

BMC South West Area Meeting

Venue: The Quay Climbing Centre, Exeter EX2 8AX

Date: Saturday 8th June 2019 7:00pm

MINUTES

Present and signed in:

James Mann (Chair, Plymouth), Mark Kemball (Sec., Bude), Tony Bird (Weston – s – Mare), Philip Wilson (N.C., Bristol), Helen Wilson (N.C., Bristol), Mark Courtiour (Cheddar), Peter Salenieks (Cotswolds), Gavin Kelly (Dartmoor), Pete Callaghan (Exeter), Ian Butterworth (Frome), Solly Kemball Dorey (Bude)

1. James welcomed everyone to the meeting, apologies were received from Colin Knowles, Rick Sowards, David Hillebrandt, Iain Peters and Jay Jackson
2. The previous meetings minutes were accepted, there were no matters arising.
3. Clubs Committee Rep. – At present, Philip Wilson is our clubs rep, however as 4 Points has folded, he is no longer a member of a SW club (although he is a CC member), he is also one of our NC reps. Philip feels it would be better if we could recruit someone actively involved in one of the SW clubs to take this on, but is prepared to carry on until someone else takes over. MK to contact all SW clubs to see if anyone wants to take this on, Pete Callaghan to talk to S Devon club members.

At this point, Philip and Peter Salenieks spoke about what the role involved and the recent work of the committee, of particular interest was the application of a club to join the BMC which is not run by its members. The committee is looking at whether this can go forward.

4. West Cornwall access rep – we still do not have an access rep for West Cornwall, Dave Hope was suggested, MK to contact him.
5. Area Youth Co-ordinator's report – We have not received a report from Julian Wills (AYC) for this meeting. MK reported that speaking to coaches at local walls, the YCS finals in Sheffield seem to have gone well. Helen Wilson reported that there has been an issue with one competitor's score not being corrected on the results displayed on the web, Helen will bring this up at National Council and speak to Zoe Spriggins and Nick Colton.
6. Area Briefing Notes – James summarised these, they have been copied onto the SW area's facebook page.
7. Feedback from National Council and the ODG. Helen summarised where things stand with the ODG (which is taking up most of the council's work at the moment). The joint report partnership, membership engagement and R33 work group will be presented to National Council 22nd June and papers will be made ready for approval at the next round of area meetings. Concern was expressed that Rab Carrington, head of the group reviewing comps has no previous involvement in competitions. Similar concern was expressed that Colin Knowles was the BMC rep to the IFSC and is now its European secretary-general.
8. Coastguard Callouts – nothing to report.

9. Incident reporting update – Pete Callaghan (instrumental in setting this up) reported that the incident reporting service website, opened in April, has had 1300 separate visitors and 100 reports. Of particular concern so far were 7 or 8 reports on how novices are introduced to climbing. Pete emphasised the importance of publicising the website, Helen is to bring this up at National Council. James thanked Pete for all the hard work he has put into making this a reality. Pete thanked the area for our support with the project.

N.B. Since the meeting, Pete reports that there is a link to the incident reporting site from the banner on the BMC home page.

10. Access and local issues

- a. Rick Swards sent in a report of the current situation at Woodcroft Quarry which was read to the meeting – the fencing and gate were installed to deal with instances of anti-social behaviour while maintaining climbing access following negotiations by the BMC. It is important that climbers use the gate – access code is on the RAD and is often changed. If you cannot find the code, do not climb over the fence. It is important that climbers behave sensibly – no fires etc.
- b. Fairy Cave – Ian Butterworth reported - After a wet Winter and a dry (ish) Spring there have been some minor rock-falls at Fairy Cave. These generally affect easier grade routes including some of the popular beginners' routes. Trying to remove the loose rock is not practical as it would uncover more of the same!
- c. Avon – we received a short report from Colin Knowles - There is not much to report other than business as usual. We have an owl nesting unexpectedly on a route on Avon Main Wall and a peregrine nesting unexpectedly on a route at Symonds Yat. Chick ringing of raven chicks and peregrine chicks has gone on as usual.
- d. Lundy – James visited Lundy last week with Rob Dyer to discuss bird restrictions with the wildlife warden. They established a good relationship and it is likely that restrictions will be lifted sooner than originally foreseen as the nesting sites are vacated. It is essential that any climbers visiting the island remember that it is primarily a nature reserve and that all restrictions should be obeyed. Rob Dyer is to look at producing more detailed maps showing where and when climbing is allowed and it is suggested that these are made available to climbers when they book a visit. Next week Simon Fletcher and others will be visiting the island to help ringing peregrines. This should further cement our good relationship.
- e. Lee Woods – there have been reports of climbers disturbing peregrines here.
- f. Kenidjack- climbing is presently restricted here – birds.
- g. Cheddar – Mark Courtiour reports that all is well here at the moment.

11. Hill Walking Issues – Peter Salenieks reported that the BMC's hill walking officer has left so we now have a vacancy. He also reported that the access to the Welsh Coast is not yet a done deal – it has to be passed by the Welsh Assembly.

12. AOB – James asked if we thought it would be a good idea to plan a West Cornwall Climbing Festival for this time next year. The meeting was in favour, James to look into the feasibility.

13. Date of next meeting – 7th September.

Following the meeting, Peter Salenieks gave us an excellent illustrated talk – “Climbing the World's Highest Volcano.” Many thanks.