

Area Meeting Briefing Note for Area Chairs & Secretaries – January 2015

A summary of some of the key BMC activities for the period Nov 2014 – Jan 2015

Access & Conservation

- Re-launched the Cwm Idwal Winter Climbing Information Project, providing live conditions information on the BMC website.
- Publicised a discounted rate for BMC members using the Stanage North Lees campsite over winter.
- New Lake District White Guide booklet published, providing advice on minimising impact when winter climbing in the Lakes.

Climbing Walls

- Announced that The Climbing Works in Sheffield had become the second climbing wall, and the first dedicated bouldering centre in England and Wales to be designated a National Performance Centre.

Clubs & Huts

- Launched the 2015 clubs workshop programme.
- Publicised the March 2015 BMC Hut Seminar, originally scheduled for November 2014.
- Announced the date of the 2015 Clubs Seminar, to be held in North Wales in April.

Competition Climbing

- Published a list of all 2015 BMC competitions, comprising 14 national level competitions and 30 regional youth events.
- Publicised the dates and venues of the 2015 BMC Youth Climbing Series.
- Held the first round of the 2015 Junior Boulder Cup, at the Climbing Unit in Derby, and the first round of the 2015 Junior Lead Cup, at Awesome Walls in Sheffield.
- Publicised Shauna Coxsey's nomination as one of ten nominees for the 2014 BT Sport Action Woman Award – Shauna came second in the national public vote.
- Secured a new sponsor – The Arch Climbing Wall – for the GB Bouldering Team.
- Promoted the British Ski Mountaineering Championships, to be held in France in February.

Hill walking

- Organised a special members' forum in Hayfield, to discuss our new strategy proposal on how the BMC can improve its work for walkers. A voluntary working group has subsequently been established to help progress and implement recommendations.

International

- Invited applications from UK hosts for the 2015 International Meet, to be held in North Wales in May.
- Published a summary on the BMC website of achievements in 2014 by BMC-supported expeditions.

- Held the 2015 BMC Expedition Planning Seminar, headlined by Mick Fowler and Calum Muskett, at Plas y Brenin.

Safety & Skills

- 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.
- Publicised the dates and venues of the 2015 BMC Alpine Lectures, to be held in March and presented by Steve Long and Calum Muskett.
- Publicised the dates and venues of the 2015 FUNdamentals of Climbing workshops.
- Publicised the dates and venues for the 2015 BMC Climbing Movement Masterclasses, to be run by Emma Twyford.
- Publicised the award of Mountain Training Leader of the Year to BMC volunteer Fida Hussain.
- Publicised subsidised winter skills courses for BMC members hosted by Plas y Brenin in North Wales.
- Mountain Training agreed to a review of the Climbing Wall and Single Pitch awards, to begin this summer. This will be an open consultation for anyone interested to contribute to.

Technical

- Publicised a safety recall of avalanche airbags manufactured by ABS.

Youth & Equity

- Updated the BMC Child Protection Policy with the inclusion of a social media policy.
- Supported the launch of This Girl Can, Sport England's new national campaign to encourage more women and girls to get active regularly.

BMC Organisation

- Publicised the date and venue of the 2015 BMC AGM, to be held on Saturday 25 April at Plas y Brenin in North Wales.
- Invited members to nominate someone for the 2015 George Band Award for Exceptional Voluntary Contribution to Mountaineering.
- Celebrated the BMC's 70th birthday on 2 December 2014.
- Publicised the award of MBE to former BMC president Bob Pettigrew.

Membership

- Launched a new, travel insurance scheme, using a completely new underwriter, claims handling company and emergency assistance provider.

Media

- Passed 60,000 Likes on the BMC Facebook page, and 24,000 Twitter followers on @team_BMC.