

BMC South West Area Gathering

Meeting held at The Hawkins Arms, Zelah, Cornwall
Saturday 21 May 2016, starting at 7:00pm.

Present: Matt Goater (Chair), Mark Kemball (Acting Secretary), Gareth Palmer (National Council), Colin Knowles (National Council / Exec.), Dave Fisher (Clubs Rep), Trevor Smith, (Hill Walking Rep) Corrine Share, James Mann, Rob Seymour, Piers Hay, Jeremy Dyke, Alan Dovey, Sally Smith.

1. **Welcome and Apologies for Absence.** Matt Goater welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Philip Wilson, Dan Donovan and Iain Peters.
2. **The Previous Meeting's Minutes** were reviewed by Matt Goater and signed off. There was one matter arising: the proposal to clean up Suspension Bridge Buttress – this needs a co-ordinator to seek the necessary permissions and organise the clean-up. Barry Donovan was suggested and Matt Goater is to contact him to ask if he will take this on.
3. **Area Briefing Notes** were read out by Matt Goater. Following on from this, Trevor Smith spoke of the Clubs Seminar which was held after the AGM. There was also some discussion of the National Trust's proposals to introduce charging and licensing for the commercial use of their land.
4. **Feedback from the National Council and Executive.** Colin Knowles reported that the BMC offices in Manchester are going to be re-vamped over the summer with a mezzanine floor being put in to accommodate the increased numbers of staff. We are awaiting the outcome of the proposal to include climbing as a sport in the 2020 and 2024 Olympic Games, the BMC is ready to approach UK Sport for support should this go ahead. Some discussion followed as to the desirability of climbing moving in this direction, and whether the BMC's money should be used to support this. Colin pointed out that should climbing become an Olympic Sport, then financial support should come from Sport England.
5. **Cornish Climbing and Walking Festival 2016.** This is to be held on the weekend of 10th – 12th June at the Count House. James Mann reported on how the preparations are going. The BMC has paid for the use of the hut for the weekend. Tickets (£35) are now available from the BMC website shop. Mike Raine, Frank Cannings and Scott Titt will be speaking on the Saturday evening. One of the 4 Points members is a chef and will be in charge of catering. James asked for volunteers to help with the preparation for and running of the festival. Several people volunteered, and discussion on the organisation of the weekend followed. Gareth Palmer is to contact UKC and the BMC to get more publicity for the event.
6. **Lundy Climbing Festival 2017.** Provisionally, this is planned for 27th August – 3rd September 2017. Gareth Palmer reported that he is still awaiting confirmation for the accommodation

(Campsite and Barn) for those dates, once he has received this, he will be able to proceed with the details of the festival.

7. **Access and Local Issues.** Devil's Jump, the access issue is on-going, we have not yet been able to contact the owner. Avon Gorge – the City Council has banned mass abseiling at Sea Walls, Unknown Wall, blue posts denote the boundary of the City Council's land, the peregrine nesting restrictions are under active review. Durnford Quarry is under investigation as a climbing venue, but the immediate outlook is pessimistic. Mendip Council has been approached with a view to the recreational use of quarries in its area, this is moving forward, but is a long term project. Symonds Yat – it was suggested that a proposal to start fitting abseil strops to the Yat's abseil trees could be discussed at the next Bristol meeting.
8. **Hill Walking Issues.** Trevor Smith reported that the "Mend Our Mountains Campaign" – crowd-funding for footpath repair raised £103k (target £100k). The campaign ran for 10 weeks with a specific project in each of the National Parks. The Dartmoor and Exmoor projects did not meet their individual targets, but they will be subsidised from the projects that were over-subscribed. The BMC has produced a new Hill Walking Guide (booklet) which is free. We hope to have some available for the Cornish Festival.
9. **Clubs Issues.** A Clubs' Membership Database Portal is being trialled at the moment, this should be available for 2017 and should simplify admin for individual clubs.
10. **A.O.B.** – none.
11. **Date of next meeting.** 10th September, Dartmoor, Trevor Smith to organise a venue.