

## Summary of the 42<sup>st</sup> meeting of National Council

**Date:** Saturday 7 February 2015

**Venue:** Torquay, Devon

### In attendance:

**Voting members:** Scott Titt (President); Jim Kelly (Cymru North Wales); Will Kilner (Cymru South Wales); Ted Rogers & Peter Sterling (Lakes); Roger Fanner & Phil Simister (Midlands); Simon Lee (Peak); Colin Knowles & Gareth Palmer (South West); Deirdre Collier (Yorkshire); and Dave Turnbull (CEO).

**Specialist Committee chairs:** Nick Kurth (Access Management Group).

**Observers & staff:** Brian Smith (Independent Director); Trevor Smith (Clubs); Nick Colton (Deputy CEO) and Kate Anwyl (HR & Office Co-ordinator).

### Summary:

**1. Introduction:** Scott Titt chaired the meeting and welcomed new attendees Jim Kelly and Phil Simister.

**2. Area reports:** It was noted that several of the April area meetings (including Lakes, Peak, and Yorkshire) will have a strong hill walking theme. The South West reported the agreement of a new fixed equipment policy for Devon & Cornwall and that the Land's End Climbing Festival will take place on 27/28 June. In North Wales the Tremadog Festival is now fixed for 29/31 May. In Pembroke there are eight Range West briefings in 2015. Discussions in the Peak and North Wales had focused on whether or not mountaineering should make financial contributions to National Park Authorities (Peak), and visitor management issues on Snowdon (North Wales).

**3. Volunteer:** National Council agreed to make Dave Cronshaw an honorary member of the BMC in recognition of his long term contribution to Lancashire climbing, and noted that the 2015 George Band Award for exceptional voluntary effort will be awarded to Bob Pettigrew. It was agreed that Dave Musgrove (snr) will take over from Nick Kurth as chair of the BMC Access Management Group.

**5. Strategy & operation:** The 2015-19 Strategic Plan was discussed and endorsed with some minor additions and amendments. The BMC's key strategic priorities relate to:

- a. developing the our work for hill walkers.
- b. connecting with young people (with a focus on the 14-25 age group).
- c. increasing BMC membership.

It was also agreed that the work previously covered by the BMC Climbing Wall Committee would become the responsibility of the Training & Youth Committee.

**6. Hill walking:** There was a discussion about the role and work of the newly

established Hill Walking Working Group chaired by Brian Smith. A number of sub-groups have been set up to consider specific issues including BMC communications and media, and access & conservation work relevant to walkers.

**7. Quarries:** The BMC's position on the ownership and management of quarries was discussed at length with a conclusion to commission the Land Management Group to produce more detailed guidance on the relevant liability issues.

Dave Turnbull, March 2015