

De Cymru South Wales Area Meeting

Date: 7 September 2018; 7.30pm (Food from 7pm)

Venue: Monksland Inn, Scurlage, Gower

Minutes

- Welcome and apologies for absence
 - Ollie Burrows (CC/AC), Lynn Robinson, Steve Clark, Matt Woodfield, Stuart McDowell, Bryn Kirk, Ben Morgan, Steve Quinton, Mark Winder (SWMC), Tim Hoddy, Elfyn Jones (BMC Officer), Vernon S., Peter Sheppard (SWMC) – Independent unless otherwise stated.
 - Apologies: Goi Ashmore, Martyn Sweeney, Peter Salenieks, Roy Thomas, Cherida Griffiths, Will Kilner.
- Minutes from previous meeting held on 25 May 2018
 - Proposed as accurate by Steve Quinton (SQ) and passed as no issues arising.
- Matters arising from the minutes not covered elsewhere
 - Pembroke Festival that followed the last meeting went really well with talks and workshops having a good number attending. Special thanks to the Pembroke Climbing Club and Liz Collyer for organising what is becoming a well-known event on the UK's climbing calendar.
- BMC ORG and AGM –Steve Quinton and Lynn Robinson (LR- BMC President)
 - At the AGM 92% of votes were in support of Option A. Not only was this a very large vote but also a high proportion of members voted one way or the other which is a positive point in moving the BMC forward and engaging members on future issues.
 - LR gave a brief overview of her experience relevant to the role and commitment to volunteer work in the BMC and climbing in general.
 - It was mentioned by Elfyn Jones (EJ) with support from the room that more recognition of South Wales needs to occur from the BMC in particular regard to the Welsh aspect of the next steps of the BMC's plan as lots of decisions are made in South Wales regarding the law and it being put into action in Wales. A focus group including key Welsh volunteers is needed to develop and give ideas to National Council as part of the Welsh aspect of the BMC's progression.
- Reports from Area Representatives
 - Gower- All bird restrictions went well and were adhered to. Trial wall went particularly well with 3 chicks fledging rather than the historical 1, potentially to the climber encouraged increase in the restricted region along Trial Wall. All bans are being reviewed, in particular Bacon Hole. Boiler slab's decent integrity has been lost and stakes

with recycled plastic boards are proposed to prevent washout and make safe an area regularly used by groups and centres. Matt Woodfield (MW) will update and publicise when / if volunteers are needed to help with their installation.

- South East Wales – Llandarcy. The landowner/manager is sympathetic but the developers do not want climbing on the site. EJ is in talks to see whether access can be gained via a “Nature trail” through the proposed multi-million pound site. EJ asked if support for BMC taking over liability / running role in the site but did state that the BMC cannot take on too many sites. There are currently great crested newts at the site so the NWT are opposing development.
- Pembroke – There were 3 infringements last year and only 1 this year at Mowing Word (miscommunication and lack of signs meant climbers were unaware). There were no deliberate infringements so a positive step. Climbers reported the Crickmail restriction needs to be widened to accommodate birds. Choughs at Mother Careys have tolerated climbers however a change in their behaviour may suggest they are becoming bothered. This will be discussed at the Cliff meeting in November but may affect access to the Inner Space cave and adjacent routes. SQ will install additional stakes provided by the BMC so there should be safe and adequate access across all of Pembroke including Range West. SQ raised the issue of sustainability of these stakes that will be discussed at a later meeting. Rock fall at Stackpole head and general loose rock was raised with SQ encouraging vigilance. There were a larger than average number of rescues this year so SQ will report back on these post-Cliff meeting in November.
- Welsh Government Consultation received 13,000 responses in favour (out of 15,000) of increased access but the response received back from government states that responses provided differing opinion and no change will occur to National Park governance or funding.
- Clubs
 - See the attached report from Peter Salenieks (PS) on the Club’s Committee meeting from September 13th and an update from Pete himself.
- Climbing Walls
 - Summit are running a headtorch event on 19th October (<https://www.facebook.com/events/258992881612839/>)
- Hill Walking
 - Mend Our Mountains campaign has been relaunched with the target of achieving £1 million to help with upland restoration and access. See the link for more details on how to donate <https://mendmountains.thebmc.co.uk/>
- Youth
 - Emily Phillips reached the semi-finals of the Boulder World Cup in Munich despite only being 15 years old! A great talent coming out of South Wales.
- National Council Report

- Next meeting is on the 15th September SQ will feedback in the next Area Meeting.
- Phase Two of the ORG review and BMC progression is coming together. The Welsh aspect was thought to be a key area for consultation by the South and North Wales areas and a Welsh National Officer could be a key role that could help fulfil this.
- The strategy, vision and participants ideas have stressed the need for more drive from members and in this respect LR and SQ encouraged people to stand for the National Council representative for South Wales alongside SQ, as Will Kilner is no longer able to fulfil this role due to time of service. Any additional information that is required please contact Ollie Burrows, Steve Quinton, Will Kilner or the BMC Wales directly via their Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/BMCCymruWales/>)
- Wales Area updates
 - Mid-Wales guide is now out for those looking to spread their wings a little further North or on their way through to the more traditional stomping grounds of North Wales.
 - EJ has asked if there is anyone with typesetting knowledge or basic ICT skills available to edit a newsletter for Wales that can be produced electronically and printed (with BMC funding) for distribution across Wales.
- AOB
 - Meeting protocol is to be overhauled with unanimous approval to release the shackles of bureaucracy and increase the input and discussion of genuine local issues rather than the lengthy discussions of protocol that have weighed down the meetings of late. A timer was proposed and this may be used in the next meeting to test it's plausibility. OB will amend the agenda for the next meeting for distribution in aims of achieving this. Any comments regarding this once the agenda has been published please send enquiries directly to him (ol.burrows118@gmail.com)
 - The BMC are able to provide money to host a speaker at meetings OB is to enquire and find a suitable person(s).
 - BMC South Wales Area Secretary role opening – Martyn Sweeney is stepping down after his excellent contribution to the South Wales Area. If there are any interested parties let OB know prior to the next Area Meeting / AGM.
- Date and Venue of the next meetings
 - Tues 20 Nov 2018 - Up and Under Cardiff 7pm