



BRITISH MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL

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Lakes Area - Ordinary Meeting

Meeting held at The Old Water View, Patterdale
On Wednesday 26th July 2023 at 19:00 - with Barbecue from 18.00

MINUTES

Attendance :

12 in total – Frank Bennett (Chair), Fiona Sanders (MC rep on the Board), Gavin Finch (CCO), Mike Parsons, Phil Swainson, Keith Sanders, Ken Taylor, Alan Hinkes, Ann Chevalier, Steve Detton, Mohammed Dhalech, David Brown, Ron Kenyon (Temporary Acting Secretary)

1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence :

- Meeting was part of a barbecue held here and welcome by Frank Bennett (FB – Chair),
- Apologies from Stu Smith, Ann Salisbury, Ric Outhwaite, Martyn Hurn, Cressida Attwood.

2. Minutes of previous meeting held on 19th April 2023 – available on the BMC Community website <https://community.thebmc.co.uk/Event.aspx?id=4473>

- There were no comments.
- There were no actions/matters arising from previous meeting not covered elsewhere.

3. BMC National - Mike Parsons and Fiona Sanders reported on the AGM as follows –

- Enjoyable weekend in many respects with talks by Alan Hinkes and Steve McClure
- ...but lots of problem areas on Competition Climbing
 - Problems in child protection area
 - New Organisation to set up
 - Fully funded child protection etc
 - Takes time to bed in - some confrontational
- The AGM was only just quorate - just over 50 there
 - Only half the board was there but need to spread commitments
 - Feeling at the date of the AGM was not announced early enough
 - Task and Finish Group looking at AGM issues.

4. BMC Access Management Group issues - report produced by Ken Taylor for discussion

(a) Sustainable Transport

- a. Wide group has produced a draft policy document
- b. Scope limited to what is possible - e.g. Car Share

(b) CROW

- a. Big question - could spend a lot of time discussing !
- b. Main issues
 - i. (i) Join with other organisations (Ramblers etc) to push for widening CROW areas

- ii. (ii) Push for more rights - etc wild camping, caving access etc
- iii. (iii) Scottish Style - Right of Access
- c. Questionnaire/Survey issued by BMC to complete by members.
- d. Easy to go for option (iii) but countryside needs to "live".
- e. Issue of ownership also effects on outdoor environment, farm animals and wild life as well.
- f. Need to clarify existing legislation
- g. Need to recognise existence of irresponsible persons.
- h. Options do not bring in issues and who is able to look after the area.
- i. Need to educate more people about the countryside
- j. Scotland is not England - vast numbers of people in England compared to Scotland - Lake District easily accessible by 12m people !
- k. ...but Scotland has its honey pots – with the likes of Loch Lomond and Cairngorms
- l. Need to keep separate Access and Wild camping
- m. Big spread of issues - but generally come under "Tourism". We are one of the few countries that does not organise tourism - most expect everything to be free.
- n. National Parks do not have the resources to keep under control.
- o. Suggestion of removing the term "Scottish System" and stress what we want !
- p. What do we want ?
 - 1. Have access to lakes
 - 2. Have a footpath system which avoids issue of having to use road.
 - 3. ???
- q. Most Forestry Commission has Open Access
- r. Education, Education, Education !! - now 100 volunteers giving advice at road heads in the LDNP
- s. URGE MEMBERS TO COMPLETE SURVEY ON BMC WEBSITE !!

5. **ACCESS ISSUES** - report by Ron Kenyon

- (i) Various crag have been bolted in the area with pdf's issued on FRCC website
- (ii) **West side of Thirlmere**
 - a. Currently move by Cumberland Council to close the road on the west of Thirlmere permanently.
 - b. Main issue is the area around Rough Crag, which is right next to and above the roadway.
 - c. Issue from Storm Desmond etc with trees being blown over; dislodged and rocks falling down.
 - d. Inspection of area around the crag believed worse than initially thought.
 - e. Maybe possible to reinstate the footpath and create a cycleway but re-establishment of the road as a safe passage is considered very difficult.
 - Pathway by lake away from road
 - Cycleway - the west side of the lake is a much better way to go than along the, much busier, main road on east side of the lake.
 - Road too narrow to use as an emergency route as not possible to have cars passing
 - f. Mark Hatton has set up a petition again the closure on the internet and members encouraged to look at that.
 - g. Proposal from the meeting
 - Write to Cumberland Council
 - Opposing the application for the permanent closure of the road
 - Look at ways of opening up the footpath along the west side of the lake.

- Creation of a cycleway along to west side of the lake

(iii) **Elterwater Quarry**

- a. Martin Bagness had contacted Ron Kenyon regarding potential of climbing at Elterwater Quarry
- b. BMC had held back on doing anything on this following initial application for development of the quarry with 200 vehicle car park.
- c. Now small development envisaged
- d. RK contact Dave Birkett who contacted RK indicating that the impressive arête was much looser than initial thought and not feasible to climb on.
- e. MB had been to check other area which looked possible for development.
- f. Looking to make contact with the quarry manager to enquire about the situation.

6. **BMC Youth Meet** - report by Ron Kenyon

- 10 young climbers attend the Youth Meet at the end of June
- There were adult helpers to give more or left one to one ratio – for adults to young climbers as well as the three organisers.
- BMC wanted to go national with advertising the event but felt we would be inundated with applications for maximum 16 place and probably best in the 10/12 places area - so kept contacts to climbing walls in Cumbria and the North East.

7. **BMC Lakes Area vacancies**

- Frank Bennett announced that we are looking for the following at the coming AGM in October
 - (i) **Area Secretary** - following resignation of Alison Cairns following the last meeting
 - (ii) **Area Chair** - Frank lives in Cheshire but was a director at Lyon Equipment, at Tebay. He has now ceased as a director and therefore does not have the same links with the Lakes Area.

8. **Any Other Business**

- Steve Detton raised the issues of (very) recent changes in the rates for BMC Insurance for the Alps on rock climbing to 4000m. Had quote a few weeks ago for himself and a few days ago for Anne C at £100 more.

Gavin indicated there had been issues suddenly come to the fore where members have had to consult the brokers (PJ Hayman) rather than the BMC staff - after the insurance company (Antares) had reviewed its regulations - and created problems. This has now been sorted and should be back to normal, this Friday, with members being able to go through the BMC rather than PJ Hayman

9. **Date, time and location of next Area Meeting (AGM)**

- Date - 18th October 2023
- Frank has provisionally booked the Lyon Equipment offices at Tebay for the meeting.
- Zoom facilities should be available to use.

