



## LAKES AREA MEETING

Meeting held by Zoom Call - Wednesday 27 May 2020

### MINUTES

**Present** - Mike Parsons (Chair), Fiona and Keith Sanders, Ron Kenyon, Ken Taylor, Andy Weeks, Cressida Attwood, James Bumby, Ric Outhwaite, Anne Salisbury, Ged Campion, Tansy Hardy and Partner, Mike Tinnion, Alan Strachan, Ali Wood, Margaret Parker, Chris Stone, Rob Dyer, Lynn Robinson, John Holden, Paul Platt, Hareth Al-Maskari, James McHaffie, David Hencliffe, David Brown, Rob Lewis, Alison Gilchrist, Mark .... , Loz Colyer (30)

**Apologies** – Marion Parsons

1. **Welcome and introductions** - by **Mike Parsons** and **Fiona Sanders**
2. **Minutes of the previous meeting** - were not available on the BMC Community website and will be displayed for the next meeting and agreed then.  
**Action – Minutes to be agreed at the next meeting**
3. **Matters arising** from that meeting or not covered elsewhere - None
4. **Impact of Covid-19**

**Rob Dyer** - reported on position so far. BMC Covid-19 Access Advisory Group set up to advise the Government on Covid-19 issues. Had reported to English and Welsh governments. No response from the **English government** so far !! – General shock at the response of England with all the outdoors opened with no time or distance limits as long as back home by end of day! The approach by the BMC is to advise walkers and climbers to

- (a) be self-reliant,
- (b) be aware and consider locals,
- (c) appreciate from landowners point of view - also
- (d) travel alone except with members of the same household,
- (e) promote stay local, if you can, to avoid crowding on popular locations

**The Welsh government** used a BMC-like approach – but however is more restrictive on travel and specific areas. Things will no doubt change as time moves on and will need to develop plans.

**Ken Taylor** ( Lakes area park planning rep and BMC access and COVID 19 group member) - commented on the wealth of expertise on the BMC Covid-19 Group. The present situation is unsustainable for the lakes and there is need for an exit plan. Two aspects for the Lakes with (a) the fells and activities etc and (b) the towns and urban businesses. Promoting discussion with LDNP and Richard Leafe. **Ken** mentioned that Lakes area of 12 MRT teams had issued a press release on 22/05/2020 [via Grough](#) with softening of the line, saying something like, go carefully and moderate your ambitions, but please note the availability of team members is limited and expect a long wait if you call us out because of time needed for rigging up with PPE gear.

**Ged Campion ( lakes area clubs rep)** – raised concerns by MRT with issues of COVID and other commitments of members. (see note below by Rob Dyer)



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- LDNPA – nothing so far about views on the opening of the Lakes. Will probably link with the loosening of restrictions on non-food shops.

**John Holden** – mentioned that some clubs had received grants from local authorities for club huts. Carlisle MC don't pay rates for their hut (in Newland) as they are totally off-grid. Allerdale BC have not paid anything. The suggestion is to contact Jane Thompson at BMC to discuss possible areas of help.

**James Bumby (Lakes area access co-ordinator) Access issues and car parking** - Parking spaces were totally full at the top of Wrynose Pass, the last few days. It's a good area with direct access. However, at Hodge Close, there were reactions/concerns expressed by local residents at the number of cars, possibly caused by the sharing rules causing more cars. **Rob Dyer** – raised the issue of C19 requiring travel in separate cars with obviously increasing the car flow. Concerns of effect on the locals and landowners as what we do now could affect future access issues. **Ali Wood** – suggested include details of issues of the RAD, **Rob Dyers** – mentioned article re Hot Spots, **Ken Taylor** – mentioned LDNP website re Car Park accessibility, **Fiona Sanders** – indicated the need for some coordination of issues of these issues. **James Bumby;**

- indicated he can put these on RAD.
- Also the issue of nesting bird leaving nests early with the better weather this year
- Against which issue of birds nesting at new locations as no climbers on crags in the lockdown period.

**Ron Kenyon** – mentioned contacting the local clubs and piece on BMC Facebook for people to contact James Bumby re any issues accordingly – his email address being [jkbumby@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jkbumby@yahoo.co.uk)

**Action – to contact Clubs and put on Facebook**

**Ken Taylor** – mentioned that following the Foot and Mouth Disease the impact on Tourism was not recognised early on so need to ensure that this does not happen again. Need education of all – visitors and locals.

#### 5. Equity (Equal Opportunities) Steering Group

Presentation by **Cressida Attwood** (Chair) and **James MacHaffie** (Secretary) including a video.

- The BMC has been awarded the Intermediate level of the Equality Standard for Sport. This is a framework for assisting sports organisations to widen their access and reduce inequalities in sport and physical activity, from under-represented individuals, groups and communities. was recently awarded the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest-ranking for Equal opportunities with the Sports of sports organisation. [see full report](#)
- A large part of their work involves the Group looking at barriers that underrepresented communities face when they want to do any of the activities the BMC covers and then suggesting strategies for removing those barriers.
- There are several areas that the Group looks at very closely. These are people –
  - With disabilities,
  - People from black and minority ethnic groups (BAME)
  - Women and girls.
  - With Mental Health issues



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- LGTBQ
- Developed from 2011 with various events.
- Black Dog Outdoor events have proved very popular. Black Dog Outdoors is a registered charity and its walks are free.
- Rehan Siddiqui Award now established (Jesse Dufton awarded this – this year)
- **Cressida** welcomed the chance to give an overview of the initiative.
- **James M** became secretary, in 2017, and is central to the group and helping to take forward.
- Looking to establish Youth and Disability Clubs in areas.
- They would welcome experts in mental health to help with the group.

**Ron Kenyon** – mentioned initiative in Penrith with groups of visiting refugees on weeklong stays during which they stay with people in Penrith, see the area and have various activities including a couple of hours on the Penrith Climbing Wall organised with EVMC – would be good to have links back to other organisations/walls in the area where they come from (e.g. NE).

#### 6. BMC

**Lynn Robinson** (BMC President)

- AGM to be a virtual meeting on 13/06/2020 - 3.00pm
  - Members being emailed/written to re AGM
  - 3000 places at AGM – need to be preregistered
  - Still can vote by proxy or on the day
  - Agenda much reduced.
  - Had hoped for discussion etc on Organisation Development Group(ODG) but to be delayed to 2021 - this gives more time for consultation
- There are weekly boards meetings
- BMC strategic plan – from last AGM being reviewed with Covid-19 in mind.
- Effect of Covid-19
  - Sports England has been phenomenal with support.
  - Some staff have had to be furloughed
  - Membership – excellent
  - Insurance – big money earner has all stopped!
- Please continue your membership, the BMC needs you!
- There is an online “Ask the Board” event on 04/06/2020

**Fiona Sanders** ([ODG Chair](#)) – [reported on Organisation Development Group](#)

- Also, piece in BMC Lakes Area Newsletter –
- Lot of work done and was coming to completion in most areas.
- Establishment of Welsh Committee to work with Wales
- Recognition of Strategy for Club – this is ongoing to complete in September
- Ticked most area – need to look at –
  - Inter-relations in BMC and other organisations
  - Membership Engagement and Communications – Chris Stone working on this!



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#### 7. BMC Lakes area - Bank account

The BMC Lakes Area Bank Account was established many years (10 - 15 years) ago from money accumulated from climbing competitions. The account has been there to support events and activities undertaken in the area and to support training for Volunteers where appropriate. There is approximately £500 in the account. The two joint signatories for the account are James Bumby (current treasurer) and Peter Latimer.

**Proposal A** - Sadly Peter is not well and proposed that Ronald Kenyon should replace Peter Latimer, as a signatory - thus having James Bumby and Ronald Kenyon as joint signatories.

This was put to a vote – 15 for / Nil Against /1 Abstention - Proposal carried

**Proposal B** - There should be a limit on the expenditure by these two signatories of £150 and any amount above this will need BMC Lakes Area authority.

This was put to a vote – 14 for / Nil Against /1 Abstention - Proposal carried

The Lakesfest has been cancelled for 2020 but it is proposed to hold the event in 2021. It would be useful to have access to the Lakes Area bank account for the payment of a website from 1st January 2021. Other funders and sponsors, including the BMC, will be sought to give finance towards the 2021 Lakesfest.

**Proposal C** - The annual cost of the website is £120 and should be funded via the Lakes Area Bank Account.

This was put to a vote – 15 for / Nil Against /1 Abstention - Proposal carried

Ron Kenyon also suggested that indication of the bank account and any movements should be included with the annual report for the BMC Lakes Area. This was agreed

#### 8. **Any other business**

**(A) Rob Lewis** - raised an issue of 4x4 vehicles on The Knott, in the Northern Fells, which seems to be the use of 4X4 vehicles on non-permitted tracks.

**Rob Dyer** - said

- he does not know the area well but BMC policy is not against other park area users, except where they are illegal, which appears to be the case here, with 4X4 offroading.
- Any such activities should be reported to the police on number 112 and to Lake District National Park Authority (LDNPA).
- Should have either registration numbers of vehicles or better still photographs,

**Ken Taylor** indicated that this is a criminal offence under Sec 35 – 1978 Act. Be very careful when taking photos, to avoid aggression.



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(B) **Ron Kenyon** mentioned earlier re cancellation of the Lakesfest in September 2020 – there is a provisional date to hold this event on 10 – 12 September 2021.

He also indicated that the BMC Youth Meet will also have to be cancelled – he will notify the attendees.

( C ) **Mike Parsons** and **Lynn Robinson** congratulated **Ron Kenyon** on being awarded the George Band Award for 2020 - and part of the video talk between Ron and Lynn was shown.

#### 1. Next Meeting - 9<sup>th</sup> September 2020

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The BMC was founded in 1944 with membership open to all, "regardless of race, ethnicity, religious belief, sexuality or socio-economic status".

<https://www.thebmc.co.uk/a-brief-history-of-the-bmc>