

insurance

safety & skills

member discounts

guide books

equipment advice

access & conservation

clubs & huts

climbing walls

competitions

ANNUAL REPORT '07



president's message // finance report // membership information // specialist reports // area reports club & associate members

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The BMC promotes the interests of climbers, hill walkers and mountaineers and the freedom to enjoy their activities. Through a democratic representative structure the BMC will:

- Negotiate access improvements and promote cliff and mountain conservation.
- Promote and advise on good practice, facilities, training and equipment.
- Support events and specialist programmes including youth and excellence.
- Provide services and information for members.



Elected Officers

- President - Dr Charles Clarke
- Vice President - Bill Renshaw
- Vice President - Pat Littlejohn OBE
- Vice President - Rab Carrington
- Hon Treasurer - Vic Odell

Executive Committee

- All Elected Officers plus
- Dave Turnbull (BMC CEO)
 - Scott Titt (National Council Representative)
 - Mike Pinder (National Council Representative)
 - Michael Hunt (Advisor)

Patrons

- Alan Blackshaw OBE
- Sir Chris Bonington CBE
- Lord Chorley
- Ian McNaught-Davis

Honorary Members

- Gordon Adshead
- Henry Folkard
- Dave Gregory
- Vin Machin
- Neville McMillan
- Geoff Milburn
- Bob Moulton
- Robert Pettigrew
- Mike Ratty
- George Steele
- Ken Wilson
- Les Ainsworth
- Dave Bishop
- John Willson

Auditors

FFT Chartered Accountants

Honorary Legal Advisors

- Paul Debney
- Stephen Porteus
- Anthony Rich
- Martin Wragg

Honorary Medical Advisors

- Dr Charles Clarke
- Dr David Hillebrandt
- Dr Jim Milledge

Headquarters

177-179 Burton Road, Manchester M20 2BB
 Tel: 0161 445 6111
 Fax: 0161 445 4500
 office@thebmc.co.uk
 www.thebmc.co.uk

Equal Opportunities Statement

The BMC encourages its members to adopt a positive approach to equal opportunities and the elimination of discrimination. The BMC values the support of all sections of the mountaineering community and welcomes the opportunity to assist all groups in its work to promote the interests of climbers, hill walkers and mountaineers.

BMC Participation Statement

The BMC recognises that climbing, hill walking, and mountaineering are activities with a danger of personal injury or death. Participants in these activities should be aware of and accept these risks and be responsible for their own actions and involvement.

The British Mountaineering Council (BMC) has over 62,000 members and exists to promote the interests and protect the freedoms of climbers, hill walkers, and mountaineers, including ski mountaineers. It is a company limited by guarantee (no 2874177) without a share capital. The BMC was formed in 1944 and is a democratic representative body controlled by a National Council made up of locally elected Area Representatives and nationally Elected Officers. The BMC is a National Governing Body of sport recognised by Government and the different Sports Councils in the United Kingdom. The BMC is grant supported by Sport England.



President's Message

A year has flashed by and it's time to review a busy 12 months. In the Manchester office, the BMC staff are in good heart, and I cannot but continue to be impressed by the combination of hard work, understanding of the issues of climbing, and sticking to the knitting of BMC work. During the year we said goodbye to Graeme Alderson and welcomed Rob Adie and Lucy Creamer to the organisation as our new Climbing Walls Officer and Competition Climbing Officer.

I feel there are three major issues this year, and they will continue into next year and will run on. These are the Clubs and our relations with them, our continuing liaison with Government, and of course Subscriptions, the one that never goes away.

There is no sense in ducking the issue with clubs, and there are problems, and we really want to solve them. It was the clubs, the lifeblood of UK climbing in many ways, who set up the BMC, and we don't forget it. I see several issues. One is, I think, that climbing has become for many, rather less of a club activity than in the past. Many people no longer rely on club meets – they jump in the car, or go off to France, Spain, or further a field. There's an echo I hear frequently; club secretaries find it hard to recruit new members, and there are problems finding volunteers to do the work. There are tedious yet important details such as child protection, membership data and insurance. Clubs in many sporting arenas are having a hard time; I hear this at the CCPR and also from another area in my life, sailing. Also, the BMC Area Meetings, thriving organisations immersed in the issues of local climbing, are in a sense becoming clubs in themselves. All I can say is I believe and hear that we have good relations with the majority of our kindred clubs. In the cases where we have lost ground, we do want to regain a sense of fellowship. We believe the BMC can really help, through Summit Magazine and BMC Area Meetings, and the regular meetings of the recently established Kindred Clubs Forum, to bring a sense of belonging into a wider shared love of the hills, be it on hard rock, hill walking, or simply loving the hills and all they have to offer. With this in mind, we will have held another gathering of 30+ club representatives (in the Peak District) by the time this text reaches the press.

And on, to Government. Some like this Government, some don't. Few of us agree (I suspect) on some major international initiatives involving guns, bombs and casualties – civilian and military. I feel I really have to say that, as a personal view, but I can put these deeply held feelings on one side. However, in terms of sport, the present Government have moved along a highly constructive path. Sport for All, encouraging outdoor activities, understanding the benefits of sport for the health of the nation – these



are values most of us share. John Mann, MP for Bassetlaw has been a good friend to the BMC, and his role has now been taken over by Angela Smith, MP for Sheffield Hillsborough. She too understands the BMC, and loves the hills, so we feel we are well connected, in a way we have never been before. It is sad therefore that despite some shared visions, the funding of sport has been diverted heavily towards the 2012 Olympics, and thus we have lost out on funding for own international activities. We are fighting these cuts, and hope that we can make ourselves heard. The point I have stressed to UK Sport is that the money spent by central government on climbing (and it is tiny) has been translated directly into activity. Some of this has been in the Great Ranges, with some spectacular climbs, with little fuss, and little publicity in most cases. If we wish to count up the scorecard, the UK is so far ahead of the rest of the world, in most years, that we really stand on our own. But this is not simply about money; it is about a culture of innovation, about not being risk-averse, and generally supporting the free-and-easy slightly anarchistic streak that flows through many people who climb, particularly younger people with little money. On the initiative of Pat Littlejohn, our VP, the BMC will continue to give grant support to innovative ventures in future years. With the cuts in funding for international activities, comes a nasty surprise for our UIAA representatives. We value their work, but no longer will there be central funding. But we shall do our best to help. Again, at personal level, I cannot see that the present policy towards non-Olympic sports will do much for votes, when the time comes.....

Then there are Annual Subscriptions. First, I have had the utmost confidence in Vic Odell, our outgoing

Honorary Treasurer. Vic explains to me, and to anyone who will listen, where our subscriptions go. And, I assure you (some MPs please note!) that every penny our staff and volunteers spend on BMC business is clearly accounted for. We live sensibly, frugally and spend our money where we feel it ought to go. In keeping with inflation, and the increasing roles of a major national body, subscriptions will, inevitably rise. But we shall keep them in check. (My own annual subscription to a local sailing club in Anglesey is £135, and it is not some fancy place in Cowes like the Royal Yacht Squadron).

Finally, a word of thanks to those volunteers who are leaving office. Vic Odell, has, as I've implied, maintained a sense of balance, prudence and a tenacious hold on our resources. Bill Renshaw, outgoing Vice President has worked tirelessly on issues of access, and has played a major role in the contractual issues of our huts. Michael Hunt stood down as Vice President at the 2007 AGM but remains involved with the BMC in an important advisory role on personnel issues. This sort of work is never forgotten. Looking forward to 2008 Brian Griffiths and David Lanceley are in line to take on the (joint) Treasurer position, whilst Rehan Siddiqui is looking forward to a term as Vice President. And finally, I must pass on the BMC's congratulations to Pat Littlejohn who has recently been awarded an OBE for services to mountaineering. Well deserved indeed.

**Charles Clarke
President**



Staff Team

- CEO - Dave Turnbull
- Deputy CEO - Nick Colton
- Financial Controller - Alan Brown
- Web & Summit - Alex Messenger
- Marketing Manager - Andy Gowland
- Information Co-ordinator - Tony Ryan
- Press & PR - Tina Gardner (PT)
- Access & Conservation - Cath Flitcroft, Guy Keating
- Climbing Competitions - Lucy Creamer (PT)
- Climbing Walls - Rob Adie
- Guidebooks - Niall Grimes
- Technical - Dan Middleton (PT)
- Training (BMC/MLTE) - Jon Garside
- Volunteers - Martin Kocsis
- Projects & Events - Kate Anwyl, Becky McGovern, Helen Adams, Ana Jolly (PT)
- IT & Database - Paul D'Ambra
- Finance Assistant - Yas Prabaharan

Membership Services Team

- Lynda Buckley (Manager)
- Arun Patel
- Jim Krawiecki
- Simon Manns
- Ray Perry (PT)
- Hannah Skeldon
- Clonagh Delderfield (PT)

Breakdown of 28 staff

Full time staff 22
Part time staff 6

(PT = Part time)

In 2007 we welcomed Rob Adie (Development Officer, Climbing Walls) in July and Lucy Creamer (Competition Climbing Officer) in October.

We also said goodbye to Graeme Alderson (Walls & Competitions Officer) in June and Helen Adams (Project Co-ordinator) in September.

National Council Summary

The National Council met five times in 2007. The Council comprises representatives from the nine BMC Areas, elected officers and observer members. The following substantive items were agreed in 2007:

- The Terms of Reference and membership of all BMC Specialist Committees.
- The wording of a new national code of practice for climbers (the BMC Crag Code) and the Terms of Reference of the new Equity Steering Group.
- To adopt a new format for the 2008 AGM weekend and to promote it as a joint BMC/NMC Northumberland Climbing Festival.
- A new policy requiring participants in BMC organised events and activities to be BMC members.
- Proposals to go the 2008 AGM on subscriptions rates and the BMC ongoing policy on club / individual member subscriptions.

The National Council also accepted 5 new clubs for BMC membership in 2007.

National Council Members

Members	Jan-April 07	April-Dec 07
President	Charles Clarke	Charles Clarke
Vice President	Rab Carrington	Rab Carrington
Vice President	Bill Renshaw	Bill Renshaw
Vice President	Michael Hunt	Pat Littlejohn
Treasurer	Vic Odell	Vic Odell
Chief Executive	Dave Turnbull	Dave Turnbull
Deputy CEO	Nick Colton	Nick Colton
Lakes	John Burrows	John Burrows
North West	Lyndon Gill, Ken Jackson	Lyndon Gill, Ken Jackson
London & South East	Anna Gregory, John Gibbons	Anna Gregory, John Gibbons
South West	Steve Findlay, Scott Titt	Scott Titt
Midlands	Fiona Devine, Iain MacKenzie	Fiona Devine, Iain MacKenzie
North East	Alan Hinkes, Peter Simcock	Alan Hinkes, Peter Simcock
Peak District	Mike Pinder, Chris Moor	Mike Pinder, Chris Moor
Wales	Mike Raine, Roger Bennion	Mike Raine, Roger Bennion
Yorkshire	Deirdre Collier, Mick Johnson	Deirdre Collier, Mick Johnson

Observers

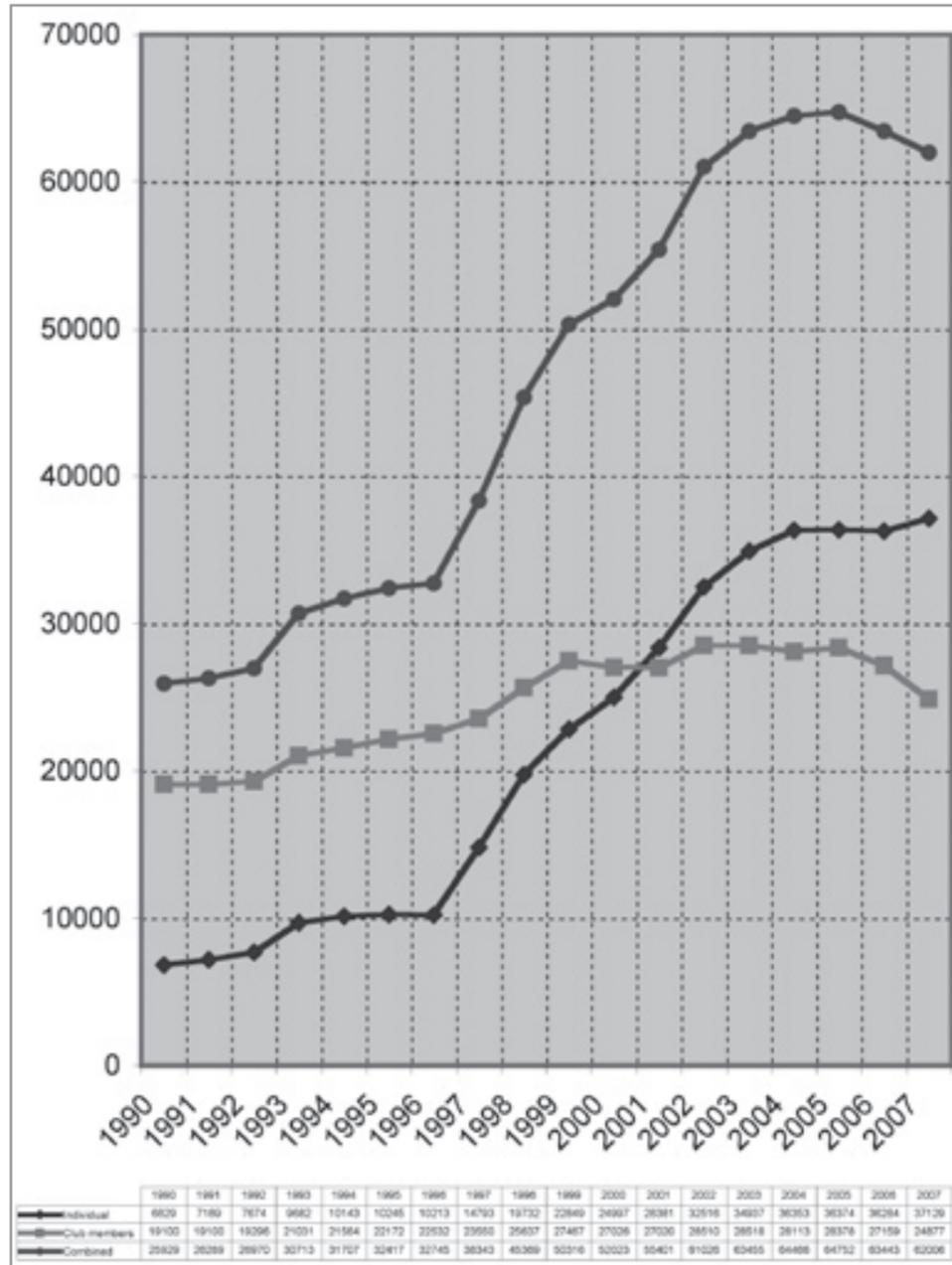
- Plas y Brenin - Martin Doyle
- MLTE - Andy Say
- Technical Group - Oliver Milling
- Finance - Brian Griffiths
- TYC Training & Youth - Ian Fenton
- Competitions Committee - Mike Watson
- Climbing Walls - Nick Bond
- Huts - Iain McCallum
- Access, Conservation & Environment Group - Bill Renshaw
- Guidebooks - Ian Carr
- International Committee - Lindsay Griffin

Membership Information

In 2007 there was some growth in individual members, and at year end we had 37,129 members in the individual category. This is the first time since 2005 that individual membership has shown growth. At year end BMC had 62,006 members. This is 1437 less than 2006, mainly due

to the non-renewal by the Army Mountaineering Association. Total membership was made up of 37,129 individual members and 24,877 club members split between 243 clubs and 59 student clubs, a total of 302 clubs. The total number of club members who have now taken advantage of

the reduced rate and upgraded to full individual membership since this category was introduced in 2004 is 1,892. Insurance premiums were held for the year and number of policies sold rose by 3%. Turnover for sales via our online shop rose by 12% and turnover for sales of publications rose by 14%.



BMC Service Charter

The BMC is a busy organisation with a large workload and a focused staff team. This team provides membership services and specialist work and co-ordination with volunteers on the various development programmes. The BMC staff team is committed to working to the highest standards and efficiency and welcomes comments on the service provided. The BMC staff team undertakes to:

- Respond to all orders for services on the day received and dispatch within two working days.
- Answer the telephone within three (and no more than five) rings and where the relevant member of staff is not available offer assistance or voice mail.
- Respond to all other correspondence - using plain English - as promptly as possible (if a lengthy or complex reply is required this will be acknowledged within five working days if it is not possible to respond in full within ten days).
- Support the BMC's policy of encouraging a positive approach to equal opportunities and ensure that all visitors to the BMC office are greeted promptly and dealt with politely and efficiently.
- Treat all database information in strict accordance with the Data Protection Act.
- Meet payments and issue invoices promptly in accordance with agreed payment terms with a target to pay within 30 days.

Finance Report

Vic Odell, Honorary Treasurer

2007 turned out to be a better year financially than we anticipated. With our recent history the Finance Committee is quite cautious about the figures, we only take into account income we are fairly sure we will receive, and only take savings into account when we are sure about them. The resulting surplus, of 99k, is quite a bit larger than the budgeted £25k. This is due to higher income from trading than anticipated; the new Stanage guide sold well - thanks to all of you that bought a copy and the team for doing such a good job - an unprecedented high level of travel insurance sales in the last quarter of the year, coupled with generally good sales figures, however profit share on travel insurance at £28k was significantly lower than the previous two years. We also had savings on expenditure, good advertising brought down the net cost of Summit, the new postal charges reduced our postage costs and changing the online payments provider reduced our charges. There were also other small savings. It was not all good news, tax is up due to better trading figures, also printing on recycled paper has a cost implication.

The overall result is that the organisation is currently in a reasonable financial position, but we need to be aware of a potential decline in government funding and that we have a high proportion of 'fixed' costs. We need to be careful in our future financial planning and aware of how dependant we are on membership being maintained at current levels.

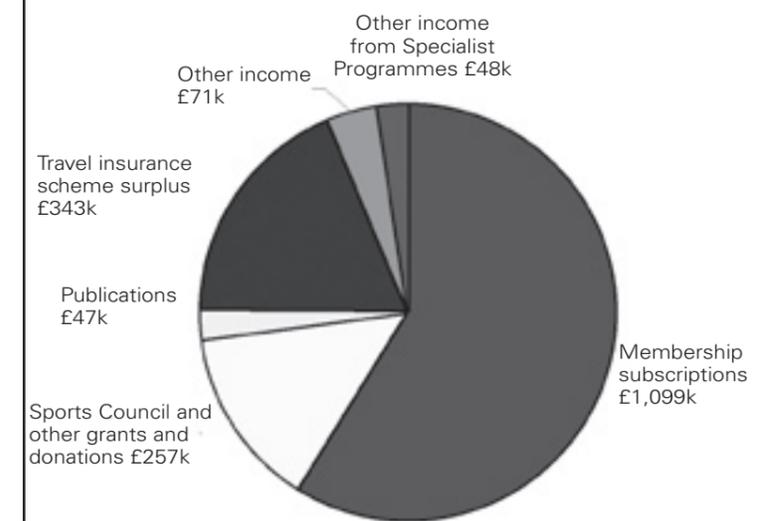
Finance Committee at 31/12/07

- Brian Griffiths (Chair)
- Vic Odell (Hon. Treasurer)
- Gordon Adshead
- John Shaw
- Alex Lawrence
- Mike Watson
- Tim Raffle
- Iain Dickinson
- Andy Say
- Graham Richmond
- Charles Clarke (President)
- Ken Jackson (Nat. Council Rep.)
- Fiona Devine (Nat. Council Rep.)
- Dave Turnbull (CEO)
- Alan Brown (FC)

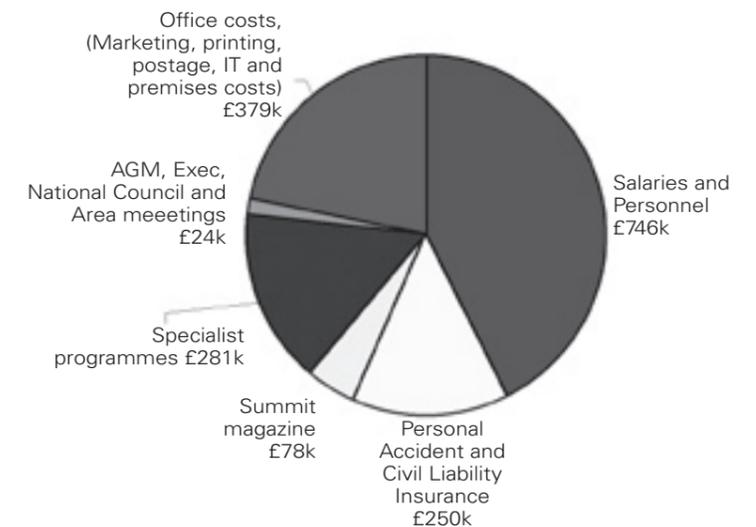
How staff and overhead costs are spread

	Person Year	Staff %	Alloc %
Membership services	3.9	15%	22%
Trading activities	3.3	13%	30%
Headquarters	6.7	27%	0%
External Recovery	0.2	1%	2%
Specialist Programmes	11.1	44%	46%
Total	25.1	100%	100%

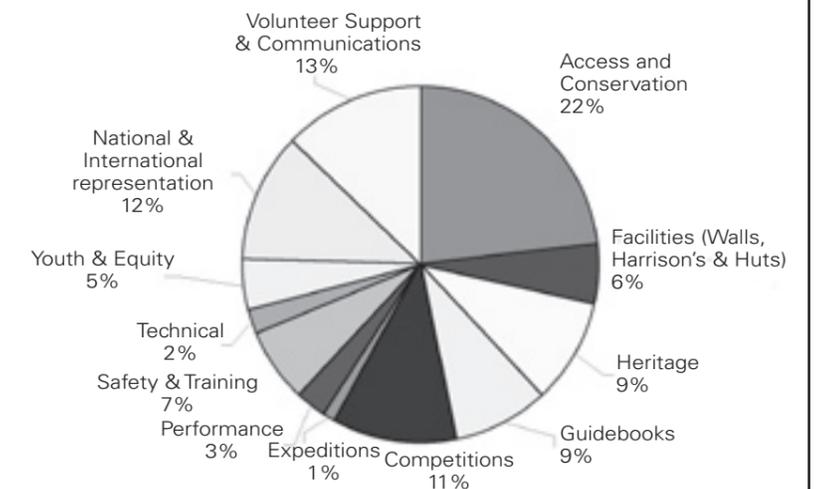
Summary of Income 2007



Summary of Expenditure



Net cost of Specialist Programmes after allocation of overheads, grant income and other income 2007 (£529.6k)



Specialist Reports

Access, Conservation & Environment Group

Improving access and conserving the cliff and mountain environment.

The BMC access team have had a productive year; lobbying local and central Government on a range of issues and working on the ground with local volunteers and access authorities to help manage access to our mountain, fells and crags. We met with David Miliband, former Secretary of State for the Environment, in the build up to the public consultation on coastal access and developed the BMC's coastal access campaign through work with Natural England and CCW as a key member on the coastal access stakeholder groups. The BMC has also strengthened their relationships throughout the year with local MPs and local access forums to ensure our members' interests and concerns are fully represented.

The public consultation on improving access to the English coast was completed in September 2007. Throughout the year, the BMC has supported the vision of a coastal access corridor (option 4) presented in the DEFRA consultation. A successful publicity event was held at Brean Down over the summer to raise the profile of the public consultation, with over 8 media interviews including Radio 4. In Wales, the BMC also led on a joint campaign letter to the Welsh Minister for the Environment, Jane Davidson, on increasing access to the Welsh coast and a meeting was held with the Minister to discuss various aspects of coastal and open access.

Working in partnership with many organisations remains key to the success of the BMC's access and conservation work. In 2007, several strategic meetings were held with Natural England to discuss issues surrounding re-mapping of CRoW access land and open-air recreation. Similarly, we worked closely with the MoD and the Defence Estates to clarify access arrangements to climbing sites on live-firing ranges. This led to the replacement of many redundant belay stakes along the South Pembroke ranges. Strategic work was also undertaken with United Utilities to ensure climbers, hill walkers and instructional groups were not penalised by a policy to charge certain groups for accessing UU owned land.

The Crag & Habitat Management leaflet was published in 2007, a guide for climbers wishing to undertake conservation and restoration work at overgrown crags. The 2007 Access Focus and Seasonal Restrictions poster was also produced and restrictions were publicised in Summit and on the new BMC website. BMC works closely with conservation interests across England and Wales to set up and manage seasonal restrictions and is extremely grateful for the goodwill and co-operation of all involved. The Regional Access Database has been updated so full and accurate information on access restrictions is now available on-line. The BMC has also begun work on updating the Tread Lightly publication.

Numerous local and regional projects have been undertaken during the year. The management agreements at Holwick Scar and Craig Pant Ifan have continued to operate successfully. A new campaign postcard for the restoration of public access to Vixen Tor has also been launched, encouraging members to write to the National Park Authority. Similarly, a number of volunteer initiatives such as the Roaches Open Day and access reps training events were held throughout the year.

A large range of regional access and conservation work has taken place throughout the year including access restriction work at Henhole, Scugdale, Chapel Head Scar, Lower Scout Crag, Hugencroft, Shelter Cliff, Eastby, the Roaches, Millstone, Stanage, Eagle Tor, Maeshafn Quarry, Devils Gorge, S. Pembroke, Stiperstones, Cheddar Gorge, Avon Gorge, Goblin Coombe, Holcombe Quarry and the Dewerstone.

The Yorkshire volunteers led the way by securing an agreement to rebolt Malham Cove, and we employed erosion control measures at the Bridestones and Bowden Doors. Other successes include the Save Longstone Edge Campaign, saving Wilton from auction and Craig y Longridge from destruction. The success of access work is as ever dependent on the efforts of local access volunteers; once again this has been excellent and our thanks extend to all of them.

ACEG members

- Bill Renshaw (Chair)
- Mike Dagley
- Dick Peart
- Elfyn Jones
- Ian McMorrin
- Guy Keating (BMC staff)
- Hebe Carus (MCofS Representative)
- Dave Bishop
- Henry Folkard
- Charles Gameson
- Steve Marriott
- Les Ainsworth
- Cath Flitcroft (BMC staff)

The President and CEO of the BMC are *ex officio* members of the ACEG.

ACEG paper members and specialist advisors

- Tony Greaves
- Clare Bond
- Nick JE Kurth
- Alan Blackshaw
- Libby Houston
- Dave Morris
- Bob Lowe
- Kevin Gray
- Susan Francis Gray
- Barbara Jones
- Saffra Kelley
- Ken Taylor

The Land Management Group

This has been a busy year. A substantial amount of work has been carried out on BMC owned and managed sites, largely by local management groups and volunteers. Without this local support, it would not be possible to manage the sites. The group very much appreciates the support given by local volunteers and wishes to thank them all.

Craig Y Longridge

The BMC formally acquired the crag in 2007 and in doing so saved one of Lancashire's best bouldering spots from destruction. We have plans for a number of site improvements – keep an eye on the BMC website for breaking news.

Horseshoe Quarry

Site signage has been installed and Henry Folkard successfully applied for ca £8k funding from the Derbyshire Aggregates Levy Grant Scheme. The funds will be used for access improvements including path work, boundary improvements and scrub control to conserve the flower rich grasslands. Other conservation work has included partnership work with English Nature to enhance the wetland and pond areas.

Dan Middleton (BMC Technical and Safety Officer) has installed a fixed equipment test bed in the quarry floor. This will be used to periodically pull test various types of bolt.

Aldery Cliff

Unstable rock has been reported on the right side of the crag and a warning notice has been erected for climbers. The situation is being monitored.

Bwlch y Moch

A number of routes have been restored to a good condition by dedicated volunteer efforts. Headed by Mike Raine, the North Wales Climbing Action Group (in consultation with The Countryside Council for Wales

and Snowdonia National Park) has cleaned over 40 routes, opened-up the access paths and replaced the Belshazzar Gully descent ladder.

Pant Ifan

The site management agreement is proving satisfactory for all parties and the BMC would like to thank the landowners for their efforts to keep the crag accessible.

Pen Trwyn

To fulfil the BMC's obligations of inspection and maintenance of lower offs/belay stations at Upper

Pen Trwyn, a team of qualified and experienced local climbers (coordinated by Chris Parkin) have started on a 3 year project to train volunteers to inspect and replace any defective anchors.

Stainless steel rings and maillons have also been retrofitted to the lower-offs to extend the lifespan of the lower offs to extend their lifespan.

Harrison's Rocks

Unfortunately, the acquisition process is taking longer than expected due to the inaccuracies on various deed

plans. We hope to acquire the land in 2008.

The HRMG have undertaken a complete load-tested inspection of all (169) belay bolts. The work illustrated the bolts and bonding materials remain in a very good condition. A number of volunteer days have also been organised for conservation work, including trimming trees and ground erosion/drainage work.

Stone Farn Rocks

Small amounts of woodland management, ground erosion and resin work are planned for 2008.

BMC Access Reps

Please contact your local Access Rep or the BMC office regarding any access queries.

Lake District

- Cumbria Coordinator - Peter Latimer, 01539 738391, peter@latimerp.fsnet.co.uk
- Footpath Coordinator - Stephen Reid, info@needlesports.com
- Eden Valley - Ron Kenyon, 01768 864728, ron@saintacc.u-net.com
- South Lakes Limestone - David Staton, 01539 734880, statondm@talktalk.net
- Borrowdale & Thirlmere - John Burrows, 01768 353621, john.burrows23@btinternet.co.uk
- Ullswater, Haweswater & Swindale - Mike Hornby, 01768 487746, gmhornby@aol.com
- Duddon & Eskdale - Al Phizacklea, 01229 834391, alan.phizacklea@baesystems.com
- Wasdale, Ennerdale & St Bees - Ben Whitely, 01946 823126, ben.p.whitely@britishnucleargroup.com
- Kentmere & Longsleddale - Max Biden, 01539 821743, max@ingalls.co.uk
- Coniston - Jim Loxham, 01539 441633, jim.loxam@nationaltrust.org

Midlands

- Leicestershire - Howard Pymm, 01530 838053, howard.pymm@tesco.net
- West Midlands - Richard Law, 01952 463207, rplaw@tarmac.co.uk

North East

- Durham & N. Yorks. Moors - Peter Hay, 01325 469958, peter.hay1@ntlworld.com

- Northumberland - Bill Renshaw, 01434 603052, willrenshaw@ukonline.co.uk

North West

- Lancashire - Les Ainsworth, 01539 536678, les.ainsworth@synergy-ergs.com
- Cheshire - Mark Hounslow, 01744 866325

Peak District

- Peak Co-ordinator (+ Limestone & Stanage) - Henry Folkard, 01298 871849
- Northern Peak & Chew Valley - Rick Gibbon, 01457 876180, rjtanobj@tiscali.co.uk
- Matlock Area - Reuben Brown, reuben16@lycos.com
- Sheffield Area Grit - Trudi Newman & Julian Materna, 0114 2330969, trudinewman@btinternet.com
- Staffordshire Grit (& Churnet) - Andi Turner, 01538 381595, Turnera700@aol.com
- Dovedale & Manifold - Chris Nunn, 01785 605214, chrisnunn1@ntlworld.com
- Bouldering - Simon Jacques, 07870 819773, Simon.Jacques@btinternet.com

South East

- Southern Sandstone - Martin Brice, Martin.Brice@FT.com

South West

- West Penwith - Jeremy Dyke, 01872 560132, jeremy@jdyke01.wanadoo.co.uk
- North Devon - Rick Abbott, 01271 814716
- South Devon - South West Action team (SWAT), 0161 4383336, martin@thebmc.co.uk
- Bristol & Avon - Steve Findlay, 0117 9026474, enquires@undercover-rock.com
- Somerset & Mendips - Chris Sims, 07815 738643,

- chris.sims@orange.co.uk

- Cheddar Gorge Project - Martin Crocker, 01275 394064, martin.crocker@tesco.net

- Wye Valley - Rick Sowards, 01291 629962, wye_valley@yahoo.com

- Portland - Neil Heanes, 01305 826299, Neal@Nealheanes.wanadoo.co.uk

- Swanage - Steve Taylor, 01929 550193, climbersteve@gmail.com

Wales

- Clwyd Limestone - Roger Benion, rogerbenion@hotmail.com
- Pembroke - Steve Quinton, s.quinton@pembrokeshire.ac.uk
- South East Wales - John Custance, 02920 594398, sewales.access@tiscali.co.uk
- Gower - Mark Winder, 01792 850578, mark.winder@swansea.gov.uk

Yorkshire

- Yorkshire Gritstone - Mick Johnson, 01943 461898, mickjohnsoncaley@hotmail.com
- Yorkshire Limestone - Martin Christmas, 01943 466527, martin.christmas@environment-agency.gov.uk

BMC Access & Conservation Officers

BMC, 177-179 Burton Road,

Manchester, M20 2BB

Tel. 0161 445 6111 Fax. 0161 445 4500

Cath Flitcroft catherine@thebmc.co.uk

Guy Keating guy@thebmc.co.uk

www.thebmc.co.uk

Access & Conservation Trust

The Access and Conservation Trust (ACT) funds projects to improve access for climbers, hill walkers and mountaineers, and to protect mountain and cliff environments. It brings together the BMC, MCofS and MCI and works throughout the British Isles.

In 2007 nine projects were supported through the ACT fund. Practical work at Kilnsley in the Yorkshire Dales was funded, with the installation of wooden revetments to prevent erosion on the footpath between the climbing buttresses. In South Wales, ACT also provided funding for 34 bespoke belay stakes as part of an agreed programme of climbing improvements along Range East. The work was carried out by local volunteers in partnership with the MOD. In the Peak District, ACT funds contributed to the successful running of the

Stanage bio-fuel bus service, which will continue to operate throughout 2008. In June 2007, the Trust also contributed to the running of an open day at the Roaches. The day was designed to highlight issues around the long-term sustainable use and care of this popular sporting area and was held in partnership with the Peak District National Park and BMC volunteers.

The Trust has continued to fund a number of informative publications. These have included the 2007 BMC Nesting Restrictions Poster and the Crag & Habitat Management Guide aimed at climbers wishing to undertake conservation and restoration work at overgrown crags. The Trust has also provided funds to produce a number of Vixen Tor campaign postcards – these were produced in conjunction with the Ramblers Association urging

the public to write to the Dartmoor National Park asking that they take action to secure access to this popular climbing venue in the south west.

The Trust is extremely grateful to all its supporters, without whom none of its work would be possible. The Trustees would like to thank the following for their donations: Castle Climbing Centre, Climbers Club, Rockfax, Yorkshire Mountaineering Club, Parnassus Mountaineering Club, Northumberland Mountaineering Council, Army Mountaineering Association, MLTE and BMC guidebooks.

Many thanks also to all those others who have made individual contributions and to those who have used the envelopes provided in Summit magazine to recycle printer cartridges and mobile phones. This scheme raised almost £2000 for the Trust in 2007.

The press event organised by the BMC at Brean Down as part of our Coastal Access Campaign involved the National Trust, British Canoe Union, CTC (Cycle Touring Club), Ramblers Association, IMBA-UK (International Mountain Biking Association UK), the Open Spaces Society, YHA, Equestrian Access Forum, CCPR and British Caving Association.



Climbing Walls

The Climbing Wall Committee offers advice and support for the management and sustainable development of new and existing climbing walls, through a network of regional representatives.

The committee met once in 2007 with an attendance of 9, as many issues were developed through electronic correspondence.

Summary of Key Achievements & Outputs for 2007

- The re-writing of Climbing Wall Manual is on going and due for publication early 2008.
- The 2007/8 Climbing Wall Directory was published in October.
- Collaboration with the ABC on National Indoor Climbing Achievement Scheme, working towards its launch in early 2008.
- On-going analysis of data from the Accident Reporting Database.
- A new poster – BMC Participation Statement was produced.
- The Climbing Walls section of BMC website has been updated.
- BMC Development Officer (Climbing Walls) advised on numerous wall projects, ranging from school

traversing walls to major dedicated centres.

Forward Plan for 2008

- Publication of the BMC Climbing Wall Directory in Oct 2008.
- Publication of the BMC Climbing Wall Manual, third edition.
- BMC Development Officer (Climbing Walls) to continue advising on potential wall projects.
- Continued collaboration with ABC on NICAS including launch in early 2008.
- Continue input into new draft European standards.
- Continue development of registration procedures for climbing wall users.
- Develop and promote BMC climbing wall accident reporting database.
- Develop website content for climbing walls section.
- Develop regional area strategies as required.
- Development of interactive online climbing wall database.
- Develop BMC membership in climbing walls.
- Continued work on posters for climbing walls.
- Organise climbing wall manager's seminar.

Climbing Wall Committee

- Nick Bond (Chair)
- Gary Lewis

- Robert Adie (Secretary)
- Peter Dyson
- Graham Coff
- Mike Simpkins
- Steve Gille
- Iain McKenzie
- Steve Taylor
- Christopher Parkin
- Nick Wharton
- Ian Dunn
- Rab Carrington
- Martin Doyle
- Steve Richardson
- Steve Mayers
- Percy Bishton

Competition Climbing

The BMC provides a wide range of support to competition climbing events of all standards through the Competitions Committee, the Competitions Officer and a large network of volunteers, sponsors and venues.

The Committee met four times in 2007, with an average attendance of ten.

This has been a golden year for our competitors. Many of our British Team members have reached the finals of both leading and bouldering international competitions. However, massive congratulations must go to those who achieved podium places:

Natalie Berry achieved first place in a round of the European Youth Series in Kranj (a leading event) and came third overall in the European Youth Series

Andrew Earl came first in a round of the World Cup (a bouldering competition) in La Reunion and last, but by no means least;

Gaz Parry came first in the bouldering event at the prestigious Arco Rockmasters.

These results have been achieved not only by the dedication of our climbers but also by a large support team made up of volunteers, the competitions officer and support staff at the BMC offices.

Also this year we have to give thanks to Graeme Alderson who resigned during the 2007 and has moved on to follow a career in his own business. Graeme has been an excellent competitions officer and we have been lucky to have his wise council and encyclopaedic knowledge of competitions. Fortunately we have not lost all contact with Graeme since he is now active in the International Federation of Sport Climbing (IFSC) and also remains the BMC's representative there.

To replace Graeme was a very difficult task with many very high calibre applicants for his job. However we are very fortunate to have appointed Lucy Creamer to the position. As you will be aware Lucy is an active climber and has also competed at a very high level for many years. She is already making her mark on the post of Competitions Officer and I look forward to working with her.

Summary of Key Achievements & Outputs (2007):

- Successfully ran Climb '07, BLCC (Blackpool), BBC(Sheffield) and assisted with BRYCS(Ratho).
- Ran numerous Training days for Junior Team (national, regional and 1x foreign training trip, crag based – crag based training included safety related training where needed).
- Ran numerous Training days for Senior Bouldering Team.
- Ran numerous Training days for Senior Leading Team.
- Achieved greater consistency in Junior Team results including high placings for Shauna Coxsey, Natalie Berry and Robert Mackenzie.
- Bouldering team very successful. Gareth Parry won two International events. Dave Barrans and Mark Croxall achieved high semi final placings.
- Restructured BLCC & BBC, resulting in single large event for each series.
- Team Trials took place in December for the leading teams, as a result of restructuring of BLCC & BBC
- Administered Team travel and entry to international events.
- Changed name of BICC to BLCC- British Lead Climbing Championships.

Forward Plan (2008):

- Run the BLCC in Blackpool and the BBC in Sheffield again.
- Raise the profile of the British Team and seek external funding to support their efforts.
- Assist with BRYCS final at the EICA.

- Run Team training sessions.
- Administer Team travel and entry to international events.
- Organise a national routesetting course
- Organise a national judging course
- Review the leading ladder and decide on course of action for '08/'09 subject to availability of funding.
- Assist and coorganise applications for international competitions that will take place in the UK
- Keep the website updated on British team successes at home and abroad.
- Report competition news from the international circuit and home, create features and generally keep the site looking new and fresh.

British Bouldering Team

- Naomi Buys
- Leah Crane
- Kate Mills
- Zoe Ogden
- Audrey Seguy
- Rachel Seymour
- Katy Whittaker
- Dave Barrans
- Jordan Buys
- Mark Croxall
- Andrew Earl
- Ned Feehally
- Tom Gore
- Chris Graham
- Ben Meeks
- Roddy Mackenzie
- Tony Musselbrook
- Gareth Parry
- Ryan Pasquill
- Martin Smith
- Tom Sugden
- Stew Watson
- Ben West

Bouldering Support Team

- Sue Pinner – Team Manager/Physiologist
- Nick Clement- assistant team manager
- Liz Mallabon – Psychologist

Junior British Climbing Team

- Natalie Berry
- Shauna Coxsey
- Joshua Farrell
- Hazel Findlay
- James Garden
- Peter Johnstone
- Robert MacKenzie
- Bethany Monks
- Tony Musselbrook
- Ashleigh Naysmith
- Tom Newman
- Declan Stock
- Adam Watson
- Martin Watson
- Catherine Whiteman
- Katy Whittaker
- Peter Whittaker

A new Team structure was created which included an Aspirant Team, and the following were invited to aspire to the Team during 2007:

- Ross Kirkland
- Rebecca Hall
- Johnathon Stocking
- Michaela Tracy
- Kitty Wallace

Junior Support Team

- Tony Powell – Team Manager
- Jill Whittaker – Assistant Team Manager
- Debbie Powell – Regional Co-ordinator
- Mark Alderson – Regional Co-ordinator
- Ruairidh Mackenzie- Regional Co-ordinator
- Dave Binney – Head Coach
- Katherine Schirrmacher – Coach
- Ian Dunn – Coach

- Jemma Powell - Coach
- Ben West - Coach

Senior Leading Team

- Lucy Creamer
- Adrian Baxter
- Adam Watson
- Rob Sutton
- Gareth Parry
- Alan Cassidy
- Tony Musselbrook
- Emma Twyford
- Jemma Powell
- Kate Mills
- Ashleigh Naysmith

Senior Leading Support Team

- Tom Randall- Team manager
- Fliss Butler - Assistant team manager
- Neil Gresham - coach
- Steve McClure - coach

Competition Climbing Committee

- Mike Watson (Chair)
- Secretary - Graeme Alderson (to June 07) / Lucy Creamer (from Oct)
- Alison Martindale
- Gareth Parry
- Jill Whittaker
- John Shaw
- Nick Colton
- Louise Thomas
- Rab Carrington
- Tony Powell
- Dave Binney
- Ian Alderson
- Percy Bishton
- Sue Pinner
- Rachel Seymour
- Fliss Butler
- Tom Randall
- Paper members - John Arran, Kevin Howett

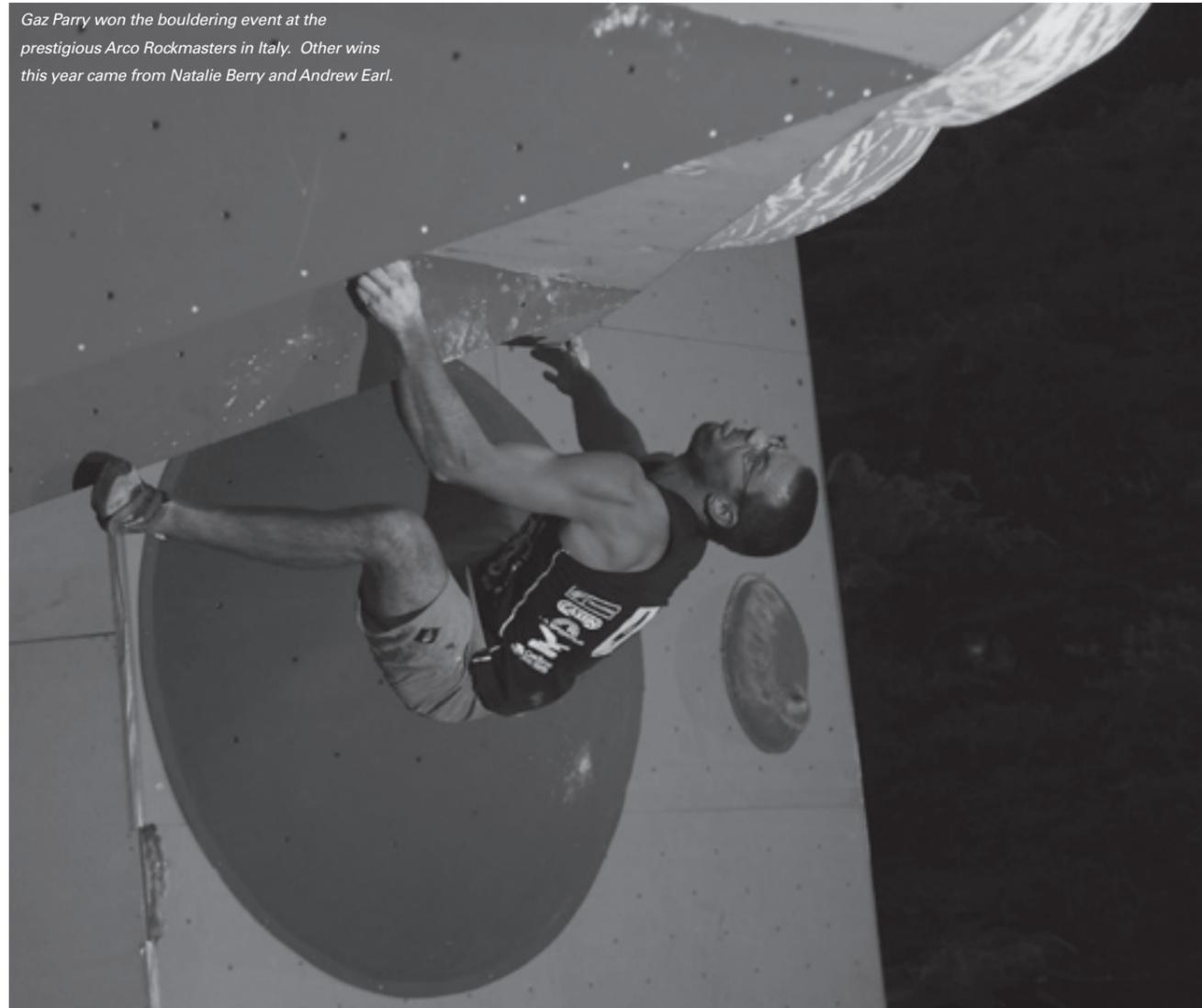
Equity

The BMC aims to ensure that all people, irrespective of their gender, religious belief, marital status, age, race, ethnic origin, sexual orientation or disability, have a genuine and equal opportunity to participate in climbing, hill walking and mountaineering at all levels and in all roles.

Demonstrating commitment to these aims the BMC is currently working towards achieving Sport England's Equality Standard: A Framework for Sport. In 2007 we achieved the Foundation Level that shows the organisation is committed to equality. We are now working towards the Preliminary level and hope to achieve this soon. Additionally, the BMC Equity Steering Group was set up to oversee this work. This group is Chaired by Rehan Siddiqui who has also been nominated to be a BMC Vice-President.

During 2007 there has been an extensive consultation process that has led to the review and ratification of a new Equality & Diversity Policy as well as the Equity Action Plan.

As part of our commitment to equity you may have noticed that we continue to use a wide range of images in BMC publications to ensure that we don't inadvertently give the impression that some groups of under-represented people are not welcome. Accordingly, a balance of images is used that show women and people from all ethnic minority backgrounds.



Gaz Parry won the bouldering event at the prestigious Arco Rockmasters in Italy. Other wins this year came from Natalie Berry and Andrew Earl.

To help people from disadvantaged backgrounds there is a low income discount available to all who enter the BMC Youth Climbing Series. From an equity point of view, it is also very evident that in the younger age categories there are now as many female as there are male competitors. To help parents understand what our activities involve we have published a booklet Young People Climbing, Hill Walking, Mountaineering A Parent's Guide. This is also available as a free download on the BMC website. Additionally, we held BMC outdoor youth meets in North Wales and in the Peak District where young people were accompanied by their parents so both child and parent could learn more about the nature of climbing outdoors.

On disability issues, the recent Future Policy Review Steering Group recommended that the BMC must ensure that there are no removable barriers to disabled people's involvement in climbing and mountaineering activities. With this aim in mind, with MLTE, we have published Climbing For All that contains practical guidance on climbing for people with a wide range of disabilities.

BMC safety posters have been translated into the Welsh Language and have been so successful they have been reprinted. These are the Check or Deck, Abseiling, Belaying and Bouldering 10 Commandments posters. Additionally BMC Summit magazine contains a regular article that appears in both English and Welsh.

Guidebooks

The Guidebook Committee produces a definitive set of guidebooks for the Peak District and also assists other groups to publish guidebooks.

Key Achievements & Output 2007

Following a fantastic reception in 2006 for the *Burbage, Millstone and Beyond* guide, 2007 saw the arrival of the long-anticipated new guide to the queen of gritstone crags, Stanage. Stanage: The Definitive Guide appeared in May of this year and has been received very well by the climbing community. This replaced the ill-received 2001 version, a guide that suffered from being born at a bad time as far as the BMC guidebook committee was concerned.



The new guide goes some ways to finally putting to bed that time, and stands as a metaphor for a much more forward-looking BMC. It is hoped that the guides that are to come will continue in this strong upward direction.

This brings us to the next major guide currently being worked on. *From Froggatt to Black Rocks* covers, as the title implies, all the remaining, uncovered gritstone crags from the Froggatt area, those from Matlock area, as well as the crags around Cratcliffe. This is a huge catchment area, and will have a lot more routes and crags to cover than any other guide in the new series, so will be a task of covering crags well while at the same time keeping the book a manageable size. This is coming together beautifully, all the same, under the editorship of Steve Clark and Lynn Robinson – Mr and Mrs Offwidth – and looks set to be the most exciting guide yet.

The intensive work behind the research and preparation of the series continues. The Kinder Area guide, under the editorship of Martin Kocsis, continues to advance. This will appear in a single volume, covering all the moorland areas from Kinder, Bleaklow and the Chew Valley regions. Work continues on the Leicester and Merseyside area guidebooks. Also work continues on a set of limestone guides to the Peak District, to be edited by Gary Gibson and Ian Carr. The new Lancashire guide, which will be produced in the modern BMC format, continues, although the need for crag photography is the obvious crux of the task.

The guidebook committee itself continues to operate very successfully under the chairmanship of Ian Carr. The membership of this has been stable over the last few years, gaining new members such as Vic Odell, Les Ainsworth and Brian Griffiths, as well as losing some. On this last note, the committee notes the very sad death of one of its most helpful and liked members, Ken Vickers, 'A quiet voice of reason,' was how one committee member referred to him. His knowledge and personality are missed.

Forward Plan (2008):

The big news on the horizon for the middle of 2008 will be the production of the new Froggatt Area guide, *From Froggatt to Black Rocks*, which will be in the same format as the *Burbage, Millstone and Beyond* guide. As soon as this is complete, all effort will swing into the production of the Moorland area guide Over the Moors. This is very advanced already. Work will continue on the limestone guides, and it is hoped to bring both the Leicester Area and the Cheshire Sandstone guides to print.

Guidebook Committee

- Chair - Ian Carr
- Secretary - Niall Grimes

Members

- Les Ainsworth
- Brian Griffiths
- Vic Odell
- Dave Garnett
- Martin Kocsis
- Dave Turnbull
- Richard Wheeldon

Heritage

The Mountain Heritage Trust (MHT) operates as the heritage arm of the BMC, which appoints its trustees.

With some support from the BMC, it is self-funding and has raised nearly three quarters of a million pounds since its inception at a BMC AGM in 2000. It is the only body that is concerned with identifying and preserving the heritage of British mountaineering and its ever-expanding database includes the collections of individuals and clubs.

2007 has been an innovative year for MHT in which several new national developments have been explored including our first fund-raising lecture, archivist consultancy for the Scottish Mountain Heritage Collection (SMHC), and the exploration of options for a possible joint office venture between the BMC and AC.

2007 saw the completion of the project Onwards and Upwards: The Archive of Ascent which was funded by the Northern Rock Foundation with further assistance from the BMC. This project has given MHT the opportunity to continue to support archival work with BMC affiliated clubs through the contacts made, and to be ready to offer experienced assistance to further clubs in the future. This builds on the work achieved over the previous year and the data gained continues to be invaluable in understanding the scope of our mountaineering heritage.

A permanent home for MHT remains its long-term objective, as we are quickly outgrowing our office in Penrith, Cumbria. MHT trustees helped explore possible locations with potential partners during the year. In support of discussions with Sheffield City Council, MHT prepared a document outlining 24 aspects of climbing culture in the city; the Trust continues to participate in discussions on the issue.

In December 2007 the National Mountaineering Exhibition (NME) owned by Westmorland Services at Rheged closed. The exhibition was in urgent need of renewal. When it became clear that the workload required from MHT to raise funding and curate a new exhibition would become a strain on a small voluntary trust, MHT supported Westmorland's decision. MHT offered to support the NME's commitment to school visits to the exhibition until mid-2008 and will continue to offer support and advice to the new localised exhibitions planned at Rheged for the future. The successful lecture programme organised by the former NME Manager Robin Ashcroft continued at Rheged through the winter months. Westmorland were appreciative of the support



offered by MHT through the work of John Innerdale over the last seven years and both parties share a pride in what NME has achieved in informing public interest in the heritage of British mountaineering.

In October 2007 MHT offered a lecture at the Royal Geographical Society when Graham Hoyland talked about Mallory on Everest and the replica clothing produced by the MHT's recent project was displayed. Copies of MHT's brochure on the results of the replica clothing project were on sale (now from www.mountain-heritage.org).

The MHT Archivist, Maxine Willett, has been able to generate income this year through consultancy work. The first of these was for Kendal Mountain Festivals. Supported by MHT, The Kendal Mountain Art Festival featured an important exhibition of the paintings by living members of the Alpine Club (the Lawford Collection) together with photographs by Sir Chris Bonington and Tony Riley. The exhibitions were curated by MHT's John Innerdale, with assistance from the Trust's Archivist.

The MHT Archivist has also made an extended visit to Scotland for consultation on the Scottish Mountain Heritage Collection, a Lottery Heritage funded archive accumulated over many years by Mick Tighe.

At the time of writing an application for funding is lodged with The Foundation for Sport and the Arts for cataloguing and conservation work on the Bonington Collection.

MHT Trustees (2007)

- Prof. Terry Gifford (Chair)
- Sir Chris Bonington
- John Innerdale
- John Porter (Co Secretary)
- Paul Braithwaite
- Julie Summers
- Dr Jerry Lovatt
- Ron Kenyon
- Mark Vallance
- British Mountaineering Council

Huts

The Huts Group co-ordinates the BMC's support for huts where the BMC has a direct interest and offers guidance and advice where it is sought by clubs and users.

The Group met on two occasions in 2007 to discuss current issues and to review matters relating to the Don Willans Memorial Hut (DWMH) (for which the BMC holds the lease) and the Alex MacIntyre (AMMH) and Glen Brittle (GBMH) (both jointly held in trust with the MC of S).

During the year the Group advised affiliated clubs and their members on a range of issues including access problems, Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs), child protection, collection of hut fees, electricity supply, hut equipment, insurance and trustees and, in

particular, fire risk assessments.

The Group liaises closely with the MC of S Huts Working Group (HWG) on matters of common interest. Last year, in conjunction with HWG, we produced a number of Guidelines to assist hut operators. This year we produced Guidelines covering: Sources of Funding for Improvements; Trustees – Duties, Responsibilities and Liabilities, and Safeguarding Children in Mountain Huts. These Guidelines are all available on the BMC website.

Guidelines covering the following topics are planned: Planning and Managing a Major Building Project; Private Drinking Water Supplies and Legionella. Current Guidelines covering Health and Safety and Fire Safety are being reviewed.

The Group's Chair attended meetings of the AMMH and DWMH Committees and acted as Secretary for the AMMH Committee. Bill Renshaw attended a meeting of the GBMH on behalf of the Group. The BMC has appointed Bill Renshaw a trustee of the GBMH and Iain McCallum a trustee of the AMMH. A new BMC and MC of S Management Agreement is being prepared for the AMMH.

The Group is planning the sixth Huts Seminar which is to be held at Derwentwater Hill Keswick on 18th. October 2008. Topics may include Building Regulations update, Safeguarding Children in Huts, Fire Risk Assessments, Going Green and Saving Energy, Private Drinking Water Supplies and Legionella.

Huts Group

- Chair - Iain McCallum
- Secretary/BMC Officer - Martin Kocsis

Members:

- Bill Renshaw
- Gordon Adshead
- Dave Bishop
- Ken Jackson
- Dave Roberts
- Kevin Stapely
- Chris Thickett
- John Leftley

International

International representation, information, advice and expedition support.

The International Committee provides logistical and financial support, information and guidance for British mountaineers travelling overseas, and strives to protect the interests and freedom of all mountaineers at an international level.

Highlights of 2007

- Grant aid and support to 31 British overseas expeditions
- Holding a very successful international winter meet during February-March at Glenmore Lodge, Scotland.
- Close liaison with the Mount Everest Foundation, Sports Council for Wales and Mountaineering Council of Scotland on the distribution of Overseas Expeditions Awards.

- Progressing the arrangement of a Julie Tullis Award for female mountaineering.
- Consolidating an electronic database of expedition reports from 1990 to the present day.
- Providing an international voice on potential access problems and negotiations with foreign governments eg Denali and Nepal Himalaya in 2007, Jordan in 2008.
- Representation on and work with the UIAA Expeditions Commission.
- Nominating British climbers for international gatherings.

Grant Support for British Expeditions

Due to tighter budgeting, narrowing the choice of objective eligible for financial support, and a higher than usual cancellation of expeditions during 2006, there were still funds (from UK Sport legacy) remaining, and it was decided to split these between expeditions awarded grants in 2007 and 2008. Obviously the amount of grant each expedition now receives is markedly less than in recent years, though in 2007 this was partially offset by increased support from the MEF. Negotiations are underway to provide a modest continuation of the awards for 2009 and onwards, until such time as a more permanent source of funding can be obtained.

As in previous years grants and/or approval were given to many expeditions visiting exciting corners of the World, from Greenland to Antarctica and from Peru to Chinese Sichuan. And there were many notable successes: the first ascent of the stunning Manamcho in Tibet; a first ascent on the East Face of Dan Beard and the second ascent of the French Route on Hunter's North Buttress - both in Alaska; hard rock climbing in Pakistan's Nangma Valley; new routes in the Cordillera Carabaya and Quimsa Cruz. Added to this was some excellent exploratory mountaineering in North East Sikkim, Kyrgyzstan's West Kokshaal-too, two first ascents in Sichuan's Shaluli Shan, several areas of East Greenland and the Kuksay region of China's West Kun Lun. Attempts on notable objectives such as the North Face of Kalanka or first winter ascent of Torre Egger were thwarted by weather and conditions.

The International Committee works closely with the Mount Everest Foundation in administering awards, and has two representatives on both the MEF's Screening and Management Committees. It has a representative from the Mountaineering Council of Scotland and in the past has liaised with administration of their expedition grants, though at the time of writing, these do not appear to have been forthcoming in 2007. It also has a representative on the Sports Council for Wales Overseas Expedition Panel. The criteria for BMC support in 2007, while not identical to those of the MEF, still favoured small

teams climbing in good style and attempting innovative and adventurous ascents in the World’s Greater Ranges. A new and rather more select criteria is envisaged for 2008.

International Seminars and Meets

Glenmore Lodge again hosted the biennial BMC International Winter Meet, an event that has always fostered excellent international relations, introduced foreign superstars to the vagaries of Scottish winter climbing, maintained our reputation in World climbing and allowed some of our younger leading activists to meet and climb with their counterparts. This year 45 guests from 22 different countries were joined by over 30 British hosts for what promised at the start to be a mild and miserable week. However, local experts soon persuaded the group to drive the distance to the Ben, where conditions up high were excellent. The final day witnessed arguably the most impressive display of mixed climbing ever seen in Scotland, with four new routes and numerous ascents of some of the hardest test pieces on the mountain. These meets undoubtedly raise the profile of the BMC and in have led to many profitable exchange programs and some major ascents by joint teams. Plas y Brenin will host the International Rock Climbing Meet in 2008.

Expeditions supported in 2007

- Graham Land
- Mariposa
- Cordillera Darwin
- Rongla Kangri
- Staunings Alps
- Dan Beard
- Ruth Gorge
- Manamcho
- Dronning Louise Land
- Ak-Shirak
- Alaska
- Zhopu
- Sikkim
- Nangma Glacier
- Lowell Glacier
- Sortebrae
- Cordillera Carabaya
- Quimsa Cruz
- Hispar Glacier
- Kuksay
- Cordillera Blanca
- West Kokshaal-too
- Ren Land
- Cordillera Huayhuash
- North Lunkar
- Tunde Valley Gorge
- Kalanka
- Kharchakund
- Yangmolong
- Paine SCW
- Torre Egger

International Committee

The Committee met once in 2007 and comprised the following members:

- Chair: Lindsay Griffin
- Vice Chair: Dave Wilkinson
- Secretary: Nick Colton

Members:

- Rab Anderson (MC of S)
- Paul Braithwaite
- Alan Hinkes
- Kevin Howett (MC of S, Paper Member),
- Nick Lewis (Paper Member)
- Pat Littlejohn
- Andy MacNae
- Bill Ruthven (MEF, Paper Member)
- Ron Rutland
- Stephen Sustad
- Mike Turner
- Cathy Woodhead

Technical

The Technical Committee provides an informed source of technical knowledge and advice on safety related equipment and its use to climbers, hill walkers and mountaineers.

The group held four meetings in 2007 with an average attendance of six.

Investigations

The committee has worked on 16 investigations over the year - 5 of which have been completed and signed off. Copies of completed reports and an index are available from the BMC office. The completed reports were:

- 03/06/FRED Snowdon Mouldings Helmet
- 03/09/B.COL Beal Rope
- 04/09/B.NIC Snapped Mammot Rope
- 05/08/L.ASB Snapped No.3 Cam
- 06/02/N.COO Petzl Grigri Distortion

Publications/Website

Tech Skills articles appeared in Summit magazine, offering equipment advice on the following issues:

- Choice and use of karabiners
- Via Ferrata equipment
- Care and maintenance of waterproof clothing
- Should I always wear a helmet?

The Care & Maintenance Booklet became available as a free download on the website. Eleven feature articles and numerous news items were published on the website highlighting a wide range of issues relating to choosing and correctly using equipment. The Equipment section for the updated Climbing Wall Manual was published. At the Student Safety & Good Practice Seminar, a seminar on Pooled Equipment was given, with the main points published on the website. A head injury survey was launched on the website and UKClimbing, with the results and any conclusions to be reported on in 2008. High quality belay stakes were sourced for Range East in Pembroke, and

advice given to the local activists.

UIAA and CEN Standards

UIAA Safety Commission: Neville McMillan is the UK National Delegate, and also the Vice President. Rob Allen is the UK Corresponding Member of the Safety Commission. CENTC136/WG5 Mountaineering Equipment: Neville McMillan is the Principal UK Expert, appointed by BSI Technical Committee SW136/5. Neville McMillan is the BMC representative on SW136/5, and Ben Lyon is now the Chairman.

Bolts Working Group

This group is tasked with determining what advice/guidance the BMC should offer climbers on technical aspects of placing bolts and on the choice of products. It also makes recommendations regarding appropriate procedures for placing and monitoring bolts on BMC owned and managed crags. The Group has no remit to look at ethical issues of bolting or retrobolting or to look at where bolts are acceptable.

The group met once in 2007, and produced 2 documents which have been published on the website. Part 1 is a Users Guide, Part 2 An Installers Guide. These form part of the Better Bolts Campaign, the other key components being:

- The purchase and donation of high quality bolts to regional Bolt Funds.
- Regional Bolt Fund information published on the website.
- A bolt testing programme established at Horseshoe Quarry, for research purposes.

Forward plan for 2008

- Publish SummitTech Skills articles on current relevant issues.
- Publish the Helmets Booklet as a download.
- To continue with new and ongoing Equipment Investigations.
- Standards work and UIAA representation ongoing.
- Publish key Technical reports on the website.
- To produce features, videos and downloads for the BMC website.
- To run a Technical & Training Conference at PyB in Oct 2008.
- To run an equipment seminar at the Student Safety & Good Practice Seminar.
- Research testing of bolts to build up knowledge base for advice and guidance.
- Better Bolts Campaign, continuing to raise profile of Bolt funds.

Technical Committee

- Chair - Oliver Milling

Members

- George Steele
- Alan Huyton
- Trevor Hellen
- Secretary - Dan Middleton
- Neville McMillan
- Ben Lyon

Equipment Investigation Panel

Members

- Fred Hall
- Steve Long
- Dave Brook
- Richard Terrell
- Mark Taylor
- Paul Bradshaw
- Dick Peart
- Rob Allen
- Jane Blackford
- Neil Johnson
- David Pumfrey
- Phillip Tootill

Paper Members

- Nick Williams
- Paul Seddon
- Petra Ernst
- Roger Wild

Bolts Working Group

An informed source of technical knowledge and advice for climbers on issues related to the placement of bolts (both lead bolts and abseil bolts).

- Chair - Paul Clarke

Members

- Rob Allen
- Alan Huyton
- Chris Parkin
- Alan Espie
- Henry Folkard
- Gary Gibson
- Dave Musgrove
- Martin Wragg
- Neville McMillan
- Dave Turnbull

Paper Members

- Bill Renshaw
- Oliver Milling
- Secretary - Dan Middleton (BMC Technical Officer)
- Les Sykes

Training & Youth

The Training and Youth Committee (TYC) is responsible for managing BMC training and youth events and publications, and also for implementing the BMC Child Protection Policy and guidelines.

TYC met five times in 2007 with an average attendance of eleven. Amendments to TYC’s membership were passed by National Council in December 2007.

Key Achievements and Outputs 2007

BMC Youth Climbing Series

Proving as popular as ever, the series was made possible by the dedication of the BMC Area Youth Coordinators (AYCs), the many volunteers, and the hosting climbing walls.

North Wales Outdoor Youth Meet

Mark Dicken (Wales AYC),organised a meet for both parents and children at the Dinorwic slate quarries, with Plas y Brenin hosting an evening barbeque.

Parent & Child meet at the Roaches

Many Dennison (Peak AYC), organised a meet for both parents and children at the Roaches, with an evening barbeque.

Child Protection

Child protection and other specialist training days were delivered to key BMC youth volunteers. The BMC’s internal child protection policy and procedures developed in line with current good practice.

Student Safety and Good Practice Seminar

Over 30 volunteers delivered good practice talks and practical workshops to 100 students. The weekend event was hosted by Plas y Brenin.

BMC Alpine Meet

The second BMC meet was based in Saas Grund in Switzerland over two weeks in August.

Good Practice Lectures

Three series were delivered in 2007: Alpine Essentials, Winter Essentials and the new Hill Walking Essentials. Eighteen towns and cities in England and Wales were visited, and over 1200 people attended the lectures.

BMC FUNDamentals of Climbing

Two workshops were delivered and seven news coaches were inducted, in order for more workshops to be delivered in 2008.

Publications

Warming up for climbing poster produced; belaying and abseiling leaflet reprinted. Five climbing skills web clips published on the BMC website.

Forward plan for 2008

The same events are planned for 2008 as those held in 2007. One change is replacing the Alpine Essentials series with Rock Climbing Essentials, to be delivered by UIAGM Guide and best selling author Libby Peter and seven times British Climbing Champion Lucy Creamer. New events include the biannual KnowYour Stuff! Technical and Training Seminar managed by the BMC Technical Committee. TYC will work with them on some of its aspects. More FUNdamentals workshops are planned.

Publications include a reprint of the parents’ guide to climbing, hill walking and mountaineering, a hill walking good practice poster and the Hill Walking Essentials DVD, a joint production with the Mountaineering Council of Scotland and Mountain Leader Training England.

Membership

- Chair - Ian Fenton
- Secretary - Jon Garside BMC / MLTE Training Officer

Area Youth Committee

Members

- Nick Colton
- Andy Newton
- Anne Arran
- Ed Allaway
- Ian Dunn Area
- John Dunne
- John Simpson
- Jon Wilson
- Julie Hurst
- Karl Mather
- Mal Creasey
- Martin Chester
- Mark Dicken
- Mike Margeson
- Mark Dennison

- Neil Johnson
- Tim Hogan
- Tony Powell
- Rab Carrington

Paper Members

- Aaron Cox
- Andy Say
- Angela Carling
- Barnaby Poulton
- Dave Binney
- Howard Jeffs
- Kevin Howett
- John Gibbons
- Jonathan White
- Lyndon Gill
- Paul Debney
- Paul Smith
- Peter Rowlands
- Roger Wild
- David Farrell
- Jane Newman
- Julie Zitter
- Linda Jensen
- Russell Flynn
- Will Davis
- Matt Heason

Area Youth Co-ordinators

- Neil McGeachy- Scotland South
- David Farrell - Yorkshire
- Mandy Dennison - Peak District
- Jane Newman - NE & Lakes
- Mark Dicken - Wales North
- John Gibbons - London & SE
- Linda Jensen - Wales South
- Ruairidh Mackenzie - Scotland North
- Russell Flynn - Midlands
- Tony Powell - North West
- Will Davis - South West
- Matt Heason - BMC Youth Climbing Series Co-ordinator

Area Reports

Lake District

An October Open Meeting in Ambleside was the starting point for a long awaited revival in the area.

Sixty people crammed into a room and some sat closer to strangers than was strictly appropriate. After some good humoured debate and a load of shouting about bolts, the meeting ended with large plates of food and plenty of beer.

The follow up meeting (The Annual General Meeting) at Staveley Beer Hall proved once and for all that the BMC can organise a piss up in a brewery: 55 individual and club members came along and elected the gritty Al Phizacklea to the position of Area Chair, and Polly Sullivan and Tom Ripley to the position of National Representatives for the Lake District. Tom holds the distinction of being the youngest ever member of the National Council at 18 years of age...we expect great things! Peter Latimer and Stephen Reid have also joined the access team.

A Lakes Area Newsletter, under the expert editorship of Carissa Lough, Ellie Fowler, Lois Sparling and Tim Fish has made an immediate impact upon individual and club involvement in the area and is a very professional effort.

There are plenty of plans for future events in the area, the most high profile of which will be the "High Crag Weekend" on June 14/15th in the Duddon Valley.

After many years of service, Colyn Earnshaw and John Burrows stepped down from their long held posts at the AGM, and their efforts are very much appreciated by all.

Lakes Area Notes

4 meetings, average attendance: 30

- Chair: Al Phizacklea
- Secretary: Marian Parsons
- Treasurer: David Staton
- National Council Representatives: Polly Sullivan, Tom Ripley
- Access & Conservation: Cumbria Co-ordinator – Peter Latimer; Borrowdale & Thirlmere – John Burrows; Footpaths – Stephen Reid; Andy Prickett; Coniston - Jim Loxham; Eden Valley & Eastern Fells - Ron Kenyon; Langdale, Kentmere, Longsedale - Max Biden; West - Ben Whiteley; Duddon & Eskdale – Al Phizacklea; South Lakes Limestone – David Staton; Ullswater, Haweswater & Swindale- Mike Hornby
- Youth Representative: Ron Kenyon
- Climbing Wall Representative: vacant

Members	2006	2007
No of clubs in the area	11	12
With club membership of	772	864
Share of national clubs	328	237
Individual members	1,381	1,287
Total members in area	2,481	2,388

London & South East

by Anna Gregory
There have been 4 area meetings in 2007 at our new if a little difficult to find venue Grafton Room at Park Crescent Conference Centre, Great Portland Street in London. We held three meeting there with an

average attendance of 9. But our AGM was held at the House of Commons hosted by John Mann. Here our attendance was about thirty seven.

It has been another difficult year with regard to attendance. Enticing people to attend has not had the promotion we need to make that difference. This year one of our staunch supporters, John Fowler from Slough Mountaineering Club has stepped down. He has been a member of this meeting for many years and has always been a lively contributor. We will miss his input. John Gibbon has also stepped down from the post of Youth Coordinator. John has worked tirelessly in this post and we thank him for all his hard work.

The theme of the meetings this year was greening the BMC. Over the year we discussed the impact climbers have on the environment and explored whether we are simply users, custodians or abusers of our natural world. Most notable was a discussion about the impact the members within the L&SE area have, contributing to green house gasses because of the travelling we do in order to practice our sport. We are perhaps more culpable because of the ease for us to fly on a regular basis. But this argument was countered by the support we may give to local communities overseas who may otherwise struggle.

Harrison's Rocks Management Group (HRMG)
HRMG is a sub-group of the BMC's Land Management Group. It manages Harrison's Rocks and Stone Farm (Hill) Rocks. As usual the group met 3 times during the year.

The freehold transfer of Harrison's to the BMC continues to be delayed by Sport England due to an unresolved adjacent land dispute. They also wish the BMC to continue managing the car park until the lease expires in some 6 years time.

Group leader seminars have had to be introduced to help resolve bad practice on the rocks and some initial work has been done on the possibility of establishing a charitable trust for the future maintenance of Harrison's and other sandstone crags.
Sandstone Volunteers' Group (SVG)
The group met twice, the first meeting in May doubling as the Open Meeting supported by Head Office.

Two highly successful work weekends at Harrison's to deal with the issues of rope groves, shrub clearance and maintenance of ground drainage. Areas of the crag look much cleaner and more open as a result. Thanks to all those volunteers for their support.
More details of SVG activities, can be found at the excellent SVG website:
www.sandstonevolunteers.nildram.co.uk.
This is well worth a look and shows what can be achieved by a bunch of willing local volunteers with BMC support.

Our AGM was held at the House of Commons. It was decided that perhaps it would be beneficial for the BMC to hold the local area meeting here to help our networking and contacts. We shall be looking

at making this an annual event. The meeting was successful although the room restricted us to 40 people. We only just reached this number. John Mann chose this room because of its proximity to an in house bar.

We decided this year that in order to explore the topic of recruiting for the meetings and for the BMC in general we will be working on a series of outreach event in the area in 2008.

London & South East Area Notes

3 meetings, average attendance: 9 (plus AGM with attendance of 37)

- Chair: Anna Gregory
- Secretary: John Gibbons
- National Council Representatives: Anna Gregory, Julian King.
- Harrison's Rocks Management Group Representatives: Martin Brice, Martin Hill
- Access & Conservation Representative/ SVG liaison: Martin Brice
- Youth Representative: John Gibbons

Members	2006	2007
No of clubs in the area	101	99
With club membership of	5,315	5,592
Share of national clubs	2,257	1,532
Individual members	10,658	10,336
Total members in area	18,230	17,460

Midlands

by Iain McKenzie
There have been four area meetings since the last AGM with attendance on the up in the Midlands Area going from an average of 6 people to a staggering 36.

The AGM saw a return of Nick Bullock providing yet another entertaining slide show and lecture. Nick being an ex-local to Leicestershire always draws a good crowd keen to hear of his pursuits. This is proving to be most successful as an annual event

As usual there have been problems with access in the few good areas that the Midlands have. Forest Rock saw bolts placed, and then quickly removed, Markfield Quarry has a climbing ban by the local council... oh the joy.

There is light at the end of the tunnel. The Leicestershire guide is taking shape. We are stimulating people into action with crag clean-ups at Carvers Rocks and Cademan Woods. This sterling work featured in a full page spread in Climber Magazine, and has inspired new routes to be done as well as encouraged the crag clean-ups bug to spread across to the West Midlands. The Wrekin MC recently cleaned up the overgrown and rather overshadowed Ippikins Rocks of Wenlock Edge in Shropshire with the full backing of the National Trust Warden. So all in all there is much renewed interest in the Midlands climbing scene and good to see clubs and individuals getting involved.

Climbing walls are doing well; there will be the new Redpoint Climbing Centre, open in January 2008, adding another wall to Birmingham to help fill the void that was left behind when the Rockface closed down.

The new format of the meetings is working well. Our aim is simple and follows the three I's principle; area meeting shall be informal, informative and above all interesting. Audience participation is the key, making people part of the meeting rather than the much-expected sit down formal style that people often associate with the area meetings.

Much of the hard work of Martin Koscsis at the BMC office goes unnoticed at an area level, so it is appropriate to thank him for all the support he has given to the area.

Along with the change to the style of the meetings the area has produced its own newsletter with a readership of 7000 people. The majority of the information comes direct from the clubs and members in the area and reflects what they are getting up to locally, nationally and internationally. This is proving to be very successful with the newsletter also being published on a number of websites as a PDF download.

The death of Ken Vickers was a great loss to climbers of the Midlands. He was somewhat of an inspiration and flew the flag for climbing in Leicestershire and further afield for many years; with most of his activity taking place in the 1960s and '70s some of his local classics like Sailaway in the Brand or Virago at Craig Buddon still remain today as hard test pieces that people will travel to the Midlands to do. Ken was a guiding light for the early Leicestershire climbing activists and leaves a legacy that will continue to inspire.

Thanks to all the members and volunteers who have assisted in making the Midlands area a success.

Midlands Area Notes

5 meetings, average attendance: 6

- Chair: Iain McKenzie
- Secretary: Fiona Devine
- National Council Representatives: Graham Richmond, Fiona Devine
- Access & Conservation: East – Howard Pymm, West – Richard Law
- Youth Representative: vacant
- Climbing Walls Representative: Iain McKenzie

Members	2006	2007
No of clubs in the area	48	41
With club membership of	3,009	2,534
Share of national clubs	1,278	694
Individual members	3,573	3,483
Total members in area	7,860	6,711

North East

by Alan Hinkes OBE
2007 saw Area Meetings held in a new venue, the Stonebridge Inn, Stonebridge near Durham City. So far it has proved a popular venue with good cask beer and food. As an added bonus the newly opened Durham Climbing Centre is just 5 minutes up the road. This is a dedicated bouldering venue on a small trading estate in Meadowfield, Co Durham, south west of Durham City of the A690.

There are also rumours of walls and bouldering facilities to be built in 2008 (for Middlesbrough and Newcastle). On the real rock front, Simonside in Northumberland was 'closed' for 28 days in June. The



landowner implementing the CRoW option, citing grouse disturbance.

The Northumbrian Mountaineering Club are still hoping to 'sort out' and fell some trees at Back Bowden which should help dry out the lichen and moss. These are plantation pine trees, ready for felling.

In North Yorkshire the Cleveland Mountaineering Club have improved the access footpath to Scugdale. A fine sandstone outcrop where I did my first rock climbing on a school trip in the '70s.

Round Crag on the North York Moors has had a few climbers chased by gamekeepers. Apparently for climbers' safety due to heather burning! It is on CRoW access land so further problems should not occur. I can't say it is a crag on my tick list but I may check it out this year.

The fine 90 foot high limestone crag, Peak Scar, has become more and more hidden behind a canopy of trees over the last 30 years. These are mostly sycamores (which some say are big weeds). It seems the estate has agreed to thin the trees which hopefully will allow more sunlight in and help to take the Scar back to its former glory.

The North East Area covers North Yorkshire, County Durham and Northumberland, including all or part of three National Parks and other AONBs. The main rock climbing areas are the Cleveland Hills, North York Moors National Park, as well as Teesdale and Swaledale in the South of the area.

In the North it includes Cheviot granite, the Whin Sill (dolerite) crags of Hadrian's Wall and the celebrated Northumberland sandstone.

The 2008 BMC AGM is being organised near the sandstone outcrops of Bowden Doors in Belford, so hope I see you there.

North East Area Notes

5 meetings, average attendance: 12

- Chair: Alan Hinkes OBE
- Secretary: Karin Magog
- National Council Representatives: Alan Hinkes, Peter Simcock
- Access & Conservation: Northumberland – Bill Renshaw; Durham & North York Moors – Peter Hay
- Climbing Walls Representative: Peter Dyson
- Youth Representative: vacant

Members	2007
No of clubs in the area	10
With club membership of	515

Share of national clubs	141
Individual members	1,398
Total members in area	2,054

North West

2007 has seen great efforts to encourage the participation of climbers in the Area Meetings and in crag clean-ups. In particular, the format of the meetings has been changed so that reports are circulated in advance and the meetings are then used for discussion of current issues and for debate on other selected topics.

This appears to have been very successful and there have been some lively meetings with a variety of valuable contributions from all concerned. A typical example of this was a bolt debate. This showed that climbers in the North West are deeply concerned about the amount of ironware on our local crags. There was an acceptance that, in some cases, bolts can provide valuable protection, but there was also the wish to avoid overbolting. Thus, it was considered important to retain the element of risk that comes with reliance solely upon leader placed protection, whilst accepting that there are some places where bolts can stimulate climbing. In the end it was decided that on the grit quarries, bolts should only be used in a limited number of specific cases, such as at Frogsmouth and on Coal Measure Crag at Anglezarke. It was also agreed that, with agreement, bolts should be used to avoid dangerous top-outs.

Climbers also participated in a number of successful crag clean-ups. These included several visits to Egerton that have resulted in the removal of many trees that had previously shaded the crag. This has made a tremendous difference, so that the crag now dries out much more quickly and the climbing feels more exposed. Some climbers, spearheaded by Geoff Hibbert, have taken advantage of the cleaner rock and over 60 new climbs have now been recorded since the last guidebook, including several on two completely new areas of the crag. Special thanks for the improvements at Egerton must go to our two chain saw men, Rob Minchen and Bruce Waddecar. There has also been another very successful clean-up at Wilton 2.

Elsewhere on the access front, Forest Enterprises, the RSPB and United Utilities have removed trees with us and improved the crags at Fairy Steps, Warton Pinnacle and Cadshaw Quarry. However, the most notable change has been the acquisition, at long last, of Craig Y Longridge. At the time of writing there is still some fencing to do, but this should easily be completed to make the spot an ideal venue for an evening's bouldering.

In October, North West climbers were perturbed to learn that the Wilton Quarries were being placed for sale by auction. The loss of these quarries would have been a serious blow to Lancashire climbing. However, I am pleased to say that the BMC machine was rapidly moved into action and within days had persuaded United Utilities to pull the sale. Inputs from Guy Keating at Head Office and Bill Renshaw from the main Access Committee were invaluable in achieving this outcome

and it just shows the value of the BMC in protecting climbing.

On the guidebook scene, work on the definitive guidebook to replace Lancashire Rock is progressing steadily, whilst Mark Hounslea and his team are now well on with a guide to Cheshire Sandstone.

Over the past year there have been no new climbing walls or substantial changes to the existing ones in the area.

Finally, as I have just retired as chairperson for the NW Area, I would like to thank all climbers who have contributed to Lancs climbing in 2007. Hope to see lots of you on the crag and at clean ups in 2008.

North West Area Summary

5 meetings, average attendance: 23

- Chair: Colin Struthers
- Secretary: Jon Dittman
- National Council Representatives: Ken Jackson, Lyndon Gill
- Access & Conservation: Pendle Area – Paul Horan; Rest of Lancs – Les Ainsworth; Cheshire/ Merseyside– Mark Hounslea
- Climbing Walls Representatives: Nick Bond, Steve Gille
- Youth Representative: vacant

Les Ainsworth (NW chairperson - retired)

Members	2006	2007
No of clubs in the area	39	46
With club membership of	3,046	3,579
Share of national clubs	1297	981
Individual members	4,173	4,124
Total members in area	8,512	8,684

Peak District by Mike Pinder

It’s been all change in the Peak at the end of 2007, with major changes to the public face of the meeting. Your new Chair is Matt Heason, and Trudi Newman has taken over as Secretary. Good luck and many thanks to them for volunteering their time. There are yet more changes planned, with a newsletter on the horizon, so if you’ve got things to say, or stories to tell, your chance will come. As usual the Access Team soldier on, but welcome new foot soldiers, so get in touch if you want to get involved. Matt would also welcome contacts from anyone with interest in getting involved in the areas of Youth and Walls, there are still posts empty.

So, what have we been up to in the past year?The usual stuff has been happening on the ground with meetings with landowners happening everywhere, from Access Forums to car parks (!), as well as dozens of letters and emails. While you climb there is a secret world going on under your noses! Access remains the major issue throughout the Peak and so that’s where most efforts have been concentrated.

Access restrictions have also raised their ugly heads in a bigger way this year with the threatened loss of access to a whole crag in the Chew Valley, or you may wish to climb with the added frisson of being shot! Work is underway to keep access open, and proves the need for properly organized monitoring, even with the CrOW Act in place.

On an even larger scale the whole future of areas of

The Peak National Park is in doubt and we continue to represent climbers and hill walkers as very interested parties in the negotiations.This is what the BMC does, and it takes a national organisation because all this has national implications. If all of us who benefit bought a drink for all the volunteers who do the work we’d be broke, and they’d very “tired and emotional”

In an attempt to widen the influence of the area meeting and to spread the word, a group of interested parties from the west of the Peak have got together to form the Staffordshire Action Group (StAG) as an opportunity for those who find the meetings too far to travel to still have a voice that can be heard across the Peak.The final change, we’ve been welcomed back toThe Grouse at Froggatt and now meet on a Wednesday.You can’t hide; come along or we will come and find you!

Peak District Area Notes

5 meetings, average attendance: 30

- Chair: Mike Pinder
- Vice Chair: Chris Moor
- Secretary:Trudi Newman
- National Council Representatives: Mike Pinder, Chris Moor
- Access & Conservation: Peak Co-ordinator – Henry Folkard; Northern Peak & Chew Valley – Rick Gibbon; Matlock area – Reuben Brown; Western Grit & Staffordshire – Andi Turner and Chris Nunn; Bouldering – Simon Jacques
- Youth Representative: Mandy Dennison

Members	2006	2007
No of clubs in the area	28	23
With club membership of	1,350	1,041
Share of national clubs	573	285
Individual members	2,739	2,562
Total members in area	4,662	3,888

South West & Southern by Jerzy Wieczorek

The first year of summer climbing at Cheddar Gorge has been a success, with many parties active during the extended access periods. Despite some concerns about infractions of the agreement, a second trial year for the new arrangements is about to begin. This is good news for Cheddar!

Early in the year, a new Wye Valley fixed gear policy was finalised. John Willson stepped down after 20 years as Wye Valley access rep. He was made an honorary life member of the BMC in recognition of his sterling contribution. Further developments to safeguard access to Wye Valley climbing are currently in progress.

There has been little progress to report on the access situation at Vixen Tor. A joint BMC/Ramblers Association initiative is in progress to collect evidence of visits to the Tor.

The South West area is huge, and in practical terms that makes it hard for area meetings to provide adequate coverage.This year, all of the area meetings have been held in Bristol, latterly at a new venue, the Nova Scotia, which proved very popular.

To help redress the balance, Scott Titt and Martin Kocsis held a very well attended meeting in Plymouth,

and the South West Action Team (SWAT) was born.

One of their first actions has been a clean-up at Chudleigh.

Members have also been involved in a clean-up of Unknown Wall in the Avon Gorge.The region has been boosted by the publication of its first email newsletter, edited by Scott Collier.

Finally, as new chairperson for the South West, I’d like to thank everyone who has offered me help, support and advice.

South West & Southern Area Notes

4 meetings, average attendance: 17

- Chair: Jerzy Wieczorek
- Secretary: Darren Cook
- National Council Representatives: Scott Titt, Steve Findlay
- Access & Conservation: Avon Gorge – Steve Findlay; West Penwith – Jeremy Dyke; North Devon – Rick Abbott; South Devon – S.W.A.T.; Wye Valley – John Willson; Portland – Neal Heanes; Swanage – Steve Taylor; Culm Coast – Gary Watts; Cheddar & Somerset – Ian Butterworth, Martin Crocker.

Members	2006	2007
No of clubs in the area	26	29
With club membership of	1,603	1,915
Share of national clubs	681	525
Individual members	3,866	3,601
Total members in area	6,150	6,041

Yorkshire by Deirdre Collier

The Yorkshire Area held 4 meetings in 2007, the fourth being held in tandem with the AGM. Meeting attendance has increased from 12 to 21 people at the last meeting but there is still a long way to go.

During the year Deirdre Collier was appointed as Secretary and Mick Johnson & Deirdre Collier as the Area representatives to National Council. At the November meeting David Campbell was appointed as chairperson and Anne Hunter was appointed as Youth Rep (outdoors) and will focus on outdoor climbing, walking & mountaineering for the youth of Yorkshire. David Farrell continues as Youth Rep (indoors) and will do the competitions etc.

It was agreed to produce an Area Newsletter and to be proactive in approaching Yorkshire Clubs re the Area meeting and it is hoped that these together with a change of venue will help improve attendance at meetings.

Much of the year has been taken up with the BMC Bolts funding application led by Dave Musgrove & Paul Clarke and the subsequent ongoing work associated with the successful bid. One of the areas for rebolting is Malham and there were concerns that agreement to rebolt may not be reached in view of its status as an SSSI. Martin Chistmas, Richard Hardicre & Gareth Scott presented a good case and agreement with Malham Parish Council and Natural England has now been secured.

Access issues have also continued to dominate relating to nesting bird restrictions (Langcliffe & Blue Scar), shooting land (Brandrith & Sypeland), footpath erosion (Malham, Kilnsey, & Giggleswick South), new crags (Shelter Crag), tree pruning (Brimham &

Caley), tree planting (Brunthwaite), and dogs (Foredale Quarry). Martin Christmas and Mick Johnson and others have continued to do a great job in resolving issues. Erosion on soft grit is also a concern and the value of resin to prevent it is being evaluated. There is also a proposal for a rural business & education centre at Langcliffe Quarry which is in its early days and so impact if any on the climbing there cannot be determined as yet.

A wind farm proposal at Brightenber Hill near Gargrave has led to some concern about the impact on the environment. The BMC has been included in the initial consultation and although a suggestion re making a formal objection was not widely supported the company has agreed to keep the Area meeting informed of progress.

Yorkshire Area Notes

4 meetings, average attendance 17 people.

- Chair: Mark Radtke
- Secretary: Richard Hardicre to March, Deirdre Collier from March
- National Council Representatives: Mick Johnson, Deirdre Collier
- Access & Conservation - Limestone: Martin Christmas - Gritstone: Mick Johnson
- Youth Representative: David Farrell (indoors) Anne Hunter (outdoors)
- Climbing Wall Representative: Vacant

Members	2006	2007
No of clubs in the area	25	24
With club membership of	1,361	1,555
Share of national clubs	578	426
Individual members	2,072	1,980
Total members in area	4,011	3,961

Wales/Cymru by Mike Raine

2007 has been a great year for BMC Cymru/Wales with a new team and a massive jump in attendance at meetings; the average has been over 40 people. Over 200 people were involved in activities over the year. Between meetings we have produced successful and informative newsletters. We have used them to report meetings, rather than taking up valuable drinking time with endless reports of past gatherings.

I was pleased that, with the help of Alun Evans, Jess Silvester, Rhian Evans and Sian Dafydd, the October newsletter was translated into Welsh. We also have a presence on the BMC Website with articles in Welsh, my BMC Cymru/Wales 'blog and our newsletter is available as a download.

We started the year with the Tremadog Revival. Gardening days were attended by about 80 climbers in all.This culminated in the Revival Festival at which 60 climbers climbed with secateur or saw in hand to trim spring growth from the routes.These volunteers were rewarded with beer (paid for by the BMC), raffle prizes donated by V12, Joe Browns, DMM and Pete’s Eats.The event would not have been possible without the support of Ann and Eric Jones. In May I visited Pant Ifan with Judy Yates and Mike Lewis to survey the crag with Doug Oliver from CCW.We found climbers had a beneficial effect on the habitat of the rare Rock Stonecrop. By keeping the path clear through

the scree we have helped protect this plant from encroaching woodland. During the winter of 2007/08 tree surgeons will remove invasive species from Bwlch y Moch.The scheme will be 75% funded by the Forestry Commission for Wales. With the support of Snowdonia National Park and Chris Parkin, the Belshazzar Gully ladder has been renewed.

Another important decision was taken at our February meeting to cease discouraging abseiling at Bwlch y Moch but to start a ‘Look before you Chuck’ campaign. Posters are on site and in Eric’s Café.

The BMC Cymru/Wales supported North Wales Bolt Fund has had a busy year.Thanks to Chris Parkin the fund was awarded 1395 bolts from the BMC’s Better Bolts Campaign.The NWBF took over checking the BMC installed lower offs at Pen Trwyn. News from Clwyd can be found at www.northwaleslimestone.wetpaint.com. North Wales Slate news can be found at www.slate.wetpaint.com. Special mention must be made of Mark Reeves and Mark Dicken who have carried out most of the work here. Other contributions the NWBF came from: Dragon Safety Systems, Total Access, CAN, DMM, Mountain Training Trust, Climbers Club, BMC and Clwb Mynydda Cymru. BMC Technical Officer Dan Middleton has been very supportive with the sessions Chris Parkin has run for those who wish to help with the rebolting and testing of lower-offs.

A new approach to the Lower Pen Trwyn has been promoted to reduce erosion in the current descent gully.

During the summer a problem arose at Maeshafn Quarry. Access officer Guy Keating and local Lee Proctor were soon on the case and we were very pleased to hear that the crag re-opened to climbers. Illegal off roading has become a big problem in Wales particularly in the Berwyns, the Moelwynion and the Brecons. An alliance of concerned people has been set up to look into this problem. Debbie Wareham has attended several meetings on behalf of BMC Cymru/Wales

BMC Cymru/Wales and the Climbers Club supported the August Gogarth Festival, which was hosted by the Friscan in Cwm y Glo.The weather was less than perfect but there was a good turn out.Thanks to Adam Wainwright for organising that event. In the Pass concern has been raised over the approach to Dinas y Cromlech. Some of the paths are causing harm to the acidic scree slopes below the crag which are central to the areas designation as a Site of Special Scientific Interest.

We have made less progress with the parking problem in the Cromlech laybys.These fill up early in the day with walkers avoiding the charge at Pen y Pass and travel from Pont y Cromlech to Pen y Pass on the Sherpa Bus. We asked Green Key if they could stop the bus picking up from the laybys in the mornings and encourage users of the service to park in Nant Peris or Llanberis. Unfortunately Green Key saw this as to difficult to organise. A related issue has been the number of walkers parking at Pen y Gwyrd and then walking up the busy A4086 to Pen y Pass. National Park have promised to waymark a path from Pen y

Gwryd to Pen y Pass to make this a safer passage.

BMC Access Officer, Cath Flitcroft and BMC Cymru/Wales Volunteer, Ian McMorrin, have been lobbying the Welsh Assembly Government on this issue.They had an encouraging meeting with Jane Davidson, Minister for Rural Sustainability, on the issue during the summer. We still need walkers and climbers to lobby the WAG on this issue, and you can download a letter in English or Welsh on the Access section the BMC website. More positively Conwy County Council have contacted us for consultation on their proposals for coastal access.

Chris and Gill Parkin have attended the Anglesey Access Forum whilst Martin Doyle and Rob Spencer from Plas y Brenin have attended the Northern Snowdonia and Conwy Access Forums respectively.

April saw the all Wales Junior Climbing Championships at the Beacon. Over 40 youngsters from across the Principality enjoyed an excellent competition organised by BMC Cymru/Wales Youth Co-ordinator Mark Dicken. Linda Jensen and Roy Clarke brought a team from the south.The winners went on to represent Wales at the UK finals at Ratho in Scotland. Whilst we produced no national winners this year there was an enormous amount of talent on display.

We are grateful to Clive James for his bi-lingual thought provoking arguments in Summit Magazine.

The BMC Volunteers’ Officer, Martin Kocsis, has been instrumental in galvanising BMC Cymru/Wales activity in the southern half of the Principality. After an inaugural meeting at Taff Bargoed, a well attended meeting in Swansea organised crag clean-ups at Penallta and Abbey Buttress with over 20 climbers attending each day. In October following an idea from Chris Parkin, Dan Middleton arrived at St Govans and Trevalen with brand new bespoke belay stakes. Old stakes have been removed and new ones placed. All this was done with the support of the MOD, and local climbers did the work. See you in 2008!

Wales/Cymru Area Notes

5 meetings, average attendance: 40

- Chair: Mike Raine
- Secretary: Keith Robertson
- National Council Representatives: Roger Bennion, Mike Raine
- Access & Conservation: Pembroke – Steve Quinton; South East Wales – John Cunstance; Gower – Steve Lewis; Clwyd-Roger Bennion
- Mountain Leader Training Wales: Andy Boorman
- Mountain Leader Training UK: Neil Johnson
- Mountaineering Co-ordination Group: Mike Raine
- Climbing Wall Representatives: Mike Simpkins (North Wales), Bary Lewis (South Wales)
- Youth Representative: Mark Dicken

Members	2006	2007
No of clubs in the area	16	13
With club membership of	1,183	2,308
Share of national clubs	502	632
Individual members	2,088	1,845
Total members in area	3,773	4,785

Other Reports

Alan Rouse Library

Over the last 12 months we have concentrated on updating our Expedition Report Catalogue which we hope to have completed in 2008. The website has also been updated.

Kendal Mountain Festival are now donating a copy of books nominated for the Boardman/Tasker Prize which are added to the collection each year.

Stock revision in the climbing guides is continuing and many new or updated editions were added during 2007.

Rosemary Humble

Arts Social Sciences and Sport

Central Library

Surrey Street

Sheffield

British Association of Mountain Guides

by Honorary secretary AE Richardson

The British Association of Mountain Guides (BMG) has its origins as a BMC committee. Now an independent body affiliated to the International Federation of Mountain Guides (IFMGA), the BMG’s base is at the MLTUK office at Plas y Brenin.

Tragically in August the BMG learned of the death of Claude Ray the IFMGA president, he will be genuinely missed.

The committee said farewell to Alun Richardson and welcomed Libby Peter as the new Hon secretary. We also welcome the new president elect, Roger Payne and the training officer elect, Terry Ralphs. Tim Jepson has stood down as chair of PSC and is replaced by Peter Cliff. The BMG would like to thank Tim for all his hard work.

The BMG is on a sound financial footing and growing steadily with almost 200 members, with five applications accepted onto the training and assessment scheme this year- Rupert Rosedale, Toby Keep, Pete Rowlands, Mark Walker, Paul Warnock. Two candidates gained their full carnets – Graham Frost and Owen Samuels. The BMG committee would like to thank the training officer and the training committee for all their hard work.

The committee is currently revamping its H&S policy alongside the IFMGA. Two members of the committee were invited to Japan for the IFMGA AGM. Bruce Pellicier from France was voted as the new IFMGA president.

The BMG has been in discussion with relevant Government departments to raise the profile of the BMG and gain EU recognition for the association.

The BMG is grateful to Mountain Equipment for sponsorship in the form of financial assistance. We would also like to thank all manufacturers who support the BMG or individual guides with their products. The guides would also like to thank The Fred Harper and Jules Cartwright Trusts who supported this year’s winter training and ski training and the Jonathan Conville Memorial Trust for their continued support.

Finally the BMG ship only sails well due to its crew and without the arrangement with the Mountain Leader Training office and the hard work of Sue Doyle and her colleagues the ship would probably sink.

Central Council of Physical Recreation

The Central Council of Physical Recreation (CCPR) is the umbrella body for National Governing Bodies of Sport.

Throughout 2007 there have been 4 meetings of the Outdoor Pursuits Division and the BMC have been represented by Jon Garside, Cath Flitcroft and Bill Renshaw at all of these meetings. CCPR continues to provide support, information and a forum for discussion on many aspects of sport and recreation. Issues in 2007 included the Working at Height regulations, child protection issues, coastal access and CCPR’s access policy.

Mountaineering Co-ordination Group

by Mark Vallance

The MCG met once in 2007 - on 21 April on the occasion of the BMC AGM at Plas y Brenin. The usual summer and autumn meetings did not take place as there was no gathering of the clans at Glenmore Lodge, and the timing of the UIAA General Assembly in Japan thwarted the Irish meeting.

There had been increasing concern that the meetings of the MCG were being compromised as a result of being tacked onto other events. A special meeting was convened at the BMC offices on 3rd, February 2008 to review the terms of reference with particular emphasis on defining the work that members should undertake and what issues could be left to officers and staff.

Reductions in funding, and lack of understanding in government circles of our purposes and requirements with respect to training, is a common concern. The growing co-operation between the national training organisations is encouraging.

The need for more information about UIAA activities and better reporting af recent changes in the UIAA was requested.

Mountaineering Council of Scotland

by David Gibson, Senior Officer

It’s been all-change at the MCofS; change which saw the Council newly-incorporated as a company limited by guarantee, and Chris Townsend elected as President chairing a new Board of Directors and a newly-elected Executive.

During the year, the Council commissioned research with its members and other mountaineering organisations and partners. We also commissioned Iain Peter to produce a Mountaineering Development Framework, which has the aim of defining how individuals may

progress in their chosen areas of mountaineering. This work was made possible through investment received from sportsotland. However, all this strategic thinking hasn’t stopped work at The Old Granary, with significant progress being made in all work areas.

We have been involved in no less than 110 access enquiries, with officer Hebe Carus focussing on key cases affecting Glen Dessary, Chesthill (Glen Lyon) and Braemore estates. On St Kilda, we have worked with National Trust for Scotland to produce new access guidance which will be published in 2008.

We made 15 consultation responses on behalf of members, and investigated 5 different wind farm proposals. We also worked closely with the BMC on projects such as the ‘Tread Lightly’ Code and a Scottish crags database.

We joined with other organisations to form the Beauly-Denny Landscape Group, which aims to prevent the erection of a massive power-line network through the Cairngorms and Perthshire. Appeals to our members raised almost £6,000 to support the work of the group and its legal team.

Our Mountain Safety Adviser, Roger Wild, worked closely with other members of the Scottish Mountain Safety Forum to lobby the Scottish Government for funding to make the Mountain Weather Information Service sustainable, rather than being a voluntary operation. The result was a 3-year investment award from sportsotland totalling nearly £127,000.

Roger’s work to provide a range of subsidised training and events continues, with a key future aim being to increase our activity to raise safety awareness with university students. This will be dependent upon availability of additional finance to make the resource available. Roger also developed and published the Emergency Procedures and Winter Checklist Cards which are available from the MCofS office or our new website at www.mcofs.org.uk

Kevin Howett’s work in Sports Development contributed to some notable achievements, with nearly 100 kids participating in the Youth Climbing Series 2007 at six venues. The final at Ratho proved to be a great success with Scotland South achieving 3rd place against the best regions of the UK, and seven Scottish kids achieving top rankings.

The largest ever number of Scottish climbers were selected to represent the British Team by the BMC, including a real rising star, Jonathan Stocking who at 15 became British Champion at the BLCC competition in Blackpool. He led his first E2 in the summer.

Kevin also edits The Scottish Mountaineer; which was expanded to 100 pages during the year, providing greater coverage of news and additional features. All our officers and a large number of volunteers regularly contribute to the magazine, which is our main means of informing our

members. As well as expanding the Mountaineer, we spent many hours developing our new website, which was launched in February 2008 - see www.mcofs.org.uk – if you’re planning a visit north of the border, why not pay our website a visit?

Our research showed that 90% of members thought that their subscription represented good value. Our aim is to improve on that figure in future! We also aim to work more closely with our colleagues in the other mountaineering organisations of the UK, and to another challenging year, in 2008.

Mountaineering Council of Ireland

2007 has been a crucial year for the MCI with huge changes to our staffing and structures. The MCI is now better resourced than ever before and has the capacity to develop hill walking and climbing both in Ireland and for Irish mountaineers throughout the world.

It is vital that the MCI speaks with a strong, clear and effective voice for mountaineering in all its varied forms. To achieve this we must draw on our real strength which is our membership. In challenging times it is more important than ever that the MCI as the national representative body has the full support of the hill walking and climbing community.

Communications & Services

Our Members’ Support Officer was appointed and we hope in 2008 to continue to provide excellent members services. The MCI web site (www.mountaineering.ie) has been completely re-designed. The MCI Autumn Meet took place in October 2007 with 110 present. The MCI Winter Lecture Series 2007 has been held all over Ireland.

Access & Conservation

The Access and Conservation Officer position was filled mid 2007. The MCI has continued its’ participation in Comhairle na Tuaithe and is pleased to announce that a Permissive Walkways and Maintenance scheme has been agreed upon by the committee and announced by Minister Éamon Ó Cuiv.

The process of setting up a network of MCI Environmental Officers has begun. Work has begun to develop a training program that educates the Environmental Officers and gives them the tools to disperse that information to the members within their clubs.

Training

2007 has seen the development and implementation of many new projects under the following four categories; Promoting participation in formal and informal training, Acting as Secretary to BOS, the Irish Mountain Training Board, Working with MCI clubs to assist them to address their training needs and managing relations with, and mentoring, mountain training providers. A full-time Training Officer was appointed in Spring 2007.

A Mountain Instructor Award workshop was successfully run in September is now to become an annual event with backing of the Association

of Mountaineering Instructors (AMI). A new grant scheme has been introduced to encourage and support participation in Mountain Instructor training / assessment.

The 10th MCI Alpine Meet took place in Saas Grund, Switzerland in July 2007. The third annual MCI Women’s Climbing Meet took place in May 2007.

Youth

2007 has been an extremely busy and exciting year for the Northern Ireland Youth Development Programme (NIYDP). New to the programme this year were two coaching trips to the Peak District. We have also provided support to the NI Youth Climbing team, which is going from strength to strength under the guidance of Eddie Cooper. This year has seen team members achieve success in bouldering, sport and traditional climbing, as well as in the Junior competitions. It is hoped that the team will travel to England in early 2008 to compete in the BMC Youth Climbing Series.

Further information and our full Annual Review for 2007 can be downloaded from www.mountaineering.ie

Mountain Leader Training England

by Andy Say

2007 had, as its focus, the development of the first new award scheme since the inception of the WGL in 2001. The Climbing Wall Award had been extensively consulted on and much valuable guidance obtained from the BMC’s Training and Youth Committee. Initial development of the scheme syllabus was aided enormously by the award of some Sport England funds obtained through an application made by the BMC. The syllabus was soon backed up by extensive guidance notes to candidates and course providers and preparations were made to recruit and training the instructors who were selected to deliver the programme.

The Award handbook is the ‘public face’ of the scheme but the amount of work that had to go in to designing endorsement pages, course report forms, logbook pages seemed to be never ending. The series of workshops run up and down the country on the implementation of the scheme and the interpretation of the syllabus as well as the teaching of climbing movement skills never seemed to satisfy demand from interested participants; that programme of ‘tutor training’ will continue into the new year.

After all the work, however, it was deeply satisfying to have a team of course providers in place and to have registration mechanisms ready for the candidates to this new award. I suppose we just have to hope that, unlike in 2001 when foot and mouth coincided neatly with the launch of the WGL, no chalk borne diseases are identified in 2008!

Another long-awaited development was the approval of the MLT awards, ML, WGL and SPA, by the Qualification and Curriculum Authority for acceptance onto the National Qualification Framework. New approval systems were found to be much more ‘user-friendly’ and rapid progress was made this year. The upshot of this is that course providers may find

it easier to gain central funding support for course provision and it does give our qualifications more ‘credibility’ in the corridors of power. The development of the CWA onto the NQF is a priority for 2008. The downside, of course, is an ever-increasing involvement in the world of three letter acronym organisations; the TLAs. It seems to be an increasingly complicated world in the field of outdoor vocational qualifications with initiatives seeming to start every week, often in seeming competition with each other. We just have to assume that there is a grand plan. And try and work out what it is.

The ongoing work of the Board, of course, rolls on with over 4,500 candidates registering for the award schemes in the year and with officers getting out on the hill or crag (one of the best bits of the job) to visit over 40 courses. These moderation visits are vital giving us the opportunity to see, and then share, best practice give personal updates to course staff and, maybe most important of all, to meet candidates. It’s always special when you meet a candidate that you’ve met before on another course as it shows that we are really achieving a good ‘density’ of visits. Mal Creasey, in charge of the moderation programme has certainly covered a few miles over the year.

Of enormous value is the contribution made by the BMC/MLTE Training Officer, Jon Garside. This post, enabling materials to be produced that are of direct benefit to all, award candidates and recreational climbers/walkers (not that the two categories should be in any way seen as mutually exclusive!) and allowing for a very direct relationship between the two organisations has made a real contribution to the work of MLTE. Jon also gets let out now and again to conduct moderation visits and has really come into his own with the development of the movement skills element of the CWA.

Finally thanks should be directed at the Board proper – the volunteers from a wide variety of organisations that actually make up the body that directs the work of MLTE and especially the members of the Executive Committee who work so tirelessly on the behalf of the Board that it sometimes feels like they are members of staff – and the administration staff who are the people who really make it all work.

Mountain Leader Training UK

by Steve Long

MLTUK has had a very busy and successful year, having completed some major projects and continued excellent working relationships with other key organisations in mountaineering and outdoor education. The Executive Committee has changed slightly with the departure at the AGM of John Ellis Roberts, after several years of valuable service. Mary Matthews, representing Mountain Leader Training Scotland, joined the Executive Committee.

The consultation process about a potential climbing wall award bore fruit in 2007 and thanks to funding sourced by the BMC we were able to accelerate the development of the award. During the autumn and winter a series of induction courses for providers was

Club & Associate Members 2007

Clubs List					
• ABMSAC-Ass'n Brit Mbrs-Swiss Alpine Club	236	• Hull University Mountaineering Club	20	• South Devon Mountaineering Club	77
• Achille Ratti Climbing Club	743	• Ibex	61	• South Wales Mountaineering Club	178
• AGC Mountaineering Club	17	• Imperial College Mountaineering Club	60	• South Yorkshire Police Mountaineering	36
• Aldermaston Mountaineering Club	29	• Innominata Mountain Club	74	• Southampton Rats Climbing Club	37
• Allen & Overy Climbing Club	54	• Ipswich Mountaineering Club	130	• Southampton Uni Mountaineering Club	99
• Alpine Club	952	• Jersey Rock Climbing Club	35	• Southern Trekking & Mountaineering Club	89
• Alton Mountaineering Club	32	• John Clare Mountaineering Club	25	• Sphinx Mountaineering Club	26
• AMI (England and Wales)	765	• Junior Mountaineering Club of Scotland	36	• St Helens Mountaineering Club	63
• Anabasis Mountaineering Club	26	• Karabiner Mountaineering Club	136	• Staffordshire Police Mt Club	20
• Arete Mountaineering Club	25	• Kendal Mountaineering Club	25	• Stoke Damerel Climbing Club	55
• Army Youth Team	8	• Kernow Climbing Club	14	• Summit Mountaineering Club	20
• Arun Mountaineering Club	26	• Keswick Mountaineering Club	80	• Sunderland Mountaineering Club	33
• Avon Mountaineering Club	79	• Kings College London Mountaineering Club	54	• Super Drooper Mountaineering & Caving	28
• Aylesbury Climbing Club	96	• Kodak Walking & Climbing Club	13	• Surbiton & Kingston Mt Club	35
• Barnsley Mountaineering Club	63	• Lancashire Caving & Climbing Club	208	• Swindon Mountaineering Club	32
• Barrow Mountaineering & Ski Club	90	• Lancashire Mountaineering Club	157	• Thames Valley Climbing Club	61
• Basingstoke Climbing Club	37	• Lancaster University Mountaineering Club	20	• The Heights Climbing Club	20
• Battle Climbing Club	14	• Lanchester Mountaineering Club	49	• The LMC Mountaineering Club	20
• Bedroc	29	• Landlopers Mountain Club	23	• The Mill Climbing Club	14
• Beeston Hill & Mt Cb - Formerly Siemens	41	• Lands End Climbing Club	19	• The Mountain Club - Stafford	47
• Ben Lairig University ofYork	26	• Leeds Mountaineering Club	137	• The Outcasts	8
• Bewdley & District Mountaineering Club	18	• Leicestershire Mountaineers Association	15	• The Potteries Mountaineering Group	16
• BHMC - Bassettlaw Hill & Mountain Club	41	• Lichfield Mountaineering Club	22	• The South Face Climbing Club	14
• Bowline Climbing Club	106	• Lincoln Mountaineering Club	42	• The Walking Club	58
• British Airways MtWalking &Trekking Club	48	• Lindsey Climbing Club	16	• The Warminster Adventure Sports Club	15
• Bromsgrove & Redditch Mt Club	36	• Liverpool John Moores Uni Mountaineering Club	20	• Trentham Outdoor Pursuits Club	20
• Buxton Mountaineering Club	48	• Liverpool Outdoor Club	20	• Tuesday Climbing Club	66
• Calderdale Mountaineering Club	28	• LLangorse Mountaineering Club	27	• Tunbridge Wells Mountaineering Club	69
• Cambridge Climbing & Caving Club	81	• London Mountaineering Club	430	• Tyne Valley Climbers	21
• Carlisle Mountaineering Club	102	• London Rockhoppers MC	143	• Unemployed Climbers Club (Craggers)	58
• Castle Mountaineering Club	41	• Loughton Mountaineering Club	31	• Univ College London Mt Club	105
• Cedars Mountaineering Club	22	• Maidstone Mountaineering Club	26	• Univ of Central Lancashire Mntg Club	20
• Cerberus Spelaeological Society	7	• Malvern Mountaineering Club	19	• Univ of Essex Mountaineering Club	80
• Ceunant Mountaineering Club	150	• Manchester Pedestrian Club	69	• Univ of London Graduate Mt Club	130
• Chamois Mountaineering Club	210	• Marjon Climbing Club	28	• Univ of Wolverhampton Climbing Club	18
• Chelmsford Mountaineering Club	68	• Marylebone Mountaineering Club	94	• UWFRA Outdoors Club	40
• Chester Great Outdoors Club	75	• Meadhurst Mountaineering Club	20	• Vagabond Mountaineering Club	71
• Chester Mountaineering Club	232	• Mercian Mountaineering Club	46	• Vibram Mountaineering Club	37
• Christian Rock & Mountain Club	83	• Merseyside Mountaineering Club	187	• W.T.F.A.I. Club	20
• Churchill College Mountaineering Club	20	• Midland Association of Mountaineers	571	• Walking & Adventure Group (WAG)	28
• Cleveland Mountaineering Club	184	• Milton Keynes Mountaineering Club	40	• Wanderers Outdoor Activities Club	32
• Cliffhangers Climbing Club	22	• Mountain Activities Club	26	• Wanneys Climbing Club	23
• Climbers Club	1,303	• Mountaineering Club of Bury	36	• Warwick Climbing Club	68
• Clingons Climbing Club	22	• Mountaineering Club of North Wales	81	• Warwick Mountains	87
• Clitheroe Mountaineering Club	60	• Mynydd Climbing Club	157	• Wayfarers	207
• Clogwyn Mountaineering Club	20	• Newbury Mountain Club	61	• Wellingtonborough Mountaineering Club	66
• Clwb Mynyddda Cymru	241	• Nimrod Mountaineering Club	20	• West Bromwich Mountaineering Club	243
• Clwyd Mountaineering Club	106	• Nor'West Sgurramblers	22	• West Cumbria Mountaineering Club	81
• Colchester Climbing Club	51	• Norfolk Hillwalking Club	35	• WestYorkshire Fire Service - Sports & Social OPC	10
• Congleton Mountaineering Club	24	• North Devon College Climbing Club	5	• Wolverhampton Mountaineering Club	92
• Coventry Mountaineering Club	34	• North Kingston Hillwalking Club	38	• Wolverhampton Rail Rovers'Walking Club	19
• Cragrats Mountaineering Club	14	• North Leicestershire Mountain Club	20	• Worcester Mountaineering Club	36
• Craven Mountaineering Club	110	• North London Mountaineering Club	234	• Wrekin Mountaineering Club	84
• Cromlech Club	72	• North Yorkshire Fell Club	54	• Yeovil Mountaineering Club	66
• Croydon Mountaineering Club	42	• Northumbrian Mountaineering Club	174	• Yeti Club	20
• Dacorun Adventure Group	47	• Norwich Climbing & Mountaineering Club	26	• York Alpine Club	48
• Derby Mountaineering Club	33	• Ohjac Club	14	• York Mountaineering Club	31
• Derwent Mountaineering Club	64	• Oldham Mountaineering Club	20	• Yorkshire Mountaineering Club	206
• Dockyard Venturers	26	• Open University Mountaineering Society	75	• Yorkshire Ramblers Club	177
• Durham Mountain Sports	47	• Oread Mountaineering Club	183	• Yorkshire Walkers & Climbers Club	20
• East Grinstead Climbing Club	28	• OutThere	52	• Yr Hafod Scout Mountaineering Fellowship	29
• East Pennine Outdoor Club	33	• OverThe Hill Club	120		
• EastYorkshire Mt and Climbing Club	33	• Oxford Brookes Uni Climbing Club	124		
• Eden Valley Mountaineering Club	32	• Oxford Mountaineering Club	120		
• ELC Hill Walking Club	75	• Oxford University Mountaineering Club	63		
• Eryri Mountaineering Club	25	• Patterdale Mountain Rescue Association	24		
• Exploration Group of North Somerset	35	• Peak Climbing Club	21		
• Fell & Rock Climbing Club	69	• Pembrokershire Climbing Club	97		
• Forest of Dean Hillwalkers	1,141	• Peterborough Hospitals Walking Club	19		
• Frayednotts Mountaineering Club	14	• Peterborough Mountaineering Club	147		
• Free Barbarian Climbing Club	32	• Pfizer Climbing Club	16		
• Fylde Mountaineering Club	24	• Phoenix Mountaineering Club	31		
• G S Exiles Mountaineering Club	161	• Pinnacle Club	156		
• Gentian Mountaineering Club	23	• Polaris Mountaineering Club	44		
• Gloucestershire Mountaineering Club	94	• Powsers Mountaineering Club	44		
• Goats Mountaineering Club	120	• Preston Mountaineering Club	40		
• Green Lane Mountaineering Club	29	• Reading Mountaineering Club	64		
• Gritstone Club	20	• Red Rope Walking & Climbing Club	117		
• Guernsey Mountaineering Club	125	• Robinwood Mountaineering Club	297		
• Guildford Mountaineering Club	28	• Rock & Heather Club - Nottingham	42		
• Gwydyr Mountain Club	28	• Romsey Climbers	30		
• Hampshire Mountaineering Association	59	• Royal Agricultural College Climbing Club	27		
• Harpenden Expedition Club	90	• Royal Air Force Mountaineering Asso	15		
• Hastings Rock & Fell Club	32	• Royal Navy & Royal Marines Mt Club	189		
• Hereford Climbing Club	30	• Rucksack Club	604		
• Hereford Mountain Club	53	• Rugby Mountaineering Club	398		
• Heron Outdoor Pursuits	36	• Saltley Hillwalking Group	36		
• Hertfordshire Mountaineering Club	39	• Sandstone Climbing Club	20		
• High Peak Climbing Group	36	• Sheffield Hallam Fellwalking & Mountaine	34		
• High Peak Womens Climbing Group	121	• Shrewsbury Mountaineering Club	103		
• Highdown Hillwalking & Mountaineering Club	22	• Skyline Mt Club - Burton on Trent	297		
• Hillingdon Mountaineering Club	14	• Slough Mountaineering Group	42		
• Hinckley Mountaineering Club	60	• Solihull (Police) Mountaineering Club	30		
	31	• South Devon Mountaineering Club	27		
	57	• South Yorkshire Police Mountaineering	36		
		• Southampton Rats Climbing Club	37		
		• Southampton Uni Mountaineering Club	99		
		• Southern Trekking & Mountaineering Club	89		
		• Sphinx Mountaineering Club	26		
		• St Helens Mountaineering Club	63		
		• Staffordshire Police Mt Club	20		
		• Stoke Damerel Climbing Club	55		
		• Summit Mountaineering Club	20		
		• Sunderland Mountaineering Club	33		
		• Super Drooper Mountaineering & Caving	28		
		• Surbiton & Kingston Mt Club	35		
		• Swindon Mountaineering Club	32		
		• Thames Valley Climbing Club	61		
		• The Heights Climbing Club	20		
		• The LMC Mountaineering Club	20		
		• The Mill Climbing Club	14		
		• The Mountain Club - Stafford	47		
		• The Outcasts	8		
		• The Potteries Mountaineering Group	16		
		• The South Face Climbing Club	14		
		• The Walking Club	58		
		• The Warminster Adventure Sports Club	15		
		• Trentham Outdoor Pursuits Club	20		
		• Tuesday Climbing Club	66		
		• Tunbridge Wells Mountaineering Club	69		
		• Tyne Valley Climbers	21		
		• Unemployed Climbers Club (Craggers)	58		
		• Univ College London Mt Club	105		
		• Univ of Central Lancashire Mntg Club	20		
		• Univ of Essex Mountaineering Club	80		
		• Univ of London Graduate Mt Club	130		
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		• UWFRA Outdoors Club	40		
		• Vagabond Mountaineering Club	71		
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		• Wrekin Mountaineering Club	84		
		• Yeovil Mountaineering Club	66		
		• Yeti Club	20		
		• York Alpine Club	48		
		• York Mountaineering Club	31		
		• Yorkshire Mountaineering Club	206		
		• Yorkshire Ramblers Club	177		
		• Yorkshire Walkers & Climbers Club	20		
		• Yr Hafod Scout Mountaineering Fellowship	29		

Multi Activity Groups:

- Roseberry Sports and Community College
- The Bendrigg Trust
- Bicton College
- Humberside Scout Association
- Gearstones Lodge Outdoor Centre
- Merseyside Youth Challenge Trust
- Portsmouth Youth Activities Committee
- Eldon Leisure Centre
- K Fellfarers
- Water Park (Eric Wright Trust)
- Swaledale Outdoor Club
- 3D Education & Adventure Ltd
- The Old Vicarage Centre
- Avon Outdoor Activities Club

National Body:

- Lake District National Park Authority
- Fire Service Sport & Athletics Ass
- Scout Association
- Ramblers Association
- British Association of Mountain Guides

Other:

- Barclays Bank R and C Club
- Army Mountaineering Association
- St John Ambulance
- Outdoor Industries Association
- Simonside Youth Initiative Centre
- Barnstonedale Centre

Outdoor Training/Expeditions:

- Adventure Dolphin
- Bryntysilio Outdoor Centre
- Derbyshire County Council Youth Service
- Bowles Outdoor Centre
- Longton Centre
- Maes'Y Lade Outdoor Education Centre
- Hagg Farm Outdoor
- Nantmor Mountain Centre Association
- Fairbridge
- Rhos-y-Gwallau Outdoor Education Cent
- Plas Gwynant Outdoor Educ Centre
- Storey Arms Outdoor Education Centre
- Northants Asso Yth Clubs & Action Club
- Whickham Thorns Outdoor Activity Centre
- Calshot Activities Centre
- The Dartmoor Centres
- In2venture
- YHA Edale
- PGL Travel Ltd
- Peak Training For Management Ltd
- Joint Services Mt Training Centre Wales
- Arcturus Expeditions Limited
- Calvert Trust Adventure Centre
- Consett YMCA Ltd
- Birmingham Boys & Girls Union
- Manor Adventure
- The Adventure Fitness Company

Overseas:

- New Zealand Mt Safety Council

Trader:

- Peglers
- Outdoor Shop
- Lyon Equipment Ltd
- D R International Climbing Walls Ltd
- DMM International
- Alloord
- Touchwood Sports
- Inglesport
- Rockworks
- First Ascent
- Bendcrete Climbing Walls
- Field & Trek Plc
- Climb UK Ltd
- Entre-Prises (UK) Ltd
- King Kong Climbing Walls Ltd

Youth/Schools/Groups:

- University of West England
- The Salmon Youth Centre
- Lees Brook Communtiy Climbing Project
- Dolphin School
- Herts Young Mariners Base
- St Albans School
- The College of St Mark & St John
- St Bees School
- Portsmouth Grammar School
- Oundle School Mountaineering Club
- Highgate School D O E Scheme
- Kings School
- Malvern College
- Broxbourne School
- Durham School Combined Cadet Force
- Air Training Corps

the Association held its second annual conference, followed by a FUNdamentals course delivered in partnership with the BMC. Feedback from these events has been very enthusiastic.

Mountain Rescue Council – England and Wales

by David Allan

2007 has seen a further increase in the number of incidents dealt with by mountain rescue teams. The frequency of injuries and fatalities has not however risen significantly.

The overall increase reflects more people in the lost and overdue category. An, as yet inexplicable surge, in this group led to one Lake District team responding to 31 incidents in 42 days!

60% of all call outs are now initiated by mobile phone. When used appropriately they contribute to more rapid and effective rescue, occasionally allowing a party to be ‘talked off’ the hill. There is however evidence of a trend to take a mobile phone in lieu of map, compass and torch and an unwarranted faith in the infallibility of the phone.

It is astonishing how the daily onset of darkness takes so many people by surprise. The temptation to advise a group of healthy uninjured individuals to sit down and wait for daylight has so far been resisted.

The training requirements for team members continually stretch resources. Winter training is difficult to arrange in North Wales and the Lake District but is essential for the occasional days when there is an exodus into the hills to take advantage of what are often marginal conditions. Teams travel to Scotland and further afield to fulfil this - time consuming and expensive. Driver training has now been added to the list absorbing more time and money.

In 2007 we have been delighted and honoured to have Prince William assume the role of Patron of Mountain Rescue England and Wales.

We look forward to our 75th anniversary year in 2008 with a conference in Stirling in September and a number of special events around the regions.

Plas y Brenin & Mountain Training Trust

by Martin Doyle

In 2007 Plas y Brenin worked closely with the BMC contributing to the work of the National Council, Training and Youth Committee, Technical Committee and the National Source Group (Coaching in Climbing).

The regular biennial BMC AGM and dinner took place in April with a good turnout for workshops, meetings and a fine meal. The keynote speaker at the dinner Jim Donini was very entertaining but probably regretted saying how pleased he was to be in England again, as he was quickly reminded he was in fact North Wales.

The BMC student seminar was another huge draw and continues to be an important safety contribution to young climbers and mountaineers. Plas y Brenin was also the preferred venue for other committee meetings.

In November the re-invigorated BMC Cymru /Wales held its AGM and Funday with workshops and a great slide show delivered by Ray Wood and Mike Raine.

In 2007 a review of the objectives of the BMC led to a wish to no longer administer the Jonathon Conville Memorial Trust courses. As part of its charitable objectives MTT has taken over all of this valuable work and will continue with a seamless delivery of training places for young climbers and mountaineers.

Looking forward, supporting training to new members of climbing clubs, and production of a DVD on Essential Off Piste Ski-ing are projects for 2008.

Union International des Associations d’Alpinisme

by Mark Vallance

2007 - the 75th anniversary of the UIAA - was a difficult year for the organisation. Sport climbing (i.e. competitions) was split off into a newly established organisation, the IFSC, which went on to adopt a very similar logo to the UIAA logo.

The continuing place of ski mountaineering and ice climbing competitions under the UIAA umbrella, may give rise to similar problems that climbing competitions have created over the last five years, namely, the over emphasis in time and effort on activities that are of interest to a tiny proportion of our membership. This problem came to the fore at the General Assembly in October at Matsumoto, Japan when German and Austrian representatives voted in favour of excluding all competitions from the UIAA. In the event their motion was lost, but the result is that Germany and Austria, who account for more than 50% of the membership, have left the UIAA. This is a serious philosophical schism for an international organisation and may also give rise to internal funding problems.

BMC Support to the UIAA in 2007

- UIAA Council Member – Mark Vallance
- General Assembly – Mark Vallance
- Access & Conservation Commission – Bob Pettigrew (President), Clare Bond (Secretary)
- Appeals Commission – Martin Wragg (President)
- Discipline Commission – Ian Alderson (President)
- Expedition Commission – Lindsay Griffin
- Medical Commission – Dave Hillebrandt (Vice President), Jim Milledge (member)
- Mountaineering Commission – Philip Wickens (Secretary)
- Legal Experts Working Group – Martin Wragg
- Legal Experts Working Group – Ian Alderson
- Legal Experts Working Group – Paul Debney
- Training Standards Working Group – Steve Long (President)
- Mountain Protection – Dave Morris (President)
- Safety Commission – Neville McMillan (Vice President)
- Youth Commission – Anne Arran (President)
- IFSC Climbing Events Commission – Graeme Alderson (Director)
- IFSC Climbing Rules Commission –Tim Hatch

held throughout the country and registrations began to pour in at the end of the year. Work will begin next to develop an artificial wall leading module for SPA and CWA holders, with the intention of introducing this by Christmas 2008.

We have continued to work with the Mountaineering Coordination Group, and provide secretarial support for the National Source Group for Coaching Mountaineering. The group has begun compiling a report giving recommendations for the MCG on a potential way forward for coaching mountaineering in the UK. The Chief Officer also attended several meetings of the Association of British Climbing Walls to liaise with major wall managers on the implementation of the Climbing Wall Award and the forthcoming National Indoor Climbing Achievement Scheme (NICAS).

The Chief Officer continues to chair the UIAA Training Standards Working Group of the Mountaineering Commission. Interest in this group continues to grow from all around the world, with pending applications from USA, Canada, Israel and Sweden for recognition of their awards. The revised Standards document was published online in April 2007 and a printed version ordered towards the end of the year. An international seminar on “quality control” is to be held at Plas y Brenin on May 6-7th following the Mountaineering Commission meetings on the weekend 4-5th May.

Our latest publication, “Winter Skills” reached the bookshelves in time for the main winter season and has continued to sell well ever since. This book has received international interest and has been translated into Spanish by the publisher Desnivel. We anticipate further translations to come, and have also engaged in discussions about translating “Hillwalking” into Welsh, following very successful ML and WGL courses run for the MLTW by Plas y Brenin through the medium of Welsh. Further projects are planned, but await the recruitment of Iain Peter as the new chair of the publications committee.

The revised International Mountain Leader scheme has retained a healthy level of registrations after the surge last year, and the new style summer courses have been well received. The Chief Officer has visited several of these courses for moderation purposes and intends to attend at least one of the winter courses to see how this important addition has been implemented. Following the first winter assessment course in March the IML Handbook will be published in booklet form.

BMC Annual Report 2007

Free to BMC members

£2.50



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