



Minutes

South Wales Area Meeting

Monksland (Countryman) Inn, Surlage

Friday 11 September 2015

Acting Chair: Matt Woodfield

Number Present: 16

BMC Officer: Elfyn Jones

1. Welcome & apologies

Matt Woodfield welcomed all to the meeting.

Apologies: Goi Ashmore, Will Kilner

2. Minutes of the previous meeting 23rd May 2015

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved as a true record.

3. Actions from previous meeting

Concerns had been raised about retro bolting. Elfyn clarified that this referred to replacement of worn top rope anchors at Tenby South Beach quarry rather than retro bolting of traditional routes. No attendees raised further concerns given this explanation.

4. Matters arising not covered elsewhere

Matt advised that both chair and National Council rep have other significant commitments at present. A new chair is needed. Elfyn outlined the background to the South Wales group and a discussion took place about whether or not there is local need and demand for a full South Wales area. To be discussed further at the next meeting.

5. Access and Conservation briefing

- a. Elfyn told the meeting there has been a request made to the North Wales Bolt Fund for rebolting of crag at Llyn Brianne. Discussed, Elfyn to request more info about how this would be done due to some concerns about the loose and brittle rock at the crag.
- b. Peter B said that the bolts at Gilwern West are deteriorating. Could they be replaced with resin bolts? No position taken by those present.
- c. Elfyn gave an update on Llangattock. National Park no longer managing the site. There will be a meeting with the land agent in a few weeks' time, when fixed belay stakes will be discussed.
- d. Pete B asked about the possibility of (re)placing the stakes at Twynau Gwynion Quarries. Matt to discuss further as consideration needs to be given to soil depth. Elfyn advised there may be a few stakes available for this. Elfyn /Matt/Pete to action.
- e. Elfyn informed the meeting of a serious contravention of the bird ban at Pembroke this year. Damage was caused to a nest by a visiting climber. The nest was in a special area of conservation and site of special scientific interest, and could have led to further restrictions. All were reminded to abide by voluntary access arrangements.
- f. Elfyn told the meeting that the draft BMC response to the Welsh Assembly green paper on access to the countryside is now on the website. Any comments on this can be sent via the

dedicated email address on the website. The consultation closes on 2 October so comments or individual responses to the green paper need to be made soon.

- g. Query re the National Trust charging for groups to use coasteering venues and the impact this may have on climbing venues. Matt clarified that due to the Pembrokeshire coasteering concordat approach, there was no longer a proposal for charging in this way and that the only charges are for car parking.
- h. Elfyn reported on some discussions with the Welsh Assembly about potential funding for a development officer covering specific issues in South Wales.

6. Clubs

No matters to discuss

7. Hill Walking Issues

- a. Elfyn spoke to the meeting about the role of the BMC hill walking development officer and that the BMC would like a volunteer hill walking rep from each area. Cari Evans volunteered to take this on.
- b. Pete B spoke about the Bomber 7 off road wheelchair. There is one available for hire in the Talybont area, but a number of the routes in the central Beacons are not accessible due to impassable gates. Pete was advised to speak to the national park access officer. Cari could also look into this.

8. Report from AGM

The North Wales area AGM and fun day will take place on Saturday 31 October. Talk from Calum Muskett and other events throughout the day. Subsidised accommodation at Plas y Brenin. Event info on the BMC website and the BMC Local Areas site.

9. Any Other Business

No other business

10. Date of Next Area Meeting

TBC, December time Cardiff area

Agenda Item	Action	Owner	Progress
5d	Stakes at Twynau Gwynion	MW PB EJ	
5e	Comments on BMC response to the Welsh Assembly green paper	All	
7b	Off road wheelchair access	CE	