

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

A summary of some of the key BMC activities for the period September - November 2014

### **Access & Conservation**

- In the run-up to the party conference season, distributed a new BMC Access Manifesto to MPs calling for more government support for countryside access and recreation.
- Issued a press release acknowledging the government's pledge to speed up access improvements around England's coast and welcoming the announcement that additional funding will be put in place to accelerate the delivery of the coastal path so that it will be fully complete by 2020.
- Encouraged members to contact their local MP to ask them to attend the parliamentary debate on government policy on outdoor sport and recreation held on 10 September.
- Led the annual walk of the All Party Parliamentary Group for Mountaineering (Mountaineering APPG) on Tryfan and the Glyderau.
- Encouraged members to vote for projects short-listed for funding from the European Outdoor Conservation Association; Staffordshire Wildlife Trust won €30,000 for footpath improvements on the Roaches.
- Joined with the Ramblers and the Peak District National Park Authority on a walk on open access land, to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the implementation of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act.
- Teamed up with Derbyshire Wildlife Trust to vaccinate badgers at the BMC-owned Horseshoe Quarry as part of a project to use vaccination against bovine tuberculosis as an alternative to badger culling.
- Hosted an access conference looking at the cost and benefits of challenge events in the outdoors, and how these can be managed; new guidance for large groups and challenge events will now be published.
- Published good practice guidance for boulderers and for student clubs planning freshers' meets on the BMC website.

### **Climbing Walls**

- Published the 2015 BMC Climbing Wall Directory, which was inserted in the December issue of Climber magazine.

### **Clubs & Huts**

- Publicised the March 2015 BMC Hut Seminar, originally scheduled for November 2014.
- Paid tribute to Huts Committee chair Craig Harwood, who was killed in a climbing accident in Cornwall in September.
- Promoted a series of lectures and masterclasses by Neil Gresham and Kenton Cool hosted by BMC-affiliated clubs.
- Launched the 2015 clubs workshop programme.

### **Competition Climbing**

- Announced the dates for the regional rounds and grand final of the 2015 BMC Youth Climbing Series.
- Reported on the success of the GB Junior Bouldering Team at events in Austria and Italy.
- Reported on the IFSC World Championships, held in Gijon, Spain, which featured lead climbing, paraclimbing and speed climbing competitions.

- Held the British Lead and Speed Climbing Championships, along with the final round of the IFSC Paraclimbing Cup at Awesome Walls in Sheffield.

#### **Heritage**

- Hosted workshops by MHT Archivist Maxine Willett for club and individual members at the BMC offices, to advise on preserving individual and club mountaineering history.

#### **International**

- Reported on first ascents and exploratory expeditions in Greenland, the Indian Himalaya, Ladakh and Siberia; some supported by grants from the BMC, the Alpine Club Climbing Fund and the Mount Everest Foundation.
- Published an interview with legendary Japanese climber Yuji Hirayama about his recent first experience of trad climbing in the UK.

#### **Safety & Skills**

- Published deep-water soloing advice on the BMC website by BMC ambassador Hazel Findlay.
- Due to growing demand for workshops, invited applications for new providers of BMC FUNDamentals of Climbing 1 & 2 workshops.
- Held the BMC Coaching Symposium in North Wales, attended by over 60 coaches.
- Held the 20<sup>th</sup> annual BMC Student Safety & Good Practice Seminar at Plas y Brenin.
- Published advice on the BMC website for beginner backpackers.
- Hosted the BMC Climbing Injury Symposium, at which medical experts presented the latest findings in the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of climbing-specific injuries.
- Launched a new series of scrambling skills videos on BMC TV.

#### **Technical**

- Published articles on the BMC website about: the different kinds of belay and abseil device; the different types of karabiner, and how to avoid problems when using them; the different types of climbing quickdraw and tips on usage; and mountain clothing for climbing and walking and the principle of the three-layer system.

#### **Youth & Equity**

- Supported and promoted the 2014 Women's Climbing Symposium, held at TCA Glasgow.
- Published advice on the BMC website on how to set up a women's climbing club.
- Launched the Women in Mountain Adventure film competition, to be hosted on BMC TV.

#### **BMC Organisation**

- Announced the appointment of Pat Littlejohn and Mick Fowler as BMC Patrons.
- Invited BMC members to attend a forum to discuss our new strategy proposal on how the BMC can improve its work for walkers.

#### **Membership**

- Launched a new, more user-friendly BMC Insurance website, with a sleek new look and a much slicker application process.

#### **Media**

- Launched new online media centre to help journalists cover stories on climbing, hill walking or mountaineering and issues affecting mountain areas.
- Gained our 20,000<sup>th</sup> follower on the BMC's Twitterfeed - @Team\_BMC.
- Shortlisted for Outdoor Campaigner of the Year in the annual awards run by The Great Outdoors magazine – award ceremony to be held at Kendal Mountain Festival on 19 November.