



BRITISH MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL

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MINUTES

Meeting held on Saturday 5th September 2015, 7pm @ The White Thorn Inn, Shaugh Prior, Plymouth, Devon, PL7 5HA [\[View in google maps\]](#)

Present & Signed In:

Matthew Goater (MG) - Chair
Gareth Palmer (GP) - National Council
Dave Fisher – Clubs Rep
Simon Fletcher – Avon Access Rep
Andrew McCloud
Tom Palmer
Emily Marley
James Mann
Peter Fagan
*Lisa Allwid
Cavila Tejada
Nick Stephens

Philip Wilson (PW) - Sec
Colin Knowles – National Council
Iain Peters – CC Rep
Pete Saunders
David Hillebrandt
Paul Birchell
Jonathon Rowe
*Sally Lisle
Ed Brandley
*Ray Allwid
Louise Ansell
Will Hornby

Key: * = Unsure of surname, not clear on signing in sheet.

1. **Welcome & Apologies for Absence.** (MG) welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies for absence were accepted from Bob Watson, Trevor Smith & Kevin Lowry.
2. **The Previous Meetings Minutes:** These were reviewed for accuracy & completeness and signed off.

Highlights & Action Points Carried Forward:

BMC Web Site: Colin Knowles responded to complaints that the site search engine is not as good as Google. This is because BMC uses Google Business Search and not Google Personal Search. The BMC is looking at this.

BMC Email Invites To SW Area Meetings Going Astray: Colin Knowles reported that the bulk of this is due to incorrect (old out of date) emails being held for members. He asked members to check that emails held were current.

5 Hour Rescue Of James Mann At Dewerstone (badly broken ankle on the descent path): On talking to the BMC tech officer it was recommended that one should call for Mountain Rescue and not the ambulance services (as was done in this case). The latter services ask for post codes and not grid references. This will now be a change to BMC advice. Dave Hillebrandt advised that the SW Ambulance Service (via their Specialised Rescue Unit) did not have the required skills and experience to carry out these types of rescues quickly. **Action Point:** Dave Hillebrandt to talk to SW Ambulance Services.

RAD Database Update For Compass Point: Philip Wilson reported that this had been amended on the 30/06/2014. It now says: "A large rock fall occurred on the right side of the crag in 2014, significantly changing all routes to the right of the descent ramp including the popular Crimpyphon and Caravanserai. The rock that remains on this section of the crag is still very

unstable and any routes on this section of crag are likely to be mostly or entirely different to those that previously existed and very loose. Climbers are advised to avoid this area of the crag".

(see <https://www.thebmc.co.uk/modules/RAD/ViewCrag.aspx?id=1091>).

ClimbBristol Project: Colin Knowles said that a letter of thanks to parties involved in this project would be forwarded as received from ACT and attached to these SW Area Minutes. **Action Point**: Now received and attached to minutes (see appendix A).

Roche Rock Clean Up: Gareth Palmer has been unable to contact anyone in officialdom regarding this. It was suggested that climbers clean this up themselves when visiting (rubbish deposited is not from climbers).

3. **BMC Area Briefing Notes – Sept 2015**: These were read out. Details to be published with these minutes by Philip Wilson.

4. **Feedback from National Council**: Colin Knowles reported the following. From the North Yorkshire Moors meeting:

National Heritage Mountain Trust: It was felt that the profile of this organisation needs to be raised with regards to the public perception of it. This is to be done.

Perceived Delay Of CC Club Guide Books: Pete Stirling reported that the funds were available for this, providing the business case for each guide could be justified.

SW Area Rep: Colin said that he was fighting for this post to be re-instated.

BMC Approached Over Crookrise Purchase: Mixed reception to this at National Council.

Bracken Swamping Crags: Following study, it was concluded that the most effective way of controlling this is via the use of livestock.

Climbing In Quarries: BMC working with quarry owners, to try to ensure that final blasting at de-commissioned quarries (at the end of their working lives) clear ledges and faces of debris.

5. **2015 Cornish Climbing Festival**: SW Area thanked Gareth Palmer, Iain Peters & Corrinne Sher (non-climber who liaised with County Council), for organising this event. Thanks also to the Diploma Mountain Medicine speakers (organised by Dave Hillebrandt, who will pass on our thanks to them), Frank Cannings & Calum Muskett for informative and entertaining talks which helped make this event such a great success.
6. **2016 Proposed Cornish Climbing Festival 2016**: It was agreed that this should be held again next year. **Action Point**: Gareth Palmer & Iain Peters agreed to co-ordinate this again next year and report back at future meetings regarding date and venue.
7. **2017 Lundy Climbing Festival**: Gareth Palmer & Iain Peters reported that this had caught people's imagination, with provisional backing by the BMC. **Action Point**: Gareth Palmer & Iain Peters agreed to co-ordinate this again next year and report back at future meetings regarding costs, numbers & provisional booking (which has to be done at least 1 year in advance) for early September 2017.
8. **Access & Local Issues**:

Torbay Quarries Access: Pete Saunders reported that climbers should be on best behaviour when climbing here to maintain good relations with the owners who allow climbing here as access is sensitive.

Black Ice Long Quarry Point: Pete Saunders reported that the midway belay now has bolts (to replace the corroding pegs). It was conceded that it might

have been diplomatic to seek the 1st ascensionist's approval for this but the South Devon bolting policy clearly states this is only a requirement for protection bolts (i.e runners) and not for belays.

Daddy Hole Area, Telegraph Hole: Belay trees at the top of the crag have been removed by the local council. **Action Point:** Pete Saunders to table a proposal at the next Devon meeting for alternative belays, including bolt top belays.

Daddyhole Area, Meadfoot Quarry: Top belays were discussed. **Action Point:** Pete Saunders to table a proposal at the next Devon meeting for alternative belays here.

Suspension Bridge Buttress Bristol: Strop removal at right hand end possibly due to rare plants being present: **Action Point:** Colin Knowles to pick up for the next Bristol meeting after meeting with Libby Houston.

Polished Bad Step At Bosigran: This was raised again, as it allows access to the easy grade climbs at the crag end. There was a steel spike here but this was removed. Current thinking is that this step should be protected by natural protection using climbing judgement if required.

Future SW Area Meetings Hosted Walking Talks: It was suggested that this should be pursued to attract walkers to meetings. Many climbers also walk so this would also be of interest to them. Anne Daniels & Fiona Campbell were suggested. **Action Point:** Matt Goater to ask Trevor Smith (Walking Rep) if he could look at this.

Craig Harwood Memorial Meet: Iain Peters reported that this is to take place at the Don Whillans Memorial Hut – 16th September 2015 for those interested.

9. Any Other Business:

Iain Peters reported that the Craig Harwood inquest was held in Truro on the 15th June 2015.

10. Date of Next Meeting:

Saturday 7th November at the Nova Scotia Inn Bristol @ 7pm.

Appendix A (letter of thanks from BMC Access & Conservation Trust)



British Mountaineering Council

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Martin Crocker
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4th June 2015

Dear Martin and the ClimbBristol Steering Group

Thankyou from the BMC Access & Conservation Trust

I am writing on behalf of the BMC Access & Conservation Trust (ACT) to acknowledge and thank you, along with all of the volunteers on the ClimbBristol Steering Group, for all of your hard work and success in raising the profile of climbing in Avon Gorge and improving conditions for access in the area.

I would be very grateful if you would pass on the ACT's sincere thanks to all that have helped deliver such a successful project.

The publicity we have gained from the ClimbBristol project will considerably boost the work of ACT and will enable us to fund several new environmental projects in our hills and mountains this year. Many thanks once again.

Yours sincerely

David Bishop (on behalf of the ACT Trustees)
Chair, BMC ACT

working for climbers, hill walkers & mountaineers

Patrons: Sir Chris Bonington CBE, Lord Chorley, Mick Fowler, Lord Greaves, Pat Littlejohn OBE and Doug Scott CBE.

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