

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		
<i>Mountaineering Scotland</i>	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 Sarner, 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.