

BMC Peak Area Meeting 12th June 2019 – National Council update

This is an unusual report as we haven't had a National Council meeting since February i.e. before the last Area meeting. However things have still been happening over in BMClad and we thought it worth giving a brief update on that.

1. BMC AGM

A few of you will have been at the AGM at the end of March, this year held locally in Buxton, but for those of you who weren't here's a quick summary:

- a. 2019 Volunteer Awards presentation on the Saturday night
- b. A constructive Open Forum discussion on the BMC's vision, mission & core values
- c. Annual reports from the President & CEO, including an introduction to the BMC's latest environmental campaign Hills2Oceans
- d. Treasurer's report including the rationale behind the proposed subs increase (helped by the presence of a representative from BMC's insurance broker Howden to give more insight into the insurance claim which has largely necessitated this increase)
- e. Ratification of the election to the Board of Directors of the Chair (Gareth Pierce), and a new National Council appointed Director to replace Rik Payne (Fiona Sanders), plus the elections of three new Nominated Director positions (Huw Jones – Accounting & Finance, Jonathan White - Clubs and Jonny Dry – Fundraising & Grants)
- f. After some debate the increase in membership subscriptions was approved.

2. Governance Working Group

This has been set up following the AGM, to address some issues arising from it including future AGM processes & communications, member engagement through voting, and Nominations Committee membership & processes. This to run alongside the work of the new Governance & Compliance Officer, Lucy Valerio, and the Nominations Committee review of existing Board member skills and roles.

3. Values & Strategy

- a. Values Workshop & Survey – defining the key values underpinning the BMC's work is an important part of producing the new five year Strategy. Some initial suggestions were fine-tuned at the pre-AGM open forum session, and these were then used as the basis of a membership survey sent out in May. Using the results of this, currently the main ones identified are Community, Sustainability, Adventure & Heritage, along with two more possibilities encompassing education/skills and excellence/performance. A proposal will be presented to National Council for discussion at the next meeting.
- b. Five year Strategic Plan (2020-25) – this was further developed at a full day meeting held last month, attended by most of the Board. Again a summary of their output will go to the next National Council meeting.

4. ODG

Good progress has been made in most of the Workstreams including:

- a. WS1 Strategy – see above

- b. WS2 Ops & Finance – work ongoing on a new digital membership package and the formation of a Digital Strategy workgroup
- c. WS4 Corporate Structure – Rab Carrington is leading a Competitions workgroup looking into possible options for future structures, and a discussion paper on the BMC in Wales was presented to both Welsh Area meetings in the past week. Another group is being set up to start looking into the Charitable Subsidiaries.
- d. WS6 Policy – current Olympics position paper has been published on the website, and the policy on growth, participation and diversity is now being developed as part of the overall strategy.
- e. WS5 Governance (National Council Reconstitution), WS7 Partners & WS8 Membership Engagement – it has been recognised that these three areas are so linked that they are best considered together. Papers on all three will therefore be presented at the next National Council meeting.
- f. WS5 Governance (Specialist Committee Review) – on hold awaiting a lead for the workgroup.

The next National Council meeting is on 22nd June, and as you might gather from the above I predict it's going to be a marathon – at the very least we will be looking at issues arising from the AGM, proposals re Values & Strategy and papers from the ODG workstreams on top of the usual standing agenda items! The aim is to put together summarised versions of all these to be issued to members for feedback in time for the September area meetings.

Further information on the issues above can be found on either main BMC website (look in the 'BMC Organisation' category) or on the ODG site odg.thebmc.co.uk.

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