

## BMC Peak Area Meeting March 2021 - Organisational Update

David has run through the NC meetings over the past few months, so I don't have a huge amount to add. I'd just like to highlight four issues in particular:

### 1. Members' Open Forum meetings

This year there have already been two very constructive and useful Members' Forum meetings. As well as giving updates (and taking questions) on what's been happening generally in the BMC, these meetings have taken a few specific issues for more detailed discussion, using breakout rooms followed by group feedback.

- January 28 – focusing on the changes to the Articles of Association proposed for the 2021 AGM, in particular discussions around the role of observers and the chairing of National Council, possible changes to the Presidential term, and initial soundings on the Area Terms of Reference.
- February 25 – focusing in more detail on the Area Terms of Reference and proposed changes to election voting procedures.

There is **another Open Forum meeting on March 18**, focusing mainly on the forthcoming AGM and associated processes.

Please do consider joining these – they have proved extremely helpful and a good way of garnering feedback from interested members. It also means I don't have to bore you with so much detail at these meetings!

Look out for publicity on the BMC website and social media, or if you'd like a personal email invitation and more regular updates **subscribe to the BMC Governance mailing list** (link for this at the bottom of the website articles about the Members' Forums:

<https://thebmc.co.uk/changes-BMC-articles-association>

<https://thebmc.co.uk/board-update--invite-to-open-forum-governance-changes-in-the-bmc>

### 2. AGM 2021

This will be held online on Saturday May 15. Last year was the first time we'd held a virtual AGM, and as it was uncharted territory much of the actual business was postponed until this year. Since we really can't do that again we're having to work out how it can be managed, and various people have been hard at work setting up the processes for this, which will be the main focus of the Members' Open Forum in March.

Two of the main issues that will be included are detailed below.

### 3. Volunteer positions on the new Members' Council

All details can be found on the BMC website here <https://thebmc.co.uk/agm-volunteers>, this link has also been posted on the Peak Area Facebook page.

#### Summary

National Council will be renamed Members' Council, subject to approval at the 2021 AGM. The proposed new Members' Council Terms of Reference will shortly be available on the BMC website.

## *New Council Roles*

### **Nationally Elected Councillors Constituency Councillors**

The National Council is the representative body for the BMC's members. It has spent the past two years reviewing how to be more representative and as such is expanding the members' voice through the creation of six new councillor positions. These new councillors will champion their areas, and work with the Council, BMC committees and other volunteers to ensure that the BMC remains the "representative body for the sport and recreation of Mountaineering".

Four volunteers are sought as **Nationally Elected Councillors** (NECs) to represent members in each of the key participation activities of rock climbing, hill walking, mountaineering and indoor climbing. Two further volunteer **Constituency Councillors** are sought to represent Mountain Training candidates and members of BMC affiliated Clubs.

### *Other Roles*

Applications are also being sought for the roles of **President** as well as for a **Nominated Director on the Board**.

## 4. Area Terms of Reference

The key points to note are:

- The Terms of Reference, together with Article 30 of the revised Articles of Association set out how Areas and Area Meetings are to be governed.
- The intent of the Terms of Reference is to provide a framework within which Area Officers are free to operate their local meetings and Area engagements as they, and the Area Members, deem most appropriate.
- At the moment, the Articles contain many operational points which makes it difficult for Area Officers to tailor their meetings so they are appropriate to their local members. Also, the restrictive nature of this means articles can be unintentionally broken such as during the pandemic.
- The ToR comprises of the two sections, the main ToR along with a set of appendices. The appendices are there to provide operational guidance to Area Officers and Area Representatives.
- In relation to areas and area meetings, Article 30 covers the following matters: approval process for updates to the ToR, purpose of area meetings (unchanged from current Articles), voting eligibility and the election and removal of officers and representatives.
- Any changes to the ToR (excluding appendices) requires approval of at least 75% of Area Officers, a majority of Council and a majority of the Board. Where the changes can't be agreed by the three bodies, the changes will be taken to the members for approval at the next AGM.
- The appendices can be updated with support of the majority of Area Officers in consultation with the staff.
- Area Officers and Representatives have been consulted on the content of the ToR and their feedback incorporated.

The **Area ToR** can be found at

[https://www.thebmc.co.uk/media/files/BMC%20Organisation/Area%20Terms%20of%20Reference%20full%20V0\\_20.pdf?utm\\_source=BMC+governance+list&utm\\_campaign=191fb7a495-senior\\_staff\\_COPY\\_01&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_0096151773-191fb7a495-2307323](https://www.thebmc.co.uk/media/files/BMC%20Organisation/Area%20Terms%20of%20Reference%20full%20V0_20.pdf?utm_source=BMC+governance+list&utm_campaign=191fb7a495-senior_staff_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_0096151773-191fb7a495-2307323) (sorry it is a long link).

Any feedback or questions please contact Andy Syme or Chris Stone at [agm@thebmc.co.uk](mailto:agm@thebmc.co.uk).