



BRITISH MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL

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MINUTES

Meeting to be held on Saturday 17th May 7pm @ The Hawkins Arms, Zelah (see <http://www.hawkinsarms.co.uk/where-are-we/>). [View Link In Google Maps](#)

Present & Signed In:

Matthew Goater (MG) - Chair	Philip Wilson (PW) - Sec
Gareth Palmer (GP) - National Council	Helen Wilson
Kevin Lowry	David Fisher
Oliver Warren	Laura Ratcliffe-Warren
Mark Kemball (MK)	Jay Jackson (JJ)
Jayne Bulbeck	Jon Harvey
Pete Crane	Jeremy Dyke
Dave Hillebrandt	Iain Peters (IP)
Ana Christina Ramos Blanco	Ryan Newman
Tim Stenning	David Hope
Alan Dovey	Jez Marks
Luke Pavey	

- Welcome & Apologies for Absence.** (MG) welcomed everyone to the meeting. He asked members whether they minded the secretary recording the minutes electronically for later paper transcription. There were no objections to this. Apologies for absence were accepted from Colin Knowles, Martin Crocker & Des Hannigan.
- The Previous Meetings Minutes:** These were reviewed for accuracy & completeness and signed off.
- Feedback from February National Council Meeting & Portland AGM Meeting:** (GP) outlined highlights of this meeting for the benefit of Cornish climbers. The points were as follows:
 - Portland AGM:** This was a great success with Free Master Class with Steve McClure and James McHaffie, Free Round Island Coastal Path walk, led by Andy McLaughlin of Wessex Mountaineering Club, Free Chesil Beach walk and fossil hunt, free evening buffet, followed by a live band at the Heights Hotel. The 2013 annual report and accounts were also adopted and Rupert Davies and Mina-Wujastyk elected as Vice-Presidents.
 - National Council Meeting:** This covered BMC area news and reports, BMC membership and finance (Individual and Club Member subscriptions to be increased by £1.50 from 1 January 2015), the 2014 George Band Award for Exceptional Voluntary Contribution, discussion of BMC support for clubs, and strategies for how the BMC can develop its appeal to walkers. The agreement of position statements on Drilled Equipment and Dry Tooling was completed, as well as the publication of 'Get into Climbing', a one-off magazine which went on sale in WH Smith in March 2014.

4. Update on the Avon Gorge Regeneration Project.

- I. Funding has been agreed for a 6 Month project extension. This is to allow further winter scrub clearing (this cannot be done in summer due to Triple SSI status stipulations).
- II. Re-pegging is going ahead, but needs volunteers to help. There is a database outlining this on the www.climbbristol web site & via Dicks Climbing in Bristol, who also holds the supply of pegs.

See point 6 & point 7 (for the Bristol Climbing Festival).

5. Latest On The Cornish Climbing Festival Preparations (5th & 6th July 2014).

Venue: (IP) reported that the Count House had been booked & paid for.

Food: A catering van for Saturday evening meal and breakfasts (no catering from BMC) and free beer was confirmed.

Posters: The publicity poster (example shown at meeting) was also approved of and it was confirmed that 50 people had already confirmed their attendance at the event.

Accommodation: This was discussed (1st come 1st served at the Count House, with a further 60 on site camping slots, with overflow camps to be arranged at Bosigran farm (within walking distance).

Attendance & Booking: 50 attendees have confirmed their attendance (via the BMC South West Facebook page). In hut places can be booked via the CC (who own the Count House).

Photo & Press Release: Possible local St Agnes paper is to cover the event, together with Western Britain.

Saturday Evening Talk: Frank Cannings & (IP) booked.

Raffle: This would be for the charity 'Climbers Against Cancer' with a host of prizes. Prizes would range from guide books, t-shirts to goretex jacket. (GP) has approached manufacturers for prizes.

The withdrawal of a proposed festival donation from the Cornwall Climbing Club was also noted.

6. Latest On The Bristol Climbing Festival (Saturday 26th July 2014).

The committee has applied for the festival go ahead from Bristol City Council, we are 99% sure that this will now be accepted. The mayor is to be invited, together with local area MP and Councillors. There is also to be ab mobile bouldering wall competition, marque & stalls. We are expecting 200 to 500 max attendees. Parking is to be on the Downs, with walking access down Goat Gully to access the festivals. Posters are being organized. There is to be an evening party at RedPoint climbing wall with food drink and speakers (Steve McClure agreed to do sports climbing Masterclasses at the festival and a 45 minute talk at RedPoint).

7. Proposals for how Cornish Climbers can more easily have a voice within the BMC Southwest Area Meeting Framework.

(MG) outlined and explained the BMC procedures for local area BMC members to organise their own affairs via local outreach meetings. He cited Wales as a model for this e.g. quarterly north & south meetings (and meetings in mid Wales when required), with 2 chairs.

He added that these local meeting decisions could then be discussed and ratified at a future local SW Area meeting held locally before being approved and passed to National Council.

This was in response to recent UKC forum discussions.

(IP) said that this could only work if there were enough volunteers to drive this.

(MG) said that a volunteer chair and 5 attendees minimum would be required to start this. (JJ) asked how advertising would be organized (via UKC Facebook, local climbing walls and the BMC database).

Anyone interested should contact (MG) to establish whether we have enough interest.

8. Preliminary discussion on how fixed gear in the areas not covered by the present moratorium.

(MK) clarified this as being everywhere but in West Cornwall and relating to drilled equipment as opposed to fixed equipment which should be allowed e.g. strops, stakes and pegs. Pegs should be allowed where adequate fixed protection cannot be placed

(IP) agreed to draft the wording for a future meeting (IP) similar to the west Penwith one but allowing fixed gear. This area would cover Devon and the south Cornish coast.

(IP) added that places such as the Cheesewring would also need defining as the BMC Drilled Equipment statement presently treats this venue as an inland quarry e.g. where bolts are allowed. (MK) also added that there are sea cliff quarries that are totally man made e.g. around Tintagel, that need defining. He suggested these be treated as sea cliffs and not quarries e.g. no drilled equipment.

(PW) apologized for the ambiguous wording of this on the agenda.

Action Point: (IP) & (MK) to draft, publicise and amend the suggested wording via UKC, with a view to tabling this for discussion at a future local area BMC meeting.

9. Access & Any Local Issues.

- I. Further Installation of abseil chains \ belay stations at popular locations on the North Culm Coast (Possible candidates are Vicarage Cliff, Morwenstow, Gull Rock Marsland, (chains or cables). Stake renewal at Screda Point heartland, Oldwalls Point and Compass Point on the Culm; Black Walls and America Buttress at Carn Gowla.

Stakes have been replaced as per the above and marine grade stainless steel abseil chains placed on the Lunakod abseil with reaction sought on UKC (mostly in favour).

It is now proposed that Fey (lower Sharpnose) and the Tower and Harpoon (Lower Sharpnose) be treated similarly with an additional 1 or 2 marine grade stainless steel cable belay stations set up. All tat will then be cut away and removed.

(IP) and (MK) agreed to publicise and gauge reaction via UKC and report back at a future meeting.

- II. Access gain on the North Devon coast: Lee Abbey Cliff (Wringcliff Bay, Valley of Rocks, Lynton). (MG) reported that Martin Crocker had negotiated access here and read out the access arrangements (details can be found on the BMC Access Database).sign in is required at reception with free parking for

BMC members at the cliff top in Lee Abbey car park. 3rd party insurance and bird nesting restrictions apply.

- III. Bolting Without Land Owners Permission (Cheddar). This is carried forward to the next Bristol meeting.
- IV. Cheddar Gorge (May Bank Holiday Transgressions).

The following Bank Holiday transgressions were reported by Martin Crocker (BMC warden) via email and read out by (MG):

- a) Access to Lion Rock: Climbers are crossing directly from the private Costa car park to Lion Rock, as well as parking in the new short stay car park (45 mins max) here.
- b) Climbing Without BMC Membership Or Valid Insurance: 1 in 5 are climbing without 3rd party BMC or similar private insurance. AMI insurance is not presently included or recognised (it was discussed whether this should be as one must have BMC membership to get AMI insurance, but was not part of the original agreement). Those unsure of the requirements should check with the Cheddar Caves & Gorge office.
- V. A report on the campaign for moorland between Bosigran Farm and Morvah to be registered as common land was heard. The NT, English Nature and the CC oppose this proposal, Crag Access Not Affected. It was felt that as this affects the Count House (and the Climbers Club) it remains a matter for them and not the BMC. MG to send Des Hannigan's letter to Rob Dyer (BMC Access Officer).
- VI. A report on the anticipated deterioration of the path along Bosigran Seaward Cliff (Black Slab area). Des Hannigan reported that the National Trust have no concerns and that there is no deterioration of the path from the winter storms. The steel rod on the 'awkward' step is also missing. No further action is required.

10. **Any Other Business.**

- I. The BMC Annual Highlights March to April 2014. These were read out by (MG).
- II. Members asked for clarification of the procedures for forming a new BMC affiliated climbing club. (MG) outlined this procedure (formed for 1 year, ratified at National Council). This preceded a discussion on how to involve and help new young climbers in making the transition into climbing outside, following the withdrawal of the South West development officer post (funding withdrawal by the Sports Council). The discussion then shifted to how youngsters could be taken climbing by climbing clubs in Cornwall. (IP) pointed out that the Climbers Club minimum joining age was 16 year old (with the required experience). It was felt by some that the Newquay climbing wall could form a focus for local young climbers and a club could be formed to cater for any local youngster wanting to make the transition to outside rock climbing. It was pointed out that good practice guidelines advise that parents of young climbers sign a consent form which includes the BMC Participation Statement and a hyperlink to an online version of the BMC's Young People booklet, so that their consent is informed.
- III. UIAA Technical Meeting Bristol: BMC local activists are to host a climbing day in Avon Gorge in support of this on Saturday 7th June 2014.
- IV. (IP) highlighted that the Llanberis TradFest festival of traditional climbing was being held in the last weekend in June 2014 in Llanberis Pass/Vaynol Arms. Attendance is to be £20 a head, Climbing Club members pay via their club, others via DMM or V12 Outdoors.

- V. Cornwall Climbing Club: (AD) reported that managing quarterly membership is an admin headache, with leavers and joiners having to be struck off, added and issued BMC membership numbers. Those whose subs expire have to be treated as new members. He asked whether clubs could have access to the BMC national database (for their specific club only). (MG) to speak to Hannah.
- 11. **Date of Next Meeting:** The Old Smithy North Cornwall (TBA) 30th August 2014. Note: To be confirmed.