

12 - 3 - 2019

Minutes

1. **Croeso – Welcome.** Congratulations to Andy Newton, in receipt of the George Band Award. 31 members present, including Tim Jepson (TJ, Chair), Elfyn Jones (EJ, BMC Officer) and Gareth Pierce (GP, Chair BoD)
2. **Ymddiheuriadau – Apologies** Marty Wall, Martin Doyle, Simon Paton, Shirley Newton.
3. **Minutes of the previous meeting.** 22 Ionawr/January 2019, Llanberis.

There were no Corrections

Matters Arising:

International meet: TJ has been in contact with the organiser Becky McGovern. The final weekend (17/18 May) is now 'open' with a lecture, workshops and party. See website for details.

Tremfest: Not taking place in 2019.

All- Wales Working Group: No progress with the Terms of Reference. GP to action.

All- Wales Matrix: TJ asked Will Kilner whether this could be made public to allow members to contribute to it, but had received no response.

Youth, Training and Climbing Walls Committee: TJ attended this meeting in Manchester (Chaired by Andy Newton.) as an observer.

Ogwen Parking: This discussion was followed up on Facebook with clarification of the legal position with respect to parking on pavements.

BMC Reserves: GP confirmed the extent of the depletion of BMC Reserves following the payment of the increased insurance premium.

4. **Additional agenda items for AOB** None
5. **Pont Cyfyng Hydro:** TJ, EJ and Ray Wood attended the Open Day. The proposal had been poorly put together, with minimal financial backing and was strongly objected to by locals. Consequently, the proposal has been withdrawn, but may be resubmitted. Although this proposal does not impinge heavily on BMC members' interests, the potential visual impact and loss of ancient woodland should be a concern to us all.
6. **Access and Conservation* – Elfyn – Mynediad a Chadwraeth** (also see Newsletter)
Ysgolion Duon – Confirmation of the many suitable alternatives to the restricted parking in Gerlan. These need to be publicised to all hill-walkers and climbers.
Hills to Ocean (H2O) – Part of a new BMC initiative to become 'plastic-free'; supporting areas, clubs and events to organise and record local litter-picks and clean-ups. Kate W. emphasised the need to move beyond clean-ups to educating hill-goers as to how to use less plastic in the first place.
Vivian Quarry – No climbing above the pool while diving is taking place, please. We need to maintain good

relations with the owners (Council) to retain good access.

Pen Lleyn – A new CC guidebook is being compiled. In order to protect the strong trad. ethic in the area, a proactive debate is needed asap in order to establish guidelines for bolting in the Lleyn granite quarries, before bolts encroach further without any agreement.

Bird Restrictions – Areas of Lleyn and Ynys Mon are being reviewed in respect of voluntary restrictions.

Gogarth Parking – Reasons for the introduction of parking charges at South Stack have become clear – i.e. Rebuilding costs for the cafe, and loss of European funding. £20 annual permit for Ynys Mon residents. All parking fee income will go towards local RSPB projects.

7. **Welsh Climbing Championships** TJ encouraged members to volunteer to help, or just to go along as a spectator, the next time the BMC climbing championships come to N Wales. It was a great event and the climbing standard of the youngsters (some of whom will become the next generation of trad. climbers) was inspirational. However, Geoff Bennett, Steve Long and Andy Newton identified a number of issues which the BMC needs to address. TJ was asked to bring these concerns to the attention of the Competition Committee.
- i. **Route Setting** for the younger age categories did not appropriately reflect the inevitable variation in height, reach and ability between competitors. It was distressing to witness 11-year olds (who had been driven for many hours by their parents to attend) failing, discouraged and in tears, on both their competition routes before the second bolt.
 - ii. **Volunteer Belaying** is the norm at BMC competitions, but does need monitoring to ensure the safety of competitors. Perhaps a safety/technical adviser needs to be designated at each event to oversee belaying quality.
 - iii. **Entry Fees** are high (£30) and don't appear to offer good value for money for youngsters who do very little climbing and spend a lot of time in isolation. How could more be done for them?

8. **Mynyddoedd Pawb + TRO** - These two initiatives seek to bring back into use original Welsh place names which have fallen into disuse, or been displaced by modern English names. The BMC strongly supports the principle and will promote the use of traditional names in guidebooks/leaflets and on maps/signposts. However, the issue needs to be approached in the spirit of education, not policing. It was suggested that Guto Roberts (National Trust) could be approached to give a presentation to raise awareness of the importance, historically and culturally, of Welsh place names.

9. **Cynllun Iaith Cymraeg – Welsh Language Scheme** - EJ has approached the Welsh Language Board and is using one of their templates to draft a realistic and achievable scheme for the BMC; to be ready by Easter and launched at the Llanrwst Eisteddfod. Once in place, new opportunities should become available in Wales eg. advertising bilingually in schools. TJ suggested that Clwb Mynydda should contribute to the development of the language scheme. Dan lane pointed out that the scheme would need to be signed off by National Council. Ross W. noted that MT Cymru may have a language policy which could be adapted by the BMC.

10. **Parc Cenedlaethol – Weather and Conditions Reports/Warnings** - John Cousins summarised the events which led to the Snowdonia Nat. Park Authority issuing an ill-considered notice advising people to 'stay away' from Snowdonia. The BMC issued a full, prompt and clear contradictory statement offering appropriate advice to members, and others, visiting the hills in winter conditions.

Some reports of ground conditions contain so many mistakes that they become meaningless. The Park's reports and notices need to be informative and educational, not directive. Currently this aspect of the Park's service is not fit for purpose. However, there has now been a useful dialogue and there is a 'MountainSafe' meeting in early April (reps. From PyB, BMC, MT) at which these issues can be discussed.

11. **Adventure Smart** – An all-Wales initiative to convey very simple messages about adventure opportunities and safety to the general public.

12. **AGM Resolutions** - AGM is taking place on 31st March. All members have been sent the resolutions, and a proxy voting email. Members are encouraged to attend and/or vote. A brief discussion considered the resolutions concerning the revised Articles of Association (Item 6), Board Appointments (Item 7) and Membership Subscriptions (Item 8).

Dan Lane noted that AGM Item 8 was not exactly the same as the proposal that was discussed and voted on at the January meeting. Item 8, as agreed by NC and the board, now proposes a £6 increase in subs for both individual AND club members. The increase is required to ensure that BMC reserves are not depleted due to increases in insurance premiums. A group of BMC insurance experts is to be set up to consider the future implications of continued insurance for members. Dan pointed out that the ORG review had revealed a clear preference amongst members to increase subs rather than to cut services.

Prompted by the concern about insurance claims, the BMC is to review all its advice about belaying.

13. **Reports:**

National Council - Dan Lane: Issues had been covered elsewhere on the agenda.

Clubs: – Peter Salenieks had circulated his Quarterly Bulletin; no issues to discuss. One of the AGM w/end sessions will discuss how Clubs will 'have their say in the future BMC'.

Youth - Andy Newton: No additional youth-related updates, but on a more general note, an accident reporting system will soon be ready to launch. This will be an opportunity for anonymous, self-reporting, with the BMC having a moderation role, but not an editing role.

Hill Walking – Gareth Pierce: The Board can make money available for hill-walking initiatives if they are linked to strategy. So, what should money be spent on? Suggestion for a hill-walking symposium in N Wales.

Mountain Training – Ross Worthington:

- i. New Website
- ii. Rock Skills scheme now up and running
- iii. The first Rock Climbing Development Instructor course will be run in May.

Meeting closed 21:20

Cyfarfod Nesa' June 4 Mehefin 2019 Next Meeting

(North Coast somewhere)