



BRITISH MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL

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BMC South West Area Meeting

Meeting held on the 11th January 2014 @ The Quay Climbing Centre, Haven Road, Haven Banks, Exeter, Devon, EX2 8AX @ 7pm. [View Link In Google Maps](#)

Present:

Matthew Goater (MG) - Chair
Gareth Palmer (GP) - National Council
Martin Hallett (MH) - Swanage Rep
Mark Kemball (MK)
Tim Exley (TE)
Nick Baron
Steve Thorpe
Jamie Parfrey
Harry Pearce
Tom Hinchliffe
John Page
Nigel Barry
Mandy Perry

Philip Wilson (PW) - Sec
Colin Knowles (CK) – National Council
Iain Peters (IP)
Mike Virtue (MV)
Brian Wilkinson
Colin Sharp
Ian Lee
Sean Kelly
Jeff Jones
Pen Farthing
Tracey Rodford
Stu Paton
Alexis Perry

1. Welcome & Apologies for Absence.

(MG) welcomed everyone to the meeting. He asked members whether they minded the secretary recording the minutes electronically for later paper transcription. There were no objections to this. Apologies for absence were accepted from Pete Greening, Gareth Greaves & Dave Hillebrand.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting & Matters Arising.

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 14th November 2013 @ The Nova Scotia Inn, Harbourside Bristol @ 7pm were summarised section by section.

The following action points were confirmed as follows:

- a) Drilled Equipment: (CK) said that the National Council now understood the complexities of drilled equipment as applied to our local area (as contained in our attached appendix) and that he would now push for a solution regarding its policing via National Council - **Ongoing** (CK).
- b) Post warning for not climbing at Cheddar without BMC liability insurance on the BMC web site – **Done** (PW) via Tony Ryan.
- c) The illegal placing of bolts on some National Trust crags in Cheddar (Lion Rock) within the landowners' 5-year bolting moratorium agreed by BMC SW. – **Done** (PW) via Tony Ryan. Dave Turnbull has agreed to speak to those concerned regarding the removal of these bolts within the next 2 to 3 months.
- d) Re-negotiation of the 5-Year Bolting Memorandum (which runs out in late 2014) to be tabled and discussed fully at the next BMC SW Area meeting in the Bristol area – **Deferred To Next Meeting**, item to be tabled at the next SW Area meeting held in Bristol by (MG), (PW) and Gordon Jenkins.

- e) Climbers should not cross to Lion Rock over private land from the Costa car park. BMC asked to publicise this via their web site – **Done** (PW) via Tony Ryan.
- f) Approach to South Somerset County Council regarding climbing access to Wood Lane quarry near Weston-Super-Mare (which has been fenced off for the past 5 years). – **Deferred To Next Meeting**, Martin Crocker agreed to find out the details of the North Somerset Councillor directly responsible for leisure, recreation and parks in time for the next Bristol SW Area meeting. Both Ian Butterworth and Martin Crocker agreed to then schedule a meeting (possibly involving Rob Dyer the BMC Access & Conservation Officer).
- g) The removal of the 3 illegal Carn Gowla bolts – **Done** (GP) confirmed that he had just removed these.

The minutes were then signed off as accurate and complete.

3. Feedback from National Council (by our National Council Reps).

(CK) reported as follows:

- a) The role of the various specialist committees annual reporting to the National Council took place at the last meeting.
- b) Stanage: The Peak National Park will retain control of Stanage (North Lees estate) and not sell it. The consortium put in place to try to buy Stanage if sold had stood down.
- c) The Welsh Assembly is backing assured access to Welsh land (as per the Scottish model). Our Welsh BMC rep is on this full time. (IP) asked about Pembroke access, (CK) said that he did not have this level of detail.
- d) BMC travel insurance contract expires in January 2014 and the BMC liability insurance provider is up for renewal. He added that escalating US claims costs is an underwriting concern.
- e) We were asked to nominate a notable volunteer to attend AGM as honoured guest: Martin Crocker (SouthWest activist) was unanimously nominated by vote (none against) for his tireless work with the Avon Gorge Regeneration Project.
Action Point: (PW) to report our AGM nominee to the BMC.

(GP) reported as follows:

- f) Carn Gowla 3 Illegal Bolts removed from the top Sea Buttress above 'Four For Texas' & 'Rainbow Games' by (GP). He formally thanked Sean Phillips for the loan of his disc cutter. New stakes have also appeared at the top of the crag, which he welcomed.
- g) A proposed 'low key' Carn Gowla BMC meet is proposed for this summer. **Action Point:** (GP) to organise.
- h) BMC Angle Grinder is still missing, despite extensive investigation. Cornwall activists say that this was returned to the BMC some time ago.

4. Area Meeting Briefing Note (January 2014)

(MG) read these out in the meeting (see notes attached to these minutes Appendix 1).

5. Update on the Avon Gorge Regeneration Project.

- a) (CK) said that major Lower Ampitheatre Wall rock and plant descaling had been completed. He added that this was a major project milestone.
- b) (CK) appealed for experienced peg placers to replace the designated pegs in Avon Gorge as they did the routes. The list and pegs are with Dick's Climbing.

This list will also be on the ClimbBristol web site soon. **Action Point:** (PW) to ask Dick Hall (Dicks Climbing) to put the list of routes re-equipped and those still outstanding on the ClimbBristol web site.

6. Bristol Climbing Festival (Date Set For Saturday 26th July 2014).

(CK) said that we are seeking permission from Bristol City Council (requires a 20 page plus document from us). He added that the 1st hurdle is the submittal of our plan in Feb 2014 and approval in April 2014. If successful we are to tie in this event with the BMC 70th Anniversary celebrations.

7. Access & Any Local Issues.

- a) New Swanage Rep Confirmed: (MH) officially proposed and (PW) seconded (MH) as Swanage rep.
- b) Staking Of Boulder Ruckle Swanage: (MH) outlined his proposed re-staking of the rest of this venue (started a couple of years ago by Scott Titt). This event is to take place on the 26th January 2014. (MH) asked if this could be a BMC sanctioned event, which was unanimously agreed.
- c) Worn Belays Portland Cuttings: (MH) said that worn belay bolts in the Portland Cuttings are to be re-bolted following the completion of work at Boulder Ruckle. Again there was no objection to this becoming a BMC sanctioned event.
- d) Chain Abseil Station On The Lunakhod Fin Lower Sharpnose: This is to be put in shortly by (IP) and (MK).
- e) Vixen Tor Access: (IP) outlined the ongoing position at Vixen Tor (no change), which is being worked on.
- f) Extended Bolting Proposal Cheeswring Quarry: (TE) asked whether he could extend the bolting in Cheeswring Quarry on unprotected, dirty and little climbed routes. He wanted to know how to do this. He was advised that this was in principle acceptable on inland quarried Cornish granite and asked to submit a list for consideration for the next BMC SW Area meeting. It was re-iterated that he must get the 1st ascensionists and landowners permission before doing this.
Action Point: (TE) to submit these details to (PW) who will table it at the next BMC SW Area meeting.
- g) Evening Summer Closure Forestry Commission Symonds Yat Car Park: (CK) reported that this was being locked. **Action Point:** (MG) to contact Rob Dyer.
- h) The BMC Summit Magazine: The worth of this publication was debated. (CK) said that offset printing costs were negligible. It was accepted that not all articles were relevant to everyone, although some people really liked it while others didn't. It was also pointed out that club members did not receive individual copies.
- i) Cornish Climbing Festival 2014: (IP) proposed the Count House for the 2014 Cornish Climbing festival, which has been provisionally set for the 2nd weekend in September 2014 (pending successful venue booking). Suitable tides will also be checked. Allan Dovey (Cornwall Climbing Club) has kindly pledged £200 towards the event. The Barn Climbing Centre and The Quay Climbing Centre (Exeter) have also pledged their support. A poster advertising campaign would also be useful (MK), Tom Bunn at The Barn Climbing Centre has offered to do the poster. (MV) also offered to help with the printing. The plan is to also book Zennor Village Hall (for any talks) with beer purchased at the Tinnars Arms across the road by attendees. Suitable speakers are being sought. BMC would hopefully provide the cost of bacon butties for breakfast. All proceeds are to go to a nominated charity.
Action Point: (IP) agreed to book the Counting House and to talk to possible speakers (Pat Littlejohn and Frank Cannings). This date would then be the

confirmed festival date, which (MG) proposed announcing officially at the next BMC SW Area meeting.

- j) Avon Gorge Annual Clean Up: This is to take place in Feb / March 2014. Note: Since this meeting this date has been set for the weekend 15th & 16th Feb 2014. **Action Point**: (PW) to publicise via Tony Ryan (BMC) on the BMC web site, UKC, SW Area Facebook page and email (to 100 past BMC SW Area meeting attendees).

8. Any Other Business.

- a) The Hosting Of This BMC SW Area Meeting: It was agreed that we should formally thank the Quay Climbing Centre in Exeter for hosting this event. **Action Point**: (PW) to do.
- b) BMC Web Site: (MK) said that could be better as he found it difficult to find what he wanted e.g. details of the recent south west areas climbing competitions for his son. He thought that this was posted late. Others thought that access to the SouthWest local area page was easy. It was agreed that compared to UKC it is poor and needs revamping. (IP) said that the Climber Club is to revamp their web site (which has been poor for some time. (IP) thought that the BMC and bigger clubs need to challenge UKC e.g. things discussed on UKC should be discussed on the BMC web site. **Action Point**: PW to feedback to BMC Tony Ryan.
- c) BMC Mail Shot: 7 attendees got email out of 25 attendees. **Action Point** (MG) to feedback to BMC.
- d) UIAA Safety Commission: It was again mentioned that this organisation is holding its next summer meeting in Bristol for around 50 delegates on the 4th to 6th June 2014. (MG) said that BMC SW had been approached to take interested delegates climbing on the Saturday 7th June 2014. Anyone interested in taking part and joining (PW) and (MG) in doing this should get in contact.

9. **Date of Next Meeting**: 13th March 2014 at the Nova Scotia Inn, Harbourside, Bristol @ 7pm. [View Link In Google Maps](#). It was confirmed that the next meeting after that would be held in Cornwall.

Appendix 1

BMC Area Meeting Briefing Note for Area Chairs & Secretaries – January 2014 (2 pages)

A summary of some of the key BMC activities for the period November 2013 – January 2014

Access & Conservation

- Discussions with Sport England and Forestry Commission about the future of the toilet block and campsite at Harrison's Rocks.
- First BMC Landscape Charter published, setting out our role and responsibility in campaigning to protect landscapes.
- BMC members encouraged to complete MCofS survey on windfarms in upland Scotland and their effect on the landscape.
- Open Wales access campaign launched.
- Development of Lake District winter climbing guidance.

BMC Organisation

- Nominations opened for the George Band Award for Exceptional Voluntary Contribution to Mountaineering.
- Greg Mulholland MP announced as our new link to government within Sport England's parliamentary sports fellowship scheme.
- BMC Portland Festival and AGM programme finalised, and booking forms made available.

Clubs & Huts

- New training courses for club members advertised on BMC website.
- Equipment advice for clubs published on the BMC website.

Safety & Skills

- Hill walking, scrambling, and winter skills courses added to subsidised rock climbing courses at Plas y Brenin.
- 2014 dates of 'Ready to Rock' outdoor climbing course at Plas y Brenin announced.
- Dates of 2014 FUNdamentals of Climbing workshops published.

Youth & Equity

- First ever BMC disability symposium held in Keswick in conjunction with the Calvert Trust.
- 2014 skills courses for students launched.
- Supported the third annual Women's Climbing Symposium, held at The Arch Climbing Wall, London.
- BMC conference held in Birmingham, identifying barriers to participation in the outdoors from the Muslim community and suggesting solutions to overcome them.

Technical

- Bolting workshop held for the Climb Bristol project volunteers at Avon Gorge.
- Online guides to ice tools, crampons, helmets and harnesses published.

Competition Climbing (& Ski Mountaineering)

- BMC Leading Ladder 2013/2014 returns with rounds at 28 climbing walls.
- 2014 British Ski Mountaineering Championships race announced.
- Dates of 2014 BMC climbing competitions published.
- BMC Winter Open Youth Event held in Sheffield.
- 2014 GB Junior Climbing and Senior Lead Climbing Teams selected.
- 2014 BMC Youth Climbing Series dates and venues announced and online entry opened.

Membership

- Online membership survey for 14-25 year olds launched.
- BMC Ambassadors scheme launched at Kendal Mountain Festival, to help the BMC raise its profile by acting as role models to inspire and engage young climbers, hill walkers and mountaineers.

Events

- BMC hosted Chris Townsend lecture at the Buxton Adventure Festival.
- BMC stand and press event at the Kendal Mountain Festival.

Media

- BMC TV, our new online video channel, went live.
- Student Season media campaign ran as fourth quarter communication priority.
- During Mountain Training's 50th anniversary year, we'll be promoting its work and raising awareness of awards and qualifications.

Publications

- Peak Rock, a celebration of a century of cutting edge rock climbing in the Peak District published by Vertebrate, with BMC support.

Regional Development

- Will Harris appointed as BMC Regional Development Officer (England East), to replace Rob Greenwood; he will be in post from Monday 3 March.