

# BRITISH MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL

177-179 Burton Road  
Manchester M20 2BB  
www.thebmc.co.uk

Tel: 0161 445 6111  
Fax: 0161 445 4500

## BMC CYMRU – MID WALES OUTREACH AREA MEET

**7.00pm, Tuesday 26 January 2016 at Aberystwyth Park Lodge Hotel  
Ffordd Parc y Llyn, Llanbadarn Fawr, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion, SY23 3TL**

### MINUTES

Minutes taken by Kate Worthington  
Meeting chaired by Tom Hutton

#### 1. Welcome & Apologies for Absence

Tom Hutton (TH) welcomed attendees and explained he was chairing the meeting to allow a handover process from himself to whomever the new chair for the group will be, and to introduce Kate Worthington (KW). Thanks given to Peter Trickey (PT) for organising venue.

**Present at meeting:** Tom Hutton (TH), Elfyn Jones (EJ), Peter Trickey (PT), Terry Taylor (TT), Don Sergeant (DS), Kate Worthington (KW), Huw Gilbert, Steve Culverhouse, Joseph Taylor (from AMC), James Hinkley (from AMC) – **10 x people**

**Apologies:** Doug Kerr, Dave Williams, Tim Sparrow, Joe Dean (President of Aberystwyth University Mountaineering Club - AMC) – **4 x apologies**

#### 2. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes – none

#### 3. Introduction to new BMC Cymru Chair Kate Worthington – KW introduced herself to those present

#### 4. Updates from BMC (EJ/KW)

TH explained history of when/how Mid Wales Outreach Group came into being – a process that he was very much passionate about when living in the area. The area wanted a separate outreach group and mountaineering club. Both were set up but communication problems have hampered development at times.

EJ – Office update – 2 new members of staff taken on: Jo Rowbottom (Equity and Partnerships Officer) and James McHaffie (Youth Development Officer). Sport England (SE) funding helping to fund these positions but a query raised as to how much of their work might reach members/young people in Wales.

SE funded consultants looking at various structures within the BMC, including governance, commercial, operational and branding.

Worth remembering only 20% of funding for the BMC comes from SE.

KW gave a brief report on developments from the BMC and the recent Women's Think Tank meeting December 2015.

Discussion of Annual Student Safety Seminar at Plas y Brenin as AMC members were unaware of the event.

General query raised of 'why does the BMC want to increase membership'? EJ commented that if the BMC has a larger, more proactive membership, then the BMC carries a stronger voice and extra weight when campaigning on political issues at a higher level.

Discussion - should the BMC stay focused on the representation of its current members or be keen to engage with, and represent, 'potential members'?

Discussion - should BMC Cymru be a separately constituted body to allow Sports Wales funding to be better appropriated to the organisation?

#### 5. Access & Local Issues (EJ)

Range West meetings – new briefing dates – check BMC website

Weekend closure 10/11 April – all south Pembrokeshire army ranges inc St Govan's due to NATO exercise

Elan Valley – new climbing areas being developed and promoted. Elan Valley Trust to promote new trails/walking/climbing  
Green Paper – still awaiting Welsh Govt to respond to the consultation submitted

**6. Hillwalking (EJ)**

A BMC Cymru Hillwalking Day is being organised by the South Wales group – needs members' support as it's a 'first of its kind'. Walk being planned on Pen y Fan, Brecon Beacons on Sat 6 Feb.

BMC is looking into crowdfunding sources to help fund a new campaign, 'Mend our Mountains' to highlight and support work required in upland areas to maintain footpaths

BMC also working on the final edition of a new guidance document for 'Challenge Events' in the uplands – applicable to small and large groups of walkers accessing upland areas in the context of organised/fundraising walking events.

**7. Guidebook Update (DS)**

Pembroke Select Guide (published through Cimbers' Club and Wired/BMC) and Pembroke Rock (2<sup>nd</sup> in the series) being worked on. Emphasis on bouldering and sport routes as well as trad; an exciting time in the local area with lots of new routes and crags being developed. Ideas and advice given to members of AMC regarding local crags and options for more locally based climbing. A new guidebook for the Rhinogau planned for 2017.

**8. Election of Chair & Secretary of Mid Wales (TH)**

TH invited proposals from the floor for a new Chair for the Mid Wales Outreach Group. Only Peter Trickey stood for this role and was voted in to adopt the role by all attendees (9 x votes).

Very best wishes to Peter Trickey in his new role. Someone is required to take on the role of Secretary and this can be promoted through Facebook pages/groups as appropriate.

**9. Area Status for Mid Wales Outreach Group (PT)**

PT wanted to gain feedback from members about what they want from an Outreach Group. Feedback from AMC that there was a lack of clear contact for Uni Clubs. Elfyn to email details of appropriate contacts. KW collected emails etc for names/contacts for communication and reminded people to 'Like' the BMC Cymru Facebook page.

Previously a lot of engagement and interest in climbing in Mid Wales but has dropped off lately. Opinions and items needed for agendas/meetings/discussion. Should the area be a 'Local Area' in its own right? Will governance change the way Local Areas work (or have them at all?) Wales has 3 x seats on National Council/Local Areas have to meet 4 x times/year.

KW to review NC reps within the next year to ensure that 1 is from the Mid Wales area, as well as there being reps from South and North areas.

Email addresses should go to Tony so they get the BMC Cymru Newsletter (KW to send list from this meeting).

Discussion of more social feel for meetings – club days or speaker presentation.

**10. Any Other Business**

Machynlleth Leisure Centre (MLC) climbing wall...needs funding for improvement (as per feedback from a discussion between BMC member Steve Culverhouse and MLC. There is local interest and support but no lottery funding (for example). Where can funding come from? Can the BMC help with any?

TremFest 2016 – date to be set at North Wales Local Area meet. Suggestion of 7/8 May to miss exams for students was raised by AMC members. This to be fed back to NW LAM on Thursday 28 Jan.

£35.78 raised for North Wales Bolt Fund (given to EJ who will facilitate donation to fund) – many thanks to all who donated.

**11. Date of Next Meeting**

Date between 28 March – 10 April 2016 discussed with PT. PT to confirm date based on interest from local members.

**Close of Meeting** – many thanks to the Aberystwyth Park Lodge Hotel for hosting the meeting and providing food.