



## Cymru South Wales Area Meeting

**Venue:** YMCA Port Talbot

**Date:** Tuesday 22 January 2019, 7:30pm

### Minutes

**Present:** Tim Hoddy, Matt Woodfield (MW), Will Kilner (WK), Peter Salenieks, CJ Griffiths (CG), Roy Behenna, Jim Underhill, Graham Evans, Gavin Clifford, Rich Jones, Eben Muse, Peter Sheppard, Roy Thomas, Oliver Burrows (OB), Niall Grimes

#### Welcome and apologies

OB welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies were received from Goi Ashmore, Giles Davis, Steve Quinton, Curon Davies, Eugene Travers-Jones, Elfyn Jones.

The minutes of the previous Area meeting were accepted.

### South Wales Area Meeting

#### Pant Quarry Progress – Eben Muse

Elfyn has been discussing Eugene's suggestion with landowner, who do not want to pursue currently. Discussion about other approaches ensued however it was noted the risk was too high with nothing to gain. Thanks were passed for the work attempted so far.

#### Llandarcy update – Matt Woodfield (MW)

The Regional Asset Manager for St Modwen is in discussions. The area is currently a brownfield construction site and old quarry, and at present any climbers found will be asked to leave. To permit any future climbing, the developers would need liability transfer with an organisation such as BMC taking on a lease/license, but appear keen for this to happen swiftly.

Development would need a local group to look after the site and work with the community group.

Matt proposed that the Area formally begins the relevant process and refers the matter to National Council.

**Vote:** 10 for, 0 against, 3 abstain



### **Henrhyd Falls Access Update** – Cherida Griffiths (CG)

CG had been forwarded a request about a disused railway; with a public footpath crossing shooting range. Spoke to technical advisor, setup apparently not adequate or safe. Matter forwarded to Brecon Beacons National Park (BBNP) who will take forward. Advised signage about walkers not permitted must be removed as it is legally a public footpath.

On the original issue BBNP will work to progress, along with the National Trust (NT)

### **Pembroke Range West Briefings** – Steve Quinton

It was noted the ranges are a very surreal area, and every climber should make an effort to visit at least once!

The dates for the 2019 briefing are:

- Thursday 7 March at 18:00
- Saturday 9 March at 10:00
- Thursday 18 April at 18:00
- Good Friday 19 April at 10:00
- Thursday 23 May at 18:00
- Saturday 25 May at 10:00 (also part of the Annual Pembroke Climbing Festival - details to follow!)
- Thursday 8 August at 18:00.

Disappointment was raised that there appear to be less Saturday briefings than previously.

### **Welsh Climbing Championships**

This event will be held on 9 February at the Beacon Climbing Centre.

### **Youth Climbing Series Issues**

Several parental complaints had been heard about travel costs involved in 3 trips to North Wales (or Chester), and possible hosts felt they would lose financially by hosting and were not impressed with the BMC response when they had raised their concerns. It appears there are further underlying complex issues.

There were no members with full knowledge present to make a formal resolution, however the meeting noted concern from local members about the accessibility of the event for young people in South Wales, and recognition that South Wales is now an area in its own right, and asked the matter to be referred to National Council for further discussion.



### **Tirpentwys Access Issues**

There is a public enquiry ongoing regarding opening of quarry in area known as “the canyons”, which is a major local walking access issue and had been referred to BMC as a representative body.

**Action:** add to Facebook to solicit comments

It was noted by climbers that developers possibly appear to have an interest in the old quarry used for climbing too.

### **Oxwich Rockfall**

There has been a big one... nature has reset the boulder problems? Need to wait for the sea to wash the mud off.

**Note:** An even larger rockfall happened the day after the meeting.

### **Clubs update**

An update had been emailed out to clubs. Lots of training opportunities coming up, including subsidised instructor days – first come first served so book quick.

### **New crags that are being bolted / retrobolted – Chance to promote**

Gary Lewis – developing dry tooling at Nash Point.

Dry tooling – lots of effort made over the last few years but nothing particularly suitable found. MW suggests this is probably an issue to be closed now.

### **2019 Plans in the area**

There may be some guidebooks on the way.

## **BMC Business**

### **ODG Update – Will Kilner (WK)**

Lots going on in the BMC around Governance – lots of hefty documents. 2 Memorandums of Understanding around the relationship between board and national council; members are encouraged to go on ODG website and feed back comments and questions.

Wales review Terms of Reference finished - work ongoing to produce matrix of current activity against devolved requirements.

MW thanked WK for years of hard work representing the Area at national level



### **National Council Report**

The Council is continuing to deal with focus on governance for foreseeable future, although it was clear at the meeting that information filtering down to grass roots members, particularly walkers, is poor. It was suggested to look at specialist committee reports as they reveal information not well communicated about what the BMC does – and a suggestion was raised that highlights from these should go in Summit.

Discussions took place as to about difficulties finding information on the BMC website.

BMC Subscriptions 2020 – an increase is needed to break even and more to implement ODG recommendations (see attached). A question was raised as to why individual members is proposed to be increasing proportionally more than club members – could the raise be more balanced? Those present and voting were unanimously happy, pending justification of what it will be spent on.

BMC needs to do more to highlight how insurance as a benefit of membership protects members/officers, along with training opportunities for club instructors.

### **Welsh Way Forward**

A survey/consultation had taken place in north Wales and the results were available on the BMC website.

(See attached/links)

### **Welsh Policy in the BMC**

The Board has formally agreed a Welsh policy should be developed by the BMC. Elfyn is due to be meeting with Welsh Language Commissioner, and there is a plan for BMC/Mountain Training to have a stand at the national Eisteddfod.

Clarifications for potential cost/resource impact on clubs is required.

### **AOB**

- A query was raised over hillwalking in BMC magazines – this prompted a general appeal for relevant photos and ideas for articles. Photos can be submitted via <https://www.facebook.com/groups/BMCMountainAdventures/>
- A clubs day/festival of hillwalking in the Brecon Beacons is being planned. More promotion of BMC benefits to hillwalkers needed.
- Mend our Mountains now up to £600k of £1m target but ends in March – please promote more, especially via social media.