

## **BMC Cymru/Wales Latest**

Before going into the minutes of the last meeting, the BIG news is that Elfyn Jones has been appointed as the BMC's Access and Conservation Officer for Wales. He'll be starting in September. It's been a long road getting this important post created but Elfyn is without doubt a great choice. We wish him every success with his new job and go easy on him....to start with at least.

More here: <http://www.thebmc.co.uk/News.aspx?id=3141> and <http://www.snowdonia-active.com/news.asp?newsid=650>

Secondly, as you've probably heard, or various versions of it, the footpath from Dinorwig to Nant Peris through the Dinorwig slate quarries will be closed for filming purposes from around 29th June for at least four weeks. Rumours that the climbing is going to be banned after that have no substance. BMC Cymru are in ongoing discussions with First Hydro to try and address their concerns over damaged fencing etc.

Now to the last meeting; held at the Deganwy Castle Hotel, June 9th 2009. Food was good and starting at 21.17 it was all over bar the shouting by 22.12 (thanks Mike). The stalwarts that showed their support for all things climbing and hill walking in Wales included: *David Allison, Andy Boorman, Paul Ingram, Dave Prendergast, Steve Long, Simon Panton, Jon Ratcliffe, Gavin Foster, Perry Hawkins, Jo Bertalot, Keith Scarlett, Owen Darwin, Mark Dicken, Mark Sykes, Garry Smith, Tim Palmer, Andy Barker, John Palmer, Ray Wood, Mike Raine, Cliff Rhys Matthews, Arwel Roberts, K.C. Gordon, Jim Wiltshire, Jim Kelly, Julia Kelly, Rocio Siemens, Owen Samuel, Toby Keep, Dave Simpson, Dan Middleton (BMC Technical Officer), Mike Hendry, Elfyn Jones, Chris Parkin.*

Another good attendance of 34 with apologies from: *Mark reeves and Gwenda Wiltshire.*

***BMC's Access and Conservation Officer for Wales.*** Interviews taking place tomorrow - six candidates. Mike Raine is on the interview panel (outcome above).

***All Wales Coast Path.*** Due to open in 2012; originally told going to use existing rights of way but in Gwynedd, Andy Godber, says they are planning to do more than that. There will be more on these developments.

***Assembly Reception for Mountaineering in Wales.*** Mike Isherwood AM - need to organise a reception for Mountaineering in Wales at the Assembly. Timed to coincide with Access and Conservation Officer taking up his post in September?

***SWMC agreed to co-host 2010 BMC AGM on the Gower.***

***Tremadog.*** Festival was a great success (report in previous newsletter). Amount of sycamore has been greatly reduced. Entrance to paths has been marked by logs: no need for signs or interpretation boards. Steve Long isn't far off

completing text for new guide.

**Limestone.** HUGE thanks to Pete Harrison - buy him a pint. Chris Parkin reported that Pete has checked and rebolted 32 routes on LPT. If he's missed a route it's because it is choss. Andy Boorman requested an update on situation at Craig y Forwyn - appears HQ are still awaiting deeds.

**Warm-up Posters.** BMC Warm up posters to be produced in Welsh

**MountainSafe.** BMC will be attending along with mountain rescue teams and Nat'l Parks. Elfyn felt scheme was going in the right direction and wasn't really aimed at experienced hill walkers but more at 'Snowdon hill-goers'.

**Olympics.** BMC Cymru don't want to actively lobby but aren't saying 'no'. Fine unless it costs us money. Ed Douglas is doing a piece in the next issue of Summit. The North-West Area will discuss again at their meeting, if you have concerns bring them to the September meeting.

**Eisteddfod August '09.** First week of August. We need more Welsh speaking volunteers to help out at the Eisteddfod in Bala. CMC leading on this but you can put your name forward via [bmccymruwales@live.co.uk](mailto:bmccymruwales@live.co.uk). Launch of hill walking book in Welsh - looking for a 'celeb'.

**MLTW are Appointing an Officer.**

**MIC.org.** Mike Raine stated that the MIC.org write-up by Garry Smith in the last newsletter was a report and not a promotion.

**Castell Helen.** Majority felt abseil station didn't need bolting. Pegs and nuts were adequate.

**The Diamond - Little Orme.** Jon Ratcliffe enquired about funding for fixed stainless steel cable to access Diamond and extend window of climbing time. Dan Middleton replied that he didn't think it would qualify for Crag Care Fund. Simon Panton felt the bird ban needs to be reassessed - nesting pattern changed?

**Upper Pen Trwyn.** Chris Parkin said rings on lower-offs tell you they've been checked. Rings reduce tension on staple bolts and prevent them spinning. Need more. Agreed to ask BMC for £500. Shouldn't be a problem since as Andy Boorman pointed out: "BMC took on responsibility for putting bolts in and maintaining lower-offs."

**Craig y Forwyn.** Request for people not to park half-way along approach lane opposite caravan park or at top of lane by the green - locals have been complaining. Gate to parking area needs fixing as does stile at bottom of field. Crag Care Fund suggested. Lane itself needs hard core putting down - Dave said he had access to some at £5/ton. Guy Keating informed.

**Bolt Fund.** Jim asked how much is in it? Chris P replied about £600 - more money required since price of stainless steel has rocketed.

**Any questions? Email us [bmccymruwales@live.co.uk](mailto:bmccymruwales@live.co.uk)**

**Our next meeting is September 1<sup>st</sup>, Vaynol Arms, Nant Peris 8.00 pm Free food.**

**See you all there where Elfyn (Access and Conservation Officer for Wales) will be formally introducing himself.**