

# Chair and Secretary's Report

Thank you all for coming to the AGM and for being a part of the club.

Normally in this report we'd recap our achievements for the year, but as the club's only been in existence for a year, it'll be more of a short potted history of the club!

Our first committee meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2021, in fact. The six of us who attended made up almost the entire club membership.

I don't think any of us really knew what we were letting ourselves in for, but the past year has really been the most incredible journey.

We held our first Beginners' Night on December 6<sup>th</sup>. Adam and Mike were our first new members who we trained up to top-rope competently. Since then, we've run 11 Beginners' Nights at the Quay, helping almost 20 people to be signed off as competent top-rope climbers.

Through the first half of 2022, we ran a Beginners Night in Exeter every month. As these got more and more popular, in August we moved to a two-monthly frequency to make it easier to manage. Since then, we've benefited from hands-on help from a Quay member of staff most sessions – so we're keeping this decision under review.

In Plymouth, we still advertise the first session of every month as a Beginners Night. Uptake there is quite a bit lower, and we'll be looking at ways to raise our profile in Plymouth in the new year.

A key achievement in 2022 was that we were successful in affiliating the club with the BMC – the national representative body for climbing. We started asking everyone to register and pay in early April, applied for affiliation late April, and were accepted by the BMC on the 20<sup>th</sup> June 2022.

Affiliation is a really significant thing for us. It increases our profile in the climbing world, gives us access to training courses and discounts through the BMC. And provides the combined liability insurance which, for all paid members, covers their climbing at any time any where in the world.

As only the second affiliated LGBTQ+ climbing club in the UK this has also provided us significant influence in how our community are represented in climbing and the outdoors.

Kieran, Char and Mike have also been working alongside the club as members of the BMC Equity Steering Group to increase and improve the visibility, support and rights of LGBTQ+ people in the outdoors and are working with Not So Trad and others to create the first LGBTQ+ climbing festival in the UK for next year. I would like to thank Mike, Kieran, Char, as well as Jack and Ali for all their hard work.

While we were waiting to hear about our affiliation, Jane at the BMC tipped us off about some possible funding from the BMC's insurers Allianz. With Adam's help, we applied for a grant and, at almost exactly the same we heard we were successfully affiliated, we found out we'd been awarded £1,000. Amazing news! We shared pizza and fizz in the Quay to celebrate.

We couldn't be more grateful to Adam for his support – and Kieran worked extremely hard in drafting and re-drafting (and redrafting again) our spending plans too.

It was 20<sup>th</sup> June we first heard from the BMC that they would accept our affiliation application. On the same day, our 40<sup>th</sup> member registered.

With affiliation under our belt, we started organising trips outdoors. Climbing top-rope at Hay Tor in July, joining Not So Trad's Culm Coast trip followed by our own trad climbing Cornwall trip in August, Portland in September, and Hound Tor in October. It's been a fantastic summer, and we'll be planning more trips next year – Kieran will talk about that later.

Behind the scenes, in June, we started recording attendances at our club meets. Between us, we've climbed more than 580 times since then!

Mike has been busy promoting and organising the club, and with Char and Not So Trad's Robert, in March delivered a webinar as part of the BMC's Equity Webinar series: *Why Start an LGBTQ+ Climbing Club?*

Char has been busy supporting our members and building strong relationships with climbing centres, particularly the Quay and the Exeter Hangar. They've given an interview in Beta Magazine, helped get us a stall at the Fore St Flea. And generally been awesome.

Josh has been supporting the club behind the scenes, managing the database and membership records, being the BMC's administrative point of contact, and keeping the club's admin on track.

Kieran's done an incredible job sharing his expertise, organising our trips, drawing up spending plans for our equipment, and looking after the equipment now we've got it.

And Simon's just been swimming in cash.

For next year, one of the key changes we'd like to make to the committee is to bring Jack and Laura into elected officer roles. Both Jack and Laura asked to be involved in the committee during the year, and have made really helpful contributions, but as co-opted members they haven't been able to formally vote on any of the committee's decisions. We can only create new committee officer roles by amending the constitution with the members' approval.

We're also really glad that Jay Jackson – local climbing extraordinaire – has offered to be our technical advisor. Later in the meeting, he'll introduce himself and talk about what the role involves.

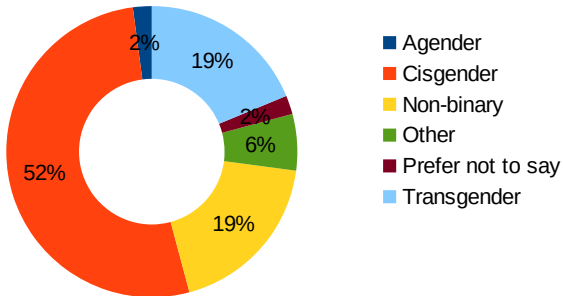
Thank you all so much for joining us, climbing with us, and supporting us on this journey.

Since our modest start, we've welcomed more than 70 prospective members - and 40 of you have stuck around and become paid members. Together, we're creating a wonderful, diverse community and it wouldn't be possible without you. So thank you.

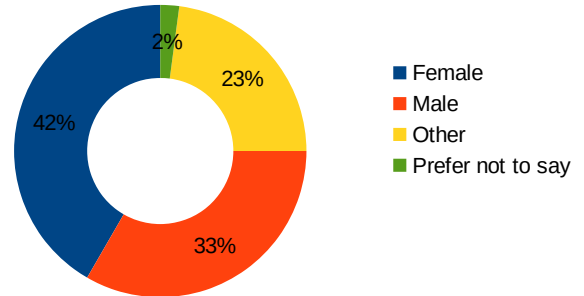
# Registration demographics

At the end of the club registration form, we ask a few optional demographic questions. We thought some of you might be interested to see the results.

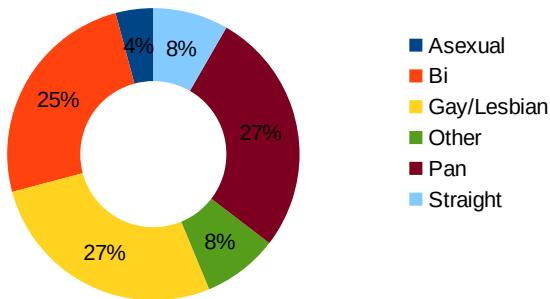
Gender identity



Gender



Sexual orientation



Climbing experience

