

BRITISH MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL

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BMC CYMRU – NORTH WALES LOCAL AREA MEET

7.30pm, Monday 12 September 2016 at YHA Snowdon Pen y Pass
Gwynedd, LL55 4NY

MINUTES

Recorded by Kate Worthington, in absence of Calum Muskett

7.35pm Meeting Started

1. **Apologies for absence:** Elfyn Jones, Calum Muskett, Alan Pugh, Bryn Williams, Mike Raine, Tom Hutton, Dave Roberts, Peter Rutherford, Carwyn ap Myrddin, Will Hardy, Iona Pawson, Jimbob Derry
2. **Note issues for AOB - None**
3. **Accept minutes of the previous meeting – Vaynol Arms 9.6.16 – Minutes accepted**
4. **Matters arising not covered elsewhere (from previous minutes) - None**
5. **Actions from previous meeting – within Agenda**
6. **Agenda Items**
 - 6.1 **New National Council Representative –** Jim Kelley (JK) has given notice to step down as NC Rep at next Wales AGM. Thanks given to JK for his commitment to the role and the organisation of TremFest. Anyone interested in the role, contact KW to find out more. Volunteers needed!
 - 6.2 **New Secretary –** Calum Muskett has given notice to step down as Secretary at next Wales AGM. Thanks given to CM for his commitment to the role and time spent producing the recent Newsletters. Anyone interested in the role contact KW to find out more. Volunteers needed!
 - 6.3 **Access Issues –** A short update given on EJ's current position in relation to medical treatment and work commitments. Best wishes sent to EJ. Updates given on progression of web and Summit article to be commissioned about small scale hydro schemes in SNP – it is being written but has suffered some delay amongst Climb Britain rebranding. The commissioning of the article was as a direct result of members' requests at June's Local Area Meeting. EJ is also writing to National Trust next week, to query other proposed hydro scheme plans. Members reminded to check processes by which they can make individual responses to planning application as they see appropriate, including The Conwy Falls Hydro Scheme. A reminder given regarding upcoming John Muir Trust Wales Gathering on 1-2 October at Plas y Brenin. A query regarding the re-bolting of The Crimson Crimp and The Terrible Thing, routes at Holyhead Mountain, was discussed. Agreed that routes were in need of rebolting but the query should be sent to landowner via EJ first. **ACTION: ask EJ to contact landowner.** In representing the North Snowdonia Local Access Forum (NSLAF), John Gladston (JG) introduced the concept of an agreed pilot scheme of Footpath Grading that would be used by the Snowdonia National Park for their promoted paths, on their website. Agreement/consultation was sought from members in the room. Members were in agreement that this could be seen as a useful tool for visitors. No objections as such. As a separate item, Ray Wood, on behalf of the NSLAF, asked for any feedback from members about the concept of putting an extra information sign on the way to Crib Goch. This sign would be in use seasonally only. Members discussed and it was noted that Snowdon is a unique mountain in respect of the management of novice walkers so, in this context, it was not seen as an issue. Members did not see the need to question the ethics of 'signing paths' outside of this context on Snowdon. **ACTION: members' views to be taken back to next NSLAF meeting and any results/response fed back to BMC at next Local Area Meeting.** KW noted thanks to NSLAF for asking BMC members' opinions at this stage.
 - 6.4 **Officer Representation in Wales –** KW asked members their thoughts on the proposal of Wales, as an Area, requiring more support in terms of a BMC Officer. What remit would this Officer role cover? Dave Turnbull (DT) suggested it would be up to the Area to decide what remit this Office role would have and for the suggestion to be fed back to National Council, with a clear proposal. **ACTION: item to be raised prior to, and at next Local Area Meeting to gain further information and support for the concept.**

There was a 5-minute comfort break before the next Agenda item

6.5 **Climb Britain Rebranding** – Rehan Siddiqui (RS) and Dave Turnbull (DT) gave a formal presentation on the processes of and reasons behind the BMC’s decision to propose a rebrand to Climb Britain. This was followed by 40 minutes of discussion from members, with questions raised to DT and RS. As per outcomes of other Area Meetings, RS advised that a vote was taken, using the following outcomes. Each member had 4 x votes to use, meaning they could vote for more than one option, if they agreed with it. This system had proven successful at other Local Area Meetings to gain a feel for opinion in the room. Votes were counted by KW and DT.

1.	Stay as the BMC (no rebrand)	= 16	Votes
2.	Full rebrand to Climb Britain	= 0	Votes
3.	Stay as BMC and find another use for Climb Britain	= 37	Votes
4.	Other name options to be discussed and agreed	= 23	Votes

These vote results will be taken back to National Council meeting on Sat 17 Sept and any further action reported back to the Area prior to, or at, the next Local Area Meeting. Members were keen to be included in any further consultation surrounding points 3 and 4 above. It was noted that there should be more thought given to how any future rebranding of the BMC would incorporate the identity of BMC Cymru, from conception stage.

6.6 **Reminder of events and dates upcoming** – Steven Jones gave a short report on how his recent Pesda Mountaineering Festival went on 20 August. Thanks were given to SJ for his efforts in organising a successful local festival and plans are in place for the next 3 years for future events. Reminders given for future events: Gower Festival 17-18 Sept, Equity Symposium 30 Sept – 2 Oct, Student Seminar 8-9 Oct. Thanks were given to JK for previous organisation of TremFest and members were reminded that JK will not be organising any further events, so an organiser would need to be found for next year.

7. **AOB** – none noted

8. **Date of next meeting** – further consultation with members needed to identify if members would like a ‘Fun Day’ event in November, with a Wales AGM/Local Area Meeting in the evening (on a Saturday) or a standard evening meeting only (either midweek or Saturday). TBC

Meeting closed 9.55pm