



Minutes of the SW Area Meeting (held Saturday 14th July 2012, Radjel Inn, Pendeen, Cornwall @ 8pm).

Present:

Matthew Goater (MG) - Chair
Martin Kocsis MK - BMC Staff
Pete Greening – (PG) CC
Andy March – CC
Des Hannigan (DH)
Gareth Palmer

Philip Wilson (PW) - Sec
Richard Moss (RM) - BMC Rep
Ian Peters – (IP) CC
Alan Dovey – Cornwall Climbing Club
Hannah Woolley (HW)
Dave Fisher - RR

1. Welcome & apologies for absence

MG welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies for absence were accepted from Shane Ohly - CC, Colin Knowles - NC, Dave Hillibrand and Chris Griffiths (CG).

2. The Previous Meetings Minutes & Matters Arising

A quick summary of the minutes and action points from the previous Bristol meeting were pointed out by **MG**, including:

- **Avon Gorge Steering Group:** Approval by ACT has been granted (with reduced funding). It is hoped that the car park under Main Wall could still be re-instated.
- **Fixed Gear Removal / Replacement** Avon fixed gear will be removed / updated funded by climber donations. Work to start this winter under the Avon Gorge Steering Group.
- **Climbing Avon Gorge West Side:** It is hoped that this area can be opened up for climbing and included in the new Avon Gorge guide, following investigation by Martin Crocker and Libby Houston sounding out the owners and reporting back.

No corrections or amendments to these minutes were reported during the meeting.

3. Feedback From The Previous Cornish Meeting

It was agreed that this had been a success. **PW**, **MG** and **MK** reported that they had a progress update from Shane Ohly (the fixed gear removal co-ordinator from this previous meeting). It was agreed to discuss this topic under point 5 (Fixed Gear Replacement).

4. The Cornish Climbing Festival – Weekend 8th & 9th September 2012

A weekend BMC festival was proposed by **MK** along the lines of the recent Gower and Tremadoc festivals sponsored by the BMC with the help of (local) volunteers. This event would consist of a barbeque, day time climbing, and social events (such as drinks, slide show and / or climbing DVD's). The proposal was accepted as a good idea, with the date being set after consulting the local tide tables for favourable tides! The locations shortlisted were Zennor @ The Back Packers Inn, Treen @ the Logan Rock pub or at Sennen Cove. It was also pointed out by **IP** that The Climbers

Club (CC) and Alpine Club also have a similar event running at the Count House from the 2nd -16th Sept 2012, so co-ordinated activities may be possible.

Action Points: **AD** agreed to talk to available facilities and confirm venue and talk to the CC. **MG & PW** also agreed to help **MK** with this as required. As this date was fast approaching (with holidays, etc interfering) it was decided to quickly finalise this location. Zennor and Sennen Cove were rejected (due to parish council camping ban at Zennor and fragmented nature of the facilities at Sennen). This left Treen @ The Logan Rock Inn. Tel: 01736 810495. (<http://www.staustellbrewery.co.uk/pubs/a-z-of-pubs/196-logan-rock-inn-treen.html>). Nearby camping is also available at Treen Farm (www.treenfarmcampsite.co.uk) camp site (Tel: 01736 810273). There is also walking access to a number of crags (Cribba & Logans Rock), with the whole of the South Coast climbing being very close. On enquiry the Logan Rock pub was prepared to host the indoor events on the Saturday (they have a room and marquee available and can do the catering (subject to agreed menu and pricing). This venue was therefore chosen. **AD** also kindly offered to book camping pitches on the Friday morning if he knows the numbers.

AD also wishes to thank the Cornwall Climbing Club who also helped finalise these details (see www.cornwallclimbingclub.com). They also have a handy link to the local tide tables under their 'Visiting Cornwall' heading and would like a link to their web site on the publicity for the event.

AD talked to Ron Chambers who is co-ordinating the Count House CC/AC event running at the same time. We can send invitations to our Treen event through him @ ron.chambers@live.co.uk and he will circulate. We can also publicise his.

MK is to book facilities at the Logan Rock Inn and publicise through the BMC and provide some estimate of numbers camping to **AD** (also don't forget the Cornwall Climbing Club and reciprocal invitations to Ron Chambers Count House CC/AC event.

5. Fixed Gear (Non) Replacement

PW summarised the progress update received from Shane Ohly (the previous fixed gear removal co-ordinator) regarding fixed gear removal. This was:

- Chris and Egg have the angle grinder and abseil rope employed to help remove gear (on loan from the BMC - **MK**).
- Some drilled protection has been removed (pegs and bolts) as well as a few rusty pegs. But this has not been in significant numbers.
- A list showing where fixed gear is could be compiled / updated.
- Not all fixed gear is identified in current climbing guidebooks.
- Co-ordinate the list of fixed gear placements with the new CC guidebook to the Lizard currently in production.

IP re-stated the position agreed in the last Cornish BMC area meeting adding that this fixed gear fell into two categories drilled gear (bolts and pegs) and (hammered in) protection pegs. It was re-emphasised that this gear should not under any circumstances be replaced or added to. Furthermore a lot of it was in a dangerous state (the long standing protection peg on Little Brown Jug @ Bosigran that had been

in place for years and looked adequate was easily removed with a few light hammer taps). **DH** also recounted a past instance of a fatality due to seemingly good protection peg failing (in this case a peg in a seemingly bomb proof placement) which on post-accident inspection had only gripped the surrounding rock at the 1 cm entry point surrounding the peg!

It was stated that the purpose of fixed gear removal was to stop giving climbers a complete false sense of security when using it. Climbers should instead rely on their own modern protection placed on the lead.

Discussing removal **IP** and **DH** agreed that complete fixed gear removal should be the goal, but might not be possible in a short time scale due to the large effort required and the limited resources available to do so. It was also half-jokingly noted that as the remaining gear was in very poor physical shape, it would in any case fall out of its own accord with time if not physically removed!

DH agreed that fixed gear removal required local knowledge to manage and that removal of fixed gear on Chair Ladder had already taken place e.g. Caliban, Tempest, Animated Wall and The Cornishman. The meeting agreed that appointing a new co-ordinator was the best way forward.

AD, PG and **RM** pointed out that existing routes with drilled gear document existed and was in circulation (although out of date). It was agreed that this could possibly be used as a basis for recording where existing fixed gear remains prior to its removal. The BMC should have a copy.

Action Point: **RM** agreed to send **PW** this document for attachment to the meeting notes, to make it more widely available should interested parties wish to use it.

RM also drew the meetings attention to the fixed gear policy (which includes pegs) currently drafted by Dave Turnbull (**RM** was at the National Council meeting where this was discussed), which would dovetail in with the fixed gear (non-replacement policy discussed here)

Action Point: As co-author **RM** is to ensure that this fixed gear policy is in step with this Cornwall Fixed Gear Policy.

IP said that he would like to see a blanket ban on fixed gear replacement on all Cornish sea cliffs e.g. from the Lizard, Culm Coast, Baggy, St Ives, West Penwith up through North Cornwall. **DH** pointed out that inland areas e.g. Cheesewring Quarry and Anstey's Cove would of course not be included in any ban.

Action Point: It was agreed that a blanket ban on fixed gear (drilled bolts, pegs and hammered in peg) protection should be debated and voted on at the next area meeting to be held in Devon (Berry Head Hotel on the 6th October 2012 **PW** and **MG** to action (**IP** do you want to draw up and propose this motion for this meeting?))

Post Meeting Actions Points Carried Out: Shane Ohly has kindly provided **PW** with a list of the original volunteers, which is attached in point 12 Appendix B Original 2011 Drilled Protection Removal Working Group Members, as well as an update from Chris Griffiths and 'Egg'. **PW** has also added 'Egg's' email address to this list.

RM has kindly provided a copy of the drilled gear route list to **PW**, which is in Appendix A West Penwith Cornwall – Drilled Gear Routes List 1980 To 1999.

PW received emails via Shane Ohly from Chris Griffiths (CG) and ‘Egg’. **CG** has agreed to co-ordinate this locally with help from **PW**, **MG** and **MK**. See details of the summary email from CG and **PW**’s comments back confirming this as follows:

1. You have only had the grinder 2 months and would like to keep it to continue with the project. (Dan Middleton BMC requires it back by September 2012 for a project but can return it to you after if you tell him your removal dates **PW**)
2. It will chop staple bolts only (then presumably drill out the holes and fill with matching cement / sand **PW**).
3. You have experimented with hole filling (cement and local sand for granite), but haven’t found a solution for slate (how about using concrete colouring? Or asking the BMC technical team for help **PW**).
4. There are 200 bolts remaining (some already cut, some on the LECC list and some not e.g. The Cornishman).
5. This is going to be a long process 2 years (**PW** we understand and fully accept this from the experience of renewing chopping fixed gear as part of the Avon Gorge project. We understand that this is a big ask!
6. We have the original list of volunteers attached to these minutes in the appendices. Perhaps some still want to help **PW**.
7. You have agreed to carry on as the local co-ordinator with help from **PW**, **MK** and **MG**.
8. We can appeal for more help when you are ready to tackle Carn Vellan, if you let **PW** and **MK** know we can try to pull in more resources to help you.
9. We have the original West Penwith Cornwall – Drilled Gear Routes List 1980 to 1999 kindly provided by ‘Mossee’, again attached to these minutes. Perhaps this can be used by you to compile a full list of what needs removing / has been removed (perhaps with a date of removal). **PW** has offered to update this list if **CG** lets him know the details.

6. Fixed Gear Belay Stakes

RM and **HW** stated that they were trying to address unsightly belay stakes at the top of routes by inserting scaffolding poles flush with the ground and then inserting an inner stake into these to belay from which he carried with him. When not in use these could be capped with a yellow plastic cap. **PG** stated that although a good idea for locals, these might be hard to find to belay from for climbers without local knowledge and that the recent stakes in Pembroke e.g. St David’s Head were robust and not too obtrusive if thoughtfully placed (and perhaps better option for wider use **PW**).

7. Belay Stake Placement

It was proposed that a BMC funded plastic sleeved steel cable be placed to allow a safe abseil escape / retreat from the top of the Middle Fin on Lower Sharpnose. Concern about the durability of this was discussed and who would be liable if it failed and whether the party placing it could be sued for compensation if an accident subsequently occurred. It was understood that the current legal position would be

that as such individuals would be engaged in a dangerous sport they would be responsible for their own actions (this would include checking and being responsible for their own actions when using this installed equipment). Such advice is already provided in most guidebooks.

Action Point: The plastic sleeved steel cable to be provided by the BMC Crag Care fund for local installation. **MK** is to liaise with Dan Middleton and the people carrying out the installation. It would seem prudent to also add a future guidebook disclaimer regarding this abseil point **DH**.

8. Access Issues

Water Erosion Of The Path Left Of Raven Wall Bosigran: Some additional drainage / channelling of the stream is required. **IP** stated that money from the Colin Kirkus Climbers Club fund could be put towards this.

Action Point: **DH** to liaise as part of the new CC Guide to this area.

Vixen Tor Update: **IP** provided a summary of the current position which is that the enquiry called by Devon CC and the Ramblers Association regarding statutory footpath access against the land owners (the Ilford family) was withdrawn and therefore lost (although this access was not near the climbs). Tactics from a climbing point of view now centre on statutory purchase of the 26 acres for around £100K within a 4 to 5 year timescale (the historic precedent for this to succeed is strong). This would be in conjunction with partners the Ramblers Association and the National Trust.

David Hope's New Guide To The Lizard Peninsula **DH** stated that as this new guide includes good easier routes of around severe standard around but not in the Mullion Head area (where climbing is not permitted), will inevitably bring in more climbers and may cause future access problems.

9. Any Other Business

Roche Rock Proposed Clean-Up: **PG** stated that this climbing venue which is included in the West Country Rock Fax guide is increasingly being used by commercial companies for taking holiday makers top roping. The grass in some of these areas has therefore been eroded. Litter and dog mess is also increasingly created by local youths and dog walkers due to the proximity of nearby encroaching housing estates. A crag clean-up was proposed, together with an attempt to have the Parish council site litter and dog waste bins here. This was agreed. **MK** stated that the BMC could help financially here. **PG** also said that the commercial companies using the site should be approached for contributions.

Action Point: **PG** and **MK** to write to commercial groups for finance / manpower for the clean- up day, investigate bins (litter and dog waste) siting with the Parish Council.

10. Date Of Next Meeting

Confirmed For: Saturday 6th October 2012 Devon & 8pm (venue pending).

11. Appendix A West Penwith Cornwall – Drilled Gear Routes List 1980 To 1999.

This record was compiled during research for Climbers' Club guidebooks in the early 1990s

Many of these bolts/drilled pegs have either been chopped or removed (removal sometimes by the bolt placers after use). Quite a few are obscure (e.g. drilled placements covered by moss and grass etc.)

The names of the first ascensionists have been included for each route as a record of fact only.

NOTE: *'Historic' bolts, such as those placed on Beowulf (1960s) at Bosigran and on random routes such as Tramp's Overcoat (circa 1960s/70s) at Sennen are universally accepted as aberrations and not as 'precedents' for the separate 1980s-1990s spread of drilled gear recorded here.*

GURNARD'S HEAD (Greenstone/Killas)

1. **Art of the Slate** (1989) 5 bolts (Mark Edwards)
2. **Silence of the Lambs** (1991) 1 drilled bolt placement (first ascensionist states that 'he did not use it') (Rowland Edwards)

CARN VELLAN (Killas)

3. **Ziggurat** (1980) 2 bolts (R & M Edwards)

4/5/6. Three, at least, sport routes incorporating approx 50 drilled placements (1990s) (Mark Edwards)

***NOTE:** *The initial 'equipping' of Blue Sky Lightning/Rewind at Carn Vellan included the first section of the crack, (approx 30 feet in length) being fitted with at least 4 bolts, 3 pegs and a jammed wire. Once the route had been established its description appeared in magazines and guidebooks as having substantially less gear than this.*

SENNEN (Granite)

7. **Red Rose** 3 bolts (1988) (Mark Edwards)
8. **29 Palms** 4 drilled pegs (1987) (Mark Edwards)

GAMPER HOLE AREA/Land's End (Granite)

9. **Children of Laughter** 2 bolts (1988) (Rowland Edwards)

WRECKER'S ZAWN/Land's End (Granite)

10. **Infinite Design/Winking Crack** 2 bolt belays (1988) (Rowland Edwards)

LAND'S END (Granite)

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| 11. Edge of Time Variation | 2 bolts (1988) (Mark Edwards) |
| 12. Unnamed | 2 bolts on lower off. (Nark & Rowland Edwards) |
| 13. Black Wednesday | 1 bolt (Claimed as a replacement for a peg used 'on first ascent') (1991) (Mark Edwards) |
| 14. It's a Square World | (1987) 1 bolt (M Crocker - who has sanctioned removal) |
| 15. Blade Runner | (1984) 1 bolt (Rowland Edwards) (Later removed by 1st ascensionist) |
| 16. Titanic | (1994) 3 to 4 bolts/drilled pegs (Mark Edwards) |
| 17. Kingdom of the Deep | (1988) 2 bolts (Mark Edwards) |
| 18. Atlantic Ocean Wall | (1981) 3 to 4 bolts/SS pegs (drilled) (Mark Edwards) |
| 19. Astrodome | (1988) 1 bolt (Rowland Edwards) |

PORDENACK (Granite)

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|-----------------------------|--|
| 20. Immaculate Arete | (1981) 1 bolt (Rowland Edwards) the stubby remains of this bolt are barely visible. May not be worth removing. |
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TREVILLEY CLIFF (Granite)

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| 21. Fragile Earth | (1980s) 5 drilled pegs/ glued holds (Gear removed and the route not claimed, but recorded in CC guidebook) (Mark Edwards) |
|--------------------------|---|

CARN BOEL (Granite)

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| 22. Total Eclipse | (1986) 3 bolts/drilled tape (Rowland Edwards) |
|--------------------------|---|

CARN LES BOEL (Granite)

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| 23. White Eagle | (1982) 1 bolt belay (Rowland Edwards) |
| 24. No Place for Cowboys | (1982) 1 bolt belay (R & M Edwards) |
| 25. The Last Stand | (1982) 2 bolt belays (Mark Edwards) |
| 26. Bosistow Island | (1983) 3 to 5 bolts/drilled pegs (Rowland Edwards) |

PENDOWER CAVERN (Granite)

27. **Unnamed** (1990) 5 bolts (Mark Edwards)

PENDOWER COVE (Granite)

28. **Isis/Space Cruiser** (1986) 1 bolt lower off (Mark Edwards)

29. **Lunatic Owl** (1987) 1 bolt (Mark Edwards)

CARN BARRA (Granite)

30. **Silent Sleeper** (1985) 1 hammered in/drilled peg (Rowland Edwards)

FOLLY COVE (Granite)

31. **A Hollow Man** (1987) 1 bolt (Rowland Edwards)

PORTH LOE COVE (Granite)

32. **Scandals** (1989) 3 bolts (Mark Edwards)

33. **Various Routes** 2 drilled peg belays at least (Rowland Edwards)

34. **Various Routes** 2 bolts and chain on lower off (Rowland Edwards)

CHAIR LADDER (Granite)

35. **The Naked Edge** (1997) 2 at least bolt/drilled peg belay (Rowland Edwards)

36. **The Lobster** (1989) 1 bolt (Mark Edwards)

37. **Rats in a Rage** (1987) 1 bolt & 2 drilled pegs (Mark Edwards)

38. **Fury of Atlanta** (1984) 1 bolt belay (Rowland Edwards)

LEVAN'S WALL (Granite)

39. **Frogs In A Frenzy** (1992) 2 hammered in micro wires. (Mark Edwards)

CRIBBA HEAD (Granite)

41. **Storms over Africa** (1989) 1 drilled/ hammered in peg. (Mark Edwards)

42. **Pre-Marital Tension
Right Hand** (1990s) 2 drilled placements (Mark Edwards)

43. **Question Mark** (1994) 2 bolt belays to facilitate top rope practice.
(Mark Edwards)

Trewavas Head (Granite)

4 drilled placements for bolt belays at the top of West Crag (thought to have been placed by an unidentified group for 'training purposes').

44. **Flanker Direct** The sleeve of a bolt

SUMMARY

KNOWN CLIFFS WITH DRILLED GEAR:	18
(* 16 of these cliffs are granite cliffs)	
KNOWN ROUTES UTILISING DRILLED GEAR:	43
KNOWN DRILLED PLACEMENTS (BOLTS/PEGS):	88 *
BOLTS ON CARN VELLAN:	40-50 *
TOTAL DRILLED PLACEMENTS:	130*

There are probably other drilled pegs that are difficult to verify.
It is likely that there are other bolts that no one (other than the bolt placers) is currently aware of.

Summary Key: * = Approx

STILL TO BE VERIFIED:

45. Burning Gold - A fairly new bolt in P1, no hanger.

ENDS

12. Appendix B Original 2011 Drilled Protection Removal Working Group Members

Volunteers

Nick Donohue	nickdonohue@live.com
Ian Riddle	ian.riddell@tesco.net
Iain Peters	ianpeter230@btinternet.com
Andy March	amarch@btinternet.com
Richard Moss	mosseee69@yahoo.co.uk / 07975 686790
Sara Scaife	sarascaife@hotmail.com
Jeremy Dugan	jeremydugan@yahoo.com
Pete Greening	petegreening@hotmail.com / 07841 746334
Chris Griffiths	chrisincornwall@googlemail.com
Egg	eggbert@myself.com (PW added not part of the original list)

Source: Email from Shane Ohly received 17/07/2012