

9th Full Meeting – 7th April 2014. Ty Newydd Country Hotel, Hirwaun

Pre-Meeting Networking

Time was given for members to have food / refreshments and enjoy the time socialising and networking with other SWOAPG members. A range of information was made available such as our Environmental Charter resources and a chance to speak to some of our Steering Group about a range of projects and tasks we are currently involved with-

Engagement with the BBNPA, including the Memorandum of Understanding and Sustainable Destination Partnership – **Gary Evans**

SWOAPG Workshop Development and the Code of Conduct developments in the Sychryd and Mellte Gorges – **Matt Woodfield**

WATO matters such as the Visit Wales accreditation scheme and the Miller Research into the Economic Impact of the Outdoor Industry in Wales – **Tom Partridge**

Canoeing Passport–**Tom Partridge**

Brecon Beacons Tourism and engagement with the 3 RTP's in South Wales – **Mark Soanes with Jane Ryall (BBT)**

General Information and Welcomes – **Lisa Boore**

No issues were raised during this period. Matt Woodfield stated he will be looking into organising a SWOAPG Coasteering Workshop in the near future.

Full Meeting Agenda

In Attendance

Antonia Salter-Princes Trust (Bristol)	Kevin T Hannam-Bowen-Freelance
Arwel Hughes-Antur	Lee Garbett-Quest Adventures
Chris Smith-Royal Air Force	Lisa Boore-Freelance
Dan Thorne-Woodlands OEC	Mark Soanes-Call of the Wild
Dan Warren-Torfaen CBC	Martyn Faar-Farrworld
Dave Thomas-Call of the Wild	Matt Woodfield-Freelance
David Barrow-Princes Trust (Bristol)	Mick Collins-Outdoors @ Hay
David Williams-NPTC Group	Owen Davies-Torfaen CBC
Emyr Rees-Atlantic College	Paul Dann-NRW
Gary Evans-Hawk Associates	Paul Donovan-WATO
Gavin Clifford-Antur	Riki Phillips-Mynydd Adventure
Gerwyn James-MOD	Rob Archer-Atlantic College
Jamie Ellson-Kilvrough Manor	Sean Taylor-Freelance
Jane RyallBBT	Simon Fenton-Gower Adventures
John Cliffe-AALS	Steve Rees-Freelance

Joseph Myhill-Princes Trust (Bristol)	Time Hindle-Tirabad RET
Judith Harvey-BBNPA	Tom Partridge-SWOAPG

1. Welcome:

Matt Woodfield opened the meeting, SWOAPG Chairman, thanking everyone for attending. The chairman thanked the Ty Newydd Country Hotel for the room and refreshments provided and also welcomed the guest speaker, Andy Chapman. Tom Partridge, Co-ordinator, also extended the thanks both Capital Region Tourism and South West Wales Tourism Partnership for their support and funding for this meeting in its current format. TP also commented on the recent news that post September 2014 the current structure of Regional Tourism Partnerships would end and this was both sad and it also creates an uncertain future for the funding we have received over the years from the 3 RTP's that are within the SWOAPG area (CRT, SWWTP and TPMW)

2. Apologies:

Jethro Moore	Carl Durham	Jeff Calligan
Will Kilner	Nick Winder	Tony Rees
Juliet Parker Smith	Andy Cummings	Andy Meek
Geoff Haydn	Adrian Thomas	Roger Heslop
Kevin Walker	Paul Webb	Nick Fitzgerald
Richard Hill	Dean Jones	Nigel Jones

3. Introduction to SWOAPG and Update:

TP Gave an introduction to the SWOAPG including how we work, our aims and objectives and how the members can get involved with our work. Ideas given included: submission of photos, reports, news, alerts and other relevant information so that it can be shared across the membership. Up to date membership stats were displayed as well as a reminder of our operating area.

4. Three Year Review – Outputs, Presented by Gary Evans:

GE gave an update on how the SWOAPG have been listening to the comments made at the 8th Full Meeting and started to put these into action. An example of which was our 9th Full Meeting which included networking opportunity, free food and refreshments and a guest speaker.

The output document can be seen by visiting www.swoapg.org.uk and looking in the membership zone section at the minutes and documents from the 8th Full Meeting. The presentations from the 9th Full Meeting, which included the presentation on the review outputs by Gary Evans can be found in the documents relating to the 9th Full Meeting.

5. Access:

Welsh Government Review

Welsh Government had proposed a consultation on Access in Wales, which had the potential to look at looking at a model similar to Scotland. There was a round of pre-consultation workshops, which SWOAPG was represented at, and we have been waiting the Green Paper. In the interim TP has emailed members with details of the plans and we have also been aware of various campaign and lobby groups fronted by organisations including the BMC, Canoe Wales, Countryside Alliance and also angling groups.

The responses to the plans and the lobbying undertaken by opposition groups has ultimately resulted in WG having to re-look at how the consolation process could be carried out. From our contacts within WG we have been informed that there is now no time table on a consultation and that it is likely to be split into 3 sections with Allotments being removed from the countryside access and then land and water also being split into separate consultations.

As a group, we will be disappointed that we did not have our chance to respond to a consultation and this had been our standpoint as it was better to wait for a consultation and respond than lobby for something we had no details of. As there is no timescale for this perhaps now is the time to write to a range of ministers in WG expressing the reasons why we should have a consultation on access and the importance of access to the outdoors for us as a sector. TP will be drafting a set of guidance notes with details of contacts so that members can contribute their own responses and urge WG to consider a consolation rather than postpone this for any longer.

ACTION: TP to draft guidance notes for members and also detail how and when to respond to WG and Ministers on the matter

SWOAPG Review of Access Projects:

Mellte and Dinas: Issues with the land owner on the Southern Bank of the Sychryd appear to have settled although not resolved. This has meant the 2013 mines inspection could not take place and we are doubtful we will secure permissions from the landowner for this to take place in the short term and to do so, may risk inflaming the access situation to the gorge once more. Mellte CoC training has taken place for this season and as the gorge walking season starts MW reminded all to pay full attention to the Access Rules and CoC for each site to ensure sustainable use of the areas for activity and also keeping positive relationships with the local community and land managers.

Paul Dann and Judith Harvey reported that there have been a number of car crimes in the area and also across the BBNP in general at the usual 'hot spots'. Since the meeting TP has been contacted by Dyfed Powys Police to look at information sharing and a dedicated phone number for reporting suspicious occurrences in the areas affected. Please visit the SWOAPG website and click on the Alerts tab for more info.

Wye and Usk Foundation Engagements: TP updated members on the reasons for liaising with the WUF in the hope to re-open access to the Glasbury to Hay section of the wye without the water level cut offs for the summer period which would potentially render group paddling unpractical. Responses were submitted to the proposal put forward by the WUF. Since this, the WUF have removed the conditions stated on the website and the arrangements for access are as they were during last years summer season and how they have been for many years previously. In addition, TP noted that the toilets in Glasbury were supposed to close this year but will be now taken over by the local community in the New Year, when this hand over happens there is likely to be a small donation needed from members when using the toilets, which will go directly into keeping the toilets open for use.

National Trust: MW reported no issues in our SWOAPG area with the National Trust but mentioned regional issues in the Pembrokeshire area. These link to the idea of a 'preferred' provider for a site in the area and the POCG are working closely on this with the NT in the area and WATO on a national level who also have access to the NT at a senior level too.

Canoeing Passport: TP commented that the 2014-15 passports are ready to be purchased and the fee has been lowered as well as providing a discount for organisations wishing to buy 2 permits. For full details on the scheme please visit the SWAOPG website and look for the 'projects'

tab. Here you will find info on how to join up to the scheme for this year including the application forms required.

Llangattock: MW mentioned that a meeting between a range of land managers for Llangattock had been held very recently and Will Kilner had attended. There are no current issues at this time but long term there may be an increase in fixed anchors at the top of the crag as the idea of putting in and removing stakes on a regular basis is not best for the land in the long term. The usual booking of the crag and small payment for commercial groups is administered through Crickhowell Adventure Gear in Crickhowell.

Caswell: GE updated the members on the access permit for Caswell and noted that the scheme is working well from Swansea CC point of view and only one SWOAPG member has applied for a permit. The scheme is open to all, only incurs a small charge and I directly there to manage the safety and capacity issues at the bay during busy times where demand on the resources and lifeguards is at strain. Visit our website or Swansea CC website for more info.

6. Environmental Charter:

TP presented a summary of projects, workshops, working evenings and resources produced and delivered as part of our commitment to the Environmental Charter and how its development has been assisted by the NRW grant and SWOAPG members volunteer time. Resources were displayed and available for all members present and these can also be downloaded on the SWOAPG website in the newly developed Environmental Charter page. See the membership zone and the 9th Full Meeting presentation for a range of stats and reports on our work in developing the charter.

The funding will come to an end at the end of April 2014 and we will be looking for ideas and contributions from members in time, skills and knowledge to help progress with the commitment to the charter following our great start.

7. Steering Group Nominations and Co-ordinator Position:

MW updated the members present on the current space within the steering group. As no formal nominations had been received an ask was opened up to the members present. At the time there were no nominations. Following the meeting 2 members asked about positions on the steering group.

TP stated that as he will be starting a new job role in near future he will not be looking to continue on as co-ordinator in October. There is currently funding to continue with the role for 14-15 and anyone interested in the position is urged to contact TP ASAP so that any details or information regarding the post can be exchanged. The post will be re-tendered in the mid summer.

8. AOB:

Toilets in PNF:

A member raised the issue of the lack of toilet facilities in the renovated toilets in PNF near the Angel Inn. A range of responses were given by MW, Paul Dann (NRW) and Judith Harvey (BBNPA) stating that there will be no further provision to toilets and that the local community are equally concerned over the lack of facilities there. PD noted that the local community have pledged to turn the disabled section into a full time dual use loo as well. GE summed up by saying that we are pushing on as many of the right channels as we can on the issue and so are others but at present and we will keep members updated where possible.

Brecon Beacons Tourism:

Jane Ryall from BBT mentioned that she was hoping to arrange a networking session for activity providers who are members of BBT and also accommodation providers and other BBT businesses in the near future to raise awareness of what is on offer and also share and promote business opportunities in the area. BBT members will be kept updated. JR was also available for questions on membership and joining BBT as well as Mark Soanes who was also able to provide info if needed.

Charity Abseil 20th April 2014:

Dave Thomas (Call of the Wild) mentioned that there will be a charity abseil (annual) being run at Dinas Rock on the 20th April. Details are also on the SWOAPG website. This may be of use if and when planning session at Dinas Rock on that day.

Archery GB / GNAS:

GE noted that many insurance companies are now insisting on formal archery leader qualifications (now Archery GB) for the delivery of archery under their insurance cover. The issue locally is that there are a lack of providers of the required training and information is scarce. The awards are more aimed at club and competition participants and not always fit for purpose for outdoor activity instructors. TP noted he had recently undertaken training with:

Paul Curtis - paul.porthcawl@sky.com or 01656-782386

Alternatively Contact the Welsh Archery Association - Sue Davies - sue.davies54@btinternet.com
www.welsharcheryassociation.co.uk

Full Meeting Close / Guest Speaker – Andy Chapman:

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and welcomed Andy Chapman to the stand to deliver his inspirational presentation on expeditions in both the Himalaya and Antarctica, including his ascent of Everest and voyage to the South Pole.

The next full meeting will be in October November 2014.

This meeting and the ongoing development and support for the SWOAPG is made possible by funding from:

