

# BRITISH MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL

## Lakes Area Meeting

Hawkshead Brewery, Staveley Mill Yard, Staveley, Kendal

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2016

Present : Per book

Apologies: Matt le Voi, Steve Scott and Alan Hinkes

1. Update on rebranding and related issues
  - a. Mike Parsons gave review of meeting at King Kong (Keswick) and subsequent.
    - i. Dave Turnbull and Rohan Siddiqui gave presentation
    - ii. Large decrease in funding from Sports England but had been offered money to look at structure and rebranding of BMC. Indication of funding re this was indicated on the day of the BMC AGM – so not able to discuss at AGM.
    - iii. BMC is a Representative Body but Sport England / other bodies prefer a Governing Body.
    - iv. National Council discussed this and agreed to go with this.
    - v. Furore from this and robust discussion at area meeting(s)
    - vi. There will be further announcement at Kendal Mountain Festival
2. National Council Report (Pete Sterling and Ted Rogers)
  - a. Pete Sterling indicated :
    - i. Issue is not just rebranding – with issue of type of body
    - ii. Concern at time re domain addresses
    - iii. Suggest need to wait for KMF announcement / discussion
    - iv. Comment that the BMC does not hear a lot from its members – only 25 at this meeting – and National Council made decision re rebranding - but then silent majority made itself known.
    - v. Saying that - BMC does nothing without members asking for it.
  - b. Ted Rogers indicated :
    - i. All areas voted against the name change.
    - ii. Feeling that we would like a Lakes or Northern area BMC officer. **Action Point**
    - iii. Accounts
      1. Show a deficit
      2. £5000 to CAC
      3. £6000 loss on Summit magazine
      4. Additional £15000 to climbing team
      5. Travel Insurance made money
    - iv. Membership increased by 2200 to 82500
    - v. Sport England grant
      1. BMC used to be self funding. Main income now from subscriptions.
      2. 20% of overall funding
      3. Grant directed toward specific jobs/areas
  - c. Other comments :
    - i. Indicated concern at BMC becoming a governing body, which would change association with members.
    - ii. Climbing is only a demo-sport in the next Olympics – with 40 competitors overall.

- iii. It was agreed at National Council that if climbing is selected as an Olympic sport that the core funding of the BMC should be directed towards mountaineering/climbing/walking and not competitions.
- iv. Fear from clubs that the BMC is looking too much at climbing competitions.
- v. Big Questions
  - 1. National Council could be taken away if BMC became a governing body
  - 2. Sport England have put out a paper indicating that there is a place for the National Council
  - 3. Does a governing body become a prescriptive body. Look at Mountain Leadership Training
  - 4. Need to link with Mountaineering Scotland re British Olympic team
  - 5. Again – wait and see what happens at Kendal Mountain Festival.
- vi. Still waiting to see clarification re insurance for bolters through the BMC insurance. Appears necessary to continue to be a member of the BMC and pay insurance from year to year – to cover any claims in the future – but need clarification. **Action Point**
- vii. IFSC – is the international sports climbing body – BMC is the UK representative body.

### 3. Cumbria Bolt Fund (CBF)

- a. Dan Robinson (CBF chair) gave details of position to date about CBF.
  - i. Humphrey Head now rebolted and new sections of Chapel Head Scar.
  - ii. CBF was created under BMC Lakes area committee so any change of direction must be agreed with the area committee.
  - iii. All new bolts, which are placed under auspices of CBF, are resin bolts.
  - iv. Insurance cover for bolters – appears covered by current valid BMC insurance and claim occurs at point of fall/accident – but awaiting clarification re insurance for bolters.
  - v. Question about liability of CBF Trustees – clarification to link with other clarification. **Action Point**
  - vi. CBF ensures that bolters are well trained and have record of training.
- b. Accounts from start (2007) to date presented by Ron Kenyon (CBF Treasurer)
  - i. Bolts provided by BMC for rebolting.
  - ii. Nothing included in the accounts re bolts and other materials given to CBF
  - iii. Main donations from FRCC in the period and Pete Sterling indicated that the area should be grateful for this as well as the other donations.
  - iv. There are some collection boxes around the area – will look to have others in the county. **Action Point**
  - v. Look to promote CBF and look for donations by paypal through the CBF website. **Action Point**
  - vi. Look to having a sign at the base of crags to promote rebolting by CBF, highlight website site and promote for donations to CBF. **Action Point**
- c. Constitution of CBF
  - i. Constitution set up in 2007 – looking to review and update.
  - ii. Question of rebolting – originally like for like but now look to make it a sports route.
  - iii. However where there is a classic scare route then keep it as it is.
  - iv. Darklands is now a sports clip up though !
  - v. Dan keeps database of bolts place
    - 1. Excel spreadsheet with details – number of bolts etc
    - 2. Also details of resin with day and temperature when used.
  - vi. Rick Graham has produced a new constitution to reflect proposed changes. This is on the BMC website (and should be on CBF website). Proposal : **Action Point**

1. Climbers etc read document
2. Send comment etc to Rick or link (Ron/Mike)
3. Look to agreeing revised constitution at the February meeting

#### 4. Access Update (James Bumby)

- a. Good news for the campaign to stop the large pylons from being routed across the south of the National Park. The Friends of the Lakes District are still campaigning against the visual impact of the planned pylons around the southern fringes of the park.
- b. Bolts have been placed (and badly) in Esk Gorge. They will/ have been removed. **Action Point**
- c. Welter Crag (Haweswater) we sadly have lost both Golden Eagles that have nested on this crag. Access is now open again.
- d. The National Trust has reported that they are going to invest some money from event charges in Langdale to doing footpath restoration work beneath Raven Crag.
- e. The Fix the Fells campaign has announced its work list for next year. Most of their work has had to be re prioritised following the damage from Storm Desmond. This work will be wide ranging across the Park.
- f. Chapel Head Scar: There has been a request to expand the permitted climbing area and allow some newer routes to be developed. However this land is going through a change of ownership and there is likely to be no new progress until this is completed.
- g. Walna Scar...Car Park : There has been a proposal by Rydal Estates to put in a proper car park at the end of Walna Scar. This has prompted lots of opposition. The proposed area may be on common land.
- h. Winter Climbing: the season will be underway... or may have started. Please consult the White Guide and consider the environmental impact on the routes climbed. Can we all put the message out ! We are hoping to get a temperature probe fitted onto Great End. This will give the ground temperature and report if the turf is frozen. A successful scheme like this has been trialled in Wales. The temperature is relayed back to the valley and the results will be displayed on the BMC web site. This should help climbers make an informed decision. Another probe is planned for Helvellyn at a later date. This is a partnership between the National Park and the BMC.
- i. Thanks to everyone for supporting the nesting restrictions. No infringements were reported. Some signs were removed at Thrang Crag.
- j. Patterdale Mountain Rescue Team have had some particularly awkward call outs at the Priest Hole Cave on Dove Crag. They have requested to be able to place some discreet bolt anchors to assist with this in the future. They will be for rescue purposes and not to aid access.
  - i. This was discussed and feeling would like better information about the proposal and ask Patterdale MRT for more information.
  - ii. Would look to someone in the room going and looking at the cave.
  - iii. The meeting very much supports the work of the Patterdale MRT but concerned about this being a "thin edge of the wedge".
  - iv. Concerns that bolts may be chopped
  - v. Proposal: **Action Point**
    1. Request and looking into the above.
    2. Defer and make decision at next meeting
- k. Langdale Boulders: We are looking at working with the National Trust to protect the ground underneath the boulders. This follows a complaint from the tenant farmer about climbers removing rocks from a wall to create stepping stones underneath.
- l. The National Trust is producing good practise Ghyll scrambling guides for centres and groups using honey pot locations. Esk Gorge has been written and others including Stickle Ghyll will follow.
- m. Per Ron Kenyon
  - i. Scratchmere Scar: Same position – no access. Issues with mountain bikers and overall ban on climbers, walkers and bikers.
  - ii. Armathwaite:
    1. No access during period when forestry work above the crag – up to end of December.

2. Ron Kenyon to meet Forestry Commission official to look at possible removal of trees, as well as branches. Also re improvements to path down to the crag.

**Action Point**

- iii. Castle Rock: The block is still there. Warning signs at base to be replaced.

**Action Point**

5. Environmental and Landscape Issues

a. Great Gable:

- i. Ron Kenyon reported that the poppies and crosses will be removed from the summit of Great Gable next Wednesday.
- ii. Looking to promote not taking poppies and crosses to mountain war memorials in 2017 by National Trust, LDNP and FRCC.
- iii. Also issue re ashes is becoming a big issue.
- iv. Also concern about plaques being placed on crags – last year there were 30 plaques removed.

6. Clubs: Nothing further

7. Any other business: Nothing further

8. Dates of meetings in 2017

- a. Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February Staveley
- b. Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> June CC Hut at Grange in Borrowdale
- c. Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September King Kong Wall, Keswick
- d. Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> November (or week later depending on KMF) with AGM

Meeting followed by photo presentation by James McHaffie (BMC ambassador) entitled “Borrowdale and Beyond”