

BMC LAKES AREA MEETING
KONG ADVENTURE, KESWICK, CUMBRIA
18TH APRIL 2018

MINUTES

1. Welcome from the Chair, Mike Parsons. Apologies for absence from Ron Kenyon, Rick & Jenny Graham, Dan Robinson, Alan Hinkes, James Bumby, Fiona Sanders and Ted Rogers.
2. Minutes of the last meeting (Set aside due to overriding importance of BMC re-structuring business plus limited time available due to local night road closures).
3. **BMC Organisational Review.**

Mike Parsons gave a brief overview/summary of where the whole process is; April agm saw the resignation of President Rehan Siddiqui due to fierce pressure from the so called 'BMC 30' who are largely AC members. The following day saw V-P Nick Kurth, stand in as Nat Council chair and acting President. Ray Wigglesworth QC agreed to chair the ORG, Organisational Review Group. This group reported at a public meeting during the KMF in Kendal, making 51 recommendations. The job thereafter was creating an integration plan, for which a new group the IG or Integration groups was set up.

Pete Sterling (Lakes Area Rep on BMC National Council) showed a slide presentation explaining the salient points to be aware of regarding the proposed restructuring, the integration plan. These included:

- The importance of Sport England funding. However, this is bound to decline in the current and future economic scenario, and there are probably ways of increasing income/reducing expenditure to balance. Opinions and discussions included the probability of raised subs under any circumstances even if we do go along with the Sport E proposals.
- The perceived/possible kudos and increased credibility from being approved by SE if we comply with their Code for Sports Governance. Hence continuing to be seen by all as the National Governing Body. However, we would probably still be recognised as such anyway.
- Legality issues which might ensue where National Council (in their role of 'setting policy') could conceivably be held liable if there was a formal complaint against them. Whereas in reality it is the directors and board who are legally responsible and accountable.

If we comply with SE policy, National Council loses some power so an element of democracy (number of votes?) may be lost since they are chosen by the areas, but on the other hand the directors are not directly elected by members. A decision (to stay with SE or not) must be made by August 2018.

The Visiting from NW and Peaks regions said their discussions indicated that the most important, more important than SE funding, was keeping the BMC together as one unit over all areas of activities and sport.

Accountability and Legal Responsibility to be sorted out before this years BMC AGM in June.
ORG/IG development to be before April 2019 AGM.

Pete Sterling presented proposals for the meeting to vote on, as follows:

1. **(1a) Agreement to new Articles of Association?** – 7 for, 4 against.
2. **(1d) Agreement to new Articles of Association to support Sport England code of governance?** – 3 for, 6 against, 2 abstain.
3. **(1b) Acceptance of electronic voting at General Meetings?** – 10 for, 1 abstain.
4. **(1c) Raising threshold of Members required to raise a resolution?** This was broken into 4 separate ideas:
 - Rise from 25 to 100 members – 1 in support.
 - Rise from 25 member to 1% of membership (i.e. approx. 850 members) – no support.
 - Retain 25 members and introduce a mediation process – 7 in support.

- Leave it as is, 25 member – *no support*.

5. Accept a rise in subscriptions to help cover any loss of SE funding? – 10 for, 1 against.

Mike Parsons explained as chair he was the one voting against, simply because he felt members would find it hard to agree a subs increase of £3.40 pp/pa.

Pete Sterling was thanked for his work in preparing and presenting this lengthy but vital discussion. Our discussions also had the benefit and expertise of three visitors from outside Lakes Area: Andy Say from NW, David Brown from the Peak, and Les Ainsworth (ORG IG Co-opted), as well as Nick Colton from head office. (None of these four visitors were eligible to vote at this meeting.)

John Porter (AC President) declared a special meeting/workshop on 15th May, to take place probably in Manchester, to get all interested parties together for a thrash out of possible compromise solutions or whatever.

Mike Parsons (Chair) asked Nick Colton whether the BMC might be diluted in its climbing interests by an influx of walkers, but Nick was of the opinion that climbers nearly all walk anyway, and that was what was reflected in the stats' rather than a big influx of mountain walkers and do various other outside pursuits.

Other local matters: Little time available for this area of business so it was kept very brief.

1 Removal of trees at Armathwaite which should be finished in April: no update at present.

2 Car park at Walna Scar: There have been 550 letters of objection (because numbers of cars able to park will be much reduced and a charge applied.)

3 Boulders placed on verge to limit parking at Seathwaite, Borrowdale. No update.

4 Composting toilets at crags? Unlikely to be many due to high cost.

5 Chapel Head Scar: restrictions if peregrines are nesting. Pending.

6 BMC National Council Report - Pete Sterling.

7 Cumbria Bolt Fund - Dan Robinson, absent.

8 Access updates and news - James Bumby, absent.

9 Environmental and Landscapes issues - none

10 Clubs - no

11 Hill Walking Rep and Issues - Stuart Smith - none

12 BMC Youth Meet, 6-8 July, at Rawhead FRCC Hut. This is open to young climbers aged 12-17. Competent adults welcome to assist. Contact Ron Kenyon: ron@jaggedlakes.plus.com, or James McHaffie.

13 Lakeland Revival: Big Mountain Weekend in Langdale 5-6 May. Commercial venture with fun, climbing awards and entertainment.

14 AOB - none

15 Date of Next Meeting - 6th June 2018, Venue TBA.

Marian Parsons. Acting Lakes sec in RK's absence.

Mike Parsons, BMC Lakes region chair.
