

De Cymru South Wales Area Meeting

25 May 2018: 7:30pm Manorbier YHA

MINUTES

1. Welcome and Apologies for absence

Present: Steve Quinton (Local Access rep, NC South Wales rep and acting Chair), Peter Salenieks (Clubs Rep), Liz Collyer (Haverfordwest Climbing Wall), Martin Allen Pembs Climbing Club/PCC), Jim Dwyer (PCC), Russel Clarke (PCC), Sarah Clarke (PCC), Pat Lowman (PCC), Donna Reed (PCC), Steffan Morris (local climber), Justin Lowman (local climber), Al Thompson (Wolverhampton MC), Jane Thompson (BMC Clubs & Partnerships Officer), Will Kilner (NC South Wales Rep and BMC Exec. (via phone))

Apologies: Ollie Burrows

2. Minutes from previous meeting on 17 April (Boulders, Cardiff)

WK summarised the key points of the previous minutes (no paper copies available at this time). The main issues are on the agenda for this meeting (ORG, BMC AGM, bolting policy in South Wales and bolt fund). Other issues discussed were access issues on Gower at Bacon Hole and Simon Rawlinson stepping down as youth coordinator and being replaced by Joe Holmes.

3. Matters Arising from minutes

PS noted that the Alan Ward's fund-raising talk & raffle in Cardiff on 2 May in aid of Central Beacons Mountain Rescue Team's Fire Recover Fund was well attended and enjoyable.

4. BMC ORG recommendations

SQ and WK summarised the recent developments following the NC meeting on 28th April and open forum on 15th May. This included the meaning of tier 1 and tier 3 criteria and implications, the changes in the BMC Memorandum and Articles of Association that give more safeguards for members input into key decisions, the make-up of the board and the fact that many of the original proposers of 'Option B' have withdrawn their support and feel that modifications to 'Option A' mean that it now addresses most of their concerns.

Several members thought that the credibility of the organisation that would be associated with gaining tier 3 status was more important than the funding, although it was also pointed out by WK that the funding problems of not getting tier 3 status would seriously affect funds for partner organisations.

WK explained the John Roberts' resolution at AGM (item 8), which would work as a fall back in case Option A did not get at least 75% of the vote and would enable the BMC to function and work towards the ORG recommendations over the next 9 months until AGM 2019.

The proxy voting mechanism was discussed and at least one of the attendees had already voted on line. Everyone in the meeting had received e-mails from ERS and felt able to vote before the AGM. WK emphasised the difference between not voting and abstaining and how this could affect the 75% threshold required to get option A or B accepted. PS asked about the best way for members to ask questions if unsure about any details – answer – probably easiest to e-mail SQ

(steve@pembrokeshire.ac.uk) or WK (via the BMC office, marked for Will's attention: office@thebmc.co.uk).

DR suggested putting messages Facebook pages for Pembs. Climbing Club and 'Who's up for a climb then' to encourage club members and other local individuals to vote. The message would be encouraging people to vote rather than promoting option A or B. (Post-meeting Note: this has now been completed.)

5. Bolting Policy in South Wales

SQ and WK summarised the discussion at previous meeting and contribution from Dan Middleton (BMC technical officer). In order to encourage the highest standard of bolting of new routes and replacement of old fixed gear, there is an arrangement with 'Up and Under' in Cardiff to purchase high quality bolts in bulk so that new route developers could purchase bolts, etc. at low cost and the bolt fund could purchase the same, which would be funded for volunteers replacing old fixed gear.

There is a bolt fund (<http://www.southwalesboltfund.co.uk/swbf/support/> or <https://www.facebook.com/SWBFund/>) to which people can contribute.

"People undertaking bolting in South Wales should always strive to use the best available bolts for both new routes and rebolting previously bolted routes. To enable this and not put undue economic stress on these individuals the South Wales Bolt Fund will aim to fully support rebolting of routes identified as requiring rebolting and to enable the purchase of high quality bolts at a reduced cost for new routes."

The statement above and the principle of improving the standard of bolting of sports routes was supported by all attendees.

6. Reports from Area Reps.

The Pembrokeshire Climbing Festival is underway for the second year running. This has been organised by Liz Collyer and Pembrokeshire Climbing Club. This is a really great step forward for the area and should be an enjoyable event featuring breakfast baps at the campsite, skills workshops with 'Climb Pembroke', free kids sessions with 'The Climbing Company' a Climbing Quiz, talk from Emma Twyford and a free guided wild flower walk with Jon Hudson (NRW).

Seasonal Restrictions are in place at this time and there appears to have been one infringement at Mowing Word where climbers were seen climbing in the restricted area where Razorbills are nesting near 'Diedre Sud'. At the time, the cliff top signs were not in place although the restriction was on the climbing restrictions leaflet and on the BMC RAD. Signs have since been placed by NRW at the abseil points.

PS has emailed updates to points of contact at Welsh clubs. He attended the NC meeting on 28 April (see also Item 11) as Clubs' Committee observer, on behalf of the chair. Noted that a draft code of conduct was included as an agenda item, but not considered due to lack of time.

7. Clubs

There was a brief discussion re GDPR (data protection) and how this would affect clubs. JT advised that clubs are able to contact members on matters to do with climbing without needing any other actions but should not pass on marketing information to individuals without their permission (e.g. if a retailer wants to pass on information to club members, it is better to put this on a club Facebook page rather than e-mail individuals). Security of data is also important – electronic files should be

password protected and if addresses and other personal details are taken on a trip in printed form, these should be destroyed afterwards.

8. Climbing Walls

LC reported that Haverfordwest wall (The Hangout) is now doing climbing sessions for kids from age 18 months upwards and they should soon be able to offer NICAS L3 awards. 6 instructors have recently undergone L2 route setting qualifications so that routes can be re-set more frequently.

9. Hill walking

Several attendees had seen and been impressed by the photos of the 'Mend our Mountains' campaign launch. All climbers and walkers are encouraged to help to raise £1M – see <https://www.thebmc.co.uk/mend-our-mountains-returns-with-1-million-target-for-britains-bestloved-landscapes>.

10. Youth

LC reported that 2 local juniors have reached national finals competing at the Beacon and Merthyr Walls. Also discussed encouraging young climbers to progress from indoor to outdoor climbing. JT reported that there are BMC courses available although funding for posters to promote these had run out, there are details on the BMC website.

11. National Council Report

Most of the discussion at the last meeting on 28 April was about the AGM and ORG recommendations. SQ also reported that NC had approved purchase of Craig y Forwyn (North Wales Limestone). This was supported by the meeting.

12. Wales area updates

Brief discussion that there could be a demand for a Mid Wales area, particularly in light of the publication of a new guide to Ceredigion/Elenydd. Also discussed the need for a more official Welsh identity for the BMC (BMC Cymru) that would add to the work of Elfyn Jones and possibly enable more influence with dealings with Welsh Government. This was a potential discussion point as part of Phase 2 of the BMC re-organisation. PS noted that this should be in the context of a holistic set of recommendations proposed by the ORG.

13. A.O.B.

How to best encourage participation in BMC area meetings: It was felt that timing the meeting with the climbing festival works well and the attendees in the room actually provided a good proportion of the active climbers in Pembrokeshire and gave the potential for effective networking to most others who were not present.

14. Date and venue of next meetings

- a. Friday 7 Sept. Gower Festival (venue tbc)
- b. Tues. 20 Nov. 'Up and Under', Cardiff

Additional information relating to discussion on agenda point 4 (from Alison Cairns, BMC National Council)

AGM 2018 – Additional Information for Areas and Clubs

In order to reach as many members as possible, including those who don't have access to the internet, it would be helpful if the following information could be disseminated as widely as possible via the Areas and Clubs.

Proxy voting at the 2018 AGM

As you know at this year's AGM we will for the first time be using an online voting system hosted and managed by the ERS, recognised as the main organisation specialising in this activity. We believe this will make it easier for as many people as possible to vote, and ensure a fairer and safer system for voting, since ERS will independently verify the votes. For this reason we want to ensure that as many people as possible use the method, however we recognise that not everyone can or will have access to do this.

The majority of members have been sent an email containing a unique login ID giving them access to the ERS online system, where there is information available on the voting options available, and how to vote. As usual you can nominate either the chair or a named person as your proxy, and you can specify how you want them to vote or leave it to their discretion on the day.

Those members for whom we do not have an email address were posted a letter (on Thursday) containing instructions on how to use the online voting system. Unfortunately this letter did not mention that for those people who do not have access to the internet we will still accept 'paper' proxy forms, which can be obtained by post (with a Freepost return) by contacting the BMC office. Please note that in order for these to be verified they do need to be posted to the BMC Office to arrive by 1pm on Thursday 14th June at the latest.

Clarification of Agenda Items 2 & 3

The following explanation may help members to understand the voting on these items, note this information did not meet the deadline to go on the ERS voting website:

A51.2 in the current Articles requires members wishing to put a resolution to a General Meeting to give 45 clear days notice of it to the CEO. The meaning of the word "clear" has been misunderstood when communicating the deadline to Members. Habitually the deadline has been stated as the day that is 45 days prior to the day of the AGM. In fact "clear days" means that it should be one day earlier.

Resolution 2 relates to the nomination of John Roberts for the post of Vice-President. It was submitted on 2 May within the advertised deadline, but the deadline required by the Articles was midnight on 1 May. Voting in favour of resolution 2 will enable the nomination to be considered.

Resolution 3 relates to the resolution contained at Agenda item 8 which was also received on the morning of 2 May, within the advertised deadline, but the deadline should have been midnight on 1 May. The wording of Resolution 3 is different from the wording of Resolution 2 because it was anticipated that other resolutions might be submitted after the Open Forum on 15 May, but that did

not happen. Voting in favour of Resolution 3 will enable consideration of the resolution at Agenda item 8.

Resolution 8 proposed by John Roberts and others is intended to establish a principle by way of a safeguard in the event that the resolution at Agenda item 9a does not achieve the necessary 75% majority required to adopt the National Council recommended Articles.

For the avoidance of doubt, A51.2 only applies to resolutions proposed by Members. It does not relate to those proposed by National Council or Executive Committee.