

August 2010

# BMC CYMRU



## NEXT MEETING TUESDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER 8.00 P.M.

**Pen y Pass Café - Free Food - All Welcome**

### 2010 Diary Dates

- 21st September, BMC Cymru/Wales get together featuring free food at the newly re-opened Pen y Pass café, start 8.00 p.m., (Please be prompt for food).
- 4th December, Plas y Brenin, BMC Cymru/Wales Climbing and Hillwalking Funday and AGM

### Snowdonia Green Key Update

Following a meeting between Elfyn Jones & Megan Hughes (Green Key Officer) on 19-07-2010

*Background* - Green Key as a project does not really exist anymore and a multiple approach is being taken with different authorities and organisations developing their own ideas, but trying to co-ordinate as much as possible.

The old Green Key has been subsumed in to a larger Strategic Sustainable Transport initiative, led by 'Taith' - a regional Assembly government/local authority initiative involving a wider area inc. Bangor/Caernarfon/etc

Sherpa bus services were funded by a transport grant from the Assembly, but this has ended and now depends entirely on income from car parks

and buses. Megan is only part-time and only a small element of her time is committed to Sherpa bus service (other parts of her work include some bridge re-development, safe schools transport etc.)

The work at Pen y Gwryd has been done by Gwynedd Council Highways dept. based on road safety and highways law.

Responses to comments and points raised by BMC Cymru/Wales Green Key Observations Group:

*Differences in bus timetable on website to that on bus stops.* MH was not aware of this and has checked several current timetables and not discovered

any that are different from the time table on the website.

*Poor co-ordination of bus timings from Bangor/Caernarfon with Sherpa service.* MH does not think that this is the case, maximum of 30 mins waiting time, generally less than 20 mins, which is important to allow for delays, traffic and so on.

*Insufficient bus capacity.* At peak times this will always be a problem as the capacity issue is true for the whole area. At busy peak time the hard reality is that Northern Snowdonia (and Llanberis in particular) is full to over capacity, both in terms of cars and people. Due to transport and timetable rules a bus company cannot legally provide a system of shuttle buses to run continuously – they have to follow a published timetable.



*Insufficient parking places at peak time.* As above – there will never be enough car parking places in central/north Snowdonia due to the physical constraints of the area. However early enquiries are underway in Nant Peris to create an overspill car park.

*Parking charges.* The one pound fee appears to be the best solution, as it speeds up loading of buses.

*Advance warning signs of full car parks and available spaces.*

Being investigated, but incredibly expensive.

*Cromlech lay-bys, etc. filling up quickly with walkers who could have parked at Nant Peris.* Practically not possible to discriminate, or even desirable. Closing or removing the bus stop would then not allow anyone who wishes to be dropped off or be picked up (such as climbers/boulderers who have no cars or those who want to go to Cwm Glas) to use the bus. Buses on advertised routes cannot legally stop to pick-up or drop-off passengers other than at designated bus stops.

*Llanberis trade affected by parking charges.* Apparently no evidence whatsoever, and after the initial reactions no further complaints from businesses in Llanberis. However again this is a Gwynedd Highways decision not a “Green Key” issue and all parking fines etc. go directly to Gwynedd not to the Sherpa service.

*No walkway up Llanberis Pass.* Agreed that this is really needed, but again beyond Green Key remit. Needs high level input.

*Winter car park closures due to snow.* A National Park issue, one which MH, highways and police are frustrated by. SNP policy is not to clear car parks of snow if more snow is forecast due to cost and need to then re-clear the fallen snow.

So where does this leave us? Mike Raine (Chair BMC Cymru/Wales) finds this all very frustrating. Hillwalkers and Climbers are directly affected by the decisions of several organisations who would appear to be

working independently of each other, where ever we turn we seem to be told that’s not us it’s them! Mike believes that members of the BMC are well placed to observe and advise on the management of access in Snowdonia and can make a positive contribution; the question is how do we do this?



## Mountain Leader Training Explained

A BMC member sent us this amusing study of three letter acronyms (TLAs) to help clear things up:

You can do a CWA, CWLA, SPA, WGL or ML by registering with MLTE, MLTW, MLTS or MLTNI. But if you want to do the WML you have to register with MLTS. If you achieve a CWA, CWLA, SPA, WGL, ML or WML you can join MLTA. To do your IML, MIA or MIC you must register with MLT. If you achieve your IML you can join BAIML. If you achieve your MIA or MIC you can join AMI. You also need to be a member of the BMC, MCofS or MI to do any of these awards. BOS also offer the WGL, ML and SPA as well as an MPA whilst MLTNI also do a RCLA.

Whilst MLTE do the admin for AMI, MLT do the admin for

BAMG. The offices of MLTE, MLTW, MLT and MLTE are on the PyB campus in North Wales. MLTE and MLT along with the BMC make up MTT which runs PyB.

In early August at Glenmore Lodge representatives from both the awarding bodies and representative associations met to discuss ways in which they can all work together as effectively as possible.

A news item on the BMC site said: "This is not to imply that collaborative working is new to those who met. Rather, that working closely together will hopefully ensure that the public is presented with clear and unambiguous information about both the awards and the associations."



## News from the Clubs Committee

The committee approved a proposal that I developed with Jon Garside, BMC Training Officer, for a subsidised two day course to support and to promote best practice for members of clubs which are involved in instructing novices. The first course will be next April at Plas y Brenin.

We also considered other ways in which clubs can attract younger members, and proposed streamlining Youth Officer training.

The committee decided not to recommend that inactive members need not be declared for insurance purposes, recommending instead that the present system continues.

There will be a Clubs and huts seminar on October 23rd at which the ins and outs of the various legal frameworks for clubs will be discussed. The committee want to compile a list of sources of funding, so if your club has succeeded in obtaining funding other than from the BMC and the N. Wales Outdoor Partnership I would like to hear from you.

We intend to review the protocols for allocating Sport England funding. Our next meeting will be on September 13th. Please let me know if there is something you think we should discuss.

Rob Greaves

## North Wales Limestone

Once again climbers are indebted to the sterling work of Pete Harrison. Pete has worked tirelessly to rebolt LPT and is now working his way along Pen Trwyn itself. If ever a man needed a pint buying when you see him, Pete is that man. Cheers Pete and a big vote of thanks from all of us.

Jack Geldard is currently working on a new North Wales Limestone Rockfax guidebook.

Bin bag barbecue - over twenty volunteers turned up at Penmaen Head to help clear out some of the rubbish which rapidly builds up on the approach to this crag. Everyone managed a bit a climbing, filled a bin bag and enjoyed goodies from the barbecue. A great fun evening to put something back into

climbing and the crag is looking much more rural now! If any BMC members would like to organise an event of this nature please get in touch. The BMC is very willing to support you.



The new A55 Sport Climbs Guide published by Pesda Press in May sold more than 500 copies in around 10 weeks which pretty much confirmed the need for such a guide. It's publication has also resulted in a much renewed interest in the area. The guide had not long touched the shelves when upside down specialist Chris Doyle made it out of date by climbing a number of new routes at Llanddulas Upper Cave. With the end of the bird ban on the Little Orme at the beginning of August, interest has shifted once again to The Diamond and local activists are keen to get back on to their unfinished projects.

Michael Doyle

## National Council

- Office support for BMC Areas: The production of a guidance document to inform and support area post holders was agreed.

- Length of service on BMC Committees: Area Chairs and National Council reps can serve 5 years after which they must stand down for 1 year before re-election.
- Climbers' Club – loan of hut purchase. It has been decided that there is too much conflict of interest so this will not happen.
- Membership & finance: It was reported that total membership now stood at 71,744 and that Sport England has confirmed the BMC's grant is secure up until April 2013. The British Team has been allocated an additional £20k in 2010 and an additional £4.5k has been allocated to international expeditions.

## Impact of Winter Climbing on the Arctic-Alpine Plants of North Wales

In June our Access and Conservation Officer for Wales, Elfyn Jones, accompanied Barbara Jones of CCW and Hwyl Roberts of the National Trust to look at what impact this winter's climbing season has had on the arctic-alpine plant communities of Cwm Idwal and Cwm Cneifion. The full report is on the BMC Cymru/Wales Facebook page and by the time you receive this Elfyn will have put a report on the BMC Website too. Swing those tools carefully.

## Pen y Pass Cafe

I hope lots of you can join us at our next meeting and yet another new venue for us.

The Pen y Pass cafe is now under new management with

friendly staff, use of local produce and real crockery. The menu looks fantastic with lots of interesting home cooked dishes freshly made every day. Worth a try I think.



## South Wales

Cwmaman Quarry, near Aberdare, got re-gearred through the BMC Better Bolts campaign. On a scorching day back in June, supported by Dan Middleton, the South Wales Bolt Fund with the help of volunteers re-equipped in excess of 10 routes ranging from F5 to F6a+. Special thank you to all those turned up and gave up that glorious day to re-equip sport routes.

Gower Climbing Festival - it's back for it's second year 10th - 12th September, check out [www.GowerClimbingFestival.co.uk](http://www.GowerClimbingFestival.co.uk) for last years pics, and details of this year event. Free topo available soon from website!

## Mountain Heritage Trust

The Trust met in June at the Ambleside campus of the University of Cumbria. Trustees were relieved to hear that earlier concerns about the future of parts of the university did not actually affect the site where MHT artefacts are kept.

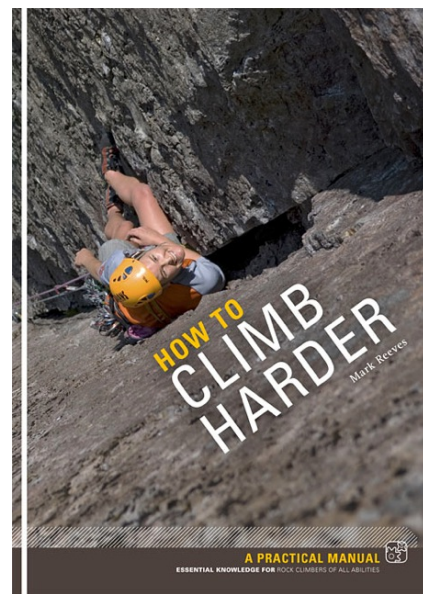
However future funding continues to be a concern with an application to HLF ongoing.

Maxine Willets, the archivist, reported about approaches from the Tasker family with a view to receiving potential material. She continues to work on the 'Quest for Adventure' project, the cataloguing of the Chris Bonington archive collection.

K.C. Gordon

## How to Climb Harder by Mark Reeves

The press release says: "Want to take your climbing to the next level? Here are the things you really need to know. From simple techniques (which can help erase bad habits) to training for the hardest climbs. In each section there's a series of exercises from simple to more complex movements that you can practice at your local climbing wall, crag, boulders or at home to improve all aspects of your climbing."



"Climb harder, more safely, with more confidence and less effort than before. Whatever your climbing goals, there's something here for everyone to focus on in order to become a better climber.

The latest climbing book from the new kids on the block,

Pesda Press is due out on the 1st of September. Price £15-99. Available from all good bookshops or online at [www.pesdapress.com](http://www.pesdapress.com)."

## Tribunal Response

At the last Area Meeting (8th June - Prenteg) Andy Newton asked the question with respect to his wife winning an industrial tribunal against the Mountain Leader Training England (MLTE): "What are the BMC going to do about it?" BMC President Rab Carrington sent the following letter to BMC Cymru outlining their response.

*To: BMC Cymru / Wales*

*In 2008 the MLTE Executive Committee dismissed Shirley Newton from the employ of MLTE. Regrettably, despite acting with specialist legal advice throughout the process, this led to an Employment Tribunal, which, in April 2010, ruled in favour of Shirley and MLTE have had to recompense her for wrongful dismissal.*

*The events which led up to this are now in the public domain and it does not make easy reading for the BMC, staff and volunteers working for MLTE, instructors at the local outdoor centres, hill walkers and climbers living in North Wales, and especially Shirley Newton and husband Andy. However, those events have taken place and we cannot change the past - we do have to move forward.*

*In order to move forward confidently, MLTE has decided to instigate a wide-ranging review of circumstances and proce-*

*dures which led to this situation arising. This is already being implemented by Dave Rogers (Chair MLTE). It will be an independent review to be carried out by people involved in the outdoors but divorced from MLTE and the events leading up to the tribunal.*

*The Review panel will have an independent chair sourced by the Central Council for Physical Recreation (CCPR). The BMC will be represented by Dave Musgrove (BMC President 2003- 4). Now retired, Dave was Chief Constable of Yorkshire so correctness and impartiality will be guaranteed. The panel will also comprise of representatives from Mountain Leader Training, the Outdoor Education Advisers' Panel (OEAP) and the Association of Heads of Outdoor Education Centres (AHOEC).*


*The Review will be completed over a period of 6 months and it would be wrong for MLTE to make 'kneejerk' decisions in the meantime. I hope you all can appreciate the sensitivity and difficulty of this process, please*

*bear with us while the Review is carried out.*

*We will make the results known in due course.*

*Yours sincerely*

*Rab Carrington, BMC President*

**CRAG CODE**  
[www.thebmc.co.uk](http://www.thebmc.co.uk)

<b>Access</b>	Check the Regional Access Database (RAD) on <a href="http://www.thebmc.co.uk">www.thebmc.co.uk</a> for the latest access information
<b>Parking</b>	Park carefully – avoid gateways and driveways
<b>Footpaths</b>	Keep to established paths – leave gates as you find them
<b>Risk</b>	Climbing can be dangerous – accept the risks and be aware of other people around you
<b>Respect</b>	Groups and individuals – respect the rock, local climbing ethics and other people
<b>Wildlife</b>	Do not disturb livestock, wildlife or cliff vegetation; respect seasonal bird nesting restrictions
<b>Dogs</b>	Keep dogs under control at all times; don't let your dog chase sheep or disturb wildlife
<b>Litter</b>	'Leave no trace' – take all litter home with you
<b>Toilets</b>	Don't make a mess – bury your waste
<b>Economy</b>	Do everything you can to support the rural economy – shop locally

**BMC Participation Statement** — Climbing, hill walking and mountaineering are activities with a danger of personal injury or death. Participants in these activities should be aware of and accept these risks and be responsible for their own actions and involvement.