

ANNUAL REPORT 2012



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The British Mountaineering Council (BMC) exists to promote the interests and protect the freedoms of climbers, hill walkers and mountaineers, including ski mountaineers. The BMC was formed in 1944 and is a democratic representative body controlled by a National Council made up of locally elected Area Representatives and nationally elected Officers. It is a company limited by guarantee (no. 2874177) without a share capital, and has over 75,000 members. The BMC is recognised by Government as a National Governing Body of sport and is grant supported by Sport England.



Elected Officers

Rab Carrington	President (to 28 April 2012)
Scott Titt	Vice-President (to 28 April 2012); President (from 28 April 2012)
Audrey Seguy	Vice-President (to 28 April 2012)
Ed Douglas	Vice-President
Kate Phillips	Vice-President (from 28 April 2012)
Mike Watson	Vice-President (from 28 April 2012)
David Lanceley	Honorary Treasurer

Executive Committee

All Elected Officers plus:

Dave Turnbull	BMC CEO
Christian Lund	National Council Rep (to November 2012)
Neil Foster	National Council Rep

Patrons

Sir Chris Bonington CBE
Lord Chorley
Lord Greaves
Ian McNaught-Davis
Doug Scott CBE

Honorary Members

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

Auditors

Bentleys Chartered Accountants

Honorary Legal Advisors

Paul Debney
Stephen Porteus
Anthony Rich
Martin Wragg

Honorary Medical Advisors

Dr Charles Clarke
Dr David Hillebrandt
Dr Jim Milledge

Mission Statement

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

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

Participation Statement

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

Equal Opportunities Statement

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

BMC Headquarters

The Old Church T: 0161 445 6111
177-179 Burton Road F: 0161 445 4500
Manchester E: office@thebmc.co.uk
M20 2BB W: www.thebmc.co.uk

Regional Development Officer (London) office

c/o Castle Climbing Centre
Green Lanes T: 0208 211 1078
Stoke Newington E: elizabeth@thebmc.co.uk
London
N4 2HA

Access & Conservation Officer (Wales) office

Siabod Cottage T: 01690 720124
Plas y Brenin E: elfyn@thebmc.co.uk
Capel Curig
Betws y Coed
Conwy
LL24 0ES

President's Message

The £2.92 million Sport England grant is the big story of my first year as President. After a huge amount of work by our CEO Dave Turnbull early in the year we finally got the good news; the BMC is one of the few applicants to be granted all they had asked for. Spread over four years the money raises government input to the BMC from 12% to approximately 25% (based on current projections), allowing us to carry out lots of extra projects adding to the wide variety of work we already do.

Regional development officers have been piloted in the past, this time we are rolling them out in strength. Already in post is Elizabeth Holley our London officer; soon to join her are England West and England East officers covering the northern part of the country. Their main priorities will be to ease the transition from indoors to outside, to engage with the 16-25 age group and to support clubs in a time of falling membership.

A new innovation for the BMC is the appointment of a hill walking officer. We know from our membership surveys that hill walking is one of the most popular activities for our members, and we now have a specialist officer to look after their needs. Training and looking at barriers to participation will be major parts of the job. Tying with these appointments, and, in support of the Mountain Training Trust, we will be running a variety of subsidised courses at Plas y Brenin, the National Mountaineering Centre; keep an eye on the BMC website for details.

Of course through the year we have been carrying out work programmes funded by you, the members. Each of the specialist committees reports later in this document. It would be easy for me to steal their headlines but I will refrain. My job is to make sure that we have a good balance between the various areas of work and their demands for more money; I hope I am succeeding.

In a period of slow economic growth inflation is always a worry; fortunately our steady growth in membership has countered the worst effects allowing us to keep membership fees stable yet again.

Good governance has been a theme of the last year; the BMC Executive Committee will soon (subject to AGM approval) be joined by independent directors, chosen to bring specific skills to Exec.

A great success this year has been the drive to recruit fresh volunteers to the work of the BMC. An advert in Summit (now one of the best outdoor magazines in the UK) brought in a small flood of new faces, many of whom came to the BMC

offices on a bleak January afternoon. They met the officers and chairs of the specialist committees and many were recruited on the spot.

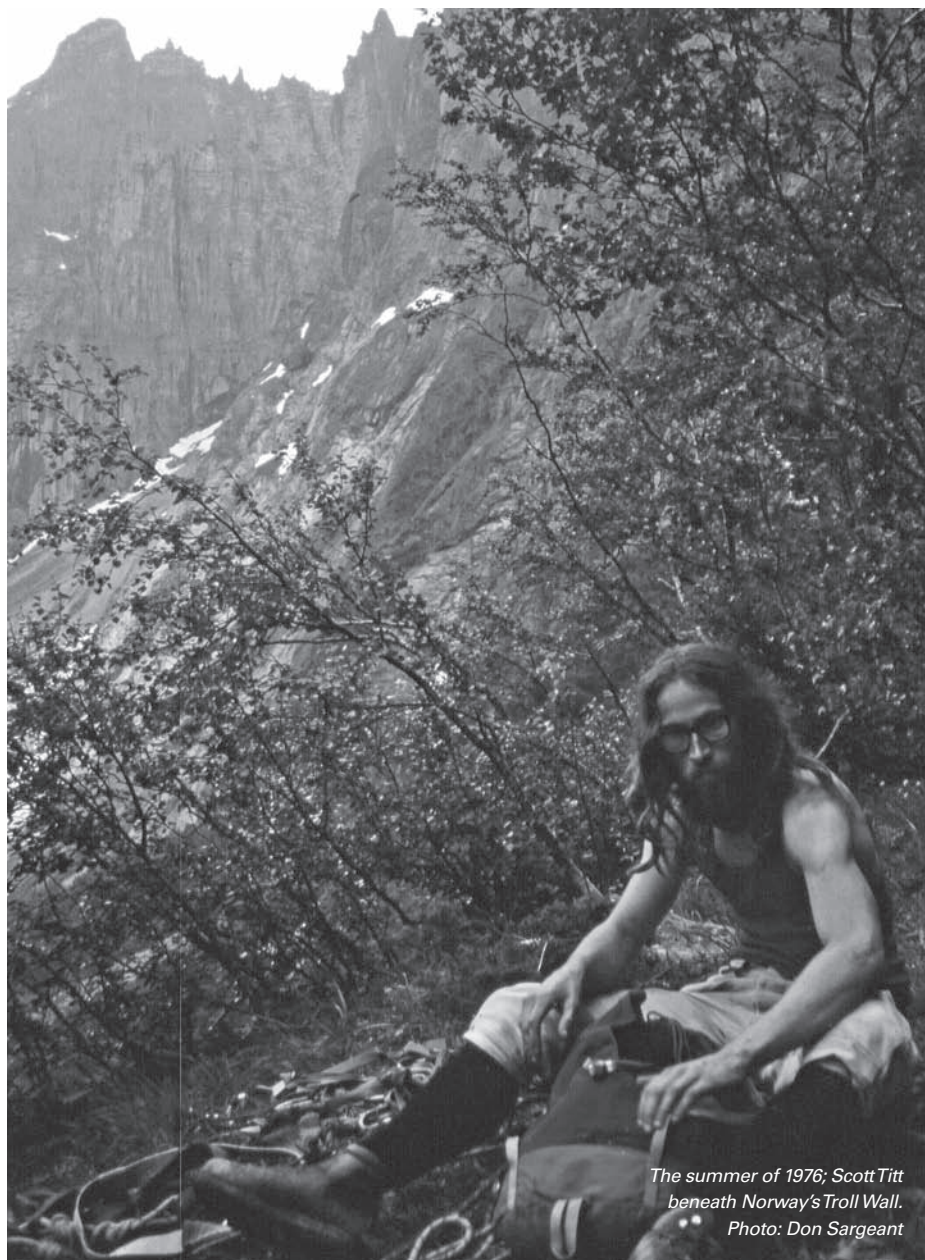
Changes are also being made to some of our allied organisations who have BMC directors or trustees on their boards. I hope that slimmed down and re-invigorated boards will bring results that I can report to you next year.

All of the BMC's work really has one purpose, to let you freely and safely enjoy the hills and crags. Unfortunately we cannot control the weather; we know what an impact the rain of last year had on you all. Government figures showed a drop in participation outside, UKClimbing.com

showed a drop in logged routes for the first time, and outdoor shops had a tough time with some famous old names closing their doors. As I write this the sun is shining in Swanage so I am off out. I hope you can get out into the sun too this year.



**Scott Titt
President**



*The summer of 1976; Scott Titt
beneath Norway's Troll Wall.
Photo: Don Sargeant*

Staff Team

CEO	Dave Turnbull
Deputy CEO	Nick Colton
Financial Controller	Alan Brown
Web & Summit	Alex Messenger
Marketing Manager	Andy Gowland
Publications Co-ordinator	Tony Ryan
Press & PR/Marketing Co-ordinator	Tina Gardner (PT)
Access & Conservation	Cath Flitcroft, Elfyn Jones, Rob Dyer
Competitions & Climbing Walls	Rob Adie
Guidebooks	Niall Grimes
Regional Development, London	Elizabeth Holley (from August 2012)
Technical	Dan Middleton (PT)
Training (BMC / MTE)	Jon Garside
Volunteers, Huts & Clubs	Martin Kocsis (to December 2012)
HR & Office Co-ordinator	Kate Anwyl (PT)
Events Co-ordinator	Becky McGovern (PT)
Project Co-ordinator	Suzanne Jones
IT & Database	Paul D'Ambra, Chris Ashton (PT) (to July 2012), Tim Waterhouse (PT) (from September 2012)
Finance Assistant	Yas Prabakaran



Membership Services Team

Lynda Buckley (MST & Office Manager)
 Arun Patel
 Ray Perry (PT)
 Jim Krawiecki
 Hannah Skeldon
 Simon Manns (to May 2012)
 Clonagh Delderfield (PT)

Breakdown of 29 staff: 22 full-time staff; 7 part-time (PT) staff.

National Council

National Council is the BMC's main policy making body. It is made up of BMC officials and representatives from each of the BMC Areas.

In 2012 National Council meetings were held in Devon, Yorkshire, Pembroke, Snowdonia and the Peak District.

The following substantive issues were debated and/or agreed during the course of the year:

- Strategic Plan 2013-17: agreed a new four-year Strategic Plan at the April meeting; this included an agreement to take on Regional Development staff and a Hill Walking Officer subject to Sport England funding.
- Specialist Committee review: reviewed the Terms of Reference and membership of all BMC Specialist Committees.
- Sport England grant funding: agreed the key components of the 2013-17 Sport England application and put forward changes to the BMC M&AA to enable the appointment of independent directors.

- BMC Position on Drilled Equipment: instigated the review and amendment of the BMC's Drilled Equipment Statement (1992).
- Volunteer Recruitment Campaign: introduced a publicity campaign to encourage new people to volunteer for BMC Specialist Committees resulting in expressions of interest being received from over 70 people.
- Avon Gorge Regeneration Project (Climb Bristol): agreed to proceed with this important initiative to rejuvenate the climbing environment in the Avon Gorge.
- Quarries Project: agreed to establish a quarries regeneration project within the BMC including the appointment of part-time co-ordinator on a 12-month contract.

National Council Voting Members

President	Rab Carrington (to April 2012),
President	Scott Titt (from April 2012)
Vice-President	Audrey Seguy (to April 2012)
Vice-President	Scott Titt (to April 2012)
Vice President	Ed Douglas
Vice-President	Kate Phillips (from April 2012)
Vice-President	Mike Watson (from April 2012)
Treasurer	David Lanceley
Chief Executive	Dave Turnbull
Lakes	Steve Scott, Polly Sullivan (to September 2012), Ted Rogers (from December 2012)
London & South East	Elizabeth Holley, Christian Lund
Midlands	Charles Gameson, Claudia Sarner
North East	Lloyd Murray, Alan Hinkes
North West	Tom Bond, Colin Struthers
Peak District	Neil Foster, Rick Gibbon
South West	Colin Knowles, Richard Moss
Yorkshire	Beverley Jowett, James Rowe
Cymru/Wales	Tom Hutton, Ray Wood; Gareth Tucker

Observers

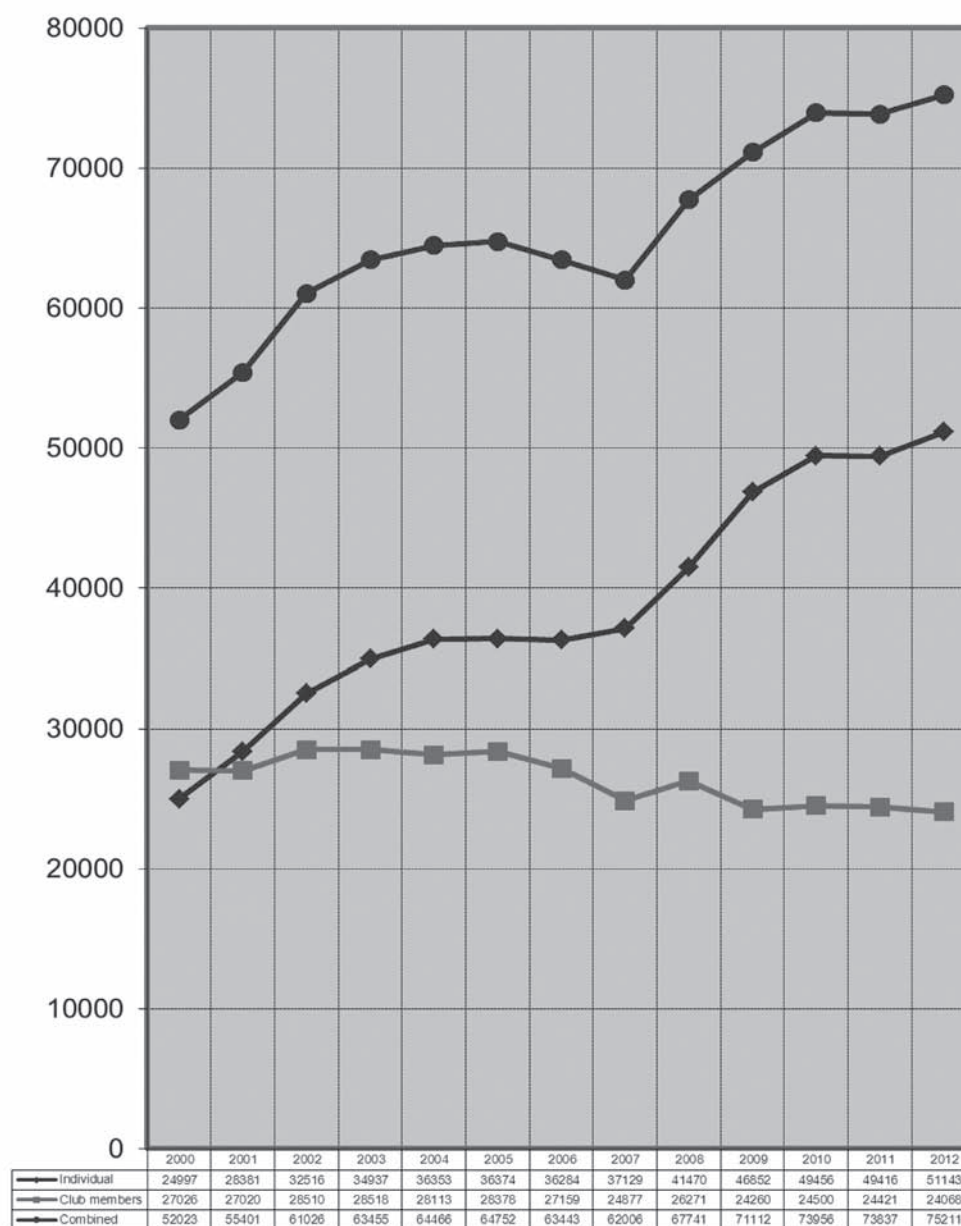
Mountain Training England	Andy Say
Mountain Training Wales	Andy Boorman
Mountain Rescue England & Wales	David Allan
Plas y Brenin	Martin Doyle
Access, Conservation & Environment Group	Roger Bennion
Climbing Walls Committee	Nick Bond
Clubs Committee	Rob Greaves
Competitions Committee	Iain McKenzie (to September 2012)
	Ian Walton (from September 2012)
Equity Steering Group	Kamala Sen
Finance Committee	Graham Richmond
Guidebook Committee	Ian Carr
Huts Group	Iain McCallum
International Committee	Dave Wilkinson
Technical Committee	Oliver Milling (to April 2012), Philip Tootill (from April 2012)
Training & Youth Committee	Andy Newton

Membership Information

We finished the year with a combined total of 75,211 members, an increase of 1,374. The breakdown of this is 51,143 individual members (an increase of 1,727) and 24,068 club members (a decrease of 353). The number of clubs affiliated decreased slightly by 9 to a total of 283, which included 43 student clubs. The number of club upgrade members was down by 29 and totalled 1,493.

Insurance held its own this year and turnover and number of policies sold was level with 2011. Further changes have been made to some policies in the year to help bring the scheme back to profitability and limit claims experience.

BMC Membership 2000 to 2012



BMC Service Charter

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

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

Finance Report

David Lanceley, Honorary Treasurer

2012 was a reasonably successful financial year for the BMC. We had originally forecast a small surplus of around £10k, very close to the actual outcome. Overall income increased by around 15% compared to 2011 although this was matched by a similar increase in expenditure.

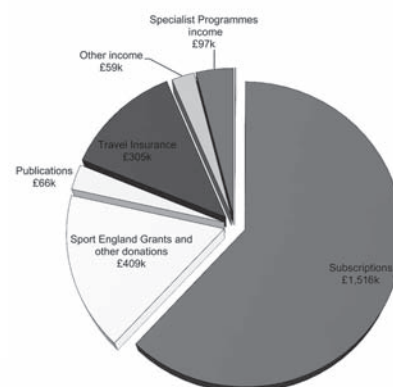
Subscription income continues to grow notwithstanding that the level of subscriptions has not been increased since 2008. All the increase has come from increased numbers, mainly individuals. The half price direct debit offer continues as it certainly seems to be effective in attracting new members; some 83% of individual members now pay by direct debit. Travel insurance sales income, although significantly down compared to earlier years, was similar to 2011 and we are confident of maintaining or increasing sales in 2013.

Sport England grant income is significantly increased compared to previous years, due to the funding for the Regional Development Officer for London, the Rock Climbing Essentials DVD and the reconciliation of deferred costs at the end of the current grant period. The new grant period starting in April 2013 provides increased funding in a variety of areas including the appointment of two new Regional Development Officers and a Hill Walking Officer. Specialist Programme income increased due to additional competition entry fees and sponsorship income and travel costs recovered from team members.

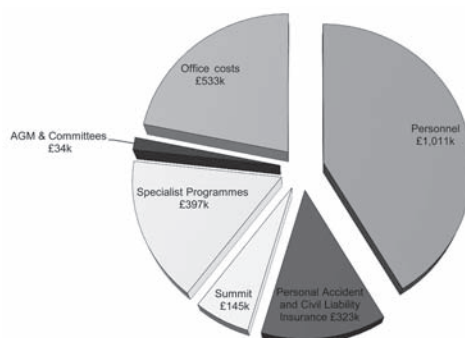
Careful control and monitoring of expenditure continues but always with a view to not allowing services to members to suffer. Staff costs have increased by around 8% year-on-year due to index-related salary increases, an additional member of staff (the London RDO, Sport England funded), redundancy and temporary staff costs, and some scale increases. IT-related costs were higher than anticipated due to website development work and work on the database upgrade. Website traffic has increased by around 20% partly due to the development work, and the upgrades to the database will provide much better management information as well as an improved service to members. Specialist Programme expenditure increased in part matched by the income increases described above and expenses relating to the London RDO. Increased postage costs have had a significant effect on Summit distribution costs and communication costs generally.

Cash reserves are slightly lower than last year due to the timing of some significant items of income and expenditure. As always the security of these reserves is an ongoing concern we have addressed by spreading them across a number of UK Government backed financial institutions. Income from cash reserves increased from 2011 due to better interest rates obtained.

Summary of Income 2012 (£2,452k)

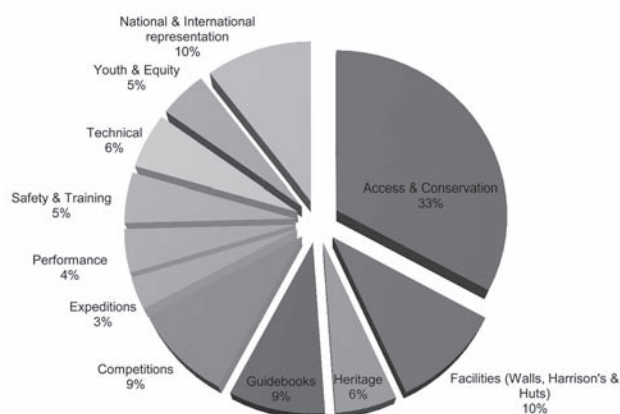


Summary of Expenditure 2012 (£2,443k)



Net cost of Specialist Programmes after allocation of overheads, grant income and other income

2012 (£714k)



Finance Committee at 31/12/12

Graham Richmond (Chair)
David Lanceley (Hon. Treasurer)
Tim Raffle
Iain Dickinson
Deidre Collier
Polly Sullivan
Charles Gameson

Dave Turnbull (CEO)
Alan Brown (FC)
Andy Say (MTE)
Scot Titt (President) - Paper member
Ed Douglas (Vice-President) - Paper member
Mike Watson (Vice-President) - Paper member
Kate Phillips (Vice-President) - Paper member

How staff and overhead costs are spread

	Person Year	Staff %	Alloc %
Membership Services	3.4	13%	23%
Trading Activities	3.5	14%	27%
Headquarters	7.7	30%	0%
External Recovery	0.2	1%	2%
Specialist Programmes	10.8	42%	48%
Total	25.6	100%	100%

Specialist Committees

Access, Conservation & Environment Group

Access and conservation work is one of the most important of BMC functions. The programme continues to go from strength to strength and is now co-ordinated by 3 full-time BMC officers covering England and Wales, over 40 regional access volunteers and numerous specialist advisors, together with countless others who assist on various projects.

Over the past 12 months, the BMC has set up four new specialist working groups to look at specific issues affecting the BMC's access and conservation work. These include groups looking at landscape issues (working to ensure that developments and landscape change in our upland and mountain areas do not have a negative impact on access to and enjoyment of climbing or walking areas); quarries (working to ensure that the BMC effectively influence all relevant bodies and organisations in the restoration of hard rock quarries for recreational purposes from the planning to implementation phase); climbing and conservation (acting as an expert guiding panel for the BMC and for conservation and land management organisations when dealing with climbing and nature conservation issues); and group use (working to review existing guidelines and establish good practice in group use across climbing and walking areas). These groups, made up of BMC volunteers and experts, are working on developing BMC policy and guidance covering a number of areas and have been successful in drawing on new expertise from across the membership.

This year, the access team has had considerable liaison with Parliament through the All Party Parliamentary Group on Mountaineering (which is jointly chaired by David Rutley MP and John Mann MP), holding several meetings in the House of Commons to discuss climbing and hill walking matters such as the importance of the forestry estate to our members and the potential impacts of the Independent Panel's report. Similarly, we have been involved in the consultation on the creation of a new statutory body to manage the environment and natural resources in Wales. The single body, known as Natural Resources Wales, will undertake the current duties of the Countryside Council for Wales, Environment Agency and Forestry Commission in Wales, including their access work. The BMC continue to lobby for the importance of access and recreation to be recognised in new policy development, in the re-structuring of organisations and in the budgetary requirements of departments and public bodies. Access & recreation are still seen as an aspiration rather than a necessity.

In other areas of work, the BMC produced a clear guidance note on Climbing & Occupiers' Liability (a guide for landowners, managers and users) at

the start of the year and in November, we held a successful conference on Risk, Liability & Outdoor Adventure aimed at landowners and users alike. A number of interesting presentations were given throughout the day, focusing on perspectives of risk in the outdoors, current management of risk and how to try and balance risk and recreation.

Similarly, the access team continue to liaise with Natural England as the new coastal access rights are rolled out around England and we attended the launch of the All Wales Coastal Path in May 2012. We have also met with DEFRA and Natural England staff leading on access and people engagement to discuss various access issues, including the decadal review of open access maps in England and the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy.

In Wales there were continued successes at Pembroke with year round access now negotiated (for briefed climbers) to Range West from Easter 2013. On the Great Orme in North Wales, the number of crags restricted due to nesting birds was considerably reduced on the back of evidence based monitoring. Elsewhere along the North Wales Limestone cliffs there were issues with new routes and crags being developed on sites that are designated SSSI's that needed to be resolved.

On Snowdon the BMC was consulted and responded to proposals for the erection of stone pillar way-markers at major path junctions on the main paths as well as the marking of stiles and gates with map references.

The decadal review of open access maps was undertaken in Wales by the Countryside Council for Wales and the BMC submitted a number of detailed proposals to try to include crags and land that our members believed should have been included as open access, including several coastal sites.

2013 was also the year when the All Wales Coastal Path was officially opened and while the BMC fully supports this development, we are continuing to campaign with the Welsh Government to have improved access to a coastal corridor (including access to sea-cliffs as of right) rather than simply a linear path.

On Gower the BMC brokered an agreement between the National Trust, CCW and local climbers to ensure that any new bolting does not occur on NT land or conservation sites without proper consultation.

Also at Pembroke another major gain was the permanent removal of the nesting bird restrictions at Mowingword, enabling year round access to over 50 quality routes, which prove very popular when Castlemartin Range is closed due to military activity.

The production (with Snowdonia Active and Ground Up Productions) of the North Wales White Guide has proved to be very successful and has significantly raised the awareness of climbers of the possible impacts of winter climbing on important conservation sites.

A numbers of short video presentations highlighting good access & conservation practice were also filmed and will be available on the website throughout 2013, ranging from how to minimize footpath erosion to explaining nesting bird restrictions and protecting rare cliff growing plants.

In England, nesting restriction reviews continue across the country and in the Lake District in particular, through the Mountain Liaison Group, a number of restrictions have been removed where they are no longer required. The RSPB has recently taken on a new estate in the eastern Lake District around Haweswater and following a site visit, has said that it would like to work with the BMC going forward to improve access on the estate for climbers and hill walkers. Also in the Lakes, we met with the National Trust on site at St Bees to discuss the eroding footpath to the cliff base and potential remediation work to prevent it getting worse and to provide a long term, sustainable solution.

At Harrison's Rocks in the South East, a new woodland management plan has been approved this year, which will allow some exciting work to go ahead in the woodland area below the crag. The aim is to manage the woodland to ensure its long-term health, increase biodiversity by creating small cleared glades that allow different vegetation to grow at ground level, and clear a corridor close to the crag to encourage the rock to dry out quicker.

In the North West, following discussions with the landowner and at area meetings about the quality of the existing in-situ belay anchors at Witches Quarry which were considered too close to the edge of the crag, a number of new belay stakes were supplied by the BMC and installed at the site.

In the White Peak a meeting with the National Trust rangers for the area re-established contact with one of the major landowners of Peak limestone crags and was very positive in clarifying access arrangements for climbers and ensuring climbing continues to be considered a legitimate activity in the area.

With the long-term lease of the Roaches Estate being won by the Staffordshire Wildlife Trust (SWT), preparations for handover from the Peak District National Park Authority to the SWT in April 2013 have been in full swing. As part of this, the SWT has been working on a management plan for the estate and the BMC has provided a detailed climbing and walking management plan to feed into this.

In the South West, the ClimbBristol project started in the second half of 2012 and will run for two years, headed up by Project Officer Martin Crocker with additional support from the BMC access staff. The project aims to improve access to the Avon Gorge and re-invigorate climbing there through physical improvements to the crags in the Gorge as well as liaising with Bristol City Council and other landowners to ensure that climbing access continues in the future. A Project Steering Group made up of local climbers across the spectrum of the Bristol climbing community is meeting regularly to decide on priorities and help out with work days.

With further stretches of the new England Coast Path being rolled out following the initial Weymouth Bay stretch, the BMC has been involved with advising on appropriate routes for the path and key crags which need to be included in the ‘spreading room’ which will give a legal right of access to these cliffs for the public.

Quarries continue to be a key work area of the access team and a Quarries Working Group was setup in 2012 to advise on how the BMC can negotiate increased access to quarries across England and Wales and influence the industry to leave quarries in good condition for climbing as an after use. The group is made up of industry experts and BMC volunteers with expertise in the quarrying sector and recently the BMC has appointed Neil Hewerston as a project officer to take the BMC’s work on quarries forward. Watch this space for progress in 2013!

Other national and regional projects were undertaken during the year including:

- helping to develop and organise the launch of the Outdoor Industries Association (OIA) initiative ‘Britain on Foot’ in the House of Commons;
- meeting with a number of organisations on various cross-working initiatives, including Wildlife & Countryside Link, Wales Environment Link, the Royal National Lifeboat Institute and the John Muir Trust; and
- supporting and working with Green Peak Gear in developing its rope recycling scheme.

ACEG Committee

Roger Bennion	(Chair)
Cath Flitcroft	(Secretary/BMC staff)
Les Ainsworth	
Bill Renshaw	
Dave Bishop	
Mel Brown	
Mike Dagley	
Steve Evison	
Henry Folkard	
Charles Gameson	
Barbara Jones	
Zara Maung	
Ian McMorris	
Dick Peart	
Mike Raine	
Joe Roberts	
Neil Hewerston	
Ray Wood	
Rob Dyer	(BMC staff)
Elfyn Jones	(BMC staff)

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

Paper members and specialist advisors

Clare Bond
Tony Greaves
Peter Latimer
Bob Lowe

Land Management Group

The BMC’s Land Management Group consists of legal and land management specialists and individuals who advise the BMC on the management and care of its owned and managed sites, of which currently there are about 11 in total. The Group also advises the BMC on the implications for the organisation on any new potential acquisitions.

The group formally met twice in 2012, including one site based visit to Aldery Cliff (A BMC owned crag in the Peak District) where the group had the opportunity to see and comment at first hand on the BMC’s approach to the care and management of the site. Officers and volunteers also sought and received valuable advice and direction from Group members throughout the year.

The group gained two new members in 2012, a barrister and a professional geo-technical expert both of whom are also very experienced climbers. These members are already providing a valuable service to the group and officers with pertinent and timely advice.

Key tasks achieved by the group in 2012 included:

- Tremfest 2012, which attracted over 60 BMC volunteers to clear paths and carry out maintenance work in April 2012 at Craig Bwlch y Moch.
- Site inspections and risk assessments undertaken at all BMC owned/leased sites.
- Bolt inspection programmes undertaken at Harrison’s Rocks and Upper Pen Trwyn.
- Review of BMC “insured” sites carried out.
- Rhododendron and Japanese knotweed eradication programme implemented at Wilton.
- Potential rockfall issues identified and being investigated at Aldery Cliff.
- BMC access rights (as identified in the ownership title documents for Wilton Main) for climbing at Wilton 3 and 4 were re-asserted after objections from the Gun Club that own the site.
- Discussions initiated with Forestry Commission and Sport England regarding future of car park, toilet block and campsite at Harrison’s Rocks post April 2014 when the Sport England lease on these sites expires.
- Highlighted and took actions to prevent litter and “wild” camping at Craig Bwlch y Moch.
- Arboricultural work undertaken on several unsafe beech trees at Harrison’s Rocks.
- New signage at Stone Farm and Harrison’s Rocks.
- Contractor appointed to carry out substantial repairs to Craig Pant Ifan descent path
- A fatal climbing accident occurred at Pothole Quarry – a BMC leased site. The subsequent investigation and inquest established that the accident appeared to be the result of a simple slip by the experienced climber when he was untied. It had nothing to do with condition of the site.
- All sites had necessary maintenance work undertaken by a combination of voluntary work and contractors at some time in 2012.

In accordance with stated BMC policy it is still the aim of the group (where legally possible) to dedicate all BMC crags as “open access” and this process continues, with Harrison’s Rocks and Craig Bwlch y Moch to be dedicated in 2013.

The group has also raised the issue of the possible need (and methodology, including frequency) of monitoring and inspection on fixed equipment on BMC owned/managed land. This will be taken forward in conjunction with the BMC Technical Committee in 2013. The group will continue to work to protect the BMC’s interests and also strive to ensure that the management of its owned/leased sites complies with legal requirements as well as continuing to improve the conservation management of its sites.

Land Management Group

Bill Renshaw	(Chair)
Elfyn Jones	(Secretary/BMC staff)
Rupert Davies	
Henry Folkard	
Bob Moulton	
Ian Nettleton	
Martin Wragg	
Dave Turnbull	(BMC CEO)
Rob Dyer	(BMC staff)

Climbing Walls

The Climbing Wall Committee offers advice and support for the management and sustainable development of new and existing climbing walls through a network of Regional representatives. The committee met twice in 2012, with an average attendance of two. Many local issues were also discussed by email.

Key Achievements and Outputs for 2012

- New Climbing Wall Directory published in October.
- Rob Adie advised on numerous wall projects, ranging from school traversing walls to major dedicated centres including Awesome Walls Sheffield, The Quay, Exeter, Surrey Canal, Westview Leisure Centre, The Beacon and many others.
- National Performance Centre criteria produced and published; discussions held with Awesome Walls Sheffield about becoming the first title holder.
- Organised the BMC Climbing Wall Managers Seminar run for small walls and schools in October.
- Indoor Climbing section of the BMC website continually updated.
- Updated BMC wall database with new walls and more accurate contact details. Work was completed amalgamating several out of date databases and a thorough update of all wall details, as well as a large update of the searchable map on the BMC website.
- Continued work on examining data from Climbing Wall Accident Database; report now produced and due for publication. Presented at climbing wall managers seminar.

- Continued collaboration with the Association of British Climbing Walls Training Trust (ABCTT) on the development of the National Indoor Climbing Award Scheme (NICAS) into the GCSE syllabi and the development of the National Indoor Bouldering Award Scheme (NIBAS).
- London wall tour with new regional development officer for London.
- Took part in the International Industry Fair and Advisory Board Event at the University of Derby Buxton.
- Started the five-year review process of the European Standard for climbing walls – EN 12572 Part 1 – Rob Adie elected chair of the BSI national committee.

Forward Plan 2013

- Pursue the national performance centre project, collaborating with prospective applicants.
- Publish BMC Climbing Wall Directory, October 2013.
- Rob Adie to continue advising on potential wall projects.
- Continued collaboration with ABC and ABCTT on NICAS.
- Develop the BMC climbing accident reporting database, investigating the potential of bringing the database in house, to allow easy improvements and upgrades to be made, generally aiming to improve the usability of the database.
- Develop content for Indoor Climbing section of the BMC website.
- Review walls signs and posters to raise climber awareness at walls with the aim of reducing the number of accidents.
- Continue work on the EN 12572 standard review, starting with the first international committee meeting in Munich in January, which Rob Adie will attend.

As a last point of this report, the Climbing Wall Committee has had a changing remit over the past few years, and discussions are taking place within the National Council of the BMC to streamline some of its Committees. It has been suggested that this Committee becomes an independent sub-group of the Training and Youth Committee as both have a degree of overlap in their functionality. It may well become the CWAG (Climbing Wall Advisory Group) in the future.

Climbing Wall Committee

Nick Bond	(Chair)
Robert Adie	(Secretary/BMC staff)
Damon Clark	London & SE
Ian Dunn	NW
Mark Goodings	NE
Mark Hounslea	NW
Gary Lewis	Wales South
Gary Morgan	Wales North
Jonathan Richardson	Yorkshire
Claudia Sarner	Midlands
Audrey Seguy	(Exec)
Steve Taylor	SW

Observers

Guy Jarvis
Steve Meyers
Tom O'Rourke
Andy Reid

Paper Members

Colin Boothroyd
John Hartley
Kev Howett
Paul Myers
Don Robinson
Andy Say
Calvin Torrans

Clubs

The committee met four times during the year. We produced guidance on methods of payment and collection of subs, on recruitment and retention of members and contributed to guidance on club status. We created a Clubs FAQ page on the website and contributed to improving the functionality of the BMC website.

Will Wykes conducted a survey of the needs of hill walking clubs. The imminent appointment of a Hill Walking Officer will support this area of our activity. A student forum has been established on the website and two student representatives have been co-opted to the committee.

Fiona Sanders organised a successful programme of Advanced Skills Training that was delivered in Scotland, the Lakes and the Peak District. A weekend workshop on good practice for club members who offer training to novice climbers and walkers took place at Plas y Brenin.

We are developing guidance on Good Governance, and Data Protection responsibilities and are working to improve the accuracy of BMC membership data. A follow-up survey of affiliated clubs is nearly complete.

Clubs Committee

Rob Greaves	(Chair)
Martin Kocsis	(Secretary / BMC Staff – until October 2012)
Jon Garside	(Secretary / BMC Staff – from October 2012)
Dave Brown	Peak
Paul Exley	Yorkshire
John Farrow	National
Stuart Moody	West Midlands
Fiona Saunders	National
Richard Toon	North West
Tony Williams	London & South East
Will Wykes	South West
(vacant)	North East
Steve Hicks	Co-opted
Andy James	Co-opted

Paper Members

All BMC affiliated clubs
Iain MacCallum (Huts Group Chair)

Competition Climbing

2012 saw a continuation of the positive trends of the previous year. We now have two competitors ranked in the top three in the world in their respective disciplines, and a host of others making the finals of events both in European and World events.

The world of competition climbing continues to develop at a rapid pace, and the BMC is leading the way on both the organisational and competitive fronts; within the Competition Committee there have also been changes. A huge vote of thanks must go to the departing chair, Iain McKenzie, for all his hard work over the past years, and I find myself excited at stepping into the role at such an exciting time for the sport. For me (and the rest of the committee), the main challenge for 2013 and beyond is to provide the athletes, of which we have a large, talented and highly motivated pool, with the platform to allow them to achieve their potential.

We also thank two outgoing team managers for their dedication to the cause; Ruth Dunne and Nick Clement have both worked tirelessly in their respective roles as Junior Lead and Senior Bouldering Team managers.

The committee met four times in 2012 with an average attendance of ten.

Key Achievements & Outputs for 2012

- Junior Team results include high placing for many team members notably: William Bosi placed 4th at the World Youth Championships (WYC) in Singapore! He is currently ranked 11th in Europe, and made the finals of three European Youth Cup (EYC) events in 2012 with a top place of 6th. Molly Thompson Smith placed 7th at the WYC, 5th at the European Championships, made the finals in three EYC events with a best place of 3rd, and is ranked 4th in the World. Tara Hayes placed 4th at the EYC event in Edinburgh, and is ranked 16th in Europe. Alex Waterhouse placed 7th at the European Championships, and is ranked 15th in the World. Many other team members are climbing well internationally and winning national events in their categories.
- Successfully ran national lead climbing, speed climbing and bouldering championships, the BMC Leading Ladder, the IFSC European Youth Cup in Lead & Speed at EICA Ratho, and two Open Youth Events, including a pilot open youth bouldering event as the first in the three-event series that is now the Junior BBC in December.
- Ran the BMC Youth Climbing Series with two new categories, now covering Youth A-E, and including 330 competitors in the national final at EICA Ratho, with overall entry for the series exceeding 800.
- Ran a full Para-Climbing Series with events in Rochdale, Newcastle and London, crowning champions in various categories.
- Three climbers competitors competed at the 2nd Para-World Championships in Paris; Fran Brown became World Champion in the Female Physical Disability Category!

- Ran numerous training days for the Junior Team (national and regional training trips), and for the Senior Bouldering Team.
- Bouldering team very successful, notably: Shauna Coxsey placed 3rd overall at World Cup, and is currently ranked 3rd in the World. She placed 2nd in the Vail, Innsbruck, and Log-Drummond World Cup events, and 4th in Chongqing and Vienna. Shauna missed final World Cup event in Munich and the World Championships due to broken leg. Stewart Watson placed 6th at the Munich and Innsbruck WC's, and is currently ranked 14th in the World. Ned Feehally placed 5th at the Innsbruck World Cup and is currently ranked 22nd in the World. Mina Leslie-Wujastyk placed 15th at the Munich World Cup, and is currently ranked 22nd in World. The British Bouldering team are now ranked 6th in the World (up from 8th last year). Nathan Phillips is ranked 10th in the world in bouldering category of the European Youth Cup.
- Team Trials took place in December for the junior team, and team trials for the seniors and boulders' were at the BLCC and BBC respectively.
- Administered Team travel and entry to international events.
- Maintained GB Climbing Team website.
- Organised significant sponsorship deals for teams with Lonsdale China, NICAS and On This Rock, which significantly increased the budgets for the teams.
- The junior team took up a new clothing sponsorship deal with Sherpa Adventure Gear.
- Maintained the use of the online application process for entering competitions online on the BMC website – now to be used with all other competitions.
- Continued with the revitalising the Senior Lead Team – Dave Barrans and Michaela Tracey competed in Briançon IFSC World Cup. Dave made the semi finals, finishing 21st. Three senior/junior team members competed at the Senior World Cup in Kranj in November.
- Restructured the age categories to come into line with IFSC categories, in the Youth Climbing Series including Youth A-E. Restructured age categories in the BBC to also align with IFSC categories.
- Restructured Junior BBC's into a three-event series, to allow selection for Junior Bouldering team. The BBC event at Cliffhanger will now be a senior only, 2 day, IFSC style event.
- Set up junior bouldering team with management, funding and events to select a team to attend EYC boulder events in 2013.
- Allocated some extra funding granted by the BMC to the new Junior Bouldering team, the rest split between existing teams to be spent on travel and training.
- Signed a three-year kit supply deal with Sherpa Adventure Gear.
- Finalised a partnership agreement with the Mountaineering Council of Scotland.
- Two British route setters were selected by the

IFSC to work at world cup events during 2012. Percy Bishton was chief route setter for the Vail boulder world cup, and Jamie Cassidy was the Chief route setter for the World Championships.

- Tim Hatch was Jury President at one World Cup event and also for the Bouldering & Para-Climbing at the World Championships in Paris. He also totally re-wrote the IFSC rules in 2012.
- Graeme Alderson was the Technical Delegate at six Bouldering World Cups, two Leading World Cups, the World Youth Championships in Singapore and the World Championships in Paris.
- We provided Chief Route Setters (Percy Bishton and Jamie Cassidy) for two of the three most prestigious global competitions in 2012, and will be doing the same in 2013.

Forward Plan for 2013

- Run BLCC, BSCC, BBC, four Open Youth Competitions – Lead and Bouldering, an IFSC European Youth Cup, the Leading Ladder, a Para-Climbing Series and the Youth Climbing Series.
- Raise the profile of the British Team and continue to seek external funding to support their efforts.
- Run Team training sessions.
- Administer Team travel and entry to international events.
- Administer the junior bouldering team, running the two youth bouldering events in the calendar. The third event is run by the MCofS.
- Continue the development of the Para-Climbing Series; another three-event series.
- Continue the development of the senior lead team.
- Prepare sponsorship prospectus ready for potential funders
- Continue to support the IFSC in the bid for climbing to be included in the 2020 Olympics.
- Ensure that the BMC competitions committee is ready for the result of the Olympic decision, whichever way it goes.

Competitions Committee

Iain McKenzie	(Chair)
Ian Walton	(Vice Chair)
Rob Adie	(Secretary/BMC staff)
Mick Johnson	(Exec Rep)
Graeme Alderson	
Ian Alderson	
Dave Barrans	
Percy Bishton	
Nick Clement	
Nick Colton	
Ian Dunn	
Ruth Dunne	
John Ellison	
Dave Mason	
Gaz Parry	
Tom Randall	
Audrey Seguy	
John Shaw	
Tom Sugden	
Karen Varga	
Mike Watson	

Paper Members

John Arran
Lucy Creamer
Kevin Howett

Equity

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

The work of the Equity Steering Group (ESG) currently tends to focus on three main under-represented groups in climbing and hill walking: ethnic minorities, people with disabilities, and women. In 2012, there was a great deal of activity on the disability aspect, while the start of 2013 has seen a flurry of discussion rejuvenating some long dormant ideas on the subject of ethnic minority participation.

Disability awareness training continues to be in demand and is ably supported by ESG members, in particular Graeme Hill who has organised and run many courses on the subject. In addition, support was provided in 2012 for three disability climbing competitions, and a team was sent to the para-climbing world championships. Much to our delight, Fran Brown won her event at these championships.

Work on the ethnic minority front was more theoretical this year, and has been concentrated on the publicity angle. News items on equity issues continue to be published on the BMC website, but the ESG has also been trying to collect material on role models from ethnic minorities and debating how and where these stories should be published to best provide inspiration and encouragement to would-be climbers and hill walkers from minority communities.

Another Women's Climbing Symposium was organised by Shauna Coxsey and others, once more with some financial support from the BMC. This was as successful as the first event held in 2011, and the ESG is looking forward to supporting the next one.

The BMC's emphasis on good governance resulted in a recruitment drive which has so far proved very successful for the ESG. Several people expressed an interest and attended an Open Day, followed by the first ESG meeting of 2013 – all of them with useful skills for the tasks of the ESG as well as plenty of enthusiasm. Next year's challenge for the ESG will include figuring out how best to use all this new energy in addition to continuing with the most productive of its current plans.

Equity Steering Group

Kamala Sen	(Chair)
Nick Colton	(Secretary/BMC staff)
Andy Coltart	
John Crosbie	

Graeme Hill
Fida Hussain
Bob Moulton
Farah Rehman
Fredelina Yong
Mohammed Ziarat

Paper Members

Jamie Andrew
Kabeer Bostan
Karen Darke
Marcus Drummond
Elizabeth Holley (BMC staff)
Tim Marshall
Trevor Massiah
Ian McKenzie
Bill Renshaw
Andy Say (MTE)
Rehan Siddiqui
Dalvinder Sohdi
Ken Wilson
Adnan Zaman

Guidebooks

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

Moorland Grit: Over The Moors. The mammoth task of combining two very outdated guides from the previous series, Kinder and Bleaklow and Moorland Grit: Chew Valley, into one commercially viable guide is now complete. A huge effort has been expended both internally and externally in the last six months to making this, perhaps the most difficult BMC guide yet, into a book that measures up to the standards set by guides such as Froggatt to Black Rocks and The Roaches. The effort has been well and truly worth it and the outcome has been the most inspiring BMC guide to date. One man was reported to have wept at its sight. We have taken the decision to omit some poor, overgrown crags and quarries from the printed guide in preference to putting downloads on the BMC website. Sales to date have been superb despite one of the wettest summers that Glossop can remember.

Sandstone: Cheshire and Merseyside. This project is now complete and the guide is a beautiful record of this great historical area. The guidebook has been an experiment in outsourcing the production aspects of the book to an external designer. This method, while still requiring a significant input of office time on photographic and co-ordination tasks, has been highly successful and the final product is a stunning book.

Peak District Limestone: With the main grit guide series now complete the Peak Area committee and membership strongly suggested that work gets going on a new limestone guide. This got underway, under the authorship of Gary Gibson. The initial scripts are now mostly complete in first draft form and are ready to go for checking and editing to Peak-based volunteers. The photography of the limestone dales is a notoriously difficult task but this is now 80% complete. Work has started on outputting

sections in layout format although there is still a lot of work to do.

Lancashire Rock: Work is well underway on a replacement for the much loved 'Brick'. Scripts are virtually complete, and crag photography well advanced. Like limestone, this is a major task.

Guidebook Committee

Ian Carr (Chair)
Niall Grimes (Secretary/BMC staff)
Les Ainsworth
Martin Kocsis
David Lanceley
Dave Turnbull
Richard Wheeldon

Huts

The Huts Group co-ordinates the support for the national huts by the BMC. The group also offers advice and guidance where it is sought by affiliated clubs and users.

The group met on one occasion in 2012 to discuss current issues and to review matters relating to the three national huts: the Don. Whillans Memorial Hut (DWMH), for which the BMC holds the lease; and the Alex MacIntyre (AMMH) and Glen Brittle (GBMH) Memorial Huts, both of which are held in trusts for members of the BMC and the Mountaineering Council of Scotland (MCofS).

During the year the group advised affiliated clubs and their members about the following matters: BT and mobile phone coverage at the GBMH; BMC public insurance cover (civil liability insurance); fire safety; corporation tax- taxation of hut fees; managing a building project / Sport England grant / audit trail; disability discrimination – reasonable adjustments; renewal of a commercial lease / trustees / personal guarantees; negotiating a new lease; non-domestic rating (business rates) appeal; requests for information by VOA; health and safety - electricians and inspection of hut electrical safety; PAT tests; and sources of funding for improvements and development.

The group liaises closely with the MCofS Huts Advisory Group (HAG) on matters of common interest. In conjunction with HAG, we have produced seventeen guidelines to assist hut operators. These guidelines are available on the BMC website. A new guideline, G14 Going Green and Energy Saving, has been produced to assist and encourage clubs to reduce their energy consumption and carbon emissions. All the current guidelines have been reviewed and revised where necessary to ensure that they comply with current legal and user requirements.

The group's chair attended meetings of the AMMH and DWMH Committees. He acts as Secretary for the AMMH Committee and is a trustee of the property. The group's chair also serves on the BMC's Child Safeguarding Group.

The group continues to encourage and support the national hut committees where they endeavour to improve and update the properties and their facilities.

Various improvements to the facilities and fabric of the three national huts have been carried out over the last two or three years. More improvements are planned and for both the AMMH and GBMH.

In conjunction with the MCofS (HAG) we shall prepare guidelines to cover employers' liability insurance and drying rooms.

The eighth BMC Huts Seminar, which was organised by the group and held at Plas y Brenin, was well received. It was attended by over 30 people representing a wide range of clubs with huts. Speakers delivered papers on the following topics: collection of subscriptions and fees by clubs; leases and their negotiation; small sewage discharges; funding for huts – Sport England grants; online hut bookings, hut insurance; and civil liability and employers' liability insurance.

The group will continue to offer guidance with a view to encouraging clubs and their members to adopt best practice in the management of their mountain huts. The group will also continue to answer queries posed by clubs and their members regarding the management of their huts. Further, the group will maintain an awareness of current legislation which may affect the management and operation of mountain huts.

Huts Group

Iain McCallum (Chair)
Martin Kocsis (Secretary/BMC Staff)
John Farrow
Robert Greaves
Michael Hunt
John Leftley
John Scarborough
Chris Thickett

International

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

Highlights of 2012

- Grant aid and support to 15 overseas expeditions, and approval of another five.
- Making the third Julie Tullis Memorial Award, and recommending the second Jeremy Willson award.
- Holding a successful international winter climbing meet in January in Scotland.
- Close liaison with the Mount Everest Foundation (MEF), Welsh Sports Association (WSA) and Mountaineering Council of Scotland (MCofS), on the distribution of Overseas Expedition Awards.
- Continuing to update the electronic database of expedition reports.
- Publicising international meets on the BMC website.

- Publicising British expeditions on the BMC website.
- Working with the UIAA on international/ expedition policy.

Sadly, our awards of expedition grants have been much reduced in recent years. A few years ago, we had a pot of Government/lottery money, ring-fenced for this purpose. At its peak, this amounted to over £40,000 p.a., but the government decided to first reduce, then completely eliminate this, in order to allocate funding solely to Olympic sports. For the time being at least, the committee is continuing to give grants, but the money for this comes from the BMC's general fund, and is consequently much reduced. Rather than spreading this money more thinly, we have decided on tighter criteria than in the past, with the emphasis more heavily on younger climbers, trips involving an element of personal development, those whose viability is heavily dependent on funding, and cutting-edge ventures. Given these constraints, we allocated grants to a total of 17 overseas expeditions, and gave our approval to an additional five. Of the 17 allocated grants, only 15 were actually given, as two expeditions were obliged to cancel. The 15 grants given totalled £13,250. The venues for these trips were spread over most regions of the planet, including North and South America, Central Asia, the Karakoram, the Himalaya, and Greenland. Notable successes included: George Ullrich and team, who made a new free rock route up a grossly overhanging 600m wall in Venezuela; Twid Turner's party had a battle with poor weather to complete a hard new mixed route on the Middle Triple Peak of Alaska's Kichatna Spires; Olly Sanders & co, who climbed a new 20-pitch route with climbing up to E5 6b in north-west Greenland; and Matt Traver's expedition, which made a number of first ascents in a relatively unknown area of east Greenland. Our Julie Tullis Award for 2012 was made to Dave Padgen, who made a valiant and almost successful attempt to make the first ascent of Elbrus by a climber with cerebral palsy.

Every year, an international meet is organised in the UK, either in summer or winter. On these meets, guests are invited from countries across the globe, for a week's sampling of the delights of traditional British climbing. In 2012, a winter climbing meet was held in late January, based at Glenmore Lodge in the Cairngorms. 39 international guests attended from 26 countries. They teamed up with a similar number of UK hosts, and took advantage of mostly good weather to do an impressive amount of climbing over a wide range of difficulty, including walks, Ben Nevis's Tower Ridge, the second winter ascent of Glencoe's Guerdon Grooves, and a number of new routes. The 2013 meet will be a rock climbing one in Cornwall in May. The success and popularity of this type of meet has prompted a number of other countries to copy the model.

The International Committee includes some of the leading figures on the world mountaineering scene, and liaises closely with other grant giving bodies. It has two representatives on both the Mount Everest Foundation's Screening and Management Committees. It also has a representative on the Welsh Sports Association's Overseas Expedition Panel, which administers Sports Council for Wales funding. A representative from the Mountaineering Council of Scotland, which awards Mountaineering and Climbing Bursaries, also attends International Committee meetings, as does a representative from the Alpine Club, which awards grants through its Climbing Fund. In addition, the International Committee provides representation on a number of UIAA bodies, and liaises with the Alpine Club as a fellow UIAA member.

In 2012, the Committee had two meetings at the BMC offices in Manchester (in March and November).

International Committee

Dave Wilkinson	(Chair)
Lindsay Griffin	(Vice Chair)
Nick Colton	(Secretary/BMC staff)
Ed Douglas	(Exec Rep)
Rab Anderson	(MCofS)
Doug Scott	(UIAA)
Anne Arran	(UIAA)
Andy Cave	(Alpine Club)
Paul Braithwaite	
Pat Littlejohn	
Andy MacNae	
Stephen Sustad	
Ian Parnell	
Adele Pennington	

Paper Members

Kevin Howett	(MCofS)
Bill Ruthven	(MEF)
Mike Turner	

Technical

The BMC Technical Committee met four times in 2012 with an average attendance of seven. During the last year Phillip Tootill has taken over the role of chair from Oliver Milling, who has done a great job as chair over the last five years. We can thank him for the strong position that the committee is in today.

In 2012 we have published "Tech Skills" articles in the BMC's Summit magazine, and added a number of articles to the website. One publication of note is the video extract from the Rock Climbing Essentials DVD, on Caring For Equipment. This is a very professional video clip freely available on the BMC website, reiterating the importance of checking and looking after climbing equipment. The committee has also utilised the website to launch a helmet campaign to raise awareness and knowledge of the issues associated with the use and care of climbing helmets. The campaign page on the website includes another video clip, shot at Stanage Edge, and a link

to the PDF version of the Helmets Guide booklet. Continuing the theme, Dan Middleton attended the BMC/DMM Student Safety Seminar held at Plas y Brenin to run sessions on the technical aspects of care and maintenance of group equipment.

We continue to support the BMC's Better Bolts Campaign, which donates bolts to regional bolt funds to support the safe bolting of sports routes. In this year's round of funding a further £10k was invested in the campaign. To help support this campaign a bolt workshop was held at Raven Tor, Derbyshire, in conjunction with the Peak Bolt Fund.

The committee's portable gear testing rig has been demonstrated at both the Kendal Mountain Festival and the BMC Peak Area meeting. Gear testing demonstrations provide a vivid illustration as to the importance of care and maintenance of personal climbing equipment.

The committee has overseen an MEng student project completed under the direction of Pr. Bill Stronge covering the "Performance of Abseil/Belay Devices". This is much needed research into the detail of how belay devices work and how they react to different rope types. The committee plans to continue this topic of research during 2013.

Rob Foster continues to represent the Technical Committee on the BSi Technical Committee SW136/5 at CENTC136/WG5 Mountaineering Equipment, and the UIAA Safety Commission. This ensures that a British perspective is included when standards from equipment are drawn up or revised. We have additional support on international standards from Ben Lyon who is chairman of the BSi SW136/5 committee and Fred Hall who attends the CENTC136/WG5 in the role as an equipment manufacturer. Rob is continuing his representation on the standards committee in 2013.

As the UK representative on the UIAA Safety Commission, Rob Foster has been leading the work on Via Ferrata EAS (UIAA 128). This work was initiated in response to a recall and safety alert issued on some types of via ferrata lanyards. As a side note, the Technical Committee records the details of recalls and alerts such as this and publishes them on the BMC website to maintain a permanent record of equipment issues.

The plan for the next year is to continue to publish key Technical Committee reports and advice on the BMC website. The committee will be publishing "Tech Skills" features for Summit magazine throughout the year to take advantage of its large circulation to publicise important technical issues to the climbing community. The process of updating and revising the BMC's series of booklets will continue in 2013 and in the process we will also be taking the opportunity of publishing these as e-books.

We will continue to make use of our portable gear tester, attending BMC Area meetings and other events in the coming year. We plan to visit a UK equipment manufacturer to maintain our general relationship with the industry and improve our understanding of manufacturing and product design.

Technical Committee

Phillip Tootill	(Chair)
Dan Middleton	(Secretary/BMC staff)
Oliver Milling	
Neville McMillan	
Alan Huyton	
Ben Lyon	
Rob Foster	
Scott Titt	Exec Rep
Stu McAleese	PyB Rep

Equipment Investigation Panel

Fred Hall	
Steve Long	MTUK
Jane Blackford	
Richard Terrell	MREW
Mark Taylor	
Dan Robinson	AMI
Virgil Scott	
Megan Hadley	
Bill Stronge	
Kunal Masania	

Paper Members

Nick Williams	BCA
Petra Ernst	
Paul Seddon	
Mike Margeson	MREW
Heather Morning	MCoFS
Rob Allen	
Dave Brook	
Trevor Hellen	
Jim Titt	

Training & Youth

The Training & Youth Committee (TYC) had a productive year. The second BMC Coaching Symposium was a great success, a new Fundamentals of Climbing workshop was launched, the Alpine Lectures were resurrected, over 100 students attended the annual Student Safety and Good Practice Seminar, and the BMC Rock Climbing Essentials DVD was published.

BMC National Academy

With the help of Sport England funding, six training days were organised last year, drawing talent from the Youth Climbing Series. National Academies were held in Kendal, Reading, Sheffield, Bristol, Stockport and Sunderland in January and the autumn. Each child was invited to a two-day event, the idea being to nurture their development and provide them with useful feedback. Parents were invited too, and provided with information on appropriate and inappropriate climbing training for children.

BMC Fundamentals of Climbing Workshops

There are now three workshops. The first looks at climbing movement, the second at climbing techniques and the third at physical training. All three form part of the training pathway for Mountain Training's coaching awards. Further coach education workshops will be developed in the future.

BMC Student Safety and Good Practice Seminar

Over 30 volunteers delivered good practice talks and practical workshops to over 100 student representatives. Hosted by Plas y Brenin, this event is in its nineteenth year. The seminar is very much an annual fixture on the BMC events diary, with high demand for places demonstrating the great service that the volunteers provide.

BMC Winter and Alpine Lectures

Sponsored by Lowe Alpine and Asolo, Tamsin Gay and Tim Blakemore delivered the Winter Lectures for the final time. The BMC Alpine Lectures, sponsored by Berghaus, were resurrected in 2012, delivered by BMG Guide Tim Neill and seasoned pro Nick Bullock.

BMC Rock Climbing Masterclasses

Now an annual fixture on the BMC events calendar, Naomi Buys delivered these workshops for the first time, and will be doing them again in 2013.

BMC Coaching Symposium

Over 60 coaches descended upon Calshot Activities Centre near Southampton for the BMC's second Coaching Symposium. The range of delegates, both in terms of age and experience, reflected the diversity of Britain and Ireland's coaching population. British Team coaches, climbing champions, Mountain Leader Training, climbing wall and freelance coaches were all represented; with ages ranging from early 20's to the late 50's. Future symposiums are planned.

BMC Rock Climbing Essentials DVD

With the publication of the Rock Climbing Essentials DVD, the BMC has now produced six DVDs, covering all walking, climbing and mountaineering activities for which the organisation is the national representative body.

Other work

TYC discussed a range of other issues at its five meetings including Mountain Training's coaching awards to be launched in 2013. TYC also oversees the BMC Child Safeguarding Group.

TYC member Anne Arran stepped down as President of the UIAA Youth Commission with Mark Dennison replacing her as the BMC's representative on that commission.

New Members

The article asking for new volunteer committee members in the winter 2012 edition of Summit created a lot of interest, with TYC welcoming five new members for 2013.

Training & Youth Committee

Andy Newton	(Chair)
Jon Garside	(Secretary/BMC staff)
Ed Allaway	
Martin Chester	

Nick Colton	
Mal Creasey	
Mark Dennison	
Mark Dickson	
Ian Dunn	
Ian Fenton	
Tim Hogan	
Dominic Oughton	
Jake Oughton	
Dawn Pegg	
Mike Margeson	
Mike Rosser	
Claudia Sarner	
John Simpson	
Jon Wilson	

Paper Members

Juan Avendano	Dave Binney
Iain Blanche	Anne Chevalier
Aaron Cox	David Farrell
John Gibbons	Tina Heselden
Kevin Howett	Tim Lloyd
Steve Long	Heather Morning
Neal McQuaid	Ilan Roberts
Andy Say	Paul Smith
Paul Swail	Paul Walters
Ian Walton	Jim Watkin

Child Safeguarding

The Child Safeguarding Group is a sub group of the Training and Youth Committee that oversees the implementation of the BMC Child Protection Policy and the provision of advice and support to BMC Affiliated Clubs and BMC staff on Child Safeguarding issues.

The Group met four times in 2012 and produced guidance for BMC affiliated clubs on child safeguarding and child protection issues. Child protection and other specialist training days were delivered to key BMC youth volunteers. The BMC's internal child protection policy and procedures developed in line with current good practice. The BMC has achieved the Advanced Standard of the Child Protection in Sport Unit's Standards for Safeguarding and Protecting in Children in Sport and is now working on their Post Standard Framework to embed and maintain those standards.

Child Safeguarding Committee

Christine Scarborough	(Chair)
Nick Colton	(Secretary/BMC staff)
Ian Dunn	(Junior Climbing Team manager)
David Allen	(Parent)
Emily Allen	(Junior, under 18)
Iain McCallum	

Paper Members

Mark Alderson	Dave Binney
Matthew Brown	Dick Green
Mike Coxsey	Shauna Coxsey

Areas

Cymru/Wales

2012 has been another action-packed year for BMC Cymru/Wales. Four meetings were held in the north at the Gallt y Glyn in Llanberis, South Stack on Anglesey, Y Caban in Brynrefail and an AGM/Ordinary meeting at the Beacon Climbing Centre in Caernarfon. Average attendances have remained pretty static with a much higher attendance at South Stack – better weather – and a lower attendance at the AGM which was affected by date clashes.

The new Mid Wales outreach group has managed to gain a little momentum and four meetings were held here with over 30 people attending one.

Four issues of the newsletter were produced and the Facebook page continues to be a useful communication tool which is linked in with Twitter.

Down south the fourth annual Gower Climbing Festival was a huge success, helped no doubt by the launch of an excellent new guidebook. Two area meetings were held; one in Swansea and one in Cardiff, with 15 attending the first and 30 the second.

Tremfest was revived and was a great success despite the weather with over 80 people attending in total. And a clean-up also took place at Pennard on the Gower in conjunction with the National Trust. In Mid Wales, a low-key clean-up at Craig Cywarch made a few of the classics a little easier to access.

It's been a year of strategic lobbying, with Elfyn Jones, the Access & Conservation Officer getting involved in various consultations with statutory bodies and various outdoor collaborations; and making over 20 representations to the Countryside Council for Wales as part of the decadal review of "Open Access" maps in Wales.

But key access gains have also been made, on North Wales limestone including Llanddulas, Craig y Forwyn and Castle Inn; in Pembrokeshire, with the derestricting of Mowing Ward, reduced restrictions at Stackpole, and 12-month access to Range West (including access to previously "banned" cliffs); and in the south with a new access agreement on Llangatock in the Brecon Beacons.

Responses have also been made to planning applications for renewable energy schemes where they could threaten upland areas. In particular the Nant y Moch/Pumlumon wind farm and a proposed pumped hydro scheme on Cefn Du, close to Llanberis.

The fixed equipment debate has rolled on but has only really affected South Wales, where the group has remained very proactive, using a wiki to highlight proposals and then debating individual locations at meetings.

Cymru/Wales Area Notes

4 meetings (North), average attendance: 35
2 meetings (South), average attendance: 22

- Chair: Tom Hutton
- Secretary: Ray Wood
- National Council Representatives: Tom Hutton, Ray Wood, Gareth Tucker

- Access & Conservation: Pembroke – Steve Quinton; South East Wales – John Custance; Gower – Matt Woodfield; Clwyd – Roger Bennion
- Clubs Representative: Rob Greaves
- Mountain Leader Training Wales: Andy Boorman
- Mountain Leader Training: Mark 'Baggy' Richards
- Climbing Wall Representatives: Jon Ratcliffe (North), Gary Lewis (South)
- Youth Co-ordinators: North – Mark Dicken, Ifan Roberts; South – Paul Walters

Members	2011	2012
No. of clubs in the area	18	18
With club membership of	1,352	1,295
Share of national clubs	683	701
Individual members	2,956	3,073
Total members in area	4,991	5,069

Lake District

A busy and productive year, with everything from zipwires to winter climbing! Attendances at meetings have been good.

The year started with a very well attended 'Winter Ethics Debate' which discussed the issues associated with the development of winter climbing in the Lakes. Since then there has been a lot of activity in the development of 'The Works', a new dry tooling venue in the South Lakes. The summer saw a discussion on bolts on Sharp Edge for the purposes of Mountain Rescue, but other than this, bolting continues on a like-for-like basis thanks to the work of Dan Robinson and Ron Kenyon. Unfortunately the Lakes Festival of Climbing didn't happen this year, and is awaiting some enthusiastic volunteers to take up the task.

The Honister Zipwire has been an issue that has been at the forefront over the past couple of years. With two planning applications now rejected, is this the end of the matter? Time will tell. In addition to these issues, we have had new guidebooks from the FRCC to Eden Valley/South Lakes Limestone and Lakes Winter Climbing. The next guide due out will be Langdale followed shortly thereafter by Dow and Coppermines.

Castle Rock is still standing despite the rather large crack which developed this year and is currently being monitored. Peter Latimer has continued to lead the area access team, which has been hard at work ensuring access for walkers and climbers throughout region. James Bumby has stepped down as secretary after a number of years; thanks to him for all his hard work.

Lake District Area Notes

3 meetings, average attendance: 25

- Chair: Ewen Turner
- Secretary: Polly Sullivan
- National Council Representatives: Ted Rogers, Steve Scott
- Access & Conservation: Cumbria Co-ordinator – Peter Latimer; Borrowdale & Thirlmere – John Burrows; Conistone – Jim Loxham; Duddon & Eskdale – Al Phizacklea; Eden Valley – Ron Kenyon; Kentmere & Longsleddale – Max Biden; South Lakes (Humphrey Head etc) – James Bumby;

Ullswater, Haweswater & Swindale – Mike Hornby

- Clubs Representative: Martin Dale
- Youth Co-ordinator: Ian Walton

Members	2011	2012
No. of clubs in the area	8	8
With club membership of	662	624
Share of national clubs	334	338
Individual members	1,630	1,630
Total members in area	2,629	2,592

London & South East

In 2012, the area moved to a regular meeting at the Alpine Club's HQ, bringing an improvement to the price of the beer, as well as allowing us to sample a variety of pizza vendors. The area hosted five meetings, with some excellent presentations from local regulars accompanying the usual robust discussions.

Despite the terrible weather several phases of clean-up took place at Harrison's Rocks, with ongoing plans to finish the job and start on Stone Farm too.

The BMC Youth Climbing Series was extremely well attended; so much so that we have to think about restricting it to larger venues or adjusting the format slightly! At the time of writing we are in the final stages of planning 2013's competition.

Finally, there are a number of outgoing area officers this year: we've a new chair; our secretary was headhunted to join the BMC's staff as the region's first development officer; and a new face in the area youth co-ordinator seat. Thanks to Liz and Sam for their hard work; welcome to Rupert and Juan.

London and South East Area Notes

5 meetings, average attendance: 30

- Chair: Christian Lund
- Secretary: Elizabeth Holley
- National Council Representatives: Christian Lund, Elizabeth Holley
- Access & Conservation: Bowles – Robin Mazinke; Bulls Hollow – Graham Adcock; Eridge & High Rocks – Bob Moulton; Harrison's Rocks & Stone Farm – Tim Skinner; South East Chalk – Rob Gibson
- Climbing Wall Representative: Damon Clark
- Clubs Representative: Tony Williams
- Youth Co-ordinator: Sam Johnson

Members	2011	2012
No. of clubs in the area	91	89
With club membership of	4,786	4,709
Share of national clubs	2,418	2,549
Individual members	15,357	16,010
Total members in area	22,561	23,268

Midlands

The Quarries Project remains the single biggest area issue, with some promising developments occurring during 2012.

Proposals for the restoration of Longcliffe Quarry in Leicestershire have brought optimism that climbing and other outdoor activities will be possible at this venue in the future. The committee was proactive in writing to the owners of Mountsorrel Quarry

near Loughborough, to object to a restoration plan for the quarry which was felt to be inadequate.

The first meeting of the Hardrock Quarry Restoration Group was held in November, where it was decided to appoint a full-time project manager for the group, funded by the BMC, to enable the ideas for quarry restoration to be pursued. The committee welcomed this expression of confidence in the project.

Following the introduction of cattle grazing to manage the site at Beacon Hill, a plague of biting flies descended on the crag (and climbers!). Charles Gameson contacted Leicestershire County Council to make them aware of the problem.

During the year dedicated bouldering centres opened in Birmingham, Loughborough and Nottingham. A new bouldering area was developed in the former sandstone quarries at Grinshill in North Shropshire. The BMC Youth Climbing Series and the BMC Leading Ladder proved popular once again, as did the Midlands Bouldering League.

At the September and November Area Meetings, the revised BMC Drilled Equipment position statement was discussed and amendments proposed. Group use guidelines were discussed at the November meeting.

Looking forward to 2013 the publication of a BMC guidebook to climbing in Leicestershire is eagerly anticipated.

Midlands Area Notes

4 meetings, average attendance: 17

- Chair: Charles Gameson
- Secretary: Claudia Sarner
- National Council Representatives: Charles Gameson, Claudia Sarner
- Access and Conservation: East Midlands – Miles Hillman; West Midlands – Richard Law
- Climbing Walls Representative: Claudia Sarner
- Clubs Representative: Stewart Moody
- Youth Co-ordinator: Iain Blanch

Members	2011	2012
No. of clubs in the area	39	38
With club membership of	2,181	2,142
Share of national clubs	1,102	1,160
Individual members	5,042	5,177
Total members in area	8,325	8,479

North East

Regular meetings now alternate between Newcastle in the north of the region and Newton Aycliffe in the south. Meetings tend to be pretty uncontentious affairs. In order to encourage attendance a small talk or slide show will normally follow each meeting....on an appropriately related topic!

Last summer local members and club representatives organised a weekend meet in Northumberland and a crag clean-up day at Crag Lough. Not only did this result in a number of routes being returned to their former glory, giving locals an alternative to crash mat based activities but the clean-up attracted a lot of positive comment in the local press. No major access issues in Northumberland were encountered; perhaps this was due to the

fact that few of us got onto the crags because of unprecedented levels of rainfall.

Climbing walls continue to multiply with the most recent opening early in 2013; the Sunderland Climbing Centre is the second superb local wall built by north east firm Rockworks. The centre combines extensive bouldering and lead climbing/bottom roping in a very modern, well equipped building.

North East Area Notes

3 meetings, average attendance: 20

- Chair: Jon Punshon
- Secretary: Jon Herron
- National Council Representatives: Jon Punshon, Tom Parkin, Alan Hinkes
- Access and Conservation: Durham & North York Moors – Peter Hay; Northumberland – Tom Parkin
- Climbing Walls Representative: Mark Goodings
- Clubs Representative: Malcolm Rowe
- Youth Co-ordinator: Ian Walton

Members	2011	2012
No. of clubs in the area	9	8
With club membership of	664	523
Share of national clubs	335	283
Individual members	1,834	1,896
Total members in area	2,833	2,702

North West

2012 was another productive year, in so far as the weather would allow. Meetings continued to rotate around the area. Attendances have remained low despite the large number of members within the area. Hopefully, a new impetus in 2013 will revitalise enthusiasm.

The poor summer weather meant that all the hard work carried out at Hoghton over the past couple of years could not be continued at the same rate, and extended access to this major crag remains work in progress.

Crag y Longridge has had repairs to its gate and fencing and the base of the crag was sprayed with weedkiller on several occasions. The right-hand end of the crag is still being slowly cleaned and developed. Its popularity as a high quality bouldering crag seems to be on the increase. Wilton, with the help of the management committee and volunteers, continues to be well looked after, with routes being cleaned, rhododendrons cleared, and a rockfall around the Supercrack area made safe.

The major event of the year was the introduction of the all new “Cheshire and Merseyside” sandstone guide. Many activists, both past and present, attended the launch in November. A big thank you must go out to everyone involved in the production of this fantastic publication, which should bring many visiting climbers to the area. The new “Lancashire Rock” guide continues to move forward and hopefully 2013 will give it a major push towards completion as it is a “best seller” in the BMC publication list.

In conclusion, hopefully 2013 will bring more members attending meetings with a fresh approach

to BMC issues, both local and national. Many thanks must go out to all local volunteers who gave their time throughout 2012. Finally, a vote of thanks must go to Colin Struthers, the retiring chair, for all his hard work over the past years.

North West Area Notes

4 meetings, average attendance: 15

- Chair: Colin Struthers
- Secretary: Harold Walmsley
- National Council Representatives: Tom Bond, Colin Struthers
- Access and Conservation: Cheshire – Mark Hounslea; Lancashire – Les Ainsworth
- Climbing Walls Representatives: Nick Bond, Mark Hounslea
- Clubs Representative: Richard Toon
- Youth Co-ordinator: Tim Lloyd

Members	2011	2012
No. of clubs in the area	30	30
With club membership of	2,161	2,139
Share of national clubs	1,092	1,158
Individual members	5,622	5,733
Total members in area	8,875	9,030

Peak District

The successful pattern of venues used in recent years was repeated this year, with three meetings at The Maynard Arms in Grindleford, and two ‘outreach’ meetings in the Staffordshire Moorlands and the wilds of Glossop. For this year’s meeting in Glossop we relocated to The Globe and they did us proud, as did the locals who turned out in droves.

As in recent years, the access issues in the Peak District have been varied, numerous and occasionally momentous in nature, and we are lucky to have such a well-connected team of access reps to brief the area meeting.

There is frequently so much happening in the access world, that to avoid the Peak Area Meeting becoming the Peak Access Meeting, we now summarise key events in the Peak Area Newsletter, published a few days in advance of the meeting (as well as on the BMC website). Martin Wass does a sterling job compiling the newsletter, but special mention should go to Henry Folkard whose access roundup has become essential reading for all interested in learning which areas of the Peak District they want to discourage us from next.

The big news during the year was the next ‘disposal’ of a Peak District National Park asset, this time being the Roaches estate in Staffordshire. Little time had passed since the hugely successful Eastern Moors disposal, but a few months is a long time in politics, and by the time the Roaches appeared on the auctioneer’s table a whole different set of priorities were in place, if not openly advertised. And so it was that The Staffordshire Wildlife Trust was awarded a 125-year lease to manage the Roaches estate, and we hope to be able to work with them to ensure climbers’ interests are taken into

account at this nationally important venue.

Of course The Roaches estate doesn't only contain some of the best gritstone climbing in the Peak, it is also home to Rockhall Cottage, aka The Don Whillans Memorial Hut. Attempts by the BMC to secure an extended lease (to run alongside that secured by the Staffordshire Wildlife Trust) have so far proved unsuccessful. It seems that only money talks nowadays, and despite having put up the lion's share of the original renovation costs, we now need to find substantial additional funds just to extend our lease. Negotiations continue, but we aren't overly hopeful.

Such momentous access issues are not uncommon in the Peak nowadays, and it is likely that the future of the North Lees estate (Stanage to you and me) might be determined in the coming year. Watch this space, and come along to our meetings for the inside track!

We have also been able to celebrate the arrival of the new definitive guidebook to climbing on moorland gritstone this year. Over the Moors is an epic tome which befits these great windswept bastions which reward those willing to venture beyond the roadside. It is a shame that the summer of 2012 so compromised the plans of those intent on testing the new book in anger. Hopefully 2013 will prove more accommodating?

With Over the Moors finally out, thoughts have turned to limestone, and we have had passionate debates on the restoration of neglected limestone classics, as well as updating our own Peak Area Fixed Equipment Guidelines, last updated in 1998!

Once again, to round off the year, we crowned an enjoyable AGM with a challenging and occasionally esoteric quiz, this year compiled by Jon Fullwood and Dave Parry. The usual suspects won, thereby proving that 'if you can't beat 'em, join 'em' was as valid that night as ever it was...

Peak District Area Notes

5 meetings, average attendance: 53

- Chair: Neil Foster
- Secretary: Lynn Robinson
- National Council Representatives: Neil Foster & Rick Gibbon
- Access & Conservation: Peak Co-ordinators – Henry Folkard & Adam Long; Northern Peak & Chew Valley – Rick Gibbon; Matlock area and Northern Limestone – Ian Milward and Jon Fullwood; Western Grit & Staffordshire – Andi Turner and Dave Bishop; Bouldering and Eastern Moors – Simon Jacques; Sheffield Area Grit – Trudi Materna
- Club Representative: David Brown
- Newsletter Editor – Martin Wass
- Youth Co-ordinator: Jim Watkin

Members	2011	2012
No. of clubs in the area	21	21
With club membership of	1,292	1,244
Share of national clubs	653	673
Individual members	3,523	3,679
Total members in area	5,468	5,596

South West & Southern

The year began with an open meeting in Bristol attended by more than 100 climbers. A presentation was made by Martin Crocker on the Avon Gorge regeneration project, which aims to significantly improve climbing in the gorge and ensure that climbing is on the agenda when the gorge is discussed by the council and other bodies.

A new guidebook to the gorge is in preparation, which also amounts to a survey of current crag condition. There are not enough people climbing here, and the guidebook provides a re-launch opportunity. A vote unanimously passed Martin's project proposal, now known as ClimbBristol. National Council and BMC ACT subsequently approved the steering group. It was estimated that £2,500 would be needed to fund equipment for the project.

In February an Avon Gorge clean-up day was well attended over 30 volunteers. Wintour's Leap also benefitted from a clean-up day in February co-ordinated by Rick Sowards. In the spring, climbing infringements in Cheddar Gorge were noted by the area meeting.

In July an area meeting was held Cornwall. Discussion points included a proposed climbing festival and fixed gear removal on sea cliffs. The Cornish Climbing Festival was held in September to great success at Treverven Farm, near Land's End. 55 attendees enjoyed fine weather, BMC negotiated camp fees, and raised over £150 for RNLI.

October saw an area meeting in Devon. A good proposal by Iain Peters on fixed gear on the Atlantic coast was well received. A proposal by South Devon MC on crag clean-up/equipping at Berry Head Quarry and Long Quarry Point was heard. A draft policy and funding for this proposal is being investigated.

Back to the ClimbBristol project. Six steering group meetings have been held. The main discussion points and actions include: communication with the climbing public; setting up a facebook page; building relationships with key organisations including Bristol City Council, city engineers, the suspension bridge master, Natural England and local politicians. Proposals for parking, bike locks, bus stops, toilets, a café and footway improvements were all debated. 100 pegs were obtained at cost price. In practical terms work was carried out in early January 2013, when rock and scrub was removed from the Main Area cliff face.

South West & Southern Area Notes

4 meetings, average attendance: 16

- Chair: Matt Goater
- Secretary: Philip Wilson
- National Council Representatives: Colin Knowles, Richard Moss
- Access and Conservation: Bristol & Avon – Simon Fletcher; Cheddar Gorge – Martin Crocker; Somerset & Mendips – Ian Butterworth; Wye Valley – Rick Sowards; Portland – Neal Heanes; Swanage – Steve Taylor; North Devon – Rick Abbott; South Devon – Dave Henderson; West Penwith – Jeremy Dyke
- Climbing Walls Representative: Steve Taylor
- Clubs Representative: Will Wykes
- Youth Co-ordinator: Tina Hesleden

Members	2011	2012
No. of clubs in the area	24	24
With club membership of	1,632	1,576
Share of national clubs	825	825
Individual members	5,861	6,233
Total members in area	8,318	8,634

Yorkshire

This year we've had low turnout at local area meetings, and a continuing difficulty in attracting 'new faces' despite improving advertising. This is a matter we will be revisiting.

We were the first area to have a dedicated Hill Walking Representative, and initial enthusiasm was well received, but timing clashes between local area meetings and his work commitments meant that he had to resign. We are hoping to find a replacement early in 2013.

Access at various limestone climbing venues continues to be problematic, the 'loss' of Foreedale being the most obvious. We must again thank the ongoing efforts of Dave Musgrove (at a local level) and Rob Dyer at the BMC in negotiations around these issues. On the positive side, we've had a slight easing of the restrictions at Langcliffe, and a possible situation at Guisecliffe, due to nesting birds, dealt with by careful negotiation by all interested parties; thanks to everyone involved.

Continuing our good relationship with Calderdale Council with regard to the crags under its ownership, we've had further clean-ups and tree-clearing at Heptonstall and Woodhouse Scar. At the former, the belay stakes were renewed with the assistance of Rob Dyer.

Yorkshire Gritstone (Volume One) was released to near universal acclaim. Congratulations to everyone involved with the project. We hope to see the second volume by mid-2013! Despite the concentration on the gritstone guidebooks, and consequent further climbing development on grit, new routeing on limestone has still continued!

We had an official BMC presence at a couple of local outdoor events, including the Otley Mini Mountain Festival and Pateley Bridge Walking Festival, and hope to increase that presence in 2013.

Yorkshire Area Notes

4 meetings, average attendance: 15

- Chair: James Rowe
- Secretary: vacant
- National Council Representatives: Beverley Jowett, James Rowe
- Access and Conservation: Gritstone – Mick Johnson; Limestone – Dave Musgrove
- Climbing Walls Representative: Jonathan Richardson
- Hill Walking Representative: Chris Wright
- Clubs Representative: Paul Exley
- Youth Co-ordinator: David Farrell (indoors)

Members	2011	2012
No. of clubs in the area	23	22
With club membership of	1,375	1,270
Share of national clubs	695	687
Individual members	3,433	3,447
Total members in area	5,503	5,404

Trusts

The BMC Access & Conservation Trust

The BMC Access & Conservation Trust (ACT) has been funding projects to protect our cliffs and mountains for over 10 years. The new online donation facility now makes it easier for people to support ACT's valuable work and a new legacy leaflet explains how members can let the conservation of our uplands be their legacy.

In 2012, eight projects were supported. These included the publication of the annual nesting restrictions poster and a contribution to the Green Guide to rock climbing in the Northumberland National Park which will be available in 2013. ACT also funded materials for a Derbyshire Wildlife Trust project to improve access at Cheedale Nature Reserve, including the building of a boardwalk, and has agreed to help fund path restoration work at the Roaches in partnership with the Staffordshire Wildlife Trust. ACT has also helped establish the not-for-profit company Green Peak Gear which will collect, re-use and recycle retired climbing gear.

This year, ACT also gave a significant donation to the Avon Gorge project which aims to regenerate climbing in the area. It is hoping to achieve this by raising the profile of climbing in the gorge with Bristol City Council, other partners and conservation bodies to optimise the strength of the climbing community's influence on the future of the site.

Other long term projects that have received ACT funding are all progressing well, including repair to path erosion damage on the Black Mountain which is in the western part of the Brecon Beacons National Park. In 2013, ACT trustees will also be looking to work with other organisations across England and Wales on projects to support hill walkers.

The Trust is extremely grateful to all its supporters without whom none of its work would be possible. It very much welcomes corporate donations and would like to acknowledge those from Castle Climbing Centre, EAH Recycling, Yorkshire Mountaineering Club, Inbro Ltd and Ascent Marketing. Many thanks also to everyone who has made an individual contribution; these are vital for the work of the Trust.

ACT is a charity and relies on donations from individuals and organisations to fund its work. Please visit the website for further information – www.thebmc.co.uk/act

Mountain Heritage Trust

by Julie Summers, MHT Chair

The key role of the Mountain Heritage Trust (MHT) is to ensure that British mountaineering's fascinating heritage is preserved. Under our remit, artefacts, history and traditions are conserved, documented, made accessible and communicated to as wide an audience as possible.

In 2012 MHT appointed its first Patron, Joe Brown. This was a great honour and a delight. Several hundred people were fortunate enough

to see Joe in a rare appearance at the RGS later in the year, when he spoke about his first ascent of Kangchenjunga at Doug Scott's First on Kangchenjunga event in aid of Community Action Nepal.

MHT has continued to raise its profile and bring to a wider audience the value of the work we do. The 2012 Kendal Mountain Festival gave us an opportunity to show off material from the collections. A high-point for many was the 3-D viewer of slides from the Abrahams' collection as well as material for handling. As ever, our highly qualified archivist, Maxine Willett was on hand to answer questions. 2012 also marked the 30th anniversary of the disappearance on Everest of Pete Boardman and Joe Tasker; their lives were celebrated by a display at the festival, which was organised in conjunction with the Boardman Tasker families and resulted in further donations of archive material.

In the year of the London Olympics, MHT was represented as one of 24 sports in an exhibition mounted by the Sports Heritage Network, entitled Our Sporting Life. The exhibition was seen in 100 venues by over one million people. The exhibition was deemed to have been a great success and there are plans to mount something similar for the Commonwealth Games in 2014. MHT will be involved and we hope to team up with the Mountaineering Council of Scotland on that occasion.

In 2011, Maxine had enquiries at KMF from a student based at Northumbria University and was working on a clothing design project comparing changes in use of fabrics and construction of mountaineering clothing. He continued to consult the MHT archive and in June 2012 he graduated from university with a first class degree. Maxine represented MHT at the graduation exhibition where the 'Everywhere' jacket was on display, shown next to the Mallory Replica clothing. It has since featured in Trail Magazine and there are plans for commercial production.

In late 2011 Lord and Lady Chorley gifted their mountaineering library to MHT. Too large to be housed at the Trust's office in Penrith, there was immediate concern to find a partner to help us look after this precious collection. Through contacts of MHT trustee, John Innerdale, we were fortunate enough to build a relationship with the National Trust, represented in Cumbria by Jeremy Barlow, an erstwhile employee of the BMC. The MHT Chorley Mountaineering Library will open in the spring of 2013 in the newly refurbished National Trust property of Allan Bank, in Grasmere, and will be accessible to the public, as stipulated by Lord Chorley. This new relationship is proving to be mutually beneficial, as the Trust has properties in which MHT is being encouraged to mount exhibitions, such as at Stickle Barn in Langdale, ensuring growing exposure to a widening audience.

The work on Keswick Museum and Art Gallery has commenced and we will be opening our Mountain Heritage exhibition room in the newly refurbished gallery in early spring 2014. Our first

exhibition will be about Lakeland climbing pre-First World War with a focus on the first ascent of Central Buttress by Siegfried Herford. Thanks to a wonderful long-term loan of archive and artefact material belonging to the Abraham Brothers, MHT will be able to showcase their pioneering work on a semi-permanent basis.

On an archival level, Maxine continues to liaise with and advise archivists and librarians from climbing clubs such as the Alpine Club, Climbers' Club, Fell and Rock Climbing Club, Pinnacle Club, Polaris Club and Rucksack Club. If any clubs require advice and guidance on capturing their history, either orally or in archive form, impartial advice is available from MHT Archivist Maxine Willett who has enormous experience in all aspects of archives, including oral history.

MHT Trustees

Julie Summers	(Chair)
Doug Scott CBE	(Vice Chair)
Sir Chris Bonington	
Paul Braithwaite	
Jeff Ford	
Professor Terry Gifford	
John Innerdale	
Ron Kenyon	(Treasurer)
Dr Jerry Lovatt	
Jim Lowther	
BMC	(Ed Douglas, Exec Rep)

Mountain Training Trust (Plas y Brenin)

by Martin Doyle, Chief Executive

In 2012 Plas y Brenin worked closely with the BMC contributing to the work of the National Council, Training and Youth Committee, the coaching Technical Group, Technical Committee and NICAS workshops.

The BMC, Mountain Training UK and Mountain Training England set up the Mountain Training Trust (MTT) in 1997. Since then the trust has operated Plas y Brenin on behalf of Sport England, run by mountaineers to serve the mountaineering community. The current management contract between MTT and Sport England runs until 2026.

A series of summer and winter hill and mountain courses in Snowdonia are specifically offered for BMC members and are very popular. The BMC website features offers at Plas y Brenin for members on a regular basis. Climbing and walking club members use the two bunkhouses at Plas y Brenin for club meets and hold annual dinners at Plas y Brenin. Other benefits include discount on last-minute accommodation.

BMC events hosted by Plas y Brenin included the Student Seminar, Clubs Seminar and Huts Seminar as well as a National Council meeting. Other mountain related conferences include annual dinners of the Pinnacle Club, Clwyd Mountaineering Club and the AGM for the British section of the Austrian Alpine Club.

30% of all the mountain qualification courses (MTUK) in the UK were delivered at Plas y Brenin as

well as a lot of informal training for club members and event organisers. MTT continues to administer the 180 Jonathan Conville Memorial Trust training places in alpine and winter climbing skills which take place in Snowdonia, the Cairngorms and Chamonix. The BMC also supports these courses with a £4k annual contribution.

Plas y Brenin was involved in developing the BMC coaching award scheme. Martin Chester (Director of Training) is a member of the Coaching Technical Group and prepared the resources for and delivered the pilot course for the new coaching level 1 course and a coaching workshop for the BMC Fundamentals course providers.

The production of the 'Rock Climbing Essentials' DVD was completed as a partnership venture between the BMC and Plas y Brenin. Staff members also wrote two technical training manuals which are published by MTUK; 'Navigation in the Mountains' and 'International Mountain Trekking' were completed in 2012, and are excellent resources for general mountaineers and hill walkers.

Plas y Brenin staff have also been involved in broadcast programmes which promote climbing and hill walking to a wider audience, specifically the Channel 4 tv show 'Hidden Talent' and the BBC radio series 'Open Country'.

MTT contributed to the BMC Plan for Climbing,

Hill Walking & Mountaineering 2013-17 and will help deliver some of the activities funded by Sport England to meet BMC objectives over the next four years. Ready to Rock courses are planned with the BMC Regional Development Officer for London to help young climbers make the transition from indoor to outdoor climbing. Sport England has approved additional funding to subsidise training for volunteer leaders to address the budget cuts taking place elsewhere and to promote participation. Sport England is also upgrading the facilities at Plas y Brenin so that it will continue to be a prime location for mountaineering based courses, conferences and events.

Other Reports

British Mountain Guides

by Libby Peter, Honorary Secretary

The British Association of Mountain Guides (BMG) is the national association that trains and assesses mountain guides in all forms of climbing, mountaineering and ski mountaineering. BMG has 188 members spread between Scotland, the Lake District, North Wales, the Peak District and the Alps. Members are involved in guiding, climbing activities and personal expeditions worldwide, so have a broad collective experience of mountain conditions and activities which they are always happy to share.

BMG is a member of, and enjoys good relations with the International Federation for Mountain Guide Associations (IFMGA), which ensures parity of standards, best practice and good relations between the 25 member countries.

In November 2012, the IFMGA annual conference was hosted by the BMG in Aviemore, Scotland. This last occurred in North Wales in the early '80s. Delegates were treated to a week-long feast of Highland culture, including trips to Ben Nevis, castles, estates, breweries and ceilidhs. There was also time for a pretty full programme of technical meetings, hosted by Glenmore Lodge, and general committee meetings based in the Aviemore Highland Resort. Following this BMG hosted (for the first time ever) the IFMGA International Climbing Championship at Edinburgh International Climbing Arena Ratho. 100 competitors took part in two days of high energy, high standard climbing that culminated in a 8b superfinal to split Austria's Mathias Schiestal and Italy's Christian Sordo. BMG member Stuart MacAleese came a respectable 4th overall. BMG sponsors Gore and Arc'teryx, along with DMM and Bowmore Single Malt Whisky supported the event, and ensured a convivial atmosphere for the 200-strong Saturday night ceilidh.

This gathering also comprised the annual gathering and AGM of the BMG, where four newly qualified full guides were awarded

their diplomas by outgoing IFMGA president Hermann Biner: they were Mark Walker, Andy Townsend, Andy Nelson and, Euan Whittaker (James Thacker and Paul Chiddle also qualified but were overseas at the time). In 2012, we welcomed five new applicants to the British Guide Scheme and wish them all the best for the training and assessment over the coming years.

International Federation of Sport Climbing

by Graeme Alderson, BMC representative on IFSC Plenary Assembly

The International Federation of Sport Climbing was created in 2007 and is a continuation of the International Council for Competition Climbing which has been in existence since 1997.

The BMC has representatives on several of the IFSC Commissions.

In 2012, Graeme Alderson continued as the BMC's representative on the IFSC Plenary Assembly and also as the Technical Delegate for all of the Bouldering World Cups, the World Youth Championships and the World Championships. Ian Alderson is President of the Disciplinary Commission which deals with such things as Doping Offences. Ian had another quiet year in 2012 with no cases to deal with. Percy Bishton is the BMC's representative on the Officials Commission which appoints the Officials including the Chief Route Setter to events. Percy was Chief Route Setter at the American round of the Boulder World Cup in June 2012. Tim Hatch is the BMC's representative on the Rules Commission; he completely re-drafted the IFSC Rules handbook in early 2012. Tim is also an active Jury President (chief judge). He had two appointments in 2012 including the World Championships.

The IFSC ran a very successful World Championships in Paris including the Para-Climbing World Championships. Record numbers of athletes and countries took part. A team of IOC observers was present during part of the Championships. The UK was very well represented

at the World Championships with three out of the five top officials being British; Jamie Cassidy was Chief Route Setter for Bouldering, along with Graeme and Tim already mentioned. The highlight of the Championships, from a British perspective, was the amazing climbing by Fran Brown who was crowned World Champion in her category.

Another very successful year for the IFSC.

Mountaineering Council of Scotland

by David Gibson, Chief Officer

Scotland's image is of a country offering beautiful and open mountain landscapes. Yet the advance of wind farms, with industrial-scale proposals adjacent to renowned National Scenic Areas and National Parks, is relentless.

During 2012 we published 'Protecting Scotland's Mountains' our Manifesto on Onshore Wind Farms. This sets out our policy which is supportive of renewable energy but which seeks real protection for Scotland's mountains, particularly Munros and Corbetts.

We are not anti-wind and have objected to just 6% of Scottish onshore wind farm applications, a similar proportion to the RSPB. Our work seeks a national spatial planning policy for wind farms, by influencing public and political opinion; we also object to selected developments in sensitive mountain areas.

We participated in our first (of many, no doubt) public inquiry - into the Allt Duine Wind Farm, which could see 31 turbines erected a few hundred metres from the boundary of the Cairngorms National Park.

Down at sea level, Dumbarton Rock was the centre of attention when plans for 'improvements' might have seen the boulders and crags sandblasted of graffiti, potentially affecting famous boulder problems. Our intervention with Historic Scotland and involvement with climbers and community representatives offers the promise of improvements in access and the general amenity of the area.

Access issues continue; we pursue each as they arise and at a strategic level we seek stronger resolve from statutory access authorities to implement their responsibilities under the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003.

We are grateful to the BMC for their support of our 'Manifesto' and for their continued financial support for our landscape and access work.

Speaking on behalf of mountaineers is an important aspect of our work, especially when tragedy strikes and the media seek immediate answers. Such incidents emphasise the importance of our mountain safety work – from courses for members to a national programme of free lectures. Scotland is fortunate to have publicly-funded mountain weather forecasts run under the auspices of MWIS and we urge all visitors to use this service before heading for the hills and crags.

2012 saw much progress in the development of coaching at UK level, and in the implementation of Scottish coaching initiatives, led by the newly-convened MCofS Coaching Development Group. Developing young Scottish climbers who are able to achieve selection for the GB Team is a key goal, as is contributing to the work of the GB Team Management with whom we share common aims.

Mountaineering Ireland

by Karl Boyle, Chief Officer

In 2012, there were many foundations laid which will have a lasting impact. In particular, the potential of Upland Path Principles for Ireland is fundamentally important to the integrity of our mountain environment. The conference, Helping the Hills, which brought together a broad range of stakeholders can be the catalyst to provide a better future for the mountains of Ireland. I would urge those who have contributed to this effort, to work in partnership and our collective goal can be achieved.

Mountaineering Ireland continued with a robust position on the future of our forests, the Coillte estate. From the Spring Gathering where the Mountaineering Ireland membership gave the mandate to build an alliance of like-minded organisations to maintain our forests in state ownership, it has been great to see how, both with the help of the Dublin Mountains Initiative and the trade union IMPACT, the campaign has developed into a joined-up coherent strategy, Save Our Forests. This alliance will continue until the decision has been reversed and the estate secured in state ownership and control for the future.

Membership in 2012 totalled 11,402 members comprising of 163 affiliated clubs with 10,120 members and 1,288 individual members.

The second and now annual Women With Altitude event was held in April 2012. Encouraging and inspiring women's participation, progression and potential in hill walking and climbing is central to the Women With Altitude objectives. It is hoped that this can be a lasting catalyst to see

women play their part in supporting this initiative and Mountaineering Ireland's other activities and volunteer opportunities.

2012 saw a major milestone achieved as our training sub-committee, an Bord Oilíúint Sléibhe, became a full member of Mountain Training which covers all the training Boards for the islands of Britain and Ireland. This change will also lead to greater cohesion for mountain training on the island of Ireland for years to come. I would like to thank our representatives on all of these organisations for their continued commitment and for maintaining their knowledge of our policies and goals thus ensuring effective representation. 2012 was also a significant year for the planning and development of training schemes. The Trail Walk Leader (TWL) scheme and the Climbing Coach Awards are being developed. The TWL will be piloted in spring 2013 and if the buy-in to date by a wide range of stakeholders is anything to go by, this will be very well received.

Dominic Burns with Mountaineering Ireland's head coach, Eddie Cooper to guide him, left a trail of victories behind him at home and abroad culminating in winning the European Youth Cup. Dominic's achievements saw him qualify for performance funding from Sport Northern Ireland, which funded his participation in the World Youth Championships in Singapore.

2013 will see Mountaineering Ireland 'go to the people' to develop its future direction and ambitions through the preparation of our next Strategic Development Plan. This will identify the path for coming years and how resources are allocated to address our strategic objectives.

Mountain Training England

by Andy Say, Executive Secretary

After the difficulties experienced in 2011 due to the effective loss of our Chair early in the year it was a relief to come away from the AGM in 2012 with a new Executive Committee which retained some of the older 'wise heads' but also included a lot of 'fresh blood'.

Our new Chair, after an initial period of co-option, has been inherited from the BMC; Rab Carrington obviously just can't get enough of the cut and thrust of mountaineering politics. Barry Lynn has replaced the hard working Michael Hunt as Treasurer and Martin Chester has consented to come on to the Exec as an additional Director. Mick Johnson now serves as the BMC Director with Mike Pinder as Vice-Chair.

Last year we reported on the concern felt about the impact of the spending review on the availability of not only training budgets but also the availability of time to attend courses. It would be simplistic to blame everything on this but it is evident that there has been a reduction in registrations of around 10%. MTE is to put together a marketing working party to look at ways of raising awareness of the work of Mountain Training and our award schemes. We

are also putting in place a walking awards review process to try to ensure that the awards we deliver are fit for purpose and have broad enough cover.

One of the major initiatives of 2012 for the training boards was the design of a new website that served all of the boards as well as a new database that was web-accessible. All of the 138,000 candidate records held by the training boards are now available for those candidates to access and update. Registrations have also been made truly electronic, vastly reducing administration time and speeding the process up. All courses are available online, which has again speeded up the process for candidates. Register on Wednesday, book a weekend course on Thursday and jump on a train on Friday is now a fairly common reality. Along with the new website came new branding, new logos and new names! To reflect the fact that we deal with leaders, supervisors, instructors and soon coaches, the 'L' has been dropped and MLTE is now MTE; Mountain Training England. We anticipate that the use of the term MLTB will eventually die out around 2057.

Through the auspices of the BMC, MTE and several other partner organisations submitted a joint bid for funding for a variety of projects to be run from 2013 to 2017 for the benefit of 'mountaineering' and participation. Thanks are due to all of the staff from all of the organisations that contributed to the detail of that bid and especially to Dave Turnbull for efforts truly above and beyond...

Mountain Training UK

by John Cousins, Executive Officer

As the co-ordinating body in the UK for mountaineering qualifications we've seen a number of developments in 2012. Changing our name to Mountain Training UK and removing 'Leader' was the way to acknowledge the more diverse range of qualification titles that we now work with, namely: Instructors, Coaches, Supervisors and Guides as well as Leaders. The change of name coincided with the launch of a unified website for all the Mountain Training organisations and an online Candidate Management System that has revolutionised the way we interact with trainees, providers and award holders.

The website – www.mountain-training.org – is also home to our Mountain Training Association (MTA) as well as providing links to the other membership associations who collectively worked very closely throughout the year. A joint quarterly magazine from spring 2013 is being treated with much anticipation by MTA, the Association of Mountaineering Instructors, British Mountain Guides and the British Association of International Mountain Leaders as a very tangible piece of further collaboration between these organisations.

The ongoing development of our Coaching scheme has involved trials of the component courses for Level 1 and 2 and our Technical Officer,

Steve Long has worked closely with the BMC and other partners in the continuing development of the scheme. We're particularly grateful to Jon Garside for his assistance in this field. The launch of Level 1 and 2 programmes is still on track for spring 2013 and will rely on the existing FUNdamentals programme delivered through the BMC (and Mountaineering Council of Scotland).

MTUK's range of textbooks continues to flourish with the new 'Navigation in the Mountains', by Carlo Forte proving to be a great success and our fifth title, 'International Mountain Trekking' about to hit the shops (all are available from the BMC online shop).

The management board of Mountain Training UK has met three times during the year: in winter at Glenmore Lodge; a spring visit to Tollymore Mountain Centre in Northern Ireland; and an autumn meeting at Plas y Brenin. Board membership includes BMC representatives and the other Councils, plus all the training boards, national centres and the leader, instructor and guide associations. Finally we've had excellent support from everyone at the BMC, but in particular, Jon Garside, Dave Turnbull, Nick Colton and Mick Johnson, most notably in our successful collaborative bid to Sport England for support for a range of programmes over the next four years.

Mountain Rescue England & Wales

by David Allan, Chairman

2012 proved to be an interesting and varied year for mountain rescue. The total number of incidents on the hills showed little change but there was wide variation with some teams in the Peak District, North Wales and some parts of the Lake District recording more than an average of three call outs per week and others with fewer rescues.

Amongst the usual collection of lower leg injuries and parties lost and/or benighted there were challenging incidents in locations such as Sharp Edge and Tryfan North Ridge. The location of missing parties has been made considerably easier with the development of the SARLOC smartphone app, and the SARCALL system has continued to be refined enabling better communication both within MR and with other SAR bodies. Both of these technical advances have been developed within MR by members of the Ogwen Valley team.

There is a continuing trend for the age of casualties to gradually rise year on year. This presents new issues for teams to deal with. Different injury patterns and the likelihood of unrelated medical problems and medication feature prominently. During 2012 some teams have recorded the involvement of young children in accidents involving family led excursions into the hills. This is a new finding that hopefully may be an anomalous occurrence.

MREW hosted the UK and Ireland conference in Leeds in September and this was a very

successful and informative event. We look forward to the next one to be hosted by Scotland in Aviemore in 2014.

MR team members were pleased to receive Diamond Jubilee Medals in June and this was quickly followed by an invitation to a number of people to attend the Jubilee Concert. We were delighted to learn that an MR team member was to carry the Olympic torch on part of its last leg from Buckingham Palace and this honour was borne by Jon Hulse, the driving force behind SARCALL. Finally the year ended on a high with the award of MBE's to the team leaders of Keswick, Wasdale and Cleveland MRTs.

Sport & Recreation Alliance

The Sport and Recreation Alliance, formerly known as the Central Council for Physical Recreation (CCPR), is the umbrella organisation for the governing and representative bodies of sport and recreation in the UK and represents more than 300 members.

The BMC has once again been active in the Alliance this year. Chair of the BMC Land Management Group Bill Renshaw is Deputy Chair of the Outdoor Pursuits Division and also chairs the Access Group. This brings together the Outdoor Pursuits and Water Recreation Divisions to work for improved access for recreation. Over the past 12 months, the main focus of the Alliance's work has been:

- providing support for the activities of sport and representative bodies at grassroots level;
- promoting Good Governance in the sector as a whole;
- creating and developing new ways to help members' finances and bring money into the sector;
- ensuring members' interests were protected during the merger of Sport England and UK Sport and throughout any changes to funding during the merger; and
- working with UK woodland and forest managers and owners to get better access for sport and recreational activities.

In particular a partnership project was created with the Forestry Commission to help improve and secure access to the private Forest Estates and increase opportunities on non-state woodland. The Alliance is providing advice to be included in the UK Forestry Standard to persuade private landowners of the value in providing opportunities for sport and recreation by drawing on case studies from across its membership, including the BMC.

The Alliance also organises the Sports Parliamentarian of the Year Award, an opportunity to pay tribute to those MPs and Peers who have worked tirelessly to support and promote sport and recreation. This year, David Rutley MP, co-chair of the Mountaineering All Party Parliamentary Group was nominated, and received a bronze medal award.

Union Internationale des Associations d'Alpinisme

by Anne Arran, UIAA Youth Commission president

The BMC continued to be well represented within the UIAA and its specialist commissions during 2012 with three presidents (Access, Medical and Youth) and a chair (Training Standards Panel) being directly funded by the UIAA.

Doug Scott continued as BMC member of the Management Committee, where he was influential in steering the UIAA through 2011 and 2012 after the resignation of former president Mike Mortimer and the term of Jordi Colomer as acting president. Doug also made a strong impact with the Traditional Climbing Working Group which gathered information on traditional climbing and bolting from national federations towards revising the UIAA document "To Bolt or Not to Be". After various consultations the UIAA Policy on the Preservation of Natural Rock for Adventure Climbing was formed.

More than 100 members from 49 federations attended the 2012 UIAA General Assembly in Amsterdam, which voted unanimously to approve the Strategic Plan for 2013–2016. Dutch mountaineer Frits Vrijlandt was elected as the new UIAA president by 24 votes to 18 after positioning himself as the candidate of change, standing against acting president Jordi Colomer. Anne Arran (BMC) was elected to join the UIAA Management Committee. Paul Braithwaite will also attend the UIAA General Assembly as the BMC's representative. A new UIAA Board was elected unanimously including: the new president, vice-president Peter Farkas, Helène Denis, Giorgio Olivetti and Thomas Kaehr.

In December 2012 the UIAA's financial position improved significantly for 2013-2018 with the signing of a sponsorship agreement with Goldwin Korea, the official license partner of The North Face in Korea, for the UIAA Ice Climbing World Tour.

BMC support to the UIAA in 2012

- UIAA Council member until October 2012: Doug Scott
- UIAA Council member from October 2012: Anne Arran
- UIAA General Assembly representative from October 2012: Paul Braithwaite
- Mountaineering Commission: Phil Wickens (secretary), Steve Long (Training Standards Panel chair), Doug Scott (Traditional Climbing Working Group chair), Anne Arran (Traditional Climbing Working Group), Martin Wragg & Anthony Rich (Legal Experts Working Group)
- Access Commission: Clare Bond (president) Dr Catherine Flitcroft (corresponding member)
- Medical Commission: Dave Hillebrandt (president), Audry Morrison and James Milledge (corresponding members)
- Safety Commission: Rob Foster
- Youth Commission: Anne Arran (president until October 2012)

Club & Associate Members 2012

Club Name	No. of Members		
2 Degrees Climbing Club	65	Clwb Mynydda Cymru	313
Aberystwyth Mountaineering Club	41	Clwyd Mountaineering Club	126
Association of British Members of the Swiss Alpine Club	192	Colchester Climbing Club	98
Adventure and Expedition Society	145	Congleton Mountaineering Club	27
AGC Mountaineering Club	25	COPA	20
Aldermaston Mountaineering Club	26	Cornwall Climbing Club	20
Alpine Club	1,119	Coventry Mountaineering Club	55
Alton Mountaineering Club	28	Craggers	34
AMI (England and Wales)	622	Cragrats Mountaineering Club	24
Anabasis Mountaineering Club	40	Craven Mountaineering Club	74
Army Mountaineering Association	40	Cromlech Club	70
Avon Mountaineering Club	129	Croydon Mountaineering Club	57
Aylesbury Climbing Club	63	CUC Climbing Club	83
Barnsley Mountaineering Club	57	Dacorum Adventure Group	45
Barrow Mountaineering & Ski Club	86	Derby Mountaineering Club	25
Basingstoke Climbing Club	50	Derbyshire Pennine Club	52
Bath University Mountaineering Club	20	Derwent Mountaineering Club	71
Battle Climbing Club	20	Dobroyd Mountaineering Club	22
Bedford Mountaineering Club	29	Dockyard Venturers	31
Beeston Hill & Mountain Club	35	Dorset Youth Climbing Academy	50
Bewdley & District Mountaineering Club	22	Durham Mountain Sports	68
Bassetlaw Hill & Mountain Club	36	East Grinstead Climbing Club	34
Birmingham Medical Research Expedition Society	20	East Pennine Outdoor Club	43
Bowline Climbing Club	122	East Yorkshire Climbing & Mountaineering Club	25
Brathay Exploration Group Club	54	Eden Valley Mountaineering Club	46
Brecon Beacons Climbing & Mountaineering Club	34	Edge Hill University Climbing & Mountaineering Club	30
Bremex Mountaineering & Climbing Club	34	Edge Outdoor Club	20
Brighton University Mountaineering Club	20	ELC Hill Walking Club	29
British Airways Mountain Walking & Trekking Club	43	Exploration Group of North Somerset	93
Bromsgrove & Redditch Mountaineering Club	40	Extreme Sports Central	27
Brunel Climbing	128	Forest of Dean Hillwalkers	24
Burghley Mountaineering Club	20	Frayednotts Mountaineering Club	26
Burnmoor Lodge Club	33	Fylde Mountaineering Club	173
Buxton Mountaineering Club	67	G S Exiles Mountaineering Club	23
C.A.M.S (Club AZ Mountaineering Section)	15	Gentian Mountaineering Club	60
Calderdale Mountaineering Club	38	Gloucestershire Mountaineering Club	139
Calshot Climbing Squad	30	Gorphwysfa Club	61
Cambridge Climbing & Caving Club	57	Gritstone Club	123
Cambridge University Hillwalking Club	147	Guernsey Mountaineering Club	53
Carlisle Mountaineering Club	126	Guildford Mountaineering Club	73
Castle Mountaineering Club	61	Gwent Mountaineering Club	107
Cedars Mountaineering Club	20	Gwydyr Mountain Club	107
Cerberus Spelaeological Society	20	Hampshire Mountaineering Association	44
Ceunant Mountaineering Club	161	Harpenden Expedition Club	29
Chamois Mountaineering Club	195	Hastings Rock & Fell Club	53
Chelmsford Mountaineering Club	65	Hereford Climbing Club	20
Cheshire Amateur Ramblers Club	20	Hereford Mountain Club	46
Chester Great Outdoors Club	101	Heron Outdoor Pursuits	32
Chester Mountaineering Club	220	Hertfordshire Mountaineering Club	94
Chippenham Mountaineering Club	20	Herts & Essex Climbing Club	93
Christian Rock & Mountain Club	76	Highdown Hillwalking & Mountaineering Club	42
Cleveland Mountaineering Club	197	Hillingdon Mountaineering Club	21
Cliffhangers Climbing Club	25	Hinckley Mountaineering Club	68
Climbers' Club	1,594	Ibex	101
Climbers Section - Cave & Crag Club	35	ICAS Climbing Club	34
Clingons Climbing Club	20	Innominata Mountain Club	72
Clitheroe Mountaineering Club	77	Ipswich Mountaineering Club	100
Clogwyn Mountaineering Club	57	Jersey Rock Climbing Club	40
Clwb Dringo Antur Menai	20	John Clare Mountaineering Club	20
		Junior Mountaineering Club of Scotland	41
		K Fellfarers	132
		Karabiner Mountaineering Club	135
		Keele University Mountaineering Club	53
		Kendal Mountaineering Club	63
		Keswick Mountaineering Club	85
		Kodak Walking & Climbing Club	20
		Lancashire Caving & Climbing Club	205
		Lancashire Mountaineering Club	145
		Lanchester Mountaineering Club	42
		Leeds Mountaineering Club	136
		Leicester University Mountaineering Club	75
		Lichfield Mountaineering Club	30
		Lincoln Mountaineering Club	65
		Lindsey Climbing Club	20
		Liverpool University Mountaineering Club	20
		London Mountaineering Club	339
		Loughborough Students Mountaineering Club	100
		Loughton Mountaineering Club	35
		MACS (Royal Holloway Univ. of London)	17
		Maidstone Mountaineering Club	36
		Malvern Mountaineering Club	20
		Manchester University Mountaineering Club	151
		Marjon Student Climbing Club	21
		Marylebone Mountaineering Club	75
		MBDA Sports & Social Club - Climbing Section	20
		Mercian Mountaineering Club	48
		Merseyside Mountaineering Club	191
		Midland Association of Mountaineers	548
		Milton Keynes Mountaineering Club	55
		Mountaineering Club of Bury	41
		Mountaineering Club of North Wales	63
		MPMC LTD	50
		Munro Pineapple Society (Univ. of Nottingham)	20
		Mynydd Climbing Club	189
		Newbury Mountain Club	39
		Newcastle University Mountaineering Club	20
		Nimrod Mountaineering Club	20
		Nor' West Sgurrmbles	24
		Norfolk Hillwalking Club	30
		North Kingston Hillwalking Club	44
		North Leicestershire Mountain Club	39
		North London Mountaineering Club	253
		North Wales Youth Climbing Academy	49
		North Yorkshire Fell Club	50
		Northampton Climbing Club	20
		Northumbrian Mountaineering Club	123
		Norwich Climbing & Mountaineering Club	53
		Not So Trad - Southern Lesbian & Gay Climbers	82
		NotThe MLC Mountaineering Club	20
		Nottingham University Explorers Club	25
		Nuneaton Mountaineering Club	32
		Ohjac Club	20
		Oldham Climbing Club	20
		Open University Mountaineering Society	45
		Oread Mountaineering Club	150
		OutThere	35
		OverThe Hill Club	104
		Oxford Mountaineering Club	85
		Oxford University Mountaineering Club	149
		Oxford University Walking Club	61
		Patterdale Mountain Rescue Association	32
		Peak Climbing Club	70
		Pembrokeshire Climbing Club	72

Peterborough Hospitals Walking Club	20
Peterborough Mountaineering Club	79
Phoenix Mountaineering Club	37
Pinnacle Club	148
Polaris Mountaineering Club	49
Powers Mountaineering Club	40
Preston Mountaineering Club	66
Reading Mountaineering Club	82
Red Rope Walking & Climbing Club	273
Robinwood Mountaineering Club	20
Rock & Heather Club	27
Rockhoppers Mountaineering Club	115
Romsey Climbers	33
Royal Air Force Mountaineering Association..	510
Royal Navy & Royal Marines Mountaineering Club	760
Royal Veterinary College Mountaineering Club	46
Rucksack Club	421
Rugby Mountaineering Club	68
Saltley Hillwalking Group	20
Scunthorpe Mountaineering Club	20
Sheffield Hallam Fellwalking & Mountaineering Club	25
Sheffield Hallam University Climbing Club	30
Shrewsbury Mountaineering Club	126
Skyline Mountaineering Club	46
Slough Mountaineering Group	39
Solihull (Police) Mountaineering Club	20
Solihull Mountaineering Club	62
South Cheshire Climbing Club	22
South Devon Mountaineering Club	110
South Wales Mountaineering Club	190
Southampton Rats Climbing Club	28
Southampton Solent University Mountain Sports Club	43
Southampton University Mountaineering Club	110
Southern Trekking & Mountaineering Club	41
Southfields Mountain Sports Club	32
Sphinx Mountaineering Club	26
St Bartholomew's & Royal London Alpine Club	48
St. Helens Mountaineering Club	56
Staffordshire University Mountaineering Club..	64
Stoke Damerei Climbing Club	20
Sunderland Mountaineering Club	22
Super Drooper Mountaineering & Caving Club	39
Surbiton & Kingston Mountaineering Club	51
Swindon Mountaineering Club	44
Thames Valley Climbing Club	27
The Barcap Climbing Club	27
The Chapel Mountaineering Club	31
The Fell & Rock Climbing Club	1,166
The Heights Climbing Club	20
The LMC Mountaineering Club	30
The Mill Climbing Club	20
The Mountain Club	49
The Outcasts	25
Tuesday Climbing Club	44
Tunbridge Wells Mountaineering Club	62
Tyne Valley Mountaineers	22
University of London Graduate Mountaineering Club	132
University of Birmingham Mountaineering Club	62

University of Bristol Explorers Club	136
University of Bristol Mountaineering Club	96
University of East Anglia Fell & Mountaineering Club	21
University of East Anglia Rock Climbing Club	20
University of Glamorgan Climbing Club	20
University of Huddersfield Mountaineering Society	51
University of Kent at Canterbury Mountaineering Club	21
University of London Mountaineering Club	35
University of Surrey Mountaineering Club	33
University College London Union Mountaineering Club	20
University of Bolton Climbing & Walking Club	20
University of Hertfordshire Mountaineering Club	20
University of Manchester Hiking Club	156
U.W.F.R.A. Outdoors Club	35
Vagabond Mountaineering Club	84
Vertigirls	26
Vibram Mountaineering Club	42
W.T.F.A.I. Club	20
Walking & Adventure Group (WAG)	22
Wanneys Climbing Club	51
The Warminster Adventure Sports Club	29
Warwick Climbing Club	77
Wayfarers' Club	210
Wellingborough Mountaineering Club	47
Wessex Mountaineering Club	186
West Bromwich Mountaineering Club	243
West Cumbria Mountaineering Club	54
West Lancashire County Scouts Mountaineering Group	20
Wirral Outdoor Education Association	30
Wok and Rice Club	20
Wolverhampton Mountaineering Club	98
Worcester Mountaineering Club	31
Wrekin Mountaineering Club	107
Yeovil Mountaineering Club	35
Yeti Club	23
York Alpine Club	50
York Mountaineering Club	58
York St John Climbing Club	27
Yorkshire Mountaineering Club	184
Yorkshire Ramblers Club	162
Yorkshire Walkers & Climbers Club	24
Yr Hafod Scout Mountaineering Fellowship	20

BMC Associate Members

Climbing Walls:

Arethusa Climbing Wall
Awesome Walls
Bourne End Junior Sports Club
Kirklees Active Leisure
Llangorse Multi Activity Centre
Mile End Climbing Wall
Newcastle Climbing Centre
Redpoint Climbing Centre
Roefield Leisure Centre
The Ackers
The Castle Climbing Centre
The Warehouse
Undercover Rock
West View Climbing and Leisure Centre
Westway Sports Centre

Local Authority:

West Sussex County Council
Wirksworth Leisure Centre

Mountain Rescue:

Cockermouth Mountain Rescue Team
Lake District Mountain Rescue Association

Multi Activity Groups:

Bicton College
Dynamic Adventures Ltd
Eldon Leisure Centre
Live The Adventure Ltd
Portsmouth Youth Activities Committee
Swaledale Outdoor Club
The Bendrigg Trust
Water Park (Eric Wright Trust)

National Body:

British Association of Mountain Guides
Fire Service Sport & Athletics Association
Girlguiding UK
Scout Association
The Reach/Leap Trust

Other:

Barclays Bank Rambling & Climbing Club
HF Holidays Ltd
The Gateway Academy

Outdoor Training/Expeditions:

Calshot Activities Centre
Consett YMCA Ltd
Hagg Farm Outdoor
ICICLE Mountaineering Ski & Adventure
In2venture
Joint Services Mountain Training Centre
Lake District Calvert Trust
Manor Adventure
Nantmor Mountain Centre Association
Northamptonshire Association of Youth Clubs
Outdoor Lads
Urdd Gobaith Cymru
YHA Edale

Trade:

Allcord
Bendcrete Climbing Walls
Buffera Ltd
D R International Climbing Walls Ltd
Entre-Prises (UK) Ltd
Lyon Equipment Ltd
Mountain Equipment
Rockworks
Warners Group Publications

Youth/Schools/Groups:

Air Training Corps
Blue Coat School
Herts Young Mariners Base
Highgate School Duke of Edinburgh's
Award Scheme
Millfield School
Oakham School
Portsmouth Grammar School
Romford Young Men's Christian Association
Simonside Centre for Positive Youth Activities
St Albans School
Wolsingham School & Community College

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