

BRITISH MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL

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BMC NATIONAL COUNCIL

DRAFT Minutes of the 65th National Council meeting held on Saturday 21 September 2019,
Blencathra Field Centre, Threlkeld.

In attendance

Voting members:

President	Lynn Robinson	(LR)	Chair
Cymru North Wales	Neal Hockley	(NH)	
Cymru South Wales	Cherida Griffiths	(CG)	
Cymru South Wales	Steve Quinton	(SQ)	
Lakes & Council Nominated Director	Fiona Sanders	(FS)	
Lakes	Mike Parsons	(MP)	
London & South East	Chris Stone	(CSt)	
Midlands	Claudia Sarner	(CSa)	
Midlands & Council Nominated Director	Roger Fanner	(RF)	
North East	Jon Punshon	(JP)	
North East	Mark Anstiss	(MA)	
North West	Bill Beveridge	(BB)	
North West	Carl Spencer	(CSp)	
Peak	David Brown	(DB)	
Peak	Alison Cairns	(AC)	
South West	Helen Wilson	(HW)	
South West	Philip Wilson	(PW)	
Yorkshire	Andy Syme	(AS)	
Yorkshire	Mick Green	(MG)	

Observers:

Chair, Board of Directors	Gareth Pierce	(GP)	
Nominated Director	Huw Jones	(HJ)	
Nominated Director	Jonathan White	(JW)	
Nominated Director	Jonny Dry	(JD)	
Access Management Group	Andy Tickle	(AT)	
Clubs Committee	Peter Salenieks	(PS)	
Equity Steering Group	Cressida Allwood	(CA)	
Hill Walking Implementation Group	Peter Judd	(PJ)	
Huts Group	David Jones	(DJ)	
Mountain Training	Guy Jarvis	(GJ)	
Technical Committee	Martin Nash	(MN)	

Others in attendance:

Deputy CEO	Nick Colton	(NC)	
Alex Messenger	Head of Marketing & Comms	(AM)	
Secretary	Tony Ryan	(TR)	

Note: * = supporting paper circulated.

1. Welcome & apologies for absence	Actions
1.1 Welcome	
1.1.1 Lynn Robinson welcomed everyone to the meeting, including two people attending their first National Council meeting: Cherida Griffiths standing in for Will Kilner, and Martin Nash, the new chair of the Technical Committee. Also attending the meeting as an observer was Terry Tasker, chair of the Mountain Heritage Trust, who had been invited to make a presentation to National Council about the trust.	
1.1.2 LR noted that the meeting agenda was very full, and asked people to be mindful of keeping to the meeting schedule when speaking.	
1.2 Apologies for absence	
1.2.1 Apologies received from: Matthew Bradbury, John Cousins, Iain Dickinson, Robert Dufton, Anthony Eccles, Rich Emerson, Will Kilner, Dan Lane, Simon McCalla, Amanda Parshall, Mike Rosser, Dave Turnbull, and Martin Wragg.	
2. Note Conflicts of Interest	
2.1 No conflicts of interest were declared.	
3. Note issues for AOB	
3.1	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New BMC Youth Club affiliation category (Jonathan White) • GDPR (Mike Parsons) • IT training for Council members (Fiona Sanders) • Formal recording of 'actions' between meetings (David Brown) • Area festival scheduling (Bill Beveridge) • Voluntary donation to MHT as part of annual subscription (Andy Syme) 	
4. Minutes of the previous meeting*	
4.1 Accuracy of previous minutes	
4.1.1 NH requested an addition to the minutes relating to 6.2.1, which record that: <i>NH said that the new structure would represent Welsh members, and that English members shared those interests primarily.</i>	
He wished the following to be added: <i>NH thought that Welsh members would remain members of the BMC, as well as being members of the Welsh organisation, i.e. they would have dual membership.</i>	Agreed
With the above amendment, the minutes of the meeting were signed by the Chair.	
4.2 Actions from previous minutes	
4.2.1 Ref. 4.2.9: Review potential access agreement to Llandarcy	Ongoing
4.2.2 Ref. 4.2.12: Provide briefing note to areas about publishing areas newsletters	On agenda
4.2.3 Ref. 4.2.17: Consider relationship to NC when reviewing FAC ToR	On agenda
4.2.4 Ref. 5.1.2: Co-ordinate series of web articles on work of specialist committees	Ongoing
4.2.5 Ref. 5.1.3: Publish procurement policy once approved by Board	With BoD
4.2.6 Ref. 5.1.4: Publish equality survey results and apology for inappropriately worded questions	Ongoing
4.2.7 Ref. 5.1.5: Write formal note of thanks to John Roberts for ORG and ODG work	Done
4.2.8 Ref. 6.1.3: Put MTT report on Teamwork	Done
4.2.9 Ref. 6.2.9: Provide update on the incident reporting system	Done
4.2.10 Ref. 6.4.1: Clarification of 'National' figure in Regional Membership pie chart	Done

4.2.11	Ref. 8.2.2: Advertise vacant roles on Governance Working Group	Done
4.2.12	Ref. 9.3: Email briefing to clubs on subscriptions increase	Ongoing
4.2.13	Ref. 9.4: Request AOB items for September meeting agenda	Not done

5. Matters arising not covered elsewhere

5.1 There were several matters arising:

- 5.1.1 Ref. 5.1.4 (London & SE area report): LR said that the equality survey results had only just been received and that we would work with the Equity Steering Group to analyse the results.

CSt said that many months had passed since the request to issue an apology for inappropriately worded questions in the survey, and it was perhaps too late for that now to be effective. It had been previously agreed that when the survey results are published, then an apology would accompany it.

- 5.1.2 Ref. 6.4.1 (Finance): NC explained that the figure of 8,113 representing members categorised as 'National' in the regional membership pie chart was in fact a combination of members of National clubs and 'non-specified' member records; the latter are member records that do not have a postcode and should not have been included in the National figure.

- 5.1.3 Ref. 9.3 (Subs increase communications): JW advised that a draft had been developed by Dave Turnbull and Jane Thompson (BMC clubs officer), and was now with JW for completion following clarification of the precise definition for insurance purposes of 'United Kingdom' and 'resident'.

- 5.1.4 Ref. 9.4 (AOB agenda items): MB asked whether there was a process, other than as AOB at the start of meetings, for NC members to add agenda items. AS said that the R33 work on a directed agenda would address this.

It would be useful if a draft agenda can be published on Teamwork as early as possible, so that it can then be developed, and certainly before area meetings take place, so that the meetings can cover any relevant agenda items.

- 5.1.5 DB wished to discuss a motion supported by the Peak area relating to the hill walking strategy; it was agreed to cover it as part of the area report.

6. Strategic Planning

6.1 BMC Strategic Plan 2020-2024*

- 6.1.1 LR outlined the process of developing the plan, including consultation at area meetings and a recent online survey, which most National Council members had completed.

There was broad-ranging discussion of the draft plan, including the presentation and content of the strategic themes and the link between the themes and the values, from which the themes flow.

Questions were asked about the results of the online survey and its usefulness; the survey responses were generally positive about the proposed themes and enablers. Respondents also expressed a desire to increase emphasis on sustainability in the mission and vision, and on diversity in mission, vision and strategic themes.

The representation of competitions, talent and the GB teams as a separate strategic theme was considered by some respondents to give undue prominence to competition climbing when compared to outdoor climbing, indoor climbing, hill walking and mountaineering.

The question of whether the BMC should actively promote climbing, hill walking and mountaineering was also discussed. GJ felt that getting the organisation's approach to participation was very important, and he would like to see the BMC's values aligned with Mountain Training and other partners of the BMC. RF agreed that this was an important issue which the BMC needed to address.

GP noted that the business plan would developed in run-up to November Board meeting, and that there was a limit to what could be achieved strategically in the first half of 2020 prior to the AGM in June. RF acknowledged that the strategic plan won't be perfect, but needed to be finalised so that business plan can also be completed.

6.2 Volunteering Strategy

6.2.1 LR provided an update on the process towards developing a volunteering strategy. Recent progress had been made with support from Jane Thompson (volunteers development officer) and Suzanne Jones (project co-ordinator). The strategy will link into the new strategic plan.

It was felt by some in the meeting that we need to know more about our volunteers; an online survey of volunteers has just been published on the BMC website. A knowledge audit is being linked to the development and implementation of the BMCs Membership Services Online (MSO). CSp suggested that 'BMC Volunteers' could be created on LinkedIn, allowing volunteers to upload their profiles, but there was some resistance to this suggestion.

There was a discussion about organisational systems for managing and supporting volunteers. Questions were also asked about induction and training of volunteers. A training day for Area Chairs and Secretaries is being planned for early next year; guidance on how to run area festivals is being updated, and office staff are working together to produce a Volunteers Handbook.

AS felt that we needed to find the right balance of support systems for volunteers without putting too many requirements on them, which might deter members from volunteering.

6.3 2020 meeting dates*

6.3.1 The proposed 2020 National Council meeting dates and corresponding periods for holding area meetings were presented. CSp noted that the periods between meetings varied, and AC explained the reasons behind this variance, including timings in relation to Board meetings, the date of the 2020 AGM, and avoidance of meetings in the summer period when attendance was likely to be impacted.

The meeting agreed the following 2020 dates for National Council meetings: 28 March; 14 June; 19 September; 14 November; and 30 January 2021.

The meeting also agreed to the following periods for holding Area Meetings: 9-20 March; 18 May-5 June; 24 August-11 September; 26 October-6 November.

6.4 Digital (Blue) membership category

6.4.1 Council members had been sent a link and asked to watch a 30-minute presentation prior to the meeting. The aim of this was to give members time to review it and come with questions. This approach was welcomed by people.

AM summarised recent trends in participation, including increasing numbers of younger hill walkers and older indoor climbers, as well as more people doing lots of different outdoor activities instead of concentrating on one. He also provided information about the age profile of current BMC members.

The proposed online membership category would be aimed at 18-28 year olds, offering three different tiers of membership with different benefits and with fewer or lesser benefits than the current individual membership package, and would be delivered by a new online site.

Some reservations were expressed about potential unintended consequences of current members opting for the new membership, but it is designed to address the fact that we don't have many members (as a proportion of the whole membership) in the 18-28 age range. There was also discussions about the costs of servicing the new membership compared to the income it might generate, and whether the upper age limit of 28 was the most appropriate.

DB said that he was fairly supportive of a membership package for young people, but felt the offer needed more thought, and he was unhappy that old subscription rates had been used in the financial calculations.

It was felt that the trial period needed to be longer than 12 months, so that renewal rates could be analysed.

FS referenced discussions with the ABC including its request that retail discounts not be included as a member benefit in the proposed online membership.

The question of whether the new membership should include full voting rights was considered, and it was felt that it should, to enable these members to be fully engaged in the democratic processes of the BMC and to avoid creating a them and us scenario.

CSt expressed concern that we had recently agreed a significant increase to membership subscriptions and were now proposing an offer on a new membership category.

A vote was taken on the following motion:

National Council approves a trial of the digital membership category for a period of up to 24 months, subject to the Board of Directors signing off the associated trial risks.

FOR – 16; AGAINST – 2; ABSTENTIONS – 1.

Following the vote, MA requested that the Board produces an assessment of the risks associated with the trial, for presentation at the December National Council meeting.

Agreed

DT

6.5 Area newsletters*

6.5.1 LR had produced a paper for the meeting outlining the production and distribution of the Peak Area newsletter, which has been publishing a newsletter prior to each area meeting for several years. Other areas also currently publishing a newsletter are Cymru Wales and Lakes.

Area newsletters rely on volunteers for content and production (and some distribution if hard copies are produced), and LR suggested that areas might wish to include it as an item on November meeting agendas, to see if any volunteers with the relevant skills are interested. The budget for producing area newsletters is included in the area meetings annual budget. This will be made clear to chairs and secretaries at the proposed training day mentioned earlier in the meeting in item 6.2 (Volunteering strategy).

6.6 BMC Climate Emergency Declaration*

6.6.1 AT explained the paper produced by access officer Cath Flitcroft, which combined the declaration and a draft operational plan; it was just the declaration for which National Council's approval was being sought.

There was a brief discussion about whether the net zero emissions target was achievable, particularly by 2020. AT said that this would be achieved initially by offsetting, with a commitment to reduce the portion of offsetting over time.

AS felt that in order to be able to encourage members to drastically reduce their carbon emissions, it would be important for the declaration to clearly state how the organisation planned to reduce its emissions when these included guest travel to international meets and international travel by the GB Climbing Team.

The declaration hasn't been to the Board yet, and LR requested that any further questions should be emailed to Cath Flitcroft.

LR asked AT to thank the Sustainability Working Group for its work on the declaration.

7. Governance

7.1 Organisational Development Group

7.1.1 ODG update: September 2019*

FS said that since taking on the role of ODG chair, the focus had been on managing the flow of papers and two-way communications. The other key aspect is ensuring effective and efficient oversight of the group and work stream co-ordination.

The paper produced for the meeting provided an update on ways of working and communication, and a summary of work stream actions, as well as a list of the work stream and sub-group leads, and a schedule up to the January 2020 Board meeting for papers to the Board, National Council and members.

The timing of ODG papers for inclusion on area meeting agendas was discussed, as was the initial paper on clubs, which JW said was not on hold but waiting to be reported to both National Council and Board. MG asked whether any components of the digital strategy (work stream 2) were relevant to National Council. FS said that the work stream would review that.

FS asked for feedback on the combined paper which went out to September area meetings for discussion.

Most areas reported that there had been limited feedback on the paper. The reduction of National Council area representative votes from 2 to 1 per area raised questions about what would happen when the two area reps disagree. One area meeting attendee was opposed to the shortlisting of the four nationally elected councillors.

A vote was taken on the following motion:

National Council accepts in principle the combined paper's recommendations.

FOR – 18; AGAINST – 0; ABSTENTIONS – 1.

Agreed

7.1.2 Competitions working group report*

NC advised that the group was currently considering three different models for its preferred form of governance: a department within the BMC with ringfenced finances; a not-for-profit subsidiary with its own Articles and Board; and a joint subsidiary with partners.

MA commented that the decision on the model was for the Board, but establishing a subsidiary was a reserved matter requiring approval of National Council and/or voting members.

LR asked National Council members to email feedback on the report to NC.

7.1.3 Wales working group report*

NH reported on the progress made by the group, which is being led by Will Kilner. There is a need to rethink how the BMC works in Wales, because policy development, finances etc are devolved to the Welsh Government. As well as BMC members based in Wales, many members based in England are active in Wales.

Four options being considered including a limited company option with some federal relationship to the BMC – this was not originally considered by the Organisational Review. Some qualitative analysis of the options has been done, but cost/benefit analysis has not yet been conducted and no recommendations have been made.

MA asked whether all members were being consulted or just members in Wales. NH replied that all individual members resident in Wales, all members of clubs designated as Welsh clubs, and all members of clubs designated as National clubs who reside in Wales would be consulted.

MA thought there was a good case for consulting all members, and AC said that some Welsh members who currently don't reside in Wales might be put out if not consulted.

7.1.4 Partnerships work stream report*

FS asked for feedback on the proposals for the Partners Assembly, and advised that its composition was not definitive.

LR asked about potential administrative costs. FS said that the newly appointed partnerships manager (Rob Bishop) would support its administration, and that there shouldn't be a huge cost to the BMC.

MG asked where BMC nominated directors on other organisations sit.

Voting members were asked to note and endorse the Partnerships work stream report.

FOR – 19; AGAINST – 0; ABSTENTIONS – 0.

Agreed

FS said that the Access Management Group and the Access & Conservation Trust don't necessarily work closely, and recommended a review of their relationship, to understand what each does and how they link together.

7.1.5 National Council reconstitution working group report*

HW explained that the group had divided its work into two parts: phase one is the restructuring of National Council, with plans for endorsement at the 2020 AGM; phase two is to develop working practices in the reconstituted National Council.

The aim of the reconstitution is to improve the Council's representation and effectiveness without reducing its size through innovation and changes in five key areas:

1. Culture and behaviour;
2. Meeting cycles, structure and agenda;
3. Reporting and communication;
4. Improved working practices;
5. Technology.

An operations manual is also being developed to support National Council members by providing information and guidelines on the five key areas.

With reference to the meeting cycles, DB questioned why Board meetings should occur soon after National Council meetings, and this led to a general discussion about having sufficient time between meetings to produce and digest meeting papers. MG suggested an alternative approach might be to have equal gaps between the different but related meetings.

MA asked who would present Board papers to area meetings.

FS questioned what we could realistically achieve with conference calls and wondered whether we might also be asking for too much commitment from volunteers.

There was also some concern that the communications focussed on engagement with the area meetings, and we needed to consider other mechanisms for involving members. MA reminded the meeting that the work of the membership engagement work stream, led by Paul Evans, covers this.

7.2 Governance Working Group update

7.2.1 JW gave a brief progress report on the group's work.

7.3 Council membership of Finance & Audit Committee*

7.3.1 DB advised that FAC is not quorate if he is not in attendance, so a second National Council voting member is needed.

LR requested that members consider whether they are interested in the role, talk to DB about it, and follow-up action could be taken outside of the meeting.

AS asked whether we should look outside the council, if no one with the relevant skills is interested.

MA suggested that we could have a Nationally Elected Councillor with a finance interest.

7.4 Council Nominated Director succession*

7.4.1 The BMC is seeking to appoint three new directors between September 2019 and April 2020: two Council Nominated Directors to be appointed by National Council replacing RF and WK, and one independent director to be appointed by the Board.

GP advised that the skills matrix had been updated by NomCom and sent to the nine directors continuing into 2020. The process of updating the matrix had helped to identify the areas of expertise that could be benefit from being supplemented.

MG advised that NomCom has provided as much background information as possible so that the selection of CNDs can be well judged, but NomCom does not recommend individual candidates.

AS asked whether more information would be available for the December meeting; GP wasn't sure how much more information would be available by then, but thought that the independent director might have been appointed by then.

There was a discussion about Will Kilner, whose term as a director expires on 22 April 2020; since his term as a National Council Area Representative expires in November 2019, National Council would have to agree that WK can continue beyond that date until his term as a director expires.

PS asked if National Council wished to have its full compliment of three CNDs. JW felt that it was necessary in order to meet our duties over and above the required skills, and we also need directors who are willing and able. JP thought it was crucial to have full representation on the Board following changes to the Articles on the relationship between Board and National Council.

FS asked whether there were any plans should we fail to get enough candidates. AS said that the current Articles permit Members to stand. MA felt that continuity was important, and there could also be issues around appointments to the Board of non-elected members. JW thought that we should build as much flexibility as possible into the process, to allow people to step out and back in when personal circumstances dictate, and the Governance Working Group is considering how to do this.

It was agreed that MG should update the skills matrix following the 25 September Board meeting and distribute to National Council voting members to find out who wants to stand.

MG

JP thought it might be useful for the meeting to know how many people at the meeting might be interested; four voting members expressed interest.

LR wished to record a note of thanks to RF for his work on the Council and the Board as an area representative and CND; PJ added his thanks on behalf of the Hill Walking Implementation Group.

The meeting agreed to consider an extension of Will Kilner's term as a Director beyond November 2019 at the next National Council meeting on 7 December, where it would also consider other candidates. Expressions of interest should be forwarded to the President by 22 November 2019.

Noted

8. Reports

8.1 Partners

8.1.1 Mountain Training*

GJ wished to highlight two projects being developed in partnership with the BMC: draft youth walking and climbing pathway infographics; and an update to the Climbing For All guidance on working with people who have mental and physical disabilities.

8.1.2 Association of British Climbing Walls*

No observer was in attendance. Two papers had been submitted by email to TR on the evening of Thursday 19 September; a summary of recent ABC work; and a response to the BMC digital membership category proposal. However, TR was not in the office on the Friday, so was not aware of these papers until returning to the BMC office on Monday 23 September. The papers were not discussed during the meeting, but both have subsequently been uploaded to Teamwork for National Council members to view.

8.1.3 **Plas y Brenin**

No report submitted. The newly appointed CEO, Ruth Hall was invited to attend the meeting and/or submit a report.

8.2 **Areas**

- 8.2.1 **Cymru North Wales.** 31 members attended the meeting at Pen-y-Pass YHA. As well as discussion of the strategic plan and ODG update, the meeting was updated about the work of the group considering an enhanced presence for the BMC in Wales. NH also offered his thanks to the BMC for co-funding the stand shared with Clwb Mynydda Cymru and Mountain Training Cymru at the Eisteddfod in Llanwrst in August.
- 8.2.2 **Cymru South Wales*.** 10 members attended the meeting in Swansea. This year's Gower Festival had been very successful, with 120+ attendees. Following recent issues caused by development without permission of a crag within an SSSI, the area is hoping to arrange a meeting to address bolting policy and how to avoid access and conservation issues. There was general support for the strategic plan, but some members would like to see more measurable aims.
- 8.2.3 **Lakes*.** 28 members attended the meeting in Keswick, which included a talk by 17-year-old environmental activist Amy Bray about changing attitudes to waste; this reinforced the area's motion agreed at the June meeting that the BMC should produce a climate emergency declaration. The meeting was in general agreement with the draft strategic plan and the proposals in the ODG update.
- 8.2.4 **London & SE*.** 15 members attended the meeting in central London, which included a mountain knowledge quiz. The meeting provided feedback on the draft strategic plan and ODG update; some concern was expressed about trying to do too much with insufficient resources.
- 8.2.5 **Midlands*.** 18 members attended the meeting at a new venue in Birmingham. On the ODG update, some concern was expressed about the proposed reduction of area votes on National Council from two to one while still retaining two reps per area. One attendee strongly objected to the proposed shortlisting of candidates for the roles of Nationally Elected Councillor.
- 8.2.6 **North East.** 8 members attended the meeting in Durham. MA reported very positive feedback about the first youth meet held in the area for many years, and as a result of the enthusiasm generated by the meet, some young climbers from the area had travelled to youth meets in other areas. On the issue of reduction of area votes on National Council, the meeting felt that any vote cast should be an abstention if/when the two representatives disagree.
- 8.2.7 **North West*.** 14 members attended the meeting in Manchester. The guest speaker, a heritage project manager for Groundwork, spoke about the Rivington Terraced Gardens, which are being conserved and protected with the support of a £4m grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund. CSp wondered whether we were missing an opportunity to access funding of a similar nature.

- 8.2.8 **Peak*** 29 members attended the meeting in Grindleford. DB reported that there was not much interest in discussing the ODG work or strategic plan; many members appear to have had their fill of this element of the meetings. The meeting voted to approve a motion urging the Board to ensure that future work plans and resource allocation properly embrace the hill walking aspects of the relevant themes of the draft strategic plan.

PJ felt that the BMC hadn't made sufficient progress in recent years to address the imbalance between support for hill walkers and climbers. The proposed digital membership category should wholeheartedly embrace hill walkers, and engagement events to attract young hill walkers should be organised. CG said that there is an impression in South Wales that the BMC doesn't do enough for hill walkers; this was partly a communications issue.

DB proposed that National Council should pass the area's motion, and a vote was taken on the following motion:

National Council urges the Board and senior officers to ensure that future work plans and resource allocation arising out of the new strategic plan properly embrace the hill walking aspects of strategic themes 2 & 3 of the plan, and do so in a proportion that reflects the very significant share of our membership who presently identify hill walking as their primary activity.

FOR – 18; AGAINST – 0; ABSTENTIONS – 0.

Noted

- 8.2.9 **South West*** 17 members attended the meeting in Exeter. HW reported that the blanket fee for walls hosting rounds of the Youth Climbing Series had been well received. Some members felt that many of the membership engagement recommendation rely on an improved website, but there is no clear indication in the ODG update and strategic plan of how the website will be improved.

- 8.2.10 **Yorkshire*** A report had been submitted to the office, but arrived too late to be uploaded to Teamwork. 24 members attended the meeting in Ben Rhydding. The area plans to submit a request for funds for materials to repair the Kilnsey footpath, and is developing plans for an area festival next year.

8.3 Board of Directors*

- 8.3.1 GP advised that the July Board meeting had been supplemented by two phone meetings, one a few days before and the other about a month after the meeting. Core communications to National Council will go out at a similar time to the publication of Board meeting summaries on the website.

PS asked whether the Board was looking to reduce the risks to the BMC that make up the risk register. GP felt that finalising the strategic and business plans would contribute to a reduction of risks to the organisation.

MA asked about the liability insurance working group report and the BMC Participation Statement, which is under review in light of the group's report. GP said that the Board planned to look again at the statement at the Board meeting on 25 September. MA asked whether the Participation Statement sits under ethics and is therefore a Reserved Matter.

8.4 Finance*

- 8.4.1 HJ reported on the six-monthly set of accounts to 30 June 2019. The original year-end deficit forecast of £300k has come down to £194k currently, and it may be possible to reduce it further to about £170k. The financial report showed two sets of income and expenditure accounts, a standard set and a 'salary absorbed'.

Significant variances included cyber security testing costs and lower advertising revenue from Summit magazine.

MG asked about plans to increase income, with the aim of making a profit or at least breaking even. HJ cautioned that lots of costs are expected next year, some as a result of implementation of ORG recommendations.

8.5 President

8.5.1 LR gave a brief verbal update on her recent work and activity, including support for the ODG and in particular the National Council reconstitution working group. A written report will follow.

FS asked what duties had been passed to the newly appointed Deputy President. AS said that he had attended some events, and they were looking at other elements of the President's role that he could support.

8.6 CEO & Office*

8.6.1 The CEO was unable to attend the meeting but had produced a report. PS asked what were the good and bad variances that National Council needed to be aware of.

NC said that there were currently some pressures on staff capacity, particularly in support of the current governance and organisational work being carried out by the Board, National Council and the ODG.

AS asked for an update on Membership Services Online (MSO) and NC said that he would ask the relevant member of staff.

POST MEETING NOTE: AS spoke with IT & Database Co-ordinator Alvin Foy.

9. AOB

9.1 **New BMC Youth Club affiliation category** (Jonathan White)

JW explained that the introduction of this new category was primarily an administrative change that does not require changes to the Articles, but it's a membership category, so falls under Reserved Matters. The category will make it easier for the BMC to support clubs for under 18s.

CG mentioned the performances and results of young British climbers at the recent IFSC Youth World Championships in Italy, and how important it was for the BMC to engage with and support young people.

JW added that we would not be targeting commercial clubs.

A vote was taken on whether to approve the introduction of this new category of club membership:

FOR – 18; AGAINST – 0; ABSTENTIONS – 0.

Agreed

9.2 **GDPR** (Mike Parsons)

MP felt that the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), which came into effect in May 2018, had been interpreted too heavily by the BMC and was restricting the process of communications between the office and volunteers, as well as between volunteers. LR said that she would discuss this with MP outside the meeting.

LR

9.3 **Area festival scheduling** (Bill Beveridge)

BB noted that the Wilton and Gower festivals had been held on the same weekend; he had attended both events, but when he signed up for a course at the Gower festival, he hadn't realised they were being held simultaneously. He asked if we could try to ensure in future that events such as these were held on different weekends.

PJ said that the event approval process, which such events must complete in order to be covered by the BMC's insurance, ought to flag up a clash of dates.

9.4 **Voluntary donation to MHT as part of annual subscription** (Andy Syme)

AS proposed that we should consider the option for members to add a 25p donation to MHT when paying their annual BMC membership subscription.

A vote was taken on the following motion:

National Council recommends that the Board assesses the viability of adding a voluntary 25p donation to MHT as part of each member's annual subscription.

FOR – 16; AGAINST – 0; ABSTENTIONS – 2.

Agreed

9.5 The other two AOB items proposed at the start of the meeting (IT training for Council members, and formal recording of 'actions' between meetings) were not discussed due to a lack of time available.

10. Date and venue of next meeting

10.1 Saturday 7 December 2019, BMC office, Manchester.
Start time to be confirmed.

The meeting finished at 18:30.

Summary of action points from the 65th meeting:

Ref	Action	Who	By
4.2.1	Review potential access agreement to Llandarcy	MW	ASAP
4.2.5	Publish procurement policy once approved by Board	DT	End Nov
4.2.6	Publish equality survey results once analysed	CA	ASAP
4.2.12	Email briefing to clubs on subscriptions increase	DT	ASAP
6.4.1	Present risk assessment of digital membership trial at December meeting	DT	7 Dec
7.4.1	Update skills matrix and circulate to National Council voting members	MG	ASAP
9.2.	Discuss GDPR interpretation with MP	LR	ASAP

The above was accepted as an accurate record of the meeting:

Signed _____ Date _____
Lynn Robinson, President