

## **DAVID MATTHEWS – APPLICATION FOR NOMINATED DIRECTOR TO THE BMC BOARD**

My name is David Matthews, and I am applying for the role of Nominated Director to the BMC Board. I aim to bring to the team skills from across challenging environments, coupled with a life-long passion for the outdoors and a strong background in voluntary leadership and training.

I have 40 years hill walking, climbing and mountaineering experience and, for the last 10 years, have facilitated young people to enjoy their own wild country experience, through leading and expanding a successful Duke of Edinburgh's Open Award Centre. In parallel, for over 35 years in the Royal Navy I have majored on developing individuals, teams and organisations for the challenges of the underwater environment, reaching a senior leadership position in submarine support. In each of these areas I have fostered an approach and ethos of aspiration and challenge; remote adventure and extended self-reliance; and collaboration based on teamwork and mutual respect.

Finishing full time employment, I am keen to devote my time to combining my twin passions – enabling people to get the best out of themselves in the hills and mountains, and leading and developing organisations to promote and support adventurous endeavours. I am acutely aware of the well-being benefits of outdoor activity, the accompanying responsibility for environmental impact, and the need to pass on skills so more people have the confidence to access less popular areas. At a time of expanding participation in hill walking, climbing and mountaineering, I am ready and able to play a leading role in the National body; championing access, skills and the value of membership to enable people from all backgrounds to safely and responsibly have their best experience.

I can bring broad strategic leadership and specific experience in training and development to the BMC Board. I have played a strategic leadership role in some of the UK's most complex long-term engineering programmes, and will contribute an independent, forward thinking and proactive perspective. I have a strong track record in delivery, successfully leading major programmes and large teams, and I am able to help evolve organisations for overall future success. I have regularly worked at senior Board level and have extensive experience of all Board functions, passing the Institute of Director's Certificate in Company Direction with Distinction.

I have significant training experience, having been responsible for my profession's standards and development, leading a training organisation and training submarine crews at sea from basic safety to operational excellence. As a qualified Mountain Leader, I have experienced UK Mountain Training and enabled young people to be self-sufficient in the mountains. Coupled with experience in establishing collaborative communities and partnerships and learning across sectors, I would be well placed to build productive relationships across mountain training and membership organisations.

Overall, I am an optimistic team player focused on collaborative working and setting supportive but challenging conditions for everyone to contribute, aspire and flourish; the result being greater than any individual achievement, be it in the mountains, at sea, through voluntary work or in the office.