

## **BMC LAKES AREA**

Minutes of the meeting held at the Climbers' Club Hut, Grange Old School, Grange, Borrowdale on Wednesday 8 June 2016.

Twenty-five people gathered at 6.30pm at the CC Hut and enjoyed a BBQ in the warm summer evening. The meeting commenced at 7.30pm with Mike Parsons (area chair) welcoming everybody and giving a brief introduction to the structure of the BMC.

Mike gave a brief summary of the previous area meeting held at the Hawkshead Brewery in Staveley on Wednesday 27 January.

Apologies were received from Dan Robinson, Rick Graham, Kelvyn James and Steve Scott.

### **1. Access updates**

James Bumby reported that it had been a busy time for bird nesting climbing restriction. The last blast of winter had affected the nesting of birds. James complimented the climbing community as no upsets had crossed his desk. The National Trust had reported to James that the coping stones from the walls near to Langdale boulders had been removed to provide a dry area for boulders thus upsetting the tenant farmer. James is trying to arrange some funding to overcome this problem.

There has been a rockfall under Low Man on Scafell.

The work meet at Humphrey Head went well, clearing access to the crag. Permission has been obtained to replace bolts after nesting restrictions are lifted.

Matt Le Voi thought there had been an incident with Peregrine Falcons at Gimmer but this was unconfirmed.

Ron Kenyon reported that that there were problems at Scratchmere Scar between the owner and bikers. It would appear that climbers were stuck in the middle of this dispute.

Gareth Field from the National Trust then gave a presentation on the National Trust Event and Activity Licensing pilot.

The National Trust has very recently released a proposal to change its approach to providers of outdoor activities on its land. The Trust will run a pilot for a new outdoor activity licensing process over the next 6 months across 21 sites in England and intend *"to learn from this, review and plan a national roll-out for all outdoor events and activities from July onwards"*.

With the new scheme the Trust is seeking to :

- Minimise damage to NT places from increased access
- Prevent clashes of events on the same site

- Control the impact on local communities
- Check insurance cover and risk assessments/mitigation
- Create a link to the NT cause with event/activity participants
- Raise donations to support conservation

Gareth then fielded questions from the floor. The main concern seemed to be that this may be the 'thin edge of a wedge' in that the Trust would start charging everyone to use land in its possession. Gareth guaranteed that this was not the case.

## **2. Bolt Fund Update**

The Cumbria Bolt Fund re-drafted constitution will be presented for adoption at the September meeting. People are urged to read the proposal and bring any questions to the September meeting. A copy of the proposal can be found on the BMC Local Areas site: <http://community.thebmc.co.uk/Event.aspx?id=3610>

Going forward, if an issue arises over bolting one meeting's notice must be given before the matter is open for discussion; thus allowing all interested parties to attend.

There followed a discussion on the position of bolters with reference to liability insurance cover. Specifically to the statement:-

*Members placing drilled equipment of an appropriate standard and in accordance with good practice – will be covered by BMC liability insurance in the event of a claim being made against them that arises from an allegation that the equipment failed. The BMC will provide technical support and advice to any climber who places such equipment in accordance with good practice and is subsequently party to a claim. It should be noted that the person placing the fixed equipment must be a member of the BMC (and thus hold the liability insurance) at the time the claim is made.*

**The Lakes Area is unhappy with this response in relation to liability cover and that a member placing equipment must be a BMC member at the time of the claim. Further guidance is requested from National Council.**

## **3. National Council report**

The main topic of discussion was the Olympic bid and its impact on BMC focus and funding.

**The Lakes Area wish to seek clarification that the BMC will not divert resources away from core work. The response received from the CEO when this question was asked by the Area Chair contradicted what was stated when a similar question was asked at National Council.**

## **4. Hill Walking Issues**

Matt Le Voi gave a summary update on the current work. Mary-Ann Ochota is the new hill walking BMC ambassador. Matt will be working closely with Mary-Ann. A new BMC pamphlet on hill walking is currently being produced and Matt's own

Mountain Magpie campaign (litter) has been adopted by the BMC and will be developed.

#### **5. Sustainability, Environment and Landscape**

Nothing to report.

#### **6. New Area Secretary**

The area is seeking a new Area Secretary following the resignation of Polly Sullivan. Are you interested or do you know someone?  
Please contact Mike Parsons, BMC Lakes Area Chair.

#### **7. AOB**

Ron Kenyon reminded people about the upcoming Youth Meet. Anybody wishing to get involved should contact Ron.

The new Borrowdale guide should be available at the September meeting following publication in August.

The Cumbria Bouldering League was reactivated this year. 50 people were involved and the event was deemed successful.

#### **8. Date of next meeting**

Wednesday 7 September 2016, at King Kong Climbing Centre, Keswick.