



## British Mountaineering Council SOUTHWEST AREA

### AGM

Date, Time, Type & Venue of Meeting: 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2023, 6pm, Hybrid Meeting, The Robins Pub Bristol Ashton Drive, Bristol BS3 2PW.

Chair: Mark Kemball, Secretary: 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

In Person: Mark Kemball (Chair Outgoing), Philip Wilson (Sec), Colin Knowles (Chair Incoming), Jerzy Wieczorek (Hybrid Meeting Tech), Mark Courtiour (Somerset Rep), Ben Darby (Avon Rep), John Allcock, Steve Menandue, Andrew Tobin, Libby Houston, Martin Hallett (Swanage, Dorset Incl Portland & Isle of Wight Rep), Ben Hallett, Sophie Kong, Lisa Lewis, Jamie Evans & Dan Donovan

Via Zoom: Trevor Smith (Members Council & BMC Board), Yasmin, Adam B, Tony Bird, Alex, Dave Wynne, James & Rich Smith.

#### Apologies For Absence

Helen Wilson, Julio Sánchez (Wye Valley Rep) & Ian Butterworth.

#### Agenda items

1. The previous minutes for the AGM were agreed & signed off.
2. The Annual Report was Presented by the Chair outlining achievements for the year (see Appendix A).
3. Elections:
  - Chair: Mark Kemball stepped down as Area Chair and Colin Knowles was proposed by Mark Courtiour and Mark Kemball and seconded by Philip Wilson & Trevor Smith. This appointment was approved by 23 in favour, 1 abstention & no one opposing in a vote.
  - Area Meeting Secretary: Philip Wilson was confirmed as continuing in post as Area Secretary
  - Members Council Reps: Philip Wilson & Trevor Smith confirmed as continuing in post Philip Wilson continues in post until November 2024
  - Jerzy Wieczorek was appointed as Hybrid Meeting Tech

Other Area Volunteer Roles Are:

- Atlantic Coast Iain Peters
- Avon Ben Darby
- Devon North & Culm Coast Mark McManus
- Devon South Will Hornby, James Mann



- Portland Neale Heanes
- Swanage & Dorset (Incl Portland & Isle of Wight) Martin Hallett
- West Penwith Iain Peters
- Somerset Mark Courtiour
- Cheddar BMC Climbing Warden Owen Wynne-Griffith
- Wye Valley Julio Sánchez

Clubs & Hill Walking Volunteers:

- Clubs Co-ordinator Vacant (a new clubs co-ordinator is being sought)
- Hill Walking Representative Thomas Reeves

Climbing Wall Representative & Youth Co-Ordinators

- Climbing Wall Representative Dave Taylor
- Youth Co-Ordinator North Dave Taylor
- Youth Co-Ordinator South Jay Jackson

4. Any other business (none was raised).
5. Next Area AGM: October 2024 (time & venue to be determined).



## **Appendix A Annual Report BMC South-West Area 2023**

This year has seen the completion of the Wintour's Leap Gear Project, thanks to all the volunteers involved.

Along similar lines, we have also seen the development of an Avon Area Fixed Equipment Policy and the Avon access team which we shall be voting on in the area meeting following this AGM. Thanks to Colin Knowles for his work on this. Thanks also to Simon Fletcher who, after many years in the role, has stood down as Avon area access rep and has been replaced by Ben Darby.

We have had several access issues this year, starting with the court ruling removing the right to Wild Camp on Dartmoor. The BMC has been actively involved in campaigning against this at both a local and national level. The High Court has overruled the first ruling so at present we still have the right to wild camp, but the landowner is appealing to the Supreme Court, Dartmoor National Park Authority is fighting this, we await the outcome. Of possibly greater significance, this has also been a catalyst for a much wider national campaign for improved access to the countryside, which the BMC is supporting.

Carn Gowla – there have been problems this year with the landowner (The National Trust) requesting a much wider bird ban than (in my opinion) is necessary. We complied with their request this year, but this is still unresolved in the long term.

Tintagel – last year, we negotiated an access arrangement with English Heritage for climbing at Tintagle Castle. This summer, a team tried to use the agreement to climb Il Duce, but they were denied access. This has not been resolved.

Symonds Yat – this has been closed to climbing following a rockfall, pending geological reports. This unsatisfactory situation has yet to be resolved.

The Needles Ridge, Isle of Wight - the previous access agreement has been withdrawn, this needs to be resolved.

On a personal note, having decided to stand down as chair this year, I would particularly like to thank Philip and Helen Wilson for the support they have given me since I took over from James Mann.

Mark Kemball SW Area Chair