

2017 ANNUAL REPORT

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Well, 2017 was not quite the year I was expecting in BMC-land.

As many of you will be aware the 2017 AGM did not end in quite the way we were expecting. The upshot was that I stepped in to hold the President's mantle for my final year as Vice-President. Rehan Siddiqui stood down after the AGM, which left a gap that needed to be filled and, following a discussion involving National Council, the mantle was passed to me.

My tenure will possibly be defined as the one that grasped the nettle to address the BMC's governance position. In the great scheme of things there are perhaps more exciting themes but governance is the important glue that binds the BMC together to make it work effectively. Back in 2016 there had been several discussions involving the Executive and National Council highlighting that matters were not right regarding the governance of the organisation. So, Scene 1 Act 1 of my tenure was to put in place a study to start to address matters.

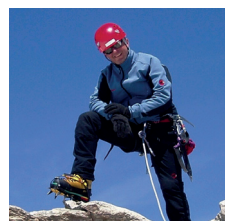
An Organisational Review Group (ORG) was commissioned under the direction of National Council and without question the Group worked tirelessly for the best part of a year to produce a blueprint that far exceeded expectations. Indeed, the Group's contribution has been acknowledged by all parties as a fantastic piece of work. National Council did not stand still and extracted from the 51 significant recommendations the key governance-related actions and set up an Implementation Group to take forward the recommendations, which resulted in a revised set of draft Articles of Association delivered to and endorsed by National Council. This was a fantastic achievement by BMC volunteers and it showed the impressive skills that BMC members have available. These revised Articles will be presented to the 2018 AGM. It should be noted that the remainder of the ORG's recommendations will be considered as part of a second phase in 2018/19.

Following on from the very successful Mend our Mountains campaign in 2016, thoughts turned in 2017 to see whether the package could be scaled up from the eight projects targeted. The consequence of this was the creation of the Mend Our Mountains: Make One Million appeal. The BMC, in conjunction with the UK's family of 15 National Park Authorities, wants to raise £1m for projects to restore and protect iconic landscapes across the UK through a year-long campaign. It will be more than just a fundraising drive; it will be a sustained push to encourage outdoor enthusiasts everywhere to engage with our hills, mountains and national parks in a new way.

In spring 2017, the BMC completed the purchase of Crookrise Crag, a gem of a gritstone crag, which has been a key stomping ground for many of Yorkshire's finest climbers. The purchase will ensure continued access for the public, which could have been threatened by other interested buyers. Moreover, we have established a local advisory group to help us plan and carry out improvements to the crag, as well as managing it.

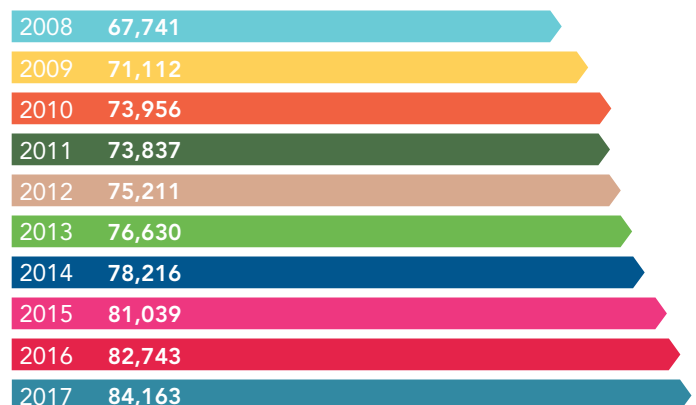
Well, looking forward to 2018/19, it plans to be another exciting year for the BMC. The governance work will continue with the aim of ensuring that members are placed at the heart of matters. Moreover, the Mend Our Mountains: Make One Million appeal will come to a conclusion – I do hope you will be supporting this important work for the BMC and our National Parks. Finally, thank you for your membership of the BMC, which is valued and not taken for granted.

Stay safe!

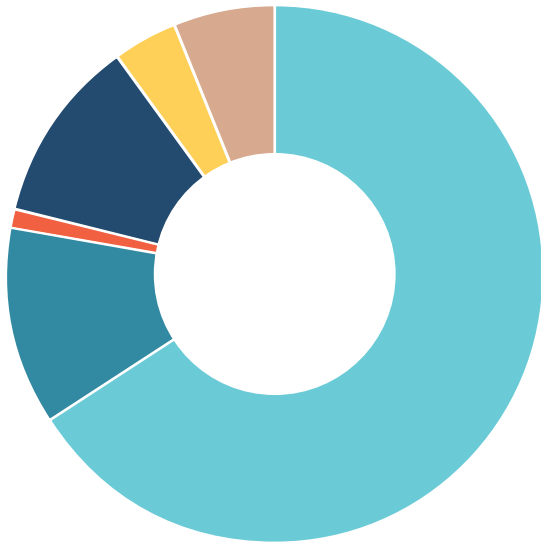


Nick Kurth
Acting BMC President

BMC MEMBERSHIP



Membership is climbing steadily

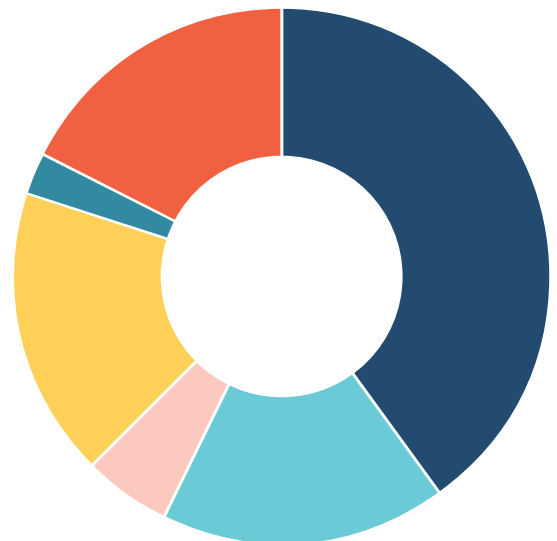


SUMMARY OF INCOME 2017 (£2,752K)

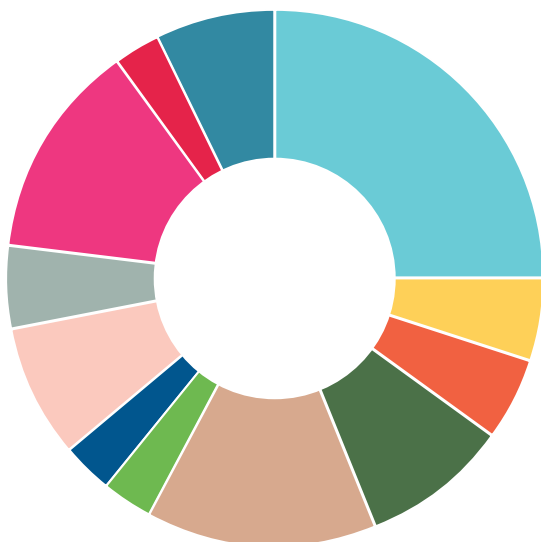
- membership subscriptions **£1,823k**
- Sports Council grants and other donations **£321k**
- sale of publications **£26k**
- travel insurance scheme surplus **£302k**
- other income **£111k**
- other income from specialist programmes **£169k**

SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURE 2017 (£2,851K)

- salaries and personnel **£1,250k**
- personal accident and combined liability insurance for members **£264k**
- Summit magazine **£173k**
- cost of specialist programmes **£535k**
- AGM, area meetings and events **£98k**
- IT, communications and office running costs **£531k**



NET COST OF SPECIALIST PROGRAMMES AFTER ALLOCATION OF OVERHEADS, GRANT AND OTHER INCOME 2017 (988K)



- access and conservation **25%**
- facilities (walls, managed rocks and huts) **5%**
- heritage **5%**
- guidebooks **9%**
- competitions **14%**
- expeditions **3%**
- performance **3%**
- safety and training **8%**
- technical **5%**
- youth and equity **13%**
- national and international representation **3%**
- volunteer support and communications **7%**

ACCESS AND CONSERVATION

- » Purchased Crookrise Crag, a nationally important gritstone crag in Yorkshire, to protect access for climbers and walkers, and established an advisory group of local volunteers.
- » Launched a new website version of the Regional Access Database (RAD), the source of the most up to date access advice for climbers in England and Wales.
- » Influenced the scope of the National Trust's activity licensing scheme to minimise its impact on Mountain Training providers working with small groups outside of challenge events.
- » Responded to extensive Welsh Government consultation on sustainable management of natural resources, including a full chapter on new access laws for Wales.
- » Installed a live winter conditions monitoring system at Great End, one of the Lake District's most reliable and well-known winter crags.
- » Over £100,000 raised in 2016 through crowdfunding by the Mend Our Mountains campaign enabled repair work to be undertaken in 2017 at eight badly damaged upland sites.
- » Helped to fund the relocation of the Mountain Heritage Trust to new premises at the Blencathra Field Studies centre in the Lake District.

CAMPAIGNING

- » Ahead of the 2017 General Election, challenged politicians to recognise the value of outdoor recreation in their manifestos and policies, while also understanding the need to protect the special qualities of the outdoors for the benefit of all.
- » Campaigned with other groups to protect core values of National Parks in Wales following proposals by the Welsh Government to change their purpose and governance.
- » Objected to the controversial application to install zip wires above Thirlmere, and encouraged members to voice concerns about proposals to develop Walna Scar car park.

CLUBS AND HUTS

- » Established a Training Day for Club Committee Members programme, and delivered sessions in two BMC Areas.
- » Extended the popular How to Train Novice Members in your Club training programme to include a Winter Skills weekend.
- » Set up a working group for student clubs to help guide the BMC in shaping its support for clubs and to provide a forum for sharing information and best practice between clubs.
- » Undertook a comprehensive survey of club huts, to gather a range of information including booking systems, hut fees and occupancy rates.

- » Teamed up with the Alpine Club to launch a new process to help talented, young British alpine climbers improve their skills and knowledge about expedition climbing.

COMPETITIONS

- » Hosted IFSC World Cup events in Lead and Speed, and IFSC Paraclimbing Cup, at EICA Ratho in Edinburgh.
- » Secured a three-year sponsorship arrangement for the GB Paraclimbing Team with The Quay and Oakwood Climbing Centres.
- » Established The Hub, an exclusive facility at Rockover Climbing in Manchester, to provide world class training for GB Climbing Team members on world cup-style problems.

GUIDEBOOKS AND PUBLICATIONS

- » Published a new guidebook to rock climbing in the southern half of the Peak District, completing the latest series of BMC definitive guidebooks to the Peak and surrounding area.
- » Published print and digital booklets, including an introductory guide to alpinism, good practice advice on challenge events, how to use passive protection, and an updated version of the Southern Sandstone Code of Practice.

INCLUSIVITY AND YOUTH

- » Partnered with the national charity Sense, to develop an action plan aimed at encouraging more people with sight and hearing impairments to get involved in rock climbing.
- » Ran the third annual Women in Adventure film competition; award winners were announced at the Sheffield Adventure Film Festival.
- » Partnered with the Association of Mountaineering Instructors to deliver indoor to outdoor training days for young climbers.

MEMBERSHIP

- » Instigated an independent review of the BMC's organisation, governance and decision-making structures.
- » Commercial partnership agreements signed with Cotswold Outdoor, Snow+Rock and Montane.
- » Former BMC President Rab Carrington became a Patron of the BMC.
- » Conducted an online volunteer survey, to help inform future strategies and projects.
- » George Band Award for Exceptional Voluntary Contribution to Mountaineering awarded to Lynn Robinson and Ian Smith.

BMC PEOPLE

84,163 members
1,500+ members attended 51 BMC Area Meetings in the ten BMC Areas
500+ volunteers
272 affiliated clubs
184 voting members attended the annual general meeting
59 associate member organisations
32 staff

COMPETITIONS

5 medals won by the GB Paraclimbing Team at the Paraclimbing Cup in Edinburgh

42 young climbers invited to join 2018 GB Development Squad

260 competitors in the Youth Climbing Series final

No 1 Shauna Coxsey retained Bouldering World Cup title and world No 1 ranking

No 3 Molly Thompson-Smith 3rd at Lead World Cup in Slovenia

No 4 William Bosi 4th in Combined event at World Youth Championships

ACCESS & CONSERVATION

16 BMC owned and managed crags

2000+ routes described in the new Peak Limestone South guidebook

50+ local access representatives

£12k granted to 4 projects from funds donated to the BMC Access and Conservation Trust

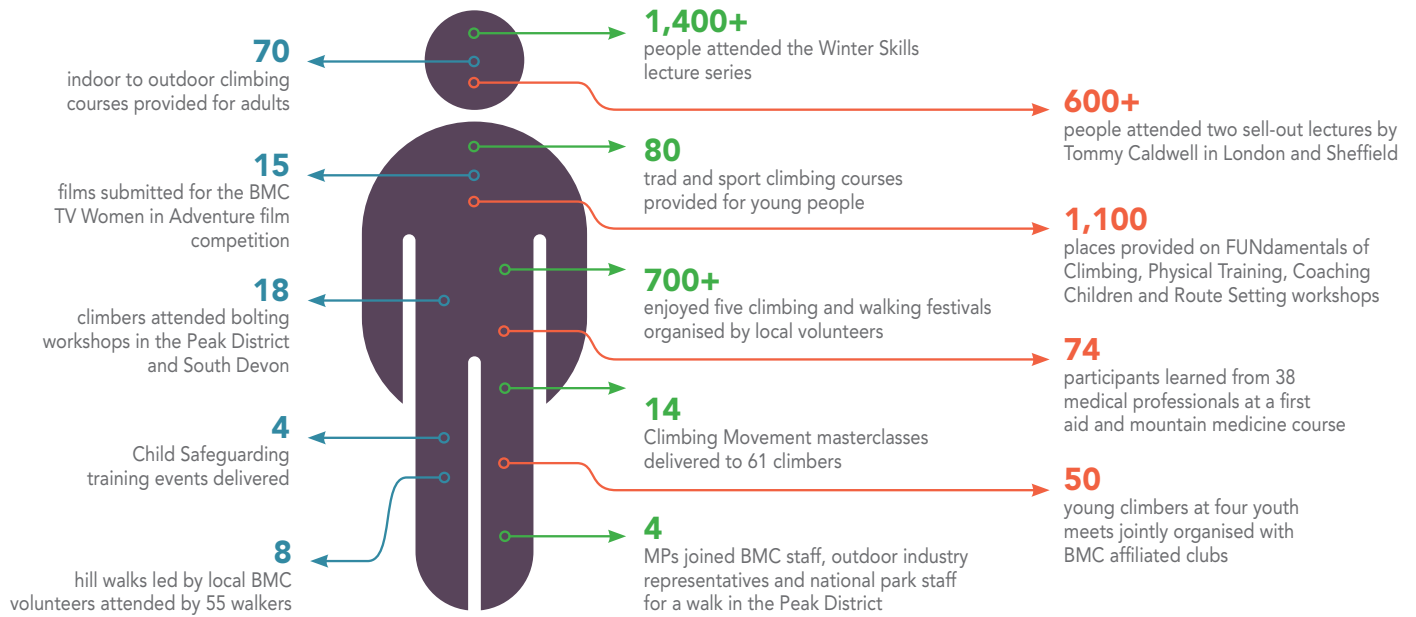
125 volunteers assisted at 4 crag clean-ups

£16k raised by crowdfunding for a rebolting project at the BMC-owned Horseshoe Quarry

350 climbers attended MOD briefings to gain access to the sea cliffs on Pembroke's Range West

£1m target of **Mend Our Mountains**: Make One Million campaign for vital footpath repairs

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES



INTERNATIONAL

£17k awarded to 26 expeditions

31 guests from 27 countries at the International Summer Climbing Meet at Cornwall

90 university club members at the annual Student Safety & Good Practice Seminar

41 clubs completed the Huts Group survey of club huts

49 club volunteers attended training courses

5 training events for volunteers

BMC ONLINE

205,000 website visits per month

125,000 email newsletter subscribers

88,000 Facebook likes

52,000 Twitter followers

18,000 Instagram followers

940 films on BMC TV

