

## Mike Watson

**D.o.b:** 27 April 1949

### **Academic and Professional qualifications:**

MA – Master of Arts in Management; FCCA – Fellow of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants; CF – The Corporate Finance Qualification

### **Employment:**

Currently I am a Senior Lecturer in The Business School at Manchester Metropolitan University (MMU). However I am now semi-retired. I am also a freelance examiner and lecturer in Corporate Finance. Before joining MMU, in 1986, I was a partner in a firm of Certified Accountants and also the Finance Director of a finance company.

### **Involvement with the BMC:**

My involvement started when I became BMC Honorary Treasurer (1985-87) , then Chair of the Finance Committee (1988-92). I remained a member of FinCom until very recently.

I also became a member of the Competition Committee in the 1990's and became Chair of the committee between 2005-10. I continue to serve as a member of that committee.

In addition to the above I have committed a great deal of time to competition events including organising belaying for lead events and judging for bouldering events.

### **Climbing:**

I started rock climbing and walking in the mountains at the age of twelve with my Dad and a friend of his. So I have been climbing for a little over fifty years.

Over the years I have seen many changes to the climbing scene and equipment. From starting climbing at Windgather Rocks in my black Woolworths pumps and a rope tied around my waist, to being faced with a mind-boggling choice of climbing shoes, harnesses, ropes and other equipment. Also I have seen changes to the different styles of climbing that have evolved over the years, when I started we just went climbing. Now we say: I am going bouldering; or trad; or sport climbing; or going down to the wall to train; or take part in a competition; or going multipitching; or simply going for a walk in the mountains. It is great, and I love it all.

Over the years my climbing experience has been varied. From doing early grit routes, which were virtual solos, to sport climbing. With respect to grades I have climbed up to E6 trad and 7c+ sport. It is hard to pick out any one or two routes that stand out in your memory and many routes were awesome irrespective of their grade. Notable things that happened make routes stand out. Like: Dave Hinton belaying me on Lord of the Flies with a topo of the protection in case I needed it; doing Mescalito seven years ago and my sons, Stew and Mart, saying "Please don't get too drunk Dad"; being hit by a storm on the Marmolada with Paul Braithwaite; being benighted on the Philip Flam, again with Paul Braithwaite; just getting off Zanzara with Stew as it went dark; some brilliant sport climbing trips with both friends and Stew and Mart.

### **Other interests:**

Skiing, Cycling, Yoga and Martial Arts.