



## British Mountaineering Council SOUTHWEST AREA

### Ordinary Meeting

Date, Time, Type & Venue of Meeting: 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2022, 8pm, face to face, The Quay  
Exeter

Chair: Mark Kemball, Secretary: Alan Dovey & Minutes: Philip Wilson

If anything discussed at this meeting gives rise to a conflict of interest for anyone, please declare it at the start of the meeting.

#### Attendees:

Mark Kemball, Philip Wilson, Paul Roberts, Thomas Reeves, Nathalie Caulier, Robin Jacob, Trevor Smith, Rick Sowards, Rik Meek, Mark Mark Courtiour, Mathieu Burtschell, James Macdonald-Smith, Grant Edwards, Josh Brockhouse Smith, Michael Phillips, Anna Kommers, Jay Jackson & Will Hornby.

#### Apologies For Absence:

Helen Wilson, Julian Wills, Colin Knowles, Ian Butterworth, Iain Peters, Max Dutton, Dave Hillebrandt, Tony Bird, Simon Torr, Mark McManus, & Marti Hallett

The following points were discussed:

1. The previous minutes for the Ordinary General Meeting were agreed & signed off.
2. Access Rep Reports:
  - A. Avon Gorge Report: Mark Kemball (Chair) read out Colin Knowles report in his absence:
    - Strops have been fitted in three locations at the top of Suspension Bridge Buttress, Avon Gorge, enabling abseil descent to the ground. A significant gain.
    - Commercial providers who use Seawalls for group activity are being asked to rally round to fund the replacement of the current random era/type bolts with a consistent set of high-quality glue-ins that will last for some decades. The link for those wanting to donate funds for this crowd funding is <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/avon-gorge-top-rope-area-bolt-replacement-project>.
    - An update on the Seawalls belay bolt renewals is that enough money has been raised to do a very comprehensive replacement of the old, fixed equipment.
  - B. Cheddar Report Mark Courtiour reported that:
    - The Longleat and the National Trust agreement currently bars commercial climbing activity (climbing & abseiling via fixed gear). The Cheddar Vision Group (see: [Cheddar Vision Group - Cheddar Parish Council](#)) is currently looking for ways to promote Cheddar Gorge. Discussions are continuing regarding such activities between these parties and the BMC Cheddar Gorge rep which may include guided climbing.
  - C. Carn Gowla & Cligga Head Report: Mark Kemball (Chair) read out Iain Peters report in his absence. This follows on from the possibility of a seasonal climbing ban or licencing for climbers moted by the National Trust this spring to protect nesting birds. Iain continues to ensure that climbing bans only affect routes and defined areas where birds are nesting. The BMC has offered to organise a boat trip along this coast next spring for the National Trust,



Natural England and any other interested parties to establish where threatened bird species are actually nesting. A sensible and workable compromise is being sought for next year.

- D. Wintours Leap Gear Project & Shorncliff Report: Mark Kemball (Chair) read out Tony Birds report in his absence. Most of the routes have had pegs and abseil stations replaced. Route pitches on the North Wall Top Tier are now possible with abseil station descents (no topping out via the private gardens allowed). Work has been expanded to replace Shorncliffe abseil descents with metal strops following rodent damage.
- E. Vixen Tor Report: Will Hornby reported that negotiations are ongoing to allow climbing here in the future. The climbing ban is still in place.
3. Youth Climbing Series Co-ordinator report Jay Jackson & Anna Kommers reported giving a list of dates for 2023. Anyone available to help out as a volunteer can contact [ycs@thebmc.co.uk](mailto:ycs@thebmc.co.uk) from where your details will be forwarded on to Anna. Full details can be found here: [Youth Climbing Series \(thebmc.co.uk\)](https://thebmc.co.uk/youth-climbing-series)
4. Mark Kemball confirmed Provisional 2023 SW Area Meeting Dates & Formats as follows:
  - week commencing Monday 23 January (Zoom)
  - week commencing Monday 17 April (Zoom)
  - week commencing Monday 26 June (Zoom)
  - Saturday 14 or Saturday 21 October (Hybrid)
5. AOB:
  - Hybrid Meetings: Philip Wilson apologised that this activity could not go ahead for this meeting at The Quay. Issues with sourcing the equipment which we do not have and gaining the necessary knowledge and experience to do this remain a challenge to be overcome before this can happen. There was however support for this among those present to make this happen at a future meeting. Anna Kommers and Natalie Caulier kindly agreed to help.
  - Simon Torr SDMC emailed the meeting asking about Club Membership fees for 2023. This is located on the BMC web site ([BMC Membership fees 2023 \(thebmc.co.uk\)](https://thebmc.co.uk/bmc-membership-fees-2023)). He also asked about best practice for safeguarding children attending SDMC Club meets and how other clubs address this. He is advised to speak to Jane Thomson ([jane@thebmc.co.uk](mailto:jane@thebmc.co.uk)) initially then Nick Colton (safeguarding). Trevor Smith also offered to speak to Simon regarding this
  - Mark Courtiour asked when Rob Dyers replacement will be in post and who this will be. Philip Wilson agreed to find this out.
6. A slideshow and talk on the progress of the proposed Exmoor Coast Climbing guide was given by Mathieu Burtshell. This was well received. Anyone wishing to contribute, know more or get involved can contact him at: [mathieu.burtshell@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:mathieu.burtshell@nationaltrust.org.uk).