



South Wales Area Meeting
7.30pm, Saturday 28th May 2016
at Speculation Inn, Pembroke

Minutes

Attendance – 6 people attended

1. Welcome and apologies

Kate Worthington, Martin Sweeney, Andy Cummings, Simon Rawlinson,

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

The meeting agreed that the minutes were an accurate record.

3. Actions from the previous meeting

- a. Matt Woodfield inspected the bolts at Gilwern and confirmed that they are in need of replacement. WK to contact bolt fund.
- b. Enquire about extending access at Bacon Hole; EJ to contact National Trust to discuss.
- c. Pembroke Festival – meeting agreed it would be a good idea but it would need a local on the ground to help WK organise it.

4. Matters Arising

None

5. Access and conservation briefing

- a. The Mend Our Mountains footpath repair campaign was successful in reaching its £100,000 target; when the crowdfunding campaign closed on 16 May we had raised £103,832.
- b. Concerns had been raised over access to Neath Abbey; current advice is to be discreet and use the approach advised by the local climbers to avoid any confrontation.
- c. Peregrines are nesting in the cave part way up East Gully Groove at Paviland. Please avoid this route/area until they have fledged.

6. Wales Area Update

- a. Pembroke Range West briefings have been well attended, with 90+ at the last meeting; most were climbers. The MOD reminded everyone that all climbers must obey all the access rules and “access is a privilege not a right.”
- b. The BMC has submitted a response to the Glyn Rhonwy pumped storage scheme in North Wales listing various concerns including the destruction of the first ever recorded routes on the slate.

7. Clubs

Nothing to report

8. Hill Walking Issues

The South Wales walk, scheduled for 7 May, had to be cancelled due to lack of uptake.

9. Climbing Issues

- a. A request came in to put in some bolts for slacklining purposes at Three Cliffs Bay, Gower. The meeting strongly opposed any bolts going in at Three Cliffs Bay for any reason.
- b. The meeting was asked to consider the general feeling re. overriding the first ascensionist's desire not to have their trad routes retrobolted. It was felt this should be put on the agenda for the next meeting when there will be more people in attendance.

10. Events

- a. The Gower Climbing Festival, now in its 8th year, this year it will be held on the weekend 16th – 18th of September.
- b. Pembroke Festival. See item 3c

11. AOB

None

12. Date of next meeting

Friday 16th September 2016, 7.30PM, Gower (venue TBC)

Actions from the meeting:

| Agenda item | Action | Owner | Progress |
|-------------|--|----------------|----------|
| 3a | Contact the bolt fund about replacing the bolts at Gilwern | Will K | |
| 3b | Enquire about extending access at Bacon Hole | Matt W / Elfyn | Ongoing |
| 3c | Continue to explore the possibility of a Pembroke festival | Will K | |
| 9b | Add discussion of retrobolting without first ascensionist's permission to agenda of next meeting | Will K | |