



MIDLANDS AREA NEWS

Issue 007 24th February 2009

Brought to you by the BMC's Midland Area

*** IMPORTANT NOTICE ***

Next Midlands Area Meeting
Thursday 26th March at 7.30pm
The Railway, has now closed so we will be using;

The Holywell
London Road, Hinckley, Leicestershire. LE10 1HL.

At the AGM we elected members to the Midlands Area Meeting for the next year. The Chair was replaced but sadly the person who took it on has had a change in circumstance and is unable to act as chair. Iain Blanch will be acting as stand in chair for this meeting with a way forward being planned.

There will be a full update on the progress with the Leicestershire Guide, all the problems and what is still needed as well as information on the new areas.

Photo: Vallouise 2009, Credit: Erik Talbolt.



Iain McKenzie, annual trip to Vallouise, Jan 2009. Photo: Richard (Bie) Fieldman

The Next BMC Midlands Area Meeting:

Thursday the 26th March at 7.30pm the original venue, The Railway, has now closed so we will be using;

The Holywell
London Road,
Hinckley, Leicestershire.
LE10 1HL.

Welcome to the seventh issue of the BMC's Midlands Area News. It has been put together by the volunteers of your local Area Meeting to keep you up to date about Midlands walking and climbing. We are a happy bunch who are involved with crag clean-ups, guidebook work, rebolting and access work. We would love to see you at our next meeting (information in previous section). We are a "doing, not talking" kind of meeting, and we are here to represent you.

If you would like to get involved or contribute to this Newsletter email: iain.a.mckenzie@btinternet.com or come along to the Open Area Meetings.

Area News by Fiona Devine

Midlands Area Minutes – 27th November 2008
At Redpoint Climbing Centre, 77 Cecil Street,
Birmingham, B19 3SU Old

Climbing Walls:

The Tower Climbing Centre: extension of the bouldering area and main room has been put back as the City Council is not undertaking any new projects and was to be based on selling off another leisure centre. Hosted the Reel Rock Tour – over 100 people attended.

Creation Wall: has finished the extension – new climbing room at Creation opened on 12th Feb'09. It is hoped that they will also invest in improving the toilet facilities

Redpoint Climbing Centre: the "A Grand Day In" event was very successful. Has become a member of Association of British Climbing Walls and got accreditation to run the The National Indoor Climbing Achievement Scheme.

Alter Rock Climbing Centre: to host a round of the leading ladder. See website for details of other events <http://www.alter-rock.co.uk>.

Bear Rock: Mike Smith has retired, the new centre manager is Alex Fry

Wolf Mountain: have acquired a new building – to open mid to late 09.

Report on BMC Youth Climbing Series by Iain Blanch

Noted that the dates have been announced and are:

7th March 2009 - Bear Rock, Warwick
28th March 2009 – Redpoint, Birmingham
25th April 2009 – The Tower, Leicester

The Final is on the 20th June 2009 at the Westway, London.

British Team Trials took place on the 6th and 7th December 2008 at EICA - Ratho on their brand new articulated competition wall. Full details on the BMC Website.

Access Issues East & West

Access West – Report by Richard Law

- Pandi Rock, Ceiriog Valley has a new owner and as such the BMC is seeking to reconfirm the access.
- Richard & Solihull MC are in discussions with the Malvern Conservators with a view to holding a crag clean-up.

Access East – Report by Iain McKenzie on behalf of Howard Pymm

- Hanging Stone Quarry- golf club is against climbing in the area. Guy Keating BMC Access Officer has written to golf club to agree a position statement for inclusion in the new climbing guide.
- Pocket Gate Quarry is SSSI and there is a BMC Agreed ban on climbing there.
- The Brand is to be included in the new guide, thanks go to Robin Richmond for securing this. Sadly, it was reported that Lady Martin had passed away this November. Request to be made at the next National Council meeting that the BMC to write to the family offering its condolences.
- Markfield Quarry – negotiations continue with Hinckley & Bosworth Council to secure climbing here. Graham Richmond reminded members that this had been sorted some years ago and that it was disappointing that the council had changed its mind.

Sports Climbing as an Olympic Sport – Rob Adie

Rob Adie, BMC Competition Climbing Officer, opened by giving a brief background to the issues. A lively discussion then took place. Many questions were raised Charles Gameson asked whether as it was a policy issue it ought to be a matter for discussion at an AGM. Scott Titt, Executive Committee member of the BMC was on hand to clarify saying that National Council is empowered to make policy decisions and will take account of an area's position. Some expressed concern that monies may be drawn away to fund the elite and individuals would lose out. Iain McKenzie and Roger Fannery reminded members that the BMC already supports climbing like the British Youth Climbing Series and it would serve as an extension.

A vote was taken on whether they would like the BMC to support Climbing as an Olympic Sport. 18 were for and 2 abstained. The motion was carried.

The meeting was followed with food and a Fantastic Lecture and Slide Show by Nick Bullock.

13th Meeting of the BMC National Council

Meeting Date: Saturday 29 November 2008
Venue: Plas y Brenin

• **Specialist Committee Reports:** Presentations were received from all ten of the BMC Specialist Committees (Access, Technical, Guidebooks etc); the Terms of Reference, Membership and Forward Plans of these committees were then reviewed and amended as appropriate. Iain McKenzie was accepted as the new Chair of the Competitions Committee (taking over from Mike Watson) and Deirdre Collier took over from Ken Jackson as one of the National Council reps on the Finance Committee. The Technical Committee is seeking a volunteer (most probably a retired senior engineer) to take over from Neville McMillan as BMC rep on the UIAA Safety Commission and CEN Standards Committee.

• **Area Reports:** It was reported that Christian Lund had taken over from Anna Gregory as L&SE Area Chair and that John Matthews had taken over as Midlands Chair. L&SE held its most recent Area Meeting in Portcullis House (Parliament) with a healthy attendance of c.45 people. BMC Cymru/Wales (south) is developing well.

• **Finance:** The BMC year-end forecast now stands at a surplus of £82k. This is more than expected as a result of a Travel Insurance profit share payment and strong take-up of the Direct Debit membership offer.

• **Club / Individual Subscriptions 2010:** It was agreed that subs for the year beginning 1 January 2010 would be frozen at 2009 levels.

• **Proposals for BMC Officials / 2009 AGM:** National Council agreed to propose Rab Carrington as the next BMC President and Audrey Seguy as a new Vice President.

• **Clubs Working Group:** The work of the CWG was endorsed by National Council and it was agreed that it should be allowed to continue its good work under the chairmanship of Rab Carrington. Issues under consideration include the establishment of a Clubs Committee within the BMC, club subscription structures and the formal role of clubs within the BMC.

• **Climbing and the Olympics:** An information paper is being produced for discussion at the next round of Area Meetings. Some Areas have already voted in favour of the concept of climbing becoming an Olympic sport - others remain undecided.

• **Other:** An initial £15k of funding was agreed to support the Mountain Heritage Trust (MHT). Two new clubs were accepted for BMC membership. The new Travel Insurance sales module on the BMC website has been well received. A decision from Sport England on 2009-13 grant funding is expected in late December / early January.

Dave Turnbull, 19 Dec 2009

NESTING RESTRICTIONS 2009

THINKING ABOUT BOULDERING AT THE ROACHES? OR AN EVENING ON THE CLWYD LIMESTONE CRAGS?

The BMC's **Regional Access Database (RAD)** should be every climber's first stop for up-to-date information. The RAD is a searchable database of all the crags with special access and conservation considerations, including all the agreed nesting restrictions for England & Wales.

The UK is internationally important for many wintering, migratory and nesting birds and for over 30 years the BMC has worked with the statutory conservation bodies, RSPB, National Park Authorities and local ornithologists to agree the least restrictive option in maintaining access to crags whilst protecting nesting birds.

There is a general acceptance amongst conservation bodies and landowners that restrictions should be flexible, monitored and reviewed to ensure they reflect nesting patterns and maintain credibility with climbers and the RAD plays an important part in this, so why not log-on and check it out?

The RAD can be accessed directly at

www.thebmc.co.uk/bmcrag/

BMC Access & Conservation Officer (Regions) Guy Mccrarr

T: 0161 438 3309 E: guy@thebmc.co.uk

www.thebmc.co.uk

BRITISH MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL

177-179 Burton Road, West Didsbury, Manchester M20 2BB

T: 0161 445 4111 E: office@thebmc.co.uk

The BMC is the national representative body that exists to protect the freedoms and promote the interests of climbers, hill walkers and mountaineers, including skimountaineers. See our participation statement at www.thebmc.co.uk

CLIMBERS AND CONSERVATION WORKING TOGETHER

THE SOUTH

CHALK

Isle of Wight

San Carter, headland at the SE end of Scotland's Bay, includes Gullery to Heaven and Albatross where it crosses San Carter. A year round restriction applies to Highdown Cliff (East of San Carter) for ornithological and historical reasons. 1 Mar - 31 July

Beachy Head

A peregrine nest at Beachy Head. Contact the Ranger (T: 01223 412387) to check access arrangements. 1 Feb - 30 June

Solihull

Contact the BMC to see if nesting restrictions apply.

SWANAGE

Pier Bottom to St Athanas's Head: Pier Bottom is the valley North of St Athanas's Head. Restrictions apply between Buttery Corner and Slippery Ledge including the Yellow Wall to the valley of the Pier Bottom.

Heathery Big Cove, Smokey Hole and Topmost Quarry.

Collyer Ledge: between Darning Ledge and Vulture Buttress Direct and East of The Razor's Edge.

Convent Ledge: West of Sea Cove and East of Chas.

Blackies Hole: half of Forciveness (including the sea cave) and all routes between Hipspringy Scarp and Cross Nuts.

Reddick Ridge West: from Southern Special to Hard Day's Night, Annapolis to Rainslip and Glen Crack to Ayr Laps.

Travelling Wall along the cliff base from the Marncliffe entry point is permitted.

The Lighthouse Cliff: between Scutcheon Chimney and the start of Trenches of the Cliff.

Climbing is not permitted from Tidy Wines Cove to Durlston Head or Tidy Wines Quarry for ornithological, ecological, and safety reasons. 1 Mar - 31 July

PORTLAND

The restrictions on Portland vary depending on where the birds nest. Contact the Portland Ranger (T: 01202 299292), or the BMC for full details.

Chequer Cliff (NR): This restriction can be variable in extent - look out for signs marking the restricted area.

NR Restricted areas are no longer marked by circular disks on the bottom half of boundary routes, but by on-site signage. 1 Feb - 1 Sept

BERRY HEAD

The C&F Battery: Co. Wick, Upper and Lower Ranger Buttresses.

The Rainbow Bridge: cliffs are open for climbing unless onsite signage indicates restrictions. For further information check with the BMC or the local Ranger (T: 01903 826191). 1 Mar - 31 July

LUNDY

Lundy Island has extremely important seabird populations and a number of the cliffs have bird restrictions.

Restrictions vary annually as climbers should check the guidebook before visiting and submit the book to be available on arrival.

For info, Lundy Warden (T: 01237 43131).

Accommodation/meal details can be obtained from the Landmark Trust (T: 01428 832925). 1 April - 31 July

BAGGY POINT

Restrictions cover the whole area from Scouting Zawn and St. C's Cove (P&W) and is reviewed mid-season (late April/early May) - check with the local BMC representative or the National Trust.

White markers define the restricted areas (NR). Contact the National Trust warden to check (T: 01217 870555). 12 Mar - 30 June

Note: Variable Restrictions (NR) may change during the nesting season.

SOUTH WALES

GOWER PENINSULA

There is a nesting restriction on all routes between Minchin Hole and Quarry Cove (East of Porth Hall) inclusive. The restriction is reviewed in May - watch out for signs onsite or contact the National Trust Warden (T: 01792 390336), for up-to-date details.

Thurle Hole - Restriction is from Central Cliff to Wyllys.

Yellow Wall (NR) - Between 5 Minutes to Kill and Early Warning.

The restriction will be reviewed in May. 1 Mar - 14 Aug

SOUTH PEMBROKESHIRE

NB Pembroke restrictions are complex and vary annually. Please check the introductions in Stack Rocks, Broad Haven South, Stackpole Quay or the St George's Head or parks. Information leaflets are available from the BMC, Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority and May Weather's Café.

Range West

Access available for brief climbers from the end of May 2009 to end of January 2010.

Climbers must attend an annual briefing and hold a valid permit to access Range West.

Range West buildings, starting at 9:00am: 23 May, 27 June & 25 July

Brillings held at the Caffeine Camp. Park next to the tank and ask at the greenhouse for details.

Berry Sails to Western Walls: Fala Start to the Jolly Sloop and Robinsons inclusive. 23 May - 1 August

Western Walls: The Jolly Sloop and Robinsons to All Quiet inclusive. 23 May - 15 August

NB This restriction covers the area on the top of the cliff as well.

Wind Zawn: From the Finlands inclusive. 22 May - 1 August

Strate Walls: From the Finlands inclusive. 22 May - 1 August

Impending Isles: From the Finlands inclusive. 22 May - 1 August

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Hunter's Leap: restriction on both sides of entrance, includes Clough and area of South. 1 March - 1 August

Chapel Point: due to rock fall restriction now The Temple to Blow Out. 1 Feb - 31 Aug

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Falcon Crag (upper), Borrowdale: signed - may be moved to cover lower Falcon Crag and/or the Gully area.

Falcon Crag (lower), Borrowdale: unsigned - no restriction unless birds nest.

Gowder Crag, Swindale (NE buttress only): unsigned - no restriction unless birds nest.

Heron Crag, Eskdale: unsigned - no restriction unless birds nest.

Hampshire Head: signed.

Rever Crag, Yewdale, Conistone: signed (Western edge scramble not restricted).

Rever Crag, Thakeham: signed - the site is regularly monitored and the restriction lifted if the birds fail to nest.

Stewart Crag, Thakeham: signed - no restriction unless birds nest.

Threavale Crag, Thakeham: unsigned - no restriction unless birds nest.

Wallowbarn Gorge (E buttress): unsigned - no restriction unless birds nest.

Wallowbarn Gorge: signed.

Wilder Crag: Permanent restriction - call BMC office for details.

If ravens are nesting, the following crags are restricted between 15 Feb and 31 May:

Buckhorn: Longdendale: signed - restriction applies to lower and upper crags, and scramble (may be extended to 30 June if peregrine also nest).

Rever Crag, Thakeham: signed - also covers scrambles (may be extended to 30 June if peregrine also nest).

Rever Crag, Conistone: signed (may be extended to 30 June if peregrine also nest).

Swarthall Crag, Barton Fell, Howtown: signed.

Upper & Lower Theng Crag: signed - the birds vary site and restrictions can change (may also extend to 30 June if peregrine also nest). Form Buttress remains unrestricted.

St Bees Head:

This area is an RSPB reserve, the largest seabird colony in NW England, and home to the only black guillemot breeding site in England.

The main banded areas of Asper Wall and Scabbly Rock are unrestricted. All other areas including Fisherman's Steps are restricted - 1 Feb - 30 July

Boulders:

Asper Wall and foot of Fisherman's Steps: unrestricted.

South of Fisherman's Steps: restricted.

Paradise Bay: south of inlet (where path meets the shore) - unrestricted.

South Head: restricted.

WORKSHIRE

The TONPA monitor the nest sites and lift the restrictions as soon as the chicks fledge.

Goldale Scar (NR) check the RAD for full details.

High Stoney Bank: Devon. 15 Feb - 31 May

Langcliffe Quarry: 1 March - 30 June

Mulham Cove: check onsite signs. 1 Mar - 30 June

Blue Scar: whole crag. 1 Mar - 15 July

LANCASHIRE/CHESHIRE

Warton Quarry (NR) may apply - check signs onsite.

Hoghton Quarry: check with the BMC prior to visit and onsite signs.

Hoghton Quarry (NR) variable restriction, check signs onsite.

Reverdale (NR) variable restriction, check signs onsite.

Gorton Rocks (NR) variable restriction can apply, check signs onsite.

Stronach Edge: Localised restrictions are likely for nesting rags - check website and see onsite signs.

PEAK DISTRICT

Reaches (NR) depending on nest site. TONPA monitor site and lift the restriction as soon as the chicks fledge. Check onsite signs.

Winkley Ridge: check with the BMC prior to visit and onsite signs.

Reverdale (NR) variable restriction, check signs onsite.

Gorton Rocks (NR) variable restriction can apply, check signs onsite.

Stronach Edge: Localised restrictions are likely for nesting rags - check website and see onsite signs.

SCOTLAND

Large numbers of birds nest on Scottish sea cliffs, stacks and island crags between March and July - check with The Mountaineering Council of Scotland (MCS) for full details.

IRELAND

There are relatively few negotiated restrictions on climbing for nesting birds in Ireland. Visiting climbers should first contact Mountaineering Council of Ireland (MCI).

A number of seasonal climbing restrictions to protect nesting birds have now begun, and others will commence shortly.

Every year the BMC works with the statutory conservation bodies, RSPB, National Park Authorities and local ornithologists to agree a set of voluntary restrictions to maintain access to crags whilst protecting nesting birds.

Every issue we will look at one climbing club and run a feature telling you, the Midlands Climbers a bit about them.

This is an opportunity for clubs to show you what they do, this time we look at The Mountain Club (Stafford)

If you are a club and would like to feature in this section, please get in touch and send an article and some pictures through. Send to iain.a.mckenzie@btinternet.com

The Mountain Club (Stafford)

The Mountain Club was established in 1952 by a group of employees from the English Electric Company in Stafford. Since then it has gone from strength to strength, and currently has more than 60 members from Stafford and the surrounding area.

The club is very active and friendly, with members of all ages who have joined the club to meet others with similar interests. As well as all forms of climbing, walking and scrambling, we also have a number of members who mountain bike, surf and canoe, and we welcome new members of all abilities and interests. Some of our members have had their first experience of climbing with the club, others have joined looking for climbing partners in the area, and some have joined with no intention of climbing, instead looking to extend their interest in other outdoor activities such as walking.

We have our own club hut, Bryn Hafod, in the beautiful Aran mountains of Mid Wales. The hut was designed and built entirely by club members, and was opened in 1965. In recent years an extensive programme of maintenance and improvement has been undertaken by the club, and it now boasts accommodation for 30 people (including a members-only room), a large kitchen, a lounge with open fire, two showers and a drying room. Members have free use of the hut all year round. Located at the head of Cwm Cywarch, there is plenty of climbing of all grades within walking distance, and there are numerous walking options too, including a path leading to the top of Aran Fawddwy.

Every year we hold a wide range of club meets that cater for every taste. During 2008 these ranged from local meets at Stanage and regular 'hut meets' at Bryn Hafod to trips to Symonds Yat, Tremadog, Abersoch and Borrowdale. For 2009, a packed meets list has just been compiled and, as well as many old favourites there are also plenty of new meets, including several throughout the year linked to the 'Chairman's Challenge'.



Bryn Hafod, The Mountain Club Hut.

The idea behind the Challenge is for members of the club to complete all the climbs in Ken Wilson's 'Classic Rock' during the year. For more information about upcoming meets, take a look at the list on our website.



The Mountain Club Stanage Meet 2008.

As well as 'formal' weekend meets, we also climb locally both indoors and outdoors on a regular basis, and meet socially every Thursday night in The Greyhound (see below), so why not come down and join us?

Club Meet: Socially every Thursday night

Time: 21:30

Venue: The Greyhound, 12 County Road, Stafford, ST16 2PU

Contact Name: Phil Bailey

Telephone: 07836 276498

Email: pacts81@hotmail.co.uk

Web Address: www.themountainclub.org.uk



The Mountain Club Stanage Meet 2008.

BMC Club Guidance Notes - Club Equipment

The BMC Club Guidance Notes describe the obligations of a club which lends equipment out to its members. This document gives practical advice on how to meet these obligations, and covers them in greater detail. If you are a club Equipment Officer, this document is for you!

This 9 page document includes the following:

Roles & responsibilities: Of the user, and the Equipment Officer.

Equipment Checking: Pre-use checks and thorough inspections.

Equipment Inspection: Who by, how and when.

Retiring and quarantining equipment.

Choosing club equipment.

Storing club equipment.

Where to get further information.

Blank inspection and logbook sheets.

Download the document from:

<https://www.thebmc.co.uk/Download.aspx?id=329>

By Dan Middleton, BMC Technical Officer

BMC Club subscriptions for 2009

Information for CLUBS Subscribing to the BMC, not to be confused as membership fees for the club in the Club Focus!

Club membership subscriptions have been set for the period 1 Jan – 31 Dec 2009.

The fees are as follows:

Club Affiliation Fee £250.00 for the first 20 members & £11.75 per capita (or member) thereafter.

Student Club Affiliation Fee £175.00 for the first 20 members & £8.75 per capita (or member) thereafter.

Club member (U18) £7.00

Club Upgrade £15.20

Associate Member £180.00 (net)

BEWDLEY MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

Bewdley and District Mountaineering Club is a small group of mountaineering enthusiasts based on the towns of Bewdley, Kidderminster and Stourport, about 20 miles from Birmingham. We are BMC affiliated, but have an informal and friendly atmosphere.

The Club's main activities are centred around a programme of hut meets (with the occasional camping meet) most of which are in North Wales or the Lake District, but club members also make arrangements to go further afield, e.g. Scotland or the Alps. Recent meets have taken place at Nant Peris, Coniston and Clapham (Yorkshire Dales). Next year will see a revival of the Club's "10 miles and 10 climbs" event in the Peak District and a week-long meet in Kinloch Rannoch, Scotland. We cater for both climbers and mountain walkers and people of all levels and abilities are welcome to join. Membership has been increasing in recent months and the Club has now arranged regular visits to the nearby Martley Climbing Wall.

We meet each week on Thursdays at around 8.30pm at The Great Western Pub in Kidderminster Road, Bewdley. For more details, see the Club's web site at www.bewdleymountaineeringclub.co.uk which includes a FAQs page.

Club Meet: Thursday's

Time: 21:45

Venue: The Great Western, Kidderminster Road, Bewdley.

Contact Name: Vince Harrison

Telephone: 01299 871724

Web Address: www.bewdleymountaineeringclub.co.uk

Email: vince.harrison@btinternet.com

BOWLINE CLIMBING CLUB

The Leicester based and BMC affiliated Bowline Climbing Club has been established for more than fifty years and is an active and friendly club with over 100 members, holding regular meets throughout the UK and further afield. We also own a hut just outside Llanberis.

Characterised by a healthy spirit of competition and no small amount of p**s taking, the Bowline exists to foster a love of the outdoors, not just in climbing but in hill walking, ice climbing, mountaineering, cycling, running and skiing and the many other activities which our members participate in. These activities are enjoyed at many different levels within the club, so there really is 'something for everyone'!

Although there are many meets based further afield, most weekends there are people going up to the Peak District for a day of fun on the grit, or limestone. In the winter we generally try to get away for at least one week sport climbing on hot rock and/or a week skiing. We also have an active program of evening events in the week, including running, cycling and climbing.

Club Meet: Wednesday Night

Time: From 21:00 onwards

Venue: Cow & Plough, Stoughton, Leicester.

Contact Name: Zoe Pickering

Telephone: 07709 337976

Web Address: www.bowline.f9.co.uk

Email: meetsec@gmail.com

CEUNANT MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

We are a long established climbing club based in the Midlands (centred on Birmingham). We number about 150 members. A mixture of all sorts, from big range mountaineers to rock climbers, sports climbers, skiers, ski tourers, walkers and scramblers.

We organise a varied program of meets and longer trips around the UK, Europe & occasionally international. In previous years, these have included Chamonix, Alps, Lundy, Italian Dolomites, Corsica and the Canadian Rockies to name just a few. We also have an active programme of social events like canoe trips on the river Severn, curry evenings and slide shows. For more details See the "Meets and Events" page on our website.

The Ceunant welcomes new members at all levels of ability and in all fields related to climbing and mountaineering. You don't have to be a great alpinist to join! We have members who climb at various grades, and in various styles from bouldering to mountaineering, so you'll certainly find someone to climb with. If you're completely new to mountain sports, you will be very welcome: you couldn't find a better place to start!

Essential Information:

Club Meet: Every Wednesday

Time: 21:30 - 23:00

Venue: Spotted Dog, Corner of Alcester St & Warwick St, Digberth, Birmingham, B12 0NH

Contact Name: Fiona Devine

Telephone: 0121 704 2177

Web Address: www.ceunant.org

Email: secretary@ceunant.org

Membership: Open to anyone over 18. Young people are welcome if they come with their parent or guardian. Membership rates this year are £20.

Club Hut Information: Are you after a hut to stay in Snowdonia? Why not book the Ceunant MC hut "Ty'n Lon" in Nant Paris, next to the Vaynol Arms, and close to the main climbing and walking areas. This five star accommodation has three bedrooms, (a main bedroom that sleeps 12 and a further 2 bedrooms reserved for members), a drying room, cutlery, crockery, hot water, w.c., showers, electricity and central heating. Access is by car. Our rates for outside booking are very reasonable at £8.00 per person per night. For mid week bookings we can accommodate 25 people.

For more information and bookings, please contact the Hut Secretary, Val Beddard, 49 Vicarage Road, Wollaston, STOURBRIDGE, West Midlands, DY8 4NR Tel:01384 373105 or email hut@ceunant.org



Ceunant Mountaineering Club Hut

COVENTRY MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

The purpose of the club is to encourage every branch of mountaineering.

The main activities of the club are a varied series of weekend meets held every two to three weeks in the popular and also the less well known climbing and walking areas of the UK and beyond. In winter we generally base our meets in mountain huts and cottages and in summer we normally camp.

The club owns a hut, or cottage, at Corris in southern Snowdonia, which is available to members. Corris is close to Cader Idris, the Arans and Plynlimon. The Corris area is much quieter than the Snowdon area. It offers good hill walking, forest trails, mountain biking trails and rock climbing.

It is quite common to go out for a day and see no more than a handful of people.

Club Meet: Socially every Wed evening

Time: 21:30 - 23:00

Venue: London Road Social Club, Paradise St., Coventry.

Contact Name: Mike

Telephone: 024 76597125

Web Address: www.coventry-mc.fsnet.co.uk (new site shortly)

Email: mike_o_bike@yahoo.co.uk

COVENTRY & WARWICKSHIRE RED ROPE

The club is based in Coventry and Warwickshire, with members in Coventry, Kenilworth, Leamington, Warwick, Stratford and around.

Our members go hill-walking and scrambling, country-walking, mountaineering, and mountain-biking – all year round. We have regular weekend trips to the hills, such as North Wales, or the Lakes, day trips, local walks, a regular pub meeting once a month and evening walks in the summer.

We are a regional group of National Red Rope Socialist Walking and Climbing Club, bringing together walkers and climbers who have socialist and like-minded ethics. The club is organised in regional groups around the UK, and if you join you can take part in walks and trips organised by other regions, giving you a wide choice of locations and activities.

Have a look at our website to see our planned activities for 2008.

Club Meet: Socially, the first Tuesday in the month.

Time: 20:30 – 22:30

Venue: Virgins & Castle pub, Kenilworth.

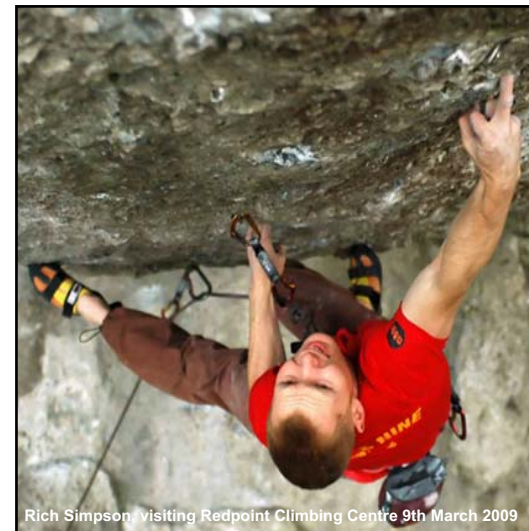
Contact Name: Bronwen Reid

Telephone: 01926 314634

Web Address: www.redrope-warks.org.uk

Email: info@redrope-warks.org.uk

This is a list of clubs locally in the Midlands. All the clubs on the BMC database were emailed and asked if they wished to be included in this list, if a club is not here, they did not get back to us. If a club wishes to be included, please check your details are correct on the BMC database and email us direct.



Rich Simpson, visiting Redpoint Climbing Centre 9th March 2009

HEREFORD CLIMBING CLUB

We are a small but active club with members from Herefordshire, Worcestershire and Gloucestershire.

Through the summer we climb weekly at Symonds Yat and during the winter months we climb weekly indoors. We also have regular weekends in the Wye Valley, Pembrokeshire, North Wales and the Peak District.

New members are always welcome regardless of experience. Please contact us to find out more.

Email: matttyler1500@aol.com

HINCKLEY MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

We are an active club that exist for the benefit of the members. With a full programme of activities there's ample opportunity for walking, scrambling, rock climbing, mountaineering, mountain biking, skiing and socialising.

Check out this website to find out more, or come and have a drink with us on Thursday evening.

New members whether beginners or experienced are always welcome.

Club Meet: Every Thursday Night

Time: From 21:00

Venue: The Holywell Inn. London Road, Hinckley.

Web Address: www.hinckleymc.org

LEICESTER RED ROPE

The club is based in Leicester and our members go climbing, hill-walking and scrambling, mountaineering and country-walking. We have regular weekend trips to the hills, such as North Wales, or the Lakes, day trips, local walks, a regular pub meeting once a month and evening walks in the summer.

We are a regional group of National Red Rope Socialist Walking and Climbing Club, bringing together walkers and climbers who have socialist and like-minded ethics. The club is organised in regional groups around the UK, and if you join you can take part in walks and trips organised by other regions, giving you a wide choice of locations and activities.

Have a look at our national website to find out more about the club.

Club Meet: Climbing, every Wednesday

Time: 18:00 - 19:30

Venue: Moat Community College, we meet socially the first Tuesday of every month 9 pm at the Swan and Rushes (near Leicester Royal Infirmary)

Contact Name: Pravin

Telephone: Mob. 07796988488 Tel. 01162366852

Web Address: www.redrope.org.uk

Email: pravski@yahoo.com

MERCIAN MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

The Mercian is an active and friendly club catering for mountaineers, climbers and walkers of all abilities. Social activities are based in Birmingham, but we have members based all over the Midlands and further afield. We have members from all walks of life, and ranging in age from their early 20s to 70+ and still going strong!

We have mountain meets roughly once a fortnight. These normally attract a good mix of people: there will be people wanting to do things ranging from a walk to a scramble to easy climbing to hard stuff up to the lower E grades, and novices at any activity are always welcome. Mountain biking has also taken off recently, especially on wet days. Club members usually arrange trips abroad too – last summer saw trips to the Alps and to the Dolomites, and there have been several skiing and snowboarding trips in the last few years too.

Our weekly pub socials take place in the Old Crown in Digbeth on Thursday evenings from 9:30pm, usually following a visit to the climbing wall. One social a month is a special event, such as a slideshow, a quiz or a photo competition. We also arrange other socials once a month – outings such as bowling and meals out. Full details are available on our website. If you think we sound like your sort of club, get in touch and pop along to meet us. We look forward to seeing you soon!

Club Meet: Thursday Evenings

Time: From 19:30 (Creation) & From 21:30 (The Old Crown)

Venue: Creation Climbing Wall, Moseley & The Old Crown, Digbeth

Contact Name: Rebecca Blyth

Telephone: 07799 207990

Web Address: www.mercianmc.org.uk

Email: newcomer@mercianmc.org.uk

MOUNTAIN CLUB, THE (STAFFORD)

We are Staffordshire's premier club for rock climbing, hill walking, ice climbing and winter mountaineering. Established in 1952, we have our own club hut, Bryn Hafod, located in the beautiful Welsh mountains in Southern Snowdonia. As well as all forms of climbing, walking and scrambling, we also have a number of members who mountain bike, surf and canoe, and we welcome new members of all abilities and interests.

Every year we hold a wide range of club meets that cater for every taste - take a look at the current list on our website. We also climb locally both indoors and outdoors on a regular basis, and meet socially every Thursday night in The Greyhound (see below), so why not come down and meet us?

Club Meet: Socially every Thursday night

Time: From 21:30

Venue: The Greyhound, 12 County Road, Stafford, ST16 2PU.

Contact Name: Phil Bailey

Telephone: 07836 276498

Web Address: www.themountainclub.org.uk

Email: pacts81@hotmail.co.uk

NORTH LEICESTERSHIRE MOUNTAIN CLUB

We are a mountain club rather than a mountaineering club and so enjoy all activities associated with the outdoors environment. These include: Climbing, Walking, Mountaineering, Caving and Mountain Biking.

We are child and dog friendly, as long as they are well behaved and you look after them!

In the dark winter evenings we have a weekly indoor climbing meeting at the Tower Climbing Centre (Tuesday's), on summer evenings might go to a local crag or quarry or maybe up to Wildcat Tor at Matlock.

Club Meet: Tuseday and Thursday Evenings

Time: From 19:00 (Tuesday) & From 21:00 (Thursday)

Venue: The Tower on Tuesday & White Hart public house in Quorn.

Contact Name: Adrian Thorpe

Telephone: 0116 2892421

NUNEATON MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

We are a friendly club involved with all kinds of mountaineering activity including Climbing, Scrambling, Hill walking and back packing.

Club Meet: Thursday Evenings

Time: From 20:30

Venue: The Attleborough Liberal club, Nuneaton.

Contact Name: Andrew Holder

Telephone: 01827 717648

Web Address: www.nunmc.org

SOLIHULL MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

The Club is based in the Solihull area of the West Midlands with members from all round the area. We are actively involved in many mountain sports including mountaineering, scrambling, hill walking, rock climbing and mountain biking to name but a few. We welcome anyone with an interest in mountains.

Although we have a number of very experienced rock climbers in the club we also cater for novices with regular ad hoc meets targeted at their needs.

The club has both a structured programme of events and an informal set of events that are arranged at short notice. Check out the Activities section of the website, message board or turn up on a club evening for up-to-date details.

Club Meet: Every Tuesday many members go to the Creation Wall climbing centre at 582 Moseley Rd, Birmingham. Check the website for location details. If you want to make contact with us there its probably best to get in touch beforehand to make sure we meet up on the night.

Thursday night is club night. Although there may not always be a committee member there every Thursday, we guarantee to have someone there on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays in the month.

Time: 21:30 - 22:00

Venue: The Old Edwardians Sports Club is at the junction of Streetsbrook Road and Olton Lane, in Solihull. A map showing the location of the Old Ed's can be found on the website.

Contact Name: Rob Trezise

Telephone: Rob on 07976 840679

Web Address: www.solihullmc.org.uk

Email: See Web Site

WARWICK CLIMBING CLUB

Warwick Climbing Club is based in the west midlands, so if you want to go rock climbing, mountaineering, scrambling or hill walking, you have come to the right place!

The club have approximately 80 members drawn from Warwick, Leamington Spa, Stratford-upon-Avon, Coventry and the surrounding areas.

We aim to offer a friendly atmosphere where local climbers can meet so come along one evening and say hello.

The club organises outdoor trips about three times a month during the summer months and less frequently during winter. Have a look at our website to find out our planned activities for 2007.

Club Meet: Every Monday & Wednesday

Time: 19:00 - 21:30

Venue: St Nicholas Park Leisure Centre in Warwick.

Contact Name: Dave Button

Telephone: 07775 582958

Web Address: www.warwickclimbingclub.co.uk

Email: info@warwickclimbingclub.co.uk

WARWICK MOUNTAINS

The University of Warwick Hillwalking & Mountaineering Club is an active and open club for students and staff at the University of Warwick.

Catering for people of all abilities with a wide range of interests, we go on weekend trips every three weeks to Britain's mountainous regions.

Whether you want to take an easier walk through beautiful mountain scenery, or have a technical day on the mountain we can accommodate your interests.

We also run two annual trips: one winter trip to Scotland for winter walking and climbing, and a summer alpine tour.

From walkers to alpinists, this is the club if you love being in the mountains.

Club Meet: As above, three weekend trips per term, plus an annual Scottish winter trip and summer Alpine trip. We also have social events which tend to be fortnightly.

Web Address: www.warwickmountains.co.uk

Email: info@warwickmountains.co.uk

WEST MIDLANDS RED ROPE

The club is based in the West Midlands, with members in and around Birmingham, Solihull and Wolverhampton.

Our members go hill-walking, mountain walking and country-walking. There are day walks, summer evening walks, weekend trips to the hills and twice a year there is a social meeting. A recent addition has been an annual four day backpacking trip.

We are a regional group of Red Rope, a national socialist walking and climbing club. This brings together walkers and climbers who have socialist and like-minded views. If you join Red Rope you can take part in walks and trips organised by other regions, giving you a wide choice of locations and activities.

Have a look at our national website to find out more about the club..

Club Meet: contact below for further info, details of programme.

Time: as arranged

Venue: n/a

Contact Name: Gill Cox

Telephone: 01902 331233

Web Address: www.redrope.org.uk

Email: barrier@waitrose.com (local contact)

“ from upper class beginnings over a century ago to a modern thriving network, the club scene is part of the fabric of climbing in Britain...”

BMC MIDLANDS AREA

WEST BROMWICH MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

WBMC is a friendly mountaineering club based in the heart of the West Midlands. We welcome all kinds of mountaineering activity, including climbing, hill walking and fell running.

We welcome experienced mountaineers and complete beginners alike.

Club Meet: Every Thursday evening & Coach Meet 2nd Sunday (rarely Saturday) of the month

Time: From around 9pm or 8pm if there is a talk/slide show (7am for coach)

Venue: "The Globe", Reform Street, West Bromwich (opposite the Police Station)

Contact Name: Alison Whitehead (Membership Sec)
Nigel Tarr (Coach Secretary)

Telephone: 01384 254110 (Alison) 07703 345729 (Nigel)

Web Address: www.wbmc.org

Email: jaejed@hotmail.com

THE WORCESTER MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

The WMC is a small but lively club based in Worcester. Our members are keen on many forms of mountain sports ranging from hill-walking and scrambling to climbing and mountaineering.

There are regular club trips planned to a variety of venues from Cornwall to North Wales, the Lake District and Scotland, and also European ventures to the Alps and the Dolomites. The greater ranges of the Himalaya and the Andes have also been visited when individual finances allow!

Some club members also enjoy the outdoors on their mountain bikes and in canoes – always a good option if it is raining!

The club meets regularly at a pub in Worcester and will always give a warm welcome to anyone who might be interested in joining whether experienced or not.

Club Meet: Thursday Evenings

Time: From 9pm

Venue: The Albion Pub, Bath Road, Worcester

Contact Name: Matt Smallman

Telephone: 07752 638924

Web Address: <http://worcestermountaineer.tripod.com>

Email: mjsmallman@googlemail.com

GET INVOLVED WITH BMC CAMPAIGNS...

The BMC campaign on a number of issues from the condition of fixed bolted equipment to increasing access to our coastal environment. We lobby locally and nationally to bring these issues to the attention of Government and Stakeholders to ensure the continual enjoyment of the outdoors and to protect the rights of all climbers, hill walkers and mountaineers. Visit www.thebmc.co.uk and search for active campaigns to get involved in.

Climbing & Mountaineering Clubs

WREKIN MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

The Wrekin Mountaineering Club is a very active Club and friendly Club based in Shropshire, but includes members from all over the Midlands and other parts of the Country.

Meets are held every 2nd Sunday, and weekend and longer meets are held throughout the year in all major climbing areas in the UK and Europe. Members are active in all areas of mountain hill walking, rock climbing, bouldering and winter mountaineering.

Membership is for persons over 18, and our rock climbers and mountain walkers are of all levels of ability, all willing to pass on their skills and experience to new members.

We are a BMC affiliated Club, and have excellent discounts with National and local retailers.

Club Meet: Socially 1st Tuesday of each month but indoor wall and outdoor meets every Tuesday

Time: 1st Tuesday of the Month 20:30-22:00

Venue: George and Dragon, High Street, Much Wenlock.

Contact Name: Bob Mitchell

Telephone: 01746 761696

Web Address: www.wrekinmc.co.uk

Email: mitch@wrekinmc.co.uk

THE UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER M.C.

Membership to the club is restricted to students, staff and graduates from the University of Leicester.

Whether you are climbing in the High E grades, or don't know a karabiner from a friend, then the Mountaineering Club is for you.

We provide the means, equipment and safe instruction from experienced club members. The club runs regular trips to the Peak District, Lake District, Snowdonia Yorkshire, Portland and Pembrokeshire.

New members are readily welcomed and you can get involved as much as you like. All you need to join is enthusiasm. In return we promise to offer you a year packed with fun and adventure.

Club Meet: Tuesday Night and Wednesday Afternoon

Time: 19:30 - 21:00 (Tuesday) & 13:30 - 15:00 (Wednesday)

Venue: Moat Climbing Wall

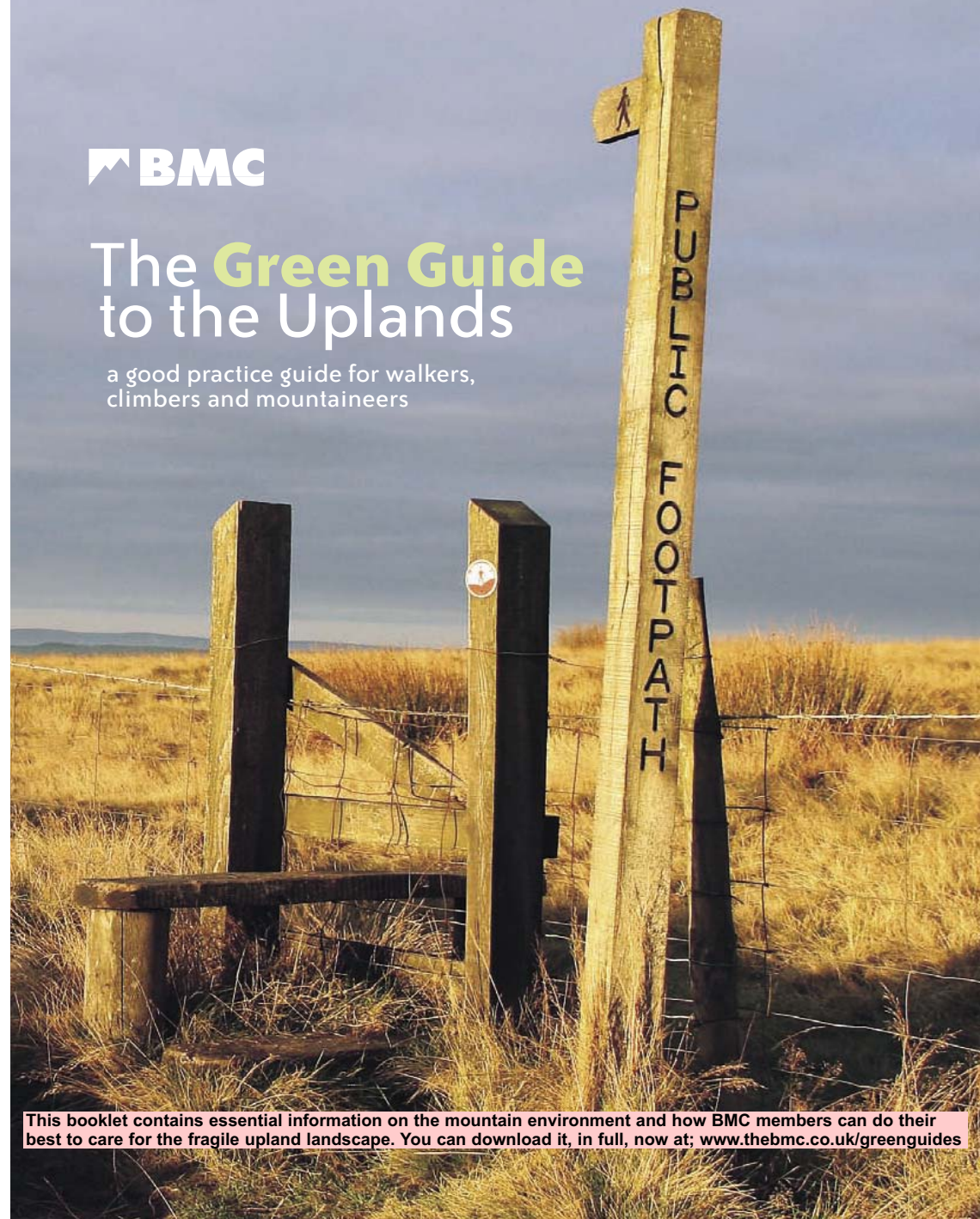
Contact Name: Steve Elliff

Email: su-climbing@le.ac.uk



The Green Guide to the Uplands

a good practice guide for walkers, climbers and mountaineers



This booklet contains essential information on the mountain environment and how BMC members can do their best to care for the fragile upland landscape. You can download it, in full, now at; www.thebmc.co.uk/greenguides

On-Line at www.thebmc.co.uk



Youth Climbing Series 2009

A series of three friendly, inexpensive competitions for youngsters at local climbing walls, followed by a grand final where the top three from each category in each region compete for the British crown.

All competitions feature bouldering and either top roping (ages 8-10 and 11-13) or leading (ages 14-16).



Cyngor
Mynyddu
Prydain



British
Mountaineering
Council
Working for Climbers,
Hill Walkers and
Mountaineers

Entry Forms and venue details available now:

Contact BMC

tel: 0161 445 6111

email: office@thebmc.co.uk

web: www.thebmc.co.uk

Round 1	7 March	Bear Rock Climbing Centre, Warwick
Round 2	28 March	Redpoint Climbing Centre, Birmingham
Round 3	25 April	The Tower, Leicester

British Final:
20 June at The Westway Sports Centre, London

Support British Climbing - Join the BMC today

The BMC Youth Climbing Series is a series of fun climbing competitions specifically for young people with the emphasis on enjoyment. It is perhaps the most popular competition for young people attracting hundreds of entrants across the country.

The competition is open to all within the age categories. So, whether you're an experienced climber or a beginner, this could be just the competition for you. There are three regional rounds in each of the BMC Areas then a British Final when the top 3 in each category from each of the BMC Areas go through to the British Final to represent the Area.

Midlands Area

Round 1: Bear Rock Climbing Centre, Warwick

Round 2: Redpoint Climbing Centre, Birmingham

Round 3: The Tower Climbing Centre, Leicester

There are three age categories in these competitions, with separate girls and boys competitions. These are

7 to 10 years olds

11 to 13 year olds

14 to 16 year olds

The age categories are worked out on the year a young person is born - and obviously these change each year. For more on this see the "rough guide" mentioned below.

Each event comprises of 3 routes and 3 boulder problems for each category. The 14 - 16 years olds lead their routes the others top-rope them.

To be eligible for the British Final it is necessary to take part in at least two regional rounds in the Area that a climber lives. If a series is not organised in their region climbers will be entitled to enter the series in the region nearest to them.

More information

Download the Rough Guide to the BMC Youth Climbing Series here:

<http://www.thebmc.co.uk/Download.aspx?id=351>

Download the full rules for the BMC Youth Climbing Series here:

<http://www.thebmc.co.uk/Download.aspx?id=352>

Download the BMC Youth Climbing Series Midlands Area entry form here:

<http://www.thebmc.co.uk/Download.aspx?id=356>



Tara Hayes (11), one of last years winners of the (11-13) BMC Youth Series at Ratho, out on Grit reading the moves of The Knock (E4 6a) at Burbage South with Iain McKenzie.

BMC Youth Climbing Series

Perhaps the most popular competition for young people is the BMC Youth Climbing Series that is run in England and Wales.

This is a fun competition that is open to all within the age categories. So, whether you're an experienced climber or a beginner, this could be just the competition for you.

THE TOWER CLIMBING CENTRE - LEICESTER

There are three climbing areas, "The Tower" 15m lead wall, "The Bouldering Wall" with an Arch & Cave and "The Bloc" 8 m training room with 12 bottom ropes in-situ. The centre boasts over 200 established routes from F4 to F8b+, a total surface area of 600m2 and provides a unique and friendly base for the teaching of rock climbing in all its forms.

Opening Times:

Weekdays	12:00 - 22:00
Saturday	10:00 - 17:30
Sundays	10:00 - 16:00*
(*closed May - September on Sundays)	

Cost:

Casual Peak	- £5.50	Concession	- £3.90
Casual Off Peak	- £3.85	Concession	- £2.60
Casual Lunchtime	- £2.55	Concession	- £2.05
Casual BMC Member	- £3.70		
Equipment Hire Available			

Web Address: www.thetowerclimbingcentre.co.uk
Email: enquiries@thetowerclimbingcentre.co.uk

THE BEAR ROCK - WARWICK

The Bendcrete-built facility - open to both members of the University and the general public offers indoor climbing of a regional status. Indeed the Bear Rock has hosted a round of the British Indoor Climbing Championships on several occasions, and regularly hosts rounds of the British Youth Championships. Routes are changed on a regular basis and top class route setters are used on the main competition/lead wall.

Opening Times:

Weekdays	07:30 hrs - 21:30 hrs
Saturdays	09:00 hrs - 17:30 hrs
Sundays	10:00 hrs - 19:30 hrs

Cost:

Weekdays	£6.10
Weekends	£4.95
Children Under 18 anytime	£4.00
NUS/UB40 Card Holders	
- before 17:00hrs	£4.00
- after 17:00hrs	£6.10
Equipment Hire Available	

Web Address: www.warwick.ac.uk/services/sportscentre/bear_rock

WOLF MOUNTAIN CLIMBING CENTRE - WOLVERHAMPTON

Good selection of featured walls and some mildly overhanging technical walls with good route setting. All the routes are topoped; though if you want to lead you can but bring your own quickdraws. New boulder room open, also a stamina tunnel, 12 meters of continual roof climbing at 35 degrees plus 13 rung campus board) Also planning permission being sought to build through the roof for a large lead wall.

Opening Times:

Mon to Thurs	10:00 hrs - 22:00 hrs
Friday	10:00 hrs - 20:00 hrs
Saturday	10:00 hrs - 18:00 hrs
Sunday	10:00 hrs - 20:00 hrs
Bank Hol's	10:00 hrs - 18:00 hrs

Cost:

Adults Peak	- £6.00	Jnr (u16) & Nus	- £5.00
Adult Off Peak	- £5.00	Jnr(u16) & NUS	- £4.00
(off peak times 10am - 4pm - Monday-Friday)			
Registration - £6.00			
Climbers wishing to use the wall must have registered before climbing.			

Web Address: www.wolfmountain.co.uk
Email: info@wolfmountain.co.uk

CREATION CLIMBING CENTRE - BIRMINGHAM

Looking for something to do during those long winter nights?? Well look no further.....

Creation Climbing Centre Birmingham is pleased to announce the long awaited expansion will be open for use on Thursday November 20th 2008!

This massive extension to Creation's already vast array of routes will provide climbers with an additional 100 routes spread across more than 30 new lines. A balanced mix of top rope and leading will be available in the new area as well as the existing space, which will bring the total number of independent lines to more than 80, thus allowing for a staggering 230+ individual colour coded routes!

Grades will be spread between F4 right through to F8a covering all angles from Slabs through Vertical to steeper Overhangs giving up to 14 metres in vertical height.

Opening Times:

Weekdays	10:00 - 22:00
Weekends	10:00 - 19:00

Registration:

Day -	£1.00
Adult Off Peak -	£3.75

Cost:

Adult Peak -	£6.75
Adult Off Peak -	£5.75
Concession Peak -	£5.30
Concession Off Peak -	£4.30

Web Address: www.creationwall.co.uk
Email: creationwall@gmail.com

RED POINT CLIMBING CENTRE - BIRMINGHAM

Redpoint Climbing Centre has a huge variety of routes at every grade from 2+ to 8b. The many different angles offer some of the most interesting climbing that you'll ever find indoors: arêtes, grooves, arches and those famous stalactites. With a reputation for great routes, helpful staff and a friendly atmosphere, Redpoint caters for climbers of all ages and abilities.

Two dedicated bouldering areas have over a hundred easily identifiable problems and bouldering circuits for every level.

The much renowned Rock On climbing shop is on-site, offering great service and vast array of all manner of climbing gear.

All types of instruction are available; beginner and refresher courses, kids and family groups, NICAS, schools and youth groups and even advanced climbing coaching and qualifications provided by expert instructors.

Opening Times:

Weekdays	12:00 - 22:00
Weekends	10:00 - 18:00
Bank Hol's	10:00 - 22:00

Cost:

Annual Registration	£2.00
Adult Peak -	£6.50
Adult Off Peak -	£5.50
Concession Peak -	£5.00
Concession Off Peak -	£4.00

Instruction Prices:

Adult (per hour)	£15.00
Concession (per hour)	£7.50

Web Address: www.redpointclimbingcentre.co.uk

Email: info@redpointclimbingcentre.co.uk

Creation Climbing Centre's long awaited

extension opened on February 12th. This new room is literally a climbing centre within a climbing centre, offering another 37 lines of top rope and lead climbing in addition to the 59 existing lines in the main centre.

A great deal of thought has gone in to this new room, with various angles and huge 40ft featured arêtes.

There are currently 65 routes on offer in the new room, with new routes been constantly set through the coming weeks.

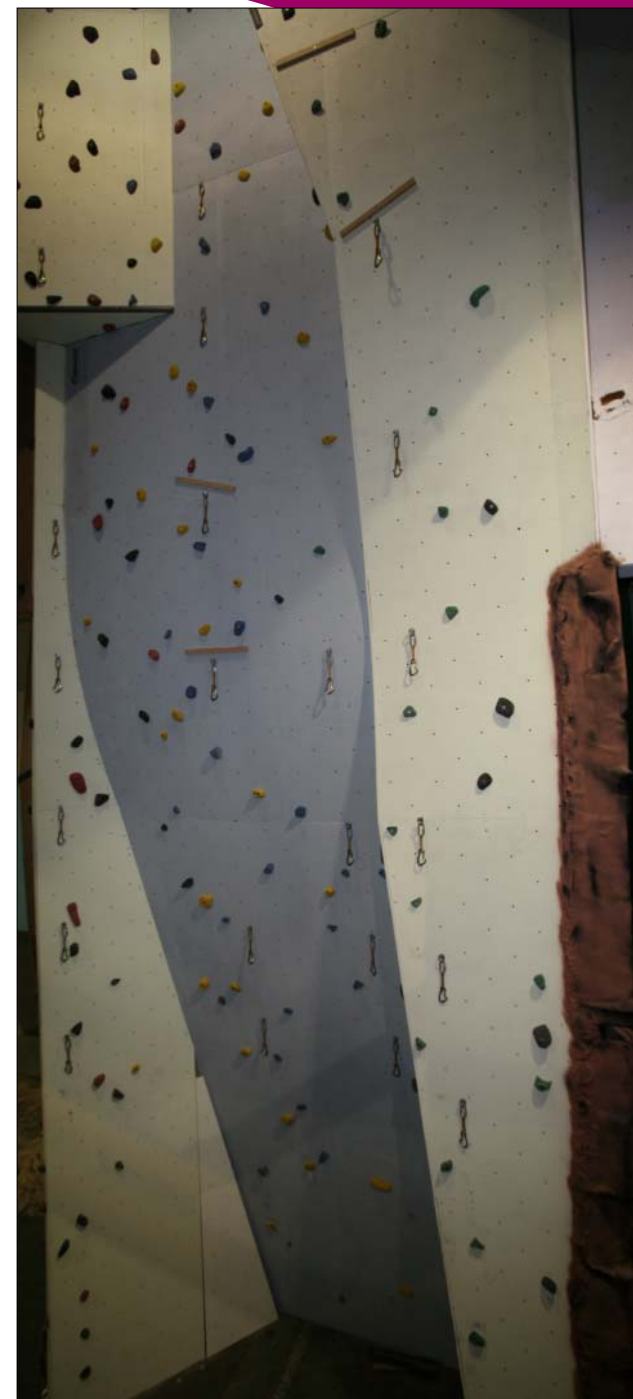
Creation has also changed their policy on customers leading with their own clips. We have now equipped a selection of routes with both top rope and leading capability and customers can now get the full experience of lead climbing with their own equipment.

Plans for a new 10000sqft bouldering area have also now been finalised and the mats and timber have been ordered. Work starts in March 2009, with a completion date of late 2009.

Creation Climbing Centre – Birmingham

www.creationwall.co.uk

(0121) 449 8000



Lots going on at Redpoint in the coming months, with more being added keep checking the website for details : www.redpointclimbingcentre.co.uk.

Meanwhile here's a round up of the dates for Masterclasses, SPA, CWA and First Aid Courses, BMC Fundamentals and Youth Climbing Comp and more...

Saturday 28th February

2009 REDPOINT'S BIRTHDAY BASH

Everyone is invited!

Following on from the success of Redpoint's Grand Day In event, Redpoint have once again teamed up with Rock On, Petzl, DMM and The Outdoors Show to create another day of fun climbing and fun competitions where you don't have to be the strongest, fastest or best to win.

As well as prizes for the winners of the bouldering, leading and speed climbing competitions, there will be sponsored routes which means that anyone who tops out on these routes (don't worry - the grades are amenable!) will get entered into a draw for some cool and some unique prizes.

Anyone who came to the Grand Day In will know the score, nothing too serious.. just an excuse to have some fun and say happy birthday to Redpoint.

Usual entry fees apply, no extra cost for the comp.

Come down and join in, or just come down and climb. There will be cake!

Monday 9th March

2009 RICH SIMPSON MASTERCLASS

Richard Simpson will be holding a climbing masterclass at Redpoint on, 7pm till 9pm price £20. Rich has climbed all over the world, completing some of the hardest routes out there. His climbing CV is impressive - here are just a few of his achievements:

*Action Direct 9a, Frankenjura , Germany
Unplugged 9a, Frankenjura , Germany
A Muerte 9a, Siurana , Spain
Infinty 8c+, Frankenjura , Germany
Hubble 8c+ Raven Tor , England
Liquid Amber 8c/8c+ LPT, England
Le Minimum 8c Buoux , France
Magenot Line 8c Volx, France
Agincourt 8c Buoux , France*

Rich knows pretty much all there is to know about climbing training and is keen to pass on his knowledge to other climbers.



CWA & SPA TRAINING AND ASSESSMENTS

Redpoint have teamed up with Unlimited Training and Mountain Experiences to provide Single Pitch Award and Climbing Wall Award courses. Indoor aspects of the courses will be run at Redpoint with outdoor aspects of the SPA courses in the Peak District.

Candidates will need to register with the UKMTB. For more information about the Climbing Wall Award (CWA) or the Single Pitch Award (SPA) contact the MLTE www.mlte.org

Latest course dates are:

CWA TRAINING
Sat 28th Feb and Sun 1st March 2009

CWA TRAINING
Evenings of Weds 18th March, Thurs 19th March,
Weds 25th March and Thurs 26th March 2009

SPA TRAINING
Sat 4th and Sun 5th April 2009

SPA TRAINING
Sat 9th and Sun 10th May 2009

CWA TRAINING
Sat 6th and Sun 7th June 2009
CWA TRAINING
Sat 22nd and Sun 23rd August 2009

If none of the dates suit you and you would like to do a course, bespoke courses can be arranged. Minimum groups size is 4 people. Due to popular demand, extra dates are being constantly added, keep checking the Redpoint website for the latest dates.

7th and 8th of March 2009

MARLIN OUTDOOR FIRST AID TRAINING

This enjoyable, effective First Aid training for remote and extreme locations is being held at Redpoint here on the weekend of 7th and 8th of March.

The training is ideal for anyone taking their SPA or CWA award. All our staff at Redpoint have completed the course and we recommend it wholeheartedly.

However, you don't have to be training to be an instructor to benefit from this user-friendly first aid course which carries a unique, no-quibble 100% money-back guarantee.

The course is now available at a discounted price of £100 per person.

For more details, pick up a leaflet at Redpoint or contact Marlin Training direct on 0845 226 7785.



Fri 27th, Sat 28th & Sun 29th March

REDPOINT AT THE OUTDOORS SHOW

Redpoint have teamed up with The Tower Climbing Centre and Bear Creek Adventure to provide free climbing walls at the Outdoors Show at the NEC. To promote the National Indoor Climbing Achievement Scheme (NICAS).

Many of the other NICAS Primary Centres will be providing staff for the walls and anyone can have a go as well as getting more information about the scheme.

Saturday 28th March 2009

BMC YOUTH CLIMBING SERIES

Its going to be a busy weekend. In addition to the Outdoors Show, Redpoint are hosting the BMC Youth Climbing Series on Sat 28th.

Please see the BMC Youth Climbing Series section in this newsletter for more information.



Saturday 18th April

BMC FUNDAMENTALS COACHING COURSE with Katherine Schirmacher

Following the success of the BMC FUNDamentals workshop at Redpoint on Friday 6th Feb 2008. There will be further FUNDamentals workshops on Sat 18th April with Katherine Schirmacher.

The BMC FUNDamentals of climbing workshops are designed for those coaching climbing, especially those coaching young people. British team coach Dave Binney developed FUNDamentals six years ago.

FUNDamentals contains both theoretical and practical elements, concentrating on good practice and ways to teach climbing movement. It draws on the findings of academic research, and the knowledge and experience of many climbing coaches.

The cost is £65 per person. Go to the BMC website for booking forms.



All photos and text supplied by Redpoint Climbing Centre



A frozen Llyn Idwal

'Fat' Phil and Misha from Solihull MC got 2009 off to a good start by getting some ice climbing done in Idwal on the first Saturday of the year. Phil then followed this up with a cheeky after work solo of Torpantau Falls, which demonstrated that discretion is the better part of valour...

Despite somewhat contradictory information on the Snowdonia conditions UKC thread, Phil and I decided to go and have a look at Idwal, with a fall-back plan of rock climbing in big boots. The car thermometer suggested -10°C as we travelled along the A5 and I was beginning to wish I had taken the duvet, though bizarrely the temperature increased to -2.5°C by the time we got to the Ogwen Cottage car park. In the end it wasn't too cold (probably around the -1/-2°C forecast), though sure enough I got the customary hot aches a couple of times. Abundant ice cover on the approach path made the walk in interesting but suggested better things ahead and indeed we weren't disappointed.

The rambling line of Idwal Stream was in pretty good nick, despite the stream still bubbling merrily away underneath and sometimes over the ice (we managed to stay mostly dry though). I don't think I've ever seen some many people on a single route, with about 15 people already chopping away or gearing up and more coming up the path! The hordes of climbers and the relatively easy angle of the ice suggested that soloing was a good idea and we carried on unroped all the way up to the Glyders ridge. To be fair, very few screws seemed to be harmed on the route that day as most leaders were effectively soloing, even though the ice was often fat enough for the shorter screws.



Congestion on the Idwal Stream

After the first 100m or so, the angle eased and we mostly walked up the iced up stream for what seemed like miles, with the odd steeper section thrown in to maintain the interest. Of course we are climbers, so all this walking business rather tired us out, particularly as we had standard (i.e. heavy) winter packs with rock gear thrown in for good measure. Phil kindly let me carry the rope.

After a bite to eat and a chat with some of our fellow climbers, we walked off down the path past The Devil's Kitchen with the aim of doing Central Route, a shorter, slightly harder line which had looked in condition from the walk-in. Our attention was however distracted by a team going up The Screen, a two pitch climb which looked pretty good. A rapid change of plan soon saw me battling with a steep fluted section and remembering a few things I had learned about ice climbing in Rjukan last year: it's scary, it's strenuous, it's a pain placing the screws, it's harder than it looks, it takes longer than you expect, and what this all really comes down to is that I'm not that good at it. Fantastic!



Phil attacks the first steep section

The ice screw belay was on a comfortable ledge and at least looked pretty solid, though for good measure I supplemented the screws with a nut placed behind a slit in the ice, which Phil assured me wouldn't have held a pigeon. Off he went on the second pitch, which involved a few mixed moves to avoid some dodgy ice and a fitting finale on a short vertical step with thin ice which didn't give much away for the tools, never mind the screws. Phil managed to outdo me on the gear placements, with two bits on his 25m pitch as opposed to my four bits for the same length on the first pitch. Of course falling off on ice is a very bad idea, so it's all just psychological anyway.

We finished the route in two and a half hours, just as it was getting dark at 5pm. The walk off on the iced up path was predictably treacherous, particularly as my torch batteries decided to give up, but fortunately the moon was out and in the end the only casualty was the lunchbox at the bottom of my bag.



Misha tops out on the steep column on the first pitch of The Screen

We were also bemused to see a stationary light half way up the Idwal Slabs, which, according to another tardy party with even fewer torches per person, was someone bivouacking in a portaledge. Whatever takes your fancy...

A few of the other lines, notably The Devil's Appendix, were building but didn't look quite ready just as yet. There was hopeful talk amongst the various climbers we met of a wet and cold forecast for the following week, so as we were heading back to Birmingham we were already looking forward to another day out.

The following Friday Phil fortuitously found himself on a work related visit (ok, he planned it earlier in the week) only 20 miles from the South Wales ice meccas of Torpantau and RAC corner in the Brecon Beacons. A 40 minute walk in got him to the top of Torpantau Falls for 3.50pm, where he was pleasantly surprised

to see a series of steps from a couple of metres to 25m, a total of 70m or so, and all looking in fine condition. A 10 minute scramble down the heather got him to a good starting point where he donned the kit.

Most of the ice was 5-8m wide and reasonably thick, but with water running behind it in some areas. Phil set off up the first few steps, warming up and noting that the ice was prone to 'dinner plating'. This got him to the 25m central pitch, about 75 degrees and a good Grade III. Half way up a block the size of a breeze block came off, and a steep section with no obvious foot steps blocked the way. With gear it would not have been a problem, but as a pure solo, the prospect of lying at the bottom with broken limbs for the night did not appeal. Thus he made a 'mature mountaineering decision' and escaped off through vertical heather (worrying on its own) and circumnavigated the rest of the pitch. He rejoined the route and completed a couple of shorter steps to reach the top in the light of the full moon. A walk back to the car under the stars saw him back home for 7.30pm.

All in all a mighty fine after work session, beats bouldering at the wall! If you are looking for alternative venues for ice climbing then South Wales is a good bet, Torpantau is as good as any of the Idwal Grade III routes, and the RAC routes appear to be on a par with the Idwal Stream and seem to take less than a week to come into condition.

In the meantime, the temperatures were creeping up and the little group of Solihull MC climbers who had been looking forward to more ice climbing at the weekend collectively decided that it wasn't worth going to Wales as there wouldn't be anything left. Imagine our disappointment when we found out from posts on UKC that conditions were still ok on Saturday in Idwal and that even Kinder Downfall was still in!

By Misha Nepogodiev



Torpantau Falls



Nic on Holiday on Ice

My axe lands with a familiar thud, I allow myself a partial sigh of relief before moving my left foot up and tapping the front points of the crampon in, then the right.

With a cheeky glance down, I scope the belay point where my girlfriend is standing. She's got a good stance. The position and focus she's holding lets me know that she's got me, 100%. I know that from her end, I'm safe.

The only problem is, there's not even one ice screw in yet... nothing. All that connects me to that belay device is 2 double ropes resembling shoe laces...and that's separated by 7 vertical meters.....and no still no ice screws!

Remembering how good my ice axe penetrated, I compose myself to lock off and place my first screw.

'Drive from the hips, three rotations, flip the handle and power it in' the words ring in my ears like 'he' is there at that moment. My feet feel secure, left arm locked - pinned to my side with the axe marginally above head height. Three delicate points of contact all working together

All points of contact operating as opposing forces, contorting against each other through the ice to allow my right hand its freedom.

'All it takes is a slight twist and a push down to release the screws from the clipper...' I know he's right, but why is it not working. My eyes glance down to assess the seemingly rubik's-cube-clipper', an over sized plastic carabiner.

Without warning my entire body jerks and every muscle I own clamps down as if my life depended on it (which it possibly does). My left arm is the only thing that's moved, not more than an inch, but enough to throw my entire world into freefall for microseconds. Microseconds that felt like minutes.

It slipped, but the immediate reaction to contort has caught... but for how long. I reach up and pull down hard on the other axe left hanging, it gives me some security but I know it's short lived – its time to get that screw in!

..but all I can think is **'WHAT ON EARTH AM I DOING HERE??!!'** As I drive in the screw that's finally been released from its cryptic biner, my mind drifts to a place it can relax.

'That ain't no f*#@#! bunny!'

We'd set off in the early hours for a weekend of deep water soloing. The 'conga' and 'freeborn man' were the routes that filled our conversation on the long tedious roads to the south coast. The grades elude me at the moment, but I remember each being within our grasp. Even so, the height and reputation commanded some nervous laughter.

I've never really been a camper, least of all a happy camper. But, with the reassurance that I'd be comfortable, well fed and warm, we were set for a night under canvas in the DWS Mecca of Swanage.

Tent pitched, food supplies bought, routes located and visually studied – there was only one thing left to do....find the pub.

That was the point, right there –

'Matt, you should get ice climbing with me – you'd love it!'

With a pint in hand, darts in the other – the seed was planted. *'It's great....the scenery....the bling (kit).....everything, you'd seriously love it'*

Feeling slightly delicate from the evening's social antics, as promised I went to sleep that evening warm and comfortable, content in the knowledge a good feed was awaiting me at first light.

As I drifted off to sleep, we continued disjointed conversations, alternating between the upcoming events of Swanage and the future plans for conquering cascades of ice.....

'Dude, there's someone in the tent' he whispered to me,

'Well, send 'em packing!' I replied with little sympathy. It was the dead of night by now, and his manner told me he wasn't fully awake.

Semi-conscious, he unzips the inner compartment and peers half heartedly into the porch area.

'Dude, it must be rabbits or something – I'm gonna go take a pee and scare them off'

He rustles around for minimal clothing so as not to scare any potential locals that may be lurking around in the 'wee' hours of the morning.

Obviously the noise from the tent disturbs the intruders from the porch area, but no further than the outer shell. Stepping from the door, the shriek of sheer panic resonates through the tent *'.....that AINT no f*#@#! bunny!!!'* slightly fading in volume as

he clearly bomb bursts away.

As he gets back into the tent, following his pee (which I'm sure he conducted whilst nervously checking all arcs and behind him for disgruntled wildlife, wanting revenge for interrupting their midnight feast), he breathlessly explains what had happened.

As he popped his head through the door, he was met by a pair of eyes glaring back at him 'each eye was at least 12 inches apart' I recall him saying. Rather than scurry, they just held his stare. Presuming he'd be met by timid, fluffy 'bunny' rabbits Flopsy, Mopsy and Cotton-tail, the reality of blood thirsty, man eating badgers caused quite the shock. Unable to retreat because the body was already committed, and met by an immovable man eating badger – only one course of action was left....run like a girl!

The following morning, having eaten what was salvaged from the badger's tea party, we started the walk towards the conga. The prospect of an early dip in British shores limited conversation, but any seriousness or nervous silence was easily waylaid with the sarcastic reminder of heroiness from the night previous:

'...that ain't no f^\$'(g bunny'*

But 'he' wasn't here now, so again I ask myself as I'm frantically twisting the ice screw in, with all the finesse and co-ordination of a toddler....a drunken toddler at that.

'WHAT ON EARTH AM I DOING HERE?'

'Dude, Ice climbing, January 09, Southern Alps'

I'd only been back in the country a matter of weeks, if not days. This was not a request on his part – this was a statement, something we'd both become accustomed to. We'd simply sign the other one in on anything that seemed our scene.

Since that night on the South Coast, we'd spoke about hitting the ice on numerous occasions. Usually they'd be some perfectly unfortunate excuse; work, temporary migration or the slightly girly 'I'd rather wait till I'm climbing harder before moving in that direction'. Either way, I'd been a bit of a girl, whether genuinely with prior commitments, or with lame excuses to further clarify.

Things were different now though, not only was some 'rock and roll' time long over due – but I was now seeing a girl who was quite into the winter mountaineering/ climbing scene. Excuses no longer felt like a viable option, it was time to bite the bullet and something felt good about it.

'I'm in!'

Yes, that's why I'm bloody here!

Screamer clipped, pink and purple ropes snapped in. Safety!...

or relative safety....this is ice after all. 4th Pitch of the 300m Grade 4 route of 'Les Formes du Chaos' in the valley of Ceillac in the Southern French Alps and although I'd just had a clear moment of fear– I was now focussed.

As with so many things in my life – since committing to that reply, it'd all changed.....although, this time with a focus on Jan 09 .

I'll save the boring longwinded trials and tribulations, giving my conclusion in a nutshell.

By now, my Girlfriend (Nic) and I had tried monotony and 'reality', but as always my mind rejected the whole idea – only to my surprise; she was feeling the same (a good bloody job!). It appeared we were dancing the same steps to the same tune. It was time to take 'early retirement' (drastic, I know, at 27 yrs old) and head off on an indefinite climbing / mountaineering trip. There was only one time it could start – the plans fell together perfectly; Jan 09, Southern Alps. I'd set off with the boys and on the conclusion of that week, I'd be joined by Nic.

You never think of the places and the friends you'll make from the simplest of decisions. 3 or 4 years ago, I signed myself and 2 colleagues up for a basic climbing course at the local wall (The Tower Climbing Centre, Beaumont Leys)....now, I'm sitting on a campsite in the Costa Blanca with sore fingers from climbing so hard, and I know, this is still just the beginning.

In the words of Malcolm Gladwell –Opportunity is just as important as enthusiasm and ability. The Tower gave me the opportunity, fuelled my enthusiasm, where now my ability can grow.

This is cracking chance for me to say big thanks to Eric, Charlie, Bic (Rich) and A.D. all fellow trouble makers from the Tower Climbing Centre. A superb week ice climbing! Knowledgeable, enthusiastic guys who, most importantly maintain a sense of humour (even when they crash the rental vehicle...twice). They are all partially responsible for the *'Why on Earth am I here!'* All I can say is

'Cheers Guys, it was a pleasure to be on the team'

Never to forget the 'main man' – someone who's stood by me as a mate on numerous occasions; weathered storms and always comes out the other end, by my side. Iain McKenzie. As with the advice above 'he' will never fail to be there!

Time for me to head off, all this writing is cutting into perfectly good climbing time.

Who knows, there may be a next time to write about.....after all, this is just the beginning.....and for anyone who's interested, speak to Iain regarding the DWS weekend – it was far from eventless. Suffice to say we were visited by the coast guard.... by chopper!

By Matt Oakes in Costa Blanca!

Apply now for Conville Alpine Courses

The subsidised Jonathan Conville Memorial Trust Alpine courses are now open to applications.

If you've dreamed of becoming the next Uli Steck but know little about alpine mountaineering, then the Conville courses could be the start of a great adventure.

Receive 3 days training in Chamonix under the direction of a British Mountain Guide, all for just £62. This fee represents about a third of the true cost of the course, the remainder being provided by the Jonathan Conville Memorial Trust (JCMT).

Jonathan Conville died in the winter of 1979 / 80 on the Matterhorn, aged just 27 years old. His family established the Trust in his memory, to support those wishing to explore the mountains in the same spirit embraced by Jonathan during his life.

The Trust is aware that many young mountaineers visiting the Alps for the first time are neither fully aware of the hazards nor possess the skills to manage them. With this in mind, the Alpine Courses provide essential training at low cost delivered to the highest standards by professional Guides.

The Trust also subsidises Scottish winter mountaineering courses and contributed to the production costs of the Winter Essentials and Alpine Essentials DVDs.

Both the BMC and Plas y Brenin support the Trust financially. Plas y Brenin manages all of the Trusts courses and delivers the Alpine Mountaineering program.

Apply online for the JCMT Alpine Mountaineering Courses here:

<http://www.pyb.co.uk/courses/conville.php>

BMC Rock Climbing Lectures & Masterclasses

Sponsored by Cotswold Outdoor these excellent lectures and masterclasses will be touring the UK at the end of April, beginning of May.

Whatever your rock climbing experience, the lectures will provide you with essential knowledge and inspire you on your climbing adventures. They will cover essential climbing skills and equipment. The speakers Libby Peter and Lucy Creamer have many years of rock climbing experience and will provide invaluable advice and inspiration for all rock climbers.

Get expert tuition from both Lucy and Libby by attending one of the Masterclasses that will also be running. Libby will cover technical climbing skills such as rope work, and Lucy will cover climbing movement skills.

For full Information visit: <http://www.thebmc.co.uk/Feature.aspx?id=2908>

New UIAA/CEN Representative Needed

The BMC is seeking to recruit a representative to attend meetings of the international bodies for mountaineering equipment standards.

The BMC has representatives on the UIAA Safety Commission and the CEN Working Group for Mountaineering & Climbing Equipment. This important role ensures that the views and practices of UK climbers are included in the decision making processes when new standards are drawn up, and existing standards modified. Although the UIAA and CEN groups are separate, in practice most of the key players attend both sets of meetings.

After many years of sterling service representing the BMC and British mountaineers, the current representative Neville McMillan is now looking to stand down, sometime in the next few years. The nature of the role means that any future representative would need to work in tandem for a period in order to grasp the manner in which the groups go about their business. With this in mind, a new representative is being sought.

Meetings currently consist of an annual UIAA meeting which lasts around 5-6 days, plus 2 CEN meetings which tend to last for 2 days. In addition to this, the representative would be expected to join the BMC Technical Committee and provide reports on the work of the UIAA/CEN groups.

The ideal candidate would be an experienced climber/mountaineer with a background as an engineer or other suitable technical discipline, with enough free time to attend the meetings. Knowledge or experience of standard making bodies would be a distinct advantage. This is a voluntary post, with some foreign travel, with expenses to be met by the BMC.

If you are interested in this role, please contact Dan Middleton, BMC Technical Officer at dan@thebmc.co.uk for more information.



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† Family membership includes up to 2 adults and 3 children living at the same address. Please supply family names and dates of birth.

†† Concessionary membership for under 18s, full time students and the unemployed (please supply proof of status).

††† Fully paid members of BMC affiliated clubs can gain access to the full range of Individual Membership benefits on payment of this additional premium. Please supply your club name on the application form.

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