

**BMC CYMRU NORTH WALES AREA MEETING**  
8.30pm, Tuesday 6 June 2017  
The Great Orme Brewery, Builder St., Llandudno LL30 1DR  
(Food served from 8.00pm)

**MINUTES**

**1. Welcome & apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence from: Will Hardy, Ray Wood, Ross Worthington, Steve Hobdell, Dan Lane, Mike Raine.

Thank you to GOB for hosting the meeting, and Andy Boorman for the venue suggestion.

Apologies that the agenda was posted up on the BMC community page at late notice.

**2. Note issues for AOB**

None.

**3. Accept minutes of the previous meeting – Padarn Hotel – 10.4.17**

**4. Actions from the previous meeting**

None.

**5.1. BMC AGM report**

Plenty of people turned up to the BMC AGM and posted in proxy forms, thank you

Minutes from the AGM are available to download from the BMC website  
(<https://www.thebmc.co.uk/bombshell-at-bmc-agm>)

**AGM discussion** (below are comments made regarding the recent BMC AGM)

There seems to be something scandalous with the fact that someone can put forward a motion of no confidence without telling us what it is. This caused lots of speculation and time spent in the office working on this. The organisation should have an opportunity to defend itself against a motion of no confidence.

The governance review should reflect this and change to allow something like this not to happen.

We should make a statement to the National Council to express our concern over this.

How would area meetings review anything on the governance review? The committee will produce a monthly newsletter providing updates on this so we can feedback on this.

At the moment you only need 25 members to put forward a motion at an AGM and this seems small in comparison to a larger member body. This appears not to have changed since the 70s.

Regarding the governance review do we need to ask the members what they would like from the review first rather than tell us and ask for feedback later??

It seems to be that the BMC are doing the governance review because Sport England want them too rather than for another reason. When the BMC became a Limited Company the CEO etc... became accountable but weren't able to make decisions because National Council is the decision making body.

What's the procedure for going to the governance review directly with our concerns as we can't go the National Council as they are independent of this? How is the review group going to engage directly with members?

If you need to put forward any motion, not just a motion of no confidence, this should be put forward in detail beforehand so members have a chance to vote on. Tightening the mechanism by which information is given to us before an AGM.

We should tell them what we want.

Could the head of the governance review meet directly with the area chairs to come up with a way to share this information with areas and vice versa?

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

Will Kilner was voted into the Executive Committee at the BMC AGM. Huw Gilbert has taken over the role of chair for Mid Wales. Will has asked us to meet to discuss where the South area sits within the BMC and how we can best represent interests in Wales. National Council voted for South Wales to become a separate area earlier this year.

Today the Welsh Assembly has met to discuss the Future Landscapes. This will be covered later in the meeting.

A section of footpath has been fixed in the Brecon Beacons, and work has started at the top of the Watkin path on Snowdon as a result of the Mend our Mountains campaign.

The intention is for the next Mend our Mountains to try and raise £1m, and National Parks are currently submitting footpaths to repair.

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

Anthony Eccles has the Hill Walking Implementation Group first meeting next week. This group will look at putting the hill walking strategy into place.

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

Welsh Assembly Future Landscapes Wales report, looking at whether we should have National Parks or not. Various bodies decided that the report was not representative of what land users and voluntary bodies wanted. There will be no new legislation from this on National Parks in Wales and any changes will need legislation changes. Thank you to everyone who emailed in to state their objections.

Castell Helen: there are razorbill birds nesting between Rap and Atlantis, you can climb around these.

There have been a number of infringements in Wales recently, one in Pembrokeshire and one in Craig Arthur.

Well over 400 people have attended the Range West briefings and lots of people are climbing there without problems.

Sometime in the beginning of May this year the IT department managed to delete all of the changes on the RAD since January 2017. The access team have been going through this. Please let the team know if anything appears to have changed or hasn't been updated.

The National Park is setting up a focus group to look at history in the Carneddau and is bidding for money to look at access to the area, maintaining footpaths etc...

The Snowdon Partnership was set up about a year ago, on June 15th the website will go live with the findings of this. 1st week of July in Electric Mountain there will be a drop-in session to find out more and give opinions and feedback on this.

Craig Y Forwyn: There are four different land owners. The new and current land owners of the main part of the cliff are in discussion with Elfyn regarding access and where this could go in the future. This is looking positive at the moment, however please avoid the crag for the time being and don't clear any of the vegetation as it is an SSSI. There are no objections currently for the LHS and far RHS if used respectfully.

Access Green Paper: there was a statement by the minister saying that the government will produce a new paper within the next four years. Elfyn is looking at working with a group of land users to agree on some key thoughts regarding access to the countryside e.g. mountain biking and walking access, before the landowners are asked and the new paper is produced.

Pant Ifan: the upper section of the descent path needs maintenance that will require a contractor to work on.

Craig Ty Newydd is still closed for access due to bird flu concerns. Do we need to discuss this further with the landowners as the restrictions have been lifted around the country? Ron Davies to look into how we can continue discussions with facts regarding this.

## **5.5. Climbing update**

The Beacon held the Welsh Lead Climbing Championships last weekend. Simon Rawlinson is thanked for giving his time up to support that day. Attendees at the weekend thought it was strange that there weren't any BMC officers at the event, despite the fact that the BMC supported and funded the event. Is this the opposite of what the BMC want to do - recruiting members and supporting members?

IFSC Youth Bouldering in Portugal - Emily Phillips from Cardiff won a Bronze medal here recently.

Lower Pen Trwyn access: Would we like to support some maintenance to the path and erosion into LPT? This would not only maintain the path but help to control erosion. A working group could come out of this if people would like to volunteer to help once this is

discussed.

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

Anyone on the Executive cannot be part of the governance review, it must be independent. This review will take time.

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

We currently don't have a club representative from North Wales. Peter Salieneks from Gwent Mountaineering Club is happy to start representing clubs in both the N and S Wales area.

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

Tradfest is happening this weekend in Nant Peris. Tickets are £35. It is being supported by V12, AMI and BMC amongst others.

Last year the BMC supported the UIAA Respect the Mountains event. 24th September is the next event and the Outdoor Partnership is possibly going to partner this. Hopefully the BMC would support this again this year.

Tremfest hasn't happened this year and looks unlikely to happen this year. There may be a small working party looked to focus on this later in the year.

There was talk of doing an Orme festival a while ago, what's happened to this? This was talked about but nothing came of it due to time limitations.

### **AOB**

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

Week commencing Monday 4th September. This has been confirmed for the 5th September at the Vaynol Arms, Nant Peris. 7pm food, 7:30pm meeting.

Meeting location suggestions: should we go around to other parts of North Wales, such as the NE Coast, Blaenau? Facebook Poll to find out other area ideas?

Thank you for coming.

Kate is intending to step down at the next AGM as Chair of BMC Wales. Please spread the word.