

British Mountaineering Council

South West Area

Annual General Meeting

Date of Meeting: 19th October 2021
Type of Meeting: Zoom video call
Time of Meeting: 1900
Chair: Mark Kemball
Secretary: Alan Dovey
No. of members present: 22

Minutes

1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies: Terry Gifford

2. Approve previous Area AGM meeting minutes

3 November 2020 - Link to BMC Site
<https://community.thebmc.co.uk/GetFile.ashx?did=3441>

Agreed: Approved

3. Election of Officers

Chair: Mark Kemball

Proposed: Colin Knowles

Seconded: Iain Peters

Noted: Elected

Secretary: Alan Dovey

Proposed: Mark Kemball

Seconded: Colin Knowles

Noted: Elected

Members' Council: South West Area Representative

Noted: This is for a 3-year term

Philip Wilson

Proposed: Mark Kemball
Seconded: Colin Knowles

Noted 1: Elected

Noted 2: The second representative for the South West Area is Helen Wilson whose 3-year term will finish at the AGM 2022.

Climbing Walls: Paul Roberts

Clubs: Martin Corfield

Youth Co-ordinators

- North: Martin Corfield
- South: Julian Wills

Hill Walking: Tony Bird

Area Access Representatives

Atlantic Coast:	Iain Peters
Bristol & Avon:	Simon Fletcher
Devon and the Culm:	Mark McManus
Dartmoor:	Will Hornby
South Devon Coast:	James Mann
Fairy Cave Quarry:	Mark Courtiour
Somerset	Mark Courtiour
Swanage and Dorset:	Marti Hallett assisted for Portland by Neal Heanes
West Penwith:	Dave Hope (Dave will be standing down; a replacement is required)
Wye Valley:	Julio Sanchez

4. Chair Annual Report

See Appendix

5. Any Other Business

None

6. AGM 2022

Noted 1: The date is to be agreed

Noted 2: 2021 was the second year that virtual Zoom meetings have been used. They have improved 'attendance' and enabled engagement in a way that 'physical' meetings which inevitably involve long distance travel and expense for many. Inevitably there is a loss of the social aspects of such events.

Agreed: To review the possibility of a fixed location social venue and to review the capability to provide a virtual access for those unable to attend.

Appendix

BMC South West Area 2020-21 Report

Since last year's AGM we have held 3 regular area meetings:

1st March

29th April

19th July

There was one special meeting (27th January). All the meetings were held on-line using "Zoom". Attendance continues to be significantly higher than physical meetings (typically 30 - 40 attendees, but 90+ for the special meeting).

The main focus has been access issues:

Anstey's Cove

The special meeting of 27th January was called because members raised concerns about path "improvements" at Anstey's Cove and worries that this might impact access as the landowner had not been properly consulted. A locally based group has been set up to work with the landowner and look after this important site.

Dartmoor

Bovey Woods – concerns were raised by The Woodland Trust (landowner) about the impact of bouldering in the area, a code of conduct has been agreed and publicised by the BMC.

Bonehill – the parking area here had significantly deteriorated, concerns were raised with Dartmoor National Park (DNP), they have undertaken improvements with help towards the costs from the BMC.

Wild Camping – nuisance camping and accompanying litter etc. has continued to be a problem on the moor. DNP is consulting on restricting the areas where camping is allowed – more on this and our response in the main meeting.

Tintagel Head, Cornwall

English Heritage (EH) is no longer allowing climbing on Tintagel Head (Il Duce, etc.) Our National Access officers are talking to EH trying to resolve this.

Skeleton Ridge, Isle of Wight

The National Trust has stopped allowing access to Skeleton Ridge. Marti Hallett is working to resolve this with support from the National Access officers.

Cheddar

After a poor start at Easter and Whitsun with some flagrant transgressions jeopardising access, the rest of the season has been, dare I say - exemplary. No observed breaches of our agreement. I hope that it's the signs and bolt tags that have helped, in which case next year should be good too. (Mark Courtiour).

Wye Valley

Not access, but related – a local group of climbers has been set up to work on replacing the fixed protection on Wintour's Leap. (Working along the same lines as the "Climb Bristol" project.)

Climbing Competitions

After a long Covid hiatus, the BMC Youth Climbing series has started up again this autumn.

Mark Kemball

Area Chair