

Summary of the 43rd meeting of National Council

Date: Friday 24 April 2015
Venue: Plas y Brenin, Capel Curig

In attendance:

Voting members: Scott Titt (President); Rupert Davies (Vice-President); Mina Leslie-Wujastyk; John Simpson (Honorary Treasurer); Anthony Eccles & Jim Kelly (Cymru North Wales); Will Kilner (Cymru South Wales); Ted Rogers & Peter Sterling (Lakes); Roger Fanner & Phil Simister (Midlands); Alan Hinkes (North East); Rob Greenwood (Peak); Gareth Palmer (South West); Deirdre Collier & James Rowe (Yorkshire); and Dave Turnbull (CEO).

Specialist Committee chairs: Nick Kurth (Access Management Group); Fiona Sanders (Clubs Committee); and Kamala Sen (Equity Steering Group).

Observers & staff: Brian Smith (Independent Director); Trevor Smith (Clubs); Mark Walker (Mountain Training England); and Kate Anwyl (HR & Office Co-ordinator).

Summary:

1. Introduction: Scott Titt chaired the meeting and welcomed new attendees Anthony Eccles and Mark Walker.

2. Area reports: Several of the April area meetings (including Lakes, Peak, and Yorkshire) had a strong hill walking theme. The South West discussed the future of the Climb Bristol project. In the Peak, the PDNPA provided a useful update on the North Lees Estate. The Lakes reported on improvements to facilities at Wasdale Head, which will help to reduce the impact made by challenge event groups. The North East reported on planning for the area climbing and walking festival, to be held in July. North Wales reported on a review of the purposes and governance of Welsh national parks, and on new pump storage schemes around Llanberis.

3. Finance: John Simpson reported that the 2015 forecast is currently showing a £12k surplus.

4. Strategy & operation: The 2015-19 Strategic Plan was discussed, in particular the wording of the BMC's commitment to paraclimbing. A discussion on the BMC's governance focused on the roles of the Executive Committee and National Council, and the need to define and clearly explain the roles of both. The Huts Committee is still seeking a chair.

5. Hill walking: Brian Smith gave a progress report on the Hill Walking Working Group, which had held two constructive meetings, and set up some groups to consider topics in more detail, including communications, marketing and access and conservation.

Summary by Dave Turnbull.