

Minutes of the meeting held at
Penrith Leisure Centre, Tuesday 3rd September 2013

1. Apologises

Rick Graham, Steve Scott, Peter Latimer, Ben Ranson and Alan Hinkes.

2. Access

2.1 Peter had emailed to say that there were no issues regarding access.

2.2 There followed a discussion on the crag at Swindale. There has been a change in ownership on the farm. The new farmer is not welcoming to people parking for the crag. The enforced longer walk in means that the crag may not get the use as an evening venue and as a result routes will be lost. Ron Kenyon will investigate the issue with the help of the local access rep.

3. National Council Report.

3.1 Ted Rogers gave a report on items raised at national Council, individual membership is up, and cash reserves are slightly down but still at £1m. The George Band award has been opened up to all people that have contributed to the BMC and not just in the past 12 months. Members organising events were reminded that if sponsorship is obtained to check with the relevant BMC staff member to ensure no conflict. The AGM in 2014 will be held at Portland and will incorporate a Walking and Climbing Festival. Date fixed as 25th-27th April 2014. MHT has had an increase in funding. Working in partnership with the National Trust it is hoped to find a permanent display venue in Langdale. MLTB are celebrating 50 years. 2014 will see a bigger emphasis in Hill Walking from the BMC.

3.2 Fiona Sanders suggested that attendance at the AGM might increase if the BMC moved it away from the Easter holidays, as most members were away climbing at that time.

3.3 Fiona requested information regarding membership numbers. Individual membership is shown rising against a drop in club membership. If a person has dual membership, ie a club member and an individual member, are they counted as individual for the statistics? Jane Edwards said she would make enquiries.

4. The Lakes Climbing Festival

It was deemed not to be a success this year. Ben Ranson via email suggested a change in venue for 2014. This was agreed to be a good suggestion and discussion was postponed to the AGM.

5. Dry Tooling

After lengthy discussion the following points were agreed

- No dry tooling on summer/established routes.
- Dry tooling could exist happily alongside sports climbing in quarries and the BMC should consider this when having discussions with quarry owners
- Recognised venues for dry tooling are needed.

- Further clarification is needed on the term, 'established routes'. It was felt that some established routes may now not be climbed and would be perfect for dry tooling.
- Local areas should look within their area for venues suitable for dry tooling.
- Anybody wishing to establish a dry tooling venue should seek advice from the local area in much the same way as anybody wishing to place bolts.

6. Guide Book Update

The new Langdale Guide Book is being launched at The Stickle Barn on September 8th. The order for publishing other guides is Scafell and Wasdale, Dow, Duddon and Eskdale and then Borrowdale. Ron Kenyon made a request for photographs especially for the Scafell and Wasdale book.

7. Winter Ethics Debate.

John Barrett gave a report on the meeting that was held on 20th August 2013 at Kendal Wall. He stated that conversation was centred on which crags, when, where and what condition. A working group is being set up of approximately 20 people to take the issue further. The FRCC and CC will then use the findings in publishing their guidebooks. Minutes of the meeting had been posted on the BMC website. The reasoning behind there being a need for this discussion was given in the example of Snicker Snack, a 3 star summer route and winter route. If it continues to be winters climb its life expectancy, as a summer route is 10 years. Such venues as Shepherds should never be climbed in winter. It was felt that climbers in general have recognised bird restrictions and are sympathetic to the ecology of fauna and would welcome alongside this the integrity and sustainability of the rock. As a rule climbers should ask themselves, is the route a good summer route, if the answer is yes then leave it alone in winter.

8. AOB

8.1 Anne Salisbury requested more information on dates of local meetings. She asked if it were possible for the BMC to email all local members prior to a meeting.

8.2 Dave Bodecott had presented the meeting via email with a paper raising various issues. After reading out the points it was felt that some should be taken to National Council whereas others maybe not. It was felt that paper warranted further discussion but that Dave should be present to discuss his paper.

8.3 There was a suggestion from the floor that if food was being made available it might be better for people coming from work to eat before the meeting started.

9 Date of Next Meeting

26th November 2013 Hawkshead Brewery Staveley. It is the AGM.