

Summary of the 17th Meeting of the BMC National Council

Date: 9.30-1.00pm, Saturday 12 September 2009
Venue: Brenscombe Outdoor Centre, Swanage

Attendance list:

Members: Rab Carrington (President), Audrey Seguy (Vice President), Anna Gregory (L&SE), Scott Titt (SW), Stuart Llewellyn (Cymru/Wales, South), Deirdre Collier (Yorkshire), Charles Gameson (Midlands), Dave Turnbull (CEO).

Observers: Bill Renshaw (Access Committee), Ian Carr (Guidebook Committee), Andy Say (MLTE), Martin Doyle (Plas y Brenin), Iain McKenzie (Competitions Committee), Nick Bond (Climbing Walls Committee), Nick Colton (Deputy CEO).

Summary:

- **Coaching in mountaineering.** It was agreed that the BMC would support the development a coaching award and syllabus covering indoor climbing, sport climbing and bouldering. The award will be developed by Mountain Leader Training subject to final agreement by the Mountaineering Co-ordination Group (comprises the BMC, MCofS and MCI).
- **AGM 2010 / proxy voting.** National Council agreed to change the date of 2010 AGM to Saturday 17 April in order to fit in with the availability of the preferred venue - the Worms Head Hotel on the Gower. A number of improvements to the AGM proxy voting form were also agreed.
- **Climbing as an Olympic sport.** Following consultation amongst the BMC Areas, National Council agreed that the BMC would support the idea of climbing becoming an Olympic sport. This support will be based on competitions taking place on artificial structures only.
- **The BMC's work for hill walkers.** Ways of developing the BMC's work and services for hill walkers were discussed in light of recent survey information from Sport England suggesting a higher than expected proportion of BMC members (up to 40%) consider their primary activity to be hill walking. The BMC's work for hill walkers is integrated into our work programmes & sometimes goes unseen.

If anyone has any ideas for developing services for hillwalkers please get in touch.

Also hillwalking articles for Summit magazine are required so if you've done something good on the hillwalking front why not write an article about it?

- **Mountain Heritage Trust (MHT).** National Council supported the evolving partnership between MHT and the University of Cumbria. MHT has already been allocated some office space at the Ambleside campus
- **Area news.**
 - Five of the Areas reported that they had now elected Area representatives for the Clubs Committee. *Yorkshire Area's representative is Andy Blakely. Yorkshire Clubs should have heard from him by now so please get in touch if you haven't. See the BMC's website for further information about this - <http://www.thebmc.co.uk/Feature.aspx?id=3266>*
 - **Castlebergh Crag incident.** *The BMC will produce some guidance re lowering off at sports crags either in Summit or on the website.*
 - London & South East are planning to investigate the feasibility of creating an outdoor climbing wall (aka the 'Millenium Crag') in the London Area).
- **Membership & finance.** BMC Membership is up by 3536 on this time last year and 66.52% of individual members are now on direct debit. Total membership is now 68716. The BMC is forecasting a year-end deficit of £23.6k.
- **Staff & Office.** It was noted that Elfyn Jones takes up the Access & Conservation (Wales) Officer position as of 21 September 2009.

BMC AREA MEETING REPORT: Yorkshire Area - Monday 7 September 2009

FOR SUBMISSION TO NATIONAL COUNCIL

1. **Location & Attendance:** The Ilkley Moor Vaults Pub & Dining Room, Ilkley. 22 people

2. **BMC staff & Executive member(s) present:** Rob Adie

3. **New postholder(s) & situations vacant (Chair, Secretary, National Council rep):**

Clubs Committee representative – Andy Blakely

4. **Key issues discussed:**

Incident at Castlebergh Crag – climber fell from lower off.

Caley Crag clean up – ongoing

Ilkley Moor 1012 Olympics Arts Council Commission. Proposed project re writing & performing poems inspired by Ilkley's Cow & Calf Rocks. ? project something onto rocks & put on a show in Quarry

Limestone – successful bird ban observance & maintenance of good relations with National Park etc

? Feizor Nick action re access problems

Kilnsey path in need of some repair

Youth – Hutton Roof camping & climbing. Well supported by members of Youth Co-ordinators Club members & their children - ? needs more publicity for wider support ? Hut meet in Winter.

Huddersfield Climbing wall moving to new sports centre.

Voluntary nesting restrictions for Common Raven – discussion of Guy Keating's paper

Climbing as an Olympic sport – Rob Adie in attendance

Review of AGM proxy voting procedure – no paper so unable to discuss much but clearly lots of misunderstandings!

Coaching in Mountaineering – Feeling that there is some lack of clarity re what is meant by coaching in this context but feeling that it shouldn't be restricted

Election of Representative to Clubs Committee – no club nominations; Andy Blakely volunteered & elected.

Thanks to BMC from Calderdale MC for funding for Website & Newsletters & Instructor Support & from Yorkshire

Ramblers for funding for Website

Newsletter

BMC Clubs Seminar

5. **Bullet points for highlighting to the National Council:**

- Lower off accident – Summit article & other guidance needed
- Olympics Arts Council Commission
- Voluntary Nesting restrictions for Common Raven – meeting agreed that a less restrictive approach would be appropriate ie no agreement to voluntary restrictions re exclusion zones/crags between specified dates but rather informing climbers that ravens are present on certain crags/routes or request they avoid routes which cross or pass near the nest site.
- Climbing as an Olympic sport – 16 for, 2 against, 4 abstentions.
- Coaching in Mountaineering – felt to be important and shouldn't be restricted.
- Thanks to BMC from 2 clubs for funding.

Completed by: Deirdre Collier, Secretary.

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