

2016 ANNUAL REPORT AND NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2017



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The British Mountaineering Council will hold its Annual General Meeting at 11.00am on Saturday 22 April 2017 at Plas y Brenin, the National Mountain Sports Centre, in Capel Curig, North Wales.

Additional AGM information

For further information relating to the 2017 AGM, including additional papers, and activity and accommodation booking forms, go to www.thebmc.co.uk/agm2017

How to get to the BMC AGM

Capel Curig is on the A5 (London to Holyhead Road) approximately 15 miles south of Bangor and 6 miles north of Betws y Coed. Plas y Brenin is about 400 metres from the village along the A4086. For your sat-nav the postcode is LL24 0ET. For more information about the venue go to www.pyb.co.uk

2016 will be remembered as a year of extraordinary events, and not just in relation to the BMC!

In the year that saw the UK vote to leave the European Union and the incoming US president promise to build a wall along the Mexican border, international climbing relations were strengthened through meets and exchanges. Our bi-annual winter meet brought together climbers from 28 countries to experience Scottish winter climbing at its wildest. After a 32-year hiatus, a women's international meet was held in North Wales, jointly organised with the Pinnacle Club, bringing together over 80 women for a wonderful week of trad climbing in June. A trad climbing exchange with the Mountain Club of South Africa saw 10 British climbers head to the southern hemisphere in March, to savour the world class climbing of Cederberg in the Western Cape and the big wall free climbing at Blouberg in the Northern Province. In May we reciprocated by showcasing the delights of the Peak District and North Wales to 10 climbers from South Africa. Also in May, our Alex Honnold 'Flying Solo' lecture tour drew sell-out audiences in Caernarfon, Manchester and Sheffield.

In March, we launched Mend Our Mountains, a crowdfunding campaign to raise £100,000 for footpath repair projects in eight national parks. Just two months later we reached that magnificent target, thanks to the generosity of the outdoor community, making it the most successful crowdfunding appeal for mountain paths ever; a success that was recognised by the outdoor public, who voted it 'Campaign of the Year' in the annual awards run by The Great Outdoors magazine. More importantly, the money raised has enabled vital repairs to be undertaken that otherwise might not have happened.

2016 was a significant year for competition climbing, with the announcement in July that climbing would be one of five new sports at the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games. And it was a memorable year for BMC Ambassador Shauna Coxsey, whose

dominance of the bouldering world cup circuit was rewarded with the world title at the final event in the USA, on the same weekend that she was awarded an MBE for services to climbing. The growth and popularity of competition climbing is reflected in the record number of competitors in BMC events, and our commitment to supporting talented athletes is demonstrated by a long term athlete development model adopted by the GB Climbing Development Squad.

In July, following a vote by the Executive and National Council, we announced our intention to rebrand as Climb Britain. The announcement was met with considerable opposition from a significant proportion of members, and following consultation at the September round of area meetings, the decision was taken by the Executive and National Council not to proceed with the rebrand. In retrospect, we should have involved members in discussions about the organisation's identity at a much earlier stage, and valuable lessons were learned from the process.

Looking forward, 2017 is set to be another busy and exciting year. Amongst the planned highlights are the launch of the new BMC Regional Access Database (affectionately known as the RAD) which will have increased coverage and user interaction, implementation of a strategic plan for hill walking to make the BMC the 'natural home' for hill walkers, another Mend Our Mountains campaign with an even more ambitious target, and developments to membership administration systems which will enable greater interaction and personalisation by members of all web hosted BMC solutions.



Rehan Siddiqui
BMC president

BMC MEMBERSHIP



Membership has climbed steadily since 2007

Notice of the 2017 Annual General Meeting of the British Mountaineering Council

Venue National Mountain Sports Centre,
Plas y Brenin, Capel Curig, North Wales

Date Saturday 22 April 2017

Time AGM Registration 9.00 – 10.45 am
Question Time 9.30 – 10.30 am
AGM 11.00 am start

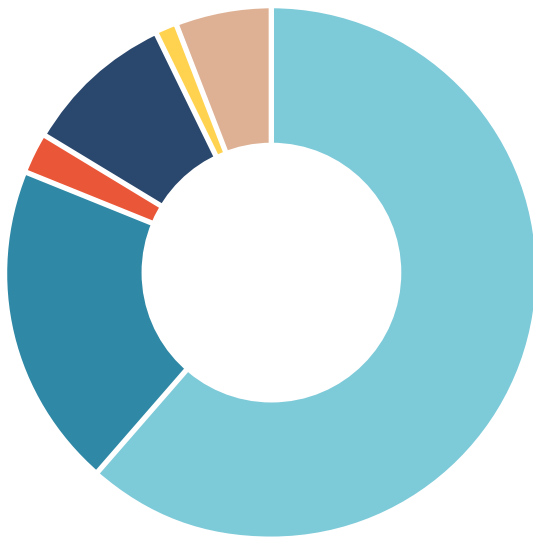
Chair Rehan Siddiqui, President

The AGM is open to all individuals who are BMC Members. All Members, over the age of 18, who have paid the appropriate membership subscription, are entitled to vote at the AGM. Please allow adequate time to sign in so that the AGM can start promptly. BMC staff will be available on the day to answer questions and offer assistance.

- 1 **Welcome, introductions & apologies**
- 2 **Approval of AGM minutes, Saturday 16 April 2016**
- 3 **2016 Annual Report – presentation & adoption**
- 4 **2016 Annual Accounts & Auditors' Report**
- 5 **Appointment of Auditors**
The Finance Committee recommends DonnellyBentley Chartered Accountants for the year ending 31 December 2017.
- 6 **Re-elections**
The following candidates are eligible for re-election onto the Executive Committee:
 - a) **Rehan Siddiqui** **President** (eligible for re-election until April 2018)
 - b) **Nick Kurth** **Vice-President** (eligible for re-election until April 2018)
 - c) **Emma Flaherty** **Vice-President** (eligible for re-election until April 2019)

*John Simpson retires as Honorary Treasurer;
Rupert Davies retires as Vice-President and
Brian Smith retires as Independent Director.*
- 7 **Elections**
The following candidates are proposed for election onto the Executive Committee:
 - a) **Graham Richmond** is recommended by National Council for the position of **Honorary Treasurer**. (Nominated by John Simpson & Zoe Pickering).
 - b) **Roger Fanner** is recommended by National Council for the position of **National Council representative** on the Executive Committee.
 - c) **Will Kilner** is recommended by National Council for the position of **National Council representative** on the Executive Committee.
 - d) **Rik Payne** is recommended by National Council for the position of **National Council representative** on the Executive Committee.
 - e) **Simon McCalla** is recommended by the Executive Committee for the position of **Independent Director**.
 - f) **Matthew Bradbury** is recommended by the Executive Committee for the position of **Independent Director**.
8. **Membership subscriptions from 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2018**
National Council recommends that individual member subscriptions should be increased by £2.50 per person, and club member subscriptions (senior & student), students, the unwaged & u18s by £1.00 per person from 1 January 2018. Other rates (e.g. family membership) will be adjusted on a pro-rata basis.
9. **Robert Pettigrew MBE and others will request the AGM to pass a resolution in the following terms:**
'That this motion of No Confidence is brought against the Executive Committee of the BMC and in particular because of the wilful and deliberate withholding of future policy decisions from the members in attendance at the Annual General Meeting held Lhosehill Hall, Castleton, Derbyshire, on Saturday 16th April 2016'.

AGM Voting Procedures: In the case of a vote, on any agenda item, whether it be by hands or poll, every Voting Member aged not less than eighteen years, present in person or by proxy, shall have one vote. As laid down in Article 56.1, Ordinary Business put to the vote shall be decided on a show of hands, unless before or on the declaration of the result of the show of hands, a poll is demanded either by the Chair of the meeting or by not less than twenty Voting Members, present in person. As laid down in Articles 56.2, any special business to be put to a vote, shall be decided by way of a poll.



SUMMARY OF INCOME 2016 (£2,897k)

- membership subscriptions **£1,783k**
- Sports Council grants and other donations **£568k**
- sale of publications **£77k**
- travel insurance scheme surplus **£266k**
- other income **£41k**
- other income from specialist programmes **£162k**

SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURE 2016 (£2,875k)

- salaries and personnel **£1,166k**
- personal accident and combined liability insurance for members **£310k**
- Summit magazine **£221k**
- cost of specialist programmes **£529k**
- AGM, area meetings and events **£49k**
- IT, communications and office running costs **£600k**



NET COST OF SPECIALIST PROGRAMMES AFTER ALLOCATION OF OVERHEADS, GRANT AND OTHER INCOME 2016 (£918k)

- access and conservation **25%**
- facilities (walls, managed rocks and huts) **5%**
- heritage **5%**
- guidebooks **8%**
- competitions **11%**
- expeditions **3%**
- performance **4%**
- safety and training **7%**
- technical **4%**
- youth and equity **13%**
- national and international representation **13%**
- volunteer support and communications **2%**



The following candidates are eligible for re-election onto the Executive Committee:

REHAN SIDDIQUI – President & Director (2015-2018)

Rehan served as Vice-President of the BMC from 2008 to 2011. He has held a life-long passion for mountaineering, rock climbing and skiing and this love of the outdoors has taken him to many worldwide locations.

He runs a successful business which provides civil engineering and industrial rope access services globally; clients include Ivy League universities, NASA and numerous other Government and institutional clients in the public and private sectors.

NICHOLAS KURTH CBE – Vice President & Director (2015-2018)

Nicholas has been on the hills and crags since school. He was a 'badged' RAF Mountain Rescue Officer and President of the RAF Mountaineering Association (RAFMA). He was responsible for the British Services' Makalu Expedition 2008, which succeeded in putting three Service personnel on the summit.

He finished his full RAF career in 2011 having been responsible for all of the Service's combat support operations, retiring as an Air Vice-Marshal. He is Chairman of Trustees/Executive Chairman of the Ulysses Trust, a charity that supports expeditions for Reserve and Cadet Forces.

EMMA FLAHERTY – Vice President & Director (2016-2019)

Emma got into climbing whilst working in an outdoor centre in Wales, after her A Levels, and has been hooked ever since. Her initial focus on trad and alpine climbing has shifted to bouldering since moving to Sheffield, and she has climbed up to font 8a.

She is the Partnership Development Manager for a team of PE teachers, delivering high quality PE and training to primary schools, and also works as a PE and School Sport Manager for the Local Authority in Sheffield. Emma is also one of the directors of the Women's Climbing Symposium.

The following candidates are proposed for election onto the Executive Committee:

GRAHAM RICHMOND is recommended by National Council for the position of Honorary Treasurer

Graham started climbing in 1967 and joined the Bowline Climbing Club in Leicester, which led to involvement with the BMC at local level in the Midlands, and he subsequently became a National Council representative on the Executive and Finance Committees. He is the current chair of the latter. Outside of the climbing scene Graham has a family business which is now run on a day to day basis by his son, freeing Graham up to do BMC work and get out climbing.

ROGER FANNER is recommended by National Council for the position of National Council representative

Roger has been climbing and enjoying the mountains for over 50 years. He now works as a climbing instructor, mostly at Midlands climbing walls, and holds both a Single Pitch Award and a summer Mountain Leader qualification.

Before his retirement, Roger spent 40 years working in Magistrates Courts, which has given him the ability to sift evidence, evaluate arguments and usually come to a logical, reasoned decision. He holds various qualifications in management, training and personnel practices, and has represented the Midlands on National Council for the last two years.

WILL KILNER is recommended by National Council for the position of National Council representative

Will has been an active hill walker, climber and mountaineer for over 18 years, and a BMC member for most of that time. He has been involved as a volunteer on many different levels across a range of BMC committees and events, and is currently chair of the Cymru South Wales area.

He believes it is important to have a voice for Wales on the Executive to help address some of the issues associated with representing a country where many of the issues that affect walkers, climbers and mountaineers are devolved to the Welsh Assembly.

RIK PAYNE is recommended by National Council for the position of National Council representative

Rik has many years' experience of working in outdoor education, including 10 years running his own business, and is currently the deputy manager of an outdoor centre.

He has responsibility for ensuring regulatory health & safety obligations as an outdoor activity provider, and for the line management of teaching staff, giving him an appreciation of personnel and HR issues from a management perspective.

SIMON MCCALLA is recommended by the Executive Committee for the position of Independent Director

Simon learnt to climb on the sea cliffs of Devon and Cornwall in the late eighties, before moving further afield. Recently, he has focused on winter climbing, exploring Norway, Italy and Scotland.

He has a background in technology and has worked in a wide range of industries, helping businesses achieve commercial growth. Simon is currently running the technology behind the .UK domain name system for a membership organisation that is undergoing change.

MATTHEW BRADBURY is recommended by the Executive Committee for the position of Independent Director

Matthew has been enjoying the outdoors since learning to climb, hill walk and ski at school, and when not working in the flatlands of East Anglia, likes to spend his time hill walking in the Peak District and helping out the Knoydart Foundation in Scotland.

He has made a career out of caring for the countryside and 'wild places' in particular, most recently working in senior positions for The Land Trust and now running one of the largest independent Parks Trusts in the UK. He has a great deal of experience in fundraising and in developing and valuing sustainable and complimentary activities, outcomes and benefits.

Expanded biographies of the above candidates are available to view at www.thebmc.co.uk/agm2017

BMC 2016 IN NUMBERS

BMC PEOPLE

- 82,473** members
- 1,400+** members attended 46 BMC area meetings in the nine BMC areas
- 500+** volunteers
- 253** affiliated clubs
- 100+** members attended the annual general meeting
- 79** associate member organisations
- 32** staff

COMPETITIONS

- 3,000** entrants in 9 national BMC climbing competitions
- 64** climbers invited to join 2017 GB Development Squad from over 200 applicants
- 2020** Climbing added to the programme for Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games
- No1** Shauna Coxsey 1st in Bouldering World Cup and ranked world No 1 in bouldering
- No2** William Bosi and Tara Hayes 2nd at World Youth Championships
- No3** Esme Harte 3rd at Paraclimbing World Championship; GB ranked world No 3 in bouldering

ACCESS & CONSERVATION

- £100k+** raised through crowdfunding for Mend Our Mountains footpath repair campaign
- 4,000+** respondents completed our online survey on outdoor visitor patterns
- 350+** MPs received advice on championing outdoor recreation in their constituency
- 200+** volunteers assisted at 6 crag clean-ups
- 80+** delegates attended the Upland Paths conference
- 51** local access representatives
- 15** BMC owned and managed crags
- £15k** granted to 5 projects from funds donated to the BMC Access and Conservation Trust

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

- 95** delegates at the Climbing Injury Symposium
- 1,200+** people attended the Winter and Alpine lecture series
- 80** people attended the Women in Adventure network event
- 650+** subsidised places on indoor and outdoor programmes for climbers and walkers
- 43** delegates at the Developing Outdoor Leadership equity symposium
- 350+** enjoyed four climbing and walking festivals organised by local volunteers
- 10** climbers attended bolting workshop in the Peak District
- 14** Climbing Movement masterclasses delivered to over 59 climbers
- 4** Child Safeguarding training events delivered
- 8** MPs and Peers attended the annual walk of the All Party Parliamentary Group for Mountaineering, organised by the BMC
- 4** hill walks led by local BMC volunteers
- 1,095** people attended three sell-out lectures by Alex Honnold on his 'Flying Solo' Tour
- 700** places provided on FUNdamentals of Climbing, Physical Training and Route Setting workshops
- 74** participants learned from 38 medical professionals at a first aid and mountain medicine course
- 35** young climbers at three youth meets jointly organised with BMC affiliated clubs

INTERNATIONAL

- £15k** awarded to 17 expeditions
- 37** guests from 28 countries at the International Winter Climbing Meet

BMC ONLINE

- 270,000** website visits per month
- 120,000** email newsletter subscribers
- 76,000** Facebook likes
- 46,000** Twitter followers
- 14,400** Instagram followers
- 840** films on BMC TV

CLUBS

- 92** people attended club member training courses
- 88** university club members at the annual Student Safety & Good Practice Seminar
- 40+** club officials from over 30 clubs at the Clubs & Huts Seminar
- £21K** funding grants awarded to 77 clubs

- 270,000** website visits
- 120,000** email newsletter subscribers
- 76,000** Facebook likes
- 46,000** Twitter followers
- 14,400** Instagram followers
- 840** films on BMC TV



Not everything we do can simply be represented by numbers, so here are some brief highlights from 2016 showing the depth and breadth of our work.

ACCESS AND CONSERVATION

- » Presented a strong case to the National Trust regarding their activity licensing scheme on behalf of BMC members and mountain professionals more widely, which led to a significant toning down of the principles of the scheme.
- » Submitted objections to numerous proposals to develop hydro-electricity power generation schemes within Snowdonia National Park.
- » Provided advice to the national park authority's newly established Snowdon Partnership on the management of Britain's most popular mountain.
- » Negotiation of new nesting restrictions and monitoring existing ones throughout climbing areas in England and Wales.

- » Published good practice advice for responsible night bouldering sessions.
- » Revealed a revolutionary method for removing polish from limestone holds*.

CAMPAIGNING

- » Met with the Minister for Sport, Tourism and Heritage, Tracey Crouch MP, to talk about the about the government's vision for a new sport strategy and the importance of outdoor recreation within it.
- » Supported #showthelove, the Climate Coalition's campaign to highlight the potential impacts of climate change.
- » Held the annual walk for the All Party Parliamentary Group for Mountaineering in Snowdonia. (1)

* Our 2016 April Fool news story (we wish it was true!).

CLUBS AND HUTS

- » Responses from a student club survey will help guide the student club working group in 2017.
- » Club hut managers were surveyed, in order to get an overall picture of the use of club huts, so that the BMC can direct future support where it is needed most.

COMPETITIONS

- » Developed a new Long Term Athlete Development profiling system, which was implemented in the selection process for the junior climbing teams.
- » BMC Paraclimbing Series expanded to four events (in Edinburgh Manchester, Newcastle and London), with a 50% increase in competitor numbers on 2015. **(5)**
- » Regional re-organisation of the BMC Youth Climbing Series, to manage the increasing number of participants.
- » New sponsors for the GB Paraclimbing Team, Manchester-based law firm Birchall Blackburn Law; and for the GB Climbing Team, Berghaus.

GUIDEBOOKS AND PUBLICATIONS

- » A new definitive guidebook to rock climbing in Lancashire was published. **(2)**

HERITAGE

- » Launched the Gallery of Mountaineering, a digital record of historic images going back over the past 100 years portraying the personalities and events which have shaped our multi-faceted activity.

HILL WALKING

- » Globe-trotting archaeologist turned adventurer Mary-Ann Ochota became our newest BMC ambassador and the second to focus on hill walking. **(7)**

INCLUSIVITY

- » Women's Development Group established, to promote female participation more effectively and to address barriers to participation.
- » Conducted an equality survey online, to better understand makeup of the BMC membership and the outdoor community and assist us in planning future projects and activities that are accessible and inclusive.

- » Delivered the Women in Adventure Network event at the Sheffield Adventure Film Festival, where the winner of the second annual Women in Adventure film competition was announced. **(4)**
- » In conjunction with climbing walls and outdoor activity providers, Women Outdoors Week encouraged more women to get involved in climbing, hill walking and mountaineering.

- » Ran a pilot programme with the Climbing Hangar to offer children from disadvantaged backgrounds a scholarship on its bouldering award scheme.

MEMBERSHIP

- » Gwen Moffat and Angela Soper were awarded honorary membership of the BMC; Gwen was also the inspiration for *Operation Moffat*, an award-winning BMC TV film.
- » Celebrated the life of honorary member Ken Wilson at an event in Sheffield jointly organised with the Climbers' Club, and in *Hard Rock*, a BMC TV film featuring unseen interview footage and reconstructions of his early climbing adventures. **(3)**

SAFETY AND TRAINING

- » GB Junior Climbing Team coach Lucinda Whittaker delivered our first ever 'webinar', an online presentation about nutrition for climbers, walkers and mountaineers.
- » Research undertaken on the performance of knots used for joining abseil ropes.

VOLUNTEERS

- » As a tribute to longstanding BMC volunteer and Climbers Against Cancer founder John Ellison, who passed away in December 2015, a grant scheme provided five grants of £1,000 for climbers and hill walkers with cancer, to help them pursue a personal goal or project.
- » George Band Award for Exceptional Voluntary Contribution to Mountaineering awarded to Ben Lyon. **(6)**
- » New BMC event approval system established, to ensure that BMC events are properly planned, risks are mitigated and volunteers protected.