

BMC South West Area Chair's Report 2018/2019

The past year has been a relatively quiet one for the BMC SW area with few major controversies and burning issue debate. The Organisational Development Group has rumbled along with gears grinding slowly, although I am sure that members of work streams have continued to toil towards reform. This has had, as yet, little visible impact upon ordinary members of the BMC. We wait with baited breath to see the developments that the coming year bring.

What then of your local area?

During the past year these activities and events have taken place in the South West Area.

- Re-equipping of sport climbing venues in Dorset and Devon is still on-going. Nick Baron has continued to put in a huge amount of time and effort at Torbryan and is now beginning to get started at Anstey's Cove. A great deal of thanks is owed also to Marti Hallet and others who continue to tirelessly re-equip on Portland.
- The Youth Climbing Series ran successfully in our area with many young climbers involved. Thanks go to Julian Wills, Henry Forester and many others who have freely given up time not only to run these events, but have also worked hard to lobby the office to reform the way that these events are run in the future to give a safer, more efficient and more positive experience for competitors. Changes to the YCS will be implemented from January.
- A BMC Youth Meet was held in West Penwith on the only three consecutive dry days of the entire Autumn during October half-term. This was a great opportunity for our young, local climbers to experience traditional climbing. Thanks to Rob Seymour (Count House Custodian) and to the Climbers' Club for allowing us the use of the hut. Also, thanks to James McHaffie and all those who volunteered for making the meet a great success.
- Rescue, sea-cliff safety and incidents has seen continued monitoring. This work is on-going.

- The BMC incident reporting system is now live. This has seen good numbers of reports uploaded and this data set is now beginning to be used to examine common causes of accidents and incidents.
- Sea Cliff Essentials films have been viewed by many. The general response to these has been positive.
- Lundy access issues have been largely resolved through a BMC visit to meet with the Lundy Warden to discuss issues around nest restrictions. Thanks also to Dan Donovan, Simon Fletcher and others for helping the warden with bird ringing in inaccessible areas on the island.
- Huge numbers of access and local issues have been tackled by access reps and other local volunteers. A great thank you to those people who selflessly give up their time freely for the benefit of their local climbing communities.

James Mann (Area Chair)