



Cymru South Wales Area Meeting

Venue: Up and Under, Cowbridge Road East, Cardiff, CF5 1BL

Date: Tuesday 20th November 2018. 7.30pm

Minutes

Present: Ollie Burrows, Peter Salenieks, CJ Griffiths, Tilly Griffiths, Beth Frugtniet, Steve Quinton, Elfyn Jones, Giles Davis, Matt Woodfield, George Hawksworth, Stuart McDowell, Curon Davies, Jenifer Green, Amber Chazoner, Huw Jones, Tim Hoddy, Mark Winder, Gareth Pierce, Roy Thomas, Andy Meek, Eugene Travers-Jones, Chris Shorrocks, Rhoslyn Frugtniet, Elan Winter, Sara Rhoden, Ben Carter.
Clubs represented include the BMC, The Climbers' Club, the Alpine Club, South Wales MC, Gwent MC and Clwb Mynydd Cymru

Apologies: Will Kilner, Dean Howard, Eben Muse, Martyn Sweeney, Peter Sheppard and Goi Ashmore

South Wales AGM

1. **Welcome** – Ollie Burrows (OB) welcomed all to what looks to be a positive area meeting and AGM. Thanks to all those that have attended meetings throughout the year and have contributed to South Wales' growth as an area. OB read out the apologies which are noted above.
2. **Chair's Report** – It has been a positive year with new crags and access being made in a number of great places, local issues raised and discussed with a wider audience at meetings that have occurred right across South Wales. Moving forward we as an area need to find a way to streamline the dissemination of information to members in an attempt to inform but not bore them.
3. **Election of Officers**
 - a. **Chair** – OB stood again. Proposed by Matt Woodfield (MW) and seconded by Roy Thomas (RT)
 - b. **National Council Reps** – Will Kilner (WK) has another 12 months on his tenure and so stood again OB proposed and Steve Quinton (SQ) seconded. SQ also stood again proposed by OB and seconded by Eugene Travers-Jones (ET-J)
 - c. **Secretary** – Martyn Sweeney has had to stand down due to family commitments and was thanked for his tireless work during his time on the committee. Peter Sheppard (PS) stood for the role OB proposed and Peter Salenieks (PSa) seconded.
 - d. **Access Rep Gower** – Matt Woodfield (MW) stood again. OB proposed, RT seconded.
 - e. **Access Rep Pembroke** – SQ stood again in conjunction with his National Council rep role. OB proposed, MW seconded.
 - f. **Access Rep Inland** – Eben Muse (EM) and Beth Frugtniet (BF) both stood again to do the role together. Giles Davis (GD) proposed, OB seconded.
 - g. **Area Youth Co-ordinator** – Joe Squire (JS) was nominated and proposed by CJ Griffiths (CG) with RT seconding. This will be discussed with JS to ensure he is aware of his position.
 - h. **Clubs Rep** – Psa has stood again with OB proposing and SQ seconding.
 - i. **Climbing Wall Rep** – No one stood, however prior to the meeting CG discussed this with OB who will raise it at the next meeting in Feb.



- j. **Hill Walking Rep** – CG stood proposed by PSa and seconded by Andy Meek (AM)
- k. **Mountain Training Cymru board seat** – This role came up as Steve Jones from North Wales has stood down after years of support which the area thanked him for. MW has agreed to stand and was proposed by the South Wales area. This was later ratified by the North Wales area at their AGM on Weds 21 Nov. AM is currently on the board for another outdoor group and so it was discussed that AM would act as proxy if MW is unable to make the meeting.

The area welcomed and congratulated **Gareth Pierce** who has recently been elected as the Chair of the BMC's Board of Directors. He gave a brief introduction to himself and who he is. He's from Carmarthenshire which as an area we thought was good in particular reference to the areas of interest in Wales and acting as a potential spokesperson for Wales' specific needs and issues.

South Wales Area Meeting

- **Gower Festival Feedback**
 - Stu McDowell (SM) gave feedback on a weekend that caused him some stress with speakers pulling out last minute etc but overall the impression from the room was that it ran well and was another successful festival. In future years it was discussed that more support from the BMC's head office in regard organisation and clarity of procedures etc would have helped SM greatly. He was thanked and will be doing it again next year alongside Beth McCarrol.
 - Elfyn Jones (EJ) mentioned that James McHaffie has been re-employed as a youth and development officer and so may be of some use next year with regard running youth courses which have been very successful in previous years.
- **Pant Quarry**
 - A summary document was written by EJ and EM and used as a basis for discussion. EJ summarised it verbally and explained the issues surrounding the site. It is currently a working quarry and has the potential for up to £25 million of material left in it, which the site manager and Tarmac are very reluctant to miss out on or jeopardise with climbing access. Go Ashmore (GA) submitted a potential solution regarding the Tarmac AGM and writing to Welsh AM's. EJ explained that this is a last effort method and other channels of enquiry will be exhausted first. EJ gave a detailed method that may work regarding a retaining wall and the site entrance from his extensive knowledge of the site itself. EJ and the room were excited by this idea and EJ will follow up. Currently no access is allowed but there is work going on behind the scenes.
- **Llandarcy update**
 - EJ gave an update on the crag and access (which is available on the Welsh Area Access update 2018 available on the BMC Community page).
 - EJ and MW praised local climbers who have been asked to leave and did so calmly and in a positive manner. This has led to a much easier and open discussion regarding future open access at the crag. Accessing the crag is currently not allowed and the Wiki has been updated to reflect this (RT). Please do not park in the original parking space!
- **Gower Access**
 - Boiler slab path is in a poor state. MW will organise a meet to get it sorted in the New Year.



- Bacon hole was questioned again by ET-J. MW has once again enquired with the National Trust but they have a new warden in place who “wants to get a full picture before making any decisions” ; this is being pushed by MW and EJ to try and resolve the issue and get a definitive answer either way rather than the grey area we are currently sitting in. MW may have a more solid answer by the March area meeting.
- **Pembroke Access**
 - Cliff Climbing Liaison Meeting was held with most bird restrictions remaining the same.
 - Linney Head gully has now got some additional restrictions on minor climbs.
 - There is no official restriction on Mother Careys Kitchen however a note will be put up notifying climbers of the presence of birds in the Deep Space / Inner Space area of the crag. This is not restrictive however climbers are to be aware there may be birds present in the area.
 - Mowing Word restriction from Diedre Sud to New Morning is continuing in 2019 due to nesting birds.
 - Belay stakes have been replaced or placed along large sections of Stackpole, Mowing Word and Guncliff.
 - Overall 2018 was a great year in terms of access infringements with no climbing infringements occurring. There were a few other groups infringing however these were due to individuals not doing what they'd put down as their agenda for the day (eg. Surfer sunbathing....with no surf board in sight).
- **Inland Access**
 - Bats have been reported at Gilwern; a temporary “advisory avoidance” notice has been put up. Work on the basis of minimal impact but whilst still gaining maximum access.
- **Walls update**
 - Dynamic Rock (Swansea) is holding the Reel Rock showing in on Fri 23 Nov (after these minutes came out) but expect more next year and hopefully greater promotion to the event.
- **Clubs update**
 - PSa sent out a clubs committee update to all. If you want to be included in this email and information please message him to enquire.
 - Student Safety seminar went well again this year with positive responses from all.
- **New crags that are being bolted / retrobolted**
 - Nash Point in the Vale of Glamorgan has been bolted for drytooling. RT pointed out the presence of an excellent pub nearby (Plough and Harrow).
- **2019 Plans in the area**
 - There are quite a few “Crag X's” in the making so watch this space....

BMC Business

- **BMC Strategic Plan 2019-2023**
 - SQ gave an excellent summary of the strategic plan which pointed out that despite its confusing and detailed paper work and meetings, for general members the running of the BMC will seemingly remain very similar with members views and ideas being the driving force behind the organisation.
- **ODG Update**
 - This fed off SQ's summary of the strategic plan.



- ET-J asked “Who dictates future strategies to ensure there’s no conflict between members’ ideas and that of the Board?” It was suggested by Gareth Pierce (GP), SQ and EJ that the organisation will be member led but guidance will be given by the Board; it was noted that the Board has National Council members on it so that members’ views can be clearly voiced throughout any processing.
- **National Council Report**
 - See above regarding vast majority of National Council meeting.
 - Olympic support will be rejigged by Dave Turnbull in light of other sports use of funding and methodology of implementation.
- **Welsh Way Forward**
 - OB summed up meetings that have been happening and what will happen next. There are a series of questions regarding Welsh member’s view points and usage of its place in the BMC as well as the wider BMC membership will be sent out via social media, email, text etc as soon as possible in an attempt to get evidence led decisions to be made.

The meeting was followed by an excellent talk by Rhoslyn Frugtniet about her competition and sport climbing the previous summer. A big thank you to her for an entertaining talk.

A special thank you to Up and Under, Cardiff for hosting the event and yet again providing excellent refreshments!