

Reconstitution of the National Council Working Group R33 - Update February 2020

The NC Reconstitution Working Group R33, comprises:

- NC Representative and Working Group chair (Helen Wilson)
- NC Representative (Mark Anstiss)
- NC Representative (Alison Cairns)
- NC Representative & Deputy President (Andy Syme)
- NC Representative (Mick Green) – since Jan 2020
- BMC President (Lynn Robinson)
- An Independent BMC member (Roger Murray)
- Partners Representative (Guy Jarvis, Mountain Training) – member of R33 until February 2020
- Representative from the BMC Specialist Committees (Peter Salenieks, Chair of Clubs' Committee)
- Co-opted member (Rik Payne, former member of National Council and Board)

Background

In 2018, the BMC Board set up the Organisational Development Group (ODG) to provide recommendations on implementing the outstanding items from the 2017 Organisational Review Group (ORG) report. The ODG grouped these items into 8 work streams, which together will provide recommendations to Board and NC on all outstanding items.

The ORG recognised that the composition of NC was not best placed to represent the BMC membership effectively. It suggested that whilst the Councillors representing the Local Areas be retained, they should be complimented by additional Councillors who represent the membership as a whole. It was also clear that the members of the BMC hugely value the Specialist Committees and Working Groups and that their contribution to NC is very important – this is especially true for the work around Access and Conservation and in relation to the support given to affiliated clubs. In the current structure of the NC, representatives of the Specialist Committees do not have a vote.

As a result of these concerns, the *“BMC Independent Organisational Review Amended Recommendations Report (March 2018)”* made the following recommendation:

Recommendation number 33: National Council should be restructured and become the Members' Assembly and its role redefined.

The R33 working group was formed at the end of 2018. The group currently comprises those members listed above – there have been some changes in composition as expected for a working group that has now been in existence for over a year. After initial planning meetings, the group divided its work into three clear phases:

Phase 1 (Jan 2019 to Sept 2019): Composition of the new Council

In June 2019, the group published the proposed new structure for NC and recommended that it should be renamed the Members' Council (MC). After member feedback, the new name and

structure were agreed by NC in September 2019 and the new MC will have its inaugural meeting on 14 June 2020, the day after the AGM. See the [previous R33 report](#) from June 2019 for details of the structure.

Phase 2 (Sept 2019 to June 2020): Creation of the framework necessary for the new MC to function effectively

The group has been meeting once a week since September to establish what needs to be done in order for MC to function effectively, then to implement the necessary changes required. Throughout this process, the group has sought to involve the rest of NC as well as all other interested parties, by means of briefings, workshops and webinars, so that a good consensus is reached. As a result, the R33 working group is making good progress towards creating the necessary framework for MC to function effectively ahead of 14 June 2020. The key outputs / decisions are listed below:

1. MC Terms of Reference (ToRs): Currently in draft. Following comment from the ODG, the ToRs will be discussed at NC on 28 March after which a final draft will be produced for circulation to / comment from members ahead of the AGM on 14 June 2020. At the AGM, members will be asked to vote on whether to accept an ordinary resolution to adopt the new MC ToRs.
2. MC Code of Practice: Now complete, [click here to view](#). Feedback welcome.
3. Nationally Elected Councillors (NECs): This new category of councillor was announced in the June 2019 report and was created to represent the membership as a whole, but in particular those members who don't identify with either areas or clubs. Each position will also be selected to represent certain strategic themes or skills as identified and agreed by the MC. Two NECs will be elected at the 2020 AGM - full details of these roles will be advertised on the BMC website on / around 20/3/20. NC was fully consulted on which two areas NECs should represent. They took part in a ranking exercise of a wide number of themes and the results were discussed and then voted on during a webinar meeting. It was concluded that the first two NECs would represent membership engagement and hillwalking.
4. Constituency Councillors: These are the second of the new councillor positions announced in the June 2019 report, created to improve representation for two particular categories of members: those who are also members of Mountain Training (MT), and those who are also members of BMC affiliated clubs. The Club Members' Constituency Councillor will be elected at the 2020 AGM (again, full details of this post will be advertised on the BMC website on / around 20/3/20), whereas the MT constituency councillor election process is to be run by MT.
5. Councillor Role descriptions: Final draft now complete, [click here to view](#). Again, feedback welcome. This has been an extensive document to write and work is ongoing.
6. Councillor Election processes: This is another extensive document detailing procedures for each of the roles within the MC. It is still in draft and is intended to be incorporated into the MC ToRs, so will be available for comment as described in item 1 above. The group has also led on developing the proposed process for the appointment of Council Nominated

Directors (CNDs). NC have been fully consulted on and contributed to the proposed process which will be implemented at the March 2020 NC.

There will be a webinar on Thursday 2nd April 2020 at 6.30pm. This webinar is intended to gain feedback from members as the BMC works towards producing a final version of the Articles of Association to go to the June AGM. It will also give members the opportunity to give views about the new MC.

Phase 3 (June 2020 to December 2020): Review of MC working practices

Once MC is successfully established, there will be a period of consolidation in the first six months to review how well MC is functioning and look at its working practices. This work has already started with the introduction of the “Directed Agenda” to NC meetings from September 2019 onwards i.e. an agenda that includes more action / decision-based items rather than just topic-based discussions. With a large number of people on council, this has proved an effective way of improving the decision-making capability of NC. The majority of phase 3 will begin after the AGM and will include the following:

1. Production of an MC operations manual;
2. Development of the process of induction and training for MC;
3. Review of MC annual meeting timetable and communications cycle between Board, MC and members;
4. Development of the roles of the new Councillor types, especially in parallel with implementation of the ORG recommendations on Membership Engagement;
5. Deputy President role: A sub-group of the R33 working group has been exploring the recommendation regarding the need for a Deputy President / s. Significant work has already taken place and the timeline for completing this work would be expected to be between the AGM (June, 2020) and the MC meeting in December 2020.