

Feedback To National Council - Southwest Ordinary Area Meeting 30/05/2020 (via Zoom)

1. Use of Zoom for Regional Meetings

- a) The meeting was successful with no complaints and lots of positive comments and suggestions.
- b) An increase in attendance from a wider geographical area, with 35 attendees, our usual average attendance is around 20.
- c) An electronic poll on using Zoom for future meetings was undertaken. The questions and results were:
 - i. Q1 how do you, with u feel about using zoom for SW area meetings: 45% thought Zoom was excellent, 30% good and 25% OK.
 - ii. Q2 How would you like future SW area meetings to be held. 5% purely face to face (no zoom), 20% zoom only (no face to face) and 75% a mix of face to face and zoom at the same time or in subsequent meetings.

Further debate needs to take place regarding this topic as part of the BMC Membership Engagement strategy.

2. Covid 19 Lockdown Violations:

- a) Fairy Cave Quarry: Incidents of climbing at Fairy Cave quarry during the Covid 19 lockdown when the quarry was closed to climbers in breach of government advice and BMC policy was reported by the area rep. Meeting participants were worried that this could result in a climbing ban. In response all combination lock holders were emailed, reminding them of these obligations. This is to be backed up by posts on social media.
- b) Cheddar: The area rep reported climbers ignoring seasonal restrictions during the recent bank holiday weekend and climbing at seasonally banned areas (around 40 incidents). This could result in bans that could reverse all the hard-won access negotiations if this continues. Climbers were urged to consult the BMC Regional Access database before climbing at Cheddar. The cause appears to be lack of knowledge rather than a wilful rules breach. Statement to be posted on all the relevant Facebook pages to try to reach and educate these climbers.
- c) Avon Gorge: The area rep reported on two recent ground fall incidents (with no serious injury). The rep felt that there was an increase in the number of climbers venturing outdoors from climbing walls with limited outdoors climbing experience. These incidents have been flagged on UKC. The Association of British Climbing Walls is to be contacted to ask the various climbing walls to send out emails asking beginners with limited outdoors climbing experience to take care when climbing outside. Some additional BMC publicity highlighting this will be helpful.
- d) Wye Valley Woodcroft Quarry: The rep reported that the fence and combo lock had been vandalised. Further damage has also been reported following the meeting. The Area Rep is to speak to Rob Dyer BMC Access Rep to come up with a viable strategy regarding this.
- e) Dartmoor: The walking rep reported on problems on Dartmoor with inconsiderate parking and general litter (spent barbeques and toilet paper) over the recent bank holiday.

3. BMC Equity Policy:

- a) James McHaffie (supported by Cressida Allwood) talked us through a presentation on the BMC Equity Policy. The BMC has recently achieved the Intermediate level of the Equality Standard for Sport from Sports England. This was well received.

Philip Wilson (SW Area Secretary) 08/06/2020