

Meeting of the Clubs' Committee, Thursday, 11th September, 2014

A report for the Yorkshire area of the BMC

This meeting was attended by one representative of the National Clubs, reps from the BMC areas of Yorkshire, the South-West and the North-West as well as a rep of student clubs. Also there were Nick Colton, the Deputy CEO of the BMC, Deirdre Collier who is the link between the Clubs' Committee and the BMC's Executive Committee and Will Harris who is the BMC's Regional Development Officer for the North-East (which, of course, includes Yorkshire).

There was lively discussion on many subjects related to clubs. These included:

1. **Analysis of data from a survey of walkers and climbers in clubs as well as those not in clubs.** This sought to examine people's attitudes to a variety of clubs-related issues and, for those not in clubs, why not. For those wishing to read the results in detail, they may be found at <https://www.thebmc.co.uk/bmc-club-survey-2014-the-results-are-in>

2. **Analysis of clubs disaffiliating from the BMC.** There were data from 1999 onwards relating to clubs that had left the BMC. One of the major reasons was that their numbers had dropped below 20. Many were student clubs whose membership was always fast-changing.

The reasons for these surveys was to try to establish what could be done to encourage more people to join clubs and how clubs could be persuaded to remain affiliated to the BMC.

3. **The rôle of Clubs' Committee reps from the BMC area committees.** This included a decision to ask the National Council to amend the Terms of Reference for the Clubs' Committee to allow members to be elected in a slightly different way. This was to ensure that the committee had the necessary range of skills and experience. We also decided to have four meetings per year, two evening meetings at BMC Manchester, as at present, plus two around the regions on a Saturday. It was hoped that this would encourage more members to attend and would also allow longer meetings in the daytime rather than late into the evening.
4. **The BMC Loan Scheme for clubs.** There has been a very low take-up of this facility and the BMC is trying to find out why. The Finance Committee is to be asked to look again at the figures so that pay-back times might be longer. Clearly, this would give clubs lower annual repayments and help their cashflow. It was also suggested that grants might be made in exchange for, for example, a share of the equity of the hut being financed.
5. **National Council items.** The major item here was on the means of increasing BMC subscriptions. There were several possibilities and these are being discussed at meetings of BMC local areas. It is on the agenda for the Yorkshire meeting on Monday, 15th September.