



Lakes Area Meeting

ZOOM MEETING - Monday 20th Jun 2022 at 19.30

MINUTES

Present*; Frank Bennett (Chair), Martyn Hurn, Adam Green, Anne Salisbury, Ged Campion, Fiona and Keith Sanders, Matthew Collantine, Mike Conlon, Mike Parsons, Paul Stewart, Ric Outhwaite, Ron Kenyon, Steve Blake, Tim Parsons, Tony Williams, David Carr.

*please note, where Zoom identities do not show full name they are not recorded

1. **Welcome and introductions** by Frank Bennett
Apologies for absence - Ken Taylor
2. **Minutes of the previous meeting**
Available on the BMC Community website and agreed.
3. **Matters arising from that meeting or not covered elsewhere**
None
4. **Bolting Considerations**
(Ron Kenyon)

The following is currently bolted in the Lakes area and considered acceptable.
- Sandstone, Limestone, Quarries

The current question is should bolting activities be extended

- poor quality crags not climbed on e.g. Whinlatter
- Volcanic rock e.g. Ewe crag
- apparent trend appears to be towards a reduction in trad and move towards cragging / sport / single pitch.

The key is to ensure bolting developments are via engagement with area reps and Cumbria bolt fund.

The bolting fund was started in 2007 to replace old bolts (Dan Robinson and Ron Kenyon trustees)
Since then, the fund has been involved in new crag bolting activities, training people in bolting activities.

It has been funded via a number of donations from Fell and Rock, Rockfax, Kendal Wall, Clubs and private donations.

The policy is to use stainless glue ins over expansion bolts as last longer (40 years).

The fund links in with the BMC technical committee on bolting.
Lower offs are viewed as a separate consideration from bolting as easier to maintain / swap out.
The bolting fund could do with moving toward a more active committee to co-ordinate activities and support.

5. Access updates

Letter sent to owner of land with Beck Wythop Crag looking to regain access for climbing.

**6. Ennerdale update
(Paul Stewart)**

The Low Gillerthwaite Field Centre (LGFC) outdoor charity is preparing to legally challenge Forestry England against their proposal to cut short the LGFC lease and evict the charity. They are inviting funding donations to support their work & the funding site is below if anyone wants to contribute:

Fundraiser by Ellen Cloete : Save Low Gillerthwaite Field Centre (gofundme.com)

At a challenging public meeting in mid-April the area director of Forestry England acknowledged there had been shortfalls in the public engagement to date and said they would not initiate any further consultation on the beaver introduction until the process is properly defined and agreed with the community. The parish council are awaiting a statement from Forestry England on their plans.

Locally a mandate is being sought within the parish to set up a community group to act as a conduit for community views and information exchange with the Wild Ennerdale partners on their activities.

Several Freedom of Information requests have confirmed the definite intentions of the Wild Ennerdale partnership to increase their focus on tourism and develop a strategy for visitor management & eco-tourism though they have revealed little about their specific plans to date.

**7. BMC Update
(Martyn Hurn)**

2022 AGM

The AGM was held on the evening of Wednesday 18th May.
673 members voted, all resolutions were passed and in all cases with over 90% of votes for "cast for the resolution"

Hill Walking – Rock Climbing – Indoor Climbing – Mountaineering Vision Events

Over the past 9 months Members' Council have run a half day session on each of our core activities – sports: Hill Walking, Rock Climbing, Indoor Climbing and Mountaineering

The events have focussed on current state and direction of travel for these Activities and Sports and in all cases have been positive, inspirational and forward looking.

A very good and positive overview was brought to the Board Meeting that was held on Saturday 18th June. This was led by the nationally elected councillors representing these activities – sports, with the intent that the key messages around our activities and sports are brought into the planning and resourcing of the BMC over the next 2.5 years.

Access and Conservation

Towards the end of 2021 the BMC undertook a National Access Survey – which has been very instructive and has been followed by regular meetings of the Steering Group. The whole process of the survey and subsequent engagement and meetings is believed to have been very successful in engaging access volunteers and our partners across the sector.

Dave Turnbull and his team have put together an excellent pack of material which tells the story of what the BMC has done and is doing within the realm of access and conservation and looks to the future including the requirement for additional resources.

Dave brought a very good and positive overview to the Board Meeting that was held on Saturday 18th June, with the intent that the key messages around access and conservation are brought into the planning and resourcing of the BMC over the next 2.5 years.

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)

Over the past 6 months the ESG Steering Group under the leadership of Jonny Dry have considered the current state and future direction for EDI within the BMC and the Sector, building upon the work within the sector wide survey, “Your Movement Matters” which was delivered during the second half of 2021.

The review and its recommendations were brought to the Board Meeting that was held on Saturday 18th June. The work was warmly received and the recommendations agreed.

In the short term it was agreed to recruit a full time and senior member of staff to lead the EDI activity across the sector and simultaneously to recruit a new chair for the Equity Steering Committee (ESG). Both appointments will require people who have substantive experience in integrating EDI into organisations.

The two positions are expected to work together in order to further develop the

strategy, put in place action plans and ensure subsequent delivery.

IFSC speed and lead world cup competition at Ratho in September 2022

The UK has been requested by IFSC to host the speed and lead world cup competition at Ratho in September 2022. This is after these competitions were pulled from China due to the current outbreak of Covid in China.

The BMC, through GB Climbing, is working with UK Sport on bringing these world cup events to the UK and agreeing the support that the event will receive, such that the UK delivers this high-profile event really well.

EUMA and UIAA coming to Yorkshire in 2023

The Board has agreed that it supports bringing the Annual General Meeting of the EU Mountaineering Association (EUMA) and the UIAA General Assembly to Yorkshire in 2023. All the meetings and events will last a total of approximately 6 days.

Bringing these meetings to England provides a great opportunity to showcase the work of the BMC, and for some of our members to meet fellow climbers and mountaineers from other countries.

Supporting the Outdoor Sector of our activities – sports

Whilst the successful bid with Sport England is very welcome, it has left the outdoor sector, which is where most of our existing and future members are active, with little support from Sport England.

We are working with Mountain Training England, Mountain Training UK and Ireland and with Plas y Brenin and we are planning on making a joint approach to Sport England which will emphasise the mass participation in our sports, the training and education requirements and the risks associated with a failing to support this hugely important sector.

A new Environmental Policy

Under the leadership of Cath Flitcroft, a new environmental policy has been developed, presented to Members' Council and approved by the Board.

It considers:

- BMC Operations
- Transport and Travel
- Enhancement and Protection of Biodiversity and Landscapes
- Supporting Upland and Mountain Economies
- Partnership Working and Lobbying

Staff changes and support

Recently there have been several departures of staff from the BMC, many of whom have a long track record with the organisation. On behalf of the Board, we are grateful for their service to both the BMC itself and the Sector as whole.

It is recognised that staff should be supported through the current cost of living crisis and Paul Davies is exploring how best to achieve this and is expected to report to the next meeting of the Board, which is to be held towards the end of July.

Finances

The new CFO, Joelle Chisholm is reviewing both the progress against budget in 2022 and considering how best to improve reporting and planning.

At the end July meeting of the Board, we will receive a full report on current expenditure against budget, and given that we are anticipating that our expenditure is lower than budgeted, how we may best utilise remaining funds. It is good to know that we have plenty of opportunities and consequently we will need to prioritise.

Sport England (SE) Funding

We are continuing to work with our Partners, the Association of British Climbing Walls (ABC) and the National Indoor Climbing Awards Scheme (NICAS) on exactly what we must deliver by when, along with getting clarity on the resourcing that will be required.

Challenges still exist around how both a National Coaching Scheme and Wall Accreditation will be delivered – but slowly, progress is being made.

Safeguarding and Health and Safety

At the Board meeting held on the 18th June we received an update from both the Safeguarding and the Health and Safety Committees.

Whilst there are no immediate challenges, there is work to do – especially around having an even more impactful Safeguarding Regime across the sector. In support of that, the BMC is recruiting a full time Safeguarding officer who will support the sector.

8. **BMC Lakes Youth meet - Rawhead - 1-3rd July 2022** (Ron Kenyon)
 - Will be at Langdale FRCC hut
 - 11 youth 12-18 year olds registered plus 8-9 instructors to help.

11. **Any other business** - none raised.

12. **Next Meeting**
Monday 19th October 2022