



LGBT

AGM 2022

Minutes

Annual General Meeting, Mon 14th November 2022

Review of the year: chair and secretary's report

Josh presented the Chair and Secretary's report, summarising the club's activities from the past year, including:

- Regular Beginners' Nights in Exeter and Plymouth
- Successfully affiliating with the BMC – we're only the second affiliated LGBTQ+ club
- Kieran, Char and Mike's contributions to the BMC's Equity Steering Group
- Our successful grant application - £1,000 from equipment from Allianz
- Thanks to the committee for their contributions and the members for their support

The report was followed by a brief summary of the club's demographics for the year (collected from an optional survey at the end of the membership form). The charts are available in full report and the attached slideshow.

Training/Equipment officer's report

Kieran presented a report and photos of the club trips from the past year, including:

- The Culm Coast
- West and Inland Cornwall
- Portland
- Equipment purchased from the Allianz grant

The report ended with two survey links:

- Where would you like to go? <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/5BC32XP>
- What would you like to learn? <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/5PLMPRL>

Introducing Jay Jackson: our technical advisor

Jay Jackson has offered his time voluntarily to support the club as a technical advisor. He introduced himself and spoke about his experience and qualification, and the type of support he could offer.

Jay could function as a link between the club and the wider climbing industry, offering advice and guidance on best practice, policy, risk assessment, etc, and supporting the club during incidents or near misses.

Jay presented a brief paper – “*The Role of the Technical Advisor*” – which is attached.

Financial review: treasurer’s report

Simon presented the accounts for the year:

- 40 Paid members totalling £593.88 (All of this goes to BMC for membership fees)
- £177 still to be sent to BMC
- £1000 gifted from Allianz Insurance
- £73.35 remaining from the grant
- Current account balance £262.98

Certification of the club’s accounts

Simon and Josh signed off the accounts during the meeting, on behalf of the whole committee.

Consider changes to the club’s constitution

Three proposed amendments to the club’s constitution had been received by the deadline. Josh described the changes:

1. Changes to support our BMC affiliation
2. Minor change to paragraph numbering
3. Creating two new committee officer roles

Full details of the changes were available in the attached document which was circulated in the meeting.

Election of committee officers

All of the existing committee officers had stood for re-election to their roles:

- Chair: Michael Phillips
- Secretary: Josh Brockhouse Smith
- Treasurer: Simon Aplin
- New Members’ Officer: Char Harrison
- Training/Equipment Officer: Kieran Woolley

Jack Woolley and Laura Saunders were both co-opted onto the committee during the year, and both stood for roles which would be created by constitutional amendment:

- Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Officer: Jack Woolley
- Members Liaison Officer: Laura Saunders

Agree membership fees for next year

The cost of BMC affiliation will be rising in line with inflation for 2023. Josh outlined the changes:

	2022	2023	increase
Adult	£21.00	£22.25	£1.25
Discounted (Under-18 or unemployed)	£15.55	£16.45	£0.90
+ BMC Individual upgrade	£15.20	£16.70	£1.50

In 2022, we set out membership fees equal with the cost of BMC affiliation – so the club kept none of members' fees and the entire amount was passed to the BMC.

The committee proposed that for 2023, the adult membership fee would be rounded up to £25 (£2.25 above the minimum) so the club had a small surplus to spend on equipment, transport, etc.

Voting

At this point, ballot papers were handed out for members to vote on:

- Membership fees for 2023
- Constitutional amendments
- Committee officer elections

Of the 25 members who attended the meeting, 23 voted.

All motions were unanimously approved.

Other relevant business

Under-18s policy

As a club, we haven't formally made any provisions to accept under-18 members. The committee would like to rectify this so that, in future, we can formally welcome under-18 year olds to the club.

Mike gave an update on the committee's progress and introduced the BMC's Child Safeguarding guidelines for clubs.

The guidelines set out a few different options for clubs to accommodate under-18 members. The committee's current proposal is that under-18s can join the club and attend meets if supervised at all times by a responsible adult (eg a parent/guardian). This person wouldn't need to be competent climber, but would need to keep the child in their line of sight at all times. For young people aged 12 or older, their parent/guardian could nominate another trusted adult to supervise *in loco parentis*. For children 11 and younger, there is no *in loco parentis* option; in addition, the parent/guardian must be a member of the club (the child can join the club, under a special family arrangement, for no extra fee).

The committee had been in contact with our regular climbing centres to understand their policies towards climbing and belaying, with the intention of making our policy align with the restrictions placed by the centres. Our draft policy would be that under-18s could only belay other under-18s, and those aged under 11 could only belay with an experienced, competent adult tail.

A policy for outdoor climbing and trips is still being developed.

Comments, questions and feedback on the current approach are welcomed.

Q&A

Affiliation fees

Q: Could people contribute more than the £25 membership fee, if they wanted to make a larger contribution to the club?

A: Tentatively, yes, but the committee will look into what guidance and advice is available from the BMC. We're not a registered charity (or incorporated in any way) – we don't know what the rules in this area are, but we don't intend to fundraise or ask for donations to the club. If people wanted to contribute, we'd be very grateful, but we wouldn't ask for people to do this. Importantly, any extra contributions would need to be unrestricted – we wouldn't accept money given to us on the condition that it could only be spent in a specific way.

Voting

Q: Is it possible to vote by proxy?

A: Under the club's constitution, only members in attendance at the AGM can vote.

Merch

Q: Are we getting club merch, and if so, when?

A: Mike and Josh have been looking into different options for getting t-shirts printed and a member has offered to make some artwork. Everything is still a work in progress, but we'd love to get merch, and we'll share some draft designs soon for everyone's feedback.

Trips questionnaire

Q: How much detail can we give on the trips questionnaire?

A: You can choose from a list of areas, or there's a free text field to type them in.

LGBTQ+ Climbing Festival

Q: When will there be more detail about the LGBTQ+ Climbing Festival that we're helping organise with other clubs?

A: Soon!