



Minutes of South Wales Area Meeting

7.00PM 14th December 2016

Up and Under, Cardiff

Acting Chair: Will Kilner

11 Present

1. Welcome and apologies

Will welcomed everyone to the meeting and acknowledged it was publicised at quite short notice. Next year's schedule of meeting dates are now arranged.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

Agreed as a true record.

a. Actions from previous meeting:

Presentation given by Nick Colton at last meeting has not been attached to the minutes as agreed. Action to arrange for this to be added to the communities site.

Matt Woodfield has uploaded photographs of the corroded peg at Little Tor to the Area Facebook group as agreed at the last meeting. This has promoted significant discussion locally.

b. Matters arising – none

3. Access and conservation

- a. National Trust have made proposals for the improvement of the car park at Pont ar Daf (Storey Arms, car park for Pen y Fan). A copy of the consultation document to be uploaded to the communities site. Members are encouraged to have their say. Comments on any response the BMC should take should be forwarded to Elfyn Jones.

Discussion took place around the issues. Some members felt that BMC members should receive discounted parking if the car park is pay and display, in reflection of the support the BMC has given to improving the national park tracks through Mend our Mountains. The issue of unexpected delays on hill walks and overnight camping was also raised, with the view that any parking charges regime needs to allow for this.

- b. There is currently no access rep for South East Wales. Brief discussion on what the role involves. Information to be circulated on Facebook asking if anybody is interested in the role.
- c. Update from Matt Woodfield re Bacon Hole. A new warden for the area is expected to be in post in the near future at which point MW would hope to meet with them. No change to previous access status.

4. Wales area update.

The Wales AGM took place on 11 November. Issue of whether South Wales should have its own area formally within the BMC was raised. A discussion paper is to be presented

at National Council next year on the topic of the BMC structure and involvement in Wales. South Wales input is needed.

Discussion took place about the pros and cons of this – National Council representation and voice of South Wales more clearly represented.

Would need a little more volunteer time for officer posts in the area.

The meeting was in support of the principle of more BMC officer time in South Wales but there is a need to see and discuss any proposals before taking a formal position. Views of the local clubs also need to be canvassed.

5. Clubs update

None

6. Youth

Lots of recent activity both locally and nationally. Youth report attached to the minutes. Thanks to Simon Rawlinson for his hard work and for providing the update.

7. Hill Walking Issues

Local hill walking reps have tried hard to arrange local events but been beaten back by the weather and other issues. **There is scope for more support from the national hillwalking officer; this has been discussed.**

8. Climbing Issues

- a. Little Tor peg at belay was discussed, same issues as at previous meeting. Views expressed from removing the peg, replacing with a bolt and leaving for climbers to make their own assessment. The peg is believed to date from the 1950s. No vote was taken on the issue as not much notice was given of the meeting date for all interested parties.
- b. Gilvern East: John Harwood has raised the matter of accessing the crag politely and with landowner consent. The meeting agreed that if any issues are raised by the landowner then this would be explored by access rep and noted on the regional access database.

Further issue was raised by John that Martin Crocker had trad lines at the venue that had since been bolted. As the routes had not been recorded on the South Wales wiki, few people appear to have been aware of their existence. Goi Ashmore to discuss with Pete Blackburn the extent of the now bolted routes affected. MC to be asked for more information about his new routes to try to avoid this issue in future.

9. Events

- a. Pembroke Festival planned for May 26-28 to coincide with Range West Briefing. YHA Manorbier expected to be the base.
- b. Gower Festival – volunteer sought to take this forward for 2017 as Matt Everett's commitments mean he can't devote as much time as previously. He will still support where he can.

10. Branding

Meeting heard that the BMC has now withdrawn the proposed rebrand to Climb Britain, but the brand will possibly be used in a more limited way in the future. Meeting was in

favour of the decision and the general view was that it was hoped lessons had been learned about communicating and managing similar decisions in future. Will reassured all that this was the case.

11. AOB

- a. Proposal for email votes to be allowed at area meetings. Those present discussed this with concerns raised that a full appreciation of the issues may be missed if people are not in attendance at meetings.

The meeting was in favour of promoting discussion of local issues via social media and other channels, as well as taking opinions to meetings via email where people cannot attend, but that votes should only be taken by those attending meetings due to the above concern.

- b. Discussion re the new Membership Services Online tool for clubs. Will explained that it takes away a lot of data protection issues for clubs and makes inputting and extracting data much easier. Anyone wanting more info should contact the clubs officer Jane Thompson for more details.
- c. The new South Wales Sport Climbs Rockfax Guide is now available. Rockfax are donating a proportion of the profits to the bolt fund and authors have donated their own share as well, so a very worthwhile book to invest in! Thanks to Up and Under for hosting the meeting – they have a fresh stock of the guide, so a very worthwhile source to buy them from!

12. Dates of meetings for 2017

Feb 3 – Up and Under -

April 4 – Boulders -

May 26 – Pembroke to tie in with festival

September 8 - Gower

November 28 – Summit Centre

Venues TBC but will be rotated around the area

Agenda Item	Action	Owner	Progress
3b	New access rep for South East Wales	All	Ongoing
8b	Seek more info RE bolted routes at Gilwern west	Goi Ashmore	
9a	Explore possibility of Pembroke Festival with local club	Liz Collyer	Ongoing
9b	Take over preparation of Gower Festival	?	Ongoing