

British Mountaineering Council: Volunteer Role description

Nationally Elected Councillor for Indoor Climbers

Are you passionate about the interests of indoor climbers? Do you want to volunteer for the BMC to share your knowledge and experience whilst working with some great people?

The BMC is looking for a volunteer with energy, commitment and great communication skills to be the new Nationally Elected Councillor for Indoor Climbing. This is an exciting time for the BMC as it seeks to expand the voice of its members throughout the organisation and this role offers the chance to give something back and be at the forefront of improving grassroots representation.

You would sit on the Members' Council (the Council) and help the Council to deliver its objectives. You would have specific responsibility to provide a national focus for the interests of BMC members who are indoor climbers, to complement the more local focus of Area Representatives. This position was created in 2021 and the successful applicant will need to spend an initial period working with other experienced Councillors and liaising with the BMC Office to further define and execute the role. It is expected that you would have to make extensive use of social media and virtual meetings for these interactions, and experience in these areas is essential.

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 and encourages applications from under-represented groups. The BMC cannot function without volunteers and the commitment from Council members is recognised with 20% discount at Cotswold, other beneficial deals, and invitations to social events.

- **Start Date:** 19th May 2022
- **Tenure:** Three years, with the possibility of a further three years.
- **Volunteer Commitment:** It is recognised that many volunteers have limited free time and the full extent of the commitment is up to the individual volunteer. As a minimum they should make every effort to:
 - Attend Council meetings: There are four main meetings per year, usually on a Saturday, which last all day. As a general rule two of these meetings are virtual and two in person. Each main meeting has two additional virtual sub-meetings to plan and discuss progress. Each meeting lasts two hours and is usually on a Tuesday evening. There may occasionally be additional virtual meetings for example where an agenda item needs a more in-depth discussion, or for any urgent issues that occur in between meetings.
 - Engage face to face with indoor climbers at least once a quarter
 - Keep abreast of regular electronic communications and paperwork, and social media as appropriate
 - Liaise with relevant Specialist Committees / staff / other key parties as required to carry out the role.

As with many volunteer roles, there is always the opportunity to get further involved. For example, Councillors may also take on extra responsibilities such as membership of one of the Specialist Committees or ad hoc task and finish groups, or becoming a Council representative on the Board of Directors.

- **Requirements:** Must be a voting member of the BMC of at least 12 months' standing at the time of appointment
- **Closing date: Friday 1st April 2022**

Background

Up until the 2021 AGM, Members' views were represented at National and Board level via the National Council. Councillors included representatives and observers from different BMC areas, specialist committees, staff and partner organisations. Whilst effective in many areas, the structure did not allow all members an equal voice. In 2021, the BMC restructured the National Council into the Members' Council, a body with over 40 Councillors and six new roles to ensure that the views of specific groups of members would be better represented. The new roles comprise: two Constituency Councillors, one to represent members of BMC affiliated clubs and the other for BMC members who are enrolled in Mountain Training; four Nationally Elected Councillors (NEC), with one each to represent members participating in the core activities of rock climbing, mountaineering, hill walking and indoor climbing.

Role description

All Councillors are first and foremost members of Council and are expected to work collectively to achieve the Council's objectives, in line with and in support of the BMC's strategy. The general responsibilities to achieve this are given in, 'A Brief Introduction to the BMC Members' Council'. The successful candidate will spend the first year in office working with other experienced Council members and BMC staff to develop this new role from a concept into a fully functional position. After development, it is expected that the NEC for indoor climbers will have the following specific responsibilities:

- Be a strong voice and champion for indoor climbers in the BMC, from new participants through regular recreational indoor climbers, to competitive climbers at local and national level
- Engage with BMC indoor climbing members to promote the role and encourage dialogue. This includes:
 - Reaching out to members, either individuals or clubs (both traditional and virtual), via social media
 - Attending selected indoor climbing events, competitions, and local area meetings/events
 - Liaising with the BMC Marketing Communications team to utilise their expertise e.g. with surveys and questionnaires, to help understand and engage with members
- Work with the other NECs and Constituency Councillors, directors and BMC staff to help Council in decisions on how to improve membership engagement nationally
- In consultation with Council, liaise regularly with the appropriate BMC specialist committees to share knowledge of current indoor climbing issues
- Liaise with the local area representatives (e.g. Area Youth Coordinators, Climbing Wall reps) to understand regional issues for indoor climbers
- Work with like-minded Councillors to arrange an annual Members' Council event focused on indoor climbing
- Liaise with BMC office to support the development of quality indoor climbing output within the wider BMC media
- Collaborate with the Partners Assembly / BMC office as required in their work with key indoor climbing partners
- Engage with the wider indoor climbing community to understand their views and concerns, and to promote the BMC to potential new members

Skills & personal qualities

- Creative individual prepared to experiment, discover and learn from experience in order to both develop this role and facilitate wider improvement in the BMC's interactions with members
- Active indoor climber with an awareness of current issues facing indoor climbing in the UK
- Ideally with experience of, or able to demonstrate understanding of, acting as an advocate for groups or organisations

- Experience in the use of different communication platforms, including social media
- Team player with the ability to network & engage effectively with people from a wide variety of backgrounds.

Appointment

This is an elected position, voted for by the BMC membership. Election and appointment of the successful candidate will be at the AGM on Wednesday 18th May 2022 and will officially start their role on 19th May 2022.

To apply, please:

- 1) Write a 500-word statement about your interest, relevant experience and motivation for the role
- 2) Complete the appropriate Nomination Form for the volunteer role you wish to apply for.
- 3) Attach both the statement and completed Nomination Form to a covering email and email 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.

Audio presentation

Since the 2022 BMC AGM will be virtual as a result of Covid-19, all voting will take place electronically. 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, though may be shorter depending on the number of applicants). Further details will be provided after 1st April 2022.

The audio recording and your 500-word statement will be uploaded to the BMC website by 29th April. It will also be advertised on the BMC FaceBook page, Twitter feed and other relevant social media to ensure the widest possible reach to BMC members ahead of voting at the AGM.

Selection will be by election at the BMC AGM on the evening of Wednesday 18th May 2022, which will be held online.

Closing date is Friday 1st April 2022