



## BRITISH MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL

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### Lakes Area - Ordinary Meeting

Meeting held at Lyon Equipment Offices - Tebay - near Junction 38 on M6  
On Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2023 after AGM

### MINUTES OF MEETING

**Present** - Frank Bennett, Martyn Hurn, Ron Kenyon, Matthew Collantine, Ken Taylor, Anne Chevalier, Anne Salisbury, Ric Outhwaite, James Bumby, David Brown, Nick Smith

**Apologies** - Mike Parsons, Cressida Allwood, Stuart Smith, Gavin Finch, Christian Dodsworth, Alan Hinkes, Phil Swainson.

1. **Welcome by Chair**
2. **Minutes of previous meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2023** - agreed
3. **BMC National** - No Report - Mike Parsons and Fiona Sanders not at meeting
4. **BMC Pilot Scheme - report by Ric Outhwaite and Ken Taylor**
  - Idea piloted to promote the BMC at various locations in the Lake District
  - This had not been discussed at the Lakes Area meetings beforehand.
  - Locations
    - Waterhead, Ambleside - total waste of time
    - Swirls Car Park -
      - Interesting seeing everyone going up Helvellyn
      - 3% with paper maps (BMC maps are history !!)
      - 70% ill equipped
    - Glenridding Car Park
      - Well worthwhile
  - BMC Gazebo - name on top and not visible and no website shown.
  - Slogan - "Adventure, Community, Action" - what does that mean !!!
  - Consider volunteer time taken up !
  - More important to retain membership
5. **BMC Lakes Area Director – Martyn Hurn**
  - 19/09/2023 - Paul Davies – BMC CEO resigned due to personal reasons
  - BMC about to push out recruitment for new CEO - hope to have CEO in place by end of the year but will depend on applicants
  - Four Board Members standing in for CEO
    - MH for staff and GB Climbing - plus Roger, Andy Symes and Caroline Warboys
  - Travel Insurance - 28/06/2023 - underwriters decided BMC could not deal with insurance and all sorts of issues (such as limit to Alpine insurance to 4000m) led to temporary arrangements. Now BMC travel cover in place. Independent expert director (John Willmot) leading team. Change of personnel at underwriters who thought the insurance was not profitable (enough) so stopped it !

- GB Climbing gets huge amount of funding from UK Sport ,but found an error in how this is funded leading to the Olympics
  - Considerable overspend but does not threaten the BMC.
  - Complicated system run by UK Sport - other sports have similar problems understanding the system but GB Climbing is the new lad on the block and takes time to learn system.
  - The loss is to GB Climbing - no misappropriation and no error elsewhere.
  - Needless to say need to amend the budget for 2024.
  - Different sports deal with UK Sports in different way.
  - BMC Accounting system is not been great and not helped.
  - Level of communication has been poor - should treat athletics and parents as customers
  - Lot of disagreement of coaches and how to coach - as all relatively new in development.
  - NOTE - GB Climbing is run completely separated to other BMC areas
- Outdoor Industry
  - There was a massive blip from the increase seen in the outdoors during covid - drop in projected budgeted increase in membership. Looking with much more caution to 2024.
  - Seems that growth in membership organisations is tailing off and need to look at other sources of income.
- CV for new CEO would preferably look for a mountaineer/climber but depends on the calibre of the applicants
  - GB Climbing has an Olympic kayaker and set up ,series of listening groups. Paul (and Laura) coming up with plan to take GB Climbing forward.
- Specialist committee review to fit into budget for next year.
- AGM 2024
  - To focus on virtual only
  - Two open forums to be held before the AGM
  - To be held in June 2024 - weekday evening
  - Board approved increase in membership fees
- MH attended conference of Association of British Climbing Walls (ABC) - important partner.
- .... also Partners Assembly at Plas y Brenin
- Extensive lobbying by BMC on right to camp on Dartmoor
- Nothing back from Forest Commission on Low Gillerthwaite Centre in Ennerdale

## 6. **BMC Access Management Group issues** - report produced by Ken Taylor for discussion

- Aspirations under Mend our Mountains
  - Seed capital from Access Fund
  - £50-100k to the Lakes District
  - Initiative in Lakes with Fix the Fells for BMC Volunteers to help and stay in FRCC huts
  - Initiative to help with path repairs on Roseberry Topping
- Landscape Projects in the lakes
  - Cumbria Connect
  - Duddon Restoration (Grassguards area)
- Right to Roam and Right to Wild Camp
  - Huge feeling of members to extend the rights

## 7. **Cumbria Bolt Fund**

- The CBF has been involved in the bolting and rebolting of crags in Cumbria since 2007.
- Recent bolting has been as follows –
  - Saddlestone Quarry - replacement bolting of crag - now mostly done
  - Bursting Stone Quarry - new quarry on Coniston Old Man - recently developed and bolt. Details in pdf on FRCC website.
  - Moss Rigg Quarry - whole new wall developed and continuing - details not in public domain yet
  - Runestone Quarry - some new routes in the Lower Quarry
  - Scout Scar - - some new routes
  - Coudy Rocks - some new routes established

- Current funds per account are - £232 - always in need of money. Donations can be made by the CBF website.
- Bolting anticipated on the following –
  - Humphrey Head - some replacement bolting to do.
  - Chapel Head belays to complete and odd bolts
  - Scout Scar - some new lines for bolting
  - Millside - some replacement bolting to do.
  - Brough Scar - initial bolting last year - more routes being bolt and finish.

#### 8. **ACCESS ISSUES**

- **West side of Thirlmere**
  - Now with Cumberland Council who are deliberating of consultation / submissions
- **Elterwater Quarry.**
  - Permission for visitor attraction turned down - mainly due to traffic and access issues
- **Ennerdale - Low Gillerthwaite outdoor centre**
  - As mentioned above - nothing further to report

#### 9. **Any Other Business**

- Article in the next Summit magazine by Ron Kenyon on “The Wainwrights without a Car”

#### 10. **Date, time and location of next Area Meeting**

- Date to be determined - 17<sup>th</sup> or 24<sup>th</sup> January 2024 - probably on Zoom.