

BMC President - Dominic Oughton

I believe I have the experience and skills to represent the interests of ALL BMC members; gained as a climber and mountaineer myself, as a volunteer, and in the boardrooms of major companies.

I was introduced to climbing forty years ago by my (now) wife. It changed my life, and I'm passionate about helping others find their own way into this magical world of the outdoors. Eight routes on El Cap stick in the mind, but Gogarth, Cloggy and Hobson Moor Quarry are also in my personal 'Top Five'. I've ticked several North Faces, completed the Bob Graham Round, and climbed on four continents, but returning home always reminds me of the precious and unique resource we share in this country and the vital role of the BMC in protecting and securing access to it. You can follow my adventures at www.rockaroundtheworld.co.uk

I have been a BMC volunteer for fifteen years, including nine as a Trustee of the Access and Conservation Trust (delivering Mend Our Mountains) and four on Clubs Committee and NW Area (leading on Find Your Adventure). Having been part of these hugely successful programs, I've seen what can be achieved when volunteers and BMC staff and leadership work closely together. I have a deep understanding of the BMC from the grassroots perspective, but I would be a newbie on Members Council.

My role as a Trustee of Climbers Against Cancer has been another opportunity to engage with the global climbing community and gives me more inspiration for how we can work together to achieve amazing things. I've also rediscovered local climbing comps (mostly flogging T-shirts!) – such a vibrant part of our sport. It reminds me of long hours driving to Ratho as Dad's Cabs for my son in his competition career.

I'm a member and past President of The Rucksack Club, and appreciate the crucial role played by Clubs in the climbing and hillwalking communities. Eighty years ago, the country's mountaineering clubs founded the BMC, and both now need to evolve to meet the changing needs and demographic of the communities they serve. Working in partnership is surely the best way to achieve this.

Alongside my climbing interests, I've been MD/CEO of businesses up to £50m turnover, often in turnaround situations. More recently I've worked with IfM Engage, part of Cambridge University, to help governments and companies develop strategy, and support organisations to innovate collaboratively. For me, leadership is about bringing together all stakeholders to develop shared visions and empowering those closest to the 'action' to deliver.

Key attributes in The President's job description include advocacy for all, developing consensus and transparency, and working in partnership, and I have demonstrated these 'On the Hill', volunteering, and in business. Although climbing often takes me to far-flung locations, I will be available, visible and engaged, whether in-the-room or on Zoom. I have the energy and enthusiasm to make a difference, and care passionately about the BMC and its membership, including the new members we need to reach out to. Together we can preserve our unique natural resources and heritage, as access to the outdoors and the growing popularity of our sport makes these increasingly vital.

Independent Director - Hanne Doherty

Thank you for considering my application for the Independent Director role within the British mountaineering council.

I detail below my experience within the media and marketing landscape, but I wanted to first address why I would love to work with the BMC, and what makes me excited to take on the position within your organisation.

I'm a very keen hiker, an enthusiastic climber (who never thinks about her footwork) and a nervous mountaineer, so I have a number of touchpoints with the areas that fall under the BMC's scope of responsibility, and understand the unique challenges these sports have in terms of management and would love to support the BMC as they continue to develop and deliver world class trails, crags, training and support to the British mountaineering community.

I love being out in nature, preferably around mountains and I believe that everyone should have access to the outside, however that looks like. The BMC is in such a unique position because its remit doesn't just function as a governing body that looks after elite athletes, but also covers areas and activities that are accessible simply with the right pair of shoes, and in the British weather, possibly some good waterproofs.

I am currently based in Austria, so it's not too hard to get out on a regular basis to scratch the itch to be in the fresh air. However, being here, and finding that most information on crags, trails and learning courses aren't provided in English has made me realise how important it is to have a regulatory body who can support the management of its natural resources but also give people the tools to enjoy them and how much the work it does is taken for granted. I want more people to find their corner of enjoying the world we live in, but also giving people the tools and understanding to protect that resource, and engaging with organisations like the BMC to do so.

As for my marketing and media experience, I have been working for just under 15 years in the media, spanning traditional broadcast, print media, digital media and marketing.

In my current role I am the athletes and media manager for Faction Skis working with some of the world's best freeskiers and mountaineers, ensuring they have what they need, as well as working to tell that story alongside global partners and directly to our fans.

Prior to that I was an executive producer at Red Bull Media House, working to deliver snowsports, action and adventure content for their broad range of channels and finding ways to develop and grow their existing audience as well as making that sport-specific content appealing to a broader demographic.

In terms of the elite side of the BMC and GB climbing, I understand the demands and pressure that comes with operating within the Olympic cycle, but also that these kind of events provide a shop window to our sport, and how to manage and celebrate those moments accordingly, using them as a springboard for greater participation at the grassroots of the sport.

Organisations like the BMC are built around the members at the bottom of the pyramid, who are out in nature every week, inspiring others and finding as much joy in teaching a young climber basic knots as they do in leading a complex climbing route. I would love to help the BMC to continue building a brilliant community that supports people in the hills and mountains both in Britain and elsewhere.

NEC Rock Climbing – Steve Clark

I am applying for a second term in this important role on Council, representing all BMC members who are rock climbers and the wider rock climbing community, following a previous AGM election in 2021. Obviously, I meet the criteria in the volunteer role specification.

In the last three years I have attended the vast majority of Council meetings, all AGMs, ran and assisted in Council Vision Events, been a member of several important Council working groups, attended numerous other events and festivals: all in support of the BMC and my rock climbing constituency. I have also promoted the good work and benefits of the BMC online, whilst honestly recognising things which could have been handled better (and worked towards improvements in that on Council, as part of a majority acting as critical friends to the Board on the Financial, Communication, and other challenges of the last few years). I have excellent ongoing working relationships with a large number of BMC volunteers and staff and representatives of partner organisations.

I am a strong supporter of the Nationally Elected Councillor (NEC) roles. My NEC role is currently my main area of volunteering, as a retired academic, so I am willing and able to undertake these duties with enthusiasm and time to spare. As well as the main duties, I believe the NEC roles also help represent those who live outside England or Wales (so have no Local Area representation), as well as those who cannot engage with Local Area meetings, or just members who want more focused input/debate in a particular NEC area. The four NECs have worked incredibly closely for the last three years with a very positive outlook for change, especially on diversity, to benefit members and prospective members: our combined proposed development I look forward to most is an NEC Open Forum across our areas of responsibility, away from governance debate.

My initial BMC background, as a rather obsessive climber, was 15 years as a volunteer officer in a BMC affiliated Student Club, dealing with equipment and safety issues with a too often unsympathetic Student Union, with occasional vital help from the BMC. That overlapped with 20 years of guidebook work, including co-editor of the definitive BMC Froggatt guidebook. I've been a BMC Peak Area regular for nearly 30 years and have visited Area meetings in more than half of the other local areas. I have extensive professional experience in senior governance and quality, and other senior committee roles, including volunteer elected representation at national level.

Over my 30 years involvement I have gained extensive knowledge of the BMC, increasingly impressed by the huge volume, range and quality of work, especially on the access front, carried out by a small team of highly dedicated staff and thousands of volunteers.

The mountains, crags and sea cliffs are where I feel most at home and alive: the BMC helps ensure future generations can enjoy these wonderful places, as we do now, and I want to help in that work.

NEC Mountaineering – Agustín Guardiola

I'm Agustín Guardiola (also known as AJ within climbing circles) and I live in Manchester where I'm currently serving as the Chair of the BMC North West area. With a background in hillwalking, climbing, and mountaineering I bring extensive experience and passion to the role of Nationally Elected Councillor for Mountaineering.

As a mountaineer at heart, I thrive on big mountain days—whether scrambling, on long trad mountain routes, alpine mountaineering, ski touring, or winter climbing—and I love sharing these experiences with others.

My motivation for this role comes from a desire to give back to the community that has given me so much. I'm eager to contribute my knowledge, skills, and energy to the BMC, working alongside like-minded individuals to enhance grassroots representation and promote the interests of mountaineers nationwide. Here are some key initiatives I'm passionate about:

1. Engagement with members
 - a. I am passionate about fostering dialogue with BMC members and non-members alike, ensuring their perspectives and concerns shape BMC initiatives and policies.
2. Engagement across BMC
 - a. I am committed to collaborating with all facets of the BMC, leveraging my experience as a BMC volunteer in various roles to ensure we are working together towards shared goals.
3. Act as an advocate and critical friend to the Board:
 - a. As a Councillor I will ensure members' views are heard by the Board, and help guide the BMC strategy and vision.
4. Outreach
 - a. I will actively engage in outreach efforts to broaden the BMC's reach and impact, particularly targeting underrepresented communities and lowering participation barriers.
 - b. I'm excited about the opportunity to promote the BMC to potential new members and broaden the representation of the UK mountaineering community.

I believe my identity as a young queer person brings a valuable perspective to the Member's Council, enhancing diversity and representation within the BMC.

I have a proven track record of engaging with diverse audiences through various communication platforms, including social media. I will listen to every voice and champion inclusivity within the mountaineering world, thereby enriching the BMC's efforts to engage with a broader, more diverse audience.

My experience in roles as North West area Chair and organiser of ClimbOut (<https://climbout.org/>) the UK's first queer climbing festival organised as a BMC event, has honed my ability to liaise effectively with the BMC Office and stakeholders.

As a team player with strong networking skills, I'll be able to collaborate fellow councillors, BMC staff, and volunteers to drive positive change within the organisation and contribute to the development of the BMC's strategy and policies.

My background as a Summer Mountain Leader and Mountaineering and Climbing Instructor trainee, has given me an insight into the Mountain Training pathways, as well as opportunities to work with Mountain Training stakeholders to increase diversity across the awards.

In summary, I believe my blend of enthusiasm, experience, and commitment to inclusivity makes me well-suited for the role of Nationally Elected Councillor for Mountaineering.