



## BRITISH MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL

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### DE CYMRU / SOUTH WALES ORDINARY MEETING

Meeting held online  
On Monday 17 January 2022

## Minutes

### 1. Welcome and apologies for absence

Apologies had been received Matt Woodfield, CJ Griffiths, Eugene Travers-Jones.

A quorum was present in accordance with Article 7.1 of the British Mountaineering Council's Terms of Reference for Areas ("Area ToRs").

### 2. Acceptance of previous meeting minutes

The minutes from the previous meeting held on 18 October 2021, a draft of which had been posted on the BMC website were approved.

### 3. Updates

#### 3.1. Access - General (Elfyn) –

Elfyn will be leaving the BMC at the end of March. There is an intention to replace Elfyn but the post hasn't been advertised yet. Thanks for the support that has been given over the last 12 years – it's been wonderful working with everyone.

Wales land reform – still ongoing; this will be taken over by Eben.

Castlemartin Range West – due to a number of issues with response to online briefings, and a number of infringements, briefings will return to being in-person. BMC may be willing to fund online learning with questions generating a certificate as an improvement.

#### 3.2. Access - Gower (Stuart Burns) –

Nothing to report – ticking over nicely.

3.3. **Access - Pembrokeshire** (Steve Quinton) –

Cliff climbing liaison meeting at the start of winter. Reinstated nesting restrictions the same as last year, although Mother Carey's to be reviewed with National Trust/Natural Resources Wales.

Hoping to run Pembroke Climbing Festival at the late May/June jubilee bank holiday.

Large firing exercises being planned again; hoping this can be done without closing the range.

New bouldering walls at Wild Lakes and St Davids

Question re seal pups – this is for a few weeks in the autumn. National Park ranger will put a notice on the Stack Rocks car park gate when appropriate.

3.4. **Access - South East** (Alex Seekings) –

Cwm Dimbath – still ongoing.

Dinas Rock – some desire to re-access Terrace Cliff routes; looking for a geologist to review.

Coed Ely – no update as yet.

Some queries had been raised:

Eugene – has been watching Pant Quarry and no industrial activity has been seen.

Terrace Cliff – ivy clearance – SSSI obtained and that area is not notified.

3.5. **Climbing walls** (CJ Griffiths) –

No update was available, but it was noted that the Welsh Bouldering Championships has been delayed due to covid.

3.6. **Clubs** (Peter Salenieks) –

Highlight was the #FindYourAdventure initiative, this was extremely successful resulting in a 4-figure increase in club membership. Six new clubs have affiliated, and canyoning has been confirmed as within the clubs definition.

BMC jointly commissioned report into diversity in the outdoor community -

<https://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/research/centre-of-social-justice-in-sport-and-society/investigating-equity-and-diversity-in-climbing-and-walking-activities>

Sport England has invited BMC to apply to a phase 2 funding round.

3.7. **Members Council** (CJ/Steve) –

November meeting was themed on indoor climbing. February theme is mountaineering.

Doing a review of all the policies and how these are organised on the website. The Participation Statement is also to be reviewed.

3.8. **Mountain Training** (Matt Woodfield) –  
No update was available.

3.9. **Student Clubs** (Luke Allum) –  
University of South Wales took down their climbing wall, but the club found out via Facebook!

Hoping to get some competitions up and running.

Luke will be stepping down shortly as his studies are finishing.

3.10. **Youth** (Joe Holmes) –  
No update was available.

3.11. **Campaigns and Policy Officer report** (Eben Muse) –  
It's been a busy few months – the cross-party group has finally got going. Working to produce more Welsh language literature, and a budget has been approved for next year.

Working with the chair for BMC Cymru to produce a paper for future options.

#### 4. **Hillwalking reps**

- 4.1. Dorian introduced the vacancy left over from the AGM, and that 2 expressions of interest had been received.
- 4.2. Allan Gibbs introduced himself and his background.
- 4.3. Dorian proposed both would be co-opted to the area volunteer team for the remainder of the year, and this was approved by general acclamation.

#### 5. **Gower Climbing Festival**

- 5.1. Planning the festival for the 27-28 August (bank holiday weekend), at Moorlakes campsite (next to Swansea airport)
- 5.2. The meeting approved both the Gower and Pembroke festivals by general acclamation.

#### 6. **BMC AGM update**

- 6.1. General feeling was that evenings would be better for a virtual AGM.

#### 7. **Any other business**

- 7.1. John Harwood – wanted to point out that the participation statement was important, and this was seen to be instrumental in the early negotiations he and Pat Littlejohn had with access to Range East

7.2. Liz Collyer – would like to get her successor in her professional role more involved with the work CJ does.

**8. Date of next meeting**

8.1. The next meeting was confirmed as Tuesday 19 April.

8.2. Provisional dates for future meetings: Monday 27 June, Tuesday 18 October (AGM).