



South Wales Area Meeting
7.30pm, Wednesday 17th February 2016
at Boulders Climbing Centre, Cardiff

Minutes

Attendance – 16 people attended

1. Welcome and apologies

Will welcomed everybody to the meeting.

Apologies from Kate Worthington, Andy Cummings

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

Minutes were agreed as a true record. Proposed by Matt Woodfield, seconded by Peter Sheppard.

3. Actions from the previous meeting

a. Stakes at Twynau Gwynion. There has been no further contact from Peter Blackburn following initial approach regarding stakes at TyG. The crag does not appear to be heavily used by recreational climbers and the current stakes seem appropriate.

b. Bolts at Gilwern West (Crag x). The meeting agreed that if the bolts are in need of replacement this should be done. Matt Woodfield agreed to look into this further.

c. Off-road wheelchair access to the hills in the national park. This issue has been fed back to the national park for their consideration.

d. Comments on the BMC response to the Welsh Assembly green paper on access. The consultation overall drew over 6,000 individual responses. The current situation is now awaiting a response from the Assembly. Forthcoming Assembly elections are likely to delay any response.

e. Further to this, the BMC is updating its access manifesto with a Wales-specific slant. Elfyn asked for support of club and individual members in drawing attention to this with prospective Assembly members and ensuring they know that their constituents would like them to support this.

f. Will drew the attention of the meeting to an online petition seeking improved access to inland water. Members may wish to look into this and offer their support.

4. Matters Arising

None

5. Access and conservation briefing

- Matt Woodfield updated the meeting on the review that has taken place of the Beacons Way. It seems unlikely that there will be many significant changes to the

current route. Any alterations should be confirmed in early March. There may now be better resources promoting the route following the consultation.

- Elfyn informed the meeting that the Range West briefing dates have now been released, including some evenings and Saturdays to ensure as many climbers as possible are able to attend. There is an additional date this year on 23 July. Most briefings are starting at 10AM. Permits will run through to May 2017 and there should be full access in August as there is no firing scheduled other than 10-11 August when the area will be closed for a major exercise. Elfyn asked for support for the briefings to continue in order to demonstrate the continued interest in climbing in the area to the MOD. Briefing dates are on the website at <https://www.thebmc.co.uk/pembroke-2016>
- The Regional Access Database is to be relaunched soon with all known crags listed rather than just those with access issues. It will be available as an app for Android and iPhone.
- The BMC Mend Our Mountains project is aiming to raise £100,000 through crowd sourcing in order to repair upland paths. The money will be given out as small grants to national parks in order to help them to attract match funding for specific projects.

6. Gwent MC 40th Anniversary

Gwent MC is planning a year of celebrations for the club's 40th anniversary. There will be a dinner at the Rectory in June and ideas were welcomed for other events the club could look to put on.

7. Hill Walking Issues

The planned walks to meet the new hill walking reps was postponed due to the weather but will be rescheduled with dates to be confirmed.

8. Climbing Issues

a. Dry tooling venues. The meeting heard that one local climber has made enquiries about dry tooling. It was agreed that if a suitable venue is proposed by anyone wishing to develop it as a dry tooling venue there would be no objections in principle. It would need to comply with the existing bolting policy. It would not be appropriate to use a sandstone venue and if the venue were to be developed as a trad / sport / bouldering venue then the dry tooling would need to end there.

Any proposed venues must be discussed at the area meeting for approval before their use.

b. There was a query regarding access at Mount Pleasant Quarry. The current situation is that the landowner does not permit climbing due to his responsibilities as it is an abandoned quarry.

c. There was a query regarding bird restrictions at Parc Cwm Deri after visitors were recently approached in order to ensure they were not climbing. RAD states that there is a bird ban from 1 March to 30 June. Elfyn agreed to enquire with local authorities to confirm the dates.

Bacon Hole has a bird ban for nesting Choughs. The dates on RAD are up to date.

Query re. extending access in Bacon Hole. Matt W and Elfyn to make enquiries with the National Trust.

d. Stakes at Ogmore would be of benefit to encourage use of some areas. Meeting agreed that if they were available this would be a good idea.

9. Events

a. The BMC AGM takes place on 16 April at YHA Castleton. There will be charity auctions for Climbers Against Cancer and Mend Our Mountains. Members encouraged to attend this enjoyable event – see www.thebmc.co.uk/agm2016 for more information.

b. Pembroke Festival – meeting agreed that it would be quite short notice to try to arrange this now. It would be a good idea for 2017. Simon R to approach Pembroke club to discuss.

c. Gower Festival dates provisionally set for 16-18 September. Suggestions welcomed for activities or events that could be arranged as part of the festival to attract more people in.

10. AOB

Proposal to bolt at Abbey Butress. Meeting agreed that routes to the right of Crackbasher (not including Crackbasher) could be bolted. If any other routes are to be proposed, first ascensionist should be consulted as per the bolting policy. Any proposals outside of the policy to be brought to the area meeting for discussion.

Contributions invited for the BMC Wales area newsletter.

Members asked for ideas to bring BMC members together in the area. Suggestion of crag clean-ups tied to area meetings.

Thanks to Brecon Brewery for donation of beer for this meeting. Donations for this have raised £24 for Brecon Mountain Rescue Team.

11. Date of next meeting

Saturday 28 May 2016, 7.30PM, The Speculation Inn, Hundleton, Pembrokeshire.

Actions from the meeting:

Agenda item	Action	Owner	Progress
3b	Look in to state of bolts at Gilwern West	Matt W	
8c	Enquire about extending access at Bacon Hole	Matt W / Elfyn	
9b	Make initial enquiries re possible Pembroke festival for 2017	Simon R	