
British Mountaineering Council: Volunteer Role description

Constituency Councillor for Members of BMC affiliated clubs

Are you passionate about the representing the interests of BMC affiliated club members? Do you want to volunteer for the BMC to share your knowledge and experience whilst working with some great people?

The BMC is looking for a volunteer with energy, commitment and great communication skills to be the new Constituency Councillor for Club Members. This is an exciting time for the BMC as it seeks to expand the voice of its members throughout the organisation and this role offers the chance to give something back and be at the forefront of improving grassroots representation.

You would sit on the Members' Council (the Council) and help the Council to deliver its objectives. You would have specific responsibility to represent the interests of **members** of BMC affiliated clubs, to complement the work of the local area club representatives who represent the clubs themselves. As this is a new position, the successful applicant will need to spend an initial period working with other experienced councillors and liaising with the BMC Office and the Club Development Group to further define and execute the role. It is expected that you would have to make extensive use of social media and virtual meetings for these interactions, and experience in these areas is essential.

This is a non-executive, voluntary role. Travel, accommodation and food will be reimbursed as per the BMC Volunteer expenses policy. In line with our Equality & Diversity Policy, the BMC is keen to achieve a more diverse Council and encourages applications from under-represented groups. The BMC cannot function without volunteers and the commitment from Council members is recognised with 20% discount at Cotswold, other beneficial deals, and invitations to social events.

- **Start Date:** 16th May 2021
- **Tenure:** Three years, with the possibility of a further three years.
- **Volunteer Commitment:** The full extent of the commitment is up to the individual volunteer and will vary according to their personal circumstances. As with many volunteer roles, volunteers often find that the more they put in, the more they get out, and there is always the opportunity to get further involved.
 - **Minimum voluntary requirement:** Around 290 hours or 40 days equivalent a year:
 - Attend Council meetings (typically 4 to 5 per year, held either countrywide or online, usually on Saturdays – 7 hours for the meeting, 3 hours pre-reading for each meeting)
 - Attend interim meetings to discuss Council business / engage with members, and in year one develop the role (3 hours / month)
 - Attend Clubs Development Group meetings (typically four times per year)
 - Attendance at other events to meet members of affiliated clubs face to face at least once a quarter
 - Liaise with relevant Specialist Committees / staff / other key parties and read additional material relevant to Council business (average 3 hours per week)
 - **Additional voluntary options:** Attend a wider variety of events, participate in extra committee work
- **Requirements:** Must be both a voting member of the BMC, and a member of a BMC affiliated club, of at least 12 months' standing at the time of appointment
- **Closing date:** Tuesday 30th March 2021

Background

Members' views are currently gathered through the BMC local area structure and via BMC affiliated clubs, then represented to the Board through the National Council. However, the BMC Organisational Review in 2017 concluded that many members don't have a voice as there is no effective mechanism to ensure their views are heard.

The BMC is therefore re-structuring the National Council into a newly created Members' Council (the Council) to be effective immediately following the AGM in May 2021. A key part of the Council is the introduction of two new Constituency Councillor roles, one to represent members of BMC affiliated clubs and the other for BMC members who are enrolled in Mountain Training, to sit alongside existing representation from both local areas and clubs.

The BMC is also introducing a second new category of member representative, the Nationally Elected Councillor (NEC). Four NECs will be elected at the 2021 AGM to represent members who participate in the core activities of rock climbing, mountaineering, hill walking and indoor climbing.

Role description

All councillors are first and foremost members of Council and are expected to work collectively to achieve the Council's objectives, in line with and in support of the BMC's strategy. The general responsibilities to achieve this are given in, 'A Brief Introduction to the BMC Members' Council'. The successful candidate will spend the first year in office working with other experienced Council members and BMC staff to develop this new role from a concept into a fully functional position. After development, it is expected that the Constituency Councillor for members of BMC affiliated Clubs will have the following specific responsibilities:

- Represent the constituency of club members on Council in addition to undertaking the general duties and responsibilities of a councillor
- Serve as a member of the Club Development Group (the successor to the Clubs' Committee), which is led by the Clubs' Chair and delivers work aligned with the BMC Clubs Strategy
- Regularly engage with local area Club Coordinators, National and Student Club Representatives and other BMC volunteers to understand the needs and opinions of BMC affiliated clubs and their members
- Proactively engage with their constituency of club members to promote the role and encourage dialogue through all appropriate channels of communication. This could include:
 - Reaching out to current and prospective members of clubs that wish to affiliate to the BMC
 - Providing a presence at area meetings, club events and other activities as needed
- In consultation with Council, influence the development of BMC strategy and delivery of strategic objectives, including improvement of membership engagement, on behalf of the constituency of club members, liaising with BMC Directors, councillors, staff & volunteers.
- Proactively engage with the wider hillwalking, climbing and mountaineering community to understand their views and concerns, and to promote the BMC to potential new members.

Skills & personal qualities

- Creative individual prepared to experiment, discover and learn from experience in order to both develop this role and facilitate wider improvement in the BMC's interactions with members
- Active BMC affiliated club member with an awareness of current issues facing club members in the UK
- Experience of, or able to demonstrate understanding of, acting as an advocate for a constituency of members

- Experience in the use of different communication platforms, including social media and online meeting platforms
- Team player with the ability to network & engage effectively with the full spectrum of current and potential club members, BMC staff and volunteers.

Appointment

This is an elected position, voted for by the BMC membership. Election and appointment of the successful candidate will be at the AGM on Saturday 15 May 2021 and they will start their duties on Sunday 16 May at the inaugural meeting of the new Members' Council, the day after the AGM.

To apply, please:

- 1) Write a 500-word statement about your interest, relevant experience and motivation for the role
- 2) Complete the appropriate Nominations form for the volunteer role you wish to apply for. These are also found at www.thebmc.co.uk/agm-volunteers.
- 3) Attach both the statement and completed nominations form to a covering email and email your application to agm@thebmc.co.uk.

Your application will be acknowledged within 2 business days of receipt. If you have any questions about the application process itself, or would like more information about what the role entails, please also contact agm@thebmc.co.uk with your query.

Audio presentation

Since the 2021 BMC AGM will be virtual as a result of Covid-19, all voting will take place electronically. While your application is being validated for correct membership details, you will be contacted by a BMC volunteer to ask you to record a short audio presentation to both introduce yourself and answer some pre-recorded Q&A (max 15 mins, though may be shorter depending on the number of applicants). Further details will be provided after 30 March 2021.

The audio recording and your 500-word statement will be uploaded to the BMC website by 29th April. It will also be advertised on the BMC FaceBook page, Twitter feed and other relevant social media to ensure the widest possible reach to BMC members ahead of voting at the AGM.

Selection will be by election at the BMC AGM on Saturday 15 May 2021, which will be held online. You should aim to attend this, and the Council meeting (also online) on the following day.

PLEASE NOTE: An election for this role will only take place if the new Members' Council is first approved by member vote at the AGM.

Closing date is Tuesday 30th March 2021