

Summary of the 41st meeting of National Council

Date: Saturday 6 December 2014

Venue: BMC Office, Manchester

In attendance:

Voting members: Scott Titt (President); Mike Watson (Vice-President); John Simpson (Honorary Treasurer); Will Kilner (Cymru South Wales); Ted Rogers & Peter Sterling (Lakes); Rupert Fleming (London & SE); Roger Fanner & Charles Gameson (Midlands); Alan Hinkes (North East); Nick Bond (North West); Rob Greenwood & Simon Lee (Peak); Gareth Palmer & Iain Peters (South West); Deirdre Collier & James Rowe (Yorkshire); and Dave Turnbull (CEO).

Specialist Committee chairs: Nick Kurth (Access Management Group); Tom Bond (Climbing Walls); Fiona Sanders (Clubs); Ian Walton (Competitions); Kamala Sen (Equity Steering Group); Graham Richmond (Finance); Ian Carr (Guidebooks); Iain McCallum (Huts); Dave Wilkinson (International); Bill Renshaw (Land Management Group); Phillip Tootill (Technical); Andy Newton (Training & Youth).

Observers & staff: Brian Smith (Independent Director); Martin Doyle (Plas y Brenin); Rehan Siddiqui (Presidential nominee); Nick Colton, Tony Ryan, Cath Flitcroft, Rob Dyer, Elfyn Jones, Rob Adie, Niall Grimes, Carey Davies, Jane Thompson, Jon Garside, and Dan Middleton (staff).

Summary:

1. Introduction: Scott Titt chaired the meeting.

2. Forward planning: The morning session involved the review, agreement and adoption of all twelve BMC Specialist Committee Terms of Reference, membership and forward plans.

A proposed re-structuring of the Climbing Wall Committee into an Advisory Panel was discussed. The success of the GB Climbing Team was noted. The 2015 International Meet is to be badged as a UIAA International Global Youth Summit. Henry Folkard's retirement from the Land Management Group was noted, and his important contribution was acknowledged. Recruitment of volunteers to manage club huts will be discussed at the Hut Seminar in March. The Northern Limestone guidebook is due to go to print in February 2015. The need for longer-term organisational financial planning was acknowledged. Progress on engagement with Westminster and the Welsh Assembly had been made, but dedication of BMC land under the CROW Act was taking longer than anticipated.

3. Area reports: Roger Fanner was welcomed to his first meeting as National Council rep for the Midlands in place of Claudia Sarner, whose work as area secretary and NC rep was acknowledged. Some areas reported increased attendance as a result of a change of venue and/or the use of guest speakers. The Peak welcomed the appointment of two new hill walking reps, and one was also elected by Yorkshire; area

reps were reminded that hill walking should be a standing item on area meeting agendas. Carl Spencer is the new North West area chair. A number of areas reported on plans for volunteer-led climbing and walking festivals and crag clean-ups in 2015, following a successful series of events in 2014 to celebrate the BMC's 70th year.

4. Finance: The 2014 year end forecast is looking slightly better than the expected £70k deficit when the budget was set. Insurance income is down on 2013, but there is the possibility of a rebate of up to £20k, due to lower than anticipated claims. There is also evidence that the decline in sales is slowing. The new insurance scheme goes live in early January. The budget for 2015 has been set for a surplus of £13k.

5. Constitutional issues: The meeting voted in favour of nominating Nick Kurth to take over from Mike Watson as BMC Vice-President in April. Colin Knowles was appointed as a National Council rep on the Executive Committee.

6. Policy issues: Guidance for BMC areas on organising climbing and walking festivals was discussed. A position statement on the use of pegs in British climbing was adopted. A proposal to expand the circulation of National Council minutes to include Specialist Committees was discussed.

7. Club applications: Membership applications by three clubs were accepted. These were: University of Cumbria Mountaineering Club; Four Points Climbing; and Brighton Explorers Club.