

# CYLCHLYTHYR BMC CYMRU

## NEWSLETTER

Golygydd Editor: Neal Hockley dringo.cymru@gmail.com

### De South



Cadeirydd: Ollie Burrows

Despite this winter yet to see any beasts from the East we did get our 2 days of summer.... albeit in February. Some sun and clear skies ended our pretty bleak winter in a vitamin D inducing way that, fingers crossed, paves the way for a gorgeous 2019 ahead. With positive progress being made in Llandarcy toward securing access and other great movement continuing across the area we are really excited for what 2019 has already shown us and what it may have in store for the remaining 10 months..... uh oh, it's only 10 months. I better get myself into gear!

### Cyfarfodau Ardal Area Meetings

**De South:** Tues 19 March, 7.30pm (food from 7.00pm). Summit Centre, Trelewis.

**Gogledd North:** Tues 12 March, 7.30pm (food from 7.00pm), YHA Snowdon Pen-y-Pass.

More details: <http://community.thebmc.co.uk/>



Llun: Nick Thomas

**Wnewch chi anfon eitemau, yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg (efo lluniau!) ar gyfer y rhifyn nesaf i Neal: [dringo.cymru@gmail.com](mailto:dringo.cymru@gmail.com) cyn 20fed Mai. I gofrestru am Cylchlythrau BMC ewch i [bit.ly/bmc-areas](http://bit.ly/bmc-areas)**

Items for the next edition are welcome in English or Welsh. Please send (with credited pictures!) to Neal: [dringo.cymru@gmail.com](mailto:dringo.cymru@gmail.com) by **20th May**. To sign up to receive BMC Cymru newsletters by email go to: [bit.ly/bmc-areas](http://bit.ly/bmc-areas)

### Gogledd North



Cadeirydd: Tim Jepson

It hardly seems any time at all since the last North Wales meeting and I have not been aware of any further developments in respect of the 'All-Wales' agenda. While that lack of progress is disappointing, it has given me the time and opportunity to become more familiar with one of the cornerstones of the BMC - membership volunteering. Firstly, we need to congratulate **Andy Newton** who has received the BMC George Band Award for his Exceptional Voluntary Contribution to Mountaineering. **Mike Raine** put together the successful application and when Mike presented it to me for checking/signing I was amazed by the consistent dedication to volunteering which Andy has maintained on our behalves for over 30 years. Brilliant! Following the January meeting, at which I happily admitted my ignorance of the depth and breadth of BMC work taking place in Wales, Andy invited me to accompany him to Manchester for a meeting of the **Youth, Training and Walls Committee**, which he was chairing. Again, I was really impressed by the quality of the discussion, the complex mix of the BMC's interests, the professionalism of the officers and the tireless enthusiasm of the volunteers. Excellent! With the Beacon hosting the **Welsh Climbing Championships** in early February, came the chance for me to volunteer and to support the BMC's work in our own area. The event was well organised, good humoured, exciting and highly competitive with unbelievable talent on display from 7-year-olds through to seniors competing on routes which would have defeated me before I managed to clip the first bolt! Luckily I didn't need to climb, I was part of the belaying and judging team, made up of willing parents and local volunteers, without whom these events couldn't take place. I would recommend all members to attend one of these events; these youngsters really will be the future of British mountaineering, and volunteering gives us the chance to be part of their future. Inspiring! On the other hand, volunteering generates problems. Despite the best of intentions, volunteers are minimally trained, largely unsupervised, unaccountable and on occasions they make mistakes. The BMC is aware of these problems and does what it can to mitigate them, but the principle of volunteering is one to which we all need to contribute if the BMC's objectives are to be realised.



@BMCCymru



@BMCCymruWales



Pic: Tom Hutton

## **Mynediad a Cadwraeth Access & Conservation** **Elfyn Jones** **Swyddog Mynediad a Cadwraeth Access & Conservation Officer**

### **Parcio Gerlan Ysgolion Duon Black Ladders Parking**

Although winter seems to have been short lived so far....there have been parking issues again at Gerlan (for those going to Ysgolion Duon/Black Ladders). Please don't squeeze into the passing bays and don't park near the bends or block gates. The lane is used by large tractors and even delivery lorries and it may seem you've left enough space but not everyone drives a tiny Fiat Panda and tractors towing trailers need a lot of space to turn corners – and such vehicles can cause a lot of damage to a badly parked car! Best parking is actually down in Bethesda itself and a very useful bus service runs to Gerlan from 6.30am until late.

### **Yr Wyddfa: negeseuon diogelwch Snowdon safety messages**

Most people are probably aware of the rather overhyped and tabloid headlines warning mountaineers to stay off the mountains during the last snowy period in February. The BMC and other bodies (including Llanberis Mountain Rescue Team) were rightfully concerned about the wording and tone of the press releases and press's reaction. Following on from the BMC's published response, a meeting has been organised to look at how official bodies deal with such issues in the future. The National Park have acknowledged they got it wrong this time and want to work with the BMC and other mountaineering bodies to ensure suitable messages are seen by the target audience - which are mainly the inexperienced, ill-equipped walkers who venture up Snowdon unprepared at the first signs of snow.

### **Yr Wyddfa (eto!): gwasanaeth gwybodaeth tywydd Snowdon (again!): weather information**

The BMC through its Access & Conservation Trust has part-funded a new live weather and ground conditions service from Snowdon summit. We hope this will be live from early April giving air temperature, turf temperature and also wind speed and wind direction. Similar to the Cwm Idwal winter conditions service already being run by the BMC (<https://www.thebmc.co.uk/idwal>), this facility is aimed more at walkers than climbers and will be part powered by a solar panel. Initially it will only work until late autumn or until snow obscures the solar panel or the wind vane freezes up. When battery technology improves to allow the unit to be heated to prevent freezing it will be running 12 months of the year...watch this space!

### **Tremadog—parcio a gwersylla Tremadog parking and camping**

With new owners (who are very supportive of climbers) trying to expand and improve the facilities arrangements for parking and camping at Tremadog are slightly different to previous years. Pre-booking is now essential for those wanting to camp here (including in camper-vans). Parking is in designated parking bays only – please pay at the café as soon as you arrive and use of toilets is for café customers only, so please buy a cuppa or well-deserved cake before “spending a penny”! Gareth and Jo have invested a considerable amount of time and money to bring the facilities up to 21st century standards and have to maintain a business here. All the details are on the café's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/ericjonescafe/>

## Mynediad a Cadwraeth Access & Conservation

### Tremfest 2020

Yes, that's right 2020....sorry folks due to the timing of Easter and needing to avoid bank holiday week-end and conflicts with other commitments throughout May it's not possible to hold Tremfest in 2019. We did consider running it in June but by then the trees and ivy are full of nesting birds and nature is in full flow and disturbing any nesting birds or damaging their nest sites (even inadvertently) is illegal and would be irresponsible. We may try to organise a smaller crag clean up/path repair day in early autumn....watch this space.

### Y Gŵyr Gower – Barrel Slabs

Matt Woodfield – the BMC's volunteer "Gower Guru", (formally the BMC Volunteer Access Rep!), has organised a work day with South West Wales Wildlife Trust to repair the descent gully to Barrel Slabs. The popular climbing venue is on a nature reserve managed by the Wildlife Trust and the work will involve building steps to control the erosion in the descent gully. Volunteers are needed to help on May 18th – please contact Matt directly: [mattwoodfield@hotmail.com](mailto:mattwoodfield@hotmail.com).

### Snippets

#### From Peter Salenieks

News of changes to the seasonal climbing restrictions on **Lundy** and access on the south side of **Cheddar** for a trial period over 2019 was recently announced on the BMC website: <https://www.thebmc.co.uk/south-west-area-lundy-cheddar-climbing-access-update-2019>. Both developments are a result of patient negotiation behind the scenes.

A member of Gwent Mountaineering has a practically **complete set of Climber & Rambler magazines** from August 1965 to December 1971 (only 5 missing) - mostly in 3 bound files. It's fascinating reading the old articles from the likes of Gwen Moffat and Showell Styles - the loss of John Harlin on the North Wall of the Eiger was breaking news in the April 1966 edition. He's having a clear out and wishes to know if anyone would like them.

### Clwb Mynyddda Cymru



#### Gan Stephen Williams

Llynedd mi wnaeth Clwb Mynyddda Cymru a nifer o'n haelodau a chyfeillion sefydlu apêl yn dilyn y daeargryn yn Nepal rai blyneddodedd yn ôl. Yr wythnos diwethaf, fe drosglwyddwyd £500 o bunnoedd at ein cyswllt yn Nepal. Codwyd yr arian i gynorthwyo i ail adeiladu adnoddau sylfaenol.

### Mountain Training Cymru

#### Simon Patton



#### Executive Officer, MT Cymru

Our new climbing schemes, launched in January, are already gaining in popularity in Wales. We have delivered two Indoor Climbing Assistant courses and a few Rock Skills courses will take place in the next couple of weeks. Our new Rock Climbing Development Instructor scheme will be

launched this summer. Mountain Training Cymru are planning to initially have three providers of this scheme across Wales.

During 2018, we created a bursary to help young volunteers in Wales to access our leadership awards. This bursary is open to our stakeholders and this year both DofE Cymru and the Outdoor Partnership were successful in receiving funding.

Our next council meeting will take place on Tuesday 12 March in Mid-Wales.

If you have any questions about anything regarding Mountain Training, please get in touch anytime: [simon@mountain-training.org](mailto:simon@mountain-training.org)





## National Council report - 9th Feb

### Combined report by Dan Lane and Peter Salenieks

The National Council meeting on 9th Feb in Chepstow was another lengthy affair, but progress was made. A number of agenda items were relevant to members (and non-members!) in Wales.

#### Ogwen Parking

This situation was discussed, and whilst other areas sympathised greatly, there were few suggestions beyond the Park and Ride scheme, and its associated limitations (funding instability, poor service early and late in the day, unreliable bus operators in the area, etc, etc).

#### Subscriptions

The biggest and most pressing item on the agenda was the subscriptions increase, following a significant public liability claim (£5m+) and subsequent rise in premiums (approx £200k this year, with a further £50k increase per year after 2019). Subscription increases above the rate of inflation are one several reserved matters that the Board must consult National Council on under the current Articles of Association.

A different proposal was put to National Council from the ones that were discussed in the January area meetings, and Dave Turnbull, the BMC CEO, subsequently emailed club officials on 20 February with an update on the changing situation.

After a good discussion, looking at a number of options and alternatives, National Council decided to suggest that the Board of Directors propose a resolution at the AGM to increase subs across all membership categories by £6.00 per person. This was based on a need to generate the cash flow quickly, as we are already having to pay the increased premium and it is eating into the reserves rapidly (which should also be replenished). Other options beyond subs increases were discussed, but data from the ORG research was felt to give a good mandate for subs increase being the preference over reducing services. Full details of this increase will be released on the BMC website on 25th Feb, so watch this space for final details, before it goes to a vote at the AGM.

#### BMC Volunteer awards

The winners of the BMC Volunteer Awards have also been announced (see here: <https://www.thebmc.co.uk/2019-bmc-volunteer-award-recipients>), specific congratulations to Andy Newton for the George Band Award for Exceptional contribution to mountaineering over the last 30 years.

#### Organisational Development Group

The afternoon session was heavily weighted towards ODG work, which continues. For those amongst you with the desire to read all of the documents in detail, they can be found here <https://odg.thebmc.co.uk/hc/en-gb> (and will be kept up to date as work progresses). On a Wales specific note, there is nothing on the website as yet, but I (Dan) will be working on getting something online from the All Wales Working Group in the near future (after my ski holiday, that is!)

#### BMC AGM

The BMC AGM weekend is taking place on Saturday 30th and Sunday 31 March 2019 in Buxton. There will be a walk on Saturday morning, plus club skills sessions that need to be booked in advance (follow the link at: <https://www.thebmc.co.uk/bmc-agm-weekend-2019>). These will be followed by an afternoon workshop, open to club officials past or present, discussing how will clubs be represented in the BMC and what the strategy for clubs might look like. We strongly recommend that clubs send one or two representatives to the workshop as the discussions will impact on the future support offered to clubs.



Dan



Peter acclimatising before a successful ascent of Ojos del Salado