

BMC North Wales Area Meeting

8pm, Tuesday 25 March 2014: Minutes

Venue: Vaynol, Nant Peris

Present: Myfyr Tomos, Mike Pycroft, Ron Rees Davies, Craig Letham, Jason Rawles, Kate Worthington, Chas Muskett, Richard Bale, Anthony Eccles, Steve Long, Martin Doyle, Andy Boorman, Marion Wintringham, Anne Vowles, Elfyn Jones, Calum Muskett, Tom Hutton, Eddie Birch, Dave Rudkin, Simon Panton, Tim Neill, Andy Newton, Mal Creasy, Jim Kelly, Julia Kelly, Pete Johnson, Gwyn Jones, Brian Seery, John Burrow, Buck Jones, K C Gordon, Mark Hellewell, Graham Sutton

Apologies: Chris Simpkins, Mike Simpkins, Mandy Whitehead, Chris Parkin, Ross Worthington, Lynn Roberts and Dai Lampard

Matters arising from previous meeting: None

Welsh Access Review Update: Elfyn Jones and Tom Hutton met with welsh sports minister at South Stack. The review ran out of time to get through assembly earlier in the year. Option of looking at access to land rather than land and water due to problems arising concerning water access. On-going process at the moment.

Access Updates:-

Great Orme Restrictions: West Shore crags including Creigiau Heulog under a 15-20 year ban due to rare plants.

Slate Bolts and Anchors: Local instructor pulled out one lower off at the Sidings area by hand prompting further testing. Tests showed that many bolts were failing at a considerably lower load than expected. Mark Reeves in particular tested, removed and replaced many anchors during the early stages. Article up on BMC website with a couple of inaccuracies corrected following Chris Parkin's statement. AMI looking into bolting and testing anchors for future CPD points to encourage volunteers.

Bolting Volunteering: A call out for volunteers in the area to check belays at BMC verified crags and also to help re-equip routes where necessary. The main area where this needs to be done is on Upper Pen Trwyn. Once again AMI looking into bolting and testing anchors for future CPD points to encourage volunteers.

Next BMC Wales Chair: An early advance notice (18 months) that Wales will need a new chair as Tom Hutton's time will be completed. Tom has offered to help and support anybody interested in taking on the role.

Tremfest: Dates pushed forward to 16-18th May. Beer already ordered from Purple Moose! Going to be filmed for BMCtv so iron your t-shirts! Free camping at Eric's Camp ground. Lots of contributions from outdoor retailers and local suppliers including Wild Country and Petzl. Jim Perrin to be a guest

speaker giving an 'Alternative History of Tremadog'. Six volunteers needed to help co-ordinate parts of the weekend and asked to arrive 1 hour early. Please donate to the bolt fund if you go!

Hydro Schemes: Following raised awareness of the many small scale hydro schemes going through the planning process in Snowdonia Elfyn Jones has asked on behalf of the BMC that any representations or objections should be directed towards the BMC or Elfyn. These must be based on solid fact and come from issues with the planning applications themselves.

Cairns: Park wardens have been surveying cairns and have decided that they are beginning to become an issue with too many in random places. They are asking for volunteers to help remove them. If interested contact the National Trust.

Helicopters in Nant Peris and Snowdonia: Complaints have been coming in about noise pollution of helicopters in Nant Peris and the mountains of Snowdonia. These are mostly from military training. Whilst recognising that there is a need for this training it is frustrating for residents and those enjoying days in the national park when helicopters are continuously buzzing around.

Llanberis Path: Jim Kelly raised the issue of the Llanberis Path becoming increasingly paved. Where is the end point of this and is it working at decreasing path erosion? Is it a waste of time and money?

Next meeting on June 10th over in Llandudno area.