

**Cyfarfod - BMC Cymru North/Gogledd - Meeting  
Caffi Bwlch Y Moch, Tremadog  
Ebrill 17 April 2018**

## **Minutes**

**1. Croeso – Welcome**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, then introduced and thanked the new owner of Caffi Bwlch y Moch, Gareth Streatfield, for the excellent food.

29 members attended, 10 female, 19 male, including 2 visitors from other areas and Tim Jepson (Chair), Elfyn Jones (BMC Officer), Anthony Eccles (Area Rep.), Dan Lane (Area Rep.) Ian Martin (taking notes).

**2. Secretary – Ysgrifennydd**

In the absence of an area secretary, Ian Martin took notes. In the medium-term a new secretary is required.

**3. Ymddiheuriadau – Apologies**

Steve Jones, Martin Doyle, Tim Neill, Andy Boorman, Eddie Birch, Pat Littlejohn.

**4. Minutes of the previous meeting. 30 January 2018, Lodge Dinorwig**

Accepted without correction.

**Matters Arising:**

4, final bullet point:

In this age of 'fake news' and misinformation, TJ emphasised the need to check facts before speaking in meetings. He referred to the incorrect voting figures quoted by EB (Rucksac Club) in support of the argument that the BMC exec. did not listen to its members. The voting figures were corrected before being recorded in the minutes.

4, Outcomes to be forwarded .....

The two outcome statements were forwarded to the other Welsh areas immediately after the meeting, but responses were not received in time to reach an all-Wales agreement before the Nat. Council meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> February.

5. Partneriaeth Yr Wyddfa

EJ and RW had attended the launch. Members are encouraged to read the report on-line and comment. No action has been taken as yet.

14. Afon Dudodyn

KW reported that things are moving forward, all be it slowly. Discussions have taken place with Nat Park and landowners. A 'sensitive' bridge requires 'sensitive' negotiations. **Action:** EJ to draft a letter of support for the bridge for the chair to sign and send.

**1. Additional agenda items for AOB**

- i. Finance and Audit committee paper on Subscriptions
- ii. Volunteer Recognition Scheme

**2. Craig y Forwyn update**

Dave Turnbull, Nick Kurth, Will Kilner and the other Welsh area chairs were contacted by TJ and urged to support the purchase of CyF and move the matter forward swiftly. EJ wrote a thorough report detailing the benefits, issues and possible solutions to securing access in perpetuity. There was some unresolved discussion as to whether the Exec. or the NC would need to make any final decision.

Chair's Note: EJ's report was considered at the Land Management Group on 19<sup>th</sup> April and the proposal to purchase CyF passed to the NC for approval or rejection at its meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> April. There are grounds for optimism, but it is not yet a done deal! Andy Boorman will represent the N Wales area at the meeting.

### 3. **BMC Organisational Review**

TJ spoke to an abbreviated and amended set of Powerpoint slides which had been produced by the NC's Implementation Group (IG) to present its five proposals (in respect of the ORG recommendations) to all the BMC areas at the April round of meetings. The Powerpoint slides are available in their unamended form on-line at:

<https://thebmc.zendesk.com/hc/en-us>

Questions were asked about the facts and principles underlying the issues raised and then a balanced, constructive discussion followed during which a general understanding of the implications of approving or rejecting each proposal was achieved. It was recognised that some of the detail of the proposals is still evolving and that alternative visions for the future direction of the BMC were available, notably on-line at:

<https://sites.google.com/view/bmc-rr/introduction>

Votes were taken on each of the proposals, with the results as summarised below, but members were reminded that individual comments about the proposals could be made using the following on-line form:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdMutcKUvSHOBpwdPQiP4PHAuwZbo-IWUt1FjQJehTWK7SykQ/viewform>

#### **Results of Votes:**

1a. This proposal deals with ORG recommendations which seek to make the BMC a legal entity as determined by the Companies Act.

Approve 26, Reject 0, Abstentions 1

Comment: The BMC must operate within the requirements of the law.

1b. This proposal would allow for electronic voting.

Approve 26, Reject 0, Abstentions 1

Comment: Electronic voting essential in an increasingly electronic world.

1c. This proposal would change the number of members required to raise a resolution to be moved at an AGM.

Approve 25, Reject 0, Abstentions 2

Comment: This vote relates to raising the number from 25 to 100. The meeting felt that the MoNC moved at the 2017 AGM had created a disproportionate effect on the BMC compared to the number of members required to raise it.

1d. This proposal deals with the ORG recommendations which would allow the BMC to comply with Sport England, Tier 3, Code of Governance.

Approve 24, Reject 0, Abstentions 3

Comment: The meeting felt that good governance was important in its own right and that Sport England compliance, in conjunction with all other 'sports', would give access not only to funding streams but to opportunities to influence policy.

2. This proposal relates to all the other (41) ORG proposals which are not covered by 1a and 1d.

Approve 25, Reject 0, Abstentions 2

Comment: Delaying consideration of these remaining ORG recommendations is disappointing, but inevitable given the timing of this year's AGM. We need to 'get on with it', so that the BMC can move forward and serve its members in a modern age.

NB The attending BMC officer abstained from all voting on ORG matters"..

## **General Comment for note by those representing N. Wales in BMC communications and meetings:**

There is no mention of Wales in any of the documentation relating to the IG's proposals, although Sport England is often mentioned and 'England' is frequently implied. The BMC Exec. and NC needs to be reminded at every opportunity that Wales has its own government, policies and funding which must be taken into consideration at all stages of the re-organisation process.

### **Finance and Audit Committee paper on Subscriptions (brought forward from AOB)**

The recommendation to increase the subs by 10%, if the IG's proposals were not approved, was tabled.

The meeting accepted the need for such an increase to cover any loss of Sport England funding, but did not like the manner in which it had been presented as an ultimatum!

### **ORG Recommendation 25** (The one which mentions Wales)

The iterations of Recommendation 25 were displayed. Some felt the current wording, although improved, still required refinement to shift the emphasis away from funding and onto influence or representation. A working group was established (NH, MR, RW) to suggest an optimal wording.

Chair's Note: April 24<sup>th</sup>. The wording suggested is now as follows:

*The BMC should research how it can better represent its members in Wales, support its operations and activities in Wales, and better engage with Welsh Government and other organisations in Wales. The BMC should also develop a Welsh language policy.*

TJ will forward this to S Wales for consideration at their June meeting

## **4. Access and Conservation (report by EJ)**

i. RSPB South Stack parking fee application.

Application is likely to be accepted. Locals may get a reduced rate; RSPB members will park for free.

ii. Great Orme 3-year bolt inspection.

If you can help, contact Chris Parkin or Andy Boorman

iii. Off-road motorbiking

Causing erosion in the Carneddau. Photograph/Report culprits

iv. Castle Inn disturbance – Marian Bach

Problems caused by inconsiderate parking, overcrowding and big groups.

## **5. Tremfest 2018**

Chair's Note: Tremfest 2018 was a success with 80+ volunteers, from under 8's to over 80's, and no injuries to report. Plenty of good clearing work done in warm sunshine. A good gender mix too! Thanks to all who helped.

Reports:

## **6. National Council** - Dan Lane, Anthony Eccles.

There have been two NC meetings since the last N Wales meeting, both dominated by Organisational Review, already discussed at this meeting.

Dave Turnbull and Nick Colton have agreed to look at ways to better work with the Welsh Government.

7. Clubs - No report

8. Youth – No report

9. Hill Walking – Anthony Eccles – Nothing to report.

10. Climbing Walls – Jon Ratcliffe – No report

11. **Mountain Training UK** – Ross Worthington  
Permitted participation age for Mountain and Hill Skills courses has been reduced to 12.  
Met with other Home Countries to set up a discussion group.
12. **Mountain Training Cymru** – Steve Jones (by email after the meeting)  
Simon Patton is new Executive Officer.  
Wales SAFE campaign gaining momentum.  
One representative from BMC was deemed adequate by MTC.  
Number of translations of scheme's books, inc. Rock Climbing, with plans to translate further publications into Welsh  
Report on climbing awards review - Bryn will continue to liaise with Simon Patton during transition.  
Safeguarding was discussed with a strong opinion that sole traders should have policies and processes in place.
13. AOB  
Nominations have been invited for the BMC's **Volunteer Recognition Scheme**. (see website for details) There are three categories:  
I. Young volunteer.  
ii. Volunteer in the area of diversity and equity.  
iii. Volunteer who has made an exceptional contribution.  
The closing date for this year is 23<sup>rd</sup> April, but if you have any suggestions, the Chair could put in a late nomination, or save it for next year.
14. **Date of next meeting: 7.30pm 11th June 2018 Venue to be announced**
15. Suggestions for future speakers/films.  
Not discussed

Tim Jepson  
(Cadeirydd, BMC Cymru Gogledd)  
24 April 2018