



## BRITISH MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL

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### DE CYMRU / SOUTH WALES ORDINARY MEETING

Meeting held online  
On Tuesday 24 October 2022

## Minutes

#### 1. Welcome and apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Stuart Burns.

A quorum was present in accordance with Article 7.1 of the British Mountaineering Council's Terms of Reference for Areas ("Area ToRs").

#### 2. Acceptance of previous meeting minutes

The minutes from the previous meeting held on 27 June 2022, a draft of which had been posted on the BMC website, were approved.

Dorian noted that in line with the action points on the previous minutes he had attempted to contact CJ to obtain the bolting policy notes, but has not been able to obtain anything yet so will continue to persevere.

#### 3. Updates

##### 3.1. BMC national updates (Eben/Tom) –

Eben – working on an access-related campaign through the cross-party parliamentary group. Engaging with Welsh Government on the proposed visitor levy, raising specific points rather than supporting or objecting outright. Been to various conferences representing BMC members.

Various queries raised around youth athlete development in Wales, as all funding currently comes from Sport England. discussing with the Urdd about holding a national climbing competition.

Changes in BMC staffing were highlighted.

Tom – Outdoor Education Bill is going to the Senedd this week – proposal to guarantee all young people get a week of outdoor education. More information can be found at <https://senedd.wales/senedd-business/legislation/proposed-member->

John Harwood asked how much of the UK Government's bonfire of EU regulations is likely to have an impact on access. Eben answered that most of this is devolved policy area and therefore doesn't impact on Wales.

3.2. **BMC Board** (Pete)

Pete provided a summary update from the Board of Directors. There is much work going on with partners and funding. Fees for next year are increasing slightly below inflation.

3.3. **Access – General** (Tom)

Tom is currently in the south east undertaking a tour of crags.

3.4. **Access - Gower** (Stuart Burns) –

Nothing to report at present.

3.5. **Access - Pembrokeshire** (Steve Quinton) –

No climbing infringements reported this year. Attended the Range access meeting last week. Briefings will stay in-person for 2023, but open to e-learning for 2024. The Army are relinquishing Penally firing range with the land to be put up for sale so there are unlikely to be any firing restrictions in future. Seal pups in places like Huntsmans Leap, Stennis Ford etc, now independent. Potentially some still in Hobby Horse Bay and Stack Rocks. National Park managing warning signage around this themselves. Put in an application for some belay stakes.

3.6. **Access - South East** (Alex Seekings) –

Continuing to investigate Cwm Dimath. Access and conservation fund requested lower offs for a few crags, paths to Abbey Buttress, and for some crag clean-ups.

3.7. **Climbing walls** (CJ Griffiths) –

No update was available.

3.8. **Clubs** (Peter Salenieks) –

Clubs Committee presented an annual brief to the Board at the recent Volunteers Gala. Student clubs took a hammering in 2021 due to restrictions from colleges and universities, but has more than doubled in recovery this year only slightly short of pre-pandemic levels. Ordinary clubs are also still slightly below pre-pandemic levels. Changes to make affiliation more flexible and extend reach were approved.

3.9. **Members Council** (CJ/Steve) –

Next meeting is tomorrow, last meeting was in July. Steve gave an overview of the Volunteers Gala and the sort of workshops that were available.

3.10. **Mountain Training** (Matt Woodfield) –

Mountain Training Cymru have financial stability and numbers have improved. Lots

of people getting involved with the Camping Leader. Looking at allowing CWDIs to be course director for CWI qualifications to diversify providers and participants. MT held a successful women in mountaineering conference.

3.11. **Student Clubs** (Jacob Isaac) –

Has been in touch with the presidents of all the student clubs. Some activities and trips are now happening.

3.12. **Youth** (Joe Holmes) –

Saturday was the first round of YCS in South Wales at the Climbing Hangar in Swansea. Good to see a good female/male split across the age groups. Next round is 5 November at Summit Centre – judges, belayers, or anyone observing out of interest welcome. Looking to organise a youth coaching symposium, and some more youth events.

3.13. **Hillwalking** (Allan/James) –

Brecon Beacons Park Society had an open day in September, where Eben attended to represent the BMC.

**4. Dinas Rock Restoration Project**

- 4.1. Eugene Travers-Jones gave an update on proposals to clean up some of the areas at Dinas Rock, including the removal of a lot of ivy, and restoration of ground levels in the Kennelgarth Wall area.
- 4.2. Eugene and the group would like the BMC's support in negotiating with NRW to gain the necessary approvals.
- 4.3. There was a positive support for the application from Area members to move this forward through the relevant channels.

**5. Welsh Government updates – Visitor Levy**

- 5.1. Eben was asked if the proposed levy would impact on club huts. Everything is on the cards, but they are listening to suggestions for exceptions which may include non-profit bodies such as clubs, and charities such as Youth Hostels.

**6. Urdd National Level Climbing Competition**

- 6.1. This was mentioned in Eben's earlier update and was not discussed further.

**7. Any other business**

- 7.1. Joe highlighted further around the funding for competition climbing athletes, and ongoing work with BMC Cymru.
- 7.2. Dorian mentioned that the meeting dates for next year would need to be coordinated centrally to ensure availability of Zoom accounts, and therefore the date of the next meeting will be advertised in due course.