

BMC Cymru Mid Wales Area Meeting
4th July 2018 at 7.30 at the Slaters Arms, Corris

MINUTES

1. Welcome: From the Chairman Huw Gilbert

2. Apologies: Mark Bramich, Jane Lloyd-Francis, Gary Morgan, Doug Kerr

3. In Attendance: Huw Gilbert (Mid-Wales Working Group Chairman), Dave Williams (BMC Access Volunteer), Elfyn Jones (BMC Access Officer), Terry Taylor, Steve Culverhouse, Peter Cooper, Don Sargeant, Myfyr Tomos, Paul Hyland, Jo Gilbert

4. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes:

a) Raptors in the Rhinogydd: Dave Williams attended a meeting with NRW on 16th May 2018 to talk through concerns that NRW have about climbers disturbing ground nesting Merlins in the Rhinogydd. The outcome is that currently climbers present no specific threat and besides visiting climbers showing ordinary due care and diligence no particular action is required.

b) Access to Craig y Merched: The proposed stile which crosses the wall on the approach to upper Craig y Merched has now been installed by Dave Williams. The approach route to all Craig y Merched crags has been well marked with temporary marker awaiting the sourcing of permanent markers funded and sourced by the BMC.

5. BMC Update:

a) Elfyn Jones gave a summary of proceedings from the BMC AGM of 16th June 2018. In short; following on from the Organisational Review the proposals of the Implementation Group were accepted with the new articles now being prepared for ratification. This will probably take place at an EGM in the Autumn.

b) As planned a number of further recommendations from the Implementation Group are yet to be voted on. Among these is 'Recommendation 25' which states 'The BMC should consider a clearly defined subgroup, or....a wholly-owned subsidiary for effective delivery of the BMC's

operations and support in Wales'. The thoughts of the meeting were that this recommendation is necessary and should certainly be carried out.

c) Work is on-going by the BMC as regards renewed access and possible BMC purchase of Craig y Forwen.

d) Following significant response to the Welsh Government's consultation paper on Future Landscapes Wales the Welsh Government had already concluded that there will be no change in the status or designation of National Parks. The Welsh Government has recently added that 'now is not the right time' to implement proposed access reforms. The BMC is to build a response to the latter.

6. Access and Local Issues:

a) Access to Pennal and CAT quarries: Terry Taylor asked if Elfyn Jones could visit the landowners of both Penal Quarry and CAT quarry to try and re-establish access for climbers. There is no real urgency in either case but in the longer term a workable access arrangement would be welcomed.

b) Suggestion to place a bolt belay anchor at Craig Cywarch: Paul Hyland of The Mountain Club raised the suggestion of placing a bolt belay anchor at the top of NNE Tower above the routes South Face Crack, Bundu and Wig Walk. The proposed anchor would be on the top of the crag and not on the line of any existing routes. Currently the only available belay anchor is a rope threaded block some distance away and off-set from the line of the climbs. Wishing to see the routes climbed more often the Mountain Club believe that a convenient and safer belay anchor is required. All in the meeting agreed that a fixed gear anchor was required and justified in this location but that that didn't necessarily have to be a bolt belay. Dave Williams and Terry Taylor have agreed to visit the crag with Paul Hyland to take a look and offer suggestions. All in the meeting were content that the fixed gear belay could be installed as soon as Paul, Dave and Terry have settled on a course of action.

c) A fixed gear policy for Mid-Wales: The question of whether to establish a fixed gear policy for Mid-Wales was raised by Dave Williams on behalf of Doug Kerr. The meeting concluded that the existing 'BMC position statements on Drilled Equipment (and Dry Tooling)' dated 8th February 2014 already provides a policy framework that suits the area.

7. Any Other Business: Pete Cooper wished to record a vote of thanks and a resounding well done to Dave Williams, Doug Kerr and Don Sargeant for the recent publication of the Elenydd Climbing Guide. All in the meeting fully agreed.

8. Next Meeting: The exact date and place of the next meeting was not arranged but it was agreed that the next meeting should take place in the Autumn and that if a suitable venue (with exclusive use of a meeting room) could be found in Aberystwyth then the meeting should be held there. Failing that the next choice location would be The White Lion in Machynlleth.