

BRITISH MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL

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Lakes Area Ordinary Meeting

Held at Lyon Equipment Offices at Tebay

Wednesday 19 October 2022 - following the Annual General Meeting at 19.30

Prior to the meetings there was a guided tour of the Lyon Equipment Headquarters starting at 18.30

MINUTES

1. Welcome by chair and introductions.

- 19 people present for meeting
- Apologies for absence- Ric Outhwaite, Anne Salisbury, Adam Green, Rob Lewis, Steve Hartley, Dorothy Spence, John Holden (Carlisle), Ged Campion

2. Minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

3. Matters arising from that meeting or not covered elsewhere.

4. Items not included on the agenda -

(a) Request from Nigel Coe that the BMC should not be sponsored or have a partnership with any exploitative company such as Cycle UK or Shell.

- Martyn Hurn (BMC Director) replied that the BMC just deals with businesses which share and are aligned with the values of the BMC.
- Someone also commented that we had been looking at tapes (ropes) used for rope work/climbing and these are derived from the oil industry !

(b) **Volunteers Gala - Warwick University** - this was a new event bringing together BMC Volunteers for training sessions and presentations in relation for awards for the last three years.

- Sunday sessions with various groups and aimed to make the BMC more visible and accountable. There are 17 subcommittees which do a huge amount of work which deserves the gratitude of members and climbing/walking community.
- Mike Parsons indicated that the BMC Technical Committee has been more focused on equipment side of things but he is now involved and able to use and focus his knowledge on textiles.

- Access is seen as one of the main groups. Dave Turnbull gave a good presentation on access issues. He has been holding bi-weekly zoom meetings of volunteers and covering access and related issues. Not sure if open to ordinary members

Action - Ron Kenyon to check with Dave if meeting open to ordinary members

Note – it isn't open to members in general !

(c) Concern expressed at **getting details to members** of the Lakes Area meeting - some had received alternative communications and not direct from the BMC. Issue could be with clubs members where details of email contacts are not given. Will be looked into. Issues of data protection and availability of data. Agreed that if members were happy then include details on the attendance sheet and these would be check with the BMC records.

(d) Martyn Hurn reported on **BMC and Board issues**

- Sector leadership under partnerships. It is becoming apparent that strategy needs to work with other partners - eg Mountain Trainging, MHT etc. All these partners are happy to have the BMC as the lead organisation.
 - Quarterly performance reviews now in place.
 - Financial quarterly reviews now much more effective. Concern at cost of Ratho World Cup but budgeted to keep within overall deficit.
- Sport England funding - a lot has gone to competitions with concerns that not enough goes towards the outdoors. Important to get Sport England to recognise that the outdoors aspect is important (this does not include Outdoor Education !) and look to promote the outdoor activities.
- Membership Fees are up in the current year - but important to have more and promote BMC membership for individual (ie non-club members).
 - There is a lower rate for Under 27's but mention that this is cheaper than Under 18's - number of complications !!
- Ratho World Cup sold out within 13 minutes !!! Huge interest on the continent - BMC looking at aspects of competitions etc.
- Various appointments mentioned.

5. **Fixed Gear Guidance** - proposal document for discussion had been distributed.

- Two main issues for discussion / debate - Abseil Points (Tape, Strops and Bolted) and Bolting of less popular and vegetated volcanic crags
- Agreed should concentrate on one of these issues - ie Abseil Points.
- Agreed to have a special meeting.
- Group comprising of Dan Robinson, Nick Wharton, Rob Illingworth and Ron Kenyon to meet, discuss and arrange meeting accordingly.
- Suggestion of holding this at the Brewery, could possibly use money in Lakes area account but crucial to advertise and get the message out to all climbers and not just BMC members !

6. **Cumbria Bolt Fund**

- Review of CBF current activities produced by Trustees - Dan Robinson and Ron Kenyon - and will be put onto BMC website with minutes.

- Dan showed various bolting system and highlighted the benefits of using the glue-in system used by CBF.

7. Ideas of claim for grants from **BMC Crag & Fell Restoration Fund**

- The BMC is giving grants towards Crag and Fell Restoration Projects - which need proposing and costing up.
- Suggestions as follows -
 - Castle Rock of Triermain
 - Path along the base from South to North crags has fallen trees etc along it and look towards clearing the pathway along the base.
 - New sign needed at the small gate at the road.
 - Improvements to stile

Action - Ron Kenyon (Access Rep) to contact United Utilities on these improvements

- Raven Crag, Langdale - issue of larches by access path.

Action - James Bumby to follow up with NT
- Fund for bolting of crags - need a project to apply for funding.

8. Lakes Area Access Report

2022 has been a much quieter year on the access front. This was a relief in many ways after the post lockdown chaos that the Lake District experienced in recent years.

The spring was mostly fine and dry, this helped our nesting birds. We had no nest disturbances reported: thanks to all for your continued support with the climbing restrictions.

We received some positive reports of fledging chicks, although this information is harder to come by. Please keep on reporting any sightings or observations.

We received a request to examine the possibility of extending the climbing area at St. Bees. This would involve contacting and working closely with the relevant nature conservancy bodies. Given the challenge that sea bird colonies are currently facing with avian flu we felt that this development would be better explored when things hopefully improve.

A small South Lakes bouldering venue has been removed from the RAD. This was the landowner's request. They are however still happy for people to boulder there.

Work has started to develop a new Users Voluntary Code of Practice for Stickle Ghyll. The National Trust are really supportive of centres and providers using this venue, they are wanting to simply encourage users to look after it and limit damage to the environment.

Jon Fullwood is the new access officer, replacing Rob Dyer. We have already been in contact with him as an area and look forwards to working with him. We are currently arranging a meeting to look at climbing restrictions/ nesting birds for 2023.

9. Other business

- Paul Stewart raised the issue of **Ennerdale valley** and concerns at developments there -
 - Gillerthwaite Centre has been there for 50 years and also a training base for the local MRT. There had been promised a 20-year lease but this offer has been cut back to 3 to 5 years. Appears to be no consultation with the public on plans for the area. Recently installed a beaver fence across the valley leading to possible access issues.
 - Concerns of eco-tourism and increase in tourist traffic to an area not suited to more traffic.
 - Must focus on issue of concern and this is that the BMC is opposed to the loss of places for Outdoor Education and possible closure of the Outdoor Centre at Gillerthwaite.
 - Meeting agreed that look to getting BMC HQ to write to the Chief Executive of Forestry England accordingly

10. **Next Meeting** date 18/01/2023