



British Mountaineering Council SOUTHWEST AREA

Agenda

Date, Time, Type & Venue of Meeting: 23rd July 2024 6pm Social Start (With Refreshments)
With A 7pm Main Meeting Start. Hybrid (Zoom & In Person) Meeting @ Haven Banks
Centre, Haven Rd, Exeter EX2 8DP.

Chair: Colin Knowles, Secretary: Philip Wilson.

[CLICK TO ACCESS THE ZOOM LINK](#)

INFORMAL GATHERING 6pm

1. Informal Networking Event (with refreshments).
2. Tick Talk Organised by Dave Turnbull BMC (From A Zoom Meeting Recording 01 07 2024).

FORMAL MEETING AGENDA FOR 7pm

If any items discussed at the meeting on this agenda gives rise to a conflict of interest for anyone, then please declare it at the start of the meeting.

1. Welcome to Dominic Oughton, our new BMC President & Any Apologies for Absence.
2. Sign-Off of the previous meeting minutes held on the @ 24 03 2024 @ The Quay Climbing Centre, Haven Road, Exeter EX2 8AX (these will not be read out verbatim during this meeting. It would be helpful if participating members could read the minutes and actions and note any points for discussion prior to this meeting taking place.
3. Any actions / progress from The Previous Meeting. These were BMC Access Funding Discussion Paper & the Establishment of a Professionally Managed SW Area Bolt Fund.
4. BMC Access Funding Discussion for The SW Area Moving Forward – Colin Knowles. See attached copy of this in Appendix A
5. Members Council Report – Trevor Smith.
6. SW Local Area Matters:
 - a) Access Reps - elections & updates:
 - Dartmoor Access Team - Paul Roberts, Will Hornby, Thomas Reeves, Alex Latham.
 - Cheesewring Quarry Area - Rick Sewell.
 - Wye Valley – Update.

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- Baggy Point - vacancy advertised.
 - b) Symonds Yat Rockfall Closure (affecting walking & climbing access)
 - c) National Trust Response to Carn Gowla.
 - d) Guidebooks - Blocking and Blackmail - initial comments.
 - e) Dartmoor NP Haytor Works.
 - f) Retro Bolting Woodcroft Quarry.
 - g) Fairy Cave Rock Spoil Movements.
 - h) Fairy Cave Quarry Bank Account Remaining Unused Funds – Ian Butterworth.
 - i) Crag Cleanups.
1. Matters Arising Not Covered Elsewhere:
 - a) Hill Walking initiative.
 2. Any Other Business.
 3. Date, Time, Type & Location of The Next SW Area Meeting.

Appendix A - BMC SW Area Discussion Paper of Future Funding For Access Issues (July 2024)

At our last area meeting we saw a video of two US Access activists describing how, in the US, access to climbing and hillwalking is fundedⁱ. In summary, *“Purchasing and owning climbing sites is very popular amongst climbers in the US. Not only does it secure long-term access it also helps build a sense of community, encourages membership, prompts volunteer initiatives and generates financial giving.”*

For those present at the meeting, this presentation raised questions about how access is funded via the BMC, and so we agreed to discuss this further at the July Area Meeting.

How does the BMC make funds available at the moment for access work?

- Requests for small expenditures such as refreshments at a crag clear-up day are met out of the BMC’s current allocation to AC&S expenditures.
- Requests for moderate expenditures e.g. £500 for stakes, have been met via a simple application mechanism, though the decision-making may not be rapid.
- For much larger sums, e.g. ClimbBristol, applications would need to be made to the BMC’s Access and Conservation Trust.

It is likely in the near future that both moderate and large sums will be needed in different parts of the South-West to fund access projects. To take things forward we need to make sure our representatives to Members Council, Trevor Smith and Philip Wilson, are fully informed of our opinions on the following issues:

Q. Are the BMC’s current mechanisms suitable for the needs we foresee in the next couple of years?

Q. If our Access Reps need to ask for any crowd-funding to supplement anything the BMC can offer, how are we to ensure that crowd-funded money is managed and used ethically, transparently and effectively?

Q. If the BMC were to offer funding for a project on a part-basis, should that be conditional on a certain proportion being raised by any crowd-funding (e.g. BMC/Crowd 50/50? 25/75? 10/90?)

Q. Should the BMC’s current policy on crag purchase [i.e. as an action of last resort] remain as it is, or should the BMC be more proactive in securing climbing areas? (When you consider this question, please also consider the on-costs of owning and caring for a publicly accessible site as annually they could be quite considerable.)

Q. Are there any other questions that we should be asking as part of this discussion?

Thank you for thoughtfully considering these questions.

Colin Knowles, SW Area Chair

ⁱ [See <https://tinyurl.com/USAccessFunding> with the password rAiLv!k1]