

Minutes of BMC South Wales Area Meeting

7.30pm, Saturday 24th May
at the **St Govan's Country Inn,**
Pembrokeshire,

Acting Chair: Will Kilner

Number Present: 17

BMC Officer: Liz Holley

1. Welcome & apologies

Will welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave apologies for Gareth Tucker and Gai Ashmore. No further apologies were offered.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 26th March 2014

Peter Sheppard read the minutes and these were accepted as a fair record of the previous meeting.

3. Actions from previous meeting

4. Matters arising not covered elsewhere

5. Access and Conservation briefing

A long engaging discussion began around the mornings range briefing. It was estimated that 55 people were at the morning briefing and 149 had attended the previous briefing.

Overall everyone thought the briefings were informative quick and efficient.

However, specific concerns were raised around...

- i. The restriction of 30 people on the range per day.
- ii. Why every person had to be briefed as opposed to being able to bring a guest.
- iii. Why the briefings could not be valid for more than one year.
- iv. The need to be shown PR information and the specification of the coastguards new rescue fleet.
- v. Information on specific risks for example the tidal ranges including best sources of information would have been useful.
- vi. Exactly what information the coastguard/emergency services would need from climbers in an emergency.

(EJ to email Warden on issues 1-3)

A few people were unaware that should they need to call for emergency help on the coastline the best organization to contact was the coast guard.

Climbers wanted to know if they could challenge bird bans as the routes inside the Cauldron “had no birds on them” (EJ to email Warden)

Climbers raised awareness of the large number of rock falls due to storm damage, a list was compiled from local knowledge as follows...

Crocksydram Point - Access is tricky coming back down.

Chapel Point - Blow up and Blow Out

Broad Haven - Part of Church Rock

St Govans Head - Munchies

Stackpole Head – Condor area

6. Engaging with Local Areas

A brief discussion began around the location of meetings in south Wales.

The consensus at the meeting was it was good to have a meeting in the Pembroke area as it not only include people who would not normal travel to meetings in the east but it also helped to highlight issues that were local to that area. All hoped it could become at least an annual occurrence.

7. Report from AGM

Will gave an account of the AGM including some of the position changes, Rupert Davies and Mina Leslie-Wujastyk elected as BMC Vice-Presidents; Eric Jones made an Honorary Member; John Innerdale OBE awarded the George Band Award for exceptional voluntary service ; Neil Foster elected as a Director on the Executive Committee, and Brian Smith as an Independent Director; quorum of the Executive Committee increased from four to five persons; Individual and Club Member subscriptions to be increased by £1.50 from 1 January 2015.

All were encouraged to aim to make it to the next AGM which will be at Plas Y Brenin in 2015

8. Any Other Business

Hannah Verral from Warren Farm introduced herself at the meeting and drew attention to the new Bunkhouse that had recently been opened between Merrion and Castlmartin and they welcomed climbers. <http://www.warrenfarmwarren.com/>

A large block has fallen from the descent route in Box Bay which makes the descent easier, however there may be other loose rock as a result so please take care.

It was noted that, the pub proved not to be the best place to hold the meeting (not that room at that time), as it was very difficult to hear what was being said.

9. Date of Next Area Meeting

TBC