

Summary note of the 24th Meeting of the BMC National Council

Date: Saturday 19 February 2011
Venue: Chepstow

In attendance:

Voting Members: Rab Carrington (President), Audrey Seguy (Vice President), Scott Titt (Vice President), Steve Scott (Lakes), Sam Mayfield (South West), Nick & Tom Bond (North West), Vic Odell (L&SE), Mick Johnson (Yorkshire), Tom Hutton (Cymru/Wales - North), Stuart Llewellyn (Cymru/Wales - South), Neil Foster & Rick Gibbon (Peak), Claudia Sarner (Midlands), Dave Turnbull (CEO).

Specialist Committee Chairs: Iain McKenzie (Competitions), Rob Greaves (Clubs), Graham Richmond (Finance).

Observers & staff: Andy Say (MLTE), Martin Chester (Plas y Brenin), Nick Colton (Deputy CEO), Tony Ryan (minute taker).

Summary:

- **Area Reports.** Attendance levels at Area Meetings continue to be generally strong. Access and conservation issues featured highly on the agendas at most meetings - issues discussed included: the proposed sell-off of Forestry Commission land, the Peak Park Asset Review (including the potential sale of Stanage and the Roaches), dry tooling (Open Meeting planned in the Lakes in September), the continued climbing ban at White Scar, wind farms in mid-Wales, the production of a Green Climbing Guide to South Wales and the access situations at Llanymynech and Houghton.
- **Quarry Restoration.** The Midlands Area noted that following detailed discussions with local climbers (in particular Geoff Mason, Bowline CC)) - Leicestershire County Council had agreed to hold a seminar on 4 April entitled: *Hard Rock Quarry Restoration in Leicestershire – A Vision for the Future*. There will be around 50-60 attendees including council planners and representatives from the quarry companies, wildlife organisations and the BMC. Several BMC reps are giving presentations at the event.
- **Finance.** The BMC ended 2010 with a surplus of £35123.00 but 2011 is expected to be a more difficult year due to the change of Travel Insurance underwriter (effective from 17 January) and the resultant impact on the scheme. Initial indications are that insurance sales are down compared to the same period last year. A budget deficit of £100-150k is expected in 2011.
- **Membership.** Growth continued over 2010 and the BMC ended the year with almost 74000 members. Growth is expected to slow down in 2011 although early indications from the office suggest it continues to hold up well and that the ½ price Direct Debit offer remains popular.

- **Access & Conservation Trust (ACT).** Some structural changes have recently been made to the Trust and its title has been formally changed to the *BMC Access & Conservation Trust*. Roger Bennion (the new chair of the BMC Access, Conservation & Environment Group) has been appointed as a Trustee of ACT. ACT is an important mechanism for supporting on the ground access projects and the BMC will be placing increased focus on its development over the next 6-12 months.
- **BMC Vice President Nomination.** It was agreed that Ed Douglas would be put forward to the AGM as the new Vice President to take over from Rehan Siddiqui as of 16 April 2011.
- **Club (Hut) Loan Scheme.** The revised draft of the loan scheme proposal was agreed by a vote of 9 - For; 3 - Against and 3 - Abstentions. The Treasurer and Chair of the Finance Committee will determine how to roll-out the scheme and an explanatory note will be circulated to clubs prior to the AGM.
- **George Band Award.** The award is to be presented (by George Band) to Neville McMillan and George Steele at the BMC Annual Dinner in recognition of their combined 65+years service to the BMC Technical Committee. Nominations for the 2012 award are invited.