

BRITISH MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL

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BMC Cymru/Wales Mid Wales Outreach Group Meeting

The White Lion, Machynlleth 30th January 2013

MINUTES

Welcome and Apologies for Absence

Meeting commences at 20.00

Thanks to all those attending (15 persons):

Dan Harris, Toby Everard, Steve Muncaster, Stephen Jennings, Don Sargeant, Peter Foulkes, Dave Williams, Sy Finch, Gareth Williams, Bev Barratt, Terry Taylor, Sophie Wynne-Jones, Piers Nesbitt, Tim Sparrow, Elfyn Jones.

Apologies were received from (10 persons):

Huw Gilbert, Tom Hutton, Steph Duits, Sam Whitley (Harlech Wall), Pete Cooper, Doug Kerr, Simon Brooks, Mike Brooks, Pete Trickey, Anyela Camargo.

Minutes from last meeting (21st November 2012) agreed.

Quiz

Thanks Doug and Dave!

Mountaineering Council of Scotland

The Mountaineering Council of Scotland no longer have a full time conservation and access officer on staff. Instead work will be carried out on a case by case basis by consultants.

The BMC were partially funding the MCoS's officer.

The MCoS have requested that the BMC continue to make an annual financial contribution for access and conservation work done in Scotland.

This will be around £10,000-£15,000.

BMC regions are being asked if they would agree to continue providing this funding.

No objections from the Mid Wales group.

Meeting dates for 2013

Discussion had on dates and venues for next BMC Mid Wales meetings.

Dates and venues agreed as follows:

Thursday 5th June at the Druid in Goginan

Thursday 5th September at the White Lion in Machynlleth

Tuesday 19th November at the Druid in Goginan

All meeting to start at 7.30

BMC Bolt Policy

BMC has statement on drilled equipment, developed in 1992.

At the time it was felt that a protectionist policy was needed and bolting restricted to quarry cliffs and certain established venues.

Policy now considered to be outdated.

Since then, south Wales climbers have developed their own policy for Gower and South East Wales.

If someone want stop bot a route then it is placed on South Wales Wiki, then bough to meetings where it is discussed and decisions are made by consensus.

Generated some conflict and BMC approached to up date their policy.

Mid Wales group consider that BMC should provide guidance but not attempt to govern the matter through policy. BMC is not a governing body.

BMC has policy on crags in its ownership – bolting only allowed in very exceptional circumstances.

BMC only involved elsewhere if conservation or access issue.

BMC could provide forum for discussion.

In Mid Wales bolting not an issue... yet.

Crags such as Barmouth Quarry and Ponterwyd Quarry need to be kept an eye on.

Further information here:

<http://www.thebmc.co.uk/bolts-essential-knowledge?s=2>

BMC White Climbing Guide

BMC produce a White Guide to winter climbing in north Wales:

<http://www.thebmc.co.uk/north-wales-white-guide>

Recent conditions have been good, but not great.

Conservation bodies are concerned about potential damage to crag habitats.

Much climbing at the moment is mixed, including frozen turf.

No accurate monitoring of potential damage has occurred as of yet.

Conservation usually takes a precautionary approach, but BMC are looking for an evidence based approach.

BMC to work with Natural Resources Wales and Natural England on monitoring

Need to raise further awareness of issue, though there have are no known issues in north Wales at the moment.

BMC asked to look at Maesglasau Waterfall – may be access issue.

Election of new chair

Tom Hutton moving to north Wales and has asked if anyone would like to take over as chair.

Tim Sparrow volunteers.

Tim is the new chair.

BMC AGM

BMC AGM will be on the 27th April at Plas y Brenin

Please come!

Details below:

<http://community.thebmc.co.uk/Event.aspx?id=2782>

Tremfest!

Tremfest to be held on 20th April, meeting at Eric's Café.

Will involve crag clean up and events.

Details below:

<http://community.thebmc.co.uk/Event.aspx?id=2833>

Range West

New Guidebook to be printed in March

First briefing on Good Friday.

Attending briefing now gives 12 month access.

Full dates to be announced on BMC website soon.,

Encouraged to attend so that access to the area remains secure.

Mid Wales Guidebook

Doug Kerr apologises for his absence

Next meeting in February, dates to be circulated.

Will be in the Druid Inn, Goginan.

Guidebook to cover many new areas in the Elennydd and along the Ceredigion Coast.

Pandy Outcrop and Llanymynech to also be covered.

Access to Pandy Rocks not an issue – owned by Wrexham CC

Pandy Quarry – owner who was objecting to climbing has passed away and new arrangements being discussed.

New Routes in Berwyn's to also be included.

Old routes to be covered in a book for the first time – Some 60-65 years old in the Elan Valley and Radnorshire.

Elennydd part of the guide to cover around 350 new routes.

North Pembroke Guide currently has two Ceredigion sea cliffs in it. These are already out of date and so will be reproduced in Mid Wales guide.

New crag on Ceredigion coast that has 85 new routes (Diff-E6) on it. Interim guide produced which will be available free as pdf. Will be launched March/April with crag meet.

New Mid Wales guidebook has two year horizon.

Emphasis of new guide will shift further south compared to Meirionnydd, covering much more of mid Wales.

Selected bouldering guide to go in.

Will also have new Moelwyn guide before then.

AOB

Terry Taylor – Mid Wales have contributed nearly £200 to north Wales bolt fund.

Bids for Mid Wales crags welcome.

More bolts for Barmouth Quarry asked for.

Further £61.53 collected for fund.

Finally -

Thanks to Tom Hutton for setting up the group and for his chairmanship.

Thanks to Doug Kerr and Dave Williams for putting the quiz together, and thanks again to Dave for providing an up-date on the Mid Wales Guidebook.

Welcome to Tim Sparrow as the new Chairman!

And of course – Congratulations to Pete and Anyela on the birth of their daughter Paloma Muriel Camargo Trickey.

Meeting closes at 22.00