

BRITISH MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL

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NORTH EAST AREA COMMITTEE

Meeting to be held: Thursday 30th November at 19:00.

Venue: The Honest Lawyer, Durham DH1 3SP.

AGENDA

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

1. Welcome and Introduction
2. Apologies for Absence
3. Notes of Last Meeting
4. Organisational Report

The BMC Organisational Report is now available to download [here](#) and a summary of the report [here](#). The review group has made various recommendations, but it is your feedback that will help make them reality. We're asking all BMC members to [download the report](#) and then send us your feedback through [this quick online survey](#). The online consultation period will run from 18 November – 22 December, then the final recommendations will go to a vote at the BMC AGM in April 2018.

5. BMC representation on Mountain Training England'

The September National Council meeting included a discussion on 'BMC representation on Mountain Training England' – see item 6.1 of [the minutes of the meeting](#). The meeting agreed that BMC members should be consulted more broadly on the proposal that the BMC reduces its number of voting members from four to one on Mountain Training England's Council, and that BMC/MTE Training Officer Jon Garside produce a one-page summary (attached) for discussion at the November area meetings.

6. National Council update / matters to take to NC

7. Co-ordinators Reports

Access North

- Kylloe In

Access South

- Funding from the Crag Care Fund and Access and Conservation Trust.

Youth

Climbing Walls

Hillwalking

Clubs

7. Election of Officers

- 9 AOB

10. Date of Next Meeting

BMC REPRESENTATION ON MOUNTAIN TRAINING ENGLAND (MTE)

Recommendation: The BMC reduces its number of voting members from four to one on Mountain Training England's Council, achieving voting parity with Mountain Training England's other member organisations.

Background BMC has been asked to review its voting representation on the Council of Mountain Training England (MTE). This was discussed at BMC National Council on 16 Sept 2017 and it was decided to consult BMC Area Meetings for their views on the issue. These views will be fed back by Area reps at the next National Council meeting in December. To help in these discussions the following information is provided.

The BMC and BMC Cymru are members of Mountain Training UK, Mountain Training England (MTE) and Mountain Training Cymru, with voting rights outlined below.

	MTUK	MTE	MTC
Voting members	9	14	12
Total voting rights	14	17	12
BMC	1	4	0
BMC Cymru	1	0	1
<i>Mountaineering Ireland</i>	1		
Mountaineering Scotland	1		

The BMC's four representatives sit on MTE's Council, not MTE's Board of Directors. The directors have control and include one director whom the BMC appoints, a position currently undertaken by Mick Johnson. The MTE Board has seven directors, the other six being recruited for independent skills and expertise.

The MTE Council members are consulted on strategy; the directors ultimately decide upon MTE's strategic direction. The BMC's CEO has observer status at MTE Board meetings, which are held at the BMC. The BMC also employs a joint BMC/MTE Training Officer. As such, the BMC is MTE's member organisation with the greatest potential to influence its work, with or without four reps on its Council.

As a co-founder of MTE in 1964, there are historical reasons for the BMC having almost a quarter of MTE's Council's voting rights, where historically, strategic decisions were made. Much has changed in the intervening years, including the introduction of the Companies Act, resulting in key changes in the way in which important decisions are made. MTE's Board of Directors now has primacy over its Council, and MTUK is the forum for making decisions regarding changes to Mountain Training qualifications. Having more than one vote on MTE's Council therefore serves no practical purpose. Further, it portrays the BMC in a poor light as it appears to under-value the relationship that MTE has with its other member organisations.

Whilst the BMC has the right to appoint four MTE reps, historically, this opportunity has not been taken. The current voting reps are Claudia Sarnier, Mick Johnson, Will Kilner and Nick Colton, who also provides a BMC report.

Six of Mountain Training England's last eight meetings have seen just one or two BMC reps attending. In June 2016 it was essential that four BMC reps attended, as Mountain Training England voted on amendments to their constitution, necessitating all voting reps to attend or vote by proxy. This resulted in a member of BMC staff, who had not attended any previous meetings, being asked to attend for the vote only.

Engineering such ad-hoc arrangements to achieve quorum for important votes is not the most satisfactory way to operate, and did not necessarily reflect well upon the BMC in the eyes of Mountain Training England's other member organisations.

Having one voting rep would not preclude Nick Colton or other BMC staff attending MTE Council meetings and presenting a report. On the contrary, this input is of great importance, made easy with MTE Council meetings held at the BMC.

Such an arrangement would mirror the BMC's observer status with Mountain Training Cymru (MTC). A BMC Officer attends MTC meetings to provide an office report alongside a rep from BMC Cymru, the member organisation.