



## **BMC De Cymru South Wales Area Chair Report 2022**

As we head towards the end of 2022 we can look back and celebrate the first year of no “lock downs” or “restrictions” and the return of normality since the pandemic of 2020. I always try to look at positives from every situation whilst there is not much positivity associated with COVID-19 one which I believe has brought us closer together is the widespread uptake of technology associated with online meetings which has increased our engagement and participation in this and other BMC meetings.

Through 2022 the South Wales area has enjoyed three online meetings and one face-to-face meeting which was held at “Up and Under” in Cardiff. During the face-to-face meeting in “Up and Under” we also made the provision for people to access the meeting remotely. Whilst I appreciate this was not a full on “hybrid” meeting it was a step in the right direction. The meetings have all been well attended by committee members, BMC officers and directors but we have continued to struggle to attract members to attend and become involved. Going forward into 2023 we will look to continue to offer an online option to all our meetings to allow ease of attendance to our meetings with the view to improve attendance.

We are fortunate to have a full complement of committee members which I know other areas are struggling to fill. I would like to take the opportunity to thank each and every volunteer for your hard work over the last year and your continued support into 2023.

2022 saw the welcome return of the climbing festivals to our area with the Pembrokeshire Climbing Festival in June and Gower Climbing Festival in August. Both events were a huge success with a great turnout. My thanks to all the organisers and volunteers that made these festivals a great success.

Finally, The BMC Office saw a major change in the last year with the retirement of Elfyn as our long-standing Access Officer. The role was quickly filled by Tom Carrick who alongside with Eben Muse are providing the much-needed support to not only our volunteers but all volunteers across the whole of Wales. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Elfyn, Tom and Eben for all their hard work and continued support. Alongside the bespoke Welsh BMC Officers I would also like to highlight and give thanks to the hard work of Tony Ryan making sure that all our meetings have been uploaded and advertised to our members and Dave Turnbull for his series of access and environmental improvement online sessions which have been highly informative.

Dorian Thomas

Cymru De/South Wales Area Chair