

BMC South West area meeting and area AGM

Saturday 24 November 2018, 7:00pm.
The Nova Scotia Inn, Bristol BS1 6XJ

Present and signed in: James Mann (Chair), Mark Kemball (Secretary), Helen Wilson (NC rep), Gareth Pierce (BMC Chair of the Board of Directors), Mark Courtiour (Cheddar Access Rep), Rick Sowards (Wye Valley Access Rep), Martin Hallett (Dorset Access Rep), Ian Butterworth (FCQ Access Rep), Alan Howells, Tony Bird, Ben Darby, Tracy Sutton (Wessex M.C), Libby Houston, Dan Donovan, Rob Morgan (Avon M.C.), Mary Davies, Dan Guy, Tim Meehan, Steve Rawlins.

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

James Mann welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Pete Calaghan, Colin Knowles, Richard Naidin, Terry Gifford, Philip Wilson, Ian Butterworth, Julian Wills.

2. AGM election of volunteer officers:

- Area Chair - James Mann was re-elected unopposed.
- Area Secretary – Mark Kemball was re-elected unopposed.
- National Council Reps – Helen Wilson was re-elected unopposed, there were two candidates for the remaining rep – Tony Bird – proposed by Alan Howells, seconded by Dan Donovan and Philip Wilson - proposed by Ian Butterworth, seconded by Martin Hallett. Philip Wilson was elected with 5 votes, Tony Bird, 2 votes, 4 abstentions.
- Climbing Wall Rep – Dan Guy, proposed by Mark Courtiour, seconded by Tony Bird was elected unopposed.
- Access Rep - West Cornwall – this remains vacant (there being no one from West Cornwall at the meeting).

3. AGM Annual Review

James Mann read out the annual review.

4. Previous meeting's minutes and any matters arising

With the agreement of the meeting, these were taken as read.

5. Next Year's meetings, dates and venues

There was a lengthy discussion on this. It has been suggested that we should decide our meeting dates for the year well in advance. One suggestion was that it would be better to always meet at the same central venue (Exeter) as coming to Bristol from Penzance is difficult! It was suggested that this should be trialled for one year then reviewed.

However, the meeting decided that if we are to do this, we should publicise the proposed change well in advance of the meeting so that people have a chance to express their views. This will be on the next meeting's agenda. It was also agreed that when possible, we should meet at climbing walls rather than pubs, so as to engage more with younger climbers.

6. Strategic Plan and (8.) Feedback from National Council

Helen Wilson summarised these and Gareth Pierce explained his role as Chair of the Board of Directors and how he will be working with the Organisational Development Group.

7. BMC area briefing notes

James Mann briefly summarised these. It was felt that it would be more useful if these could be made available to members before the meeting (along with the agenda) so that members can consider them and bring any questions to the meeting.

9. Area Youth Co-ordinator's report

The dates and venues for the SW area 2019 YCS are as follows:

Saturday 12th January – Project Climbing Centre, Poole (bouldering).

Saturday 26th January – The Quay, Exeter (roped).

Saturday 2nd March – The Climbing Hangar, Plymouth (bouldering).

Saturday 23rd March The Life Centre, Plymouth (roped).

Julian Wills (our AYC) was not able to attend the meeting, but he has expressed concern that the support and information from the Manchester BMC office has not been as good as he would like. In particular, the competition rules have not yet been finalised and a request for t-shirts to enable parents and competitors to easily identify the key volunteers was turned down. Helen Wilson will raise these concerns at the next National Committee meeting.

10. Coastguard callouts

Nothing to report.

11. Incident reporting update

Pete Calaghan was unable to attend the meeting but sent in the following updates on progress which were read to the meeting:

Here's the latest update on my progress with the BMC and the incident reporting service (blog entry here: <https://wpetecallaghan.wixsite.com/incidentreportstrial/single-post/2018/09/19/Working-Group-Meeting-18th-September>)

"After a summer break with lots of climbing, the BMC working group met again on Skype on Tuesday 18th. This was another constructive and positive meeting, and we even managed to finish it on time.

After the previous meeting, the team reviewed the report form, asked more people to provide feedback on the form, made some refinements and reviewed the moderation process.

The focus of this latest meeting was to agree the next steps for the project. Over the next few weeks, the team will work with other teams to identify the tasks necessary to move towards a wider trial of the service in conjunction with the BMC.

In the meantime the working group will decide the objectives of a trial and define the roles necessary to support it, as well as further reviewing and refining elements of the service. "

I think we've made an important step forward, since the working group are now broadly agreed on the form of the service and can see how it could be delivered within the BMC. Jon Garside is going to discuss a BMC-supported trial of the service with the BMC's marketing team. The marketing team are essential for engaging the wider community with a trial service, so their early involvement is key to success.

Pete

09 November 2018 08:56

We had another working group meeting yesterday. We are making good progress towards launching a BMC trial service in 2019.

Here's my summary:

A member of the BMC marketing team has now joined the working group, which is an essential step forward for the project.

The objective of the project is to help make our community safer through the sharing of lessons from real experiences. In order to succeed we will need to reach our community and persuade them to share their stories and to learn from the stories of others. This is really a marketing challenge, so the involvement of the BMC marketing team is very welcome.

Since the last meeting the BMC marketing and IT teams have looked at our trial service in order to figure out how best to incorporate it into the existing BMC websites.

Thursday's project meeting reviewed the work done previously to make it easier for people to update submitted reports as well as agreeing that the BMC IT team will create new pages within the BMC website to show submitted reports. This means that people will be able to easily navigate to incident reports from within the BMC website.

Currently we use Google forms to collect people's incident reports and subsequently store them in the incident reports service. However the BMC already uses a service called Survey Monkey which may provide more analytical facilities, so we will look at using this service in place of the Google forms.

We also discussed tailoring the submission forms to make it simpler for people to report incidents relating to bouldering and indoor climbing, and this is something we will work on over the next few weeks.

12. Access and any local issues

Avon area:

Colin Knowles was unable to attend the meeting, but sent in the following report.

1. Access/accessibility issues
 - a. The West face of Suspension Bridge Buttress (i.e. Hell's Gate face) has been cleaned by contractors employed by the Clifton Suspension Bridge Trust.
 - b. Rob Dyer and I made representations to Bristol City Council regarding the draft 'Management Plan for the Avon Gorge and the Durdham Downs'. Some of the points we made have been taken on board. We have been advised of how to pursue our objectives of improving pavements, crossings, paths, cycle hoops, bus stops, parking etc. in the current climate.
 - c. The Avon Gorge sits uncomfortably in the Parks Department of Avon Gorge (Transport no longer takes any role there). It is clear that in the current climate possible changes to how the Avon Gorge can be managed are being considered and we are advised to make representations at a higher level.
 - d. Rich Emerson and I are liaising with the Mayor's Office regarding Durnford Quarry. If there is any positive outcome it is likely to take some years to come to fruition.

- e. We have advertised for a volunteer to co-ordinate the annual BMC Big Bramble Bash in the Avon Gorge. Last year it was held on February 18th – which date is preferred for 2019?
2. Boulder Bristol 2020. Rich Emerson and I have been working with Sports Development and the Mayor's Office to establish whether the European Junior Bouldering Championships 2020 can be held in Bristol. Dates and a venue have been provisionally agreed. The next step is to put the finances on a sound footing; these have to be in place before a formal bid can be made to the IFSC. In recent years international competitions have been held in Edinburgh (Ratho) and Sheffield so this represents an exciting opportunity for Bristol and the BMC.

Libby Houston added that as the result of the vegetation removal on Suspension Bridge Buttress (mentioned above), the routes from Hell's Gate rightwards now have a considerable amount of soil on most of the holds.

Cheddar:

Mark Courtiour summarised his report and the new enhanced access agreement (attached). He emphasised the importance of all climbers sticking to the agreement and the value of self-policing whereby climbers who spot others breaking the agreement (which is usually because of ignorance / not properly reading the signs or guidebook) point this out. If we stick to the enhanced access agreement (which is being trailed for 2019, the arrangement may become permanent, and further improvements may be possible.

Wye Valley:

Rick Swards explained the access problems at Woodcroft Quarry.

13. Club Issues

Philip Wilson sent in a report on 3rd November Clubs Committee, this was briefly summarised.

14. Hill Walking Issues

Nothing to report.

15. AOB

None.

16. Date of next meeting

January, Exeter. Date to be confirmed.