



Cymru South Wales Area Meeting

Venue: Up and Under

Date: Tuesday 26 November 2019, 8:00pm (following AGM)

Minutes

Welcome and apologies

Apologies were received from Eugene Travers-Jones, Goi Ashmore, Roy Thomas, Will Kilner, Liz Collier

South Wales Area Meeting

Bolt letter - actions

A letter about bolting had been read out at the previous meeting. Further information/details will be obtained, and this be discussed as a specialist agenda item in the March meeting.

Llangattock stakes

This was mistakenly added to the agenda due to confusion of the context of a conversation, and was therefore removed. Elfyn and Matt reminded the meeting of the historic and current access arrangements.

Pembroke access notes 2019

Meeting with the National Park/Range West took place last Monday:

- Seasonal nesting restrictions mostly the same as last year, choughs may nest by the abseil point at Trevalen - looking for an alternative abseil spot (may add a note with an arrow)
- No infringements reported; National Park positive about climbing but less so about van camping (particularly at Freshwater West)
- Elfyn updated the meeting on on bird conservation.
- 342 climber visits to Range West so far in 2019.

Castlemartin non-firing dates for next year: 12/12/2019 - 06/01/2020, 04/04/2020 -19/04/2020, 01/08/2020 - 31/08/2020

Range West briefings: 05/03/2020 at 1800, 07/03/2020 at 1000, 10/04/2020 at 1000, 21/05/2020 at 1800, 23/05/2020 at 1000. Discussion was still taking place about a potential additional August briefing.

South Wales Mountaineering Club (SWMC) have suggested that a Saturday morning rather than Thursday evening in mid-August may be more beneficial.



Inland access

Pretty quiet generally – re Cefn Coed, looking for a meeting but seems unlikely. A465 widening to be monitored.

Gower access

Bacon Hole (a Scheduled Ancient Monument) - CADW are reviewing the bouldering agreement and possibility for sport climbing.

Herbert's Quarry – looking for permission from National Park.

Newsletter

Peak Area have produced a physical newsletter that goes to outlets (outdoor shops, climbing walls etc), could be worth doing a north/south Wales collaboration. BMC may be able to pay for translation. Thoughts that this should be after meetings with an access update summary, rather than before.

CJ agreed to lead.

AOB

Welsh Government access consultation – WG want to deliver new access rights by summer 2021, and have set up an access reform programme and steering group; inviting application from people to sit on expert panels. Elfyn has applied on behalf of the sector (BMC, Mountain Training etc) – the work will have three streams - 1. CROW/new coast access, 2. Changes to Rights of Way legislation (eg cycling on certain footpaths), 3. Access Charter/communication. SWOAPG are also keen, and have submitted a proposal that access land is open for commercial use. Links are in progress to ensure the outdoor industry speaks with the same voice.

Hillwalking festival – attempts were being made to host one in the Brecon Beacons but progress was challenging.

Eugene Travers-Jones had been in touch to ask about Ogmores stakes – this will be deferred to the March agenda

Pant Quarry has been questioned again, however the quarry company will not engage until quarrying stops.



BMC Business

Area Festivals – 2020 propositions

There is now a national application process to follow.

Pembroke is proposed as usual for the May bank holiday, Gower dates to be confirmed by the organisers shortly.

It was noted there had been chatter in the South West about Lundy Festival and further information would be eagerly received.

BMC Strategic Plan 2020-2024

There had been a Board meeting the previous day; Gareth Pierce (BMC Board of Directors chair) introduced himself and gave a brief update.

ODG update

- National Council to be renamed Members Council with representation changes; proposals to come to the next BMC AGM.
- BMC Cymru – group led by Will Kilner, next stage will be putting out proposals for consultation from members; a strong mandate from Wales members is needed.
- Blue/online-only membership (18-26) – to be trialled next year for 2 years.

The next meeting will take place in late March.