

BMC AGM
Wednesday 18 May 2022

Election 8 – to elect a Nationally Elected Councillor to represent indoor climbing for a three year term to start with effect from 19 May 2022.

Candidate – Stuart Holmes

Proposer: Tim Greenhalgh

Secunder: Carl Spencer

Statement

I have been in role since being co-opted last year. So far, I have thoroughly enjoyed my time on Members' Council (Council) and the opportunity to meet lots of very passionate people involved with the running of Council as well as numerous BMC staff and Board members. I have been involved with the BMC for a number of years and have also volunteered for a few different roles, specialist committees and try to stay involved at a local area level. I have been fortunate enough to have seen and been involved in some of the amazing work they do and seen the impact first-hand that this has on our sport and its participants.

I feel that indoor climbing has gone through exponential growth in the last decade or two, but the speed at which it is currently accelerating is something that I don't think we have ever seen across the other disciplines that the BMC encompasses or can even draw parallels from other sports.

I feel that the BMC and its partner organisations will play a vital part in the advancement of indoor climbing. I feel like to do this they must be heavily involved in prospering a sense of community between the BMC and indoor climbers. Work to make climbing accessible to anyone without barriers. Provide pathways both into the sport and progression to other disciplines for those that want it.

I have been heavily involved with climbing throughout my career. Currently most of the work through my company is based around climbing wall building, route setting, safety inspection, technical advice and instructor training. But I have worked across the sector and in my career as an outdoor instructor, climbing coach and previously a climbing wall owner.

I have been fortunate enough to have seen the climbing industry from a variety of angles and feel this gives me a good understanding of how everything fits together and hopefully some insight in to where it may be heading.

I personally started climbing as a youngster when I used to attend a local youth club which had a small bouldering wall. It was the first time I had ever really formally tried bouldering. At the time it was run by a couple of students from the local university, who after seeing how keen I was, took me under their wing. Before I knew it, they were letting me tag along on trips to local climbing centres and crags. From this point on climbing has become firmly embedded into nearly every aspect my lifestyle.

It has allowed me to have some amazing experiences and be part of a friendly welcoming community. With this in mind my motivation to continue in the role if re-elected is to give back to a sport that has provided me with so much. My hope is to finally get indoor climbing away from a reputation as a "niche" or "extreme" sport as some people still see it and well and truly into the mainstream.

Interview

[Stuart's interview](#)