

BMC AGM
Sunday 31 March 2019

Item 7.c. Election of Nominated Director qualified and experienced in accounting and finance

Candidate Name: HUW JONES

Proposer: Dorian Thomas, Membership Secretary, Brecon Beacons Climbing and Mountaineering Club

Seconder: Alex Hardisty, Chair, Gwent Mountaineering Club

Factual Statement

Having been brought up on the edge of 'Waterfall Country' in the Brecon Beacons, Huw studied Data Processing at Loughborough University in the Midlands before returning to South Wales to work for Coopers & Lybrand Chartered Accountants in Cardiff. After eight years within both large and small accounting practices, he moved into industry where he held senior and executive roles in the construction & engineering, food and education sectors. For the last ten years Huw has run his own consultancy company providing executive and non – executive financial directorship to small and medium sized enterprises, including the management of HR and IT systems, ad – hoc management consultancy and business mentoring. Most recently, he has been consulting with a major Aerospace group in Newport. He has significant experience in grant applications in both commercial and club environments.

After undergoing – and thoroughly enjoying – Mountain Leader training, Huw joined and remains a member of Gwent Mountaineering Club. He is also a member of Brecon Beacons Climbing and Mountaineering Club and has served there as Membership Secretary. Finally he is also Chair of Cloudbase Mountain Adventures having set that club up in May 2017 and taken it through BMC affiliation in February 2018. He holds an NNAS Tutor award and regularly runs basic skills courses as a precursor for anyone wanting to pursue professional training.

Personal Statement

The grey suited world of finance is in stark contrast to the colourful world of mountaineering as I'm sure you'll agree. My climbing skills though are such that I'm best thought of as an accountant, and it's in that capacity I feel I can contribute most successfully to the BMC and the mountaineering community.

The way we access the outdoors is changing. Individual BMC membership is rising whilst club membership remains largely flat. Indoor climbing is increasingly popular however relatively few progress to climbing outdoors, and 'learning by experience' is being replaced with 'I'll pay someone to teach me'. Uncertainty over grant income for the BMC and clubs alike is making planning more challenging, and reacting more important.

I recognise that the governance changes at the BMC will lead to a new approach ensuring effective liaison on financial matters between the Board, its Finance & Audit Committee and the Council. I believe that my professional role in guiding commercial organisations forwards, allied to my view that the BMC is seeing its role necessarily widen in order to manage these changes while it's resources are less certain, means that I am ideally suited to safeguarding the financial basis of our organisation.

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