



Lakes Area Meeting

ZOOM MEETING - Monday 24th Jan 2022 at 19.30

MINUTES

Present - **Lakes Area**; Frank Bennett (Chair), Ron Kenyon, Adam Green, Phil Swainson, Paul Stewart, Philip Davies, Andy Hope, James Bumby, Alan Strachan, Ken Taylor, Philip Powel, Sharon Kennedy, Wendy Stirrup. **BMC**; Gavin Finch, Cath Flitcroft, Martyn Hurn. **NE Area**; Andy Syme, Simon Litchfield

1. **Welcome and introductions** by Frank Bennett
Apologies for absence:
Fiona Sanders, Mike Parsons, Anne Salisbury, Rick Outhwaite, Dave Brown.
2. **Minutes of the previous meeting**
 - Available on the BMC Community website and agreed.
3. **Matters arising from that meeting or not covered elsewhere**
4. **BMC** (Martyn Hurn)
 - The BMC ran a budget deficit in 2021 which was covered from reserves - primarily due to covid disruption - this meant forward investments had to be put on hold.
 - The 2022 budget sees the organisation back on an even financial keel and able to invest forward.
 - Membership numbers and insurance are expected to see an uplift through the year.
 - Sport England - Phase 1 of the funding process complete. Now phase 2 for additional funding requires focus on 3 key areas; Governance, Systems Development and Talent.
 - Gavin Finch has been appointed as Senior Commercial Officer with a first focus on the membership package for climbers both outdoor and indoor, hillwalkers and mountaineers. The target is to attract and retain 100k engaged members in the next 2 years.
 - 'Your movement matters' have joined forces with other organisations to look at demographics and barriers to entry - report expected at the end of January.

- Mid January saw a review of the committees which are seen to be at the heart of the BMC going forward. The board will review the summary of the reviews at the quarter 1 board meeting.
 - Area festivals resume in 2022 with funds allocated *bids close 30th Jan.
 - A review is underway of patrons with new appointees planned for the AGM.
 - BMC AGM will be virtual this year - midweek evening on Tuesday 17th / Wed 18th / Thursday 19th May (TBC).
- **BMC Access Overview** (Cath Flitcroft)
 - Revisiting the Glover review - Consultation lasts until mid-April then expect govt response. Lack of reference to recreational community, concerns are around increase in the powers of the National Park Authority, notably around its ability to form commercial partnerships. BMC is undertaking a review with ramblers and others with summarised response to follow in due course.
 - DEFRA and the Minister are also reviewing environment management schemes - key is to keep public access agenda part of considerations.
 - Hills to oceans remains a live initiative.
 - BMC environmental and transport policies remain in focus. Govt scheme for public transport is seeing cuts to funding.
 - **BMC NE Area support** (Andy Syme and Simon Litchfield)
 - Proposal is to trial a hybrid meet at Lyon equipment in their boardroom which has the required technology to facilitate this (subject to confirmation).
 - Whilst supporting the NE Area, Zoom will have to remain an element due to geographical constraints
 - See **Appendix A** for NE access update

5. **Impact of Covid-19 – Update**

- **Area Meetings** (Frank and Adam)
 - The extended period of Zoom feels to have become the norm. The question was asked if people would feel more engaged if in person events were arranged for the rest of the year. General sense was that Zoom is convenient but perhaps less impactful.
 - Discussions will take place with Lyon Equipment in Tebay to host a hybrid meeting, they are keen to assist, confirmation to follow.
 - Whilst supporting the NE Area, Zoom will have to remain an element due to geographical constraints.

6. **Access - Lakes area** (James Bumby)

- Bolting - been some rogue activity where the landowner had not been consulted. Putting a bit of strain in certain areas but working through. Also ongoing proactive work clearly required to keep communicating the Cumbria bolt fund spec's and protocol.
- Nesting season soon - policing visits to Chapel head etc.
- St Bees has seen a landslip on the descent route - plan to let it settle and then advise.

7. Lakes Fest - 22-24th April 2022 (Ron Kenyon)

- Organisation progressing and website launch imminent www.lakesfest.org
- Camping will be at Turner farm
- Activities such as bouldering, instruction etc

8. BMC Lakes Youth meet - Rawhead - 1-3rd July 2022 (Ron Kenyon)

- Will be at Langdale FRCC hut
- Plan is for 12 x under 18's plus adults to help.

9. Any other business

10. Next Meeting

Wednesday 27 April 2022

- start time and format (online / in-person / hybrid) to be confirmed.

Adam Green, Area Secretary

14.2.22

Appendix A - NE area update

At the October 2021 Area AGM, the NE Area elected a committee composed of: a Secretary and representatives for Access (3: North, South and Bolts), Youth and Clubs (a Hillwalking Representative was later co-opted onto the committee). Committee vacancies included: a Chair, 2 x Members' Council representatives and a Walls representative.

In lieu of a local Chair, the 20/01/2022 North East Area meeting was chaired by Oli Lewis (Peak and Members' Council). Full minutes from the meeting are available from:

<https://community.thebmc.co.uk/Event.aspx?view=report&id=4314>

Owing to the unsustainability of future meetings without a Chair, a votes was taken in favour of approaching a neighbouring Area to request a temporary amalgamation of Area Meetings. The rationale for this was:

- commonality of national issues for discussion;
- most access issues in Northumberland and North York Moors are settled;
- it would give the NE volunteers time to reach out to local NE members to try to populate posts and revive meetings in the area;

- it would give an opportunity for newcomers to see the work that the BMC does (rather than attending introspective meetings discussing poor attendance at NE meetings).

The Lakes was the favoured neighbouring area owing to the already close bonds through the YCS (Youth Climbing Series) which encompasses the two Areas.

After the meeting the Lakes Area was approached to consider this proposal for a temporary amalgamation into one meeting with two Areas. In terms of practicalities it was suggested:

- this is entirely at the discretion of the Lakes Area and the Lakes Area can end the arrangement at any point if they desire.
- it would require meetings to be held in a hybrid manner (e.g. including online);
- for national issues, if a vote is required it could be done either as a whole or, if there is no consensus (or if the Lakes would prefer, or if the BMC constitution dictates) two votes could be held – one for the Lakes and one for the NE;
- for local issues, if a vote is required, votes could be restricted to the members from the locality in which the issue has arisen;
- in terms of NE agenda items, it was requested that NE have the opportunity to make **brief** reports. It is anticipated that these would be short since there are few access issues, and YCS is a common area.

Abridged minutes from the previous meeting

1. Vacancies & Attendance

See note above

2. Access North

Storm Arwen In negotiations with Scottish Woodlands re clearing of damage at crags.

3. Hillwalking.

Storm Arwen: Spine Race diverted by damage. Will try to approach Forestry commission to expedite clearing on national paths.

4. Youth and Competitions

YCS Finals went well and were well organised by Mountaineering Scotland.

Boulder league Parents indicated appetite to start a boulder league. 5 centres signed up and will fit in between other competitions. Based on the Cumbrian boulder league. Friction Bouldering, a new centre opening in Gateshead is involved. The league would appreciate sponsorships.

5. Bolts

No further developments to report.

6. International Moors Festival 2022

The idea of a festival has been pushed back to 2023.

END