



2018 ANNUAL REPORT

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT AND CHAIR

Firstly, many thanks to Nick Kurth, my predecessor as BMC President; he kept a steady hand steering the BMC through a tricky period. Also thank you to everyone who voted in the BMC 2018 AGM – a record number of 6,882. This included 92% of you supporting Option A, as recommended by National Council and the Board. We have now started the governance changes within the BMC, including a new Board of Directors and we are looking to reconstitute National Council next. Most work has been done by a team of talented and committed volunteers, in the Organisational Development Group, who are now working on the remaining Organisational Review recommendations. Please do take the time to vote and feedback again this year – it is after all your organisation and you really can influence and shape its future.

As well as the governance work, there have been many standout achievements over the past year. I cannot name them all, but the most noticeable is the ‘Mend our Mountains: Make One Million’ campaign; this has been truly impressive and the money raised will make a big impact on the mountains we all care so much about. There have been many more BMC successes including: the continued access work; climbing competitions; climbing, walking and film festivals; the youth meets; the first ever Hill Walking Symposium; the work in our three internal charities; our partnership and affiliated clubs work; and our local, national and international lobbying. I continue to be astounded by the number of BMC volunteers and the amount of work done, supported by the BMC officers; so thank you – the BMC simply could not do the amount, breadth and depth of work that it does on behalf of the mountaineering, climbing and hill walking communities without you.

Since being elected the first female President of the BMC, I’ve been going around the country, meeting people and getting a greater understanding of the nature and complexity of issues faced by the BMC, including attendance at many BMC area meetings, in order to continue my work of holding the Board to account on behalf of the membership.

Lynn Robinson
BMC President

2018 was already drawing to its close by the time that my involvement with the Board started, so it’s appropriate for me to thank those colleagues who safely navigated the governance transition from Executive Committee to Board of Directors. It’s important to acknowledge the particular contribution of Simon McCalla as interim chair of the Board as well as recognising the thoroughly collegiate approach being taken by all Directors in serving the best interests of the BMC’s membership. Whilst being grateful for the work of those Directors who are standing down at this AGM, we also look forward to welcoming the contribution of new Directors.

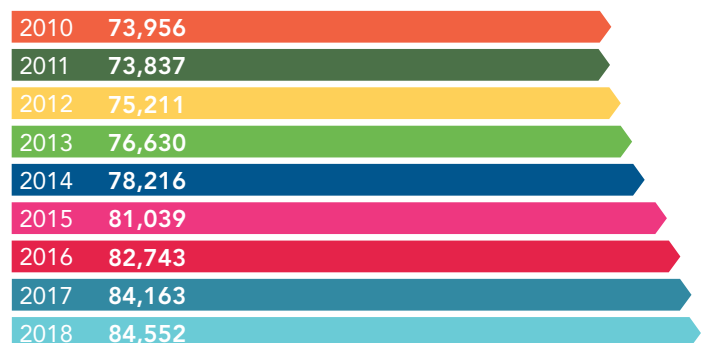
This Annual Report puts on record the highlights of another very successful year for the BMC, with activities spanning the whole breadth of member interests and ambitions. As well as representing some outstanding personal achievements, there are many successes that have been built on the enthusiastic and expert contributions of volunteers, working alongside the sterling efforts of the BMC’s staff team. The year has also yielded a small financial surplus, allowing the level of reserves to be maintained in line with policy.

Looking ahead to 2019, the Board is committed to ensuring an effective alignment between strategy, operational delivery and financials. This will provide the foundation for working in close partnership with the National Council and drawing on the expertise of the specialist committees, so that services can be delivered and developed in response to members’ priorities. Several strands of the Organisational Development Group’s work will reach implementation stage from 2019 onwards, including those which influence the way in which the BMC can work even more effectively with our wide range of partners and stakeholders.

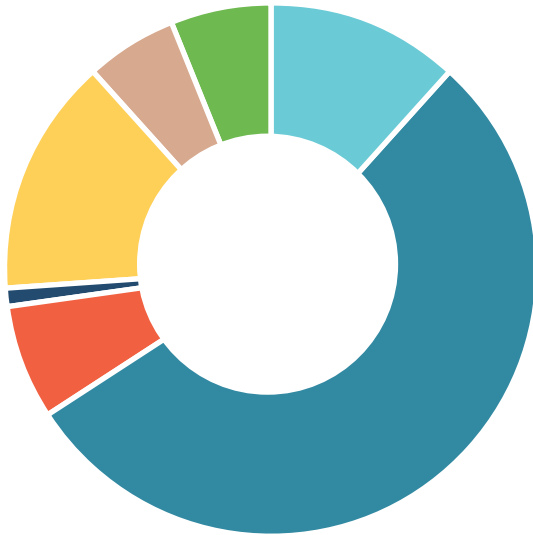
Best wishes for continuing fulfilment through the wonderful opportunities available across our sport.

Gareth Pierce
Chair, BMC Board of Directors

BMC MEMBERSHIP



Membership is climbing steadily



SUMMARY OF INCOME 2018 (£2,907k)

- club and associate membership subscriptions **£345k**
- individual membership subscriptions **£1,571k**
- Sports Council grants and other donations **£202k**
- profit on sale of publications and clothing **£34k**
- travel insurance scheme surplus **£416k**
- other income **£164k**
- other income from specialist programmes **£175k**

SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURE 2018 (£2,826k)

- salaries and personnel **£1,250k**
- personal accident and civil liability insurance **£186k**
- Summit magazine **£185k**
- cost of specialist programmes **£479k**
- AGM, area meetings and events **£141k**
- other office costs **£585k**



NET COST OF SPECIALIST PROGRAMMES AFTER ALLOCATION OF OVERHEADS, GRANT AND OTHER INCOME 2018 (£1,290k)



- access and conservation **24%**
- facilities (walls, managed rocks and huts) **4%**
- heritage **4%**
- guidebooks **7%**
- competitions **11%**
- expeditions **2%**
- performance **1%**
- safety and training **8%**
- technical **4%**
- youth and equity **7%**
- national and international representation **17%**
- volunteer support and communications **11%**

BMC 2018 IN NUMBERS

BMC PEOPLE

84,552 members
1,300+ members attended 53 BMC area meetings in the ten BMC areas
800+ volunteers
269 affiliated clubs
126 voting members attended the annual general meeting
46 associate member organisations
35 staff
Lynn Robinson became the 29th President of the BMC and our first-ever female President

SUPPORTED EXPEDITIONS

£12k

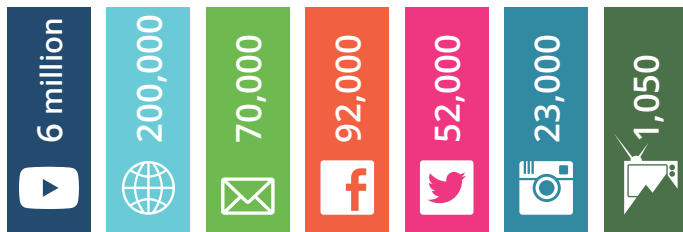
awarded to 17 expeditions

£1,000

granted from Julie Tullis Memorial Award

BMC ONLINE

6 million views on BMC Youtube
200,000 website visits per month
70,000 email newsletter subscribers
92,000 Facebook likes*
52,000 Twitter followers*
23,000 Instagram followers
1,050 films on BMC TV



*Total

ACCESS & CONSERVATION



£600k raised by **Mend Our Mountains** for vital footpath repairs



6,250 downloads for new Regional Access Database app



50+ local access representatives



30 people clear-up Cheddar Gorge



16 BMC owned and managed crags



3 winter monitoring stations – Helvellyn, Great End, Cwm Idwal

COMPETITIONS

No1

Hannah Slaney, Bouldering Youth World Championships

No1

Matt Phillips Mens AU2 Paraclimbing World Championships

No1

Abbie Robinson Womens AU2 Paraclimbing World Championships

No1

Hannah Baldwin Womens RP2 Paraclimbing World Championships

5

medals won by GB Paraclimbing Team at the World Championships – 3 gold, 1 silver, 1 bronze

41

young climbers invited to join 2019 GB Development Squad

27,000

viewers tuned in to watch the British Bouldering Championships live on the BBC

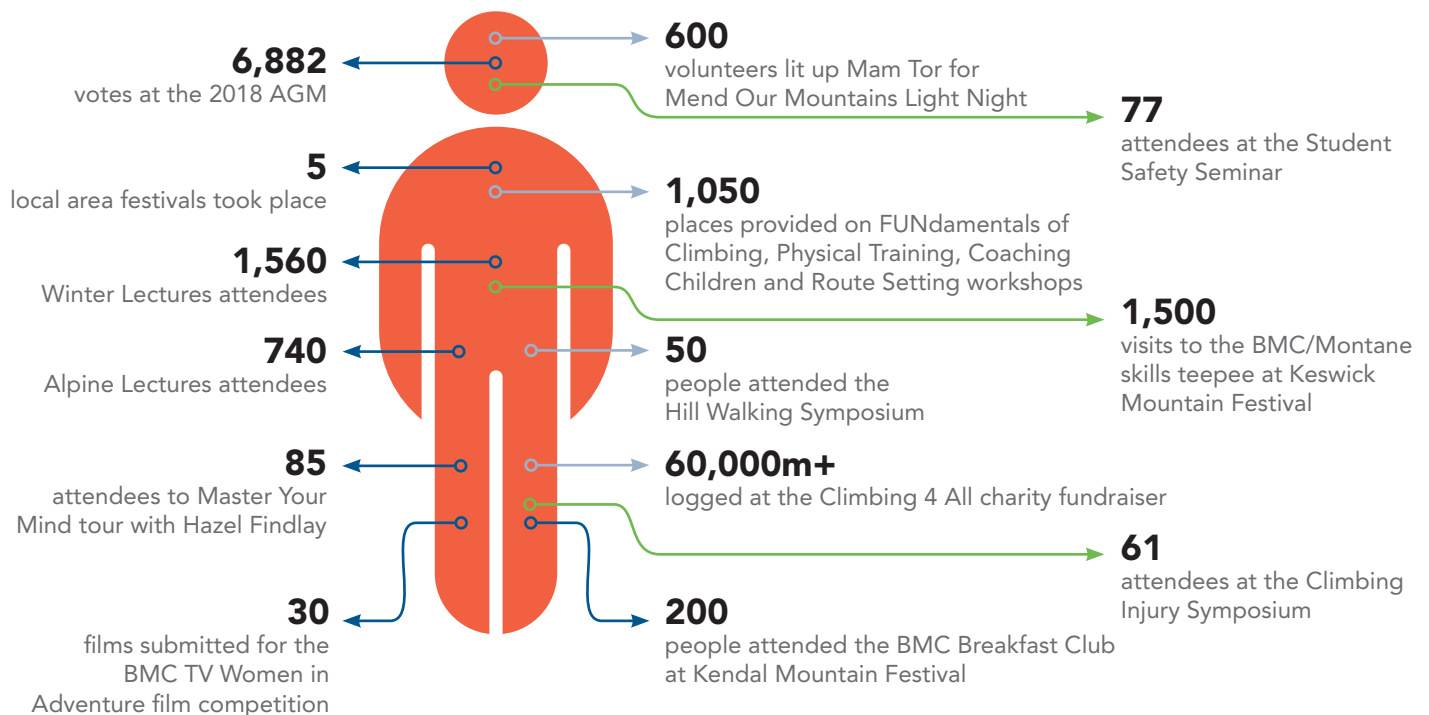
1,009

attendees to 2018 Youth Climbing Series

2020

UK Sport and other grants awarded for Tokyo qualification

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES



2018 HIGHLIGHTS

- » In **January**, a new winter conditions monitoring system was installed on Helvellyn, providing hourly temperature data for air and turf to help winter climbers assess likely conditions before arriving at the crag. The results of a survey of mountain huts run by affiliated clubs were published; these will help guide BMC policy on how best to support clubs in managing and improving their huts.
- » In **February**, UK Sport announced an investment of £630,000 in support of plans to ensure that British climbers have the very best possible chance of medal success when climbing makes its debut as an Olympic sport in Tokyo in 2020. A selection event for the GB Paraclimbing Team was held.
- » In **March**, after months of hard work behind the scenes, the Mend Our Mountains: Make One Million campaign was launched to the public at Sheffield Adventure Film Festival, where the Women in Adventure Film Competition winners were also announced. Peak Limestone South, the final book in the series of definitive guides to climbing in the Peak District was published, and the Organisational Review Group submitted its final report of recommendations for modernising and improving the operations of the BMC.
- » In **April**, the new free-to-download RAD app was launched, with new features and improved functionality for checking the latest access info while on the move. 600 people came together to form a human light chain stretching for two miles along the Peak District's Great Ridge and create a spectacular show of support for Mend Our Mountains. The Alpine Skills lecture series visited Leeds, Liverpool, London and Cardiff; and Edinburgh International Climbing Arena hosted the Grand Final of the Youth Climbing Series, the biggest event on the national climbing competition calendar.
- » In **May**, the Hazel Findlay Master Your Mind Tour visited London, Bristol and Manchester, providing expert coaching on the mental aspect of climbing performance. At Keswick Mountain Festival, one of the UK's largest, attracting 20,000 visitors to Keswick, we teamed up with our recommended clothing and pack partner, Montane, to present skills sessions, talks and films.
- » In **June**, the AGM saw the election of the BMC's first female president, Lynn Robinson, and a record voting turn-out approved a new constitution. HarroWall Climbing Centre became the first climbing centre in London (and the fifth nationwide) to be recognised as a centre of excellence for bouldering when it was awarded National Performance Centre status. 40 doctors, nurses and paramedics converged on Hathersage in the Peak District, for five days of teaching and sharing of cutting edge knowledge about the practice of mountain medicine in the UK and abroad.
- » In **July**, Hannah Slaney and Nathan Phillips came out on top at the British Bouldering Championships, Hannah becoming the first person to win both the junior and senior national bouldering titles in the same year; and for the first time ever the event was broadcast live on the BBC Sport website.
- » In **August**, Hannah Slaney celebrated her final year as a junior by winning the bouldering youth world championships in Moscow.
- » In **September**, the Government introduced its Agriculture Bill into Parliament, setting out how farmers and land managers will be paid for "public goods" including public access to the countryside. This presents a once in a lifetime opportunity to place a duty on Government to protect and restore our environment and allow responsible access to it. The BMC submitted a comprehensive response to the public consultation which preceded the Bill, and will be producing Parliamentary Briefing papers as the Bill is debated.
- » In **October**, the crowdfunding drive for Mend Our Mountains was launched, with a target of £150,000; we fell just short at £118,000 but that took the amount raised by the campaign beyond £500k. A special Sandstone Open Meeting considered future access to the Isolated Buttress at the BMC-owned Harrison's Rocks, and following the meeting it was decided that the best solution was to install a bridge. A new online guide to bolts was published, providing advice on how to assess the safety of bolts and lower-offs when sport climbing outside. The annual Student Safety Seminar gave university club members the opportunity to improve their club practices and ensure safer enjoyment of the cliff and mountain environment. At the British Lead & Speed Climbing Championships, William Bosi did the double, winning the senior lead and speed categories; in the senior female events, Molly Thompson-Smith won the lead title, and Jen Wood the speed.
- » In **November**, the annual Kendal Mountain Festival provided an opportunity to meet current and prospective members, celebrate inspiring British female climbers and mountaineers in a specially curated exhibition, show the latest BMC TV films, and talk to the outdoor press. The first ever BMC Hill Walking Symposium, held in the Peak District, brought together 50 delegates to explore key issues affecting the adventurous walking community. Another first was the appointment of Gareth Pierce as the Chair of the BMC's Board of Directors. The popular Winter Skills lecture series made its annual tour of the country, educating and entertaining over 1,000 people. Birmingham hosted the Climbing Injury Symposium, where leading experts delivered presentations on a range of topics, and following an event in Sheffield, the 2019 GB National Development Squad was selected.
- » In **December**, Mend Our Mountains: Make One Million finished the year having raised around £620,000, with plenty to play for before the end of the appeal in spring 2019; and the BMC office closed over the Christmas holiday period for a well-earned rest after another busy and productive year. Thanks to all our members who supported us during 2018, particularly those volunteers without whom so much of the work done by the BMC on behalf of members and the climbing, hill walking and mountaineering community could not be achieved.