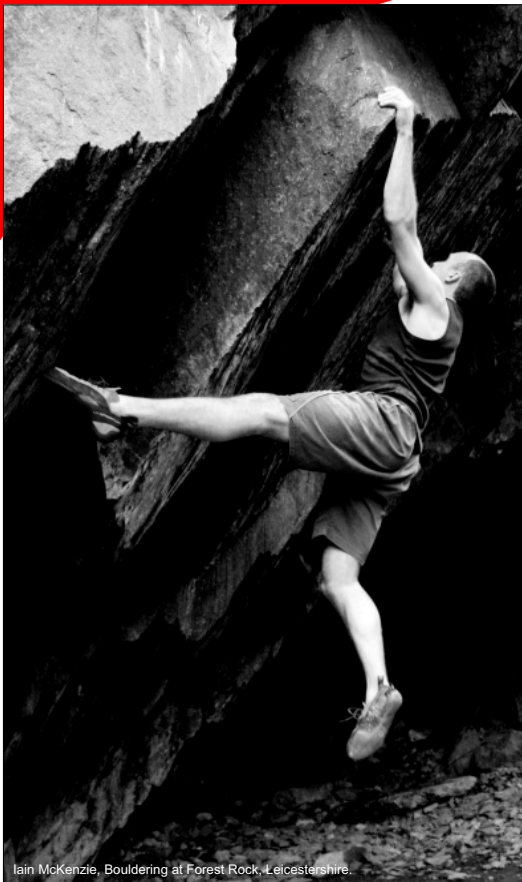




MIDLANDS AREA NEWS

Issue 008 30th May 2009

Brought to you by the BMC's Midland Area



Iain McKenzie, Bouldering at Forest Rock, Leicestershire.

Next Area Open Meeting

Date: 4th June 2009
Venue: Old Edwardians Sports Club, Streetsbrook Rd
Shirley, Solihull, B90 3PE

Time: 19:30hrs

Agenda:

- Area Reports
- Leicestershire Guide Update
- Open Forum
- Voting in of a New Chair

After Meeting Entertainment:

Mick Fowler Lecture

Free Food in the way of Snacks, all welcome.

Welcome to the 8th 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.

*The Next Midlands Area Meeting (4th June 2009) will have a guest lecture by the one and only **Mick Fowler**.*

I asked Mick to write a short note on what he intended to talk about, this was his reply...

The Matterhorns of Tibet..

'East Tibet is the land of opportunity for those with exploration and mountaineering in mind. This talk summarises four visits to this inspiring part of the world with a focus on both the unique culture and the mountaineering.'

*... short and to the point, but he also sent me the cover photo!
I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mick for coming to do a Lecture at the Midlands Area Meeting.*



Kajaqiao from Lhasa - Chengdu flight, Mick Fowler Collection.

Chair Position & Update

Meeting was opened by Iain McKenzie who opened by announcing that John Matthews elected as new chair last November had had to step down due to serious ill-health. He then handed over to Martin Koscis to detail the options open to the Area. Two options were presented (1) to vote tonight for a new chair if a member present wished to stand or (2) vote to defer the election till the next meeting in June.

Whilst it was noted that Iain was happy to act as an interim chair and that Charles Gameson present at the meeting had expressed an interest to stand, it was accepted that other members not present may be interested in taking up the role. The first option was therefore found to be not acceptable. It was agreed unanimously that the position be widely advertised and applications be considered at the next meeting in June.

Review of Newsletter and Minutes of last meeting

Iain M referred to the summary of the last area meeting and national council summary in the news letter. He drew members' attention in particular to:

Actions from last meeting – The request to National Council to write to Lady Martin's family offering condolences has been referred back to area. National Council felt that it felt more appropriate that the response be local. Louise Pymm suggested that this be undertaken by the Access East Officer. Agreed to ask Howard to Action.

Climbing becoming an Olympic Sport – Iain explained that National Council has discussed this matter at a number of meetings but has yet to make any decision. He explained in detail again why the matter was being considered and the need for the BMC to make a yes / no decision. He reminded members that at this Area's meeting in September members had warmed to the proposal. He ended by saying that in the absence of consensus from Areas National Council had agreed that further information be provided and re-consultation with each Area take place.

Access

Access East Covered in Guide Presentation.

Access West – Report was given by Fiona Devine on behalf of Richard Law

- Crag clean-up exercise being planned for Nesscliffe, now expected to happen in Sept/Oct.
- The cold weather in the winter has had the effect of creating a brand new cliff on Wenlock Edge in Shropshire. The locals are onto it already. Roughly 5 new routes are expected, grades up to about VS, lengths up to about 15metres.
- On the indoor walls front, I have heard that the new wall in Newport, Shropshire is now open. www.newportrock.com is their website. No reports yet from users, but some of Richard' fellow climbing club friends (Shropshire MC) are to go shortly.

Guide Book Presentation

Iain provided a very informative presentation. Guide ¾ completed. Noted that the guide will contain lots of colour photographs and bouldering problems. All in all well received by members and many volunteered to assist.

Still looking for information on:

Anchor Church caves
Bradgate Park
Carver's Rock
Grace Dieu Viaduct & Craglets
Granithorpe Quarry
High Sharpley
Morley Quarry

The following have access problems or are no longer there!

Cliffe Hill
Groby Industrial Estate
Huncote Quarry
Markfield Quarry
Nunckley Quarry
Oaks Pinnacle
Whitwick Rocks.

If you have any issues you wish to raise at the meeting about climbing, access to crags in the Midlands, or matters about how the BMC is run, what you would like to see it get involved in and how you feel the office could support you better then please contact either Iain or myself through martin@thebmc.co.uk (0161 438 3336).

Completed By: Fiona Devine (Secretary)



Robin Richmond, New Routing at Charnwood Quarry, Leicestershire.

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 Keating

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

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

Beachy Head

A peregrine nests at Beachy Head. Contact the Ranger (T: 01323 412367) to check access arrangements. 1 Feb – 30 June

Soldern

Contact the BMC to see if nesting restrictions apply.

SWANAGE

Pier Bottom to St Althelm's Head: Pier Bottom is the valley North of St Althelm's Head. Restrictions apply between Buttery Corner and Slippy ledge including the Yellow Wall to the valley of Pier Bottom.

Heathery Big Cove, Smokey Hole and Topmost Quarry.

Collyer's Ledge between Darning Ledge and Yellowstone Butress Direct and East of The Razor's Edge.

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

Blackies Hole: left of Fortification (including the sea cave) and all routes between *Reynolds' Scarp* and *Cross Nuts*.

Knicker's Hole: West from Seaside Special to Hard Day's Night.

Antipope to Rindings and **Old Crack** to **Ally's Laps**.

Trembling Wall along the cliff base from the Marnet's entry point is permitted.

The Lighthouse Cliff: between *Scouters Chimney* and the start of *Tremor of the Clock*.

Climbing is not permitted from Tidy Wines Caves 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: 01302 299292), or the BMC for full details.

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

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&S Battery, Co. Wick, Upper and Lower Bannock Burn.

The Bannock Burn Cliffs are open for climbing unless on-site signage indicates restrictions. For further information check with the BMC or the local Ranger (T: 01903 82619). 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 better available on arrival.

For info, Lundy Warden (T: 01237 41331).

Access/permissions/level details can be obtained from the Landmark Trust (T: 01426 829292). 1 April – 31 July

BAGG POINT

Restriction covers the whole area between *Scouting Zawn* and *Slab Cove* (Pink Wall) 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: 01271 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 Corner (East East of Bevan Hole) inclusive. The restriction is reviewed in May – watch out for signs on-site or contact the National Trust Warden on (T: 01792 290336) for up-to-date details.

Thurle Hole – Restriction is from Central Cliff to Wings.

Yellow Wall (NR) – Between 2 Minutes to Kill and Early Warning.

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

SOUTH PEMBROKESHIRE

NR Penbroke restrictions are complex and vary annually. Please check the information in Stock Rocks, Broad Haven South, Stockpole Quay or the St Gwyn's Head or park. Information leaflets are available from the BMC, Penbroke Coast National Park Authority and May Weather's Guide.

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 Hall or the **Cafemartens Camp**. Park next to the tank and ask at the gatehouse for details.

The following seasonal restrictions are marked on the ground by the PCPA:

Berry Slade to Western Walls: 23 May – 1 August

Western Walls: The *July Seagulls* & *Robustness* to *Ally's Laps* inclusive. 23 May – 15 August

NR This restriction covers the area at the top of the cliff as well.

Wind Zawn: *Thomas to Flanders* inclusive. 23 May – 1 August

Strate Walls: *Trinity Head* only. 23 May – 1 August

Isle of Wight: *Isle of Wight* check for markers at the crags (do not climb between the red sides of the square marker) and signs on the approach path.

Restrictions can apply at *Craig Aery*, *Pollard* South or *Monks Butress*. 1 Mar – 30 June

Little Orme

Great Zawn, left-hand side.

Dennis Wall.

The Affront.

West Butress of Delish.

Kia's Butress, under review.

Diamond Butress. 1 Mar – 15 Aug

GREAT ORME/PEN TRWTYN

Unmarked Crag.

Castle y Gwynn, left-hand side.

Upper and Lower Craig Pen Gwynn.

Point Five Butress.

The Honey Crags.

Wendell: between *Clidwynn* (West) and *Golden Gossard* (East).

NR Buttes above Marine Drive are subject to a summer safety restriction – climbing is not allowed before 6:00pm on all Bank Holiday weekends or during the Welsh school summer holidays. 1 Mar – 31 July

Merford Acre: restriction from *Spout* the *Cock*, *Merford* Point to *Merford*, *Merford* Wall. 1 Mar – 1 August

Seaside Cliffs/Triples Overhang Butress: restriction from *Fight the Good* (East) to *Merford* (West) inclusive. 1 Mar – 1 August

NR Buttes between and including *Merford* and *Golden*.

Co-ordinator must be reached by about 01.1 March – 1 August

Triple Overhang Butress (NR): restriction starts at *Sea Corner* to *Merford*. 1 March – 1 August

Backlog Pond: *Spout* Butress and *Sea Cove*, *Backlog Pond* and *Cliff* Butress – temporary restriction on all routes. 1 March – 1 August

The Forties (level): new restriction – no known cliffs affected. 2008: The *Stocks* crag is within this restriction if marked. 1 March – 1 August

The Forties: restriction on all routes between and crossing *Widg* (West) and *Cliff* Butress. 1 March – 1 August

The Castle Boulders: restriction on the whole of the Boulders. 1 March – 1 August

Devil's Born: restriction on all routes. 1 March – 1 August

Stones Head: new restriction in 2008 – *Hawthorn* and *Cliff* restricted. Restricted 23 May 2009 onwards – look for signs.

Hunter's Leap: restriction on both sides of entrance, includes *Cliff* and *Sea of Rocks*. 1 March – 1 August

Chapel Point: due to rock fall restriction now *The Temple to Blow Out*. 1 February – 1 August

Chapel Point, St Gwyn's Pinnacle. 1 March – 1 August

Chapel Cove: *Permanent* restriction.

Trevallen: restriction between and including *Merford* and *Brillings* the *Head*. 1 March – 1 August

St Gwyn's Head: restriction between *Solby* to *Narberth* to *Agarion* and *St Gwyn's*. 1 March – 1 August

Stockpole National Nature Reserve – Llystyd

Llystyd Headland on *Stargate*, *Wisp Factor* and *Hypocrite*. 1 March – 1 August

NORTH PEMBROKE

Check signs on-site. Restrictions are under review and may be lifted early.

Unmarked Cliffs (NR): *Pedburydy* (Penbrydydy Head to Pull Down).

St David's Head Area: *Craig Coston* (upper & lower tiers), *Mar Coston* and *Contingent Cliffs*. 1 March – 1 August

MID WALES

Unymynech: *Head* and *Black Walls*. 1 Mar – 30 June

Craig y Aderyn (Bird Rock): *Eastern Face* and *Central Butress* (Central Butress will be subject to a mid-season review). 1 April – 31 July

NORTH WALES

LEYN PENINSULA

Duration of restrictions varies between different cliffs. Check the Climbers' Club guidebook for details. 1 Feb – 31 July or 1 April – 31 July

CLWYD Limestone

Yellow Valley: check for markers at the crags (do not climb between the red sides of the square marker) and signs on the approach path.

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Hunter's Leap: restriction on both



New climbers under the watchful eye of Solihull Club Members, Harborough Rocks.

Solihull Mountaineering Club has a recent history of holding "Beginners Day's" for those members wanting to make the transition from indoor to outdoor climbing.

Although the focus is on "newbies" we inevitably have a variety of experience brought to the crag to be shared or 'fine tuned' for the coming season. Such was the day enjoyed at Harborough Rocks on Saturday 25th April.

The day began a little overcast and threatening cloud gathered; but the early arrivals had soon rigged up some bottom ropes ready for the coming hordes to eagerly tie onto. As people began to arrive, the heavens opened, but umbrellas and thermos flasks magically appeared to counter the rain, and climbing continued on the wet and polished limestone; a little rain does nothing to dampen the enthusiasm of fanatics and/or beginners!

The rain soon abated and the weather settled into a fine, blustery spring day, the sun quickly drying and warming the rock. Being a "Solihull" club, a touch of class was added by the circulation of fine scones, cream, and jam (note, jam not strawberries, in these austere times!).

No "professional" climbing instruction was provided; we relied upon that great climbing-club tradition of volunteers offering advice and sharing their experience and equipment with fellow members and friends. By the end of the day several people had completed their first outdoor leads - for a few of them this coincided with their first outdoor climbing day.

The more experienced climbers had plenty of opportunity to remind themselves what climbing on real rock is like, and many said they thoroughly enjoyed sharing their skills with the enthusiastic 'newbies'.

Nearly 50 people turned out to make our latest Beginners Day a memorable event, including several children brought by their parents. The day was rounded off in true mountaineering tradition at a nearby pub. It was a truly great and memorable day out.

Solihull Mountaineering Club has certainly found that a regular club evening at local climbing walls (Creation and Redpoint, both in Birmingham) has attracted many new members interested in learning to climb. The move to outdoors is of course a natural progression, which we seek to encourage, and we have a lot of fun doing so.

On-Line at www.thebmc.co.uk

www.lakesfestivalofclimbing.co.uk

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- Campfires & Juggling
- Fine Weather, Great Crags & Local Knowledge



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 BMC affiliation means that members can obtain discount on climbing or hillwalking gear from many retailers.

We cater for both climbers and mountain walkers and people of all levels and abilities are welcome to join.

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. Club Members also pay regular visits to the Martley Climbing Wall, usually on a Tuesday evening.

We meet each week on Thursdays at around 8.30pm at The Great Western Pub in Kidderminster Road, Bewdley.

Forthcoming events include weekend meets at Patterdale (Lake District) and Llanberis (North Wales), followed in June by the Club's "Walk and Climb" event in the Derbyshire Peak District, which consists of 10 miles walking and 10 climbs in one day.

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 over fifty years. The club has its own hut just outside Llanberis in Wales. There are over a hundred members with many of them active both midweek and at weekends.

We are at present engaged in raising the profile of the club. We will be helping to promote the BMC leading ladder competition at the Tower Wall by making an award. We are engaged in helping to promote the new guidebook by cleaning and climbing new routes in the county. We intend in the Autumn and Winter to host a series of climbing lectures.

If you are interested in joining we meet on the first Wednesday of the month at the Pump and Tap on Braunstone Gate Leicester from 9pm.

The contact telephone number is Zoe Pickering 07709 337976.

Club Meet: First Wednesday of the Month

Time: From 21:00 onwards

Venue: Pump and Tap, Braunstone Gate, 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.



Alice Killington out bouldering at Stanage .

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: Tuesday 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

RUGBY MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

Based in Rugby Warwickshire, UK, the RMC is a collection of climbers & walkers who share a passion for the outdoors - especially mountains

The RMC is affiliated to the British Mountaineering Council, and as such, provides BMC services to its members such as third party insurance and access to the latest mountaineering information.

The club has it's own mountaineering hut 'Eigiau Cottage' located in the Carneddau Mountains in North Wales. You can find more information about the club hut by following the link to the left.

As well as regular weekend meets at our club hut monthly meets are organized throughout the UK. In recent years a summer Alpine meet has also been organized. Club activities include: Rock climbing, Indoor climbing, Walking, Summer & Winter Mountaineering, Skiing and Cycling.

Club Meet: Thursday evenings

Time: 21:30 - 23:00

Venue: The Raglan Arms, Dunchurch Road, Rugby.

Contact Name: Dave Atchison

Telephone: 01788 890777

Web Address: www.rugbymc.uklinux.net

Email: admin@rugbymc.uklinux.net

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.

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

“ 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 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)

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

If you would like to help out with this leaflet, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Please send any Club information, events or photo's or Climbing Wall information, events or photo's through to:

iain.a.mckenzie@btinternet.com

Climbing & Mountaineering Clubs

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

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

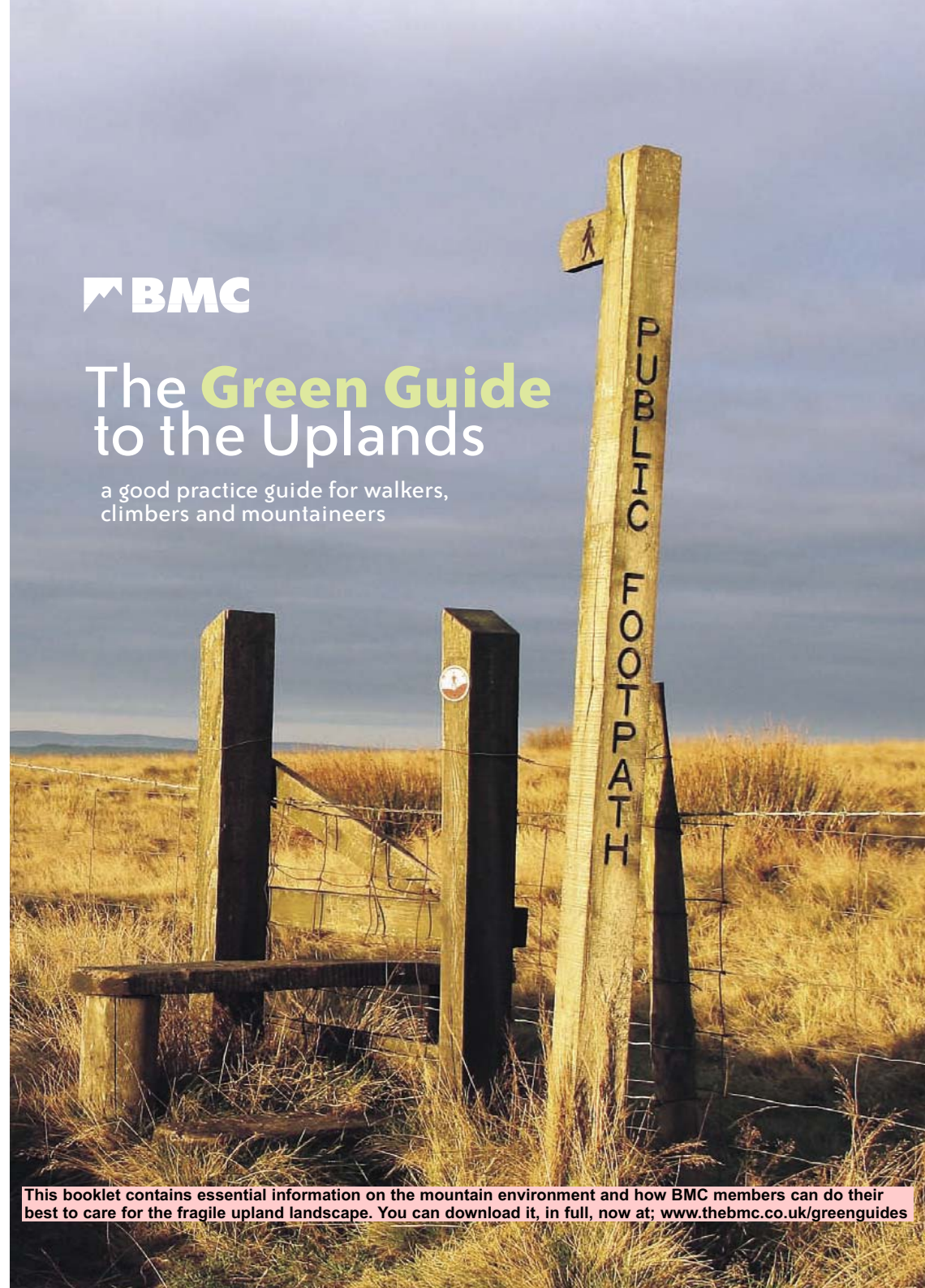
Web Address: www.wrekinmc.co.uk

Email: mitch@wrekinmc.co.uk



The 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

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



Robin and Scott in the Retro Bolted Hangingstone Quarry



Tina at Stanage on the day Kelly Holmes went climbing with the BMC

From the office... Tina Gardiner

Years ago, I found myself in Yosemite Valley, pointing out the climbers on El Capitan to my grandfather who was an influential environmentalist in the States. Little did I know that those themes – climbing and conservation – would both feature in what I do now.

I've been the BMC's Press & PR Officer for the last 3 years – and this year I'm trying to focus efforts on promoting the BMC's access and conservation work. I'll hopefully be getting out there throughout the BMC regions soon for some on-location reporting.

Fortunately the BMC's marketing is expertly handled by Andy Gowland and Becky Ellwood, so my time is spent spotting the BMC's key news and letting "the world" know about it. My day job consists of tasks such as putting latest news on the website, issuing press releases about BMC news and events, writing articles for magazines and dealing with all the incoming media enquiries. Enquiries can range from questions about upcoming expeditions or incidents to how to get into climbing. I'll put journalists in contact with relevant spokespeople from the BMC and the wider mountaineering community.

Where do you fit in? If you've got some news that will reflect well on climbers and the BMC then I'd be interested in promoting it to your local and regional press. We're also keen to feature more news from members on the BMC website, so if you think you've got something interesting to report then please get in touch. For example, this might be a report on a volunteer action day, news of a recent or upcoming climbing trip or a useful update from a recent event you've attended. You can contact me on 0161 438 3337 or email tina@thebmc.co.uk

A bit about me...before the BMC I worked as a press officer for the Environment Agency and before that I was at the Royal Geographical Society at the time of the 50th anniversary of the first ascent of Everest. What do I do when I'm not working? Apart from drinking GnTs and networking like any good PR girl should, I'm currently working towards a sports massage qualification and my SPA. I also enjoy the odd trapeze class, poetry session and going for the occasional jog, having just put in my entry for the Snowdonia Marathon.

The BMC YCS 2009

Round 1 kicked off 2009 at the BearRock climbing centre on the 7th March with an all to familiar chaos.

After the now normal badgering of parents and a good supply of volunteers this years round began.

It was good to see some new faces taking there first jump into competition climbing although numbers a little down on last year.

The competition started with finger biting strength as questions ran through my head "what standard" were the competitors like this year "what if the routes were to easy and everyone monsters them all". The level as usual was high with the first climbs being put to bed very well. With the oldest boys and girls group down on numbers it was decided to induce a little bit of friendly gender rivalry and merge the 2 together.

The middle boys group were doing well, 3 of them namely Duncan Fisher, Zack Porter and Jack Dyer were doing a bit too well and were matching each other climb for climb this could only end one way!

The other groups were doing equally well with some very close scores being achieved. Luckery for us only the one climb off was needed.

A notable climb or should a say fall of the day had to be Emily Fell who just could not reach a the final hold on her final route taking a large whipper and an impressive squeak on the way down.

A big thanks to Alex and his Team at Warwick for an excellent opening round.

The 28th April brought us Round 2 at Red Point climbing centre in Birmingham. After a rather disorganised start by myself (thanks Andy for the "extended" warm up session) the competition started. I think this entire round could best be described as "taxing" by the top group with some definite thought provoking challenges.

After the first hour collecting the first lot of results I noticed things were starting to go horribly wrong on this round, with middle groups and youngest groups after 4 climbs all tying in first place, a plan was hatched but after 5 routes now the girls were all tying for first!!! These competitors were all climbing there stickies off and still flashing the now harder routes!

We now had the youngest girls climbing the routes graded for the middle boys group, Who's being feeding this lot Red bull???

After the new routes started to be climbed and a rather strong coffee for me things were returning to normal as the long day now started to show.

The 14-16 group weren't having quiet the same experience as the rest with routes as these guys were finding it quiet a challenge. Some of the rather tall competitors were struggling with height issue in the cave area being slightly enclosed. After

some very precise moves and some very unlucky climbing and some really good surprises it was staying relatively tight.

After a long day and some eventful climbing we settled for a first ever 4 way tie for First place in the 8-10 Girls group.

Thanks again to Phil and the Redpoint team for there Stirling efforts during the day.

The Regional final (Round 3) brought us to the North east of the Midlands and the Tower Climbing centre in Leicester on April 25th

The expression 3rd time lucky I hoped would ring true here, after an excellent pre competition set-up it was looking good.

After a very amusing "post office" style registration no one was safe from the need of volunteers (thanks guys).

It was absolutely fantastic too see some new faces from the NICAS scheme turning up to have a go at there first ever competition.....Well done.

After the most ingenious warm up session I've ever seen (thanks Claudia) even in the damp conditions the groups came back in eager to start.

The competition then began.....

For the first time ever I walked into the main climbing area to the sounds of silence around the occasional grunts from people hanging from ropes, the tension was either very high of the coffee hadn't kicked in yet.

Again the climbing was getting rather close for the first couple of boulders and routes being ticked off rather too quickly for my liking...Sorry guys it's more fun when you fall off **Wink**

The tension definitely built up after lunch as the battle for qualification for the final was in reach, excellent climbing by the all, but the middle boys group this was getting serious as the top three from the other rounds all wanted that first place!!! Parental support as usual; was approaching football stadium levels of deafness.

After a few route swaps to keep things "competitive" , one ice pack and one sick bag later the day came to a close a lot smoother and quicker than thought with no Super finals needed.....excellent!

A big well done to all that competed and helped out, I would name you all but the Oscar style speech may go on a while, hope you all enjoyed it and will be back next year.

All things now focused on the talented few that finished in the top three from each category.....London Westway hope your ready for this lot!!

Iain Blanch
Midlands AYC

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 top roped; 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



Redpoint Roundup

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...

Birthday Bash

Birthday bash competition day We've now ticked off our first year in business and to celebrate we held a friendly competition day, with leading, bouldering and mountains of cake.

The lead comp was an exciting event; the climb took a devious route covering the two stalactites and a new baby stalactite hanging high up on the bridge. The competitors soon found out that its bite was much worse than its bark! There were some spectacular attempts on all the routes and problems, and Alex Fry set a new speed climbing record, yomping up 12m in a ridiculous 11.57 seconds.

Thanks to everyone who generously sponsored competition prizes: Rock On, Lyon Equipment, Sportiva, DMM and the Outdoors Show – and thanks to everyone who turned up to compete, watch or eat cake. We had a great day and we hope you did too.

Outdoors Show NEC 27th – 29th March

Our trip out to the Outdoors Show at the NEC was a roaring success. Along with Bear Creek Adventure, The Tower Climbing Wall in Leicester and other contributors we put together a stand to promote the NICAS (National Indoor Climbing Achievement Scheme), with three free standing climbing walls and oodles of enthusiasm. The stand was busy throughout the show, and we were chuffed to be part of it – thanks to everyone who helped make it such a good weekend.

BMC Youth Climbing Series

Saturday 28th March was a busy day for us – not only were we helping to staff the stand at the NEC but at home, Redpoint hosted a round of the BMC Youth Climbing Series. Around 45 young competitors showed up and climbed with a talent, flexibility and gusto which reminded us of ourselves at that age. No, really. Honest.

We've had a fantastic year here at Redpoint. We're hoping the next will be equally memorable – come down and see us soon!

Happy cranking!



Unknown Climber enjoying the Birthday Bash Climbs

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:

Sat 6th & Sun 7th June CWA TRAINING with Unlimited Training
Sat 22nd & Sun 23rd August CWA TRAINING with Unlimited Training

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.

British Lead Climbing Championships

Britain's premier lead climbing competition will take place over the weekend of 18-19 July. This year the British Lead Climbing Championships will be held at Edinburgh International Climbing Arena, Ratho on their new International Standard Competition Wall. There's no charge to spectate and as well as watching Britain's best competition climbers in action, there'll be lots of other entertainment including the world famous Edinburgh Rat Race coming through the Arena completing various tasks as they go. So you will be able to watch the competitors of the Rat Race going through the aerial assault course in the rafters of the EICA, whilst Britain's best climbers battle it out for the title of British Champion on the ridiculously steep competition wall.

The reigning national champions are:

Senior Male: Gareth Parry
Senior Female: Audrey Seguy
Junior Male: Jonathan Stocking
Junior Female: Shauna Coxsey

The BLCC uses the same format as the European Youth Series; two routes are climbed by all competitors during the qualification rounds, these are climbed 'flash', which means that the routes are demonstrated by the routesetters and the competitors watch the demo and then watch each other climb. The climbing order is changed for the second route to maintain fairness. The climbers who qualify through to the final are put into an isolation zone and the final routes are climbed on-sight.

The basis for 'scoring' in the BLCC (and other leading competitions) is fairly simple. The higher up the route the more 'points' you gain. Each hold is assigned a score or number. If you touch this hold (e.g. hold 25) then you get credited with '25-'. If you hold this hold you get '25'. If you make progress towards the next hold (but don't touch it) you get '25+'. The actual ranking for the qualification round is a bit more complicated though, with square roots of the multiple of the ranking from each qualification coming into play.

Time does not have a bearing on the score but there is always a maximum time given by the chief judge in which the climbers must complete the route. If the climber is still climbing when this time period has elapsed (normally 6-8 minutes), they will be asked to stop climbing and their score will be taken from the highest point they reached at the end of the stated time period.

There is no qualification process to gain entry into the BLCC and the competition is open to anyone. You've got to be in it to win it, so download an entry form now. The Juniors (born 1993-1997) and Veterans (born 1964 or earlier) will compete on the Saturday, with the Seniors (born 1992 - 1965) climbing on the Sunday. We look forward to welcoming new and established competitors.

British Bouldering Championships

Britain's premier bouldering competition will take place over the weekend of 11-12 July, and once again the British Bouldering Championships will be held as part of the Cliffhanger outdoor festival in Sheffield. There are four competitor categories – junior male and junior female (born 1993-1997), and senior male and senior female (born 1992 or earlier).

The reigning national champions are:

Senior Male: Ned Feehally
Senior Female: Audrey Seguy
Junior Male: Jonathan Stocking
Junior Female: Shauna Coxsey

The competition consists of a qualification round of 10 problems, and a final round of 5 problems. There is no isolation for the qualifying round, each competitor is allowed 3 attempts on each problem and receives 10, 7 or 4 points dependent upon whether the problem is completed on the 1st, 2nd or 3rd attempt. Additionally a bonus or tie break point is available for 'holding' a specified hold.

The final round is run on the same format as World Cup bouldering competitions. Each climber is given a maximum of 6 minutes to attempt a problem and is allowed as many attempts as required within that time period. They then have 6 minutes rest before trying the next problem.

The scoring for the finals is significantly different from the qualifiers. There are no points as such. The winner is the one who does the most problems in the least number of attempts. If there is a tie after looking at number of problems then the number of bonus/tie break holds are looked and also the number of attempts to get those bonus holds.

The championships will also form part of the selection process for the 2010 Senior British Bouldering Team. First place senior male and senior female will be automatically selected (if British passport holder). Other competitors will be selected on past, present and potential performance.

There is no qualification process to gain entry into the British Bouldering Championships, and the competition is open to anyone. The problems range from V2 to V8 in the junior categories, and V3 to V10 in the seniors. The juniors will compete on the Saturday, with the Seniors climbing on the Sunday. We look forward to welcoming new and established competitors.

Entry Forms for both events can be downloaded by visiting the Competitions section of the BMC Website.

<http://www.thebmc.co.uk/Category.aspx?category=4>



In late April/early May 2009 seven of us attempted a ski tour of the high mountains of the Bernese Oberland. This area contains the grandest of Europe's glaciers, spectacular mountain peaks and magnificent views, but as with all mountainous areas the weather plays an important part. Even the best laid plans can come undone.....

Day 1

After Jackie & Brian Cross, Paul Hennelly, Mike Reynolds and Jo Goodson met up with Lee Leech and Mat from Norway at the Grindelwald Hostel, we got up early on Sunday morning to catch the first train up the Jungfrauoch railway (well the second actually, with typical Swiss efficiency the first train left exactly on time and we were 2 minutes late!).

After exiting the tunnel at the Spinxstollen we realised the weather was against us; strong winds, snow and near zero visibility meant we had to abandon our attempt of the summit of the Louwitor (3676m) and, instead head straight down the Jungfrau glacier to the Konkordia hut. With Lee taking the lead and with GPS in hand we made it safely to the hut, only to be faced with over 400 steps up zig-zag ladders to reach the hut.

Days 2 & 3

With worsening weather we were virtually holed up in the Konkordia hut for 2 days. Zero visibility and nearly 2m of fresh powder snow meant all major peaks were off limits due to very high avalanche risk. On day 2 we ventured onto the Konkordiaplatz to make an attempt

on the Kranzberg, but abandoned it, returning via GPS navigation in the whiteout. Day 3 involved us belaying each other down the snow filled ladders and 'swimming' through chest high snow onto the glacier to dig out our skis. The toilets at the Konkordia hut were a bit quirky, despite having no running water, smelling horrible (as most mountain hut toilets do) and being outside (full winter gear including goggles had to be worn to get there through the blizzard), the interior lighting was psychedelic and music (a mixture of heavy rock, blues and folk) was played constantly over loud speakers. Strange but true!

Day 4

At last the weather improved and, in bright sunshine we headed east along the Grunegg glacier to the col at 3280m. We were hoping for a fine ski descent to the Finsteraarhorn hut, but again the weather closed in and out came the GPS and a careful descent through the whiteout.

Day 5

This turned out to be a glorious day and with fresh powder snow everywhere we summited the Wyssnollen (3590m) and had a magnificent ski descent in pristine powder, staying at the Finsteraarhorn hut for a second night. The views from the top were stunning and, across the valley we could see a previous target, the Finsteraarhorn (4273m), covered with huge deposits of snow ready to avalanche. A brilliant day in brilliant conditions.

Day 6

With a good weather forecast for the May bank holiday weekend and good powder, all the locals came out and booked all the huts, so we were forced to rethink our plans and head east again down the Fiescher glacier for two nights at the Oberaarjoch hut. Carefully negotiating the heavily crevassed glacier we were rewarded with fantastic views across to the mountains of southern Switzerland, including the Matterhorn. The perfect situation and character of this hut made it a memorable stay for 2 nights. Kurt, the hut warden, spoke no English and served only traditional Swiss food, but he was friendly and made our stay a real treat.

With time to spare, Lee, Jackie, Jo and Brian tried a bit of 'dry tooling' on the crag at the base of the hut, Lee taking the lead.



Day 7, setting off the summit of The Studerhorn.

Day 7

The day started well and we set off to summit the Studerhorn (3624m), but the weather closed in again and we turned back just before our proposed 'ski depot' at the base of the final summit. Back at the hut we drank more tea, read a bit more and played knock out whist and sevens for the umpteenth time (note: learn more card games for next year!)



Decent down to Reckingen

Day 8

The best day of the tour! A 6km long (2Km vertical) descent down to the town of Reckingen. As the glacier faces south an early start is essential to get the best of the snow. Kurt, our hut warden, made us have breakfast at 5.00am and told us he would be shouting at us if we weren't skiing by 6.00am. He was right because, after the 200m ski down and 300m skin up to the col we were rewarded by the most amazing ski descent. A wide, steep glacier, always interesting and changing, always in sunshine and with sensational views, made this a most memorable day. Perfect conditions

An additional bonus was the celebration of Brian & Jackie's 6th wedding anniversary:

Day 9

After catching a train back to Bern via Brig we took a shower, changed into clean clothes and had a tourist day in the capital of Switzerland, taking in the sights of the 'old town' and catching up on good food and beer:

To see more photos of this trip go to:
<http://s229.photobucket.com/albums/ee227/brianfrederick-cross/Ski%20Touring%202009/>

By Brian Cross

Alpine Ski Mountaineering in the Bernese Oberland by members of the Solihull Mountaineering Club



***The Shropshire Summits Challenge Walk,
2nd and 3rd August, 2008.***

The challenge consists of a continuous walk over the six highest hills in Shropshire, Titterstone Clee (1750ft), Brown Clee (1790ft), Caer Caradoc (1506ft),

Long Mynd (1695ft), Stiperstones (1731ft) and Corndon Hill (1684ft). It can be completed in either direction, East/West or West/East, you can choose your own route but you must touch the trig. point or summit cairn on all six summits.

Depending on the route chosen the total distance is between 38 and 43 miles and the walk should be completed within 24 hours; no mechanised transport is to be used, but obviously stops can be made for refreshments.

The Challenge walk was pioneered in 1962 by the late Vivian Bird, author and Sunday Mercury columnist, and Philip Sharp, and for many years has been used as a vehicle to raise money for the Sunday Mercury Give a Child Health Fund, a local charity which assists children and young people with respiratory illnesses.

The members of Saltley Hillwalking Group, Bob Pearce, Andy Greenan, Graham Platt, Mike McSheffrey and Garry Stubbins undertook the walk in memory of John Poole a founder member of the Group who sadly died in 2007 of asbestos cancer.

Saturday 2nd August. We set out from Clee Hill village on the A4117 Cleobury Mortimer to Ludlow road at 0910 hrs and arrived at the first summit, Titterstone Clee, at 1005 hrs, the weather was ideal, dry, clear with a cool breeze and there were grand views in every direction.

Following the Shropshire Way LDP we summited Brown Clee (Abdon Burf) at 1315 hrs and then set out on the long stretch to the next summit, Caer Caradoc. This section of the walk involved crossing Wenlock Edge which doesn't quite make the '1500ft' criteria but still involves a considerable amount of ascent and descent. The afternoon was now very warm and a stop for refreshments at the wonderfully situated

Wilderhope Manor Youth Hostel, high up on Wenlock Edge was most welcome. Our next objective, Caer Caradoc, involved a lengthy section of road walking as far as the delightful village of Cardington, another brief stop for refreshments outside the Royal Oak and then we left the village on an uphill path heading north west. We crossed the Wildermess (another small hill) and then made a rapid ascent of the east flank of Caer Caradoc. Our arrival on the summit coincided with a torrential downpour complete with hail, thunder and lightning, horizontal driving rain; followed by a glorious evening rainbow. We descended into Church Stretton for much needed fish and chips and running repairs to rapidly deteriorating feet before pushing on into the night towards the Long Mynd.

The Pole Bank summit of the Long Mynd was reached at 2350hrs. Tiredness was now beginning to tell and the pace had slowed considerably as we headed towards the Stiperstones. Sunday 3rd August. Always rough underfoot, the Stiperstones proved to be even more tortuous at night and having arrived at the summit at 0340hrs we were happy to leave it behind and head for our final goal, Corndon Hill. Grahams' description of the Stiperstones complete with expletives was not something the Club felt the need to publish. As dawn broke we were greeted with the site of our journeys end, Corndon Hill reared up impressively, still several miles away. The final climb to



the top of Corndon proved to be the steepest of all and it was an exhausted but jubilant group that arrived at the trig. point at 0731hrs on a glorious late summer morning with fabulous views in every direction.

Back at the Old School House campsite, Shelve it was gallons of tea and minor surgery on each others feet, a brief nap and then head back to Brum.

Total time: 22hrs 20minutes. Total distance 67.7 kilometres (42 miles approx.)

Despite the sore feet we're hoping to make the walk an annual event and if anyone is interested in taking part in 2009 (Sat. 1st /Sun. 2nd August) please contact Bob Pearce on 07944 779 697 or at saltleyhwg@yahoo.co.uk. Anyone wishing to sponsor this years walk or make a donation to the Give a Child Health Fund please contact the above.

The Shropshire Summits Challenge Walk is a tough event, comparable with many of the popular challenge walks that now take place. It is, however, very rewarding as it travels through some wonderful countryside and is a good test of any walkers stamina and navigational skills.



Tremadog Tree Work

Tremadog Tree work now complete. Tree surgeons have been busy during May reducing the percentage of sycamore in the woodland at Bwlch y Moch.

This will give Oak and Ash a chance to thrive in the woodland and has the benefit to climbers of opening up the cliff somewhat.

BMC Cymru/Wales is now investigating how to use the felled timber to mark out footpaths to the climbs so that we do not have to resort to signage and waymarking.

Please look for the more used paths and allow those which have obviously been block off to regenerate.

Photo shows newly exposed Tro Buttress



The BMC and Climate Change

The A new guide outlines the BMC's commitment to tackling climate change and offers some useful advice on what you can do to try to reduce your impact.

The BMC is well aware of the impact that climate change could have on the landscapes that make climbing, hill walking and mountaineering so special to us all, and has a significant interest in preserving our mountain environment and wildlife. With temperatures predicted to rise over the next 80 years this could lead to a change in the range, composition and location of important habitats and species in these sensitive environments.

The BMC has already demonstrated its environmental commitment with the development of an Environment Policy and in September 2008, we received the Gold standard of the North West Environmental Business Pledge for our exceptional environmental performance. This further signals our commitment to promoting good practice in managing climate change, both within the office and nationally by offering advice to all our members and the climbing, hill walking and mountaineering community at large. To enhance this further, we have put together a brief guide outlining the changes we have made internally as an organisation, the work we are doing with other external bodies, and offering further advice to our members to reduce their own personal impact.

Download The BMC and Climate Change from <http://www.thebmc.co.uk/Feature.aspx?id=3066>

BMC FUNDamentals Courses

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 and since then it has proved very popular with climbing coaches, especially those working in walls with young people.

The workshops contain both theoretical and practical elements, concentrating on good practice and ways to teach climbing movement. Children participating in any sport are at risk of injury due to inappropriate training techniques and climbing is no different in this respect. Instilling good practice from the start lays a solid foundation for the future. The workshops draw on the findings of academic research, and the knowledge and experience of the British team coaches.

Rochdale 8 July at Climb UK.
North Wales 12 September at Plas y Brenin.

<http://www.thebmc.co.uk/Feature.aspx?id=2569>



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^{†††} 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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