

## Summary of the 27th Meeting of the BMC National Council

**Date: Saturday 24 September 2011 Venue: Grassington**

### In attendance:

**Voting Members:** Rab Carrington (President), David Lanceley (Treasurer) Ed Douglas, Audrey Seguy & Scott Titt (all Vice-Presidents), Steve Scott & Polly Sullivan (Lakes), Deirdre Collier & Mick Johnson (Yorkshire), Charles Gameson & Claudia Sarner (Midlands), Nick & Tom Bond (North West), Rick Gibbon & Neil Foster (Peak), Elizabeth Holley (L&SE), Tom Hutton (Cymru/Wales - North), Stuart Llewellyn (Cymru/Wales - South) Dave Turnbull (CEO).

**Specialist Committee Chairs:** Andy Boorman (MLTW), Rob Greaves (Clubs Committee), Iain McKenzie (Climbing Competitions), Ian Carr (Guidebook Committee), Andy Say (MLTE).

**Observers & staff:** Nick Colton (BMC), Tony Ryan (minute taker).

### Summary:

**Area reports.** The Area reps reported on some lively discussions across the country. The Duddon Valley Festival was well attended although mainly by climbers rather than walkers. *(Note – it had been agreed to promote this as a climbing **and** hillwalking festival but that had not happened.)* The Lakes Area is planning a Winter Ethics debate for later in 2011.

The Gower Festival had also been a success despite poor weather; the Gower fixed equipment debate had also been well attended and had reached some sensible conclusions. In North Wales discussions focused on the Cromlech path, Dali's Hole and the production of a 'White Guide' (i.e. a good practice publication for winter climbing).

The Peak Area is deeply involved with National Park Authority over its asset disposal policy, specifically in relation to the Roaches and Stanage.

*Peak Area had also discussed the poetry carving at Pule Hill which is part of a collaboration between the poet Simon Armitage & the Ilkley Literature Festival. The project is called the Stanza Stones & there will be 2 carvings in the Ilkley Moor area. Although the Pule Hill carving was felt to be ok there had been objections from climbers re the proposed location for the second carving which was on the line of an E7. Matter resolved with assistance from Rob Dyer.*

In London the BMC Access & Conservation Trust was re-launched at the Castle Climbing Wall.

The Yorkshire Area meeting had focused on access issues notably at Blue Scar and Foredale.

*Re Kilnsey – No progress with the proposed paper re composting toilets.*

*Lulworth Cove – landowner wants to ban climbing on Lulworth Estate for conservation & public safety reasons. There is more info on Grough – see link - <http://www.grough.co.uk/magazine/2011/11/21/mountain-council-bosss-fears-for-climbing-under-new-coastal-law>*

**Constitution & AGM:** It was agreed that Scott Titt and Mike Watson's names would be put forward to the BMC AGM in April 2012 for the positions of BMC President and Vice President respectively. The BMC is also considering the appointment of a new Patron or Patrons following the deaths of Alan Blackshaw and George Band earlier in 2011.

**Clubs.** A number of changes to the operating procedures of the BMC Clubs Committee were agreed. These included an increased term of office for the chair (now 3 years max), the inclusion of a student club representative and minor changes regarding National clubs.

**Finance & membership.** A budget deficit of -£73k is forecast for 2011, predominantly due to the downturn in travel insurance sales. BMC membership stands at c.71000 which is roughly the same figure as it was 12 months previously. *(Budget deficit forecast now reduced to c - £30K due to some Sport England income & a credit re Mountain Training Trust BMC bursary previously not accounted for.)*

**Developments in the uplands / wind farms.** There was a discussion about the outcomes of the BMC Wind Farms seminar held in Llanberis on 10 September. It was agreed that a small scale questionnaire survey of membership would be conducted and that a further report and proposed policy update would be brought back to a future National Council meeting.

**2020 Olympics shortlist.** The International Federation of Sport Climbing (IFSC) will take the lead in promoting competition climbing to the IOC. National Council agreed that should competition climbing be selected the preferred disciplines would be bouldering or lead climbing rather than speed climbing which is favoured by some countries.

*Summary by Dave Turnbull, BMC CEO with additional comments (in italics) by Deirdre Collier, Yorkshire Area Secretary & National Council Representative*