

BMC South West Area Meeting

Venue: The Quay Climbing Centre, Exeter EX2 8AX

Date: Saturday 14th April 2018, 5pm

MINUTES

Present and signed in:

James Mann (Chair), Mark Kemball (Secretary), Gareth Palmer (National Council) Helen Wilson (National Council), Philip Wilson (Clubs rep), Andy Say (Implementation Group), Jon Garside (BMC training officer), Mark Courtiour (Cheddar access rep), Will Hornby (Culm and North Devon access rep), Barbara Segal (Red Rope), Pete Callaghan, Iain Peters, Trevor Smith, Al Begley (Avon M.C.), Becky Bagnall, John Booth, Philip Ellis, Matt Glover, Peter Salenieks, Bob Watson.

1. Welcome and apologies for absence James Mann welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Colin Knowles, Freddie Naish, Bob Peters, Daisy Peters and Rob Seymour.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 27.1.18 – James Mann summarised these.

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

4. Nikki Clargo is no longer working at “The Life Centre”, so has stood down as Climbing Wall rep. We are looking for a new one.

5. Communications – instructions from the BMC office. We should no longer keep email lists – group emails should be sent via the office. Please could members check that their details are correct on the BMC website to ensure that they receive emails. Information will also be available via the BMC SW facebook page.

6. Organisational Review and Implementation Group’s Recommendations. Prior to the meeting, we had received statements from Colin Knowles and Rob Seymour expressing their views on the subject, these were read out at the start of this section. Helen Wilson then gave a presentation of the Implementation Group’s recommendations as they stand at the moment, with Andy Say (from the group) helping to clarify various points. It was pointed out that the recommendations are not yet finalised as negotiations with Sport England are still continuing. However our views are being sought for the National Council so that they can finalise motions for June’s AGM. James Mann thanked Helen and Andy for the presentation, we then adjourned for food and informal discussion. We resumed for formal questions and answers. This was followed by a vote on the Implementation Group’s recommendations as they stand. (The purpose of the vote was to inform National Council of the area’s views).

1a. New Articles of Association to replace the current M&AA

- incorporate 7 of the ORG’s recs regarding legal compliance & good governance
- (ORG recs 26, 27, 28, 29, 34, 36, 39)

For 14, against 1, no abstentions.

1b. Introduce electronic proxy voting at General Meetings

- (ORG rec 38, proposed Article 14.13)

For 14, against 0, abstentions 2

1c. Increase number of members required to raise a resolution, from 25 to 100

- (ORG rec 39, proposed Article 12.2)

- Will bring in line with the no. of members required to call a General Meeting (unchanged at 100).
- Will be supported by the proposed Grievance Procedure.

(It was pointed out that this is still under discussion and that numbers may well change, and the present proposal includes the provision that if 25 members are unhappy with the outcome of a grievance procedure they can raise a resolution at the AGM.)

For 11, against 1, abstentions 4.

1d. To implement the changes required by Sport England to comply with the Code of Sports Governance

- Reserved matters are for consultation with NC only.

(Negotiations on reserved matters with Sport England are continuing.)

For 14, against 2, no abstentions.

7. Cliff Rescue and Coastguard Issues

James Mann told the meeting that filming for the planned film on sea cliff climbing, safety etc, will be at the start of May. Communications with the coastguard are improving, and they are invited to the official launch party for the Chair Ladder guide and will be given copies of both the new West Cornwall guides.

Pete Callaghan has been working on an incident reporting system for accidents and near misses with a view to learning from these. He has been looking at various systems used in other countries and has been trying out some possible systems. Following discussion, Pete proposed the following motion, seconded by Iain Peters:

The BMC should set up a working group to look into setting up an incident reporting system. This was passed unanimously.

8. Access:

Sean Kelly had contacted the meeting via Trevor Smith asking about the possibility of belay stakes at Telegraph Hole and Meadfoot Quarries. James Mann said that he and Pete Saunders (guidebook author) had looked into this and found that there are good natural belays at Telegraph Hole and that the soil is too thin, with bedrock below at Meadfoot, so trees further back should be used.

Colin Knowles sent in the following report for the Bristol area.

- a. The Clean-up Day at Main Wall on February 18th was a great success. The weather was good, the event was well attended, and the results impressive. Thanks to all volunteers.
- b. I am disappointed to report that the Management Plan for the Downs and Avon Gorge has not yet been released to stakeholders for comment. No explanation has been provided.
- c. Rich Emerson and I met with the Deputy Head of Neighbourhood at Bristol City Council, Sally Hogg, who provided us with apparently relevant contacts within BCC. As yet no response has been received from these contacts. We will persist in our efforts to gain engagement.
- d. Following a chance meeting between Rich Emerson, myself and the Mayor at the Annual Bristol Sports Gathering in February, Bristol has made a provisional bid to the BMC and the

IFSC to host the European Bouldering Championship in 2020. The current plan is to hold the event after the Olympics, in the open-air arena beside the Floating Harbour.

Bristol City Council lacks experience in this kind of competition, so a high degree of co-ordination will be needed between the Mayor's Office, the BMC and the IFSC. In practical terms the Mayor's office will need input from local BMC members during the planning stages, and during the 3/4 day event itself a large number of volunteers will be needed.

James Mann also reported that the tree on Nightmare is in a very dangerous condition, and that this is being dealt with, until this is done, climbers should steer well clear.

Cheddar – Mark Courtiour reported that the current “spring clean” (as reported in the media) should not affect climbing (beyond the removal of some loose rock). At present relations with the Cheddar Gorge management are good. There are plans to fence off the area under High Rock (Coronation Street etc.) with a padlocked gate to allow climbers access (similar to the FCQ arrangements).

Will Hornby reported that he is going ahead with replacing stakes on the Culm Coast and at Baggy Point.

9. Clubs – Philip Wilson gave a brief report on the last meeting of the Clubs Committee.

10. Youth – Freddie Naish (current area youth coordinator) was unable to attend the meeting, he sent in the following report:

- a. Following the cancellation of round 2 which was due to be held at Redpoint Bristol we held a largely successful round 3 at The Quay Climbing Centre although, true to form, the event wasn't entirely without incident. I would personally like to extend my thanks to everyone who has helped out this year, particularly the hosting venues who have gone above and beyond in their help and also to those people at Round 3 who came to help out on the day despite not having children taking part in the event, to me this really embodies the spirit of community that climbing can engender.
- b. Unfortunately having taken on a new role with the GB Team (which is also the reason I'm unable to attend the meeting in person today) I no longer have the available time to continue as AYC. The role of AYC is an important one and given that I do not feel I can complete the role to the standard I would like it is better for me to step down. It is my recommendation to the Area that we look to find at least 2 people to fulfil the role going forward, this will not only help to share the workload involved in running the YCS but also help to increase the possibility of arranging more social events for our young climbers, particularly in respect of outdoor meets. I am, of course, happy to share everything I've done this year in the role including passing on this e-mail address to the next person.
- c. All that really remains for me to say is that if you know anyone who might take on the role of AYC please ask them to get in touch with Mark Kemball.

11. Date and Venue of next meeting – to be decided.