

# Committee Officer Nominations

## **Nominee for Chair**

**Mike Phillips**

Nomination supported by: Matilda Bradford and Beau Bell

“I have been fortunate and privileged to have been chairperson for the last 2 years watching and helping the club grow into the beautiful family it is now. I feel that although there have been challenges this last year I have successfully maintained a positive Club that is continuing to improve and grow into the next year. I would love the opportunity to continue to support the club and continue to support it to grow into the next year.”

## **Nominee for Secretary**

**Julia Bradley**

Nomination supported by: Flora Miles and Noa Manton

“I’m putting myself forward as Club Secretary for two reasons. Firstly, I’ve had a fantastic time in this club where you’ve all welcomed me with open arms and made me feel like family. I’d love to be a part of that for everyone else. Secondly, I think I’d be perfect in the role. I’ve got relevant professional and personal experience, from being a personal assistant and head of a crisis committee (it’s me, hi, I’m the crisis, it’s me), to organising an LGBT conference and running my work’s gender equality network. Thank you!”

## **Nominee for Treasurer**

**Simon Aplin**

Nomination supported by: Laura Saunders and David Newman

## **Nominee for New Members’ Officer**

**Char Harrison**

Nomination supported by: Joe Spurrell and Laura Saunders

“I’d love to continue to help our club in the coming year. From supporting new members and recruiting, to arranging member’s nights and new ways for our community to bond, I am dedicated to this role. This year I have been on a social media course to learn more about how to reach members, and have built a Discord server to keep our communication accessible to all, as well as always trying my best to encourage and empower new climbers.”

## **Nominee for Training/Equipment Officer**

**K Woolley**

Nomination supported by: Matilda Bradford and Beau Bell

“I believe I would be the best person for the role due to my previous experience in the climbing industry, my passion for climbing and because I really want to help the club and members develop.”

## **Nominee for Plymouth Rep**

Note: this is a new role that the committee have agreed to create if constitutional amendment 2023-01 is approved.

**Jack Woolley**

Nomination supported by: Matilda Bradford and Flora Miles

“I’d like to stand as the club’s Plymouth Rep. I am very fond of the Plymouth branch of the club, and would love the opportunity to continue assisting with sessions as well as looking at ways to grow the community.”

## **Nominee for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Officer**

**Joe Spurrell**

Nomination supported by: Noa Manton and Char Harrison

I am a relatively new member of the LGBTQ+ climbing group, that means that I remember my first beginners night very clearly. I walked out of the Quay climbing centre in tears and I’d like to share why I think that was. I had never been so immediately accepted for who I am before. I had never had a group of people not question me on my pronouns or sexuality. I never thought I belonged to or needed a community. I realised that I had built walls around myself, as protection against expected social hostility. These walls were so quickly flattened by the shared values of the members of the club. The love and joy and acceptance for each other which is so freely expressed had a hugely profound impact upon me.

The EDI role is a great opportunity for the club to diversify further. From speaking to other members in the last few days, here are some issues and conversation points I have already identified; The overwhelming majority of the club is white and able bodied. What can we do to create an environment for queer people of colour to access climbing? What can we learn from other LGBTQ+ climbing communities to grow our diversity and inclusion? How can we support people with disabilities, chronic illnesses in the climbing gym and outdoors? How can we promote the benefits of climbing to neurodiverse individuals while creating an environment which is supportive to their needs?

As a white able bodied person with all of the privileges that affords, I am not going to write here that I have all the answers to the complex and sensitive issues raised. However, if I were to be in the EDI role my first priority would be to create a outreach to other LGBTQ+ climbing groups, the BMC and other sports groups to see how they are managing EDI challenges. I would like to investigate how we can use our platform to integrate with these other groups with the aim of developing and adapting EDI models to further our goals. Also to work out the most efficient ways that we can raise awareness of the benefits of climbing within the safety of our LGBTQ+ group with the aim of attracting intersectional individuals in our area. As I explained in my first paragraph, in three short months, this club has been life changing for me, and I believe that everyone should have the opportunity to experience the awesomeness that climbing and our community has to offer. I will be using this experience as motivation to ensure we are constantly challenging ourselves on equality, diversity and inclusion.

### **Nominee for Safeguarding Officer**

Note: this is a new role that the committee have agreed to create if constitutional amendment 2023-01 is approved.

#### **Liz Morrison**

Nomination supported by: Nolan Smyth and Amy Elgar

I write to express interest in the role of Safeguarding Officer. I am happy to be DBS checked and have worked in a number of roles where safeguarding has been paramount and I have been DBS vetted. Nolan Smyth and Amy Elgar support my application.

In roles as healthcare assistant and nursing auxiliary in Northants and Leicestershire I worked predominantly with vulnerable adults with mental health needs and palliative care patients providing personal care. As a student mental health nurse, I raised safeguarding concerns to social workers when I received a disclosure of abuse perpetrated against a patient.

In my roles as community engagement officer and conservation officer for Butterfly Conservation and Froglife respectively involved working closely with young people and volunteers, some of whom were vulnerable adults. I had to ensure sessions that I delivered were appropriately supervised and that people in my care were safeguarded at all times. I followed safeguarding policies and reported to my organisations safeguarding lead. Where incidents compromising safeguarding arose, I dealt with them swiftly and reported concerns to relevant caregivers and organisational leads.

One incident during an adult work party involved an individual with explosive anger. He was not violent but he frightened and intimidated the group of older people that regularly attended the volunteer sessions and his behaviour was unacceptable. I de-escalated him, escorted him to his home and communicated concerns to his key workers. Our group code of conduct supported me in being able to cite policy for preventing this individual from re-attending the group without an appropriate one to one support worker in future.

In my most recent employed role as an employment support worker with Pluss CIC, I supported adults with Learning Disabilities to engage in horticultural work-based training. I worked to ensure my teams safety during activities and also picked up on instances where clients were subject to abusive behaviours in their home and reported concerns through my line managers and also directly to the Plymouth Safeguarding hub.

It is my experience that sadly even the world of climbing is not free from the threat of individuals who would seek to exploit climbers in their care. I have worked closely with Helen Murphy of the BMC to seek advisement on better protecting climbers. As a parent, I am keen to see climbing opportunities expand for young people within our club but this needs a careful, robust approach to safeguarding.

I anticipate my first action in the role would be to establish who regularly provides a supervisory role within the club meets and explore the appropriateness of DBS checking for those members. The training we as a club provide on a regular basis would be deemed a regulated activity under the DBS Checks in Sport Working with Children Guidance and would be applicable where young people are in regular attendance at meets, with or without parents or persons acting in loco parentis. We would need to standardise record keeping of attendance and use safely stored loco parentis forms for events supporting young people and their families.

I have seen wonderful examples and family-friendly climbing clubs run safely and I would be proud to contribute to this vision for the LGBT Climbing Club alongside the continuing safeguarding of all members as provisioned withing the BMC's trail code of conduct for Clubs.