

Summary of the 26th Meeting of the BMC National Council

Date: Saturday 11 June 2011
Venue: Seathwaite, Duddon Valley, Lake District

In attendance:

Voting Members: Rab Carrington (President), Polly Sullivan (Lakes), Deirdre Collier (Yorkshire), Elizabeth Holley (L&SE), Claudia Sarnier (Midlands), Colin Struthers & Tom Bond (North West), Rick Gibbon & Neil Foster (Peak), Sam & Rich Mayfield (South West), Elizabeth Holly & Chris Lund (L&SE), Andy Boorman (Cymru/Wales North), Dave Turnbull (CEO).

Specialist Committee Chairs: Graham Richmond (Finance), Nick Bond (Climbing Walls).

Observers & staff: Martin Doyle (Plas y Brenin), Nick Colton (BMC), Tony Ryan (minute taker).

Summary:

- **Area reports.** The Area reps reported on lively discussion of access, conservation and environmental issues at meetings across England and Wales. Three crag clean-ups are planned in the North East Area including Crag Lough. Specific issues at Hoghton, Rivelin, Chee Dale, Dali's Hole, Kilnsey and many other sites were debated. It was noted that poor sanitary practice is becoming an increased problem at several popular sites. The Peak District NPA Asset Review is an ongoing issue and the BMC has submitted a detailed letter outlining our views. A letter has also been submitted to the Lake District NPA expressing fresh concern about the Honister Zip-Wire. The South West Area reported that it is seeking to initiate an 'Avon Gorge Climbing Project' to improve the climbing environment in the Gorge.
- **Area events.** The Midlands Area reported on plans for the Midlands Festival of Climbing (which co-incides with the BMC Youth Climbing Series Final) and L&SE described plans for a Harrison's Meet on 16/17 July.
- **Developments in the uplands / wind farms.** The BMC's policy of upland energy projects and wind farms had been discussed at several Area Meetings. Opinions at National Council were mixed as to how/if the BMC should change its position. It was decided to re-visit this complex issue after the BMC 'Wind farms' Seminar on 10 September in North Wales.
- **Finance & membership.** A budget deficit for 2011 in the region of £100k is forecast, predominantly due to the downturn in travel insurance sales. It was noted that part of the reason for the downturn was due to a conscious decision by the BMC to stop offering cover to certain categories of non-core / high risk business. Having ended 2010 on a record high membership of almost 74,000, numbers are relatively static so far this year.
- **BMC Access & Conservation Trust.** The Trust has been re-structured and is now an official BMC entity. It is being re-launched in 2011 with a new web presence, logo and literature. Amongst other things the BMC will also be promoting it as a way for people to leave legacies to support mountain based access & conservation work in the future.
- **Club applications.** Edge Outdoor Club was accepted for BMC membership subject to satisfactory CRB clearance.