

BMC South West Area Meeting

Venue: The Quay Climbing Centre, Exeter EX2 8AX

Date: Saturday 26th January 2019 7:00pm

MINUTES

The meeting was held following on from the area Youth Climbing Series competition. A number of members were helping judge or belay at this event. Because the competition was over-running, the start of the meeting was delayed until 7:30pm (the competition continued beyond this).

Present:

James Mann (Chair), Mark Kemball (Secretary) Helen Wilson (National Council), Philip Wilson (National Council), Lynn Robinson (BMC President), Jane Thompson (BMC Officer), Liz Barile-Page, Richard Matthews, Kieran Woolley, Robin Jacob, Florence Clayton, Mark Courtiour (Somerset access rep.), Freddie Naish, Jamie Mark Lanaler, Colin Knowles, Peter Salenieks, Al Begley, Nigel Barry, Helen Barry, Thomas Yorke, Mike Virtue, Martin Hallett, Philip Ellis, Ray Allwood, Chris Ebbutt, Al Thompson, Colin Sharp, Lauren Sawyer, Tony Bird,, Julian Wills, Henry Forrester, Gavin Atkins, Stu Bradbury, Dave Taylor.

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

James Mann welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Trevor Smith, Richard Nadin, Ian Butterworth, Simon Fletcher, Neal Heanes and Iain Peters.

2. Previous meeting's minutes and any matters arising

James summarised the previous meeting's minutes, there were no matters arising.

3. Area Youth Co-ordinator's report

Julian Wills was able to join the meeting after item 7 (strategic plan), the competition being finished. James, on behalf of the meeting thanked Julian and his assistants – Henry Forrester, Dave Taylor and Stacey Breeze for all their hard work in organising the two competitions so far and also thanked those people who had volunteered to help belay and judge at the competitions. Julian reported that the two area competitions held so far had gone well (although today's comp had over-run!) with 140 participants in today's competition, and that the competitors had enjoyed the event. However there are a number of issues. Julian has organised events in the past for other organisations from local to international level. He has found the support from the BMC staff to be shambolic and disjointed having to spend a lot of his time chasing things that volunteers should not need to. He gave a number of examples of their failures. On the positive side, he pointed out that the sport of climbing is changing with a shift towards indoor climbing and feels that we as an organisation need to embrace this otherwise this will be a missed opportunity.

4. Climbing Wall rep report

Dan Guy (elected last meeting) is moving to York (and taking up bouldering) and so cannot continue in the role. We are looking for someone to take that on.

5. Hill walking rep report

Trevor Smith has stood down. Tony Bird was willing to take over – proposed by Freddie Naish, seconded by Philip Wilson, carried unanimously.

6. West Cornwall access rep

We do not at present have an access rep. This needs to be someone based in West Cornwall so James has offered to try to persuade someone based down there.

7. 2019 meetings – dates and venues

This was carried over from last meeting. The suggestion had been made that meetings should be held in one central location. Following discussion, the following two motions were carried:

- a. On a trial basis until the 2019 AGM the South West Area of the BMC will hold all Area Meetings at the Quay Climbing Centre, Exeter unless members in a particular part of the area make it known to the area chair that a local issue or event makes it appropriate to hold a meeting in that part of the area. The area chair is empowered to vary the planned venue following such representations.
- b. Area Meetings will be held by preference at Climbing Walls.

8. Strategic plan

Lynn Robinson (BMC President) summarised the progress of the Organisational Development Group pointed out that there is now a separate area on the BMC website which reports on its progress, and asked that members should look at this and give their feedback to the group (links and email address on the page).

9. Area Briefing Notes

James summarised these. Mark said that it would be good to be able to publish these on the area facebook page prior to the meetings to save time in the meetings but we had only received the notes the day before the meeting. Lynn pointed out that these were not read out at other area meetings she had attended.

10. Feedback from National Council

Subscriptions. Following a very large claim on the third party liability insurance (still to be settled), the cost of this is rising considerably. This means subscriptions will need to increase by £2.50 for club members and £5.00 for individuals, and if we wish to implement some of the ODG's recommendations, the increase needs to be £3.00 and £6.00 respectively. This is to be discussed at the next National Council meeting prior to them recommending a motion to the AGM. The National Council asked for our views on this. The meeting was very much in favour of the higher increase, with the proviso that the reasons for the increase should be clearly communicated to all members and in particular which recommendations the increase would allow to be implemented.

11. Coastguard Callouts

Happily there is nothing to report.

12. Incident reporting update

Pete Callaghan sent in the following update:

In our first meeting of 2019 we moved a step closer to the BMC trial.

Over the next few weeks I will hand over all of the technology and services for the current trial to the BMC so that they can link them into the BMC website.

In our meeting we reviewed the page that will be added to the BMC website to take people to the incident report submission form and the list of submitted reports. We will also continue to make further small refinements other forms and pages.

Once the service has been migrated and BMC partners consulted we can move to launching the service and promoting it to hill-walkers, climbers and mountaineers.

The meeting expressed its thanks for the work Pete has put into this.

13. Access and Local Issues

- a. Lundy – there has been plans to change the areas and dates of the climbing restrictions due to increasing problems for nesting birds on Lundy. Over the last few years seabirds around the UK have found food increasingly hard to find and consequently chicks are taking longer to fledge. James reported that following discussions between Dean Woodfin Jones (Lundy Warden), Rob Dyer (National Access Officer) and Paul Harrison (Guidebook Author) the restrictions are now much less than was originally proposed. There will be further discussions before the restrictions are finalised and the result will be available at the next area meeting. James was happy to report that the relationship between climbers and the Lundy warden remain very good.
- b. Chudleigh – Mike Virtue told the meeting that there will be a crag clean-up tomorrow (27th January) and invited anyone who is free to come along.
- c. Avon Scrub Bash – this is planned for Sunday 17th February.

14. Club Issues

Nothing to report.

15. Hillwalking Issues

Nothing to report.

16. AOB

None.

17. Date of next meeting

Saturday 16th March at the Quay Climbing Centre, Exeter.

The meeting then adjourned for an excellent talk and slideshow by Stu Bradbury about recent Fowleresque adventures on the Exmoor, North Devon and North Cornwall coastal cliffs.