

**Bro Dyfi Community Renewables**  
**AGM 9<sup>th</sup> June 2018**  
**Chair's Report**

In a landmark year, one of the highlights of 2017 for me was that, at last, renewable energy (principally wind energy) overtook generation from coal fired power stations on a couple of occasions, and provided just under 20% of the total electricity consumed in the UK. Renewables has also now proven itself as one of the cheapest form of power generation, and it is getting cheaper as capital costs on turbine and solar panels are reduced. I think that as pioneers of community renewable generation in the UK, BDCR can feel justly proud of our contribution to not only reducing climate change agents in the UK through the generation of clean electricity, but also to raising public awareness of the imperative to do this.

2016 was a difficult year for BDCR, but happily 2017 has proved to be much better. After some initial teething problems early in the year following the gearbox replacement in 2016, the Nordtank settled down, and has proved to be relatively trouble free. Despite somewhat reduced wind speeds, generation was about the average we have come to expect, and this, together with an upswing in the price we are getting for the electricity we generate, lead to a reasonable profit. This restored the value of BDCR back to above the value of Members equity in the Society. We have some ground still to make up, but we are heading in the right direction.

Good news on the V17, which was finally re-commissioned in November, and has generated some income for us in 2018. There are still some teething problems to resolve, but these are being addressed.

There have been a number of changes in roles and responsibilities on the Management Committee during 2017.

After many years' service as Society Secretary, Sonia Kuznetsov has stood down, and Rachel Kennedy, who has been a committee member for several years, is taking her place. I am sure you will join me in thanking Sonia for all the hard work she has put in over the years and, in particular, for masterminding our response to the FCA in 2014, which threatened our existence as a Registered Society. Sonia will remain on the Committee, and will be helping Rachel ease into the role of Secretary during 2018.

Having taken over as Chair last year, I stood down as Operations Manager, and in February 2018, John Williams and Tim Brewer took on this role as a Job Share. John is taking primary responsibility for contract management, liaison with O&M providers and reporting, and Tim has primary responsibility for technical issues. We are very happy to have Tim's expertise and experience of wind turbines available to us again.

Following Anneka's departure last year, we decided to re-appoint Andy Cooke as Administrator, and he has settled back into the job very well.

The Committee has made some progress on looking at the future options for BDCR – and we will be hearing more on that at the AGM.

As I highlighted in my report to the 2017 AGM, we really do need some new blood on the Management Committee. Many of the existing committee members have been on the committee for some years, and would like some fresh energy on the committee as well as an opportunity for some existing members to take a back seat. Looking to the future, fresh thinking should give added impetus to the further evolution of BDCR. There are no special qualifications required to be a member of the Committee – just enthusiasm, and energy to take us forward. Expertise in running co-operative societies, or in keeping wind turbines running is not obligatory, but would prove an asset! Please get in touch if you have the energy and interest to get involved.

Lastly, I would like to give my sincere thanks to those on the committee and those who have worked on behalf of the committee over the previous year, and who continue to ensure that BDCR delivers on our purpose, including the benefits that the projects bring to environmental sustainability.