

BMC Clubs' Committee meeting 23rd June, 2011

Notes on the major items of the meeting.

1. **Insurance.** It seems that the cost of increasing the insurance limit of £10m for Civil Liability (which includes Professional Indemnity) to £15m would be about £5k. This will be taken to the Finance Committee for discussion.

At present, the BMC through its insurers, accepts a period of up to three months before a club has to pay for the Civil Liability insurance of people joining a club. Some clubs (FRCC and the Rucksack Club for example) need longer than this for the recruitment process. The BMC is talking to Perkins Slade about clubs paying an annual sum to provide Civil Liability for Prospective Members.

2. **Changes to the Operating Procedures.** There had been some feedback from National Clubs about the proposals detailing changes to the Operating Procedures for the Clubs' Committee. A revised version will be agreed and sent for approval to the National Council.

3. **Survey of clubs.** A detailed survey of clubs has shown that
 - about a quarter are walking-only clubs, another quarter rock-climbing-only clubs and the remaining half do both,
 - there are twice as many men as women in clubs,
 - about a quarter of clubs had a rising membership over the past year, about a quarter had a falling membership and about half were the same size,
 - about 40% of clubs' members participate regularly in activities, and
 - about 30% own their own hut.

The survey had suggested that subsidised training might be available and the following topics were popular

- winter skills,
- advanced navigation,
- first aid, and
- self-rescue.

It was agreed that the Clubs' Committee would work towards providing suitable training courses in the first three of these and in Expedition Skills.

Help with Club management and Web management was also in demand to a lesser extent.

To provide the requested help with Insurance and with Recruitment and Retention, part of the Clubs' Seminar will be devoted to these items. The next one is on 22-23 October. Martin Wragg is to be asked to do a presentation on the legal responsibilities of clubs' officers and committee members.

Regarding the request for legal advice, it was suggested that a 'Legal FAQ' might be set up on the BMC website. This is to be discussed further within the BMC.

4. **Club administration.** Martin Wragg had produced a guidance note for clubs on aspects of clubs becoming Incorporated bodies. Several members of the Clubs' Committee felt that aspects of this draft note were inaccurate and also heavily biased against incorporation. Two members of the committee undertook to provide a critique of the note within the next month for consideration by the National Council.
5. **Abolition of cheques.** It seems that the government has told the banks to continue the use of cheques beyond the banks' imposed date of 2018 until an acceptable alternative has been found that satisfies all sections of society. More details are awaited with great interest.