

BMC Cymru AGM / Area Meeting

Saturday 22nd November 2008,
Plas y Brenin

Present:

Alan Jones, Andy Boorman, Andy Newton, Arwel Roberts, Baggy, Bonny Masson, Catherine Flitcroft, Chris Parkin, Chris Simpkins, David Allison, Elyn Jones, Gary Morgan, Guto Wyn, Jess Colebrook, Jim Wiltshire, Jock Andrews, John Hammard, Jonathan Bertalot, Julie Starling, Kamala Sen, Keith Robertson, Keith Scarlett, Kenny Atherton, Mark Dicken, Mal Creasey, Mat Woodfield, Michael Boyne, Michael Burrows, Mike Pyecroft, Mike Raine, Mike Simpkins, Noel Craine, Pat Littlejohn, Ray Wood, Stuart Llewelyn

Agenda Item	Notes	Actions
	Meeting started 5:50pm Apologies: Clive James, KC Gordon	
	Mike thanked PyB and the volunteers who ran the workshops for their support today. The report was read and some points discussed. Copy attached at the end of these minutes.	
1	Annual report from the chair. (attached)	
2	Open Forum: Contributions to Summit Magazine welcome from all! Please get in touch if you have some thing to get off your chest. Cath (BMC) updated the meeting on Welsh Coast Path legislation. Wire fencing Bales: Project closed Sports Council for Wales: Supports a large range of	

	<p>activity-focused organisations, but not the BMC! It is an on-going challenge to engage with the Assembly and support organisations.</p>	
3	<p>Election of Officers:</p> <p>New secretary Ray Wood. Thanks to Keith Robertson for the last two years. New MLTUK rep Mark 'Baggy' Richards, thanks to Neil Johnson for the last two years. Chair, Mike Raine, gave one years notice.</p>	
4	<p>Dates for next Year:</p> <p>Tue 3rd March, Vaynol, Nant Peris, 8pm Tue 9th June, Deganwy Hotel, 9 pm Tue, 1st Sept, Vaynol, Nant Peris, 8pm Sat 28th Nov, Pyb Fun Day</p> <p>Tremadog Work Weekend 10/11th Jan Tremadog Festival 18/19th April</p>	
5	<p>Issues arising:</p> <p>Craig-y-Forwen: Some movement in the access issue. There are 3 landowners, 2 of which have no objections to climbers using the crag. One landowner is contemplating allowing parking on some of his land. Still a sensitive situation, hopefully to be resolved in the near future. Pat Littlejohn suggested we should have a list of named individuals to keep the momentum going. Climbers will need some hard information out very soon.</p> <p>Welsh National Eisteddfod. Meeting agreed it would be great to have a BMC presence, probably shared with other partner organisations.</p> <p>What is happening to Hillwalking Welsh version?</p> <p>BMC Welsh Officer</p>	
6	<p>Meeting closed 6:44pm and was followed by a quiz presented by Noel Craine and the George Smith</p>	

BMC Cymru/Wales

Chair's Annual Report 2008

This has been another very busy year for BMC Cymru with a continued high attendance at BMC Cymru/Wales meetings. Five meetings have been held during the year, three at the Vaynol in Nant Peris, one at the Deganwy Castle Hotel and the traditional AGM at Plas y Brenin. All the venues have been very welcoming, free of charge and have provided excellent food paid for by the BMC. The average attendance has been over 40 people. In between meetings we have produced an e-newsletter to keep climbers and hillwalkers up to date with going's on around Wales and to raise issues for forthcoming meetings. We have also used the e-newsletter as a way of reporting from other meetings rather than take up valuable discussion time with endless reports of other meetings. The newsletter is now professionally translated into Welsh. Attendees at meetings are still able to comment on anything raised in the e-newsletter or indeed raise their own issues through an open forum slot at every meeting. We also have a presence on the BMC Website and a regular page in Summit which different Welsh activists have contributed to this year.

In January we wrote to the Mountain Safe Group to object to the erection of warning signs on the Snowdon Horseshoe

In February we said farewell to Gareth Davies our long time representative on BMC Cymru/Wales from Snowdonia National Park, he has been replaced by Aled Taylor.

Mark Dicken, the North Wales area youth rep attended a climbing competition in Eire to help with its organisation. The All Wales Junior Comp series has been successfully completed again with another exciting final, this year held in the South.

In April Sam Roberts Snowdonia National Park Warden at Pen y Pass introduced some route cards for a circular walk around Snowdon. The meeting thought this was an excellent plan and several members undertook to follow the route, principally North Wales Ramblers and Clwb Mynedda Cymru. Later in the year we reported back that the route, in our opinion would benefit from waymarking. We felt that an easily followed route may well appeal to many of the 'tourists' who climb Snowdon and may be more suitable for them.

Mark Dicken ran a successful BMC Family meet in June.

In June we learned that mountaineering is not seen as a priority sport in Wales therefore they would not help fund a BMC Welsh officer.

A campaign to stop a Snowdonia airport was supported by BMC Cymru. Kath Flitcroft at HQ worked on this as did the Snowdonia Society..

We had a clear statement that the Welsh Assembly Government will open and all Wales Coastal Path in 2012. This path will follow existing rights of way and offers nothing new for existing walkers and climbers. Indeed large amounts of money are being spent on making sections of the path more 'accessible' for new users rather than opening a genuine coastal path. Our objections have been pursued nationally by Kath Flitcroft and local through the Local Access Forums.

Mike Raine, current BMC Cymru/Wales Chair enjoyed the Prime Minister's hospitality in October when he was invited along with several other Welsh based activists to 10 Downing Street.

We have ended our joint project to clear the hills of abandoned wire bales and discarded rock bags due to a poor response from members.

Wolverhampton Mountaineering Club adopted Cwm Idwal and will work with the National Trust to remove litter and keep drainage culverts open.

The translation of Hillwalking into Welsh rumbles on with much discussion on how it should be funded In June we learned that mountaineering is not seen as a priority sport in Wales therefore they would not help fund a BMC Welsh officer.

In the early autumn we learned that the BMC had some surplus monies from the insurance payback. We suggested two projects worthy of BMC financial in put those being the translation of Hillwalking into Welsh and funding a BMC Welsh Officer.

During the year there have been discussions about access at Dali's Hole, Breakwater Quarry and Craig y Forwen. Discussion about bolts on the Lleyn Peninsula and in the Dinorwig slate quarries. Work progresses towards making a more sustainable approach to Dinas y Cromlech.

In the south there has been three crag restoration days at Llanbradach, Mountain Ash, & Trebanog. Each event attracted an average attendance of 18 people. There has been one Bolt Workshop at Mountain Ash with an attendance of 16. A South Wales Bolt Fund has been set up and is currently fund raising, and increasing profile. www.southwalesboltfund.co.uk. There have been two BMC Cymru/Wales outreach meetings at Dynamic Rock Climbing Centre in Swansea with an average attendance of 20 people. We are pursuing access negotiations for costal crag called Minchin Hole.

Mike Raine (with input from Stuart Llewlyn)

Chair BMC Cymru/Wales