

# BRITISH MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL

## Lakes Area Meeting

Hawkshead Brewery, Staveley Mill Yard - Wednesday 1st Feb 2017 @ 7.30pm

Present Mike Parsons (Chair), Ron Kenyon (Sec), Rick Graham, Jenny Graham, Ted Rogers, Marian Parsons, David Brown, David Pennington, Mike Tinnion, John Holden, James Bumby

1. **Welcome by Chair** - Apologies for absence received from Dan Robinson, Steve Scott, Fiona Sanders, Pete Sterling and Matt le Voi.
2. **Minutes of the previous meeting**
  - (a) Rick Graham indicated that he suggested that there should be an optional add on for the amount to the BMC Subs re the bolt fund (similar to Austrian Alpine Club re Hut Fund)
  - (b) Otherwise the minutes were agreed
3. **Matters arising from those minutes**
  - (a) The meeting feels there is a need for a Lakes / Northern officer
    - a. Feeling with other officers covering specific areas but appears that the work is spread round the country
    - b. Question about "What would they do ?" - access covered well by access officers.
    - c. Need a job spec !?? - unlikely to get funding.
  - (b) Insurance re Cumbria Bolt Fund (CBF) bolt fixers
    - a. Still awaiting an answer on this.
    - b. Appears to be that those involved are covered by the BMC insurance – but need to continue with that membership – still to clarify.
    - c. Concern at thoroughness of system – need to record what has been bolted and by whom.
    - d. Suggestion that the BMC should pay insurance to cover all work done by bolt funds – however the various bolt funds throughout the country are separate legal entities to the BMC.

**Action – pursue and review at next meeting**
  - (c) Fundraising for CBF
    - a. Noted above – Rick Graham had suggested voluntary add on to subs for BMC.
    - b. Thanks to FRCC and Rockfax for contributions linked to guide sales.
    - c. Letter to go out to clubs.

**Action – Dan Robinson to liaise with Fiona Sanders.**
  - (d) Bolts in Esk Gorge
    - a. JB reported that he believed the bolts had been remove – as part of National Trust policy.
  - (e) Bolts at Priest Hole (Dove Crag)
    - a. No direct reply from Patterdale MRT following indication of concerns from last meeting.
    - b. New helicopters added difficulties with rescues.
    - c. Rick Graham had identified 20 runner placements
    - d. Patterdale MRT had had tests made on the area from strength point of view.

**Agreed action - Ron Kenyon to contact Team re current position of team.**
  - (f) Block at Castle Rock
    - a. Still there
    - b. Signs seem to have been replaced by United Utilities.
- 4 **National Council Report - Ted Rogers**
  - a. National Council has ½ day of various committees
  - b. Finances –
    - i. Proposed surplus is now a deficit of £12k – due to cost of Mend the Mountains and Rebranding (additional costs over Sport England contribution); reduction in adverts in adverts in Summit magazine
  - c. Membership up by 4% - students and mountain training
  - d. Bank position – now reduced to £848,000

- e. Expected reduction in contribution from Sport England.
- f. Looks like to be an increase in subs for 2018 – 1<sup>st</sup> time in seven years.
- g. New governance being reviewed by the National Council.
- h. Proposed being put forward to make Rab Carrington a Patron of BMC
- i. Looking to create a criterion of Patrons.
- j. Suggestions include at the AGM an insight into the future – not just a review of the past.
- k. Proposal for 3 new officers –
  - i. Uplands officer
  - ii. Engagement
  - iii. Press officer
- l. AGM Date – 22/04/2017
- m. Executive council are now directors and run BMC.
- n. National Council
  - i. Previously was in charge but now are an advisory body.
  - ii. Representative of the areas.
  - iii. Looks at long term items to pass to executive.
  - iv.
- o. Lots of issues and constitution matters to be considered by AGM.

## 5 Cumbria Bolt Fund - Rick Graham / Dan Robinson

- a. Constitution – this is shown on <http://www.cumbriaboltfund.co.uk/>
  - i. This has been available to review.
  - ii. No amendments and it was unanimously agreed to the change of constitution.
- b. Bolts to be ordered for the coming year with the following proposed programme for the year -
  - i. Humphrey Head – finish bolting and place sign at base.
  - ii. Millside Scar – continue to finish.
  - iii. Tilberthwaite - to continue bolting and look at other slate quarries.
  - iv. Coudy Rocks – new routes – funded by Eden Valley MC
  - v. Ullswater Group Crags – rebolting to be funded by Centres in Ullswater area.

## 6 Access updates and news - James Bumby

- a. Bird restrictions to be looked at in the next few weeks.
- b. Probes put in place on Great End to give information of temperatures / weather there. Funded by Natural England and National Trust.
- c. Humphrey Head
  - i. Bolted in late 80's/90's
  - ii. Over excited clearing caused issues with Cumbria Wildlife / Natural England.
  - iii. Bolted HVS's there !! - have become popular.
- d. Chapel Head - request going forward to open additional section.
- e. Armathwaite
  - i. Looking to clear trees from base – awaiting agreement with landowner – Forestry Commission. **Action – Ron Kenyon**
- f. Shepherds Crag
  - i. Considering idea of removal of some trees at Shepherds Crag
  - ii. Ron Kenyon to liaise with Rob Dyer and then look to contact landowner – Egremont Estate. **Action – Ron Kenyon**
- g. Idea of having composting toilets at crags.
  - i. This is an area which never seems to have been addressed in the UK
  - ii. Composting toilets seen elsewhere.
  - iii. Shepherds Crag seems good location. **Action - James Bumby will look into this idea of composting toilets.**

## 7 Environmental and Landscape issues.

- a. Glenridding Common - known as Helvellyn and the edges – from Striding Edge to Great Dodd.
  - i. Mike Parsons reported that the John Muir Trust is looking to take over 'Glenridding Common'.
  - ii. Currently owned by LDNP – JMT looking to lease for three years then buy.
  - iii. Seems to be nothing changing with the 2 commoners continuing high fell sheep farming.

- iv. Path repairs where necessary – JMT will be responsible.
- v. Feeling that JMT would be a good organisation to acquire the Common.

## 8 Clubs. Hill Walking Representative and Hill Walking Issues

- a. Jenny Graham reported yellow paint being sprayed on the paths and cairns
  - i. Possibly with mountain biking organisations – will check events at that time (June 2016)
  - ii. Trend towards endurance competitions with no need for navigational skills !!
  - iii. Extra cairns should be destroyed
  - iv. Ask around !

## 9 Any Other Business.

- a. There is a series of road shows around the country for club committee members – see BMC website.
- b. BMC Youth Meet – Ron Kenyon indicated Youth Meet on weekend of 30 June / 2 July at Rawhead. Looking for people to help with this. Anyone interested in helping or knows of youngsters (age 12 – 18) interested should contact Ron Kenyon ([ron@jaggedlakes.plus.com](mailto:ron@jaggedlakes.plus.com))
- c. Cumbria Bouldering League. Dates now set for series this year as follows –
  - i. King Kong – Keswick 18 March
  - ii. Lakeland Climbing Centre, Kendal 22 April
  - iii. Eden Rock, Carlisle 20 May
- d. Great Gable – poppies, crosses and other memorials
  - i. Ron Kenyon reported on moves by FRCC and National Trust to look to stopping people leaving poppies/crosses etc on Great Gable.
  - ii. These have to be removed sometime and by someone.
  - iii. Looking to get agreement of other organisations including the BMC area.
  - iv. Idea of having locations at Wasdale (St Olafs Church); Honister Pass car park and Seathwaite – as alternative location to leave poppies/crosses.
  - v. Proposal for idea was agreed in principle by the meeting.