



South West Area AGM

Zoom Meeting held
on 3rd November 2020 @ 7pm

Attendance via Zoom: Mark Kemball, Simon Wooster, Helen Wilson, Philip Wilson, Mark Courtier, James Mann, Veronica Cooperman, Rik Meek, Adam Lowe, Barry Donovan, Charlotte Rivers, Colin Knowles, Dave Turrell, Dave Hillebrandt, Ian Lee, James Evans, John Booth, Charlotte Rivers, Jonny Dry, Joshua Stewart, Matthew Bowell, Nigel Barry, Paul Roberts, Peter Greening, Rick Swards, Robert Lewington, Steve Henderson, Tim Meehan, Tony Bird, Grant Edwards, Ian Butterworth, Rick Swards, Steve Menadue, Mark Courtier, Mark Harrison, Alan Dovey, & Tori Taylor-Roberts.

1. Mark Kemball welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. Mark summarised the minutes of the last AGM, there were no matters arising.
3. Mark read out the area's Annual Report for the past year (see Appendix A).
4. Election of officers:
 - a. Chair – Mark Kemball, proposed Tony Bird, Seconded Colin Knowles.
Voted: 92% in favour (24 votes), 4% abstain (1 vote) & 4% person not an area member (1 vote). Mark Kemball elected as Area Chair.
 - b. Secretary – Alan Dovey, proposed Philip Wilson, seconded Tony Bird.
Voted: 93% in favour (26 votes), 4% against (1 vote), 4% abstain (1 vote) & 4% person not an area member (4%). Alan Dovey elected as Area Secretary.
 - c. Climbing Wall Rep: Paul Roberts proposed Mark Kemball, seconded Colin Knowles. 92% in favour (24 votes), 4% abstain (1 vote) & 4% person not an area member (1 vote). Paul Roberts elected as climbing wall rep.

The following were confirmed in post:

5. National Council, Clubs, Youth Co-ordinators (North & South): Dave Taylor & Julian Wills.
 - a. National Council Reps – Helen Wilson & Philip Wilson.
 - b. Clubs Rep - Martin Corfield
 - c. Youth Co-ordinator (South) - Julian Wills
 - d. Youth Co-ordinator (North) - Dave Taylor
6. Access Reps (to be confirmed as continuing in post):
 - a. Wye Valley – Rick Swards. Rick is to continue in post until the Dec 2020 when he is moving to Devon. He is to organise a handover to Hudio Sanchez. Colin Knowles thanked Rick on behalf of the meeting for his tireless work in this post for a long time, in which he has successfully

covered many tricky local access issues on behalf of the BMC with great diplomacy and tact.

- b. Avon – Simon Fletcher
- c. Somerset – Mark Coutiour
- d. Fairy Cave Quarry – Ian Butterworth
- e. Portland – Neale Heanes
- f. Swanage and Dorset – Martin Hallett
- g. North Devon – Will Hornby
- h. South Devon – Dave Henderson
- i. West Penwith – Dave Hope
- j. Atlantic Coast – Iain Peters

The SW AGM then closed.

Appendix A:

BMC SW area 2019 – 20 report.

Well, it's been an "interesting" year, completely overshadowed by covid...

At last year's AGM, James Mann was elected as chair and myself as secretary. In spring, James stood down and I took over as chair and Philip Wilson took over from me as secretary. This was agreed by the National Council. I'd like to thank James for all the work he did as chair and his continuing support for me in my new role. Henry Forrester has been our Walls rep, he too is standing down as he is no longer working in the industry, I'd like to thank him too, particularly for his support for our area youth co-ordinators in running the Youth Climbing Series.

In 2018, we decided to try, for one year running all our meetings in one central venue – The Quay, Exeter. In November 2019, we reviewed this and decided that at least one of our meetings should be held in Bristol and that whenever possible meetings should be held at a climbing wall. Well, just before the first lockdown we held an area meeting at Redpoint in Bristol, since then, meetings have been on line using Zoom – there are certainly advantages to this, especially in a large area like ours and it may well be that we decide to continue with this once things "get back to normal" (if they ever do). However, I for one, miss the chance to meet face to face and the accompanying "craic".

As a result of the pandemic, climbing has been somewhat limited this year, however a couple of issues have arisen. Bolts have appeared in South Devon contrary to the current fixed gear policy. We are trying to address this issue (see later in the meeting).

"Wild Camping" and "Van Camping" by some inconsiderate / ill-educated individuals has resulted in significant littering in our area, particularly on Dartmoor and in West Cornwall. This does not seem to be improving.

Mark Kemball