

## **BMC Cymru Wales – elections for area officers**

Tom Hutton's stint as chair is coming to a close at this year's AGM and we're seizing this opportunity to advertise some vacant volunteer roles in your local area, BMC Cymru Wales.

BMC Cymru Wales is unusual in that at National Council level it counts as a single area despite its large geographical size and diverse nature. Due to this, BMC Cymru Wales is split into three local areas – North, Mid and South – with an encompassing BMC Cymru AGM held towards the end of each year. Historically North Wales has always had the greater turn-outs at local area meetings and as a result of this almost all the positions in BMC Cymru Wales are taken by members from the North Wales local area. This doesn't need to be the case, although it has always been very convenient for the BMC Cymru Wales chair and secretary to be North Wales based.

At this year's BMC Cymru Wales AGM, to be held on Saturday 31 October, we are looking for three people to fill roles that are either vacant or becoming vacant at this year's AGM. The biggest role is for a new area chair, which has been Tom Hutton's role for the last few years. We have already had some enquiries into this role and have a candidate for it; however, new candidates need to be voted in with a majority at the AGM and it is always good to have several people vying for the role to enable some diversity in potential new position holders. The two other vacant positions are for an area representative to stand on the clubs committee and for a new hill walking representative.

Additionally, if you feel like you would like to get involved with any of the other positions in your local area then you can stand for them in the forthcoming AGM and can be voted into the position over an existing position holder as long as you have a proposer and a seconder. In these scenarios it is best you contact the existing position holder to discuss the role – in some instances they may be more than happy to relinquish their job or even share the position.

If you have any questions, you can contact Calum Muskett ([calum\\_muskett@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:calum_muskett@hotmail.co.uk)) or Tony Ryan ([tony@thebmc.co.uk](mailto:tony@thebmc.co.uk)) for more information.

The current area officers and post holders in BMC Cymru Wales are:

**Chair:** Tom Hutton (outgoing this AGM)

**Secretary:** Calum Muskett (entering final year in role)

**National Council representatives:** Anthony Eccles, Jim Kelly, Will Kilner

**Mountain Training UK representative:** Andy Boorman

**Mountain Training Wales representative:** Kate & Ross Worthington

**Climbing walls representative:** Jon Ratcliffe

**Area youth co-ordinators:** Mark Dicken & Ifan Richards

**Clubs committee representative:** VACANT

**Hill walking representative:** VACANT

## **Brief Job Descriptions**

### **Area chair**

The area chair works closely with other volunteers in the area and should liaise with BMC office staff to ensure the area receives suitable support.

The main roles of the area chair are to:

- be an advocate for the BMC. With regard to this it is helpful to develop some understanding of the BMC's specialist work areas, finances and structure;
- be able to represent members' views in a fair and balanced manner at local, regional and national level, taking a lead on difficult or contentious issues; and
- be aware of the BMC procedures and constitutional requirements related to area meetings, ensuring that area meetings run smoothly and dealing with area administration in a timely manner.

### **Area secretary**

The area secretary should be a good communicator who is well organised and reliable.

The main roles of the area secretary are to:

- arrange meeting venues and work with the BMC office to publicise and promote area meetings;
- put together the BMC Cymru newsletter before each round of local area meetings;
- write meeting minutes; and
- help ensure that meeting action points are followed up.

### **National Council representatives**

Each BMC area can appoint two people to serve on the BMC's main policy making body, National Council, which meets five times per year. The BMC covers travel and accommodation costs and efforts are made to ensure that meeting weekends are a combination of business and pleasure; recent venues have included the Lake District, Snowdonia, the Peak District and Devon.

The role of the representatives is to represent the views of their area at National Council and to report back to their area on any relevant decisions or debates at National Council. At times it will be necessary for National Council to make quick decisions on issues, so area representatives must be prepared to 'think on their feet' and act (including voting) on behalf of their area.

The area chair and area secretary can be the National Council representatives, or the area may choose to elect two different members as representatives.

### **Other local area representatives and co-ordinators**

Within each BMC area there are a number of other important volunteer roles, including:

**Access representatives:** who play a vital role in our work with landowners and conservation bodies.

**Area youth co-ordinators:** who support the BMC's work with young people.

**Club representatives:** who provide a link between the area and the BMC Clubs Committee, which is the forum for the discussion of all matters of concern to BMC Affiliated Clubs.

**Climbing wall representatives:** who liaise with local climbing walls and wall users and refer any relevant issues to the area.

**Hill walking representatives:** who act as a focus for hill walking members and walking-related issues in the area.