

BMC AGM
Wednesday 18 May 2022

Election 9 – to elect a Constituency Councillor to represent Mountain Training for a three year term to start with effect from 19 May 2022.

Candidate – Oli Lewis

Proposer: Christopher Allewell

Secunder: Rachael Gatehouse

Statement

A winter trip to Norway at the age of 17 opened my eyes to wild and remote places and adventures. Whilst those initial telemark skiing techniques are a now long-lost concept, that first trip set me on a path to playing and working in the mountains and crags. I have since trekked, and climbed in the USA, the Alps, Russia, Scandinavia and throughout Britain. I am happiest at height battling the elements on snow, rock and ice but think nothing of a long weekend blast to the boulders of Fontainebleau or beyond. However, it is on our home mountains and crags where I refined the skills required to enjoy climbing and mountaineering safely. The Peak is now home for me and provides reasonable access to the rest of Britain.

Throughout, the BMC has been the silent partner in these adventures. They have protected and improved our access to these spectacular natural areas. Their efforts in maintaining the access to these spaces whilst promoting sustainable usage is phenomenal. The BMC also supports the development of skills for individuals, clubs, professionals and volunteers. That's why I joined the BMC and why I now seek to hopefully pay a little forward through involvement with the Members' Council.

Thanks to the BMC and Mountain training I have progressed through the award schemes and now work professionally as a Mountaineering and Climbing Instructor and Winter Mountain Leader with aspirations to complete the Winter Mountaineering and Climbing Instructor in the coming seasons. It is the BMC's partnership with Mountain Training that supports many of us to develop and build on our skills to become safer individuals, inspirational volunteers and effective leaders or instructors. As candidates on mountain training schemes we form a significant portion of the BMC membership and our thoughts, experiences and opinions are useful to both organisations. This new constituency councillor role is a significant step to garnering a two-way dialogue between us.

My professional background has seen an eclectic path woven through structural engineering, where I designed, inspected and installed climbing facilities into education and school senior leadership. It was here my Mountain Training pathway started and I was in a position to inspire participation and engagement for underprivileged children. Most recently and happily I have stepped into a full-time career working instructing on the hills, crags and mountains.

If elected to this position I will draw upon my professional experience and the valuable experience garnered as a previous trustee and members' representative of Edale Mountain Rescue team, a team of which I am still a member. Listening to concerns and sharing ideas and opinions and mediating between interested parties has become a hard earned and valuable skill.

The ongoing work by the BMC and Mountain Training to study, reflect on and improve equality, diversity and equity is an important area of focus for all of us and is a subject that I hope, with time spent in the constituency councillor role I can take a proactive and supportive role.

Interview

[Oli's interview](#)