

BMC South Wales Area Meeting

7.30PM, Wednesday 6th September 2017

Boulders Climbing Centre, Pengam Road, Cardiff, CF24 2RZ

Minutes of Meeting

Numbers present:

1. Welcome and apologies

Will Kilner welcomed everybody to the meeting and all present introduced. No apologies received

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

Read and agreed.

Actions from the previous meeting:

- All Party Parliamentary Mountaineering Group not approached re future landscapes wales report as parliament has been in recess and the matter is a devolved Welsh Government issue.
- Issue of photographs of vote at the BMC AGM was fed back to National Council. Response received was that this is a longstanding tradition and that the photograph does not indicate which way any members are voting.
- Invitation to Friends of National Parks / National Park reps to area meeting ongoing
- Co-ordination between North and South Wales areas on all Wales issues. Ongoing, to be discussed with new North Wales chair.

3. Area roles

Will discussed the need for volunteers to take on roles within the area. Area Chair, National Council representative, Climbing Wall rep, possibly representative on Mountain Training Cymru board will be required. Anybody interested to get in touch. The next area meeting will serve as the areas first AGM.

Action Information regarding roles to be attached to the minutes

Peter Salenieks suggested there may be a need for other people prepared to stand in for roles, e.g. National Council rep if unavailable.

4. Access and conservation

a. Welsh Government Access review

Elfyn updated the meeting on the Welsh Assembly access consultation "Taking forward Wales' sustainable management of natural resources"; current proposals would greatly expand the right to walk and climb, including a right to coastal access, would extend the list of permitted activities on CROW land to include wild camping among other areas. The BMC position is broadly in favour of the proposals although some people have raised concerns about the possibility of public footpaths being opened up to mountain bike use.

The BMC position will be posted on the website next week with a template response for those who wish to support this position.

Individual members are strongly encouraged to respond to this consultation. Other interests have been very effective in getting members to respond and walkers / climbers need to respond in order to be heard. Deadline for responses to the consultation is 30th September.

- b. Bacon Hole – MW updated the meeting. One breach of the access agreement, bouldering mat left at the venue. This has been self-managed by local climbers and isn't expected to happen again.
- c. Cilfrew Edge – MW has met with the woodland manager. They are looking to improve access paths in the area. Volunteer hours may be helpful
- d. Peter Shepherd suggested organising a crag clean-up of Penallta. Elfyn can provide some kit to assist, also approach Caerphilly Council / keep wales tidy

Action: Make enquiries with Caerphilly Council to organise (PS)

- e. Elfyn updated on Dyffryn Woods (Swansea Valley). There have been some complaints from local residents about parking around their homes. Please can climbers ensure they follow the guidance on the RAD.

5. Organisational Review

Interim report has been delayed. This was due by this round of area meetings; delays in collating survey data partly responsible for this. The current information on progress of the review is on the website. More information should be available by the next meeting. It is intended that a member of the review group will attend the meeting to update and answer queries.

WK gave an overview of the background to the review and invited views from the meeting:

“Interested that the BMC works, not so much how it works. Will consider the proposals when they are published.”

“Depends what you expect from the BMC. Access is a priority so I'm happy with that”

“BMC has the power to be a force for good, needs to be truly representative of members. Needs an organisational strategy hand in hand with the organisational review. It's good to see increased visibility on the review, but disappointed that there wasn't an update available for this meeting; full consultation of areas is needed”.

Elfyn gave some information regarding the input members have had into the review process. 6,000 responses were received to the questionnaire and a number of focus groups have also been held.

As well as next area meeting, all members will be able to have their say by the AGM, 28th April.

6. Wales Area Update

- a. Trademarks

Raised following National Trust for Scotland Glencoe trademark issue. EJ of the opinion that this was a 1 off and unlikely to be repeated following the public backlash against the NTS. Peter S feels that NT in England and Wales should be approached to clarify that the same will not happen in E+W.

EJ advised the meeting that the NT commercial fees issue (fees for activities on NT land) is now under review.

Action: Elfyn to report back when there is news on this review

b. Hydro schemes

This issue appears to have tailed off for now with fewer schemes planned.

7. National Council update

Governance information is now linked from the BMC website homepage.

Finance from Sport England was withheld following the motion of no confidence at the AGM and backdated funding will not be paid, leaving a substantial deficit this year.

Commercial partnerships: Cotswold Outdoor and Snow+Rock has been announced as the BMC's commercial retail partner. Independents are still able to advertise their support of the BMC and discounts via the website and Summit. Larger chains are not able to do so under the terms of the agreement.

Peter Salenieks asked if there is to be an overall strategic partner, querying whether for example banking sector would be appropriate.

WK said that Simon Lee (commercial partnerships manager) has a duty to consider all options.

EJ advised that Simon is only actively pursuing partnerships in the outdoor sector, and that partnerships do not give a say in BMC policy.

8. Clubs

Peter Salenieks updated meeting. Clubs Committee met in June; Wales clubs contacts were shared. Next meeting is 21 September. Any questions / input from local clubs, please contact Peter.

9. Youth

No update at this meeting.

10. Hill Walking

Mend our Mountains 2 Campaign. This will be launched in November with more information to come. More ambitious fundraising target than first campaign. Projects in the area: Black Mountains funding bid for training of path volunteers and tools for maintenance. Cadair Idris, repair work for Mynydd Moel – Cwm Cae path.

Peter Salenieks asked for support of the meeting to be expressed for the ACT and its work.

11. Climbing

WK raised the south wales bolting policy – does it need updating, possibly taking into account most sustainable means of bolting, sharing information on good practice. Meeting agreed to schedule this as an agenda item for a future meeting.

Action: Agenda item for future meeting – update of bolting policy, post on BMC page (WK) post on new routes page (MW)

Peter Shepherd asked about possibility of putting on a bolting workshop. Suggestion made that new routes forum would be a good place to ask for experience and training from more experienced bolters looking for help.

12. Events

Gower festival will be 23-24/9/17, organised by Swansea Uni MC. Sea Cliff climbing workshop as last year, 1 day of youth climbing session. Details on gowerclimbingfestival.co.uk

13. AOB

Peter Salenieks asked when areas are able to input into BMC membership packages following National Council minutes stating that a review of membership packages is underway. No information available on this at the moment.

PS also asked for thanks to be noted for Kate Worthington, standing down as Wales chair.

14. Next meeting

TBC

Action log

Agenda item	Action	Who by	progress
3	Circulate information regarding area roles	Will Kilner	
4d	Make enquiries re Penallta clean up	Peter Shepherd	
6a	Report back when there is information regarding NT review of commercial fees for land use	Elfyn Jones	
11	Post question re sustainable bolting policy on new routes / BMC forum, scheduled as future agenda item	Will Kilner / Matt Woodfield	