

Summary of the 37th Meeting of the BMC National Council

Date: Saturday 30 November 2013

Venue: BMC Office, Manchester

In attendance:

Voting members: Scott Titt (President), Ed Douglas & Mike Watson (Vice-Presidents), Beverley Jowett & James Rowe (Yorkshire), Charles Gameson (Midlands), Nick Bond (North West), Neil Foster & Simon Lee (Peak), Ted Rogers & Steve Scott (Lakes), Andy Boorman (Cymru North), Wil Kilner (Cymru South), Alan Hinkes (North East), Colin Knowles & Gareth Palmer (South West) and Dave Turnbull (CEO).

Specialist Committee chairs: Tom Bond (Climbing Walls), Ian Carr (Guidebooks), Rob Greaves (Clubs), Craig Harwood (Huts), Andy Newton (Training & Youth), Graham Richmond (Finance), Kamala Sen (Equity), Philip Toothill (Technical), Ian Walton (Competitions), David Wilkinson (International).

Observers & staff: Ten BMC staff with Specialist Committee responsibilities.

Summary:

- **Forward planning:** The morning session involved the review, agreement and adoption of all twelve BMC Specialist Committee Terms of Reference, annual report and forward plans. Several chairs noted that they had taken on new members thanks to the volunteer recruitment drive earlier in the year; the Clubs Committee however has several outstanding positions for regional reps. Nick Kurth was voted in as the new chair of the BMC Access Management Group (Roger Bennion having stood down) with Dave Musgrove (senior) as vice-chair. Craig Harwood attended as the new chair of the BMC Huts Group.

It was noted that the review of access legislation in Wales (i.e. the Welsh Green Paper) is a priority issue at present. Concerns were raised about the spread of Rockfax guidebooks and the fact that many definitive guidebooks (including those in the Peak District) are no longer viable, despite the higher production standards achieved over recent years. The great improvement in world rankings of members of the GB Climbing Team was reported and welcomed.

The President acknowledged the vast range of good work being undertaken by BMC volunteers and thanked everyone for their important contributions.

- **Area reports:** Wil Kilner was welcomed to his first meeting as the National Council rep for Cymru South and Simon Lee was welcomed as a new rep for the Peak District in place of Rick Gibbon. The areas reported variable meeting

attendance levels from 75 in the Peak District to 4 in the Midlands and North West. Issues raised included: the future of the Harrison's Rocks toilet block and campsite, the Peak Park Authority plans for the North Lees Estate (Stanage), a wind turbine proposal near Bowden Doors, the Lakes White Guide and access limitations in Range West. With regard to Harrison's it was noted that the BMC supports the continued existence of the toilet block and campsite but that we are not prepared to take long term responsibility for their operation and management; a local working group is now considering this further. It was also felt that more should be done to promote and publicise BMC area meetings.

- **Finance & membership:** The BMC is currently forecasting year end deficits of £57k in 2013 and £149k in 2014. BMC membership has increased slightly over the past 12 months but travel insurance sales have declined. Subscriptions have been held level since 1 Jan 2009 and will remain unchanged in 2014. National Council agreed to propose to the 2014 AGM an increase of £2.00 per adult members (individuals and clubs) and £1.00 for students / unwaged / u18s to come into effect on 1 Jan 2015.
- **Vice-President nomination(s):** It was noted that Ed Douglas and Kate Phillips are standing down as Vice-Presidents in April 2014. National Council agreed to put forward Rupert Davies (a Manchester-based barrister) for one of the positions. A female candidate had also been approached but at the time of the meeting had not agreed for her name to go forward for consideration. National Council will be considering this candidate at its next meeting on 8 Feb 2014.
- **Policy issues:** Consideration of the Drilled Equipment position statement was deferred to the next meeting due to time constraints. The BMC's position statement / policy on dry tooling will also be confirmed at this meeting.
- **Media:** The BMC now has 39,000 Facebook followers and 14,000 on Twitter. BMCTV and the Ambassadors programme went live in November thanks to funding from Sport England. The BMC is producing a 'bookazine' called Get Climbing which goes on sale in WHSmith in March 2014.