

British Mountaineering Council: Nationally Elected Councillor for Mountaineering

My name is Aaron Tregellis Hodgson, and I am passionate about the interests of mountaineers and mountaineering in the UK and abroad. I am an active climber, fell runner, and hill walker with a passion for the outdoors and an awareness of the current issues facing mountaineering both in the UK and abroad. I am a keen Scottish winter mountaineer, an average ski mountaineer, and undertake regular (pre- and hopefully soon post-COVID) trips to the Alps and Himalaya.

In my day job I work as a Digital Merchandiser and also run the Social Media Accounts for Tiso, an outdoor retailer based in Scotland. On a daily basis I use different communication platforms, including social media, to contact members of the public, colleagues, and relevant stakeholders to build inclusive relationships.

In my role running the Social Media channels for Tiso I have tried to instil a sense of community. I have worked closely with groups such as Iona's Adventures, a Scottish-based hill walking group on Facebook with over 4,000 members that encourages people to get into the outdoors and promotes the positive impact the outdoors has on our physical and mental wellbeing.

I have also recently started volunteering with Urban Uprising, a charity that uses rock climbing to improve the physical, social, and emotional wellbeing of young people from disadvantaged backgrounds. Urban Uprising gives young people the chance to experience the transformational personal change that climbing can bring.

In whatever I do I try to be an advocate for the outdoor community, showing that there is a place for everyone in the mountains no matter your experience, ethnicity, gender, or sexual orientation. We have a lot more in common than divides us, and I see the BMC as an organization to bring people together, working towards the common goal of creating a better future for climbers, hill walkers, and mountaineers.

During the pandemic I have had time to reflect on the values that are most important to me. I want to ensure that BMC members have a voice, that their views are heard. I see that as perhaps the most important part of this role. The BMC belongs to all of us, and I want to be a strong voice and champion for mountaineers in the BMC; to ensure your voice is heard on issues such as climate change, path erosion, protecting mountain crags, campaigning for improved access, and improving diversity and making the BMC more representative of the UK mountaineering community. This role would give me the chance to give something back, and it is for this reason that I would like to become the Nationally Elected Councillor for Mountaineering. Thank you for considering me.