



British Mountaineering Council: Applications for election as President

177-179 Burton Road
Manchester M20 2BB
www.thebmc.co.uk

Tel: 0161 445 6111
twitter.com/Team_BMC
e-mail: agm@thebmc.co.uk

Company:	British Mountaineering Council
Position:	President, also a director on the BMC Board of Directors (the Board)
Tenure:	A 3-year term
Remuneration:	Voluntary position; travel and accommodation expenses only
Reporting to:	BMC Membership
Location:	Nationwide
Commencement	16 May 2021 at the Council meeting

The BMC is now inviting applications from its membership for candidates to be presented to the members at this year's AGM for election as President. Must be a voting member of the BMC for at least 12 months at the time of appointment. 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 / Board and encourages applications from under-represented groups. The BMC cannot function without volunteers and the commitment from members is recognised with 20% discount at Cotswold Outdoor, other beneficial deals, and invitations to social events.

Overview and Purpose

The President is the members' champion. Their role is to act as a conduit and sounding board for the membership and ensure the views of individuals and clubs are fed into the BMC's strategic planning and policy-making processes, and the day-to-day operations. The President develops consensus, promotes transparency, inclusivity, open debate and mutual understanding across the BMC. The President chairs important committees, most notably the National Council, and working groups and plays a key role in resolving conflicts. S/he is a practitioner, enthusiast and strong advocate for climbing, hill walking and mountaineering and the benefits they offer.

The President is an ex-officio director of the BMC; sits on the Board and alongside the Council Nominated Directors has a key role in ensuring that the Board operates in accordance with the wishes and priorities of the membership. The President works in partnership with the Chair of the board to ensure the smooth running and good reputation of the BMC. The responsibilities of the President, which are in addition to those of being a Director, are set out below.

Context

This background has been prepared at the request of the National Council (NC) to set out some considerations that members and prospective candidates may wish to take into account. The current Presidents' Role Description, which remains the same, is incorporated in this document. Reference should be made to the responsibility matrix on the BMC website which can be found on [this page](#).



The role of the President, in normal times varies very little with skills and competencies advancing progressively from one year to the next. However, this year is exceptional with the introduction of the new Members' Council, if approved at the 2021 AGM, and the newly energised Specialist Committees. In addition, the NC are reviewing the role of the President during 2021, which may lead to a substantial change in the expectations of skills and competencies of a future President.

The establishment of the Members' Council (MC) will be a key milestone that will have a significant effect on how it manages its workload and its membership. With its implementation there will be a wide range of newly elected and appointed Councillors (see invitations on BMC website [here](#)) to better represent the membership and help deliver the BMC Strategic Vision for climbing, hill walking and mountaineering. The MC will be well placed to add significantly to the success of the BMC, but it will rely greatly on the leadership and relationship building ability of the President to facilitate these changes, to lead the membership and adopt a collaborative approach with staff, our wider volunteer base and the Board. An ability to communicate internally and externally in all the ways that are crucial for a membership organisation is essential.

As a result of the changes explored above it is reasonable to assume that the role of the President will develop noticeably over the coming year. In addition, the NC has asked a Task & Finish group to look at the President's role more generally to consider whether the current Presidential role description provides the best option for the changing demands. The success of the BMC is very dependent on the abilities of the President; if the role of the President changes significantly, the Board and the MC will invite the successful applicant to consider if their skills are truly aligned to the role description in preparation for the 2022 AGM. The President would then have a choice of continuing to complete their term under the role description or to stand down to allow the election of a new candidate.

Voluntary Requirements

The full extent of the commitment is very much up to the individual and closely aligned to their skills and experience. The candidate's understanding of how membership organisations work combined with broader experience is essential to the innovative delivery of the BMC vision.

However, most fundamentally the scale of the role will depend on the President's ability to collaborate with and involve the many volunteers, who are enthusiasts and come with a wide range of abilities and experience.

There is a base load, of around one day per week once the Board and the Council revert to the normal post virus routine. In the short term there is likely to be a higher requirement.



Responsibilities

In addition to the responsibilities of the President as a Director of the BMC, it is the responsibility of the President to:

- As agreed at the AGM act as the chair of National Council; to lead the restructuring of National Council in accordance with relevant ORG recommendations, the constitutional changes agreed at the 2018 and 2019 AGMs and the desires of the membership.
- Stimulate an effective and inclusive National Council which is representative of the demographic and interests of the membership; to support new and existing members in their understanding of the role of National Council representatives.
- Ensure National Council contributes to key organisational decisions and policy development in accordance with the Reserved Matters set out in the Articles of Association; to work with the Chair to agree and promote a Memorandum of Understanding between National Council and the Board.
- Chair General Meetings and AGMs of the BMC in a fair, inclusive and transparent manner; to work closely with the Chair and CEO to ensure General Meetings and AGMs are conducted in accordance with the technical and legal requirements of the Articles of Association.
- Support and promote the dual roles of President and Chair; to work in partnership with the Chair for the greater good of the BMC; to ensure the Chair and the Board are kept well-informed about the views and desires of members.
- Build consensus with the Chair, the Board and key stakeholders; to work with the Board to develop strategic aims and ensure members' views are fully taken into account in the BMC's decision making processes.
- Be a member of the Nominations Committee providing scrutiny and insight to ensure any potential new directors are suitably experienced and knowledgeable and will have credibility across the membership.
- Be a public face of the BMC across the membership, attending and supporting relevant activities and events (including Area meetings, seminars, competitions and international meets), seeking views, responding constructively to queries and being a public advocate for the organisation.
- Chair ad hoc sub-committees and sub-groups as appropriate.



The 2021 BMC AGM will be virtual as a result of Covid-19 so all voting will take place electronically. Consequently, any written and audio material will be provided in advance to the members as noted below.

The closing date for this application is 5pm on the 30 March 2021. To apply, please:

- 1) Write a 500-word statement about your interest, relevant experience and motivation for the role by the 30 March.
- 2) Complete the President Nomination Form. Two BMC voting members are required to support your application. This is found at www.thebmc.co.uk/agm-volunteers.
- 3) Attach both the statement and completed Nomination Form to a covering email and send 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 the role, please also contact agm@thebmc.co.uk with your query.

Additional information by 19 April

- 4) Provide a brief up-to-date CV with details of two referees relating to the director role on the Board, this is to assist with due diligence. The support of two BMC voting members who propose and second your 30 March application do not have to be the two referees noted here. The intention is to give the applicant time to organise the referees and subsequently allow the BMC to review suitability as a director.
- 5) Audio Presentation. 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). Further details will be provided after 30 March 2021.

Submission and notification of documents and audio to the Membership by the 29 April

- The 500-word statement will be uploaded to the BMC website
- Audio recording will be uploaded to the BMC website
- Advertisements on the BMC Facebook page, twitter feed and other relevant social media to ensure widest possible outreach to members ahead of voting at the AGM.

All applicants who meet the criteria will be presented to the BMC Members for election at the AGM on the 15 May