

President Election Statement

Andy Syme

Proposer: Dave Musgrove (Past President); Seconded by: Jon Punshon

I have been a mountaineer for over 40 years. Starting with hill walking with my family in the Peak District, I fell in love with climbing in my early teens; had my first alpine season at 16 and have climbed all over the UK and in the Himalayas, Greenland, the USA, Africa and Europe. Now I mainly boulder, indoor and out, and trad climb in the UK, reserving my foreign trips for ice climbing in Europe. A member of the BMC since my 20s, I joined the National Council through my local area in 2017. I was heavily involved in developing and explaining the changes to the Articles in 2018 and have been Deputy President since 2019; leading the Council work in supporting the Board after the Director resignations last year.

I am passionate about the benefits the BMC provides and as President I would want to ensure that this continues and improves. Whatever we do should positively address at least one of the following criteria: Does it benefit current members? Does it promote membership in the wider mountaineering community? Does it strengthen our impact in meeting our objectives?

If elected my priorities would be:

1. **Completing the governance changes members voted for in 2018.** As recognized by the Organisational Review Group in 2017 and 2018 the BMC needed to improve its governance. This work is close to completion and I have the skills and experience to help move this quickly and smoothly to becoming 'something we just do' not something we (endlessly) talk about.
2. **Promoting the Value of the BMC.** The BMC volunteers and staff provide many great services to our members and mountaineers more generally; I want the BMC to highlight and celebrate this amazing work.
3. **Providing Value to our Members.** In these difficult times current and potential members need to be assured that a BMC membership is a cost worth paying. The BMC needs to ensure we use member's money wisely and focus our efforts on delivering what matters to members both individually and for the benefit of the wider community of mountaineers.
4. **Strengthening the BMCs Voice.** Given our ethos, we should be an organisation that mountaineers want to join and remain part of. It is only through a vibrant and active membership, which clearly represents a significant proportion of mountaineering community, that we can strengthen our voice and thus conserve, and protect access to, the mountains, hills and crags.
5. **Communicating with our Members.** We have not always communicated as well with our members as I believe we should. We need to ensure we communicate in a timely fashion, that communication is clear and simple; less management speak; and as open and transparent as is possible while appropriately protecting individual's privacy and the BMC's reputation.

The BMC must remain a key voice of all mountaineers; listening and representing to our members across the spectrum of activities and supporting them in their enjoyment of climbing, hillwalking and mountaineering wherever they chose to participate.