

BMC South Wales Area Meeting

7.00PM Friday 3rd February 2017,
Up and Under, Cardiff

MINUTES

Chair: Will Kilner

14 Present. Elfyn Jones in attendance via skype

1. Welcome and apologies. Will welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies from...
2. Minutes of the previous meeting
 - a. Still in need of an access rep for south east wales.

Gilwern East: Peter Blackburn has been contacted for clarification re the routes that have been bolted. The majority of these have been retro-bolted with consent of FA. There are 3 lines remaining that need further discussion with Martin Crocker.

Subject of access to Gilwern East was clarified by Elfyn – the crag is on open access land so climbing is permitted.

Action: ongoing discussions with Martin C re the remaining lines that have been bolted

3. Access and conservation
 - a. Pont ar Daf car Park: Elfyn will feed the comments of the last area meeting to the National Trust.
 - b. As above – south east wales access volunteer still needed.
 - c. Range West briefing dates have now been published on the BMC website. Search “range west 2017” on the site to find this information. Reminder to all that climbing on the ranges is only permitted once a briefing has been attended.
 - d. Ban y Gor. This is a Wye Valley crag in the south west area but was raised as of interest to local climbers. Question raised is there a ban in place at the crag. Elfyn clarified that climbing has been restricted on some areas due to new routing that had taken place on Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust land.

Actions: Elfyn to feed back comments from the area to National Trust re Pont ar Daf

Elfyn to check that the RAD is up to date re Ban y Gor

4. Wales area update

- a. Following discussion over a number of area meetings WK asked for support of the meeting to seek national council approval for South Wales to be its own properly constituted area.

Elfyn informed the meeting that the BMC is looking at a new strategic plan and is considering Wales as a country for the first time to add context to this.

Vote was taken – for 11, abstained 3

- b. North Wales area meeting took place last night. Support offered to young climbers in competition.

Action: WK to pursue the issue of S. Wales as a properly constituted area.

5. National Council update

Will is under consideration to become a member of the BMC board.

Will discussed the agenda of the next meeting:

- Structure for Olympic Climbing

- Hill walking strategy to be shared at next round of area meetings

- 4 year strategy for BMC under consideration

- Rise in subscriptions of around £2.50 for individuals / 50p for club and youth members under consideration. Feeling from the meeting was that this was not a significant rise and would be acceptable to most.

6. Clubs

Clubs roadshow is currently travelling round the country. Information to be attached to the minutes.

7. Youth (amended)

All 3 qualifying rounds of the youth climbing series have taken place. First young people from Pembrokeshire took place and did well. South Wales as a whole is very well represented on the Wales squad with 24 team members. 2 young people from S. Wales now in the GB squad. Congratulations from the meeting for all of the young people involved and the hard work put in by walls and staff involved.

8. Hill Walking

- a. Elfyn informed the meeting that the planning policy for Powys Council is currently being re-written. This may lead to increased numbers of applications for wind turbines. This is not yet an issue but needs monitoring.
- b. Mend Our Mountains soon to be relaunched as a long term campaign with even more ambitious goals after its success last year.
- c. Hydro power schemes in North Wales. Several schemes being built in the Llanberis Pass. There are likely to be 3 applications in the Ogwen Valley which are expected to have significant opposition.

9. Climbing Issues

- a. David Jones of Rock UK gave a presentation on plans for the Summit Centre at Trelewis. Renovation work has started on the centre with 12+ months of work expected on the centre. Plans are for the climbing wall to remain open throughout with the exception of a closure for new light fittings.

The renovated centre will be a residential centre with 100 beds and a multi-activity programme as well as potential for bunkhouse accommodation.

The current gym is to become more of a fitness centre with classes available.

Staff increase expected from the current 4 to 15+ freelancers.

Planned reopening in summer 2018.

- b. Gilwern East discussed at actions arising

10. Events

- a. Pembroke Festival. Dates confirmed for 26-28 May. This ties in with area meeting on 26th and range west briefing on 27th. Brief discussion about possible events on the weekend, more details to follow at next area meeting.
- b. Gower Festival. Still seeking volunteers to help organise this year. PS advised SWMC committee is to discuss whether they can assist with this.
Action: PS to report back if support is available

11. AOB

None

12. Date of next meeting

Set for 4 April. Discussion about whether this could be moved further west to make more convenient, particularly given Pembroke Festival discussion.

Action: WK to look into Swansea area venue

2017 meetings:

April 4 venue TBC

May 26 – Pembroke to tie in with festival

September 8 - Gower

November 28

The meeting was followed by an entertaining and informative talk by Sam Tolhurst about his Norway expedition. Inspiring as well as highlighting the tough decisions that sometimes have to be made in climbing. Thanks Sam!

Actions from the meeting:

| Agenda item | Action | Who by | progress |
|-------------|---|----------------|----------|
| 2.a | ongoing discussions with Martin C re the remaining lines that have been bolted | Pete Blackburn | |
| 3a. | Feed back comments from the area to National Trust re Pont ar Daf | Elfyn Jones | |
| 3d. | Check RAD is up to date re Ban y Gor | Elfyn Jones | |
| 4a. | Seek national council approval for S. Wales to be a fully constituted area of the BMC | Will Kilner | |
| 10b. | Explore whether SWMC can assist with organising Gower Festival | Peter Sheppard | |
| 12 | Look into Swansea area venue for next meeting | Will Kilner | |