

Summary note of the 19th Meeting of the BMC National Council

Date: 11.00 - 3.30pm, Saturday 27 Feb 2010

Venue: Hayfield, Derbyshire

Attendance list:

Members: Rab Carrington (President), Chris Lund & Vic Odell (L&SE), Scott Titt & Rich Mayfield (SW), Ray Wood (Cymru/Wales), Polly Sullivan & Steve Scott (Lakes), Chris Moor & Neil Foster (Peak), Mick Johnson (Yorkshire), Alan Hinkes (NE), Charles Gameson & Fiona Devine (Midlands), Dave Turnbull (CEO).

Specialist Committee Chairs: John Farrow (Clubs), Nick Bond (Climbing Walls), Iain McCallum (Huts), Graham Richmond (Finance).

Observers & staff: David Allen (Mountain Rescue England & Wales), Andy Say (MLTE), Martin Doyle (Plas y Brenin), Nick Colton (Deputy CEO), Kate Anwyl (Co-ordinator).

Summary:

- **Constitutional issues:** National Council agreed that Scott Titt would be put forward to the 2010 AGM as the candidate for BMC President; Pat Littlejohn completes his term as Vice President at the AGM. It was also agreed that an Open Forum discussion session would be held immediately after the AGM to allow members to raise topical issues with the BMC. This will include the BMC's policy on quarrying.
- **National Council membership:** It was agreed to accept Mountain Rescue England & Wales (MREW) as an observer on National Council.
- **Finance:** It was noted that the BMC had ended 2010 with a year end surplus of £123k.
- **Artificial Boulder Park proposal, London & South East Area:** National Council agreed to investigate the concept of an artificial boulder park in / around London and to direct a limited amount of financial support towards this.
- **Clubs:** There was a discussion about the BMC's current requirement that all clubs must declare (i.e. list and pay for) all of their members annually to the BMC. This was compared with the situation in Scotland where the Mountaineering Council of Scotland require their affiliated clubs to declare (and pay for) only their 'active' members. It was agreed that the matter would be referred to the BMC Clubs Committee for further consideration.
- **Sport England:** The results of the Sport England Audit process were discussed. It was noted that the BMC would be compiling an additional planning document in early 2010 setting out the organisations operational objectives for the year.

- **Proposal to establish a Mountain Safety Forum:** Following discussion it was agreed that the BMC should take forward this proposal from the BMC Training & Youth Committee. The idea was unanimously support by National Council members and observer organisations present at the meeting (i.e. MREW, MLTE and Plas y Brenin) in light of the significant increase in mountain rescue incidents in recent years.
- **Area Meeting reports:** Many of the Area Meetings continue to show very encouraging attendance. It was noted that the Lakes Climbing and Walking Festival takes place in the Duddon Valley on 25-27 June. The Midlands Area is becoming closely involved with several quarrying issues in Leicestershire with the support of the BMC office. It was noted that the BMC supported the proposals to extend the Lakes District and Yorkshire Dales National Parks. It was also agreed that the BMC should support a mountaineering presence at the National Eisteddfod which is being held in South Wales this year.
- **Club applications for membership:** Cheshire Amateur Ramblers Club and Sheffield Hallam University Climbing Club were accepted for BMC membership.
- **Dates of next meetings:** 17 April, Gower; 12 June, Yorkshire; 25 September, North Devon; 4 December, Snowdonia.

Dave Turnbull
25 March 2010