

Area Meeting Briefing Note for Area Chairs & Secretaries – May 2014

A summary of some of the key BMC activities for the period March – May 2014

Access & Conservation

- Agreed and publicised formal position statements on drilled equipment and dry tooling.
- Arranged and publicised 2014 Range West Briefing dates.
- Updated and re-printed the BMC guide to climbing and occupier's liability; it is also available as a free download on the BMC website.
- Published seasonal nesting restrictions advice on the BMC website.
- Organised and led a walk in Wharfedale with Greg Mulholland MP, the BMC's Parliamentary Sports Fellow, to promote hill walking and help to raise money for the local Mountain Rescue Team.
- Publicised the re-opening of the Harrison's Rocks Campsite following repairs to the toilet block.
- Publicised a Stanage Forum open meeting, to encourage interested members to attend and give their views on the management of the North Lees Estate.
- Attended the annual Spirit of Kinder Day, this year held in Sheffield, to mark the 1932 Kinder Scout Mass Trespass.
- Publicised the work being undertaken in the Dark Peak Nature Improvement Area and encouraged interested BMC members to volunteer for a range of projects within the initiative.
- Published a reminder on the BMC website about access arrangements for climbing in Cheddar Gorge, including the need for third party liability insurance cover, following a number of incidents in which climbers have recently been caught climbing in areas outside of the access agreement, or climbing without insurance.
- Ran the annual TremFest clean-up event, with volunteers helping to give Craig Bwlch y Moch at Tremadog a spring clean.

Clubs & Huts

- Published Essential Club Know-how article on BMC website as a holding page for all important club-related articles and information.
- Supported the University of Manchester Hiking Club in the running of a new outdoor club safety seminar.
- 2014 Clubs Survey launched and publicised to all members in BMC monthly newsletter.
- Ran the annual Training Novice Club Members workshop at Plas y Brenin.

Competition Climbing (& Ski Mountaineering)

- Held Grand Final of the BMC Leading Ladder at the Beacon Climbing Centre, Caernarfon.
- Held the third round of the BMC Youth Climbing Series at climbing walls around the country.
- Held the second round of the BMC Paraclimbing Series at Newcastle Climbing Centre.
- Held the second round of the BMC/MCofS Junior British Bouldering Championships at The Climbing Academy in Glasgow.
- Publicised Shauna Coxsey's win at the IFSC Bouldering World Cup event in Grindelwald, which took her to the top of the 2014 series rankings.

International

- Publicised the American Alpine Club's invitation for climbers to attend its annual International Climbers' Meet in Yosemite Valley in October.
- Publicised expeditions awarded a Mount Everest Foundation grant in 2014.
- Publicised Chamonix Mountain Festival discounted ticket offer for BMC members.

Safety & Skills

- Publicised the 2014 BMC Coaching Symposium, to be held in September in North Wales.
- Publicised the 2014 BMC FUNDamentals of Climbing workshop programme; three different one-day workshops hosted by numerous climbing walls around the country.
- Publicised the 2014 BMC Regional Academy programme; 32 one-day events covering five themes to support emerging young climbing talent.
- Ran the annual BMC Climbing Movement Masterclasses at seven venues around the country.
- Ran the annual BMC Alpine Lecture Series at six venues around the country.
- Commenced delivery of Rock Out subsidised local outdoor climbing courses for the 2014 outdoor climbing season.
- Publicised Mountain Training's free hill walking skills taster sessions being offered at the Keswick Mountain Festival.
- Published information and opened online booking for the annual BMC Student Safety & Good Practice Seminar at Plas y Brenin in October.

Technical

- Published a warning on the BMC website about potential bolt failures in the slate quarries of North Wales.

Youth & Equity

- Publicised the Climb Out challenge organised by BMC member Jake McManus in support of Mental Health Awareness Week.

BMC Organisation

- 2014 BMC AGM held on Portland; Rupert Davies and Mina Leslie-Wujastyk elected as BMC Vice-Presidents; Eric Jones made an Honorary Member; John Innerdale OBE awarded the George Band Award for exceptional voluntary service ; Neil Foster elected as a Director on the Executive Committee, and Brian Smith as an Independent Director; quorum of the Executive Committee increased from four to five persons; Individual and Club Member subscriptions to be increased by £1.50 from 1 January 2015.

Membership

- Supported the Keswick Mountain Festival with publicity of the event to members; organised a themed guided walk to celebrate the BMC's 70th anniversary and exhibited in the festival marquee, promoting BMC membership and selling merchandise including the new BMC Lake District T-shirts.

Medical

- Updated and publicised advice on the BMC website about ticks and tick-borne diseases.