

## BMC CYMRU – NORTH WALES LOCAL AREA MEET

7.30pm, Monday 10 April 2017: Padarn Hotel, Llanberis, Gwynedd, LL55 4SU  
(Food served from 6.30pm)

### **Attendees**

#### **1. Welcome**

Timings of meeting and food.

Thanks to the Padarn Hotel for hosting us this evening, and thank you for turning out on a Monday and in the dry weather.

#### **2. Apologies for absence**

Andy Boorman, Will Kilner, Dan Lane, Anne Vowles, Tim Neil, Ross Worthington, Will Hardy, Tom Hutton

#### **3. Note issues for AOB**

None

#### **4. Accept minutes of the previous meeting – Belle Vue Hotel – 2.2.17 Actions from previous meeting – within Agenda**

Accepted

#### **5. Agenda Items**

##### **5.1 BMC AGM – including ‘Motion of No Confidence Vote’ simple briefing**

Brief summary of the motion to share information (summary paper on tables was provided at the meeting too) and what we can do as members to vote at the upcoming AGM. Is the BMC representing all members and acting on behalf of all of its members? Martin Wragg's report has been included in the most recent Summit magazine.

If you are unable to attend the AGM, you can fill out a proxy voting form (downloadable online).

There is a governance review going on at the moment, regardless of the outcome of the vote of no confidence at the AGM. The point was noted that we should take interest in the governance review itself, especially to ensure that we are represented in Wales with Sport England funding.

Confirmation that there will be a briefing regarding the motion of no confidence at the AGM.

Discussion about the possible outcomes if the motion of no confidence is carried. Who would have to stand down?

Elfyn gave us a breakdown of the difference between the Executive Committee and National Council. The governance review will be undertaken to clarify who can make decisions in the BMC.

A member noted that the BMC are trying hard to let its members make decisions and that is why there is a conflict with the governance at the moment.

Simon Lee gave a brief introduction of the consultancy that went ahead to look into other revenue streams, of which the idea of rebranding came from.

Simon Lee is introduced as the commercial partnerships manager. Appointed to investigate ways of generating revenue to make up for the loss of Sport England Funding. (40% cut this year). Sport England's own survey has identified climbing as a growth sport, and hill walking is a popular sport too. We need to assume they will continue to 'glide' the funding downwards.

### **Affinity partnerships update from Simon,**

What does an affinity partnership look like?

Would we give an element of exclusivity to a partner or recommend a particular partner?

For example a particular mapping service or clothing brand.

Is this something we can vote on here at the meeting?

Are the negative benefits being looked at too?

Would we be cutting people out of this?

Steve Long made relevance to the problems that Mountain Training had with looking like they 'favouritised' particular equipment brands. Have the BMC looked into lifestyle brands or non outdoor specific brands. Yes.

Will we make enough money from this? Research from other companies suggests that it is possible to bridge the finance gap.

If they give us more money will we endorse them more? Or if they make better equipment will we endorse them more? There is a balance to be struck between these.

When will the glide fizzle out, when will Sport England reduce the funding year on year?

If we endorse particular climbing brands would this undermine any facts and figures that the BMC give us in the future?

Jason R. made the point that 87,000 members are unlikely to spend enough money to make an impact on being able to get a good corporate partnership. Should we be looking at getting partners to engage in the good of the BMC, access and conservation and collaborate with environmental access and getting people engaged in the outdoors? Simon fed back that his work has indicated that corporate funding could bridge the gap.

Member statement, The BMC originally wasn't a governing body. Would the commercialisation of the BMC bite us in the nose later?

Voting for whether Simon should continue to look into an affinity partnership.

In Favour: 4

Neutral: 14

Against: 5

Point was made that even though Steve voted against the motion, he would agree with sponsorship of events.

## **5.2. Wales Area update – North / Mid / South**

Huw Gilbert has taken on the chair of Mid Wales.

Update from the last National Council Meeting: The NC agreed that North and South Wales would become separate areas. This would mean that Wales as a whole would have more NC reps, 4 instead of 3. Mid Wales's views are represented through the North and South. Discussion around whether we should have discussed the split of Wales further at the last North Wales meeting.

Would this have any impact within Wales if the two areas have differing views on a point that would affect Wales as a country?

## **5.3. Hill walking update – Hill Walking Rep**

New work has been done on the strategic plan for hill walking. At NC the plan was unanimously voted for.

How the BMC could become the place to represent hill walkers. The hill walking working group has become retitled to represent the implementation of this document. Jason R. gave a breakdown of his discussions with the BMC on hill walking and said that it sounds promising.

## **5.4. Access and Conservation update – Access Officer**

Update from Elfyn:

It doesn't matter what sport we do in the mountains, access affects us all. We need to be careful not to divide ourselves into sports.

Future Landscapes Review report came out a few weeks ago. The responsibility of the National Parks could go to the Welsh Government rather than in Westminster. Sustainable Economic Hubs in Wales rather than to look after the environment. This debate was stopped before it happened as assembly members didn't know about the report before they were due to debate it. Could we publicise this via email as well as on the website and social media?

Craig Y Forwyn:

We are close to getting access for the first time in 30 years to be able to climb on this crag. It is asked that for the moment climbers don't go there until a full official agreement is in place.

Hydro Schemes:

No new ones appear to have gone in for planning, but National Trust are still intending to put some hydro schemes in on their land. NT has said they will open a discussion for any in the Ogwen Valley.

Trango Tower area has contractors in place at the moment and we ask that climbers stay clear of any areas with contractors in place.

Off Road Motorcycling: Moewlynion, Southern Rhinogiau.

Not aware land owners have given permission for the motorcycling to take place. If you see this, you need to make an individual complaint to the police, ideally with photos if you feel safe doing so.

Pembroke Range West, there is a major briefing happening for this weekend.

### **5.5. Climbing update**

UIAA still looking for information on failure on top outs. Please email Alan Jarvis: UIAA.Safety.Commission@gmail.com  
BMC has a technical committee that feeds into the UIAA commission.

### **5.6. National Council update**

A vote was taken on whether to increase membership subscriptions, 16 voted for this. Roger Fanner, Will Kilner, Rik Payne proposed onto Executive Committee to be voted on at the AGM.

Suggestions for standing for the Vice President at the BMC are welcomed.

When the governance review would go through.

BMC Tremfest – not happening in May, it may happen later on, e.g. in July.

There will be the Ogwen Mountaineering Festival on the 16th September, Stephen Jones organising this. This was held in Bethesda last year.

### **5.7. Club update – also require Club Representative**

If you would like to sit on the Clubs Committee we have a vacancy for this.

In Autumn AGM Kate will be looking to stand down from the post of North Wales Chair.

### **5.8. Other events for 2017**

#### **AOB**

Club Mynydd Cymru received a very generous grant from the BMC to publish the book and would like to say thank you for this, the 1st edition sold out and the 2nd edition is on the way.

#### **Date of next meeting**

1st week of June, before the next NC meeting in mid June.

We should be encouraging people into the BMC who are passionate about the environment and access, hill walking as well as being a lifelong climber. Jason.

BRITISH MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL

#### **BMC TV Film Screening**

The meeting was followed by a presentation of three BMC TV films: Hard Rock, Bothy Project, Three Women and the Three Old Men.