

# **British Mountaineering Council South West Area**

## **Quarterly Regional Meeting**

Date of Meeting:	1st March 2021, Video Call
Time of Meeting:	1900
Chair:	Mark Kemball
Secretary:	Alan Dovey
Area Representatives:	Helen Wilson; Philip Wilson
BMC staff present:	Rob Dyer: Access & Conservation Officer (England) Paul Davies: Interim Chief Executive Rob Bishop: Partnerships Manager

## **Minutes of Meeting**

The meeting was conducted using 'Zoom'. There were 48 attendees.

### Introduction to the Minutes:

Minutes are recorded in the third person and references to individual contributions or personal activities are not specified except for actions when required. The purpose being to establish the principal concerns, identify key stakeholders and the agreed points for action. If any individual feels that their name should be specifically recorded on any specific point, they should contact the Secretary.

### **1. Welcome, Apologies and Vote of Thanks**

Noted: 1. No Apologies recorded

1. Thanks and appreciation were extended to Dave Henderson who has given great service as the Devon representative for many years and to Rick Sowards (Wye Valley) who is retiring. We wish them both best wishes for the future

### **2. Minutes of 3/11/2020 Meeting**

Agreed: Minutes approved

### 3.Ratify Area Representative Appointment

Agreed: To ratify the list as presented.

### 4.National Council Volunteer Posts

Noted: After a two year review the BMC is expanding member representation with the creation of six new Councillor positions. There are four posts to represent as follows:

- Rock Climbing
- Hill walking
- Mountaineering
- Indoor Climbing

Two posts are also available from the member constituencies:

- BMC Affiliated clubs
- Mountain Training

The National Council would encourage applications for these important roles as the BMC seeks to expand member engagement and increase grassroots representation.

### 5. Special General Meeting (Ansteys)

#### **a). Minutes of Meeting**

Noted: 1 There were 94 attending the 'Zoom' online meeting. A complete set of the minutes is available from the BMC website. Rob Dyer Access & Conservation Officer (England) has spoken directly with the Anstey site owners Torbay Coast and Countryside Trust, (TCCT), but as their staff are furloughed no meeting has as yet taken place.

Noted: 2 The minute 'Agreed 1' from the Anstey Special general Meeting is recorded below and is the principle action required by this meeting:

1. *That a locally based working group should be established to begin the process of working with the O/R. The BMC nationally/regionally will assist in the setup but experience shows that to be effective in the long term the local climbers:*

- *understand the issues*
- *know the environment*
- *Can evaluate the compromises that almost inevitably occur*

Agreed:

1. To appoint the following individual volunteers to commence the process of engaging with the owners/regulators of the Ansteys area:

Paul Roberts	'Lead'
Andrew Haley	
Tom Rainbow	
Ian Lee	
Alan Dovey	(Secretary)

2. The group established Lead should arrange an initial meeting with the team and Rob Dyer to establish:
  - Terms of Reference
  - Initial desired outcomes
3. The Secretary should provide assistance to the Lead in enabling the process.

## **b) Ansteys Bolting Proposals**

Noted:

1. That new trad routes would provide for a greater range of route styles as this area is skewed towards the higher grades and improved accessibility.
2. Ian Lee wished to record that he did not approve of a comment in the meeting that he regarded as derogatory with respect to accessibility.

The following routes were approved for re-equipping:

Eve  
Time Passages  
Epoc  
Era  
The Cope  
Hells Teeth

Not approved:

St Gregory: Wonderworker

## **6. Wye Valley (Wintours Leap): Replacement of Fixed Gear: Thorncliffe**

Noted: The pegs are very old dating from the 1960's/70's. They are therefore unreliable and possibly dangerous. With the backing of Gloucester Mountaineering Club, a working group

of 6 people supported by 6 others has begun a process of surveying the site. Subject to restrictions the intention is to present proposals to the next meeting.

## 7. Culm, pegs/fixed Gear policy

Noted:

1. There is a policy in place which is that no drilling is permitted and if there is proposal to make amends to this they should be proposed to this forum
2. On new routes pegs can be placed and should then be removed by the second with their placement recorded for 'new route' documentation. Pegs should not be left in situ as the marine environment makes them become unreliable in a short time.
3. The new guide (authored by esteemed Chair Mr M Kemball) is scheduled for publication. Breath is bated.

## 8. Crag Restoration Code

Noted: The code (appended to the agenda) is a review of guidelines for any crag 'restoration'. Restoration is a term that implies progress or positive change and we should be aware that not all stakeholders would see such activities in the same light. The first principle of the document is 'it's good to talk' and we should encourage this before any action is taken.

Agreed: To support the the policy and to recommend approval at the National Council

## 9. Any Other Business

### 1. Stakes at Daddyhole (South Devon)

Noted: There are no issues with the placement of stakes in principle, practically they may be problematic as the bedrock is close to the surface so great care should be taken. Will Hornby (Dartmoor) has the poles and they will be transferred to the Barn Climbing Wall for storage.

### 2. Avon Gorge

Noted:

1: During lockdown there had been an increase in traffic. This was not surprising, but it had possibly attracted a number of climbers from indoors. This in itself was not a concern but a number were congregating underneath Central Walls area often with mats and without helmets. This is concerning as the climbing areas above, being limestone, are never completely stable. The gravel and vegetation areas of the completion belay areas are also unpredictable.

2 . Colin Knowles is leading a review into the fixed gear policy and he will report back to this forum.

### **3. Sheeps Tor (South Devon)**

Noted: There have been reports that a local farmer has been complaining about 'climbers' in general. There has been no formal action but any incidents should be reported to the local representative.