

Minutes of South Wales Area meeting 280312

Present:

Gareth Tucker, Simon Rawlinson, John Harwood, Gwyn Evans, Danny McCarroll, Gai Ashmore, John Bullock, Martin Koscis (BMC), Stu Llewellyn, Simon Robinson, Matt Dix, Steve Warrington, Kat Torr, Donna Carless, Nik Goile

Opened 7.45

1) **Intro, summary of last NC meeting**

GT did intro, agenda and summary of last NC meeting.

2) **Valleys Green Guide**

SL explained valleys green guide and background.

3) **Proposals of Crag to be Bolted**

All crags to be bolted only following landowner consent – short discussion was had about need to consult landowner if a venue is near other sports routes, but it was agreed that recent tensions suggest this is a good idea in all cases.

GA raised point about checking with land registry who owns the land for each crag, to ascertain the extent of national trust other other partys ownership.

Action: GT to check Elfyn (BMC) is looking into it

JB – Odins Cave. Two pegged existing routes which would be retrobolted, potential for more sports routes. GA attempted to replace 12 years ago but placements weren't usable.
Vote: 6 for bolting the crag, 3 against, 5 abstentions

SR – Port Eynon Cave. Potential for two routes each in two small caves. Probably quite hard routes.

JH asked if it could be climbed trad by someone good which opened a short debate on whether trad climbing should always have the first say for routes.

Vote: 6 for bolting, 1 against, 7 abstentions

SR asked for clarification about Southgate bolting, i.e. was the whole area considered OK for sports climbing. GT said that no areas were agreed for bolting at the July 2011 meeting, so agreement would still need to be reached at area meetings on a crag basis.

SR then proposed bolting small tidal crag near equal opportunities wall in Southgate area.
Vote: 8 for bolting, 0 against, 6 abstentions.

SR raised adding bolt lower offs to the trad routes Groovy Tube Day and Spain at Dinas, current lower off tat round a tree. No objections.

SR asked what is the issue with bolting the upper section of the lower cave at Dinas?

Action: GT to check with Elfyn

4) **Use of Wiki for Bolting Proposals**

It was agreed that putting proposals of crags to be bolted on a page on the SWMC wiki

was a good idea, so that people could check them before the meeting.

Action: GT to contact Al Rosier about doing a listing page for bolting proposals, and ask if people can opt in to receive notifications when the page is updated.

Action: MK to email everyone on his list before the next meeting to give them a chance to consider.

DM/SR raised concerns about the routes being in the public domain and others climbing them first. As considered that proposed crags be treated as 'projects' while on the wiki and other climbers are asked not to climb them until developed or agreement reached in trad/bolt status. If this doesn't work then re rethink having proposals on wiki.

Action: GT to add this to the text on the wiki page

5) First Ascensionist Rights

GT summarised situation: in the S Wales bolt policy meeting in July 2011, the consensus was that the first ascensionist should not have power of veto over the wishes of the local climbing community with respect to re-equipping or retrobolting of routes. Some Fas expressed concerns about this, including Martin Crocker who the last BMC national council to give his view on the issue.

GA explained some of the grey areas surrounding this issue, i.e. mixed routes with pegs and bolts being different to pure trad routes. GA suggested FAs should be consulted if pure trad line, but if mixed kit we shouldn't need to consult FA. Also gave example of one trad line crossing several potential bolted lines.

JH/GA discussed example of Cowman at Taffs Well.

SL reiterated what was agreed in July 11 south Wales meeting, and recounted response in national council meeting. SL read out BMC response, their wording does fit in with local policy but does emphasise consulting FA and giving their views serious consideration. NG raised the example of a Martin Crocker trad route at foxhole, Little Miss Lover. Pointed out that it would be those types of routes local climbers would want to retrobolt, not classic trad lines.

Action: JH to discuss with Martin Crocker his feelings on the retrobolting of that route.

6) Elfyn

GT confirmed that Elfyns position has been made permanent. Congrats from the group for the good work Elfyn has been doing.