

BMC AGM
Sunday 31 March 2019

Item 7.a Appointment of the Chair of the Board of Directors

GARETH PIERCE

Factual Statement

Statistics, education and management have provided the underlying themes for Gareth's salaried career, including spells as a statistician in health and housing sectors, mathematics teaching in a south Wales comprehensive school, lecturing in a university business school and tutoring for the Open University. From 1999, Gareth was a senior manager and chief executive for limited companies in the education sector, addressing strategic and operational challenges. After stepping down from full-time salaried work in May 2018, Gareth undertakes some freelance analysis and writing work. He also fulfils a governance role in higher education and has a public appointment role in relation to teachers' pay reviews in Wales.

With a family background in the hill farming communities of north Wales, Gareth's first experiences of the summits, in his early teenage years, were of Snowdon and Arenig Fawr. After student exploits such as the "14 peaks" of Eryri (Snowdonia), basic rock climbing and snow-and-ice training at Plas y Brenin proved useful, including during visits to the Lake District, Scotland and the Alps. Gareth volunteered with the outdoor activities of the youth organisation, Urdd Gobaith Cymru, before co-ordinating the South Wales programme of Clwb Mynydda Cymru during its early years and later being a member of what was then the Wales Mountain Leadership Training Board.

Personal Statement

Since being appointed Chair of BMC's Board last November, I have been on a sharp learning curve: in looking back, I realise that despite many years as an affiliated club member I had limited knowledge of the organisation's rich tapestry of work,

My involvement to date spans two Board meetings, a Council meeting, several area meetings and a couple of committee meetings. It's clear that this is an exciting and formative time for the BMC, with the recommendations of the ORG gradually taking shape as deliverable initiatives through the work of ODG. I'm also impressed by the energy and commitment of volunteers and staff – which explains why so much is being achieved on the basis of relatively limited financial resources.

Much of the Board's work during my first three months in the role has been reactive and to a tight timeline. Whilst I trust that I've added some value already, I look forward to making a more substantial contribution as the Board develops a strategic approach to forward planning, engaging fully with Council in ensuring alignment between delivery priorities and the deployment of resources.

Whilst I very much hope that my appointment as Chair will be ratified at the AGM, this agenda item provides an opportunity for reflection and challenge as appropriate.

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