

## Minutes of an Emergency General Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2018 at Garwnant Visitor Centre

### Attendees

Zoe Anthony, Miskin	David Jones, Rock UK Summit Centre	Steve Rayner (Steering Group Member)
Jeff Calligan, Mountain & River Activities Ltd (Steering Group Member)	Hayley Lagerwej, Black Mountain Activities	Emyr Rees (Steering Group Member)
Mick Collins, Outdoors@Hay	Thomas Lagerwej, Black Mountain Activities	Dave Robinson, Parkwood Outdoors
Paul Dann, Natural Resources Wales	Katie Lloyd, Princes Trust (Steering Group Member)	Mick Standing, Black Mountain Activities
Paul Donovan (EGM Chair)	Jethro Moore, Adventure Beyond Ltd (Steering Group Member)	Ieuan Starks, School Camp Ltd (Steering Group Member)
Robert Edwards, Learn Through the Outdoors Merthyr BIW	Anthony Morgan, Rhondda Paddlers	Dave Thomas, Call of the Wild
Dyfed Evans, Quest Adventure Activities Ltd	Simon Neenan, Atlantic Outdoors (Steering Group Member)	Richard Tyler, Brecon Beacons National Park Authority
Lee Garbett, Quest Adventure Activities Ltd	Chris Pierce, Woodlands OEC	Matt Woodfield, Outdoor Matters (Steering Group Member)
Judith Harvey, Brecon Beacons National Park Authority	Rhys Pinner, Gwasanaeth Awyr Agored Urdd	Fred Wright, Inter Activities
David Hassard, Maes y Lade		Mike Wright, Fairfield High School

### 1. Welcome and Apologies

Paul Donovan welcomed everyone to the meeting, which had been called to consider the future structure and operation of SWOAPG following the withdrawal of funding by Visit Wales at the end of March. He introduced members of the SWOAPG Steering Group and representatives of Natural Resources Wales and Brecon Beacons National Park Authority (annotated above).

The following apologies had been received:

Pam Bell, Mountain & Water	Dave Grimes, Blue Dot Adventure	Eoghan Powell, Carreg Adventure
Richard Carpenter, Outward Bound (Steering Group Member)	Gerwyn James, Defence Estates	Mike Smith, Parkwood Outdoors
Owen Davies, DCWW Llandegfedd	Nigel Jones, Adventures Wales	Mark Soanes, Call of the Wild (Steering Group Member)
Dave Hanham, RipNRock	Andrew Lamb, Wales Outdoors	Kevin Walker
Richard Doyle, Ynys Hywel Activity Centre	Andy Meek, Storey Arms OEC	Nick Winder, Tirabad REC (Steering Group Member)
	Juliet Parker-Smith	
	Tom Partridge, Atlantic Outdoors	

Emyr Rees (SWOAPG Chair) then set the scene, explaining that nothing being discussed at the meeting was intended to change the purpose of SWOAPG, but was to help us to continue to do it, better.

### 2. Update on latest Brecon Beacons & South Wales Activity News

Steve Rayner (SWOAPG Coordinator) provided an update on some of the activities that SWOAPG had been involved in since the AGM in November (see attached slide pack for details).

### 3. Proposal to introduce Membership Fees

Ieuan Starks (SWOAPG Treasurer) explained that the Steering Group was proposing to introduce membership fees to fill the funding gap posed by withdrawal of Visit Wales funding and that SWOAPG required an annual income of £7-9k to meet the costs of the Coordinator (average £690 per month plus expenses), liability insurance (£600) and other sundries (e.g. the website £80). He added that the situation was urgent, since the current bank balance of £1810 would last only a couple of months, and that the Steering Group had considered other options but concluded that membership fees was the best way forward.

Steve Rayner summarised the results of the recent members' survey, which showed that members appreciated the services that SWOAPG provided and that most would be willing to pay a membership fee to maintain these services (see attached slide pack for details).

Emyr Rees introduced Proposal 1 on behalf of the Steering Group:

"That the membership categories listed in the attached table (see below) are introduced with immediate effect; that the associated subscription fees (valid until 31 March 2019) are collected through an online membership management system as soon as the Steering Group is able to implement this system; that all subscription fees should automatically be increased from this baseline on 1 April each year, in line with the Consumer Prices Index (rounded up to the nearest pound); and that the operation of the system and level of subscription fees should be reviewed in October 2018 so that members can approve any necessary changes at the next Annual General Meeting."

He also announced that BBNPA had awarded SWOAPG a Sustainable Development Fund grant of £6.4k to support the additional 'strategic development' work involved with introducing membership fees and transitioning to company status. He added that, while this did not remove the need for membership fees, it would 'buy time' to complete this work and reduce SWOAPG's immediate financial risk.

During discussion, the following questions and suggestions were raised:

- Chris Pierce questioned whether the gorge access scheme should be separated from SWOAPG membership. Jethro Moore and Ieuan Starks both responded that SWOAPG was still the organisation best positioned to manage the scheme – and that, while it might seem to some that a membership fee was akin to 'payment for gorge access', the two were in fact separate; and gorge access was merely one of the benefits that Full Members could receive from SWOAPG.
- How will we know which gorge users have paid membership – and what happens to those who haven't? Steve Rayner explained that a list would be published on the SWOAPG website and 'membership cards' would be issued for display in vehicles. Paul Dann stated that he would be trawling the internet to find out who was advertising gorge walking in the area and writing to any who had not paid-up; and that NRW and BBNPA wardens and volunteers would carry out occasional 'spot checks' in the gorges. Judith Harvey added that non-signed-up providers would likely be uninsured and should be made aware of this. Steve Rayner confirmed that all current members would be informed quickly of the new arrangements. Matt Woodfield suggested that an element of 'self-policing' would be required, just as now, with providers informing the Coordinator of any issues. Lee Garbett suggested that physical identification of groups might be useful, like the rash vests used by surf schools.
- Will paid-up Members still have to pay £25 for workshop attendance? Ieuan Starks confirmed that individuals attending workshops would each pay £25, but that each Member business / organisation would receive one free place on gorge Code of Conduct training each year.
- Could membership fees be tiered for e.g. different sized businesses? Jethro Moore responded that varying fees dependent on gorge usage would seem very close to paying directly for access. Katie Lloyd reminded everyone of the financial urgency, which was why a 'simple' fee structure was being proposed in the first instance; and Steve Rayner suggested that this could be explored further as part of the review in October.
- Why has £75 been set as the Full Membership fee? Ieuan Starks explained that this had been calculated from an assumption of how many members might sign-up and how much income was needed – and that £75 seemed a 'reasonable' figure.

Paul Donovan then called for a vote. **Proposal 1 was passed with 22 votes for; no votes against; and 2 abstentions.** Chris Pierce explained that he was abstaining simply because he had not been given a clear directive on how to vote by his AHOEC colleagues, who would be meeting in May to consider their response.

#### **4. Proposal to form a Company Limited by Guarantee**

Steve Rayner explained why the Steering Group was proposing to form a Company Limited by Guarantee, which had been recommended by the Wales Cooperative Centre (and had been agreed 'in principle' at the 2014 AGM). He explained the process of forming a company and summarised the key elements of the Articles of Association that had been drafted by the Steering Group (see attached slide pack for details). In response to questions, he stated that the limit of members' liability to the company would be £1 each; and that a Company Limited by Guarantee had been recommended as being more flexible than a Community Interest Company.

Paul Donovan introduced Proposal 2 on behalf of the Steering Group:

“That the Steering Group register a Company Limited by Guarantee with:

- the name “South Wales Outdoor Activity Providers Group”;
- the attached Articles of Association; and
- the Subscribers to the Memorandum of Association and the Initial Directors being Jeff Calligan, Steve Rayner, Emyr Rees and Ieuan Starks;

and take the necessary actions and develop the necessary regulations and procedures to, as soon as possible:

- (a) transfer all the operations and assets of the existing unincorporated South Wales Outdoor Activity Providers Group to this Company, with as little change as possible to operating procedures;
- (b) co-opt additional Directors from among the current Steering Group;
- (c) dissolve the existing unincorporated association; and
- (d) arrange an Annual General Meeting to elect a full Board of Directors.”

Paul then called for a vote. **Proposal 2 was passed unanimously by all 24 voting members present.**

## 5. Any Other Business

Steve Rayner introduced two additional items of business:

- a) **Clyn Gwyn Toilet:** following concerns raised by BBNPA about toileting by clients at Clyn Gwyn, the Steering Group had investigated the possibility of locating a hired ‘portaloo’ at the Ystradfellte garage. Steve explained that funds had been secured for the hire cost, within the BBNPA SDF grant, but SWOAPG would bear the liability for any damage to the toilet. Richard Tyler added that the local community was very concerned and was looking to providers to “guarantee that they could make toileting work”. During discussion, it became clear that members felt that a single toilet would cause more problems than it would solve. Paul Donovan called for a vote: **the proposal to hire a toilet was defeated by 22 votes against; no votes for; and 1 abstention.**
- b) **River Wye Glasbury-Hay:** the owner of Llanthomas fishery has introduced a £3pp ‘paddle permit’ for commercial users passing through his fishery (at Llowes, between Glasbury & Hay). Canoe Wales and British Canoeing have advised that he does not have a right to impose this charge, although the law is currently unclear on whether there is a Public Right of Navigation on this stretch of the river. Following discussion, the meeting **agreed unanimously that (a) SWOAPG members should not pay the ‘paddle permit’ unless it is proved to be legitimate; and (b) SWOAPG should press the canoeing NGBs to assist in resolving this issue.**

### Attachments:

- Table of Membership Categories Relating to Proposal 1
- Draft SWOAPG Articles of Association
- Slide Pack

**Table of Membership Categories Relating to Proposal 1**

<b>New Membership Category</b>	<b>Benefits</b> (including but not necessarily limited to those listed below)	<b>Annual subscription to 31/03/19</b>	<b>Relationship to Existing Membership Categories</b>	<b>Category in Articles of Association<sup>1</sup></b>
<b>Full Corporate Member</b> (for Outdoor Activity Providers who are constituted organisations, including clubs, whether operating for-profit or not-for-profit)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>voting rights</li> <li><b>access to activities provided via the Waterfalls Country Activity Access Concordat between SWOAPG &amp; NRW</b> (<u>only available to Full Members</u>)</li> <li><b>access to external marketing opportunities</b> (e.g. listing on SWOAPG website – <u>only available to Full Members</u>)</li> <li>access to SWOAPG training / workshops</li> <li>representation &amp; liaison with external bodies</li> <li>information relating to activity provision within the Brecon Beacons and South Wales</li> <li>e-mail alerts</li> </ul>	£75	Broadly the same as Level 3 Providers, but also for Level 2 / 1 Providers who use Dinas Rock and/or Sychryd and/or Mellte gorges	Corporate Member
<b>Full Individual Member</b> (for Outdoor Activity Providers aged 18+ who are freelancers, sole traders or partnerships)		£75		Individual Member
<b>Associate Corporate Member</b> (for Provider organisations who do not need all benefits)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>voting rights</li> <li>access to SWOAPG training / workshops</li> <li>representation &amp; liaison with external bodies</li> <li>information relating to activity provision within the Brecon Beacons and South Wales</li> <li>e-mail alerts</li> </ul>	£25	Broadly the same as Level 2 Providers, but also for Level 3 Providers who do not use Dinas Rock and/or Sychryd and/or Mellte gorges	Associate Member
<b>Associate Individual Member</b> (for individual Providers aged 18+ who do not need all benefits)		£25		
<b>Youth Member</b> (for Outdoor Activity Providers e.g. freelancers aged under 18)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>access to SWOAPG training / workshops</li> <li>representation &amp; liaison with external bodies</li> <li>information relating to activity provision within the Brecon Beacons and South Wales</li> <li>e-mail alerts</li> </ul>	Free	New category	Associate
<b>Supporter</b> (for organisations and individuals who support the aims and objectives, but are not Outdoor Activity Providers)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>access to SWOAPG training / workshops</li> <li>information relating to activity provision within the Brecon Beacons and South Wales</li> <li>e-mail alerts</li> </ul>	Free	Associate Members at all Levels	Associate
<b>Subscriber</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>e-mail alerts only (urgent and relevant e-mails)</li> </ul>	Free	Level 1 / Observers	Associate

<sup>1</sup> This relates to the Company Articles of Association under Proposal 2. We have listed as few Categories as possible in the Articles, so that we do not need to change them every time we introduce a slightly different membership arrangement. The Articles state that each Category defined therein “shall be entitled to receive all the benefits and privileges of membership as are from time to time defined by the Board of Directors.”

**THE COMPANIES ACT 2006**

A PRIVATE  
COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE AND  
NOT HAVING A SHARE CAPITAL

**MEMORANDUM OF ASSOCIATION OF  
SOUTH WALES OUTDOOR ACTIVITY PROVIDERS GROUP**

Each subscriber to this memorandum of association wishes to form a Company under the Companies Act 2006 and agrees to become a Member of the Company.

Name of each subscriber

Authentication by each subscriber

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Date 

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**THE COMPANIES ACT 2006**

A PRIVATE  
COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE AND  
NOT HAVING A SHARE CAPITAL

ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION OF  
**SOUTH WALES OUTDOOR ACTIVITY PROVIDERS GROUP**

**PRELIMINARY**

1. The Company shall be bound by the regulations contained in the Companies (Model Articles) Regulations 2008 schedule 2 except where modified by these Articles. In the case of any variation or inconsistency between these Articles and the Model Articles, these Articles shall prevail.

**INTERPRETATION**

2. In these Articles:-
  - "The Act" means the Companies Act 2006 including any statutory amendments or re-enactment thereof for the time in force.
  - "The Area" means that part of Wales that shall from time to time be defined as the geographic area of responsibility of the Company.
  - "Clear days" in relation to the period of a notice means that period excluding the day when the notice is given or deemed to be given and the day on which it is to take effect.
  - "Employee" means a person who is employed by the Company (whether full or part time) including a director of the Company.
  - "Executed" includes any mode of execution.
  - "The Secretary" means the Secretary of the Company or any other person appointed to perform the duties of the Secretary of the Company, including a joint, assistant or deputy Secretary.
  - "Providers" means persons and organisations who provide outdoor activities in the Area for the benefit of the public or their own members, whether for profit or not-for-profit;
3. Unless the context otherwise requires, words or expressions contained in these regulations bear the same meaning as in the Act but excluding any statutory modification thereof not in force when these Articles became binding on the Company.

## **OBJECTS AND ASSETS OF THE COMPANY**

4. The objects of the Company shall be to:
- a) provide a focal point for projects and initiatives relating to the delivery of environmentally-sustainable outdoor activities in the Area;
  - b) provide a forum for Providers and external bodies to share information, good practice and concerns relating to outdoor activities in the Area;
  - c) advocate, negotiate, implement and maintain arrangements for continued and improved access for outdoor activities in the Area;
  - d) maintain the Concordat for Gorge Walking in the Waterfalls Area in liaison with the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority (BBNPA) and Natural Resources Wales (NRW) encourage Providers to become Members;
  - e) represent Providers to external bodies and forums and act as a point of focus for such bodies and forums to engage with Providers;
  - f) liaise with and influence relevant external bodies in the Area, including BBNPA, NRW and the National Trust (NT);
  - g) provide training and networking opportunities for Providers;
  - h) provide relevant and timely information for Providers on matters affecting outdoor activity provision and access in the Area;
  - i) provide support for Members, including routes to advice and consultation where appropriate; and
  - j) encourage environmentally-responsible behaviour by Providers including promoting an Environmental Charter and facilitating environmental improvement projects.
5. The income and property of the Company shall be applied in accordance with the objects and powers of the Company and no portion shall be paid or transferred directly or indirectly to the Members of the Company except by way of payment in good faith of reasonable and proper wages, and repayments (including loans) or expenses to any Member or Employee of the Company in return for any services actually rendered to the Company.

Provided that nothing in this document shall prevent any payment in good faith by the Company:

- (i) of the usual professional charges for business done by any director who is a solicitor, accountant or other person engaged in a profession, or by any partner of theirs, when instructed by the Company to act in a professional capacity on its behalf: Provided that at no time shall a majority of the directors benefit under this provision and that a director shall withdraw from any meeting at which their appointment or remuneration, or that of their partner, is under discussion;
- (ii) of reasonable and proper remuneration for any services rendered to the Company by any Member, officer or servant of the Company who is not a director;

(iii) of interest on money lent by any Member of the Company or director at a reasonable and proper rate per annum not exceeding a rate which is necessary to obtain and retain that capital to be selected by the directors;

(iv) of fees, remuneration or other benefit in money or money's worth to any company of which a director may also be a Member holding not more than 1% of the issued capital of the Company;

(v) of reasonable and proper rent for premises let by any Member of the Company or a director;

(vi) to any director of reasonable out-of-pocket expenses;

(vii) of premiums for indemnity insurance.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

6. The first Members of the Company shall be the Subscribers to the Memorandum of Association.

7. The Board of Directors may admit to membership:

a) any person who is in agreement with the objects of the Company, without discrimination between persons by reference to wealth, politics, race, religion, sex or disability; or

b) any society, company, local authority or unincorporated association which is in agreement with the objects of the Company

provided that only persons and organisations shall be admitted who qualify for one of the membership categories specified in Article 11.

8. A Member which is a corporate body or association shall by resolution of its governing body appoint a deputy, who shall during the continuance of their appointment be entitled to exercise in any General Meeting of the Company all such rights and powers as the body corporate or association would exercise if it were an individual person.

9. Every application for membership shall be considered by the Board of Directors at its first meeting after the application was made or as soon afterwards as is practicable. Any applicant who is refused admission to membership may require that the question of their application be considered by the next General Meeting of the Company whose decision on the matter shall be final. When refusing any application for membership, the Board of Directors shall ensure that the applicant is aware of their right of appeal under the provisions of this Article.

10. Any acceptance of an application for membership shall be conditional on payment by the applicant of the full amount of the membership subscription. The Board of Directors will from time to time set the membership subscription rate for each class of membership. No applicant shall be entered in the Register of Members until such subscription has been received by the Company, unless the Board decides to waive the subscription in any particular case.



## **CATEGORIES OF MEMBERSHIP**

11. Every person or organisation upon admission shall be allocated one of the following categories of membership at the absolute discretion of the Board of Directors:
- a) Individual Members shall be persons who have attained the age of eighteen years and who are Providers who support the aims and objectives of the Company. Individual Members shall have the rights afforded to Members by these Articles and shall be entitled to receive all the benefits and privileges of membership as are from time to time defined by the Board of Directors.
  - b) Corporate Members shall be organisations who are Providers who support the aims and objectives of the Company and are admitted under Article 7(b). Corporate Members shall have the rights afforded to Members by these Articles and shall be entitled to receive all the benefits and privileges of membership as are from time to time defined by the Board of Directors.
  - c) Associate Members shall be persons who have attained the age of eighteen years or organisations who support the aims and objectives of the Company but do not require all the benefits and privileges of membership. Associate Members shall have the rights afforded to Members by these Articles and shall be entitled to such benefits as are from time to time defined by the Board of Directors.
  - d) Associates shall be persons (including those who have not yet attained the age of eighteen years) or organisations who support the aims and objectives of the Company but do not require any of the benefits and privileges of membership. Associates shall have none of the rights afforded to Members by these Articles but shall be entitled to such benefits as are from time to time defined by the Board of Directors.

## **REGISTER OF MEMBERS**

12. The Company shall keep a Register of Members containing the name and address of every Member, the date on which they became a Member and the date on which they ceased to be a Member. Every Member shall either sign a written consent to become a Member or sign the register of Members. Members shall inform the Secretary of change of address.

## **CESSATION OF MEMBERSHIP**

13. A Member shall cease to be a Member immediately that he/she or it:
- a) ceases to fulfil any of the qualifications for membership as specified by Article 7 and Article 11; or
  - b) resigns in writing to the Board of Directors; or
  - c) is expelled by a Special Resolution carried in accordance with Article 28 at a General Meeting called to consider the matter; or
  - d) dies, if an individual person; or
  - e) is wound up or goes into liquidation, if a corporate body or association.

14. The rights and privileges of a Member shall not be transferable or transmissible, and all such rights and privileges shall cease upon the Member ceasing to be such.

## **GENERAL MEETINGS**

15. The Company shall in each calendar year hold an Annual General Meeting and shall specify the meeting as such in the notices calling it.
16. The business of an Annual General Meeting shall include;
  - a) The receipt of the reports of the Chairperson and Board of Directors of the Company;
  - b) the consideration of audited accounts (if any) presented by the Board of Directors;
  - c) the election of the Board of Directors;
  - d) the election of a Chairperson, being a member of the Board of Directors, who shall preside at all General Meetings and meetings of the Board of Directors;
  - e) a decision on the application of any profits;
  - f) the appointment and the fixing of the remuneration of the Auditors (if any).

All other business transacted at an Annual General Meeting shall be deemed Special.

17. The Board of Directors may, whenever they think fit, convene a General Meeting of the Company, or the Members may convene a General Meeting as provided by section 303 of the Act.

## **NOTICES**

18. An Annual General Meeting and a meeting called for the passing of a special resolution as described in Article 28 shall be called by giving at least twenty-eight clear days' notice. Any other General Meeting shall be called by giving at least twenty-eight clear days' notice. Meetings may be called at shorter notice if the consents under the Act are obtained. The Annual General Meeting shall be held within 54 weeks of the previous Annual General Meeting.
19. Notice of every General Meeting shall be given in writing to every Member of the Company and to the Auditors (if any) and shall be given personally or by sending it by post or electronically to them or their registered office or any address given by them for this purpose within the United Kingdom.
20. Where notice is sent by post, service of the notice shall be deemed to be effected by properly addressing, prepaying and posting the notice and to have been effected at the expiration of forty-eight hours after notice has been posted. Notices sent by electronic communication must be done in accordance with the Act.
21. The Notice shall specify the place and exact time of the meeting and the general nature of the business to be dealt with. In the case of an Annual General Meeting notice shall specify the meeting as such and in the case of a General Meeting the exact nature of the business to be raised at the meeting shall be specified.

22. The accidental omission to give notice of a meeting to, or the non-receipt of notice of a meeting by, any person entitled to receive notice shall not invalidate proceedings at that meeting.

## **PROCEEDINGS AT GENERAL MEETINGS**

23. Every Member and such other persons as receive notice shall be entitled to attend and speak at a General Meeting.
24. No business shall be transacted at a General Meeting unless a quorum of Members is present in person or by proxy. 10 Members or if greater, one tenth of the membership entitled to vote for the time being shall be the quorum.
25. If within half an hour from the time appointed for the meeting a quorum is not present or if at any time during the meeting Members shall leave such that a quorum is no longer present the meeting shall stand adjourned until the same day in the next week at the same time and same place, or otherwise as the Directors may determine, and if at the adjourned meeting a quorum is not present within half an hour from the time appointed for the meeting the Members present shall be a quorum.
26. The Chairperson or in their absence some other Director nominated by the Directors shall preside as chair of the meeting, but if neither the Chairperson nor such other Director (if any) be present within fifteen minutes after the time appointed for holding the meeting and willing to act, the Members present shall elect one of their number to be Chairperson.
27. The Chairperson may with the consent of the meeting at which a quorum is present (and shall if so directed by the meeting) adjourn the meeting from time to time and place to place but no business shall be transacted at an adjourned meeting other than business which might have been transacted at the meeting from which the adjournment took place. When a meeting is adjourned for thirty days or more, notice shall be given as in the case of the original meeting. Otherwise it shall not be necessary to give any such notice.
28. Decisions at General Meetings shall be made by passing resolutions:
  - a) Decisions involving an alteration to Articles 61, 64, and 68 and this Article 28(a) shall require a majority of not less than three-fourths of the Members of the Company present and voting at an Extraordinary General Meeting testified by their signatures.
  - b) The decisions involving an alteration to the Articles of Association, other than those specified and other decisions so required from time to time by statute and by these Articles shall be made by a Special Resolution. A Special Resolution is here defined as one passed by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the Members of the Company present and voting at an Extraordinary General Meeting.
  - c) All other decisions shall be made by ordinary resolution requiring a simple majority, save where the Articles of Association or the Act (or any other statute or regulation) require otherwise.

29. At any General Meeting a resolution put to the vote of the meeting shall be decided on a show of hands or other suitable signal unless a poll is, before or upon the declaration of the result of the show of hands or other suitable signal, demanded by:
  - a) the Chairperson, or
  - b) by a Member or Members representing not less than one tenth of the total voting rights of all the Members having the right to vote at the meeting.
30. Unless a poll be so demanded a declaration by the Chairperson that a resolution has been carried or lost and an entry to that effect in the minutes of the proceedings of the Company shall be conclusive evidence of the fact without proof of the number or proportion of votes recorded in favour of or against the resolution. The demand for a poll may be withdrawn.
31. If a poll is duly demanded it shall be taken in such a manner as the Chairperson of the meeting directs and the result of the poll shall be deemed to be the resolution of the meeting at which the poll was demanded. No notice need be given of a poll not taken forthwith if the time and place at which it is to be taken are announced at the meeting which it is demanded. In any other case at least seven clear days' notice shall be given specifying the time and place at which the poll is to be taken. A poll may be organised by way of a ballot or postal ballot by the Board of Directors who shall send out notice of the ballot with the Notice of the General Meeting.
32. Votes may be given personally or by proxy appointed by the Member.
33. Each Member or proxy shall have one vote. A proxy has a right to speak at a General Meeting. In the case of an equality of votes the Chairperson shall not have a second or casting vote.
34. Written resolutions of the Members, passed in accordance with the Act, shall be as effective as resolutions passed at a General Meeting.

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

35. The business of the Company shall be managed by a Board of Directors which shall be accountable to the Members.
36. The initial Directors of the Company shall be appointed by the subscribers to the Memorandum of Association and shall serve for 3 years. At the first Annual General Meeting following this period one third (or the first whole number smaller than one-third) of the Directors shall retire and may offer themselves for re-election.
37. At every subsequent Annual General Meeting, one third (or the first whole number smaller than one-third) of the Board of Directors, being those Directors longest in office since their last election, will be elected annually by the Members. Retiring members shall be eligible for re-election without further nomination. If there is a choice between retiring directors of equal service, it shall be made by drawing lots.
38. Invitations for nominations for the position of Director will be sent to all Members with the notice of the Annual General Meeting. Completed nominations will be accepted up to seven days before the date of the meeting. All nominations require the signature of the nominated person and the signature of a proposer and seconder all of which shall be Members of the Company.

39. Unless otherwise determined by the Company in General Meeting the number of Directors shall be not less than 3 and not more than 12.
40. The Directors may at any time co-opt any person to the Board of Directors whether or not they are a Member of the Company, provided that the maximum number prescribed in Article 39 is not exceeded and that the number of persons so co-opted shall not exceed the number of elected Directors. All persons so co-opted shall retire at the Annual General Meeting following their co-option but shall be eligible to be re-appointed thereafter.

## **PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

41. The Board of Directors may meet together for business, adjourn and otherwise regulate their meetings as they think fit and questions arising at any meeting shall be decided by a majority of votes.
42. In the case of an equality of votes the Chairperson shall have a second or casting vote.
43. A Director may, and the Secretary shall on the instruction of the Board of Directors, summon a meeting of the Board of Directors at any reasonable time. A meeting of the Board of Directors may be held either in person or by suitable electronic means agreed by the Directors in which all Directors may communicate with all other Directors.
44. The quorum necessary for the transaction of business of the Board of Directors shall be 3 Directors.
45. If the Board of Directors shall at any time be reduced in number to less than the minimum prescribed in Article 39, it may act as the Board of Directors for the purpose of filling up vacancies in their body or summoning a General Meeting of the Company, but no other purpose.
46. The Chairperson or in their absence some other director nominated by the Board of Directors shall preside as Chairperson of the meeting, but if neither the Chairperson nor such other director (if any) be present within fifteen minutes after the time appointed for holding the meeting, the Board of Directors shall elect one of their number to be Chairperson.
47. The Board of Directors shall cause proper minutes to be made of the proceedings of all meetings of the Company, of the Board of Directors and any sub-committees and of all business transacted at such meetings. All such minutes shall be open to inspection by any Member of the Company during the Company's normal working hours and by any other person authorised by the Company in General Meeting. The minutes of all General Meetings shall be made available to all Members.
48. A resolution in writing signed by all Directors for the time being who are entitled to vote shall be valid and have the same effect as if it had been passed at a meeting of the Board of Directors and may consist of several documents (including electronic documents) in like form signed (in verifiable form) by one or more Directors.

## **POWERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

49. The business of the Company shall be managed by the Board of Directors who may exercise all such powers of the Company as may be exercised and done by the

Company and as are not by the Act or by these Articles required to be exercised or done by the Company in General Meeting.

50. No regulation made by the Company in General Meeting shall invalidate any prior act of the Board of Directors which would have been valid had that regulation not been made.
51. The Board of Directors may exercise all the powers of the Company to borrow money and to mortgage or charge its undertaking and property or any part thereof and to issue debentures and other securities whether outright or as security for any debt, liability or obligation of the Company or of any third party.
52. The Board of Directors may delegate any of its powers to sub-committees consisting of such Members of the Company as it thinks fit. Any sub-committee so formed shall conform to any regulations that may be imposed on it by the Board of Directors.
53. The Directors of the Company will appoint two named Directors or a Director and the Secretary to sign on behalf of the Company any legal documents including leases where signatures are required in the execution of the Company's powers.

#### **DISQUALIFICATION AND REMOVAL OF DIRECTORS**

54. The office of a director shall be immediately vacated if he/she/it:
  - a) ceases to be a Director by virtue of any provision of the Act or become prohibited by law from being a Director; or
  - b) becomes bankrupt or make any arrangement or composition with their creditors generally; or
  - c) is, or may be, suffering from mental disorder and either;
    - is admitted to hospital in pursuance of an application for admission for treatment under the Mental Health Act 1983 or
    - an order is made by a court having jurisdiction (whether in the United Kingdom or elsewhere) in matters concerning mental disorder for their detention or for the appointment of a receiver, curator bonis or other person to exercise powers with respect to their property or affairs; or
  - d) resigns their office by notice to the Company; or
  - e) shall for more than four consecutive meetings have been absent without permission of the Board of Directors from meetings of Directors held during that period and the Directors resolve that his/her office be vacated; or
  - f) is removed from office by resolution of the Company in General Meeting in accordance with Section 168 of the Act.

## **REMUNERATION OF DIRECTORS**

55. Any remuneration of Directors shall only be in respect of services actually rendered to the Company including the payment of fair and proper wages in the case of Directors employed by the Company. Directors may also be paid all reasonable expenses incurred by them in attending and returning from meetings of Directors or General Meetings of the Company or in connection with the business of the Company.

## **SECRETARY AND OTHER EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**

56. Subject to the provisions of the Act, the Secretary and other executive officers shall be appointed by the Board of Directors for such term, at such remuneration and upon such conditions as they may think fit, and any Secretary or executive officer so appointed may be removed by them.

## **ACCOUNTS**

57. The Board of Directors shall cause proper books of account to be kept with respect to:
- a) All sums of money received and expended by the Company and the matters in respect of which the receipt and expenditure takes place.
  - b) All sales and purchases of goods and/or services by the Company.
  - c) The assets and liabilities of the Company.
58. Proper books shall be deemed to be kept if they give a true and fair record of the state of the Company's affairs and explain its transactions.
59. The books of account shall be kept at the registered office of the Company or at such other places as the Board of Directors think fit and shall always be open to the inspection of all Members of the Company upon approval of the Board of Directors during normal working hours and by such other persons authorised by the Company in General Meeting.
60. The Board of Directors shall from time to time in accordance with their statutory obligations cause to be prepared and laid before the Company in General Meeting such income and expenditure accounts, balance sheets and reports as are required by statute.

## **APPLICATION OF SURPLUS**

61. The surplus funds of the Company shall be applied in the following ways, in such proportions and in such a manner as may be recommended by the Board of Directors and approved at the Annual General Meeting:
- a) to create a general reserve for the continuation and development of the Company;
  - b) to make a payment for social and charitable purposes.

## **RULES OR BYE LAWS**

62. The Board of Directors may from time to time make such Rules or Bye Laws as they may deem necessary for the proper conduct and management of the Company. The Company in General Meeting shall have power to alter or repeal the Rules or Bye Laws and to make additions thereto and the Board of Directors shall adopt such means as they deem sufficient to bring to the notice of Members of the Company all such Rules or Bye Laws, which so long as they shall be in force, shall be binding on all Members of the Company. Provided, nevertheless, that no Rule or Bye Law shall be inconsistent with or shall affect or repeal anything contained in the Articles of the Company.

## **INDEMNITY**

63. Every Member, Director, Company Secretary, auditor (if any) and other officer for the time being of the Company may be indemnified out of the assets of the Company against any losses or liabilities incurred by him/her in or about the execution or discharge of the duties of her/his office subject to the provisions of the Act, except to the extent that such losses or liabilities shall be attributable to:
- a) fraud or other matters in respect of which the Member concerned shall be convicted of a criminal offence; or
  - b) negligence; or
  - c) actions knowingly beyond the scope of a specific authority or limit thereon on the part of the person in question.

## **DISSOLUTION**

64. In the event of the dissolution or winding-up of the Company, after the satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities, the assets remaining shall not be distributed among the Members but shall be transferred in the furtherance of the Objects to any organisation having objects similar to or compatible with the Objects and which shall prohibit the distribution of its or their income and property among its or their members to an extent at least as great as is imposed on the Company by virtue of Article 4 above as may be determined by a General Meeting, or in so far as the assets are not transferred, shall be held for charitable purposes.

## **AMENDMENT TO ARTICLES**

65. The provisions of these Articles of Association may only be amended by a Special Resolution passed in accordance with Article 28 except those otherwise specified. All amendments shall be registered with the Registrar of Companies.

## **LIMITED LIABILITY**

66. The liability of the Members is limited.
67. Every Member of the Company promises to pay up to £1 towards the costs of dissolution and the liabilities incurred by the Company whilst they were a Member, in the event of the same being wound up while they are a Member or within one year after they cease to be a Member.



## **ENTRENCHMENT**

68. Articles in the Articles of Association except for 28(a), 61, 64, and this article 68 may be altered by Special Resolution which is hereby defined as one passed by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the membership voting in person at an Extraordinary General Meeting. Articles 28(a), 61, 64, and this article 68 are entrenched in accordance with section 22 of the Act and may be altered only with the unanimous consent of the membership voting in person at an Extraordinary General Meeting.

## **SOCIAL AUDIT**

69. A Social audit of the Company may, by resolution of the Company in General Meeting, be undertaken annually of the Company's activities, in addition to any financial audit required by law. The role of such a social audit would be to attempt to identify the social costs and benefits of the Company's work, and to enable an assessment to be made more easily than may be made from financial accounts only of the Company's overall performance in relation to its objects.

Such a social audit may be drawn up by an independent assessor appointed by the Company in General Meeting, or by the Board of Directors who may submit their report for verification or comments to an independent assessor.

A social audit may include an assessment of the internal collective working of the Employees of the Company, including Employees' views, internal democracy and decision making, wages, health and safety, skill sharing and education opportunities, or other matters concerning their overall personal or job satisfaction; an assessment of the Company's activities externally, including its effects on persons involved in the same or similar trade, on customers and suppliers, and on persons residing in areas where the Company is located.

We the persons whose names, addresses and signatures are subscribed wish to form a Company pursuant to these Articles of Association:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Dated this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_

# Emergency General Meeting



**South Wales Outdoor Activity Providers Group**

19 April 2018

Garwnant Visitor Centre

PD

## Agenda



- Welcome & Apologies
- Update on latest Brecon Beacons & South Wales activity news (15min)
  - Highlights from recent announcements
- Proposal to introduce Membership Fees (30min)
- Proposal to form a Company Limited by Guarantee (15min)
- Any Other Business (30min)
  - Clyn Gwyn Toilet
  - Canoe Access Glasbury-Hay

PD

# Welcome & Apologies



- Thank you all for coming!
- We have received apologies from...
- Who's Who..

ER

# SWOAPG's Purpose



**"To provide representation on behalf all Outdoor Activity Providers active in the Brecon Beacons and South Wales area..."**

"...and provide a focal point for projects and initiatives relating to the delivery of environmentally sustainable Outdoor Activities in these areas"

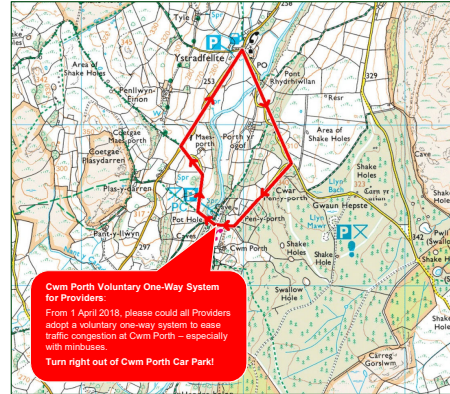
- Nothing we are discussing tonight is intended to change this
- It's all intended to help us to continue to do this, but better!

SR

## Update on Latest Activity News: Waterfalls Country



- Gunpowder Works access restrictions
- Sychryd overhanging tree & loose rocks
- Increasing pressure from tourism & providers
- Occasional complaints about public nudity & toileting
- **Extra vigilance** about parking, discrete changing & appropriate toileting
  - Use screens where they exist
  - Imagine your granny is watching!
  - Use public toilets
  - Toilet at Clyn Gwyn?
- **Cwm Porth voluntary one-way system** for Providers, to minimise traffic congestion
- **Residents' Activity Day**  
17 June: can you help?

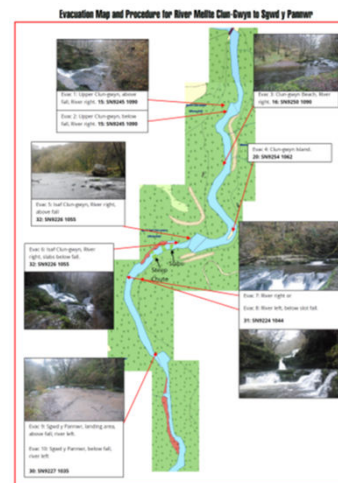


SR

## Update on Latest Activity News: Gorge Rescue



- Quest Adventures working with Mountain Rescue
- Mellte Evacuation Map & Procedures
- Workshop coming soon...



SR

## Update on Latest Activity News: Pembrokeshire



- Coasteering on NT land requires:
  - ⇒ Concordat sign-up
  - ⇒ Personal briefing
- Trailer parking permits
- Abereiddi parking changes

[paul.renfro@pembrokeshirecoastalforum.org.uk](mailto:paul.renfro@pembrokeshirecoastalforum.org.uk)



SR

## Update on Latest Activity News: Paddlesport



- Brecon Beacons Reservoir Passport Scheme
  - renewals due 1 April
  - no changes from 2017/18
- Glasbury-Hay
  - "Paddle Permit" for discussion later!



SR

## Update on Latest Activity News: Adventure Smart Wales



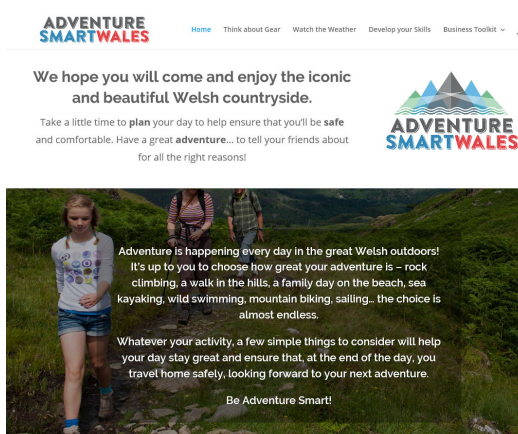
- Messages about 'safe adventure'

- Gear, Weather Skills

- Shared across Wales' tourism industry

- Events, Videos, Leaflets, Website

<http://www.adventuresmartwales.com/>



SR

## Update on Latest Activity News: Representing your Interests



- WATO (Wales Adventure Tourism Organisation)
  - no longer funded by Visit Wales
  - but will continue to exist as "voice for Activity Providers"
    - no longer a primary focus on tourism...
    - ...but keeping the WATO name for now
    - 3 Regional Charter Group Coordinators intend to meet quarterly with NRW, Sport Wales, AALS, Visit Wales, etc.
- Outdoor Alliance
  - Broader network / forum for activity sector in Wales
  - Providers / WATO just one element within this
  - Early days in deciding what this is and how it will work...
- Others:
  - National Access Forum Wales
  - Brecon Beacons Local Access Forum
  - Valleys Landscape Park Task Force...

SR

## Update on Latest Activity News: Workshops



- Coming soon:
  - Gorge Codes of Conduct
  - Caving workshop
  - Gorge rescue
  - Geology workshop
  - Volunteering days
- Watch out for e-mails in due course!

IS

## Proposal to introduce Membership Fees



- Why do we need to change?
- What options were considered?
- What have Members said?
- The Steering Group's Proposal



IS

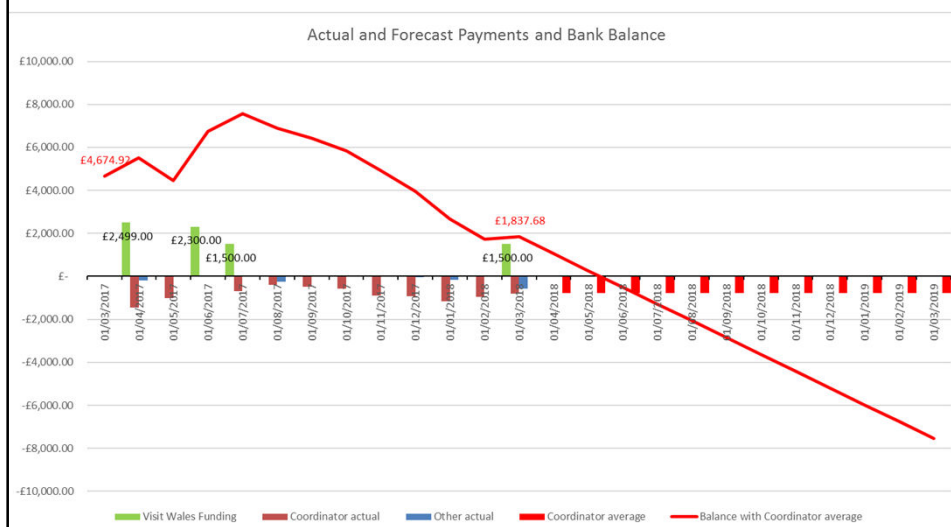
## Why do we need to Change?



- Visit Wales funded WATO / SWOAPG £5k until 2016/17
- Reduced to £3k in 2017/18
- Withdrawn completely 1 April 18
- Additional grants for specific projects
- Core costs:
  - Coordinator (£6-8k including expenses, directed & agreed by Steering Group)
  - Liability insurance (£600)
  - Website (£80)

IS

## What's the Urgency?



IS

## What Options were Considered?



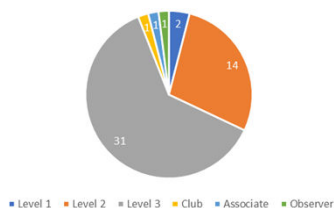
- Grant Funding
  - ✗ Not for 'core costs'
  - ✗ Not sustainable
  - ✗ Hard to obtain
- Fees for Workshops
  - ✗ Insufficient to fill gap
  - ? Acceptable
  - ✓ Quick & easy
  - ⇒ £25 fee from 2018
- Volunteers do more
  - ✗ Workload = too much to ask
  - e.g. c.150 e-mails sent / month
  - ✗ Lose coordination
  - ⇒ Coordinator to do only what they're the best person to do
- "Cut our Cloth..."
  - ✗ No Concordat management
  - ⇒ Standard NRW permit: significant cost, time delay & paperwork
  - ✗ Less information sent out
  - ✗ Lose our 'voice' / representation
  - ⇒ We will do only 'essentials' (e.g. no tourism promotion)
- Fees for 'providing' access
  - ? e.g. "Gorge passport"
  - ? Take on Reservoir Passport
  - ✗ Paying directly for access not acceptable to Members
- Membership Fees
  - ? Best compromise?
  - ✓ Retain free e-mail listing
  - ⇒ Keep it simple this year, 2 fee levels, review how it works

SR

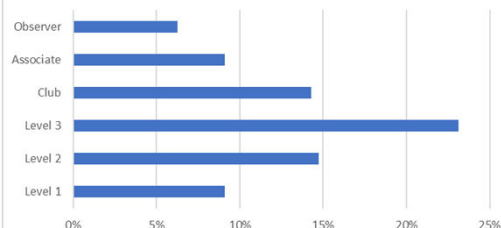
## What have Members said?



Number of Members (in each Category) who responded to the Survey

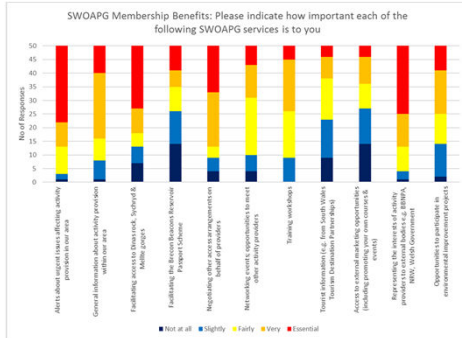


Percentage of our Total Membership (in each Category) who responded to the Survey



SR

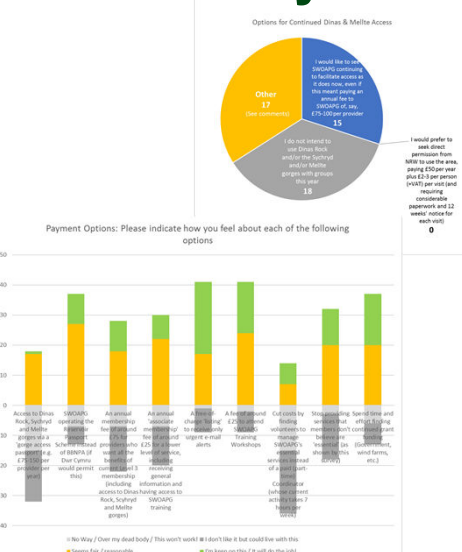
## What have Members said about Benefits?



- **Essential**
  - alerts
  - representation
- **Very important**
  - facilitating gorge access
- **Very important**
  - general activity information
  - negotiating access
- **Varied importance**
  - reservoir passport scheme
- **Fairly important**
  - networking
  - training
  - environmental projects
- **Not important**
  - tourism information
  - marketing opportunities

SR

## What have Members said about Payment?



- ✗ NRW pay-per-use permit for gorge access
- ✓ Fee for SWOAPG to facilitate gorge access
  - ✗ some Members object "in principle"
- Membership fee preferable to 'access' fee
- Tiered fees should be considered
- ✓ 'Basic' fee for 'basic' services
- ✓ Free e-mail listing
- ✓ £25 workshop fee
- ✓ SWOAPG taking on reservoir scheme
- ✓ Retain Coordinator, but cut-back on non-essential services and continue to seek grant support

ER

# Steering Group Proposal



- SG weighed-up pros & cons
- ⇒ Introduce a 'simple' membership fee:
- £75 Full Membership
  - all benefits
- £25 Associate Membership
  - not signed-up to gorge Concordat
  - not listed on SWOAPG website
- Free Youth & Supporter Membership & e-mail Subscriber
- Online membership system – as soon as possible...
- Can only increase by inflation or by approval at General Meeting
- Review / Amend at AGM
  - Response from Members
  - Income received
  - Suggestions for e.g. tiered fees

New Membership Category	Benefits	Annual subscription to 31/03/19	Relationship to Existing Membership Categories
<b>Full Corporate Member</b> (for Outdoor Activity Providers who are constituted organisations, including clubs, whether operating for-profit or not-for-profit)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>voting rights</li> <li>access to activities provided via the Waterfalls Country Activity Access Concordat between SWOAPG &amp; NRW (not available to Full Members)</li> <li>access to external marketing opportunities (e.g. listing on SWOAPG website – only available to Full Members)</li> <li>access to SWOAPG training / workshops</li> <li>representation &amp; liaison with external bodies</li> <li>information relating to activity provision within the Brecon Beacons and South Wales</li> <li>e-mail alerts</li> </ul>	£75	Broadly the same as Level 3 Providers, but also for Level 2 / 1 Providers who use Dinas Rock and/or Sychnyd and/or Mellt gorges
<b>Full Individual Member</b> (for Outdoor Activity Providers aged 18+ who are freelancers, sole traders or partnerships)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>voting rights</li> <li>access to SWOAPG training / workshops</li> <li>representation &amp; liaison with external bodies</li> <li>information relating to activity provision within the Brecon Beacons and South Wales</li> <li>e-mail alerts</li> </ul>	£75	
<b>Associate Corporate Member</b> (for Provider organisations who do not need all benefits)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>voting rights</li> <li>access to SWOAPG training / workshops</li> <li>representation &amp; liaison with external bodies</li> <li>information relating to activity provision within the Brecon Beacons and South Wales</li> <li>e-mail alerts</li> </ul>	£25	Broadly the same as Level 2 Providers, but also for Level 3 Providers who do not use Dinas Rock and/or Sychnyd and/or Mellt gorges
<b>Associate Individual Member</b> (for individual Providers aged 18+ who do not need all benefits)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>voting rights</li> <li>access to SWOAPG training / workshops</li> <li>representation &amp; liaison with external bodies</li> <li>information relating to activity provision within the Brecon Beacons and South Wales</li> <li>e-mail alerts</li> </ul>	£25	
<b>Youth Member</b> (for Outdoor Activity Providers e.g. freelancers aged under 18)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>access to SWOAPG training / workshops</li> <li>representation &amp; liaison with external bodies</li> <li>information relating to activity provision within the Brecon Beacons and South Wales</li> <li>e-mail alerts</li> </ul>	Free	New category
<b>Supporter</b> (for organisations and individuals who support the aims and objectives, but are not Outdoor Activity Providers)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>access to SWOAPG training / workshops</li> <li>information relating to activity provision within the Brecon Beacons and South Wales</li> <li>e-mail alerts</li> </ul>	Free	Associate Members at all Levels
<b>Subscriber</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>e-mail alerts only (urgent and relevant e-mails)</li> </ul>	Free	Level 1 / Observers

ER

# The bad & good news



- **However**, Brecon Beacons National Park Authority has agreed a £6.4k grant to support this work
  - **Only** to be used for 'strategic development',
  - **Only** if we start to collect membership fees to sustain 'routine activity'
  - 50% match-funded with volunteer (Steering Group) time + our bank balance
- Introducing an online membership system...
- ...and transition to Company status...
- ...will require even more work by our Coordinator!
- Does not remove the need for membership fees...
- but does buy us time and reduce financial risk



Cronfa Datblygu  
Cynaliadwy  
Sustainable  
Development Fund

PD

## Proposal 1



"That the membership categories listed in the attached table are introduced with immediate effect;

"that the associated subscription fees (valid until 31 March 2019) are collected through an online membership management system as soon as the Steering Group is able to implement this system;

"that all subscription fees should automatically be increased from this baseline on 1 April each year, in line with the Consumer Prices Index (rounded up to the nearest pound); and

"that the operation of the system and level of subscription fees should be reviewed in October 2018 so that members can approve any necessary changes at the next Annual General Meeting."

### ⇒ Questions / Discussion and Vote

"One Member, One Vote" – Hold your Voting Papers in the Air

SR

## Proposal to form a Company Limited by Guarantee

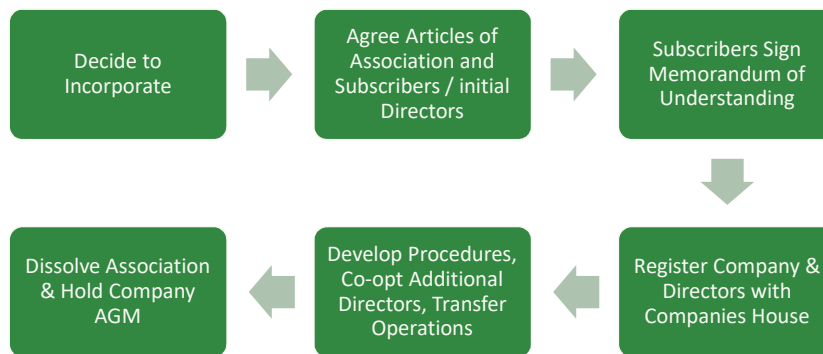


- SWOAPG is an "Unincorporated Association"
- Members (especially Steering Group) are collectively liable
- Not a 'legal identity' to apply for grants & enter contracts
- Recommendation by Wales Co-operative Centre:
  - form a 'Company Limited by Guarantee'
  - Social Enterprise / **Not for Profit**
- 2014 AGM agreed "in principle, if the need arose, [to] support SWOAPG becoming a constituted body"

⇒ **Steering Group recommends that we take this step now**

SR

## Steps to form a Company Limited by Guarantee



SR

## Proposed Articles of Association



- Template provided by Wales Co-operative Centre
  - Mostly 'standard' legal terms / jargon!
  - Key elements:
    - ⇒ Retain name
    - ⇒ "Objects" (= purpose) from current Terms of Reference
    - ⇒ Relevant membership categories
- ⇒ 4 subscribers / initial Directors
    - to simplify registration
    - + only 4 SG members volunteered!
    - Can co-opt another 4 'immediately'
    - Elect up to 12 at AGM = full Steering Group
    - 3-year rotations
  - ⇒ "Company Secretary" = Coordinator
  - ⇒ Quorums:
    - General Meetings: 10 (or 10%)
    - Directors / Steering Group: 3

PD

## Proposal 2



"That the Steering Group register a Company Limited by Guarantee with:

- the name "South Wales Outdoor Activity Providers Group";
- the attached Articles of Association; and
- the Subscribers to the Memorandum of Association and the Initial Directors being Jeff Calligan, Steve Rayner, Emyr Rees and Ieuan Starks;

and take the necessary actions and develop the necessary regulations and procedures to, as soon as possible:

- a) transfer all the operations and assets of the existing unincorporated South Wales Outdoor Activity Providers Group to this Company, with as little change as possible to operating procedures;
- b) co-opt additional Directors from among the current Steering Group;
- c) dissolve the existing unincorporated association; and
- d) arrange an Annual General Meeting to elect a full Board of Directors."

⇒ **Questions / Discussion and Vote**

"One Member, One Vote" – Hold your Voting Papers in the Air

SR

## Any Other Business: Clyn Gwyn Toilet



- BBNPA **very concerned** about toileting at Clyn Gwyn
- Current public toilet provision is limited
  - Angel, Porth, Gwaun Hepste
- BBNPA development grant includes 'trial' toilet hire this season (Apr-Sep)
- Garage owner agreed to site it
  - close to his house
  - in view of road
- But we do not have insurance to cover damage
  - £650 replacement cost
- And the grant only covers a weekly clean
  - £85 each for extra!

- So, we could end up having to pay for any damage – and/or extra cleaning – from our own funds

⇒ **Do Members wish us to provide this toilet?**

⇒ **What could we all do to look after it and minimise extra cost?**

- ⇒ Lock?
- ⇒ Monitor?
- ⇒ Clean / Top-Up?

⇒ **Discuss then Vote...**

SR

## Any Other Business: Canoe Access Glasbury-Hay



- Owner of Llanthomas Fishery introduced £3 'Paddle Permit' 1 April
  - Claims that paddlers need permission to pass through his fishery; threatens action against hire companies and other operators who don't pay
- Powys CC "considering" potential "management" of commercial use
- Law is Unclear: it is a 'grey area'...
- If he succeeds, this would set an alarming precedent
- ⇒ **Pay or take risk?**
- ⇒ **What do insurers say?**
- ⇒ **Should SWOAPG 'represent' providers? e.g. a Working Group?**
- ⇒ **What approach should "we" take?**
- ⇒ **Discuss & Vote?**
- Ownership of Fishing Rights probably does not give right to sue for trespass – only for "interference with right to fish"
  - "Damage" would have to be proved
- Canoe Wales / British Canoeing collecting evidence of Public Right of Navigation (PRN), e.g. ...
  - Ancient PRN for "all navigable rivers"?
  - 1662 Act for Wye Navigation referred to "Hereford and Adjacent Counties", but this is ambiguous – and later Acts omitted these
  - **1756 Act for Hay Bridge authorised "...making, maintaining, continuing and perfecting...the navigable passages under the bridge"**
  - Long use, without express permission? "Permissive" sign at Glasbury since 1925? **What evidence can providers produce?**

# THANK YOU!



**South Wales Outdoor Activity Providers Group**

## Have a Safe Journey Home!