



BMC Cymru

July 2015

IMPORTANT DATES

Access and Conservation News

by Elfyn Jones

Rhuthin Escarpment (Craig Adwy Gwynt)

The landowner (who does not oppose climbing on his land) had been instructed by his insurers to prevent climbing here (despite no history of any claims or incidents ever). The site is also an SSSI and a Scheduled Ancient Monument so it's very well covered by designations! Following a site meeting with the landowner and conservation bodies it seems climbing does not impact on the conservation status of the site and following the production of a site risk assessment of the site by the BMC for the landowner it's hoped that the insurers will now relax their instruction.



Also at this site the local climbing club (Clwyd Mountaineering Club) organised a crag clean up to remove old and historic rubbish – including an iron bed frame, a car battery and lots of bottles and rusty beer

cans! So great to see the local club getting involved and many thanks for their endeavours here.

Pothole Quarry

Problems continue here (a BMC managed crag) with night-time parties and considerable litter and vandalism issues (broken glass all over the crag and fires/litter along the base). It'd be great if anyone going there could take along a few bags and help to clear the site. And if they see or are aware of people using the site inappropriately then please contact the BMC.

Lower St Tudno's Buttress (Great Orme)

Choughs have again decided to nest here (they successfully fledged three young at this site last year) and as a result the crag is subject to a seasonal restriction until the end of June.

Pembroke

A number of minor changes have been made to agreed climbing restrictions at Pembrokeshire – check the RAD for details if heading down there for the latest information and also the notice boards at the St Govan's and Stack Rocks car parks which are updated daily.

Next Meetings

The next BMC North Wales local area meeting will take place at the Vaynol in Nant Peris on the 16th of July. Food will be served at 8pm and the meeting will follow.

The next BMC South Wales local area meeting will take place on Friday the 11th of September as part of the Gower Climbing Festival. This will be at the Monksland pub (Countryman) in Surlage at 7.30pm.

The next BMC Mid-Wales local area meeting will be in November. Details to follow.

Other Access & Conservation News

Landscape Issues

With a considerable number of planning applications for hydro and other renewable energy developments in North Wales it's been difficult to keep track of every developments and their possible impacts on sites of interest to BMC members. Over 130 planning applications for hydro schemes have been submitted to the National Park planning department over the last five years – we cannot respond to all of these. BMC Cymru has formed an alliance with Snowdonia Society, Campaign for Protection of Rural Wales, Snowdonia Active, Open Spaces Society and Ramblers Wales to have a more joined up approach to know about these development in the first place and then to respond to these developments as appropriate. However it'd be good if members can keep an eye out for these developments (or any development that may impact on climbing or hill-walking sites) and bring them to the BMC officer's attention.

Welsh Access Legislation Review

The good news is that this is still on the agenda! This was discussed at a meeting (thanks to Alun Pugh for this) between the First minister for Wales (Carwyn Jones), the BMC and other recreational and conservation bodies at the Caban in April. There are meetings planned with Welsh Government Ministers in June and it's clear that for this exciting initiative to proceed it will need more grassroots support from members, clubs and individuals on the ground. There will need to be an organised campaign of lobbying your local Assembly Members to raise the profile of this issue. There will more on this and better explanation of how members will need to be involved at the meeting and in coming weeks.



Meeting with the Welsh First Minister at the Caban discussing open access legislation

Review of National Parks and Protected Landscapes in Wales

The Welsh government is carrying out a major review of both the purpose and governance of national parks and protected landscapes in Wales. BMC Cymru is responding to this and will state in our submission the need for better protection of national parks, appropriate and suitable funding, the need for national parks to be independent (but accountable to) national governments, and for the core purposes of national parks (i.e. the protection of landscapes and promotion of quiet enjoyment and recreation) to be maintained and ideally strengthened.

Other News

BMC Charity Auction in aid of Nepal

The BMC is holding an online charity auction in aid of the relief effort in Nepal. All profits will be given to Community Action Nepal (CAN). Community Action Nepal (CAN) is a UK based charity whose aim is to help the mountain people of Nepal through operating medical posts, schools and mountain porter rescue shelters



.Among the lots are signed Himalayan prints by Doug Scott and Sir Chris Bonington and climbing days with Hazel Findlay and Mick Fowler.

To get involved with the bidding process, which closes on Sunday 12 July, follow this link to the live Ebay auction:

www.ebay.co.uk/usr/bmc_shop

MTUK

A review of the rock climbing qualifications is underway at MTUK to look at any ways to improve or modernize the current awards.

Mountain Training England is advertising a new post for an Executive Officer:

www.mountain-training.org/latest-news/executive-officer-post

Plas y Brenin

Plas y Brenin is advertising a post for a new Chief Executive Officer to head the National Mountain Sports Centre. This is a rare opportunity for a "dynamic individual with vision and proven management and business skills to provide leadership and inspiration at an exciting time of strategic development". For more details follow this link:

www.thebmc.co.uk/big-cheese-sought-for-top-job

North Wales Bolt Fund Massive donation!

The NWBF has recently been given a £3000 donation from the On-Sight Publications team from the sales of the brilliant North Wales Limestone Guide book.

On top of this success the Beacon has donated £558 proceeds from its Winter Bouldering Aggregate to the NWBF.

These are very valuable contribution as they provide funds to repair and replace drills and other equipment together with stocking up on consumables like resin and drill bits. The NWBF has continued to assist re-equipping projects at various venues in North and Mid-Wales as well as support new routers by facilitating cost effective quality bolts and belay rings.

If new routers use good stainless steel gear then the problems we have faced this last decade will be greatly reduced in years to come.

Inspectors are still required to assist in the work to maintain access to Marie Drive so can anyone willing please contact: northwalesboltfund@googlemail.com
Chris Parkin

Pembrokeshire News Range East

St. Govans – possible Chough nest in region of 'D-Day' – not officially confirmed yet but have a look before climbing here.

Flimston Bay – Oystercatchers nesting on Flimston Stack on the beach – no official ban but please avoid climbs on the stack ('Flakeaway' etc.)

Range West

The Wash area – Restriction 'J' is extended to include 'Big Loosey' to Address Book'.



Stackpole and Lydstep

Mowing Word – Peregrine has moved off the main cliff so temporary restriction on 'Heart of Darkness'/'New Morning' area has been lifted.

Contrary to some view points, there are actually quite a few crags that have no nesting season restrictions on including 95% of St. Govans and Trevallen, Stennis Head, 95% of Huntsman's leap, Stennis Ford, Chapel Point, Newton Head, 95% of Mother Carey's, the White Tower, Blockhouse Buttress, Saddle Head, Mewsford Pt. Chance Encounter Zawn, Gun Cliff, Juggy Point, The Iron Age Fort, all the Penally crags, pretty much all the good stuff in North Pembs, ... i.e. plenty of routes to keep most of us going for 2-3 lifetimes.

Other access news

Unfortunately 2 people have already lost their Range West passes already for ignoring the access information given at the briefing in April. Please remember that many climbers have fought for access to Range west for many years and a few people ignoring the rules could result in us all losing access to these crags.

Climbing wall news

'The Overhang' in Tenby is celebrating its 1st Birthday on July 11th. Some sort of Birthday Bash planned. They have also recently improved the boulder room.

Haverfordwest Leisure Centre should have a brand new shiny wall courtesy of Dream Climbing Walls – opening imminently. This will include about 20 lead lines up to approx. 10m high with a huge 7m overhang as the

central feature + loads of interesting shapes suitable for all levels.

Steve Quinton

Gower Climbing Festival

The Gower Climbing Festival is taking place once again this year on the weekend of the 11th and 12th of September. Details below:



Website: www.gowerclimbingfestival.co.uk

Base: Pitton Cross Campsite, SA3 1PT (<https://goo.gl/maps/ABqKI>). Camping is £7.50 per person per night (usually £10)

Expecting: At least 20-30 to camp. Mostly students but this number could increase. Lots of locals don't camp (I mean, why would they, they have a bed to sleep in not a field!) but turn up in the morning. These numbers rise to about 40. Last year more people came down outside of the festival entirely to meet up with other locals. If you total them, numbers could rise to around 70-80; Shipwreck cove was rammed!

Planned venues: Unfortunately this can vary wildly depending on where people want to go/what they want to climb. There is a small selection of the popular crags on the website that cater for a big variation in climbing needs, but realistically there will be crags not listed that will see traffic. According to UKC, there are at least 50 crags on the Gower so plenty for everyone for a weekend.

Other sponsors: BMC

Video: <http://tv.thebmc.co.uk/video/gower-climbing-festival-2014>

What we'd like from a sponsor: Just a climber or group of climbers to come down and climb! The festival is all about showing

visitors around the Gower and getting as many people climbing as possible. A couple of prizes for the pub quiz (see agenda below) would be very useful too. Perhaps a slideshow presentation from a sponsored climber (of pretty much anything climbing related) would be great too.

Agenda:

Friday September 11th

All afternoon - People arrive, set up tents, eat etc.

19:30 - BMC South Wales Area Meeting, at the Monksland pub (aka the countryman), in Scurlage (short drive away).

Saturday September 12th

7:30 - 10:00 - Bacon and egg butties for a small donation to the South Wales Bolt Fund and BMC Access and Conservation Trust. Climbers can talk to locals about planning their day, where to go, what to do and who to do it with. Guidebooks will be dotted about along with some topos of certain areas.

12:44 BST - Low tide

20:00 - ?? - Pub Quiz in the Monksland Pub, Scurlage

Sunday September 13th

7:30 - 10:00 - Bacon and egg butties again, followed by another day of climbing.

13:15 BST - Low tide

Carneddau Rock

Mike Bailey (author of the CC Ogwen guide) and his guidebook team are working to produce a free on-line definitive guidebook to rock climbing in the Carneddau. After extensive research of these mountain crags they are nearing completion of this project. They have already opened up a public group on Facebook dubbed 'Carneddau Rock' to feed regular updates and developments of the on-going project so request to join the group to see what's happening and comment.

