



## Annual Report 2023

### Preface

The South Wales Outdoor Activity Providers Group (SWOAPG) was incorporated as a (not-for-profit) Company Limited by Guarantee on 31 July 2018 (registered No 11492917, registered address Bryn Bolgoed, Libanus, Brecon LD3 8EP). It was formerly operated as an Unincorporated Association.

Registered companies are generally required to produce an annual report and submit this to both Members and Companies House. However, by virtue of its small turnover and assets, SWOAPG is designated as a 'micro-enterprise' and does not therefore need to produce an annual report (and is subject to simplified accounting requirements).

Nevertheless, the Directors have decided to produce this brief report for the benefit of Members.

This report formally covers the period 1 August 2022 to 31 July 2023 but also addresses the period 1 August 2023-31 December 2023.

### Key Personnel

A Steering Group comprising the following Members has overseen SWOAPG's operations relating to representation of outdoor activity providers and delivery of environmentally sustainable outdoor activities:

Stephen Bird, LoadedUK
Steffan Davies, Hawk Associates
Simon Fenton, Gower Adventures
Lee Garbett, Quest Adventures
Dave Grimes, Blue Dot Adventure /
Longtown Outdoor Learning Centre
Peter Jeffrey, ARC Adventures

James Martin, Call of the Wild Ltd (from Dec 2022)
Ant Morgan (from Nov 2022)
Jethro Moore, Adventure Beyond
Mike Smith, Parkwood Outdoors Dolygaer
Mark Soanes, Call of the Wild Ltd
Ieuan Starks, School Camp Ltd (to Nov 2022)

The following Directors have managed the Company's business operations, ensuring that SWOAPG operates in accordance with law and good governance practice:

Stephen Bird, LoadedUK
Dave Grimes, Blue Dot Adventure /
Longtown Outdoor Learning Centre
Jethro Moore, Adventure Beyond

Mike Smith, Parkwood Outdoors Dolygaer (from Feb 2023)
Mark Soanes, Call of the Wild Ltd

Throughout the period, Steve Rayner has been engaged as a consultant to fulfil the duties of Coordinator and Company Secretary, responsible for delivering SWOAPG's day-to-day business.

### Performance Review

The aim of SWOAPG is to promote & develop sustainable outdoor activity provision in South Wales; providing representation on behalf of all Outdoor Activity Providers active in the Brecon Beacons and South Wales area and a focal point for projects and initiatives relating to the delivery of environmentally sustainable Outdoor Activities in these areas.

During this period the Coordinator, Directors and Steering Group members have undertaken or arranged the following activities in support of this aim:

- an Annual General Meeting in November 2022, providing opportunities for Providers to share information and concerns relating to outdoor activities in the Area;
- ongoing liaison with Brecon Beacons National Park Authority (BBNPA) and Natural Resources Wales concerning the Concordat for Gorge Walking in the Waterfalls Area and with BBNPA concerning the Reservoir Passport Scheme;
- liaison with Powys County Council, NRW, SWOAPG Members and paddlesport businesses concerning the establishment of a Concordat for paddlesport operations from Glasbury to

- Hay; securing grant funding from The Canoe Foundation and Welsh Government (via Powys County Council);
- representation at meetings of Wales Adventure Tourism Organisation (WATO), the Outdoor Alliance Wales; the Senedd Cross-Party Group for the Outdoor Activity Sector; National Access Forum Wales; Brecon Beacons Local Access Forum & National Park Management Plan Stakeholder Reference Group; Brecon Beacons, Swansea Bay & Mid-Wales Tourism groups; the Waterfalls Area Safety Group; Wales Council for Outdoor Learning; and The Outdoor Partnership's South Wales Stakeholder Groups;
  - training and networking workshops for Members:
    - Jan 2023: CPD Workshop: Learn about the Blaen y Glyn area – a practical workshop for instructors, with Alan Bowring of BBNPA
    - Mar 2023: CPD Workshop: Learn about the Nedd Fechan Caves – a practical workshop for instructors, with Alan Bowring of BBNPA
    - May 2023: Invaders of the National Park: an evening workshop for SWOAPG Members to help tackle some of the invasive species found in places we visit
    - Dec 2023: Mountain Rescue in the Gorges – networking opportunity at Central Beacons MR base
    - Dec 2023: CPD Workshop: Learn about Craig Cerrig Gleisiad & Fan Frynich – a practical workshop for instructors, with Alan Bowring of BBNPA
    - provision and administration of updated online training packages covering the operation of the Concordat for Gorge-Walking in Waterfall Country for organisations and leaders;
  - and circulation to Members of important 'alerts' and other information on matters affecting outdoor activity provision and access in the Area.

At December 2023 SWOAPG had 410 Members/Subscribers<sup>1</sup> (decreased from 415 in October 2022) generating £6,650 of income. We have sufficient reserves to continue to operate with our current level of activity for the foreseeable future, but future funding remains a significant risk that the Directors will continue to monitor closely.

## Financial Accounts

A statement of accounts is attached covering both the Unincorporated Association for the periods 1 April 2017 to 31 July 2018 and the Company for the period 1 August 2018 to 31 July 2023.

These accounts are not required to be audited (since SWOAPG is a 'micro-enterprise') but they have been prepared by the Coordinator and verified by the Directors in accordance with Companies House guidelines. The accounts for 2022/23 have been submitted to Companies House and HMRC (together with a tax return) following the Company's fifth full year of trading.

## Directors' Approval

I confirm that this report has been approved by the Directors prior to publication.



Steve Rayner OBE, Coordinator / Company Secretary, 18 January 2024.

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<sup>1</sup> 70 Full Members (£89), 14 Associate Members (£30); 76 Additional Staff of Members, 31 Supporters, 218 Subscribers (all Free).