

Hi my name is Martyn Hurn and I want to represent you as a Nominated Director at the BMC.

First let me give you a quick precis of my life so far. I have been a passionate climber, mountaineer and general outdoor enthusiast from the age of 14, so much so that I have been actively involved in the outdoors for my whole working life. The first half of my career was in Education as an outdoor instructor culminating in a position at Plas-Y-Brenin. The second half of my career was in the outdoor trade with positions of responsibility in marketing and product development. I retired as Head of Product Design and Development at Lowe Alpine four years ago. Having now worked through the newfound freedoms that retirement brings I find myself wanting to give something back, hence my application for this position.

As an extension to my early career in Education I wrote several instructional books including the first book about training for climbing, Climbing Fit (co-authored with Pat Ingles) for which, by the way, I received a lot of flak. Very few people admitted to training back then – how things have changed! My last publication, in 2002, was an interactive CD Rom entitled “The Art of Outdoor Navigation”. My aim has always been to help people become more proficient, skilled and better equipped so they could feel more confident in their outdoor adventures. I believe my combined work experiences could bring a useful perspective to the BMC and to you, its members. Additionally, my enthusiasm for climbing, mountaineering and hill walking remains undiminished.

I have always believed in encouraging people into the outdoors even though I frequently seek solitude on a personal level. However, post lockdown last year led to enormous pressure being exerted on the environment and the rescue services by the large number of newcomers to our wild areas. The mix of people in the fells of the Lake District, where I live, was broader last summer than it has ever been but sadly many were poorly informed about how to behave both safely and in tune with the environment. Some will return to their old holidaying habits post pandemic but others having discovered the beauty of the hills will continue to visit them. I believe the BMC, alongside other key organisations, has a role to play in nurturing this enthusiasm and directing it in a safe and sustainable way whilst still supporting you, the existing membership. I want to contribute to that movement working with all the stakeholders.

This is just one area of contention we have to deal with, I expand on others in more detail in my video, which I urge you to watch.

I am a pragmatist, and I like to listen to all sides of an argument before formulating an opinion. I believe in diversity both of activity and of culture, and I am an advocate for collaboration between the various bodies that can help preserve the environment we all love.