

Summary note of the 23rd Meeting of the BMC National Council

Date: Saturday 4 December 2010
Venue: Plas y Brenin

In attendance:

Voting Members: Rab Carrington (President), Audrey Seguy (Vice President), Scott Titt (Vice President), Rich Mayfield (SW), Colin Struthers & Tom Bond (North West), Vic Odell & Elizabeth Holly (L&SE), Mick Johnson (Yorks), Mike Raine & Ray Wood (Cymru/Wales - North), Neil Foster (Peak), Claudia Sarner & Charles Gameson (Midlands), Dave Turnbull (CEO).

Specialist Committee Chairs: Lindsay Griffin (international), Bill Renshaw (Access, Conservation & Environment / Land Management), Ian Carr (Guidebooks), Iain McKenzie (Competitions), Nick Bond (Climbing Walls), Ian McCallum (Huts), Graham Richmond (Finance).

Observers & staff: Andy Say (MLTE), Martin Doyle (Plas y Brenin), Nick Colton (Deputy CEO), Rob Adie (Walls/Comps), Niall Grimes (Guidebooks), Cath Flitcroft, Rob Dyer & Elfyn Jones (A&C), Martin Kocsis (Volunteers / Clubs), Dan Middleton (Technical), Jon Garside (BMC/MLTE Training), Kate Anwyl (Co-ordinator).

Summary:

Specialist Committee Reports & Forward Plans

The December National Council meeting includes a series of presentations from the Specialist Committee as well as the main business of National Council. Each Specialist Committee gave a report of its activities in 2010 and presented its plan for 2011; these were agreed by National Council with some minor changes. The updated membership list and Terms of Reference of each Committee were also agreed with minor changes. Points of note from the reports and forward plans:

- The BMC recorded a note of thanks to Bill Renshaw, Lindsay Griffin and Iain McCallum who have all completed their terms as Specialist Committee chairs. The BMC is now seeking new chairs for the Access, Conservation & Environment Group, the International Committee and the Huts Committee.
- The Clubs Committee now includes two representatives from Student Clubs alongside the two National Club reps and single representatives from each of the nine BMC Areas.
- The BMC has achieved Sport England's Intermediate Standard for Child Protection and we are now working toward the Advanced Level.

Main business of the meeting

- **Clubs / Conflicts of Interest statement:** The meeting agreed to the following statement, *'Members of BMC affiliated clubs play an integral and vital role in BMC Area Committees, Specialist Committees, the National Council, Finance Committee and the Executive. The BMC welcomes the involvement of all members (Club or Individual) in the BMC's voluntary structure. As a general rule - representatives on BMC Committees are expected to participate and contribute in a balanced, unbiased manner having regard to the best interests of the BMC rather than any particular personal, commercial or club interest. The BMC will continue to ask Committee Members to declare their conflicts of interest at the beginning of a meeting in line with the Conflicts of Interest Policy (BMC Management Regulation: C19). In the case of all regular business – members of clubs will not be required*

to declare their club affiliations. In the event of a meeting agenda containing an item, proposal or request relating to a specific club or clubs – members of those clubs will be asked to declare their club affiliations and depending on the nature of the issue may be required to withdraw from discussion on that item. This will be at the discretion of the chair of the committee in question. In the event a significant financial, legal or policy issue arising in relation to a specific club or clubs, it is at the discretion of the BMC to establish a temporary sub-group or sub-committee (comprised of people from outside that club or clubs) to consider any such matters’.

- **Areas:** The Peak Area is concerned about securing the future of the Whillans Hut in view of the Peak Park’s Asset disposal programme. The Yorks Area is investigating ways of resolving sanitation problems at Kilnsey. The South West is considering the establishment of an outreach meeting to cover Cornwall. A note of thanks was recorded for Mike Raine who has now completed his term as chair of BMC Cymru / Wales.
- **Finance:** Given the general economic climate it has been a reasonable year for the BMC and a year end surplus of £55k is anticipated. The main uncertainty for 2011 is the profitability of BMC’s Travel Insurance scheme. A draft proposal to establish a BMC loan scheme to support the purchase and maintenance of club huts was discussed. It was decided that this needed further work prior to second draft being circulated to the Jan/Feb round of Area Meetings for discussion and feedback to National Council.
- **Mountain Safety Forum (MSF):** National Council agreed that the role of the Forum was to: act as a liaison group between the BMC and other bodies with a key role in mountain safety; provide practical advice for the general public on mountain safety; act as a spokesperson on mountain safety; liaise and consult with other bodies outside the MSF on matters relating to mountain safety, and; ensure that mountain safety initiatives do not conflict with traditional mountaineering values. The following organisations were agreed as members of the Forum: BMC, Mountain Rescue England & Wales, Mountain Leader Training, Plas y Brenin, the Association of Chief Police Officers and a media expert.
- **‘The George Band Award for Exceptional Voluntary Effort’:** It was agreed to create a new annual award to recognise the contribution of volunteers within the BMC. This will be awarded at the Annual Dinner to a volunteer(s) who has made a significant contribution in the previous 12 months, or to a volunteer(s) who has made a contribution over a sustained period of time.
- **Better Bolts Campaign:** It was agreed that the BMC would invest a further £10k (i.e. for 2011) in new bolts to replace old / decaying fixed equipment throughout England and Wales. All applications will have to be from formal bolt funds and will be subject to Area Meeting approval.
- **Area Guidance publication:** A new guidance document to support Area Officials and Post holders was agreed.