



BMC Cymru

October 2015

IMPORTANT DATES

BMC Cymru AGM

BMC Cymru - elections for area officers

Tom Hutton's stint as chair is coming to a close at this year's AGM and we're seizing this opportunity to advertise some vacant volunteer roles in your local area, BMC Cymru Wales.

BMC Cymru Wales is unusual in that at National Council level it counts as a single area despite its large geographical size and diverse nature. Due to this, BMC Cymru Wales is split into three local areas – North, Mid and South – with an encompassing BMC Cymru AGM held towards the end of each year. Historically North Wales has always had the greater turn-outs at local area meetings and as a result of this almost all the positions in BMC Cymru Wales are taken by members from the North Wales local area. This doesn't need to be the case, although it has always been very convenient for the BMC Cymru Wales chair and secretary to be North Wales based.

At this year's BMC Cymru Wales AGM, to be held on Saturday 31 October, we are looking for three people to fill roles that are either vacant or becoming vacant at this year's AGM. The biggest role is for a new area chair, which has been Tom Hutton's role for the last few years. We have already had some

enquiries into this role and have a candidate for it; however, new candidates need to be voted in with a majority at the AGM and it is always good to have several people vying for the role to enable some diversity in potential new position holders. In order for any/all candidates to represent themselves to the membership before the actual AGM, we need to hear from any interested person by Friday 16th October at the very latest.

The two other vacant positions are for an area representative to stand on the clubs committee and for a new hill walking representative.

Additionally, if you feel like you would like to get involved with any of the other positions in your local area then you can stand for them in the forthcoming AGM and can be voted into the position over an existing position holder as long as you have a proposer and a seconder. In these scenarios it is best you contact the existing position holder to discuss the role – in some instances they may be more than happy to relinquish their job or even share the position.

If you have any questions, you can contact Calum Muskett (calum_muskett@hotmail.co.uk) or Tony Ryan (tony@thebmc.co.uk) for more information.

Next Meetings

The next BMC North Wales local area meeting and BMC Cymru AGM will take place at Plas y Brenin in Capel Curig on the 31st of October.

On October the 31st there will be an AGM and fun day. The timings are as follows:

11am – First fun day workshops start (more details in newsletter)

5pm – Free use of the climbing wall for BMC members, remember to sign in at reception

7pm – Free veggie and non-veggie food

7.15pm – Local area meeting and AGM

8.30pm – Free talks by up and coming alpinist Tom Livingstone and local landscape photographer Nick Livesey

The current area officers and post holders in BMC Cymru Wales are:

Chair: Tom Hutton (outgoing this AGM)

Secretary: Calum Muskett (entering final year in role)

National Council representatives: Anthony Eccles, Jim Kelly, Will Kilner

Mountain Training UK representative: Andy Boorman

Mountain Training Wales representatives: Kate & Ross Worthington

Climbing walls representative: Jon Ratcliffe

Area youth co-ordinators: Mark Dicken, Ifan Richards & Simon Rawlinson

Clubs committee representative: VACANT

Hill walking representative: VACANT

Brief Job Descriptions:

Area chair

The area chair works closely with other volunteers in the area and should liaise with BMC office staff to ensure the area receives suitable support.

The main roles of the area chair are to:

- be an advocate for the BMC. With regard to this it is helpful to develop some understanding of the BMC's specialist work areas, finances and structure;
- be able to represent members' views in a fair and balanced manner at local, regional and national level, taking a lead on difficult or contentious issues; and
- be aware of the BMC procedures and constitutional requirements related to area meetings, ensuring that area meetings run smoothly and dealing with area administration in a timely manner.

Area secretary

The area secretary should be a good communicator who is well organised and reliable.

The main roles of the area secretary are to:

- arrange meeting venues and work with the BMC office to publicise and promote area meetings;
- put together the BMC Cymru newsletter before each round of local area meetings;
- write meeting minutes; and
- help ensure that meeting action points are followed up.

National Council representatives

Each BMC area can appoint two people to serve on the BMC's main policy making body, National Council, which meets five times per year. The BMC covers travel and accommodation costs and efforts are made to ensure that meeting weekends are a combination of business and pleasure; recent venues have included the Lake District, Snowdonia, the Peak District and Devon.

The role of the representatives is to represent the views of their area at National Council and to report back to their area on any relevant decisions or debates at National Council. At times it will be necessary for National Council to make quick decisions on issues, so area representatives must be prepared to 'think on their feet' and act (including voting) on behalf of their area. The area chair and area secretary can be the National Council representatives, or the area may choose to elect two different members as representatives.

Other local area representatives and co-ordinators

Within each BMC area there are a number of other important volunteer roles, including:

Access representatives: who play a vital role in our work with landowners and conservation bodies.

Area youth co-ordinators: who support the BMC's work with young people.

Club representatives: who provide a link between the area and the BMC Clubs Committee, which is the forum for the discussion of all matters of concern to BMC Affiliated Clubs.

Climbing wall representatives: who liaise with local climbing walls and wall users and refer any relevant issues to the area.

Hill walking representatives: who act as a focus for hill walking members and walking-related issues in the area.

Fun Day

There will be four free workshop sessions available on the day, starting from 11.00am; covering navigation, scrambling and introductions to mountain running and big wall climbing, there is something of interest for most outdoor enthusiasts, but with only 24 places available you better get booked in quickly! These workshops are only available for those attending the BMC Cymru AGM later in the evening.

The Workshops!

Navigation

This workshop will help fine tune mountain navigation skills for hill walkers and be run by an experienced member of the Plas y Brenin staff team.



For this workshop you will need to bring suitable hill walking clothing, sturdy footwear such as approach shoes or mountain boots, full body waterproofs, a warm layer and a rucksack with water and a snack, a map of Snowdonia and a compass. This workshop will be most useful for keen hill walkers looking at improving their navigation skills to give them more confidence to head off the beaten track. Meet at the Plas y Brenin bar at 11.00am; maximum ratio 1:6.

Scrambling

This workshop will look into route choice on scrambles, movement skills on rock and staying safe on the hill. All this will be pulled together by an experienced member of the Plas y Brenin staff team.

For this workshop you will need to bring suitable hill walking clothing, sturdy footwear such as approach shoes or mountain boots, full body waterproofs, a warm layer and a rucksack with water and a snack.

This workshop will be most useful for keen hill walkers looking to expand their repertoire in the mountains and gain greater confidence and independence on rugged terrain. Meet at the Plas y Brenin bar at 11.00am; maximum ratio 1:6.

Introduction to Mountain Running and Navigation with Kate Worthington

This workshop will take you through the essential skills of moving from trail running into the mountains, looking into mountain running navigation, what to carry, where to go all mixed in to a great run in the mountains.

For this workshop you will need to bring suitable studded running footwear (eg Inov8, Salomon or Sportiva fell / trail running shoes), a lightweight bum bag or rucksack with water and a snack, full body waterproofs and a map of Snowdonia and a compass.

This workshop will be most useful for keen runners looking to gain confidence in running in the mountains or competing in fell races. Meet at the Plas y Brenin bar at 1.00pm; maximum ratio 1:6.

Introduction to Big Wall Climbing with Calum Muskett

This workshop will concentrate on the essential skills necessary for big wall climbing, namely: jumaring techniques; hauling with different devices; id climbing and lowering out; big wall ropework; and planning for the wall.

For this workshop you will need to bring with you a harness, belay plate and helmet. If you have jumars, etriers, pulleys or pulley traxion

devices, then please bring them along as well.

This workshop will be most useful for regular climbers looking to progress from multi-pitch climbing to climbing multi-day big walls such as El Capitan.

Meet at the Plas y Brenin bar at 11.00am. The session will take place on the PYB training wall and at a local crag if the weather is suitable; maximum ratio 1:6.



How to book a workshop

Bookings will be taken on a first come, first served basis. To make a booking please email Calum Muskett at:

calum_muskett@hotmail.co.uk with your preferred workshop. Bookings close on Friday 23 October; if a workshop has fewer than three people booked on it, it will not be run.

Other News

Yr Wyddfa - Snowdon: Have your Say!

An opportunity to influence the future management of Snowdon

As the vast numbers of visitors to the Snowdon area tails off after the busy summer months, plans are afoot to begin a widespread consultation on the future management of this iconic mountain.

Between now and Christmas we will be providing opportunities for anyone with an interest in the mountain to voice their opinions and share their ideas.



Early this year Snowdonia National Park brought together all the organisations and businesses that play a part in the on-the-ground management of the mountain to form the Snowdon Partnership. Members of the Partnership include representatives from Snowdonia National Park, The National Trust, Snowdonia Society, Gwynedd and Conwy Councils, Snowdon Mountain Railway, Natural Resources Wales, the Northern Local Access Forum and Snowdonia Active as well as farming unions and local mountain rescue teams. These are all organisations that on a day to day basis are actively involved in some way in the management of the mountain, be it footpath repairs and maintenance, volunteer work, promoting tourism, sheep and cattle farming, conservation work or rescues. The purpose of the Partnership is to not only to ensure that we have a co-ordinated approach to the management of the mountain, but that we also have a group that can drive forward the creation of a new management plan through widespread consultation with stakeholders.

Definition: "management plan" A 'tool' to guide managers and other interested parties on how an area should be managed, today and in the future. A management plan usually includes objectives, goals, standards and guidelines, management actions, and monitoring plans.

The Partnership would like to hear your views as BMC members on how you would like to see this mountain managed into the future. The ability to discuss and influence future management decisions won't stop once the management plan has been created either – we'll then be setting up the Snowdon Forum – an open forum where stakeholders will be able to discuss issues and ideas with members of the Snowdon Partnership.

Snowdon is a mountain with a special place in all our hearts – over the past year talking to people informally to gather initial views on the area it has been clear to me that this is truly a mountain like no other. People genuinely care for and have strong and passionate views about how we should be managing it. To me this is fantastic – yes it will be challenging to balance everyone's views on how and what should be done - but I'm confident that by working together we can produce a really exciting management plan that will balance the demands of recreation, farming and conservation, whilst protecting and improving the mountain for the next generation.

For the initial consultation a number of drop-in sessions have been arranged to gather people's views. You can drop-in at any of the following locations to have your say:

*** Monday, October 5th, 2 - 7pm Beddgelert Tourist Information Centre, Beddgelert**

*** Monday, October 12th, 2-7pm, at Snowdonia Park Inn, Waunfawr**

*** Wednesday October 14th, 2 – 7pm, Electric Mountain, Llanberis**

Following this there will be a seminar held on the evening of November the 9th at the Royal Victoria Hotel in Llanberis. The seminar will be an opportunity to have detailed discussions and debates and to further explore the views and ideas from the drop-in sessions.

For more details and/or to book your place at the seminar visit the website:

www.snowdonpartnership.co.uk

Or if you have any questions you can contact: Helen Pye, 07766 255 505/01766 772 232 or Helen.pye@eryri-npa.gov.uk

Gogarth South

The long awaited arrival of the Gogarth South guidebook is imminent! It's currently on its way to people's bookshelves from the printers. Congratulations Simon Panton and the Ground Up team.

