

BMC Cymru/Wales Area Meeting Notes, 7th June 2011, Old Station Hotel, Llandudno Junction

Thanks to all those attending and supporting BMC Cymru (33 persons): David Allison, Guy Buckingham, Cari Evans, Jon Price, Rob Collister, Tim Jepson, Owen Davies, Steve Long, Lee Roberts, Geralt Evans, Rob Pitt, Pete Harrison, Elfyn Jones, Ray Wood, Tom Hutton, Simon Panton, Gwyn Jones, Rob Greaves, Mike Raine, Andy Boorman, Dave Prendergast, Paul Ingram, Andy Barker, Ian Lloyd-Jones, Paul Davies, Mike Hendry, Nigel Tuckley, Bev Hull, Alan Vincent, K.C. Gordon, Malc Creasey, Harry Marshall, Jim Wiltshire, Colin Goodey.

Apologies: Andy Newton, Dave Williams, Dan Harris, Jim Kelly, Julia Kelly.

Next Meeting – All Welcome: September 13th, South Stack RSPB Café/Visitor Centre, Holyhead, 8.00 p.m. Don't forget car sharing is a sensible option – especially with the cost of fuel! Add the AGM on 3rd December at PyB to your diary as well.

Meeting started at 20:39

1. Matters arising from last meeting – none
2. Update on last National Council meeting: bolting meeting on the Gower 23rd July, potential chair required for huts group.
3. Dali's Hole latest from Elfyn Jones (EJ) - in final end of line discussions with the owners First Hydro (FH) - in direct dialogue with their solicitors - taking on some sort of lease of DH area - BMC will put bolts back in - fencing likely to stay but set-up will be changed – probably keypad access. Lot of changes at FH – new owners. Concern was expressed from the floor over access being restricted to only this area once agreement was in place.
4. Ormes – recently added double yellow lines after toll on Great Orme stop just before where we normally park to access Parisella's and Mayfair Wall etc. About to start rebolting forty odd routes previously banned at Pen Trwyn (work likely to start next week).

Andy Boorman - many people are offering to help with rebolting but Pete Harrison can't do it all on his own. Action - EJ to set up a training day with Chris Parkin. Email elfin@thebmc.co.uk with expression of interest. To put belays in at Pen Trwyn need to be shown to have done some training.

EJ - Boat trip around Ormes to assess where birds are nesting - thanks to Joint Services Training for providing boat and driver. After talking to relevant bodies it they are reluctant to allow access to Diamond but restrictions on Hornby Crag and Observatory Buttress are likely to be reduced.

5. Castell Inn - council discovered they own the car park next to recently bought old pub but are friendly to climbers. Paul Davies offered to keep an eye on it. Negotiations in process.
6. EJ – Rhoscolyn: top of Sun Wall - complaints from coastal footpath officer of climbers belaying to the wall and blocking the path with ropes across it.

7. EJ - Range West, Pembroke - 25th June and 31st July are the next briefings to allow you to access these cliffs. Less than 200 in total went in last year. If we don't go in it may get to the point where the military don't bother arranging to let us in as there is too little demand. So get down there.
8. EJ - Craig y Gesail – been a bit of a resurgence at this crag recently. A reminder that parking is down just inside the gate so as not to annoy the farmer and dogs must be kept on a lead.
9. EJ - John Griffiths is new Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development for new Assembly government – have produced a list of asks of the new government - campaign for continued funding for organisations such as the Outdoor Partnership - will push for a meeting.
10. The National Park will soon be adding way markers (stone markers) to popular paths on Snowdon – based on evidence of people getting lost at certain path junctions - Snowdon is viewed as a special case. Mike Raine urged that we go with it and that the majority of walkers are occasional.
11. EJ – there will be an England and Wales BMC debate at the Electric Mountain Building in Llanberis on developments in the uplands that could adversely affect walkers and climbers enjoyment of these important places – chance for people to put the case forward for and against - September 10th. On the matter of windfarms Simon Panton feels the BMC should have an opinion - MR says we shouldn't be against windfarms per se – Ray Wood urged people to read the recent John Muir Trust report for more information <http://www.jmt.org/news.asp?s=2&nid=JMT-N10561> David Allison pointed out that the Ramblers Cymru policy is on a case by case basis.
12. The new owner of The Heights in Llanberis is keen to re-establish the relationship between itself and the outdoors community.
13. Tom Hutton (TH) – explained we have an active group up north and an outreach group down south. What about a mid-Wales group? TH happy to organise a group and there were no objections.
14. Steve Long raised issue of retrobolting on the limestone etc. For a detailed account of the discussion and a list of the routes that Pete Harisson has suggested shouldn't be bolted on the Ormes go to the wiki at <http://northwaleslimestone.wetpaint.com/page/Bolting+on+NW+Limestone+discussion>

Meeting Ended at 21:52