



ANNUAL REPORT

2022



President's Report



2022 has been an exciting year in the BMC as the work of previous years begins to bear fruit. Inevitably with such a massive change programme not everything has gone to plan but where we have identified issues they are being actioned and I feel real progress has been made.

On the access front we have increased our staff by bringing Eben Muse, Policy & Campaigns Officer (Wales), on full time and the Zoom Access Network Sessions that are open to all members are both very interesting and an effective way to share updates. Dartmoor access remains a challenge but staff and volunteers have been working hard with the National Park's authority to progress this to the right solution.

It has been great to see the area walking events and similar events organised by Rose Gare-Simmons, the National Hill Walking Councillor, being well attended. Hill walking has also led the way in the website redesign with a new, modern hill walking resource hub. We are now working with our partners not only to ensure the content is regularly refreshed, but also to bring this 'look and feel' to the rest of our website.

Working with the Alpine Club and MEF I was particularly pleased that the Young Alpinist Group, set up by Tom Livingstone, has been able to be much better supported this year and going forwards. All three bodies are now contributing to this 'elite mountaineering' development group which has put it on a much more stable and sustainable footing. We now need to look at how we work more with the Jonathan Conville Memorial Trust and others to ensure there are great candidates for future beneficiaries of this scheme.

In 2022, the BMC has significantly elevated its commitment to our competitive sports, resulting in substantial improvements in the competitive landscape. Hosting the IFSC World Cup at Ratho served as an exceptional showcase for the talents of our athletes, the dedication of the BMC, and the invaluable contributions of our volunteers and partners. It's truly inspiring to witness GB athletes securing top positions in various competition disciplines, including lead, para, and ice events. While there is still room for growth in SkiMo, we are pleased to acknowledge that we have started to make progress. I am aware that there do remain concerns within the competition space and we were delighted to recruit Paul Ratcliffe as the new CCPG Chair. Paul brings experience of being an Olympic medalist, a Head Coach and Performance Director in canoeing and an experienced hill walker. His skills and experience will be invaluable in helping us take the BMC's talent and performance delivery to the next level.

The Sport England funding has allowed us to employ a full time Safeguarding Manager. This is a big role with much to do to ensure we are industry leading in our practices and procedures. It is great to see that she is already providing support to Clubs as well as the more obvious arena of competitions. The Code of Conduct we recently released is a powerful tool in ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all members.

All of the work we do could not be done in isolation, we rely on a network of partners and stakeholders who provide valuable expertise, capacity and skills to progress important strands of work. We have committed in our strategic goals to develop our network of partners and to approach our work in a collaborative fashion, acting as a hub to bring the right stakeholders together at the right time, in the right way. We thank the organisations and volunteers who are working with us and look forward to sharing the successful impact of all this work.

Specifically, I would like to draw attention to the army of volunteers who continue to make up the core infrastructure of our delivery on the ground through our club and area networks, as well as the specialist groups and committees who maintain our expertise and knowledge for the benefit of the community, and those that provide a proactive interface with the membership as a whole.

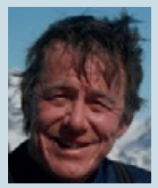
Myself and the Members' Council continue to work with the Board and staff to ensure members' issues and views are at the centre of the decisions the BMC makes, please do contact your area or activity specific representatives if you have concerns or if you want to say thank you for all the hard work they do.

Growing membership will always be the best way we can represent our diverse community, while at the same time growing valuable funds which allow us to do more work on their behalf. While Gavin Finch and the team are developing our offer and engagement with the growing community of climbers and hillwalkers, nothing beats word of mouth. Please do your part in spreading the word of all the important work we do and encouraging your friends to join the BMC and help us improve our fantastic sport for all the community.



Andy Syme
BMC President

Chair's Report



Strategy

In 2022 the BMC went through the mid-point in its 2020 to 2024 strategy – a period which so far has been far from straight forward, with Covid only moving into abeyance in 2Q 2022, and a number of both international and national events that have contributed to increased cost of living.

All of the above have impacted the BMC, our members, staff and our wider community. We remain committed to the 2020-2024 Strategic Plan, which is structured around “*Creating a better future for Climbers, Hill Walkers and Mountaineers*” within the five themes of:

- Access and Conservation
- Membership Engagement
- Education and Training
- Sector Leadership and continuing development of the organisation
- GB Climbing

During 2022 the importance of the BMC managing both of our two very big and complimentary roles has become even more apparent; as the Representative Body for our activities, almost entirely funded by the membership and as a National Governing Body for Competition Climbing, almost entirely funded by the public purse. The BMC has achieved a great deal within both roles and recognises challenges in both – the sheer breadth of what is required in order to function as a governing body and building the foundations which enable the organisation to improve its role representing the membership and community.

Foundations

During 2022 much progress has been made on the foundations:

- Putting in place financial systems and processes which enable the Senior Leadership Team and Board to be better and much more speedily informed about the financial health of the BMC.
- Putting in place high quality quarterly performance reporting and for 2023 high level performance indicators. The quality of the reporting has improved markedly.
- Building a modern digital infrastructure which has enabled the creation and launch of a new and highly regarded Hill Walking site. During 2023 this approach will be replicated for all of our activities – climbing, both indoor and outdoor, mountaineering and competition climbing.
- Building a modern marketing and membership engagement system.

Finances – Membership and Grants

Largely through the hard work of the Senior Leadership Team, Sport England awarded the BMC a grant worth £2.790 million covering a 5-year work programme. These programmes of work are being delivered in Partnership with Mountain Training England and UK & Ireland (MTE and MTUKI), the Association of British Climbing Walls (ABC), and the National Indoor Climbing Awards Schemes (NICAS). The focus of these programmes is indoor climbing with investments in wall safety being led by ABC, improving safeguarding across the sector and improving our equality, diversity and inclusion across the sector.

During 2022 the BMC received revenue of £4.1 million, comprised of £3.3 million from the membership, insurance sales and commercial sponsorship and £0.8 million from UK Sport and Sport England. The expenditure was £4.4 million which has left the BMC with a deficit for the year of £0.27 million and at end year, reserves of £0.84 million.

During the year the membership returned to pre-Covid levels of 83,000 members with income from sales of Insurance almost returning to pre-pandemic levels.

With the increased level of grant funding from UK Sport and Sport England and an intent to grow membership numbers the plan for 2023 is to budget for an expenditure of £5.3 million which based on the plan will lead to a deficit of at the end of year of £0.07 million

Organisational Development

The BMC has a wide range of responsibilities and a complex corporate structure, even though it is by many metrics only a small or medium sized business.

Throughout the year there has continued to be organisational development and slowly this is leading to the BMC becoming a more professional organisation in line with the recommendations from the Organisational Review (ORG) completed in 2018. As a condition of accepting the grants from UK Sport and Sport England, the BMC has been taken through both a Financial – Commercial Review and a Governance Review run by the audit company, BDO. The BMC has responded to both reviews. An important finding is around providing more clarity on the roles and responsibilities of the Board, staff and Members' Council – this is consistent with what has been seen within the organisation as a whole. With many dedicated volunteers and a relatively small staff it is essential going forward that the three parts of the organisation work together closely, in partnership and "Co-Create Solutions".

The Board is becoming more effective and strategic. During the year we co-opted Neal Hockley to join the Board with a specific interest in Wales and the BMC role within it, and recruited John Willmott as an Independent Director with wide and deep business and board experience, with an extensive background in insurance.

During the year there has been a substantial increase in staff almost all of whom are funded by UK Sport and Sport England. The focus of these staff is on building the core capabilities within the BMC of Safeguarding, Clubs and Equity – Diversity – Inclusion and the elite end of Competition Climbing, Indoor Climbing.

Both today and probably even more in the future the BMC would not function without its volunteers- the BMC really needs well qualified volunteers within its Board, committees and working in access, conservation and competition sport. They do a huge amount of work and are very dedicated to their activities, sports and interests. The demands placed on the volunteers in senior positions are heavy – some of the roles are close to being full time and unpaid along with substantial and in some cases public responsibilities. During 2023 and into 2024 we should endeavour to make the demands of these roles more reasonable.

Focus Areas

Looking back at the year a few things stand out as being focal points for the work of the Board as follows:

- Increasing our real and visible presence in Wales through Neal Hockley, the team who are based in Wales and our Wales policy officer Eben Muse and the Wales Committee.
- The work of the Access, Conservation and Environmental Sustainability Team putting in place an "Environment Policy" and working on a plan in the longer term for the BMC to achieve "Net Zero". The first version of the "Net Zero plan" came to the Board during the first quarter of 2023.

- The delivery of an Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Strategy, followed up by the appointment of a manager to lead the BMC and the sector on how we turn the strategy into a plan and then delivery.
- An increasing focus on how the BMC shows up internationally – through hosting international events like the International Federation of Sport Climbing (IFSC) World Cup at Ratho, Edinburgh in September, planning to host UIAA and the European Mountaineering Association Meetings in May 2023, and placing members into important positions within International Mountaineering Bodies.
- Understanding the scope and scale of competition climbing, its challenges, the role of GB Climbing and going into 2023 how we will develop the competition side of our sport working with our partners across the United Kingdom.

During 2022 the BMC has continued to develop and as you can see throughout this annual report, it has achieved a lot, albeit sometimes it has failed in how it has engaged and communicated. Improved engagement and communication are going to be critical going forward and will be a focus in 2023 and into 2024. This becomes even more important as we realise that our success will only be achieved by working in partnership with the many organisations with which we interface.

I close by encouraging you to read this Annual Report and consider how you can help the BMC succeed.

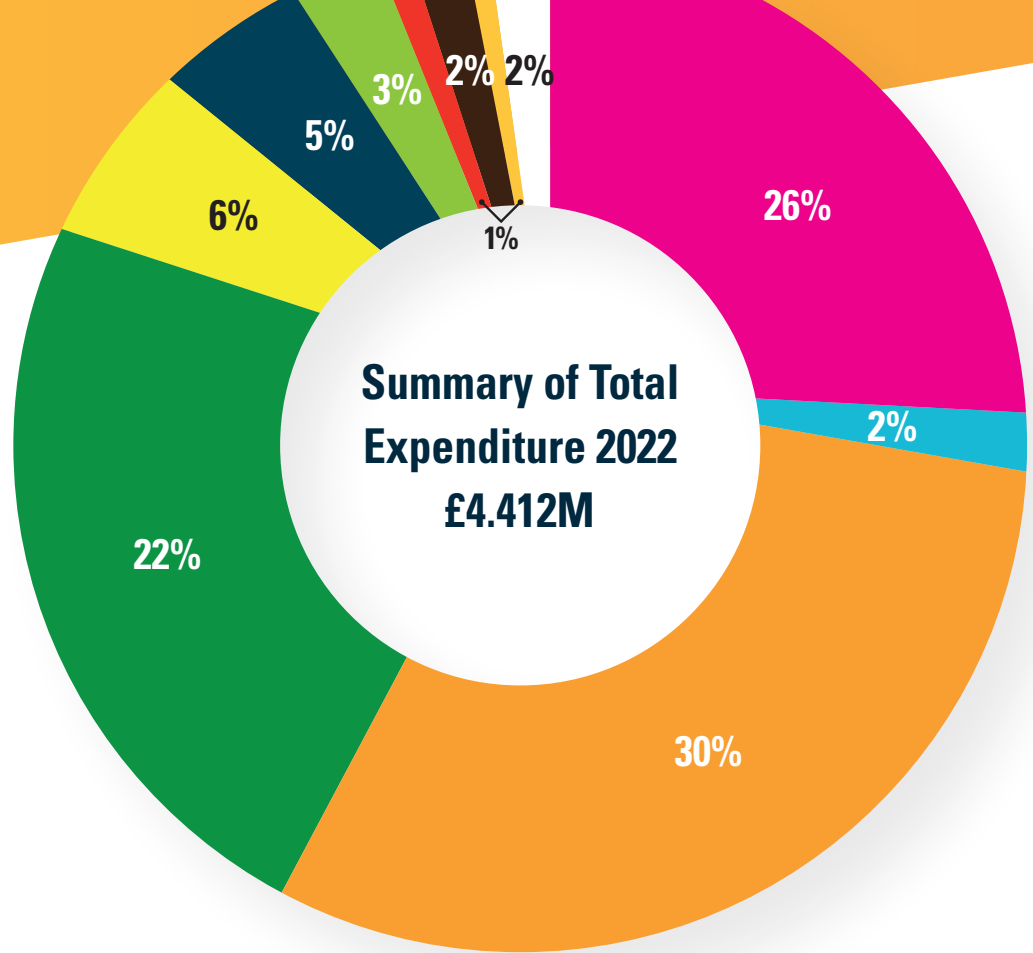
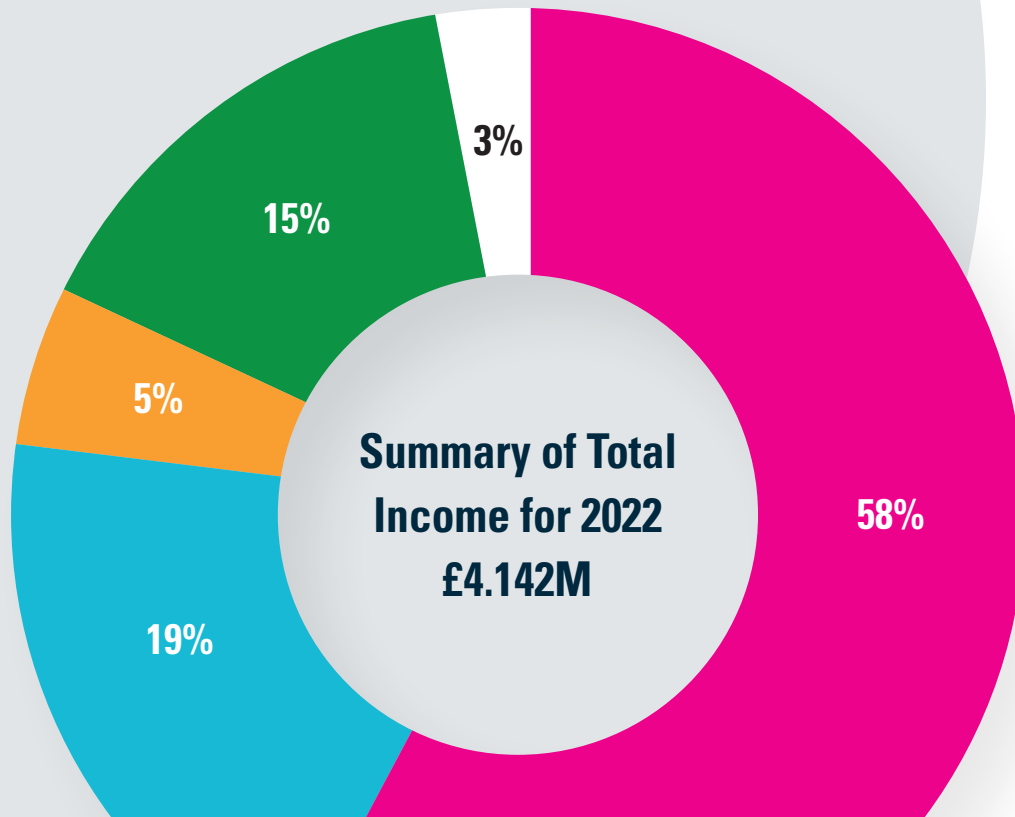
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Murray', with a long, sweeping underline.

Roger Murray
Chair, BMC Board of Directors

Finance Report

- **£2.396m** of Membership Subscriptions comprising **£1.904M** from individuals and **£0.492M** from affiliated clubs
- **£0.780M** to support the activities of GB Climbing including **£0.421M** funding from UK Sport and **£0.166M** funding from Sport England
- **£0.198M** Sport England Grant Income to support the development of BMC's activities
- **£0.649M** Trading Income of which **£0.474M** derived from Travel Insurance sales
- **£0.118M** of Other Income including income from the IFSC World Cup

Income has increased 17% now that activities can return to normal after the pandemic



- **£1.148M** of Membership Support Costs including the costs of the insurance programme
- **£93k** of Trading support Costs to enable travel insurance sales
- **£1.305M** of Administration Costs including governance Costs, AGM and Area meeting support
- **£0.96M** of GB Climbing Costs including expenditure related to the grant funding
- **£0.274M** of Access & Conservation Costs including Managed sites and Rocks
- **£0.224M** to support Technical and Training Programmes
- **£0.140M** Costs to build Partnerships, sector leadership and heritage.
- **£65k** to support Clubs & Huts
- **£66k** to support Youth & Equity activity
- **£30k** to support International activity and expeditions
- **£0.104M** of Other Costs including volunteer development Costs and the IFSC World Cup

Costs have increased by 21% from 2021 now that staff are no longer on Furlough and activity has returned to more normal levels, plus increase in grant funded related activities.

Headlines & highlights

Our 2020-2024 Strategic Plan is organised around five strategic themes:

- **Access, conservation & environmental sustainability**
- **Membership engagement, services & support**
- **Education, inspiration & skills**
- **Organisational development & sector leadership**
- **GB Climbing – competitions, talented athletes & the GB Teams**

These five themes are supported by five foundation activities categorised broadly as: People; Money; Communications; Governance; Collaboration.



Access, Conservation and Environmental Sustainability

We promote the freedoms, rights and responsibilities of climbers and hill walkers, work on their behalf to influence legislation and policy across England and Wales, campaign on climate change, access and environmental issues, and ensure that the BMC leads by example in all aspects of environmental impact.

The formation of a BMC Access Network with a programme of regular technical training / expert Q&A sessions has enabled improved sharing of knowledge and expertise amongst the many volunteers who support the BMC's access and conservation work.

A newly established Crag & Upland Restoration Fund provided small grants of £250 to £1,000 to more than a dozen projects, helping local climbers and walkers undertake practical work on crags and upland areas to improve access, promote nature conservation and enhance the overall environment. Working alongside YHA, we launched Hills 2 Oceans litter picking hubs at some of their key hostels across England and Wales, to encourage the hill walking and climbing community to help remove mountains of waste.

The BMC owns and manages a number of sites across England and Wales to maintain access for the benefit of all climbers and walkers. We contracted a dedicated Land & Property Manager who has enabled us to provide more focussed support for the management of these sites, resulting in completion of tree safety work at Aldery Cliff, Horseshoe Quarry, Harrison's Rocks, and Stone Farm Rocks, with follow-up inspections planned for 2023. Other site improvements included installation of new fencing at Horseshoe Quarry, Knotweed control and sapling planting at Wilton Quarries, and a volunteer work day at Stone Farm Rocks. We also undertook an ecological survey at Crookrise Crags, and submitted applications under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act for dedication of the land at two BMC owned sites, Horseshoe Quarry in the Peak District, and Craig Bwlch y Moch in Snowdonia, to strengthen public right of access.



A major crag closure at Wildcat, Matlock, required a number of meetings and careful negotiation during the course of the year to re-establish the access arrangement agreement, whilst balancing the need to address the problematic issue of landowners installing artificial holds on natural crags.

In June, we agreed a new Environmental & Sustainability Policy for the organisation, which commits to consistently measuring and publicising our annual climate footprint, making progress in reducing our emissions and developing a Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction and Sustainability Plan to be actioned across BMC workstreams. We also established a new working group to draft a BMC Policy on Sustainable Transport and Travel, and completed our first report to the UN Sports for Climate Action Framework.

Campaigning continues to be an important element of our work, supporting our members to express their interests and concerns, and working with like-minded organisations to amplify our voices to decision makers. In February, we came together with more than 60 nature, planning, health and equality organisations, to call for a 'legal right to nature' to be a key component of the Government's Levelling Up reforms. In December, a legal case questioning the basis of Dartmoor National Park Authority's bylaws, which allow for responsible wild camping opened in the high court. The BMC, along with other outdoor organisations has been supporting the National Park in its efforts to fight this case. In Wales, we worked with partner organisations and the Environment Minister Julie James to propose the expansion of recreational access on Welsh Government owned land, for purposes such as wild camping.

Membership Engagement, Services and Support

We aim to deliver exceptional support for clubs and individuals, by providing new opportunities for members to engage with the BMC in a modern membership package, and extending awareness of the BMC to existing non-member participants to increase membership.

The BMC was founded in 1944 by 25 constituent clubs, and clubs continue to be at the heart of our organisation, with almost 260 clubs comprising around 25,000 members affiliated to the BMC. Our ongoing support programme for clubs during the year included delivery of popular webinars and training for club officers, leaders and volunteers. We continued to strengthen the Local Area Club Networks, a virtual environment for clubs to be able to talk with each other, with their local club rep, and with staff from the BMC, which we launched in 2021. The number of clubs which signed up to, and engaged with, the Find Your Adventure campaign continued to grow; the campaign was launched in 2021 to help new participants connect with friendly local climbing and walking clubs. At the 2022 BMC AGM in May, changes to the BMC's Articles of Association were agreed with the objective of easing the path to affiliated membership for clubs which would not have met the criteria under the previous Articles. A number of BMC affiliated clubs own huts, and in November, we ran a Huts Seminar for hut managers, operators, wardens, custodians and booking secretaries, with sessions covering sustainability, affordability, insurance & liability, and increasing usage. This was run as a hybrid event with some attendees joining in person and others joining us online. Much of this work has been central to the post-pandemic recovery in club membership numbers.

The Quarterly Area Meetings held in each of the ten BMC Areas covering England and Wales provide a platform for local volunteers and members to meet up, share information, and raise and discuss issues. Traditionally in-person meetings, the introduction of online meetings during the pandemic has now developed into a mix of in-person, online and hybrid (both in-person and online) meetings, increasing accessibility and flexibility in attendance.

A range of channels are used to reach and engage new, potential audiences including social media activity which is an increasingly important element of engagement. We continued to grow our presence and visibility by producing engaging content across a



range of channels including Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and BMC YouTube. We successfully built on our programme of paid social media adverts to promote membership and insurance amongst relevant audiences, resulting in our lowest ever cost per conversion rates. Our presence at events including Sheffield Adventure Film Festival, Kendal Mountain Festival and the Women's Trad Festival continue to enable us to raise awareness of our organisation amongst audiences with a passion for the activities and values we represent.

We began our digital transformation journey and vastly improved our online offering in the hill walking space, with the launch of a hill walking hub which better enables users of any level to easily/intuitively find information, advice or resources, whilst helping to showcase our hill walking proposition in an improved way.

Volunteers are the lifeblood of the BMC, and in recognition of the contribution they make, we encourage members to nominate volunteers for our annual awards. In 2022, the worthy recipients were: Barbara James and Ken Taylor (George Band Award for Exceptional Voluntary Contribution to Mountaineering); Mohammed Dhalech (Rehan Siddiqui Award for Exceptional Voluntary Contribution towards promoting Equality and Diversity in the BMC); Mick Johnson and Steve Quinton (Lord Greaves Award for Voluntary Contribution to BMC Access and Conservation work). The awards were presented in October during the inaugural BMC Volunteers' Gala, a weekend-long

event creating an opportunity for 100 BMC volunteers to come together with industry representatives, key stakeholders, and BMC staff for training and networking opportunities.

Sadly, in February, one of the BMC's honorary medical advisors, Jim Milledge passed away after a long and distinguished medical career, which included significant research in high altitude medicine; and in June, we lost one of our local access reps, when Tom Furey died in a scrambling accident in Snowdonia.

We ended the year with 83,018 members, an increase of 4,345 on the snapshot taken at the end of 2021, still approximately 2,000 members less than pre-pandemic levels, during which period membership had dipped as low as 77,000 members. We would like to take this opportunity to thank those members who have continued to support us, and returning and new members who have joined us during another year of significant economic uncertainty and inflationary pressures which have been challenging for so many people.



How to start hill walking



Education, Inspiration and Skills

Our goal is to inspire and inform new and existing climbers, hill walkers and mountaineers, provide opportunities for them to develop their knowledge and skills, and develop resources to support club delivery, recognising the potential for high-quality events to be a source of revenue.

Throughout the year, we run a wide range of courses, lectures, workshops and other training opportunities, and publish guidance to support knowledge and skill development.

To support teachers and teaching assistants in developing climbing at their schools, we produced Climbing Activity Packs for Schools. The packs offer guidance on competencies for people supervising sessions, opportunities climbing can offer, a set of activities which can be run on a low-level traverse wall and advice on progressing into other climbing walls, clubs and competitions.

To help people gain a foothold in the world of climbing, we made four short films looking at the climbing opportunities for new climbers in some of our urban centres. In the first series of City Climb we chose four cities: Cardiff, Liverpool, London and Sheffield. With the help of local experts, we focused on the indoor walls, clubs, outdoor climbing and the general vibe in each of these locations.

Supported by equipment manufacturer DMM, we held three youth climbing meets, in North Wales, the Lake District and

Northumberland, giving youngsters the opportunity to take the step from indoors to outdoors, and climb some classic trad routes under the watchful eye of experienced climbers. The professionalism and popularity of volunteer-led Area Festivals continued to grow in 2022, with events over the summer in Pembrokeshire, Gower, Snowdonia, the Lakes and Lancashire.

In May, we ran four live sessions on Zoom, hosted by TV presenter and BMC Ambassador Mary-Ann Ochota, for walkers to brush up on their skills, focusing on navigation, emergencies, multi-day adventures and caring for the environment.

In Autumn, we partnered with YHA to deliver its Festival of Walking, creating a programme of free, supported and safe-space walks from YHA locations all over the country, and to support the festival we published an updated version (in English and Welsh) of our guide for new hill walkers, Into The Hills, a 44-page booklet highlighting essential skills for those who are relatively or completely new to hill walking.

After a two year break due to the Covid-19 pandemic the Conville Courses returned, furnishing young people with the essential skills needed to play safely in the mountains through courses in the Alps and the UK, subsidised by the Jonathan Conville Memorial Trust and administered by the BMC.

To support mountaineers in undertaking expeditions with significant and innovative ascents as their main objective, we awarded a total of £10,975 to 15 expeditions to Greenland, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, India, Nepal, and Pakistan. We also

awarded a total of £1,200 to four applications to the Julie Tullis Memorial Award. The award, administered by the BMC, assists deserving female mountaineers or any disabled climbers or mountaineers, both male and female, in achieving their climbing or mountaineering ambitions. Supported by clothing and equipment manufacturer Montane, London and Leeds hosted the annual Make Winter Count series of winter hill skills evenings, and a further evening was hosted on Zoom.

The annual Student Safety and Good Practice Seminar returned to its regular venue at Plas y Brenin, the National Outdoor Centre in Capel Curig, following a change in 2021 when it ran as a day of webinar workshops and a day of practical workshops in various locations in England and Wales.

During 2022, we continued to deliver free webinars designed for the officers, leaders and volunteers within affiliated clubs, with a mix of lectures, training sessions, workshops and Q&A sessions.

Our Incident and Near Miss Reporting scheme continues to receive reports from which our members and the community can draw lessons and influence their decision making when partaking in our activities.

Organisational Development and Sector Leadership

We act as a focus point for climbers, hill walkers and mountaineers, representing members' views to government across England and Wales, and promoting the ethics and values of British climbing, hill walking and mountaineering.

Although the BMC is an apolitical organisation and believes that sport and politics should remain separate, in the wake of Russia's unprovoked attack on Ukraine in February, a clear violation of international law and the UN Charter, we chose to issue letters to the three international federations of which the BMC is a member: the UIAA (International Climbing & Mountaineering Federation); the IFSC (International Sport Climbing Federation) and; the ISMF (International Ski Mountaineering Federation); calling on them to stand united with the people of Ukraine, and asking them to take specific actions to exclude Russian and Belarussian participation in their events and meetings. We also created a website to allow our members to register as potential hosts for guests from the Ukrainian national climbing federation community, whose details were provided by the federation and uploaded onto this website.

In May, we received confirmation that our funding bid with Sport England had been successful, providing us with expertise, support and investment of government and National Lottery funding to co-deliver the ambitions of Sport England's 10-year Uniting the Movement strategy. We will work in collaborative partnership with the Association of British Climbing Walls, Mountain Training UK & Ireland, Mountain Training England, and the National Indoor Climbing Award Schemes, using our shared knowledge, leadership and position of influence to create the right conditions for participation in our activities by all members of society – establishing a truly inclusive community of participants.

In October, we joined 13 other outdoor organisations in calling on the Prime Minister and the Defra Secretary of State to state their priorities for access to the outdoors. In a letter sent to the PM, we outlined plans for how the outdoors could be made more accessible to more people, and called for a clear, ambitious, long-term national strategic plan for outdoor recreation. The government's plans to transition from the EU's Common Agricultural Policy to Environmental Land Management schemes were closely monitored, and the BMC has lobbied hard, backed by Ministerial support during earlier debates, for



public access to be included as part of the measures for which farmers could receive payments.

In Wales, we represented the voices of climbers, hill walkers and mountaineers in a number of key areas, from the proposed tourism levy, to pushing for access reform, to the potential for the statutory registration of holiday accommodation. We helped secure the promotion of public access to land as a key part of one of the four objectives of the Agriculture (Wales) Bill, one of the most important pieces of legislation to pass through the Senedd, for access and for the environment. We secured a major BMC Cymru manifesto target of a review of the economic contribution of the Outdoor Sector in Wales, and supported a new private members bill to ensure a statutory right for all children in Wales to residential outdoor education opportunities.

During the year, we significantly increased the profile of the BMC in Wales as a policy operator, maintaining a presence at major consultations and political events including party

conferences. We continued to develop professional relationships with partners including Ramblers Cymru, Urdd Gobaith Cymru (a national voluntary youth organisation), the Institute of Welsh Affairs, the national parks, the Outdoor Partnership, and the Alliance for Welsh Designated Landscapes. We also made progress on the development of a Welsh Language Policy, and increased the bilingual output and resourcing of the BMC, moving closer to recognition by the Welsh Language Commissioner.

We have continued to send a representative to the two major mountaineering equipment standards bodies; CEN and the UIAA Safety Commission.



GB Climbing – Competitions, Talented Athletes and the GB Teams

GB Climbing is an internal department of the BMC, working to fulfil the BMC's role as National Governing Body for competitions, by running high-quality events for climbers and paraclimbers, managing the GB Climbing National Teams (senior, junior, paraclimbing, ice climbing, ski mountaineering) (the GB Teams), supporting talented athletes, and working in partnership with the Association of British Climbing Walls and the climbing walls sector.

Across the year we delivered our biggest ever domestic competition events programme, including the All Nation Series, National Championships, Youth Climbing Series and National Trials. The Youth Climbing Series brought together nearly 1,000 young climbers at multiple venues across Great Britain, with many getting a first taste of competition climbing. The series concluded in Swindon with over 200 competitors in the grand finale- all vying for those podium positions. Sheffield hosted the Senior British Bouldering Championships in August, and the British Lead Climbing Championships (Senior and Junior) in October; the Junior Bouldering Championships were held in London in May. The British Paraclimbing Championships comprised four rounds over the course of the year at venues around the UK.

Internationally, 24 athletes on the senior squad were able to experience international competitions; GB Teams attended five European Continental Cups, 12 World Cups, and a European Championships in Munich. Moving from junior to senior categories brings with it some distinct challenges, and five athletes were supported in the transition by competing in both junior and senior events during the year. We selected our first athletes to compete in the speed discipline. Ten paraclimbers attended two of the three World Cup events. Several athletes self-funded participation in the Ice Climbing World Cup and World Championships events, achieving our best-ever results. The GB Teams ended the year, ranked 5th overall in the World Rankings for Paraclimbing, 6th overall in Boulder, 9th overall in Lead, giving a final table position of 11th for 2022.

In April, we ran the first ever GB Climbing Coaches Conference, over two days in Leeds, bringing together active coaches in the UK indoor climbing community to explore the coaching landscape and cover key topics from each of the six elements of GB Climbing's new Coach Development Framework aimed at supporting a holistic and athlete-centred coaching practice.

In August, Paul Ratcliffe was appointed as the new Chair of the Competition Climbing Performance Group (CCPG), which is a committee of the BMC Board of Directors with the responsibility

for the strategic and operational oversight of GB Climbing. Paul brings with him vast experience of elite sport as an Olympic Medallist, Performance Director and Head Coach.

In September, in partnership with Event Scotland, Edinburgh City Council and Mountaineering Scotland, we hosted a round of the IFSC World Cup Series at the Edinburgh International Climbing Arena; this event had been scheduled to take place in Wujiang, China, but was cancelled in May due to ongoing concerns over the COVID-19 pandemic in the country. In less than ten weeks, we managed to plan and execute a very successful, major international sporting event.

Our Vision

To create a better future for climbers, hill walkers and mountaineers.

Our Purpose

To represent the interests of climbers, hill walkers and mountaineers and inspire all generations.

Our Values

Community: We are the voice for our diverse community of climbers, hill walkers and mountaineers.

Adventure: We believe in the freedom to challenge ourselves, taking personal responsibility for the risks.

Sustainability: We protect our crags and mountains, campaign for improved access and promote environmental sustainability.

Aspiration: We help people improve their skills, confidence and achieve personal ambitions.

Respect: We celebrate the rich variety of British climbing, hill walking and mountaineering; we build inclusive relationships and respect each other.

Our 2020–2024 Mission

We will link the work of all our staff, volunteers, clubs, and partners, to campaign effectively and increase engagement, becoming a stronger voice for climbers, hill walkers and mountaineers.



British Mountaineering Council

The Old Church
177-179 Burton Road
West Didsbury
Manchester
M20 2BB
UK

Tel: 0161 445 6111

Email: office@thebmc.co.uk

Company no. 02874177