

## **South West Area Meeting**

**Venue:** The Quay Climbing Centre, Exeter EX2 8AX

**Date:** Saturday 27 January 2018, 5pm

### **MINUTES**

Present and signed in:

James Mann (Chair), Mark Kemball (Secretary), Dave Turnbull (BMC CEO), Helen Wilson (National Council), Gareth Palmer (National Council, West Cornwall access), Will Hornby (North Devon and North Cornwall access), Marti Hallett (Dorset access), Mark Courtiour (Somerset access), Nigel Barry, T Rodford, S Parsons, E Chadwick, Mike Virtue, Peter Salenieks, Ian Jones, Pete Merrick, Barry Donovan, Nikki Clargo, Iain Peters, Pete Callaghan, Philip Wilson, Nick Barron.

**1. Welcome and apologies for absence** – James Mann welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Colin Knowles, David Hillebrandt, Trevor Smith, Ian Butterworth, Freddie Naish, Frank Cannings, Bob Peters and Daisy Peters.

**2. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 25 November 2017** – James Mann summarised these.

**3. Matters arising from the minutes not covered elsewhere** – none.

#### **4. Elections:**

4.1. Clubs Representative - Philip Wilson (Four Points and CC) was unanimously elected as club rep for the area.

4.2. National Council Representative - Gareth Palmer has two more meetings before his term as area rep ends, Trevor Smith has offered to replace him, as Trevor was unable to attend the meeting, we decided to defer the election, if anyone else would also like to take on this role, please let us know.

4.3. Climbing Walls Representative – Nikki Clargo (manager, Plymouth Life Centre climbing wall) was unanimously elected as climbing wall rep. This is the first time we have had a walls rep in our area.

**5. BMC representation on Mountain Training England** – The proposed changes to the BMC representation on Mountain Training England were discussed with Dave Turnbull giving the meeting some background to the proposals. Following the discussion a vote was taken – do we support the proposed changes? For – 18; Against – 0; Abstentions – 2.

**6. Organisational Review** – The review and the groups January 2018 summary were discussed at length. Following the discussion, a vote was taken on support for the proposed revised timetable; the meeting was unanimously in favour.

**7. Coastguard callouts** – report from Dr David Hillebrandt – Dr Hillebrandt's report was discussed at length, together with further information received since it was written. A revised report is being prepared which will be published with these minutes. The meeting was unhappy with the present situation and various possible courses of action were discussed. It was agreed that a working party should be set up to look further into this. Members of the working party: James Mann, David Hillebrandt, Mark Courtiour, Will Hornby, Gareth Palmer, Barry Donovan and Marti Hallett. If anyone has any information on any cliff rescues in the area, please could you let them know.

## **8. Reports from Area Representatives:**

### **8.1. Access**

Stakes and lower-offs (Cornwall): Will Hornby asked for a list of cliffs in North Cornwall and North Devon in need of new abseil stakes / lower-offs.

Avon – report from Colin Knowles:

1. I met with Ben Skuse, Downs Ranger. The BMC-donated padlock at Seawalls is working well, but he remains under pressure from the Emergency Services re. the high rate of suicides in the Avon Gorge. The Management Plan for the Downs and the Avon Gorge will be released for comment imminently – Rob Dyer will assist in the response.
2. The application to BCC for the clean-up day at Main Wall on Feb 18<sup>th</sup> has been submitted. The event now needs publicity.

South Devon – Torbryan, Nick Barron has now re-bolted about two thirds of the routes here and the work continues. Once he has completed this he will start work at Anstey's Cove.

Dorset – Marti Hallett is continuing with his re-bolting work here.

The meeting wished to record its thanks to Nick and Marti for all their work.

Marti wishes to clarify the Dorset bolting agreement and asked if we could hold a meeting in Dorset to discuss this – September was suggested and the meeting was in favour of this.

Devil's Jump – despite a number of attempts, Gareth Palmer has not yet been able to contact the land owner.

It was pointed out that the RAD is not working / up to date on mobile phones, we should use the website version.

8.2. Clubs – Pete Salenieks summarised the latest report from the clubs' committee in particular the Club Officers' Training Day – 18<sup>th</sup> March. The next committee meeting is 8<sup>th</sup> February – any club related issues should now go to Philip Wilson.

8.3. Climbing Walls – Nothing to report – please bring any issues to the attention of Nikki Clargo – our new rep.

8.4. Hill Walking – Dave Turnbull reported that so far "Mend Our Mountains" has raised £150k.

8.5. Youth – Freddie Naish (AYC) was unable to attend the meeting as he was organising the first round of the area's Youth Climbing Series in Plymouth (his first competition in this role) 125 young climbers competed in this event.

**9. Bristol Built Sport and Active Recreation Facility Strategy** – despite our earlier representations, no mention of climbing or climbing walls was made in the first draft of this strategy. Colin Knowles has sent in the following report: Bristol City of Sport Sort Strategy Rich Emerson has met with a relevant BCC Officer who will be including climbing in the strategy. Rich and I have also arranged a meeting in February with the Deputy Head of Neighbourhood, Sally Hogg, to impart a wider strategic view of climbing to BCC (rather than focussing just on built facilities).

**10. Area briefing notes** – James Mann summarised the area briefing notes.

## **11. National Council:**

11.1. Report from previous meeting – Helen Wilson summarised the last National Council meeting.

11.2. Matters to take to next meeting – our support for the recommended changes to BMC representation on Mountain Training Boards, our support for ORG revised timetable, our continuing concern over Coastguard cliff rescue capabilities.

## **12. AOB**

**13. Date and venue of next meeting** – this would normally be held in West Cornwall, but as we will be discussing the ORG recommendations, it was suggested that it be held more centrally, in Exeter, 14<sup>th</sup> April.

Meeting closed at 7:45pm.