

South Wales **Outdoor Activity Providers Group**

Minutes of Third Group Meeting

4th April, 2011 at The Climbing Station, Treforest at 6.30pm

In Attendance

Adrian Herald – Adrenaline Buzz	Lee Garbett – Quest Adventures
Andy Cummings – Manzoku	Luke Maggs – CCW
Andy Lamb – Wales Outdoors	Marcus Baillie – AALS
Andy Meek – Storey Arms OEC	Mark Soanes – Call of the Wild
Arwel Hughes - Antur	Martin Jackson – In2Adventures
Ben Scholes – Rhondda Cynon Taff	Martin Long – AALS
Bill Beynon – Trinity St. David’s University	Matt Perrott – Climbing Station
Carl Durham – Black Mountain Activities	Matt Rees – Dolygaer OEC
Chris Pierce – Woodlands OEC	Mike D-E – Rock UK
David Williams – Neath Port Talbot College	Mike Walklin – Gwent Adventures
Dean Jenkins - Princes Trust Llanelli	Nick Winder – Tirabad RET
Dylan Gibbs – Taff Valley Activities	Paul Donovan – Adventure Works, IOL, AALS
Gary Evans – Hawk Associates	Punch Maughan – Brecon Beacons Tourism
Gavin Clifford – Antur	Rhodri Arnold – Adventure Beyond
Gerwyn James – MOD (DELMs OPS Brecon)	Richard Hill – Glasbury House OEC
Gez Richards – BBNPA	Riki Phillips – Mynydd Outdoor Adventure
Helen Pye – BBNPA	Ryan Stamp – Cardiff Outdoor Activities Team
Hopkin Smith – Taff Valley	Simon Neenan – Atlantic College
Ieuan Starks – School Camp Ltd.	Steffan Davies – Sbri Cymru
Jeff Calligan – Mountain & River Activities	Steve Kivell – Bryn Bach Park
Jethro Moore – Adventure Beyond	Steve Roberts – Blue Mountain Activities
John Cilliers – Rock UK	Tim Oliver – Wilderness Centre
John Cliffe – AALS	Tom Partridge – RCT Miskin Project
Jon Everington – Glasbury House OEC	Tony Finnis – Outposts Ltd.
Juliet Parker-Smith – Trewern OEC	Will Kilner – Black Mountain Activities
Keith Lee – Bikes and Hikes	Wyn Thomas – Princes Trust Llanelli
Kim Jones – Mountain Bike Tours	

1. Welcome

The meeting was opened by Andy Meek, SWOAPG Chairman, thanking everyone for attending. The chairman thanked Matt and his Staff at the Climbing Station for hosting the meeting and also thanked Tom Partridge, Jethro Moore and Gary Evans for giving up their time to deliver the Gorge Walking Workshop delivered during the day. It had been a very successful Workshop and this was the first of what would hopefully be an ongoing series of useful Workshops for SWOAPG members. It is important to remember that SWOAPG is not here to police it’s members, but it can play a useful role in helping to raise standards. We have clearly been putting a lot of time and effort into matters relating to Dinas, but it is important to remember that the Group has responsibility throughout South Wales and the Brecon Beacons and our focus must be on the whole area. The Chairman welcomed feedback from all members on the work being undertaken by the Coordinator and the Steering Group, either at meetings like this one, or in person at any time.

2. Apologies

Ade Thomas – ADE	Martyn Farr – Farrworld
Aled Davies – Expeditions Wales	Matt Woodfield – Freelance
Angie Hunt – Taste for Adventure	Michelle Williams – Williams Welsh Walks
Charlie Hammond – Coleg Sir Gar	Nick Fitzgerald – Robert Jeffrey Centre
Claire Davies – Swansea Watersports	Nigel Flude – Links College
David Windebank – Coleg Gwent Usk	Roger Heslop – Capital Adventure Wales
Fred Wright – Interactivities	Sean Taylor – Hereford Council
Geoff Haden – Clyne Farm	Simon Dye – PGL
Graham Harvey – Trinity St. David's University	Steve Rayner – Scout Association
Jo Ricketts – Coleg Powys Brecon	Tim Jarvis – Coleg Gwent
Jon Pilling – Royal Air Force	Tom Johnstone – Fairbridge West Midlands
Kevin Walker – Mountain Activities	Treads & Trails
Martin Smith – Martins Walks	

2. Update on Membership and SWOAPG Progress

Gary presented the following summary.

SWOAPG Membership

Level 1 Members – 11
Level 2 Members – 63
Level 3 Members – 67
Not Joined Yet – 14
Associate Members – 5
Observers – 15
Total – 175

Actions from November Meeting

1. Remaining Providers to Join
We will continue to work to get all local Providers on-board and will bring in new members as we are approached by them or become aware of them.
2. Complete SWOAPG Terms of Reference
This document has been completed and will be discussed later in the meeting.
3. Dinas Access Issues
We will be discussing this later in the meeting and will continue to take it forward.
4. Llangattock Access
We have now received the draft agreement and maps and Gary is waiting for BBNPA to make some initial changes before circulating the document for comment.
5. Run further Code of Conduct Training Sessions
There is a session booked for 11th April and one will be run later in the year.

6. Website Development
A meeting has taken place to agree the content of the Website and a specification is being put together. Gary explained that all SWOAPG members will have the opportunity to suggest suitable Website Development organisations to Tender. A question was asked about who the Website was aimed at. Gary responded by saying that it was primarily for SWOAPG members and organisations that we engage with. There would be some Visitor relevant information on the site, but it would not be used for Marketing purposes, as this is not one of the Objectives of SWOAPG.
7. Include Environmental Charter in SWOAPG
Jethro Moore is leading on this and will discuss it later in the meeting.
8. Arrange Third Meeting
We're having it !
9. CPD for Instructors and Staff
Today's Worksop is the first of the planned sessions. There will be a Coasteering Workshop in May and then in late May or early June we hope to run an Environmental Species Training Day for Outdoor Instructors working with, CCW and BBNPA.
10. Access Issues
We are working on Access at Llangattock and Reservoirs for Canoeing and will seek to assist with Access issues that are highlighted as we go forward.
11. Pools Inspection in Sychryd Gorge and at Loonies Leap
This is planned to take place later in April. The results will be made available to all SWOAPG members, however, Gary stressed that the report will only reflect the conditions found on the day of inspection.
12. Water Quality in the Gorge.
Information on this, provided by Tom Partridge, was included in the minutes of the November meeting.

Key SWOAPG Actions Since November 2010

- Distribution of Alerts and Relevant Information
All Alerts are now being forwarded by SWOAPG as soon as they are received and information being sent out when requested is considered for suitability and then sent via the appropriate Level lists. Gary hoped that this was working for members, as he was conscious that people wanted to be informed, whilst not being swamped with information.
- Group Membership
A large amount of time has been put in to this. Gary thanked the members of the Steering Group for helping with this task. We are down to the final 14 organisations that have not joined. Considering that some of these have come out of the woodwork very recently, we have done well so far and will continue to seek 100% membership and therefore representation as far as is practicable.

- **Steering Group Meetings**
The Steering Group met again on 26th January and will meet again on 3rd May.
- **Wales Activity Tourism Organisation (WATO) Representation**
Our representation to WATO has continued, working collaboratively with Punch Maughan, Director of BBT, to represent our South Wales (and Brecon Beacons) area. Punch will be going through the current priorities for us in relation to WATO later in the meeting.
- **Funding for SWOAPG for Future**
We are funded by WATO and Collabora8 via BBT until April 2012, but have been working on secured funding beyond that. We hope to get the backing of the 3 Regional Tourism Partnerships that relate to our area of operation and are looking at other possibilities.
- **Coasteering Research Questionnaire.**
A research questionnaire was recently circulated to SWOAPG members and we have been promised a copy of the findings of the project once it is complete. This will be provided to all members.
- **Liaison with FCW on Dinas Works and Gorge Panel**
We have had input to the content of the new Gorge Walking Panel being prepared for Dinas that will make it clear to all visiting Groups that they need to have signed the Concordat to use the site for Gorge Walking. We have also provided support to FCW in guiding the ground-works that have taken place at Dinas and Jeff Calligan is liaising with the Contractors building the new Changing Area to ensure it is located appropriately.
- **Cambrian Mountains Initiative**
We were asked to contribute to the Cambrian Mountains Initiative, providing recommendations on Outdoor Activities in the area of the Initiative. We decided that, as it only just creeps into the North West of our area of operation, that we had neither the time available to get involved, nor did we want to make decisions about activity provision out of our area. Details of our members who are located within the project area were forwarded to the Project Coordinator so they could be asked to contribute.
- **SWOAPG Vision Statement**
We have produced a Vision Statement for SWOAPG, based on our Terms of Reference, which will be provided to meet the needs of Collabora8.
- **Reservoirs Access for Canoeing and Kayaking**
We have been working with Gez Richards, the BBNPA SPLASH Officer, to launch a Pilot Programme of access to Welsh Water Reservoirs. This matter will come up later on the Agenda.
- **Dinas Changing Screens Consultation**
Thank to Ben Scholes for running a consultation on the temporary SWOAPG Website, on the proposed Changing Screens for Dinas. Thanks to all those who contributed to the design at the November meeting and took part in the Website Consultation. The overwhelming response was yes to the screens, with

reservations about privacy and security. All concerns were forwarded to FCW and considered in the final design.

- Attendance at Tourism Meetings :
 - Gary Evans and Mark Soanes attended a BBNPA Marketing for sustainability Workshop for SWOAPG on 16/02/11
 - Mark Soanes attended a BBNPA Tourism in Action Conference for SWOAPG on 02/03/11
 - Mark Soanes will attend a Sustainable Tourism Partnership meeting for SWOAPG on 06/04/11

Planned SWOAPG Actions

- Remaining Providers to Join
The SWOAPG Steering Group will have a final push to get the remaining 14 organisations to join.
- Dinas Access Issues Completion
Guidance on Access at Dinas in terms of parking, behaviour, etc. will be published following the discussion later in this meeting.
- Llangattock Access
The access agreement documents will be circulated once BBNPA has made some initial changes.
- Reservoirs Access Pilot Launch
Assuming there is sufficient support from SWOAPG members , the Pilot will launch later this year.
- Mines and Tunnels Inspection and Administration
We will discuss this later in the meeting, but this scheme is being taken on by SWOAPG and we will be asking members that use the sites to contribute to the inspection process in the next few weeks.
- Mellte Survey for Gorge Walking
CCW have indicated that they are likely to survey the Mellte in 2011 to look at the impact of Gorge Walking and to define the condition of the river in terms of Plants and Wildlife there. We will remain closely involved throughout and will keep all SWOAPG members informed.
- Code of Conduct 2012 Guidance Notes and Map Reprint
Guidance notes are being drawn up to help members with Staff training and the Map is being reprinted this year.
- Valleys Regional Park (VRP)
A large initiative taking place in the valleys from Newport to Kidwelly to coordinate, drive and promote activities related to the environment and heritage and associated tourism activities across the valleys of South Wales, to change the reality and perceptions of the Valleys as a highly desirable place to live, work and visit.

Gary and Mark Soanes attended the last VRP meeting and it was clear that there will be opportunities to get involved with marketing, local initiatives and access improvements through this project. Gary is working with Luke Maggs of CCW to undertake an Activities mapping exercise.

Further details at <http://www.thevalleys.org.uk/>

4. SWOAPG Terms of Reference

The proposed SWOAPG Terms of Reference had been circulated to all members with the Agenda for this meeting with a request to consider it's suitability. The Chairman asked for any comments or suggested changes to the document. There were none.

The meeting voted on acceptance of the SWOAPG Terms of Reference document.

All in Favour

5. Guest Speaker – Marcus Baillie, Adventure Activities Licensing Service

Marcus gave a presentation on 'the Future Regulation of Adventure Activities'. A copy of the PowerPoint presentation is provided with these minutes.

Key points from the presentation :

- The proposed changes follow the statement by Lord Young of Graffham in October 2010 to 'abolish the Adventure Activities Licensing Authority and replace licensing with a code of practice ... that the HSE will oversee and monitor. HSE should also ensure that those planning trips can feel confident that the provider is compliant with the code'.
- AALS approach licensing by looking at safety from the perspective of young people and will work with 'anyone prepared to talk to us or listen to us, who want to get things right'
- AALS have a fair bit of experience since 1996, so we can steer whoever takes this role over to the elements that work
- AALS will continue in it's role until we are told to stop
- Our approach has been one of applying common sense to safety.
- The slide about 'cost and burden' is how HSE saw the concept of licensing pre-1996. The comment about Licensing being a 'disincentive to small providers' is what we are concerned about, as HSE struggles to reach them now.
- It is possible that there may funds available via HSE going forward for a local initiative to provide guidance to new local providers.
- With reference to the 'Different Messages' slide, Adventuremark was started following the 2004 statement that Licensing should only be replaced by something equally robust. We as a local group have to determine whether we want like for like without the £400,000 subsidy that Licensing currently receives per annum.
- With regard to the 'Mantraps with the Process' slide, it is the new and inexperienced Provider that risks lie with. These organisations will need support and nurturing that will not come from a voluntary code of practice. Also, a transitional arrangement may be a Registration Scheme, which was the Transitional arrangement before Licensing began formally.

- Any Code of Practice is unlikely to be an 'approved' scheme, so will only be guidance in reality.
- Any future scheme should only cover the activities that are covered by licensing now – not become even more onerous
- It is likely that post-licensing, NGB's will have a bigger say.
- The AAIAAC Code of Practice is something of a 'wish list', being predominantly inspirational and therefore not especially helpful.
- An approach similar to the work done to satisfy HSE over the 'Working at Height Regulations' could be useful here, as NGB recommendations being shown to meet HSE needs could well meet the needs of a new scheme.
- Keeping track – there were 850 organisations licensed in 1994 and 1250 now. HSE will need a register of who is 'out there'. There are probably another 1000 to 1500 Providers who provide activities to Adults only and are not licensed.
- On the 'Ways and Means' slide, a one stop shop and supermarket approach does not necessarily lead to a quality supplier. It would be better to have a range of ways by which we can show that we are 'doing things right'
- For optimising existing structures, we have Adventuremark for the big providers, RYA arrangements for Sailing, BCU Centre Awards for Kayaking, BHS for Trekking, etc.
- For a declaration of compliance, it is very important to live by any code of practice if you plan to sign for it, as you have no excuse if you then don't comply and something goes wrong.

Marcus then went on to explain who to contact going forward.

If you want input to what happens next, contact :

- HSE:
 - Clare McNicholas claremcnicholas@hse.gsi.gov.uk
 - Peter Brown peter.pg.brown@hse.gsi.gov.uk

If you want licensing to stay, contact :

- Your MP
 - <http://findyourmp.parliament.uk/>
- Your AM
 - <http://www.assemblywales.org/memhome/mem-previous-members/mem-profile.htm>

Question 1 : In a similar move to save money in relation to the Food Standards Agency, £21m in savings have been moved to end users, making their businesses non-viable. Are we not in danger of this happening to us ?

Answer : We should be asking for money being spent on licensing to come to us because we appear to have got rid of 'social concerns' relating to child safety and this money would help us keep it that way.

Question 2 : Can we extend licensing to all in the future under a new scheme ?

Answer : There are between 1000 and 1500 non licensed providers in the UK, on top of the licensed numbers. Without the current subsidy this would be untenable.

Question 3 : Could there be a 'Kitemark' that we run ourselves ?

Answer : Parents assume all providers are accepted as safe, but they don't check. Outdoor Education Advisors are very different. They recognise their own vulnerability in

approving providers for use by authorities, so they want to pass responsibility for safety on to the providers to keep themselves clear of litigation. They like that others (AALS and others) to do the checking and want inspection, not badges, to ensure there is no secondary risk to them. We should focus on what is best for young people.

Question 4 : Have you thought about setting up ourselves as TQS

Answer : There are very experienced Directors in TQS and they feel this won't work without the £400,000 subsidy and it is therefore not a profitable venture. Remember that the £400k is half the cost of licensing.

The Chairman then asked the meeting 'what do you want the Steering Group to do on this matter going forward ?' It was felt that this required a bit of thinking time to decide.

Marcus asked how many people were licensed and how many would prefer licensing to stay. Around $\frac{3}{4}$ of those who were licensed wanted licensing to remain.

It was suggested that these minutes and Marcus's presentation be circulated to all SWOAPG members, followed by a Questionnaire asking the membership how it would like to proceed, following which the Steering Group would be able to take the most appropriate action.

6. Guest Speaker – Punch Maughan, Brecon Beacons Tourism

Punch gave a presentation on what BBT is focussing on at present and the work being undertaken with WATO. A copy of the PowerPoint presentation is provided with these minutes.

Key points from the presentation :

6a. BBT

- Mark Soanes was nominated as a Board member of BBT by the SWOAPG Steering Group to represent SWOAPG
- 50 Activity providers are BBT members and are listed on the BBT Website, out of 220 members
- Providers are rotated in order on the BBT Activity Providers Webpage to ensure fairness
- The Get-Active Website is now the BBT member site
- BBT has been working on the Brecon Beacons Marketing Coordination Group to match businesses with the Destination Website
- More active work has been done with regard to Press and PR work for the Brecon Beacons. Alexandra Marr has taken on the Marketing Coordination role and is looking for content from any businesses in the Beacons that would like Press coverage. It is not necessary to be a BBT member to send information and News stories. Stories are sent to the Press every Monday. Send your News to : breconnews@gmail.com
- Journalists are invited to the area and Alexandra is looking for offers from businesses to take Journalists out on activities.

- Visit Wales have published information on how to send Press information via them – see Punch’s PowerPoint presentation for Web-page
- Brecon and Radnor Express publish a Summer Tourism Newspaper each year and BBT have done a page of content for this year. The focus this year is Adventure Activities.
- To contribute to the Brecon Beacons Visitor Survey, BBT is going out monthly to members to ask for e-mails of visitors to complete the survey. It would be a real help to get Outdoor Activity Visitors, so please could Providers send e-mail addresses to BBT on a monthly basis if you and your customers are willing. Send to info@breconbeaconstourism.co.uk
- An Activities Awareness Day was run in March for Accommodation Providers, which went well, with the added benefit of a Consultant from the Sustainable Tourism Strategy for BBNP taking part, allowing us a much higher profile for the Strategy

6b. WATO

- WATO was formed by Visit Wales after a series of Roadshows across Wales. Visit Wales have not done a great job in the past in marketing the Sector, having focussed on the easy things, rather than the right things. This is slowly improving as WATO influences Visit Wales Marketing staff and the new Visit Wales Website goes live later this year.
- There is a gap in Mid Wales where Outdoor Activity Providers are not represented at WATO, though it is estimated that through SWOAPG, Pembrokeshire Charter Group and Snowdonia Active, we probably represent 85% of Activity Providers in Wales.
- WATO prevented Visit Wales from recognising only Adventuremark as accreditation in the future by the input from SWOAPG
- WATO has led on research into Visitor needs and SWOAPG had input into the questions being asked. There will be a survey at Storey Arms this year rather than just at Brecon TIC, as has been the case in previous years. Further work needs to be done in future to further improve the research’s usefulness to us.
- Booking habits are changing and people are booking much later, often when they are already here. This, combined with the need to better serve the bookings made by couples and small families, leaves us with a job to do to improve the way we collectively are able to handle these bookings. WATO are particularly keen for us to find ways to better deal with this growing problem for Visitors.
- Whilst WATO have committed to provide some funding for SWOAPG, via BBT until April 2012, we do have to look beyond that and BBT and SWOAPG are working together on a 3 plan for WATO funding, as well as encouraging South West Wales Tourism Partnership along with Capital Region Tourism to assist with funding going forward.

Question 1 : How do you stop the large Providers benefiting from Marketing Opportunities, so that smaller Providers get left behind ?

Answer : BBT membership is cheaper for smaller businesses and the Press and PR opportunities are free and equal for all Providers.

Mark Soanes pointed out that whilst the support provided to SWOAPG by BBT is both crucial and very much appreciated, there are other Tourism organisations in our area that we as a group should engage with and individual Provider Organisations certainly should also, as there are a lot of marketing opportunities available. For example, Swansea Bay, Pembrokeshire, Powys, Capital Region, etc.

7. Environmental Charter – Progress

Jethro Moore explained that this will be taken forward shortly, but that it has been delayed due to all the other commitments that the group has had since November.

Gary will e-mail the SWOAPG members for their input, using a draft Charter as the starting point and asking for input on initiatives to support the Charter. All responses would be passed to Jet for collation and planning.

8. Mines and Tunnels Inspection Scheme

Juliet Parker Smith explained that Trewern OEC will be handing over the Mines and Tunnels Inspection scheme to SWOAPG this year due to other commitments. It has been a successful scheme for many years, but does rely on the support of the users of these sites for it to continue to be viable.

Gary explained that the Inspection will take place on 9th April and that SWOAPG members would be e-mailed next week to ask those that do use the Tunnels and Mines at Dinas, Torpantau and Clydach (Abergavenny) to sign-up for their copy of the Inspection report. Insurers do cover these sites on the basis of Providers adhering to the most recently available Inspection Report. With enough Providers signing up and paying the small Administration fee, we can keep the cost down for everyone.

Question : Richard Hill asked if anyone knew about plans to brick up the old, fenced off Silica Mines at Dinas ?

Answer : Helen Pye responded, explaining that Elsie Little, the Cambrian Caving Council Access Officer had asked this question and Helen had directed her to Paul Dann at FCW.

John Cliffe pointed out that the use of Mines for Groups through the route of Licensing was meeting the needs of HSE and other parties, but that without licensing in the future, this could be a very expensive and complex issue to resolve.

9. Gorge Walking at Dinas

9a. Concordat Status

The present SWOAPG situation in terms of members using the Gorge was provided :

SWOAPG Members Signed & Trained – 98

SWOAPG Signed & Not Trained – 13

SWOAPG Trained & Not Signed – 2

Total – 113

9b. FCW Planned Works for Gorge and Car Park

Gary took the meeting through the status of the planned FCW works in Paul Dann's absence :

1. Tarmac entrance - Complete
2. Car park Surface - Reshape and grade – Complete
3. Rebuild stone retaining wall on footpath to Sgwd yr Eira – Complete.
4. Construct 6 stone steps to Mellte Gorge start points – Complete
5. Install handrail at top of rock path – Complete
6. Gabions at Bridge 2 – Complete
7. Changing Screens – Under Construction
8. Improve 'Roots Climb' after Ivy Pool – Water flow has been re-directed. Further measures under consideration.

9c. Access Issues at Dinas

Gary apologised for not having had time to circulate the new Guidelines for Access at Dinas in time for the meeting. These were written following the input of SWOAPG members at the November meeting and have been agreed in this draft form by a representative of the Pontneddfechan Village Hall committee.

Gary displayed the guidelines on the Screen and worked through them asking for comments. There were three requests for changes :

1. Add in that Bad Language is not acceptable anywhere where there are children at the site, not just because of the impact on the local Community. **Agreed**
2. Re-iterate that if the car park is full, the Gorge is full. **Agreed**
3. The number suggested as a Voluntary Maximum of 40 Group members per organisation per day is too high. This was discussed without drawing a conclusion, so it was left for the Steering Group to revisit, agree the wording and then issue the guidelines.

10. Canoeing Access

Carl Durham explained that members of the SWOAPG Steering Group have been working with Gez Richards at BBNPA and representatives of Welsh Water to put in place a Pilot scheme to use 3 (possibly 4) Reservoirs for Canoeing/Kayaking with Groups. This has gone well so far and we hope to start the pilot later this year.

Gary stated that the Reservoirs are Pontsticill/Pentwyn, Llwynon, Usk and, depending on the outcomes of discussions regarding land access, Crai.

However, the scheme would only work if enough SWOAPG members would use these sites and were willing to pay for an Annual License for Access. Our target price is around £100 per Provider, but this would only work if enough joined the scheme. On the basis that this arrangement would replace all existing arraignments, Gary asked how many Providers present would be interested. A show of hands indicated around 20 people were interested. Gary will e-mail the whole membership in the coming weeks to get a fuller response to determine the viability of the scheme.

Gerwyn James asked to be involved in the discussion with Welsh Water as this would perhaps be an alternative route to the access currently being negotiated by Gerwyn for the Military.

Gary assured Mike Walklin of Gwent Adventures that Welsh Water had stated that arrangements being made at Llangedfedd Reservoir would not be affected by this scheme.

Jethro Moore informed the meeting that he has been involved in talks to open access to one of the major Welsh Rivers that presently has no access in place and that if a proposed pilot here is successful, there may be wider support for Rivers Access from WAG.

There was some discussion about changes to access to the Taff. Gary proposed that this be taken up via Valleys Regional Park Initiative who had an interest in this site.

Juliet reminded the meeting that her recent e-mail regarding parking appropriately when using the Wye at Glasbury to Hay does need us all to be considerate and not jeopardise access at this site where we unusually do have access.

11. SWOAPG Website

As previously explained, requests for Tender will the new Website will be circulated in the coming weeks.

12. Club Membership Category

Tom Partridge had enquired whether there may some benefit to having clubs join SWOAPG. This would facilitate the sharing of information both ways and clubs would benefit from the Alerts and other useful resources. The Steering Group recommend that this be done by initiating a new membership Category of 'Club Membership' to make the e-mail distribution easier to manage and to distinguish Outdoor Activity Providers from other members.

The meeting was asked to vote on whether they agreed with having a new membership category of 'Club Member'.

All in favour

Gary asked all members to forward details of any Outdoor Activity Club that they would like to join SWOAPG.

The following organisations have asked to be accepted as Associate Members :

- Llandovery Cluster
- WATO
- Youth Hostel Association
- Ride Brecon Beacons Cluster

The meeting was asked to vote on whether they agreed that these organisations should be accepted as Associate Members.

All in favour

The following organisations have asked to be accepted as Observer Members :

- Pembrokeshire Charter Group
- Snowdonia Active

The meeting was asked to vote on whether they agreed that these organisations should be accepted as Observer Members.

All in favour

There followed a discussion on whether SWOAPG members would be listed on the new SWOAPG Website and the list made available to other organisations. There were mixed views on this point. Some thought not, other thought it would be OK as long as the list rotated in order. The point was made that as we are not using the Website for Marketing, then what purpose would it serve ?

It was agreed that a list of members could be shared internally and the matter would be considered by the Steering Group and brought back to the main group at a later date.

In the meantime, Gary showed the meeting a Google map showing the location of all SWOAPG members that had been produced for BBNPA Wardens. It was agreed that a link to this should be circulated to all members.

13. Coasteering 2011

Jethro brought the meeting up to date with plans to implement the new Coasteering Guidelines. There is a Coasteering Workshop in Pembrokeshire this week and we are planning one for South Wales in May. This will be on Gower and will look at the new Guidelines and their implementation. It will be open to anyone with an interest. Details will be sent out in the next week.

Jethro also explained the access changes at Abereidly in Pembrokeshire and the impact this may have at other sites. He also stated that the parking at Abereidly will not only not be improved, despite the new parking fee, but that half the car park is likely to be lost to the sea !

14. Any Other Business

Point 1 : Gary reminded the meeting that the Steering Group will be up for election at the November meeting and the Coordinator role will be due for re-tender for 1st October this year.

Point 2 : Gez Richards had previously arranged a River Usk 'clean-up' which had been successful and had showed us meeting our environmental responsibilities. He suggested that we do the same this year for the River Wye, Glasbury to Hay after Easter.

15. Meeting Close

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending, thanked the Climbing Station for the venue and the visiting speakers, Marcus and Punch. He reminded everyone that the next Full Meeting will be in November and closed the meeting.

