

## **Area Meeting Briefing Note for Area Chairs & Secretaries: Nov 2016**

A summary of some of the key BMC activities for the period August - November 2016

### **Access & Conservation**

- The monthly BMC Outdoor Survey, which had been running online since summer 2015, came to an end; results are expected to be published before the end of the year.
- Footpath repair work directly funded by the Mend Our Mountains campaign began at two of the eight projects, on Exmoor and Kinder Scout.
- The Mend Our Mountains campaign has been nominated by readers of The Great Outdoors magazine for the award of 'Campaign of the Year' in its annual awards series.
- An open day was held on a new path in the Yorkshire Dales, recently improved for use by all-terrain wheelchairs with partial funding from the BMC Access & Conservation Trust.

### **Clubs & Huts**

- The ever-popular BMC Student Safety and Good Practice Seminar was held at Plas y Brenin in October.

### **Competition Climbing**

- The International Olympic Committee confirmed that climbing would be one of five new sports at the 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo.
- Sponsorship deal agreed with Manchester-based law firm Birchall Blackburn Law for the GB Paraclimbing team.
- Shauna Coxsey became the 2016 bouldering world cup champion, finishing in second place at the final round of the series held in Munich in August.
- Announced the replacement of regional and national academies with a new GB Climbing Development Squad, which will bring an additional tier to the GB Climbing Performance Pathway.
- Held the British Lead & Speed Climbing Championships and the final round of the IFSC Paraclimbing Cup at Awesome Walls Sheffield in late September.
- GB Paraclimbing Team member Esme Harte won a bronze medal at the IFSC World Championships in Paris in September.
- Held the first three rounds of the BMC & Climb Scotland Paraclimbing Series; the fourth (and final) round takes place in December.

### **Gear**

- Held a bolting workshop at the BMC-owned Horseshoe Quarry in the Peak District.

### **Guidebooks**

- Lancashire Rock, the latest BMC definitive guidebook, published.

### **Heritage**

- Announced that the BMC Gallery of Mountaineering will be launched at the Kendal Mountain Festival in November. The gallery will be a digital archive of historic mountaineering images.

### **International**

- Expedition grant applications have come in for 1 November deadline.
- Doug Scott elected as the UK representative on the UIAA Mountaineering Commission at its General Assembly in Italy in October.

### **Local Areas**

- Volunteers in the North West held the annual WiltonFest, which included the official launch of the BMC's new Lancashire Rock guidebook.
- Volunteers in South Wales held the annual Gower Climbing Festival, which saw the introduction of sessions for young climbers aimed at giving proficient indoor climbers a chance to get outside onto real rock.

### **Safety & Skills**

- Held the Climbing Coach Symposium and a Coaching Children Workshop in Manchester in late October.

### **Youth & Equity**

- Invited entries for the 2017 BMC Women in Adventure film competition.
- Organised a number of events designed to engage women and girls in climbing during Women's Sport Week (3-9 October).
- Published an online equality survey, to help us better understand the makeup of the BMC membership and plan future projects and activities that are accessible and inclusive.
- Held the BMC North Wales Youth Meet, to help young climbers make the move from indoor walls to climbing outside, in Llanberis Pass in September.

### **BMC Organisation**

- Simon McCalla joined the BMC Executive Committee as an Independent Director.
- Lead the annual walk of the All Party Parliamentary Group for Mountaineering (Mountaineering APPG) on the Carneddau Horseshoe in Snowdonia.
- Invited nominations for the 2017 George Band Award for Exceptional Voluntary Contribution to Mountaineering.

### **Membership**

- Ran a promotional offer for BMC Rock Insurance during October.
- The new online clubs renewals system is being tested by a group of volunteers, and we are hopeful that we will be able to offer this new system to all clubs as an option for their year-end renewals.
- Alpine and Ski annual multi-trip Europe Insurance is to be discounted online by 25% from 1 December for a limited period.