover with all of the recent developments featured.



Mike Parsons drew attention to the BMC Landscape Charter.

RK noted that he had received an email from Katy Whittaker (Arc'teryx) they are considering June - September re Lakeland Revival and the crag clean-up campaign.

Dave Turnbull then gave a short presentation on the BMC Hill Walking Initiative. Detailing how a membership survey had produced some very interesting results with regard to how the membership uses the mountains. A massive 61% stated that their main interest in the mountains was walking. The key strategic aim of the BMC is now to focus and extend its work in this area. It wishes to shake off the conception that the BMC has no connection with grass routes walkers. Summit has already extended its articles centred on walking and scrambling.

Carey Davies then continued in more depth about the strategic plan for the next four years. Areas of work will be centered upon such items as skills support, insurance, access, landscape and media. Issues that will be addressed will

include wind farms, fracking, fencing of fells, and the impact of visitor numbers competing in mountain challenges with regard to erosion and noise. In conclusion he stated that:-

There is a huge overlap between issues that involve walkers and climbers and it should all be under the one umbrella of 'Outdoor Space'. We all have in common a love of the upland and mountain environment although we use it in differing ways.