

## **Area Meeting Briefing Note for Area Chairs & Secretaries – January 2014**

A summary of some of the key BMC activities for the period November 2013 – January 2014

### **Access & Conservation**

- Discussions with Sport England and Forestry Commission about the future of the toilet block and campsite at Harrison's Rocks.
- First BMC Landscape Charter published, setting out our role and responsibility in campaigning to protect landscapes.
- BMC members encouraged to complete MCofS survey on windfarms in upland Scotland and their effect on the landscape.
- Open Wales access campaign launched.
- Development of Lake District winter climbing guidance.

### **BMC Organisation**

- Nominations opened for the George Band Award for Exceptional Voluntary Contribution to Mountaineering.
- Greg Mulholland MP announced as our new link to government within Sport England's parliamentary sports fellowship scheme.
- BMC Portland Festival and AGM programme finalised, and booking forms made available.

### **Clubs & Huts**

- New training courses for club members advertised on BMC website.
- Equipment advice for clubs published on the BMC website.

### **Safety & Skills**

- Hill walking, scrambling, and winter skills courses added to subsidised rock climbing courses at Plas y Brenin.
- 2014 dates of 'Ready to Rock' outdoor climbing course at Plas y Brenin announced.
- Dates of 2014 FUNdamentals of Climbing workshops published.

### **Youth & Equity**

- First ever BMC disability symposium held in Keswick in conjunction with the Calvert Trust.
- 2014 skills courses for students launched.
- Supported the third annual Women's Climbing Symposium, held at The Arch Climbing Wall, London.
- BMC conference held in Birmingham, identifying barriers to participation in the outdoors from the Muslim community and suggesting solutions to overcome them.

## **Technical**

- Bolting workshop held for the Climb Bristol project volunteers at Avon Gorge.
- Online guides to ice tools, crampons, helmets and harnesses published.

## **Competition Climbing (& Ski Mountaineering)**

- BMC Leading Ladder 2013/2014 returns with rounds at 28 climbing walls.
- 2014 British Ski Mountaineering Championships race announced.
- Dates of 2014 BMC climbing competitions published.
- BMC Winter Open Youth Event held in Sheffield.
- 2014 GB Junior Climbing and Senior Lead Climbing Teams selected.
- 2014 BMC Youth Climbing Series dates and venues announced and online entry opened.

## **Membership**

- Online membership survey for 14-25 year olds launched.
- BMC Ambassadors scheme launched at Kendal Mountain Festival, to help the BMC raise its profile by acting as role models to inspire and engage young climbers, hill walkers and mountaineers.

## **Events**

- BMC hosted Chris Townsend lecture at the Buxton Adventure Festival.
- BMC stand and press event at the Kendal Mountain Festival.

## **Media**

- BMC TV, our new online video channel, went live.
- Student Season media campaign ran as fourth quarter communication priority.
- During Mountain Training's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, we'll be promoting its work and raising awareness of awards and qualifications.

## **Publications**

- Peak Rock, a celebration of a century of cutting edge rock climbing in the Peak District published by Vertebrate, with BMC support.

## **Regional Development**

- Will Harris appointed as BMC Regional Development Officer (England East), to replace Rob Greenwood; he will be in post from Monday 3 March.