

November 2012

BMC CYMRU



NEXT MEETING SATURDAY 24TH NOV 6.00 P.M.

Beacon Climbing Centre - Cibyn Ind. Estate (near Caernarfon) - Free Food - All Welcome

AGM, Ordinary Meeting & Fun Day

How do we follow up last year's extravaganza at the Heights? Easy, we move to Wales' newest climbing wall for something completely different.

Firstly reduced rates for BMC members attending the AGM (bring your membership card). If you haven't tried the new centre yet, this is as good a chance as any.

We then kick off at 1:00pm with an excellent program of **FREE** workshops for climbers and hillwalkers alike – see program below. There's plenty of time for a few routes or a coffee before the meeting kicks off at 6:00pm

and this will be followed by free grub (veggie and non-veggie) and then a presentation at around 8.00 p.m. by BMC Chief Exec Dave Turnbull recounting his epic ascent of an unclimbed Himalayan peak with Mick Fowler in 2011.

There'll be some DMM test demonstrations all afternoon and a bar in the evening. We're hoping for a good turnout from across Wales with plenty of good reasons for those not based in the north to attend.

Workshop Program:

Introduction to Mountain Navigation by Ross Worthington from Raw Adventures (<http://www.raw-adventures.co.uk>): aimed at novices (12.30 -

14.30). A practical outdoor session so come equipped with boots, waterproofs and compass.

Intermediate Mountain Navigation by Ross Worthington from Raw Adventures (14.30 - 16.30) at an intermediate level. A practical outdoor session so come equipped with boots, waterproofs and compass.

Movement and Coaching:

13.00 - 14.30 and 15.00 - 16.30. Sessions led by local climbing coach and instructor Mark Reeves. Mark also has an online coaching facility, <http://icoachclimbing.com>, which is an online logging facility, basically a website with the BMC training logbook as an

online resource and automatic performance profiling with integrated library of coaching resources for climbers and coaches and is totally free of charge to use.



Conquer your Fear of Falling:

13.00 - 14.30 and 15.00 - 16.30. Sometimes it's your mind that holds you back. Two sessions on overcoming the fear of falling by climbing instructor and clinical psychologist Dr Rebecca Williams of Smart Climbing.

<http://www.smartclimbing.co.uk>

Improvised Rescue for

Climbers by AMI Instructors –

13.00 - 14.30 and 15.00 - 16.30. What to do when things go wrong.

All workshops are FREE but places need to be booked in advance as we're expecting them to be well-subscribed. Please email bmccymruwales@live.co.uk stating clearly which session and times you wish to book for. Also see BMC news item: <http://www.thebmc.co.uk/bmc-cymruwales-fun-day-agm>

Mountain Training Wales

At the September AGM two new members were elected to the Exec: Carlo Forte has now taken on the role of Chair and Ali Stevens is the new Treasurer. Andy Boorman remains as Vice Chair. Bryn William's new title is Executive Officer.

The new database and website are helping the organisation to move rapidly forwards in line with MTUK and the other home nation boards, especially in the realms of customer service, marketing and qualification development – exciting times in Mountain Training!

Andy Boorman

Chris Walker Memorial Trust

This year the trustees decided to sponsor two expeditions to the Greater Ranges: November 2012: Peak 41, Hongu Valley, Nepal – Jack Geldard and Rob Greenwood planned a new route up the unclimbed north face of this mountain. More info here: <http://robgreenwoodclimbing.com/2012-british-peak-41-expedition> Unfortunately they weren't successful and were turned back by extremely loose ground.

October/November: 2012 Chamlang peak 7319m, Hongu valley, Nepal – Andy Houseman and Nick Bullock decided to attempt an unclimbed line of the north spur of this peak. Some info here: <http://andyhouseman.blogspot.co.uk/2012/02/chris-walker-memorial-trust-grant.html>

The Hongu valley is an area that Chris visited himself when guiding Baruntse with Adventure

Peaks and guiding a KE Adventure Travel group to Mera Peak and over the Amphu Laptsa pass - he would definitely have spent time looking at these peaks as both are very striking.

The closing date for applications for grants for 2013 is 1st December, so if you've got a good plan and an exciting objective then please get in touch soon:

www.chriswalkertrust.co.uk

Andy Boorman

Prestatyn Climbing Wall Comp

The annual Bouldering Competition will take place on Sunday 16th December. Categories for a variety of ages. Excellent prizes as usual. More details from Danny Garnett dan@dayinthemountains.co.uk or from Prestatyn Leisure Centre 01745 855632

Andy Boorman



Clubs Committee

The BMC Clubs Committee has been working hard producing detailed guidance on club recruitment and on the pros and cons of the different methods

for paying subscriptions. These are now posted on the BMC website. There are also answers to FAQs on various administrative matters.

<http://www.thebmc.co.uk/clubs-how-to-recruit-and-retain-members?s=2>
<http://www.thebmc.co.uk/bmc-clubs-frequently-asked-questions?s=2>

There will be a Clubs Seminar in October next year at Plas y Brenin. Please contact Rob Greaves if you would like a particular subject to be covered.

BMC Mid Wales

Next meeting on the 21st November at the Druid Inn, Goginan, near Aberystwyth. Free food, great beer and plenty to discuss including the on-going development of a Mid Wales Mountaineering Club.

North Wales Bolt Fund

Not much re-equipping has occurred in the Llanberis Slate Quarries and most of the coastal activity has centred around the Hornby Crags with many neglected areas receiving attention including a good mix of new sport and trad.

These will all be in the new Limestone Guide which is on schedule to go to the printers before Christmas. The only thing to delay this will be if we have good early winter conditions or a heat wave meaning Pete Harrison will be distracted elsewhere.

The book is looking really good with lots of new action shots and full colour crag shots and topos and includes all coastal

sport from Chester to Anglesey as well as the Ormes

A steady stream of donations has been coming in from both Indy and the Beacon, with the Winter Aggregates now started and the entrance fees donated to the NWBF - over £300 so far - big thanks to all the entrants.



DMM have supplied Indy with small key rings that they are giving to those that give donation in bolt fund money box - big thanks to them too.

We are still negotiating with the BMC regarding the Upper Pen Trwyn bolt inspections - crucial to maintaining access to climbing off Marine drive. Volunteers have completed a three year program and checked the fixed belays on all but a handful of unattractive and seldom-climbed routes.

This is hard work and the efforts are admirable with all the expenses money from the BMC going direct to NWBF.

Chris Parkin

Note: The Mid Wales Outreach Group have been donating money in lieu of the free food at their meetings - thanks!

Outdoor Charter Group

The inaugural meeting of the North Wales Environmental Outdoor Charter Group recently took place and a steering group was formed. It's still early stages in shaping the charter so the co-ordinator, Catherine Miles, would welcome any input from people that couldn't make the meeting or want to know more. Details at:

<http://snowdonia-active.com/topic.asp?tipid=827>

Down South

Pennard Path Clearance. The path between the Pennard crags on Gower has been overgrown by gorse for the last couple of years, making access to High Pennard either impossible or very prickly. We are looking for volunteers on Sunday November 18th to join with the National Trust and clear back the vegetation, improving access to this site. We'll be meeting at Hunts Farm near Southgate (limited parking) at 9.30 and heading to the cliffs from there.

Tools and gloves will be supplied, just make sure you're dressed for the occasion. With any luck we can clear the path in the morning which leaves the afternoon free for bagging some routes, so make sure you pack a rack. Lift sharing might be a good idea too given the tight parking.

Please come along and support the South Wales BMC team at this event - your country(side) needs YOU!

Contact

mattwoodfield@hotmail.com for further info.

Open Access Review

A number of submissions have been made to include land and crags not previously mapped as "Open Access" including Rhoscolyn, Clogwyn y Wenallt, RAC boulders, Craig y Gesail, Little Orme, parts of the Ogwen Valley, part of the Moelwynion, Moel y Gest, Land below the Marine Drive at Great Orme, Land near Waunfawr (Parc Dudley bouldering).

Crag Access

The Diamond – met with CCW along with Pete Harrison and Pete Robins to try to negotiate reducing the extent of the annual nesting bird restrictions here. Nothing yet decided and there may need to be some evidence based tests in the spring to determine how extensive the restrictions need to be.

Ty Newydd Crag Dyserth – the owner had requested that we do not climb here at all from October to the end of January due to concerns that climbing (especially late in the day) is disturbing the roosting pheasants.

Pant Ifan, Tremadog– contractor has been appointed to carry out repairs and maintenance to the steps and descent path. Bwlch y Moch – from a CCW survey it appears that the top of the crag has the very best populations in Wales of the nationally scarce plant the St John's Wort, as a consequence of the management of the site.

Rhoscolyn – Land agents who acting on behalf of the owners have questioned the legality and arrangements for climbing access to the main Rhoscolyn

crags. Meetings arranged to clarify the situation.

Ruthin Escarpment – agreement reached with the Butterfly Conservation Trust to allow climbing on their nature reserve here.

Elfyn Jones

Political issues

Lots going on at the moment, with the creation of a new single environmental body for Wales (called Natural Resources Wales) to replace CCW, Forestry Commission and the Environment Agency.

Working with other recreational bodies to raise profile of outdoor recreation within Sport Wales, by looking at the structure and workings of the Welsh Sports Association. Looking into how the BMC gets involved with the proposed Wales Outdoor Recreation Network.

Glynrhonwy development news item on the BMC website and a representation will be made to the local authority and possibly Welsh Government once the planning application is submitted.

Elfyn Jones

Key points MTUK meeting of 13/10/12

Eleven representatives from the Mountaineering Councils and Mountain Training Boards met for the third and final meeting of MTUK in 2012. They were supported by nine advisers and three members of MTUK's Executive.

- MTUK completed all stages of its application to Sport England for funding for the next four years and awaits a

decision on 11th December. With the BMC and other partners they are hopeful of a very positive outcome.

- A large working group has been given the task of concluding the walking awards review that began over a year ago. This review will consider the current ML and WGL awards, in addition to investigating the creation of a new lowland leader award.
- MTUK's Coaching scheme is currently being piloted and work is underway to launch the scheme in spring 2013.
- MIA candidates will need to supply a small list of sport climbs and lead routes at climbing walls as part of their registration.
- The new candidate management system (CMS) is proving to be a great success. If you have a mountain training registration number and have not registered with the new CMS, then can I recommend you do so.

Mark Baggy Richards:BMC Cymru
Mountain Training UK rep

