

July 2007

BMC CYMRU



NEXT MEETING TUESDAY 4TH SEPTEMBER 8PM

The Vaynol, Nant Peris - Free Food - All Welcome

The meeting will discuss:

- North Wales Bolt Fundraising;
- Guidelines or not?
- Open Forum and anything arising from this newsletter
- North Wales Climbing and Hillwalking Fun day (previously known as AGM)

North Wales Bolt Fund

The BMC have recently donated 1395 bolts to the North Wales Bolt Fund. This is fantastic news and a real pat on the back for all the hard work done over the last few months by Chris Parkin, Mark Reeves and Mark Dicken. The fund has also had 200' of static rope donated to it by totalaccess.co.uk,

thanks guys

North Wales Bolt Fund Guidelines: Do we need 'em?

Some say we do, some say we don't. So far everyone involved seems to have done a sound job. If we are to have guidelines what would they look like, here's your starter for 10.

- Re-bolt like for like on all classic routes
- No re bolting on classic trad lines
- Add bolts where first ascensionist skimped due to finance or lack of effort, with their

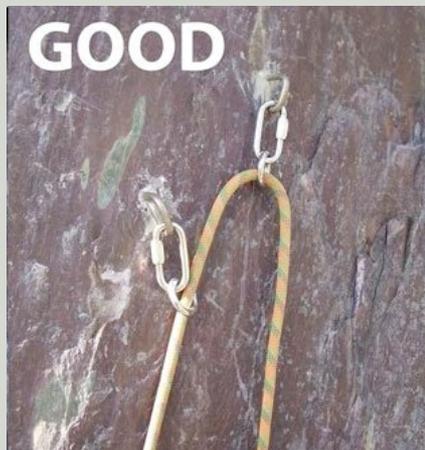
consent.

- Replace rotten old pegs and dodgy in situ kit with good bolts
- Add lower off's
- Retro bolting of neglected routes on case by case basis
- New sport routes to be on compact, protectionless rock or scruffy loose worthwhile rock. Bolts can be used from the fund (but not BMC bolts) if activist has done some re-bolting subject to scrutiny by his or her peers

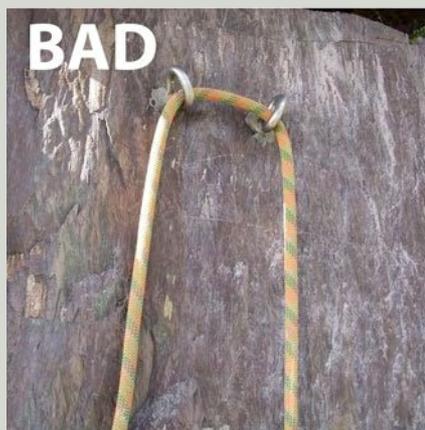
ECO WEAR

Not a new un-bleached cotton fashion range but a serious climbing problem!

Many of the DMM Eco bolts used as lower-offs at the top of routes on Lower and Upper Pen Trwyn, Llandudno, North Wales are starting to show signs of wear due to the practice of lowering off and top roping with ropes threaded directly through the bolt eye.



Some of this wear is serious and well beyond the DMM recommended limit. Most of the bolts are still soundly fixed in the rock but if the wear is to continue replacements will be required. An awkward, difficult and expensive task that costs at least £14 per double lower-off plus all the effort and associated risks to the volunteers who will have the task to drill and install.



To address the problem the BMC and The NWBF (North Wales Bolt Fund) have recently purchased 300 marine grade

stainless steel maillons and 300 marine grade stainless steel certified welded rings - this is sufficient for 150 lower-offs and should be sufficient to sort most of the popular routes on upper and Lower Pen Trwyn.

The rings are certified to 4,750 kg so even big George Smith and big John Dunne can be sure they will take the strain Installation has started with a maillon and ring on each of the two lower-off bolts - this has been done by trained volunteers who are also testing the bolts at the same time. Severely worn bolts all be replaced.

Now you know what is being done and why please use the rings to thread your rope. Do not thread the maillons. Do not thread the bolt eyes. For the scrap-men and magpies out there, please leave the shiny new kit in place it cost £9.05 per lower-off station!

If you use a lower-off without rings then lower off your own draws except the last person. If you plan to top rope then get some screw-gates on until you're done.

Big thanks to all involved.

The NWBF is currently in debt by over £500 and is in need of financial assistance, please send donations to:

NWBF
Llysfaen,
Lon Brynteg,
Glyn Garth,
Menai Bridge,
LL59 5NU.

Anyone interested in helping out with the re-bolting of routes on the Ormes should check out thenorthwaleslimestone.wetpai

nt.com

Pen Trwyn

For anybody who climbs at the Great Orme and drives though the toll gate on the Marine Drive:

A warning has been given for all climbers who reverse or drive back through the toll gate after climbing to stop this habit immediately.

The council have been informed by the resident in the gate house that specifically climbers have been doing this and the council isn't happy. The toll gate man is pissed off with it as he gets it in the neck from his council boss.

So basically SPREAD THE WORD; DO NOT go back through the toll gate. DRIVE AROUND the marine drive after climbing. ACCESS for climbing on the Orme could be denied in the future if we (most of us have done it) ignore this warning.

Bolt training



Chris Parkin has now run two bolt training sessions for the North Wales Bolt Fund. Chris has taught volunteers how to place both expansion bolts and glue ins. Volunteers are now competent to test lower off's and replace them correctly.



Here's looking forward to all the hard work of getting on and replacing those dodgy old bolts. Nice one Chris.

Maeshafn

There is access problem at Maeshafn Quarry where it looks like the owners have applied for planning permission to reopen the quarry.

Guy Keating our Access and Conservation Officer is looking into this with locals Lee Proctor and Roger Benion. Please keep an eye on www.thebmc.co.uk for updates.

Coastal Access

Coastal access is a worry in Wales. There is a proposal in England to open up the coast for access to footpath and all the land on the seaward side including the sea cliffs and foreshore.

In Wales the responsibility has been delegated to local authorities. This could lead to a piecemeal approach around Wales and leave us with no legal right to access sea cliffs as is being proposed in Wales.

It is imperative that you vent your feeling to your assembly member.

You can download at appropriate letter in the Access and Conservation area of www.thebmc.co.uk

Access Forums

we need representatives to go to the Anglesey and Gwynedd Access Forum Meetings.

Please contact me if your are interested:
mikerraine@hotmail.com

BCM Access and Conservation Group

The next Access, Conservation and Environment Group meeting will be held on September 7th (evening) at Plas y Brenin. There will be discussions around:

- a BMC Accessibility statement (i.e. should we have a position statement regarding large purpose built footpaths for the disabled / footpath creation in general)
- The coastal access consultation in England (and Wales update)
- Group use
- Environment policy implementation

It is important the BMC Cymru is well represented at this meeting I will go and would like to take four or five other people along. Please let me know if you are interested at mikerraine@hotmail.com

National Council

The BMC's National Council meets four times a year. It is the main policy making group of the BMC and each BMC area sends along two representatives. Your representatives are Roger Benison and Mike Raine.

Our last meeting was on the 16th of June in a wet Peak District. We had an excellent presentation from Ian Carr about the work of the BMC Guidebook Committee. Stanage has just been published to universal acclaim and Frogatt/Curbar

should follow shortly.

Ways of increasing membership were discussed and we received copies of the new BMC Crag code, these will be available to see at our next meeting in September. We also had a look at the BMC's new environmental Policy this is available to view at www.thebmc.co.uk

Snowdonia National Park

PYP/PYG Path - there seems to be some sort of delay surrounding the start date for work on this already approved path. I believe the National Park would also like to improve the parking surface alongside the road at Peny Gwryd.

Funding has been approved for a new fence along the top of Bwlch y Moch. We will be able to help with this task by taking down the old fence. If you can volunteer to help with this task please let me know mikerraine@hotmail.com as yet we haven't got a date for the work but once we get one we will need to be able to move fast. I'll let you know as soon as I can.

Mountain Safe

Snowdonia National Park Authority, North Wales Mountain Rescue Assoc. and North Wales Police, have begun a project to see if we can reduce the number of mountain accidents in Snowdonia by educating the tourists / walkers and to lesser extent climbers who visit the mountains of Snowdonia.

They have formed a partnership under the title of 'MountainSafe'

To start with they have looked at two main areas, Snowdon

and the Ogwen valley. We have analyzed the accident data, held centrally, by Mountain Rescue England and Wales, and have drawn up a profile of, who has accidents, where they occur and when they occur.

It was noted that in over 50% of cases, casualties were unhurt, were mostly walkers, and only needed escorting off the mountain by the Rescue Team.

It was noted that no map, poor navigational skills, poor planning and a lack of experience or training were key factors in the rescues.

They decided to publicise the main points of the report, along with a Mountain Safety, message through the Press. The highest percentages of casualties live in the South, North West and Midlands of England.

With the high number of casualties being unhurt, usually misplaced / lost, it was decided that a Navigation Training day would be held at Plas y Brenin. The course would be a Basic Navigation Course, and would also be useful for walkers who needed to brush up on their skills or just needed a boost to their confidence in navigation techniques.

The training day was staffed by Local Mountain Rescue Team members (Ogwen Valley MRO and Llanberis MRT), Snowdonia National Park Wardens and Staff from Plas y Brenin. A second free Navigation Training Day is to be held in the Autumn and is already fully booked.

Winter and Summer safety/advice posters are being prepared .

Illegal Off Roding

There was an inaugural meeting of the North Wales Alliance to Manage Off Roding in Blanaeu Festiniog on 5th July.



motorbike damage in the Moelwynion

BMC Cymru were represented by Debbie Wheldon and Mike Raine.

A large problem of erosion, damage to habitats, intrusive noise and smell has developed in the Moelwynion. The police welcome information on sightings in this area. You can help by informing them of when and where you see illegal off roading.

Try to give them the location, the time, any licence plates on show and a description of the bike and it's rider, the sooner you can report this the more chance the police will have of catching them.

Guidebook updates

Progress continues on the Slate and Gogarth guidebooks by Ground Up. Simon has sent out several sections for comment now and things are looking very good. Off course we can't pin him down to a publication date but it's looking good for this winter.

Wiki's

Don't forget to visit the following Wiki's and add your comments
www.gogarth.wetpaint.com
www.slate.wetpaint.com

www.tremadog.wetpaint.com
All sites have now got weather links including the closest webcams, so you can have a look at the weather before you go.

www.thebmc.co.uk

Visit the new BMC website which has been dramatically improved at www.thebmc.co.uk It includes Welsh news in Welsh.

Those folks amongst you aren't actually members of the BMC or affiliated clubs will find it dead easy to join here. What reason could you possible have for not parting with less than £30 a year?

It should be pretty obvious what the BMC is doing for you now (you'll be eating food paid for them at the next meeting if nothing else!)

Cyrmreag

I would like all BMC Cymru's papers to be produced in Welsh but I need Welsh speakers to help with translation. If you would like to help out with this please contact me mikerraine@hotmail.com

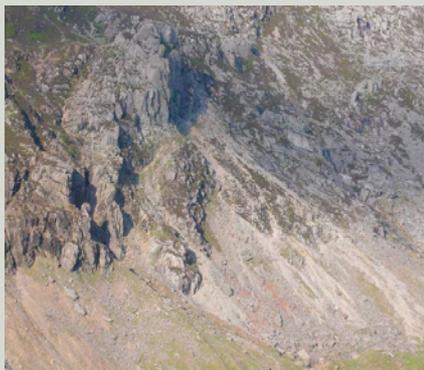
The Climber's Club

Their new website is worth a quick look. They've open up the new routes section so you can see the routes that have been sent in. This should encourage climber's to record their routes more effectively and help the CC produce some brilliant guides in the future!
www.climbers-club.co.uk

Pass issues

Parking is an issue, erosion is an issue, loose rock above the Nose is an issue, a valley footpath is an issue, potential gardening of lost routes is an issue and we need an environmental

impact survey on the impact of climbing.



erosion below Dinas Cromlech

We will need to raise the profile of climbing here and it's financial benefit to the local areas as well as it's historical and cultural importance.

We would then be in a position to lobby for footpath management (particularly on the Cromlech approach before it deteriorates any further).

But, this would take a lot of time, BMC Cymru would like a volunteer to head up this proactive work and and fly our flag for the Pass.

Ferry Swell on Gogarth

Please keep your reports of encountering the Ferry Swell at Gogarth coming in please. We need to know when and where it happened and what the consequences were or could have been.

Reports to simonpanton@northwalesbouldering.com please.

Welsh Team on Tour

The Welsh youth climbing team, Formed from the winners of the Welsh Final of the youth climbing series, travelled up to Edinburgh last month to show the rest of the UK what we've been up to.

Those of you familiar with Dogtown and the Z-boys, will be able to picture the scene; kids bouncing off the walls, goading the competition, some of our more enterprising lads were collecting phone numbers

Ratho wall is very big and the routes are very long, all the endurance training the kids had done was going to come in handy. In the end we put in a very respectable performance, with six top ten positions, with valiant performances from all.

The only sad note came from one of our star athletes, who managed to hyper extend her elbow falling off her first climb, effectively taking herself out the competition.

She remained stoic though, having spent the week at Ratho climbing anyway!

I was very impressed by the whole team and their heroic parents who took on the long trek up north, many of whom were later seen wandering around the quarry mumbling "I'm sure I climbed something here in the 80's..."

Welsh climbing looks safe in the hands of our young stars, Bring on next year. Full results can be found on the BMC website.

Mark Dicken

Welsh Assembly Members interests

It was suggested at the meeting before last that it might be a good idea to see if we have any potential friends in Government.

A quick internet search reveals that there is lots of information on this freely available. Would

anyone like to volunteer to coordinate this information gathering on behalf of BMC Cymru in light of the new elections, please?

Summit articles

We are still looking for articles for the Welsh pages in Summit. Clive James heads up this work and he is very keen to hear your ideas.

You can write in English and Clive will have it translated, or of course you can write in Welsh and it will be translated.

Your article could be about anything with a welsh theme, be it bouldering, rock climbing, hill-walking or environment. Please send your ideas to clivejames@gwynedd.gov.uk

Keep in touch

To receive this newsletter directly email mikerraine@hotmail.com



Climbing Wall Award

Mountain Leader Training to introduce a new award in 2008

The idea of an award aimed specifically at supervisors responsible for groups at climbing walls has been discussed for many years.

Following last year's national consultation exercise, the Mountain leader Training Boards will be inducting course providers over the winter

months and introducing the new Climbing Wall Award in early 2008

The Climbing Wall Award training and assessment courses will be delivered at suitable walls that offer a variety of features and teaching facilities.

In 2008 the national Mountain Leader Training boards will be inviting registrations from people who have logged suitable experience on artificial climbing walls.

The main award is aimed at the typical top roping and bouldering facility. The course will focus on party supervision, safety and coaching movement skills.

Because of the variety of facilities available, we have taken the step of offering an additional "bolton" module for facilities that include top access belay stations and abseiling.

The logbook page will be clearly designed to show the remit of the award holder at a glance.

We will also be introducing a qualification for teaching leading on artificial awards later in the year. You can contact info@mltuk.org for further information

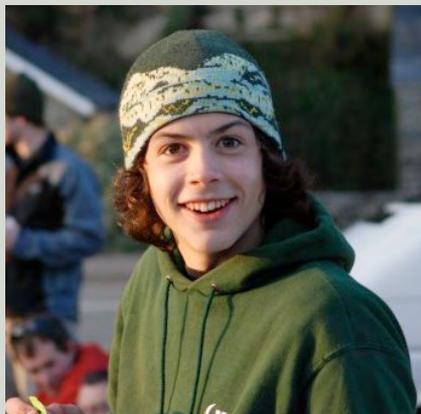
Mountain Heritage

The Mountain heritage Trust (MHT) are seeking to expand the biographical database they hold on their website.

All the people listed in the database are, or have been, in some way important in climbing, hill walking or mountaineering terms.

If you would like to know more or think you can help please contact maxine@mountain-heritage.org

Ioan Doyle on the Tele!



Look out for rising young gun Ioan on the tele. He's currently being filmed by local cameraman the extraordinary Al Hughes.

Letter from the South

There have been two meetings and one crag clean up. Major thing achieved so far is the clean up. The crag that received some TLC was *Penallta*, a un-quarried sandstone crag.

Around 25 people or so turned up removing broken bits of glass, beer cans etc, whilst others cut down some ivy trees (with permission) and cleaned out a lot of cracks from vegetation.

A really successful day, followed by a spread at a local pub put on by the BMC.

Went back there this weekend and is still looking good. Could easily spent another day there, as a lot of other routes went untouched but we did what we could in one day.

The next plan is clean up another sandstone crag, called

Abbey Buttress that over looks the Port Talbot steel works, a rumored date for this is the 18th August."

Stu Llewellyn

Pete's Bistro

Now open in Llanberis, Pete Norton, climber's friend for years, has developed a new watering hole for the latter-day upwardly mobile climber and hillwalker. Pete's Bistro is now open seven nights a week serving Spanish styles Tapa's. The obvious place to visit after a session at sector Costa Dali!

