



annual  
report

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**ANNUAL**  
**REPORT**



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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 almost 74,000 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
Audrey Seguy	Vice President
Scott Titt	Vice President
Rehan Siddiqui	Vice President (to 16 April 11)
Ed Douglas	Vice President (from 16 April 11)
David Lanceley	Honorary Treasurer

### Patrons

George Band OBE	(from 16 Apr 11 to 26 Aug 11)
Alan Blackshaw OBE	(to 4 Aug 11)
Sir Chris Bonington CBE	
Lord Chorley	
Lord Greaves	(from 3 Dec 11)
Ian McNaught-Davis	
Doug Scott CBE	(from 3 Dec 11)

### Auditors

Bentley & Co.

### Honorary Legal Advisors

Paul Debney  
Stephen Porteus  
Anthony Rich  
Martin Wragg

### Executive Committee

All Elected Officers plus:

Dave Turnbull	BMC CEO
Christian Lund	National Council Rep
Mick Johnson	National Council Rep (to 5 Dec 11)
Neil Foster	National Council Rep (from 5 Dec 11)

### 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

### 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

# President's Message

**2011 has not been an easy year for the BMC. Delicate discussions with our insurance broker, Perkins Slade, brought in a new underwriter, ACE, for the BMC travel insurance business. This change involved a lot of hard work on all sides as new policies were ratified, paperwork altered and we all learnt a new way of working together. The BMC travel insurance business has been a real bonus for the BMC bringing in much needed funds for carrying out the day to day work of the BMC. Also, in the good years, we received windfall bonuses from the insurance brokers due to low claims; it is those windfalls which have built up the BMC reserves and allowed us to look comfortably into the future.**

With the replacement of underwriter, it was necessary for all of us to look to the weaknesses in our scheme. The main area of concern being the high costs of health care in the USA due to increased costs in the US and also changes in exchange rates. This year the figures are looking better and we look forward to a healthy future with ACE.

Whilst the insurance team has been grappling with this problem, the rest of the office has been getting on with the normal business of the BMC.

Access and Conservation will always be the keystone of the BMC organisation ensuring that access is kept open for walkers and climbers. The highlight will be the success that we had at Lulworth Cove where sensible decisions in respect of several objections to the coastal access proposals were made by the Secretary of State; specifically the recognition that climbing is a permitted activity under both the new coastal access provisions and in areas of existing open access as defined by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act. This is a great result and sets a precedent for future cases. Our officers and volunteers have been proactive in the Midlands with the quarry owners trying to ensure that suitable rock faces can be made available for climbing. In Wales, a lot of work has been carried out securing access and also working in conjunction with the Welsh Government to improve the profile of hill walking and climbing. Finally as reported elsewhere, we have re-invigorated the BMC Access & Conservation Trust and given it a new direction.

Not everyone has the same opportunities to experience climbing and hill walking, and the Equity Steering Group continues its work to identify and remove barriers that under-represented groups might face.

Indoors, we have been progressing well. The

Walls Committee has produced an excellent DVD "Climbing Wall Essentials" which fits neatly into our suite of skills DVDs. Through it, we are taken on a journey from the day we arrive at a wall for the first time showing us all of the necessary safety techniques then taking us through top roping and leading to finally emerge into the sunshine of Windgather and our first day's climbing outdoors. An excellent DVD, soon to be followed up by the "Rock Climbing Essentials" DVD which is due out in 2012.

Also indoors, the GB Climbing Team has had a fantastic year with Ed Hamer and Molly Thompson-Smith enjoying an excellent and successful season in competitions, with Ed finishing the year ranked 4th in the world. It is all the more admirable when you realise that almost all of this has to be self funded. Sport England will not support elite athletes in non-Olympic sports and generally the commercial organisations supplying outdoor products do not have sufficient funds to put into this activity. So it is even more commendable for the likes of Ed, Molly and the rest of the team in achieving such a high level. To try to highlight these successes and raise the profile of competition climbing, there was an excellent meeting between the GB Climbing Team, the Sports Minister and Sport England in the Houses of Parliament. The special guest for the evening was Dame Kelly Holmes who charmed everyone with her ability to mix with all, young and old. The comment of the evening came from Ed Hamer, "She's way ripped; I'm glad I kept my jumper on!"

Outdoors, we have also been very active. The BMC has hosted two International Meets, one Summer Meet in Wales and a Winter Meet just recently at Glenmore Lodge. I'm glad to say that both Meets were very well attended and everyone had a great time. The International Committee allocated £10k of funds to support British Expeditions going to the Greater Ranges. Even our very own CEO took time off from the day job to join Mick Fowler in the successful first ascent of Gojung in Western Nepal. I'm sure it was an escapade he will not forget!

Well, here we are, April 2012 and the end of my term as President. I must admit, I have thoroughly enjoyed my tenure, working for all of the people who support the BMC; the staff, the volunteers, the members and with the regular hill walkers and climbers who need to be converted into BMC members. Looking back over the past three years it is difficult to put my finger on the stand out events of my term. I suppose the most significant



achievement is that our membership has grown by over 16,000 during that period. We have been instrumental in the formulation of the Marine and Coastal Access Act; Wilton Quarry became a BMC property; the new Froggatt guide came out; and many more successes were achieved. More importantly, I ask myself what was left undone? By nature, the BMC is a slow moving creature and so many projects are still in the gestation period. Personally, I would like to see a new subscription policy for our young members phased in, so that there is no financial constraint for climbers and walkers to join at a young age. At the other end of the spectrum was the concept of having a facility for members' slides to be digitised and then archived. I fear that many historic photographs will be lost to the mountaineering community simply because there is no such facility.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rab Carrington'.

**Rab Carrington  
President**

# 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
Access & Conservation	Cath Flitcroft, Elfyn Jones, Rob Dyer
Competitions & Climbing Walls	Rob Adie
Guidebooks	Niall Grimes
Technical	Dan Middleton (PT)
Training (BMC / MLTE)	Jon Garside
Volunteers, Huts & Clubs	Martin Kocsis
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)
Finance Assistant	Yas Prabaharan



## Membership Services Team

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

Breakdown of 28 staff: 22 Full time staff; 6 Part time (PT) staff.

# National Council

**N**ational Council is chaired by the President and comprises Area Committee representatives from across England and Wales; it is the BMC's main policy making body. In 2011 National Council met in Chepstow, Plas y Brenin (2 meetings), the Duddon Valley and Grassington.

Key issues addressed over the course of the year included the following:

- Regional access issues: the Peak District National Park Authority's Asset Review and the 'disposal' of the Roaches and North Lees (Stannage) Estates, developments in the Leicestershire quarries, the Honister zip wire proposal, Houghton Quarry, Foredale and the Avon Gorge. Another important regional event was the well attended West Penwith fixed equipment debate which resulted in the agreement of a firm policy position.
- The re-structuring and promotion of the BMC Access & Conservation Trust.

- Discussion and agreement of Specialist Committee, membership, Terms of Reference and Forward Plans.
- The appointment of two new Patrons – Doug Scott CBE and Lord (Tony) Greaves, and the award of the George Band Award to Neville McMillan and George Steele for their services to the Technical Committee over many years.
- Agreement and adoption of a loan scheme to facilitate the repair and updating of huts by BMC affiliated clubs.
- Consideration of the impact of wind farms on the upland environment, the BMC policy on such developments and the decision to hold a technical seminar to open up debate on the issue.
- Discussion about the implications of climbing as an Olympic sport and the BMC's role (i.e. in making the case to Government) following the IOC's announcement that competition climbing is one of eight sports shortlisted for the 2020 Olympics.

## National Council Voting Members

President	Rab Carrington
Vice President	Audrey Seguy
Vice President	Scott Titt
Vice President	Rehan Siddiqui (to Apr 11)
Vice President	Ed Douglas (from Apr 11)
Treasurer	David Lanceley
Chief Executive	Dave Turnbull
Lakes	Steve Scott, Polly Sullivan
London & South East	Elizabeth Holley, Christian Lund,
Midlands	Charles Gameson, Claudia Sarner
North East	Lloyd Murray
North West	Tom Bond, Colin Struthers
Peak District	Neil Foster, Rick Gibbon
South West	Rich Mayfield, Sam Mayfield
Yorkshire	Deirdre Collier, Mick Johnson
Wales / Cymru	Tom Hutton, Ray Wood, Stuart Llewellyn (South)

## Observers

Mountain Leader Training England	Andy Say
Mountain Leader 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
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
Training & Youth Committee	Andy Newton

# Membership Information

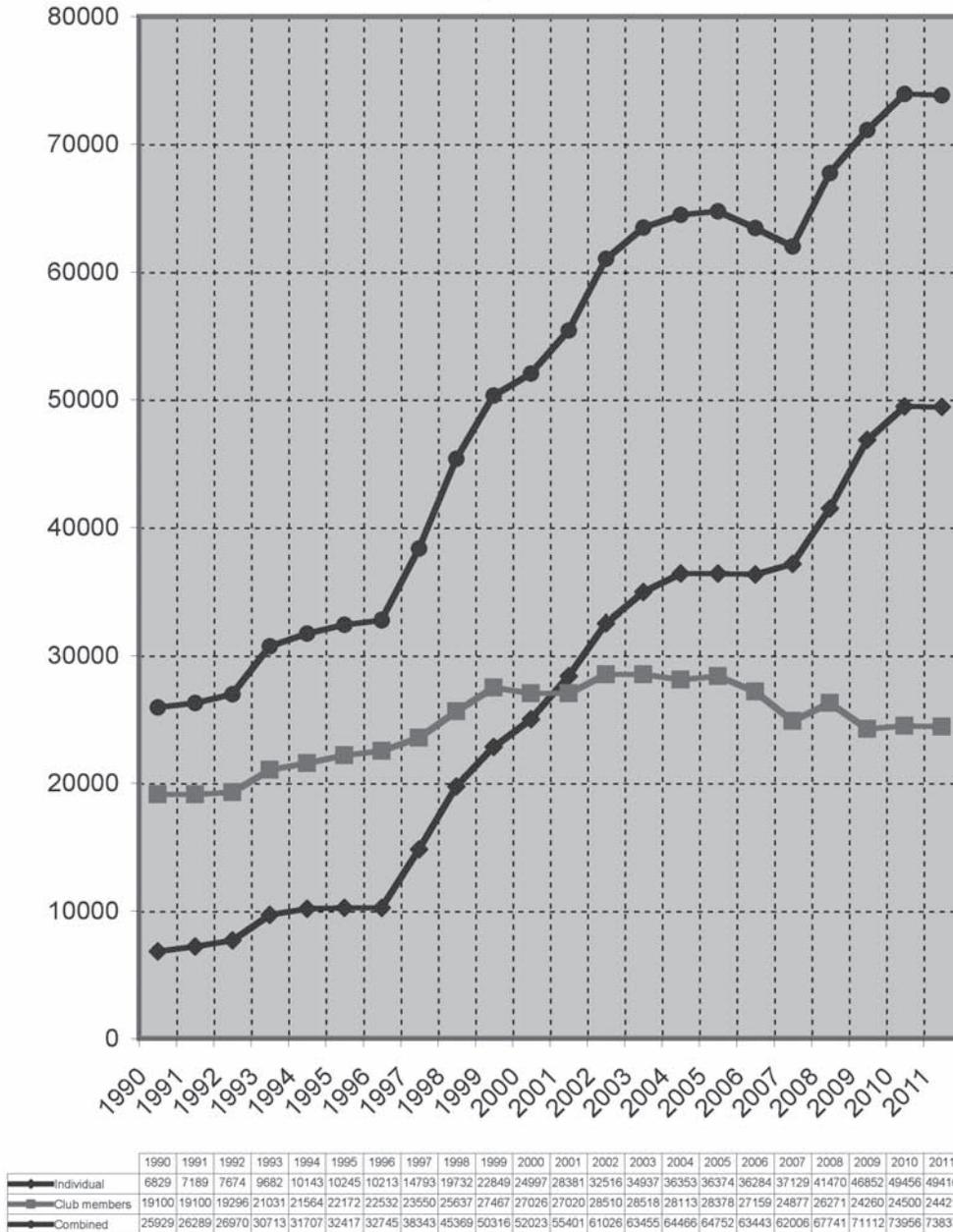
**W**e finished the year with a combined total of 73,837 members, a decrease of 119. The breakdown of this is 49,416 individual members (a decrease of 40) and 24,421 club members (a decrease of 79). The number of clubs affiliated increased slightly by 4 to a total of 292; 49 of these were student clubs. The number

of club upgrade members was down by 56 and totalled 1,522.

Insurance turnover was again reduced this year. In January ACE Insurance took over as underwriters for BMC travel and activity insurance and there were many changes to our insurance products. We were required to impose

high surcharges in some areas in order to bring our insurance scheme back to profitability. Coupled with the downturn in the economy, exchange rates and a general decrease in the number of people travelling, this resulted in us selling 19.4 % less policies in 2011 and our turnover was reduced by 17.9 % for the year.

**BMC Membership 1990 to 2011**



## 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

2011 was another reasonably successful year for the BMC. Although we have reported a small deficit of around £19k this was against an original forecast deficit of some £80k. The last time we reported a deficit was 2002. 2011 was particularly difficult to forecast accurately as the effect of the new arrangements with regard to travel insurance sales and the consequential effect on subscription income was difficult to predict. In the event although travel insurance sales were some 20% down on the previous year subscription income remained similar in part at least due to the continuing effect of the half price direct debit offer. It would certainly appear that although members may not be buying so much travel insurance (for whatever reason) they are renewing their membership and we are still attracting new 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 4% year-on-year mainly due to index-related salary increases, overall staff numbers remain the same. There was a significant increase in printing and stationery costs mainly as a result of changes to the travel insurance documentation. In future it is anticipated that much of this documentation will be online and printing costs should reduce. We had planned a reduction in marketing spending while we assessed the effectiveness of our marketing efforts and this planned saving was achieved.

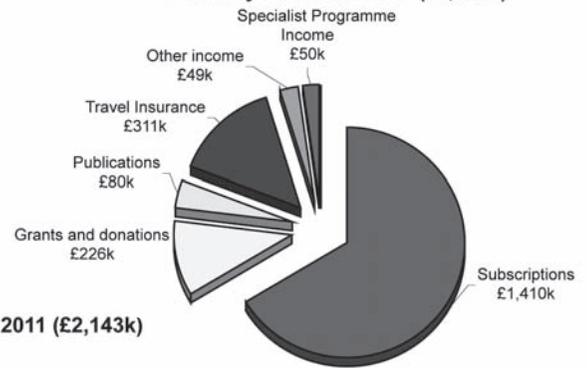
The overall spending on our specialist programmes was less than the previous year mainly due some agreed additional spending included in that year. Spending on Access and Conservation, to many members the most important aspect of our work has increased significantly in the year.

Notwithstanding the small deficit reported our cash reserves are slightly higher than last year due to the timing of some significant items of income and expenditure. As always the security of these reserves is an on-going concern we have addressed by spreading them across a number of UK Government backed financial institutions. Income from cash reserves is obviously much reduced compared to previous years in this period of low interest rates.

The Finance Committee continues to provide outstanding support and advice on all financial matters. Also my thanks to Alan and Yas for another year of effort.

Looking forward we are forecasting small surpluses for 2012 and 2013 with no subscription increases for either year. Some of the uncertainty in forecasting travel insurance sales has now gone and we are confident of achieving or bettering these forecasts.

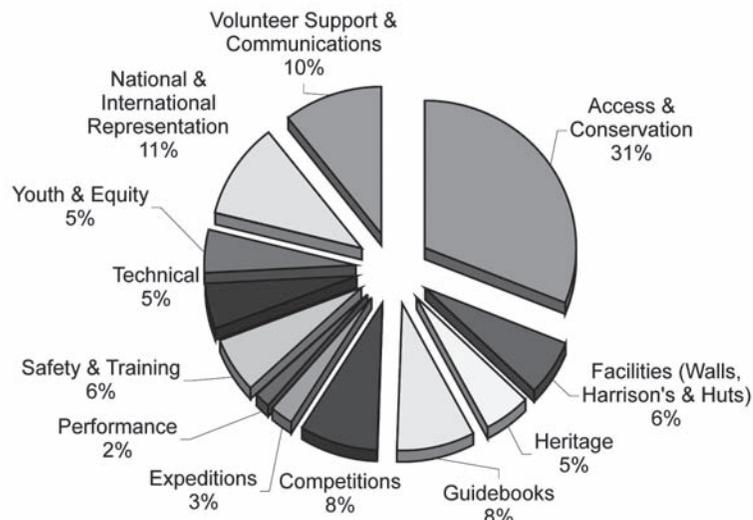
Summary of Income 2011 (£2,126k)



Summary of Expenditure 2011 (£2,143k)



Net cost of Specialist Programmes after allocation of overheads, grant income and other income 2011 (£705k)



## Finance Committee at 31/12/11

Graham Richmond (Chair)  
 David Lanceley (Hon. Treasurer)  
 Gordon Adshead  
 Vic Odell  
 Tim Raffle  
 Iain Dickinson  
 Andy Say  
 Deidre Collier  
 Polly Sullivan  
 Rab Carrington (President) - Paper member  
 Scot Titt (Vice President) - Paper member  
 Audrey Seguy (Vice President) - Paper member  
 Ed Douglas (Vice President) - Paper member  
 Dave Turnbull (CEO)  
 Alan Brown (FC)

How staff and overhead costs are spread	Person Year	Staff %	Alloc %
Membership services	3.7	14%	23%
Trading activities	3.6	14%	28%
Headquarters	7.4	29%	0%
External Recovery	0.2	1%	2%
Specialist Programmes	10.5	42%	47%
Total	25.4	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, 45 regional access volunteers and 12 specialist advisors, together with countless others who assist on various projects.**

Over the past 12 months, the BMC access team has been monitoring the impacts of the comprehensive spending review on access to our natural environment and on wider countryside issues. We remain concerned that the importance of access and recreation is not being recognised in new policy development and the establishment of proposed new access rights as well as the improvement of existing rights under current legislation is being ignored and is seen as an aspiration rather than a necessity. As part of this, the BMC has been responding to the Red tape Challenge in support of existing access legislation.

The BMC clearly outlined their principles and proposals for Government action at the start of the year with the publication of the BMC Access Charter, and throughout 2011 we have been responding to numerous public consultations and have attended several meetings with leading conservation organisations, DEFRA and various MPs to try to ensure the voice of climbing, hill walking and mountaineering is heard. The BMC has also set up the All Party Parliamentary Group on Mountaineering this year, chaired by David Rutley MP and John Mann MP.

Importantly this year, the BMC has provided evidence and details of the importance of the forestry for recreation in England for consideration by DEFRA and the Independent Forestry Panel who were set up in March 2011 to advise government on the future direction of forestry and woodland policy in England. The BMC also met with the Chair of the Independent Panel to express our concerns for the potential loss of access to the forested estate, and outlined the measures the BMC would take to safeguard publicly owned land.

In 2011 the BMC Access Team also organised a meeting with the Welsh Environment Minister in order to lobby and campaign for greater awareness and support for mountaineering related matters in Wales. Coastal Access is one such area where the arrangements for public access in Wales are significantly different to those being implemented in England. An All-Wales coastal path will be officially launched in 2012, but we continue to lobby for a statutory approach to wider coastal access.

The possible environmental impact of winter climbing on protected alpine plants and habitats has also been explored over the last year, and has led to the joint publication of a "White Guide" to winter

climbing in North Wales, produced by Ground Up with support and contributions from conservation bodies as well as considerable input and financial support from the BMC.

The BMC also held a successful 'Sustainable Energy, Sustainable Landscapes' seminar to discuss the BMC position on wind farms; the difference of opinions on such an emotive topic were made apparent and the BMC will now be looking to develop a broad Landscape policy.

Throughout the year, significant access gains have been made to some important climbing venues. In Pembrokeshire for example, better access has been achieved at Mowingword, with the removal (after nearly 30 years) of the now unnecessary seasonal climbing restrictions. On the Great Orme climbing is once again permitted on over 40 previously banned routes above the Marine Drive, and in the Lakes new access has been secured at the previously banned Scratchmere Scar following a meeting with the landowners.

One of the bigger challenges this year has been the continuing Peak District National Park Authority (PDNPA) asset review which has been focussed on the Roaches. We have been working closely with the PDNPA and potential bidders to ensure that climbing and walking interests are high on the list of priorities to any organisations bidding for management of the estate. The successful bid was from the Staffordshire Wildlife Trust who will be taking on a 125 year lease in April 2013 and who we will continue to work with as they develop their management plan.

The Eastern Moors Estate was the first major estate to be disposed of by the PDNPA when management was transferred to a partnership between the National Trust and RSPB earlier in 2011. Following this transfer the BMC has been asked to draw up a management plan specifically for the crags on the estate which is a great step forward in prioritising work which will directly benefit climbers.

Seasonal Nesting Restrictions were agreed once again in 2011. We produced publicity posters and publicised the restrictions in Summit and on the BMC website. The BMC continues to work closely with conservation interests across England and Wales to set up and manage seasonal access restrictions and is extremely grateful for the goodwill and co-operation of all involved.

In order to aid more focussed, and detailed work in 2012, and to draw in new expertise from across the BMC membership, several new working groups will be created. These working groups will look, in detail, at specific access and conservation work areas (including quarries, occupiers' liability, landscape issues, climate change, seasonal restrictions and group use). This will help ensure a more fulfilling volunteer role which will have a focussed, time-limited involvement in a specific piece of work, drawing in new members from across the BMC with

the expertise that is required. Membership will be drawn from across BMC specialist committees, the wider membership as well as external specialists.

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

- In the Midlands, a successful Leicestershire Quarries Seminar took place in April; subsequent discussions with local climbers and quarry companies about potential restoration projects and a pilot project in the future is now looking likely;
- At Wilton, rhododendron removal has taken place over two work meets in collaboration between climbers and the Bolton Conservation Volunteers;
- A draft woodland management plan for Harrison's Rocks has been drawn up and is in the process of being approved by the Forestry Commission;
- The BMC has attended several coastal access meetings around the country to inform Natural England of climbing in coastal areas in preparation for the new coastal access rights;
- We have compiled BMC evidence on the landowners' objections to the coastal access report at Weymouth Bay (Lulworth Cove area) and attended a public hearing;
- Attended the Vixen Tor public inquiry into the creation of several new paths around the Tor;
- Negotiated limited access to previously banned Barmouth quarry in mid-Wales;
- Negotiated access restrictions at Moel y Gest quarry, Tremadog;
- Held meetings with the RSPB to review access restrictions at Gogarth and other Anglesey crags;
- Project managed the BMC element of the "Mountain Info" project aimed at giving hill users in Wales access to up to date safety, weather and ground conditions information – a joint project with the Met Office, MLTW, Sport Wales, Snowdonia National Park and Plas y Brenin;
- Produced report with Ramblers Wales, Cardiff University and CCW on the Economic Value of Walking and Hill Walking to Wales.

## 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 McMorrin

Dick Peart

Mike Raine

Joe Roberts

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  
Kevin Gray  
Tony Greaves  
Peter Latimer  
Bob Lowe  
Ken Taylor

## Land Management Group

**The BMC's Land Management Group exists to advise the BMC and oversee the management and day to day running of all outdoor climbing sites that are owned or leased by the BMC or where the BMC has a formal management or insurance responsibility. There are currently over 11 such sites under BMC management. The group also advises the BMC on the implications and future obligations of any proposed new acquisitions or sites.**

The group is made up of volunteers with specific expertise and experience in land management, land law and conservation management, and meets formally twice a year. In 2011 the Land Management Group was involved in a wide range of issues in managing BMC owned crags.

This included ensuring annual site inspections and site risk assessments are now completed for all BMC owned/managed sites. All the urgent works identified in the site inspections were completed at BMC owned managed sites – inc. woodland works and new signage at Bwlch y Moch, path management works at Tremadog, rhododendron and other invasive plants removal at Wilton, roadside dangerous trees removal work at Horseshoe, tree management works of a large dangerous tree overhanging the railway at Harrison's and similar works identified at Alderly.

As a direct consequence of its management of two sites, formal certified recognition was received from Natural England that the SSSI at Horseshoe Quarry is in a defined "good favourable conservation condition", and that Stone Farm Rocks (also an SSSI) is also in "favourable" condition

Considerable advice and support was given to initiatives in Leicestershire to develop redundant and disused quarries as climbing venues, including presenting at a major conference involving planning authorities, H&S executive, conservation bodies and representatives from the quarrying industry.

At Harrison's Rocks, a Forestry Commission backed five-year woodland management plan is near to completion, led by the Harrison's Rocks Management Group. This will enable both essential work (woodland management and fencing) and to improve access to be funded over the next five years.

Also at Harrison's the LMG oversaw the expenditure (and income element) of Land & Property Trust at Harrison's. This is by far the most financially complex of all BMC owned and managed sites, and involves the direct management of a paying car-park, a campsite and toilet/ablution block, as well as paying for a

contractor (the most substantial cost) to provide on-site wardening.

New local management groups were established at Bwlch y Moch and Pothole, and officer support given to the existing groups at Harrison's and Wilton. These local groups are invaluable as both a sounding board for BMC management of these sites and to provide local volunteer input to the day-to-day management of the sites.

A process was implemented for a formal system for inspecting and managing "dangerous trees" on the BMC's owned/managed sites, a necessity for protecting the BMC's reputation and finances following a number of high profile fatal accidents and subsequent criminal and civil actions against other landowners at various sites in the UK.

There was ongoing dialogue with First Hydro over the future management and possible lease of Dal's Hole area at Llanberis slate quarry, although it's currently unlikely that this will proceed due to complex legal issues.

In 2012 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)
Henry Folkard	
Bob Moulton	
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 2011, with an average attendance of eight, there were also several meetings regarding the BMC Climbing Wall Essentials DVD. Many local issues were also discussed by email.

## Key Achievements and Outputs for 2011

- New Climbing Wall Directory (published Oct 2011).
- Rob Adie advised on numerous wall projects, ranging from school traversing walls to major dedicated centres including Plymouth Life Centre, Loughborough University, Derby City Council, Southampton University, Mytholmroyd Community Centre and many others.
- BMC Climbing Walls Essentials DVD completed, now out on hard copy dvd and available for download.
- Climbing Walls section of BMC website continually updated.
- Produced a new set of wall signs – Check Your

Knot, Check Your Harness and Holds May Spin – these are proving very popular on BMC online shop.

- Updated BMC wall database with new walls and more accurate contact details.
- Started work on looking at data from Climbing Wall Accident Database.
- Collaborated with ABCTT on the development of NICAS into the GCSE syllabi and the development of NIBAS.
- Assisted with new website development to maximise wall information content and visibility.
- Converted BMC Climbing Wall Manual into downloadable format in BMC online shop.
- Assisted with AMI Technical Advisors Workshop.

## Forward Plan 2012

- BMC Climbing Wall Directory, Oct 2012.
- RA to continue advising on potential wall projects.
- Continued collaboration with ABC and ABCTT on NICAS
- Develop BMC climbing accident reporting database, including the production of data analysis reports.
- Develop website content for climbing walls section.
- Push Climbing Wall Essentials DVD sales in walls in the UK and abroad.
- Review walls signs and posters to raise climber awareness at walls and try and reduce accidents.
- Climbing Wall Managers Seminar – aimed at small/school walls – October 2012.
- Development of interactive online climbing wall database using the new database and new BMC website when they arrive.
- Continue development of English National Training Centre idea, exploring possible avenues that present themselves.
- Raise BMC profile at climbing walls to show members they are getting value for money.

## Climbing Wall Committee

Nick Bond	(Chair)
Robert Adie	(Secretary/BMC staff)
Audrey Seguy	(Exec Rep)
Damon Clark	
Ian Dunn	
Mark Goodings	
Mark Hounslea	
Gary Lewis	
Jon Ratcliffe	
Jonathan Richardson	
Claudia Sarner	
Steve Taylor	

## Observers

Guy Jarvis  
Steve Mayers  
Tom O'Rourke  
Andy Reid

## Paper Members

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

## Clubs

by Rob Greaves, Chair

**We carried out two online surveys this year, one of general clubs and one of student clubs. Each had a 40% response rate so the responses give a reliable picture of the nature and organization of affiliated clubs. The practical outcomes were for us to organise the Clubs Seminar which was held at Plas y Brenin in October, various training events and the imminent creation of a student forum on the BMC website.**

Training is a high priority for clubs, both for novice and for experienced club members. The committee organised a weekend workshop at Plas y Brenin to support good practice of clubs and their members who offer training to novices, both climbers and walkers. The format was successful and the course is being repeated this year in May. Training weekends for experienced club members in Navigation, Winter Skills, First Aid and Expedition Planning are ongoing. These are being held in huts at various locations in the UK.

The Clubs Seminar addressed the legal responsibilities of club committees, civil liability insurance, running effective meetings and recruitment of members.

Committee members have contributed to the development of the Loan Scheme, to advice about Incorporation and other legal structures and have considered but not supported a Direct Debit scheme for club subscriptions run centrally by the BMC. We shall shortly be issuing guidance on how prospective members of clubs can get civil liability cover if the admission process lasts more than three months.

### Clubs Committee

Rob Greaves	(Chair)
Martin Kocsis	(Secretary / BMC Staff)
Tom Bond	
David Brown	
Martin Dale	
Paul Exley	
John Farrow	
Stewart Moody	
Fiona Sanders	
Richard Toon	
Tony Williams	
Will Wykes	

### Paper Members

All BMC affiliated clubs	
Iain MacCallum	(Huts Group Chair)

## Competition Climbing

**As the UK competition scene goes from strength to strength, with team members achieving some fantastic results both at home and internationally, the future is bright for competition climbing within the BMC, especially as we move towards competition climbing becoming an Olympic Sport.**

The volunteers that make all this happen are still doing a fantastic job, with special thanks going to Iain McKenzie – chair of the BMC Competitions

Committee for all the work he has done on the very popular Psyched! newsletter and the new British Team website. Also the British Team's management of Ian Dunn, Ruth Dunne (Lead) and Nick Clement and Tom Sugden (Bouldering) who have all given up a huge amount of their own time this year and continue to work incredibly hard with all the other volunteer judges, belayers and helpers who make the competitions the amazing events that they are.

The Competitions Committee met five times in 2011 with an average attendance of eleven.

### Key Achievements & Outputs for 2011

- Junior Team results include high placings for many team members notably: Ed Hamer 2nd at World Youth Championships, Imst! Currently ranked 4th in the World, made finals in every European Youth Cup in 2011 with a top place of 2nd, finishing 4th overall. Molly Thompson Smith 8th at World Youth Championships (second ever international), ranked 9th in the World, best place at EYC – 6th. Tara Hayes 6th at EYC, Edinburgh (first ever international), ranked 15th in the World. Buster Martin 11th at EYC, Bulgaria (first ever international), ranked 17th in the World. Many other team members climbing well and winning national events in their categories.
- Angus Davidson was awarded with the OCS – Sport Aid – Young Star Award and Molly Thompson-Smith was nominated for the BBC Young Sports Personality of the Year 2011.
- Successfully ran BLCC, and BBC, the Leading Ladder, the IFSC European Youth Cup in Lead & Speed at EICA, 2 x Open Youth Events and ran the BMC CYCS.
- Ran British Speed Climbing Championships on official IFSC speed wall, according to IFSC speed rules.
- Ran two disability climbing competitions at Climb Rochdale.
- Ran numerous Training days for Junior Team (national and regional training trips, and crag based training included safety related training where needed).
- Ran numerous Training days for Senior Bouldering Team.
- Bouldering team very successful, notably: Stewart Watson 9th at World Championships, Arco, currently ranked 15th in the World. Dave Barrans 6th at World Cup, Eindhoven, currently ranked 28th in the World. Shauna Coxsey 4th at World Cup, Munich, (second ever Senior world cup – 8th in first at Sheffield), currently ranked 23rd in the World. Dianne Merrick 7th at World Cup, Sheffield, currently ranked 28th in World. 9 climbers made semis (6 women, 3 men) in Sheffield IFSC World Cup, with the British Team finishing 3rd overall. The British Bouldering team are now ranked 8th in the World (9th last year). Nathan Phillips 8th in first EYC bouldering, Munich.
- Team Trials took place in December for the junior team, and team trials for the seniors and boulderers were at the BLCC and BBC respectively.
- Organised Senior Team training day.
- Administered Team travel and entry to

international events.

- Continued the production of Psyched!, a competition specific Newsletter.
- Organised the new GB Climbing Team website.
- Organised sponsorship deals for DMM to supply prizes to all BMC competitions.
- Organised a student studying a Masters in Business and Marketing to partake in a Work Placement at the BMC to focus on raising sponsorship for the teams and promoting BMC competitions.
- Organised the online application process for entering competitions online on the BMC website – first used with the BLCC and BSCC – great success and will now be used with all other comps.
- Revitalising the Senior Lead Team – a senior team training was organised with many high level climbers invited, although attendance was poor, we continue to try and push the senior team forward with junior and senior team members competing at the Senior World Cup in Kranj.
- Restructured the age categories to come into line with IFSC categories, in the Youth Climbing Series.
- Bouldering team have continued working closely with sports scientists at Teeside University, to bring a more scientific approach to the team training.
- Ran successful national route setting course.

### Forward Plan for 2012

- Run BLCC, BBC, Open Youth Competitions, IFSC European Youth Cup, Leading Ladder and Youth Climbing Series.
- Raise the profile of the British Team and seek external funding to support their efforts, through the work placement student.
- Assist with BMC CYCS with expanded categories.
- Run Team training sessions.
- Administer Team travel and entry to international events.
- Assist with the development of the upcoming International competitions to be held in the UK in the coming years.
- Look at the introducing a junior bouldering team, adding two youth bouldering events to calendar and adjusting the BBC categories to allow fair team selection.
- Focus on raising finance/sponsorship for British Teams.
- Setup a series of Disability climbing competitions and a run a disability competition workshop.
- Continue work with the MCoF on the GB team partnership agreement.

### Senior Bouldering Team

Dave Barrans	Shauna Coxsey
Ned Feehally	Helen Haldenby
James Garden	Mina Leslie-Wujastyk
Ed Hamer	Diane Merrick
Tyler Landman	Gill Peet
Gaz Parry	Katy Whittaker
Jon Partridge	
Nathan Phillips	
Adam Watson	
Stewart Watson	

## Bouldering Support Team

Nick Clement	(Team Manager)
Tom Sugden	(Assistant Manager)
Gaz Parry	(Team Adviser)
Dominic White MSc	(Sports Scientist)
Rebecca Dent	(Sports Nutritionist)
Vikki Cassell	(Sports Psychologist)
Rick Webber	(Physiotherapist)
Dave Mason	(Coach)

## Junior Team

Luke Tilley	(Team Captain)
Tom Bonnert	
William Bosi	Rachel Carr
Connor Byrne	Charlotte Garden
Angus Davidson	Tara Hayes
Jonathan Field	Eleanor Hopkins
Jack Graham	Gracie Martin
Buster Martin	Sarah Pashley
Jim Pope	Hannah Slaney
Billy Ridal	Molly Thompson Smith
Jonny Stocking	Flo Tilley
David Taylor	Kitty Wallace
Dominic Vincent	
Alex Waterhouse	
Jonny White	

## Senior Lead Team

Ed Hamer	Natalie Berry
Jonathan Stocking	Karen Varga
Luke Tilley	

## Lead Support Team

Ian Dunn	(Team Manager)
Karen Varga	(Assistant Team Manager)

## 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.”**

In 2011 the Equity Steering Group (ESG) continued its efforts to achieve the aims stated above by carrying out some of the plans made last year, evaluating the results and making new plans accordingly.

On the subject of ethnic minorities, an Equity Symposium was held over a weekend in March at Plas y Brenin. The Symposium was intended to investigate perceived barriers to participation in outdoor sports among ethnic minority groups. The subjects of the study, from Oldham and Rochdale, provided information by filling in questionnaires and by group discussions after taking part in various climbing and walking sessions. Fortunately they seemed to enjoy the whole process. Other achievements of the year include support for Walking Group Leader training for a pilot group from Bradford.

On the disability front, the long-awaited handbook Walking for All was published after much feedback from committee members with the relevant expertise. Members of the ESG also contributed to disability awareness training and supported two successful paraclimbing competitions. Plans for the next year include increasing this to three competitions, as well as sending at least one climber to the Paraclimbing World Championships.

The Women’s Climbing Symposium organised by Shauna Coxsey was partly supported by the BMC. Feedback from the event suggests that it was interesting and helpful to many participants and that if another such event is held next year, it would be well worth our continued support.

The BMC continues its policy of showing reasonable proportions of climbers and walkers from less-represented groups in its publications. More specifically, several articles on equity issues were published on the BMC website, and work continues on similar articles for publication in the general media. Also planned for next year is a systematic literature search for previous work on barriers to minority participation in outdoors sports, with a view to making our efforts more efficient and effective.

This year Rehan Siddiqui stepped down as Chair after his sterling work of the last four years. Other stalwarts of the ESG have retired to paper member status due to other commitments, and a few new people have expressed an interest and actually joined, so hopefully we shall be in good shape to continue working towards the aims above.

## Equity Steering Group

Kamala Sen	(Chair)
Nick Colton	(Secretary/BMC Deputy CEO)
Rehan Siddiqui	
Bob Moulton	
Mohammed Ziarat	
John Crosbie	
Fida Hussain	
Graeme Hill	
Fredelina Yong	

## Paper Members

Kabeer Bostan	
Adnan Zaman	
Bill Renshaw	
Ken Wilson	
Andy Say	(MLTE)
Iain McKenzie	
Karen Darke	
Marcus Drummond	
Trevor Massiah	
Tim Marshall	
Dalvinder Sohni	
Jamie Andrew	

## Guidebooks

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

Over The Moors: Moorland Grit: 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 virtually complete and in final stages of proofing. It is envisaged that the final page count will be c. 650. 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. 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. The book will be in the shops for Spring 2012.

Sandstone: Merseyside and Cheshire: This project is now also almost at fruition with mainly the task of final proofing to finish the book remaining. Sandstone: Merseyside and Cheshire has been an experiment in outsourcing the production aspects of the book to an outside designer. This method, while still requiring a significant input of office time on photographic and coordination tasks, has been highly successful and the final product is set to be a stunning book. This book will fill a large gap and should sell well. The book should be in the shops by Summer 2012.

Peak District Limestone: With the main Grit guide series now almost 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 for this 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. It is envisaged that this task should be completed during the spring of 2012 before the trees come into leaf. All in all, the Peak limestone project is now in a very advanced stage.

### Guidebook Committee

Ian Carr (Chair)  
Niall Grimes (Secretary/BMC staff)  
Les Ainsworth  
Martin Kocsis  
David Lanceley  
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 2011 to discuss current issues and to review matters relating to the Don Whillans Memorial Hut (DWMH) (for which the BMC holds the lease) and the Alex MacIntyre (AMMH) and Glen Brittle (GBMH) Huts which are held in trusts for members of the BMC and MCofS.

During the year the Group advised affiliated clubs and their members about the following matters: New regulations for Small Sewage Discharges; Community amateur sports clubs (CASCs), tax savings and registration with HMRC, and the constitutional problems which CASCs may pose for clubs; Civil liability insurance and cover for trustees; Health and safety issues, inspections of hut electrical systems; Fire safety problems; Inspections by trading standards officers; Property issues – taxation, leases and purchase of property, access problems; Drug taking in huts; Training for hut custodians.

The Group liaises closely with the MCofS Huts Advisory Group (HAG) on matters of common interest. In conjunction with HAG, we have produced fourteen guidelines to assist hut operators. These guidelines are available on the BMC website. A new Guideline G16 Small Sewage Discharges in England & Wales has been produced to help clubs to comply with the new Environmental Permitting Regulations (E&W) 2010. All the current guidelines with the exception of G11 Safeguarding Children in Mountain Huts have been reviewed and revised where necessary to ensure that they comply with current legal and user requirements. A new Guideline G14 Energy Saving and Going Green has been prepared.

The AMMH Management Agreement was amended to make it clear that all surplus monies will be ploughed back into the hut. Highlands Council then agreed to waive the business rates due to be levied on the hut.

The Group's Chair attended meetings of the AMMH and DWMH Hut Committees. He acts as

Secretary for the AMMH Hut Committee and is a Trustee of AMMH 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 try 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.

We shall review and update the Guideline -Safeguarding Children in Mountain Huts when the Home Secretary's review of the Vetting and Barring Scheme has been completed. In conjunction with the MCofS (HAG) we shall prepare guidelines to cover Employers' Liability insurance and Drying Rooms.

The Group is planning the Eighth Huts Seminar which will be held at Plas y Brenin in October 2012. Topics may include civil liability and hut insurance, small sewage discharges, leases.

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.

### Huts Group

Iain McCallum (Chair)  
Martin Kocsis (Secretary/BMC Staff)  
Nigel Charlesworth  
Lyndon Gill  
Robert Greaves  
Ken Jackson  
John Leftley  
Michael Hunt  
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 2011

- Grant aid and support to five overseas expeditions, and approval of another seven.
- Making the second Julie Tullis Memorial Award, and recommending the first Jeremy Willson award.
- Holding a successful international rock climbing meet in May in North Wales.
- 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 eight overseas expeditions, and gave our approval to an additional seven. Of the eight allocated grants, only five were actually given, as two expeditions were obliged to cancel, and another one achieved sufficient funding from elsewhere, and did not need our money. The five grants given totalled £6,450.

The venues for these trips were spread over most regions of the planet, including Nepal, Kyrgyzstan, Alaska, the Peruvian Andes, Antarctica, Papua New Guinea, and the Atlas mountains in winter. Notable among these was the multi-day first ascent of Gojung (c. 6300m) in Western Nepal, which was made via a difficult couloir on its west face. Another multi-day effort was the addition of a hard mixed route on the north buttress of Alaska's Mount Hunter.

A different party made a possible new route on the N.E. face of Mount Geist in a less familiar part of Alaska, the Hayes range. Two parties visited less well-known ranges of Peru; one of these went to the Cordillera Carabaya and made the first ascent of the serious south face of Chichiapac; the other party did the first ascent of another south face, that of Hurancayo Sur in the Cordillera Oriental.

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 2011, this was co-hosted by the BMC and the Climbers' Club, and based at Ynys Ettws, the CC hut in Llanberis Pass. 32 guests from 22 countries attended, and these were teamed up with a similar number of British hosts. Much of the weather in the pass was disappointingly wet (no surprise there), but the enthusiasm of the guests could not be ignored, and the hosts were well versed in crag selection for rain-avoidance. These tactics were used to great effect, with visits to Gogarth, Tremadog, the Ormes, Lleyl and Dinorwig slate. The weather did occasionally relent allowing briefer climbing on the north side of the pass

and in Ogwen. Climbing took place every day, with large numbers of routes being climbed, ranging in grade from Diff to E7. In spite of imperfect weather, all the guests were active and seemed to enjoy the meet tremendously. Some of them had no prior experience of trad climbing – for them it was something of an eye-opener. For 2012, the programme is for a winter climbing meet at Glenmore Lodge. As this is written, the meet has already taken place. Reports say it was a great success. More details will be given in the 2012 report.

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 the newly inaugurated UIAA Expeditions working group, and liaises with the Alpine Club as a fellow UIAA member.

In 2011, the Committee had one full meeting (in March at the BMC offices in Manchester), and in addition, had an email conference in November to consider early expedition grant applications.

### International Committee

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

### Paper Members

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

### Technical

**The BMC Technical Committee met five times in 2011, with an average attendance of nine. Kunal Masania joined the Equipment Investigation Panel (EIP), Heather Morning replaced Roger Wild as the MCofS paper member. George Steele stood down from the committee after almost 40 years service, but will remain a paper member.**

In April 2011 at the BMC Annual Dinner, Neville McMillan and George Steele became the first recipients of the George Band Award for Exceptional Voluntary Contribution; between them they have given over 60 years of service to the BMC Technical Committee. George Band was a member of the 1953 Everest expedition, and a longstanding supporter of the BMC including a term as BMC President from 1996 to 1999. He passed away in August 2011.

Key achievements for 2011 included the publishing of four Tech Skills articles in Summit magazine. Three Equipment Incident Reports were completed and published online, along with several other articles and news items. A purpose built portable equipment tester was purchased, ready to be used for area meetings and other events.

The annual Student Seminar included a workshop on equipment care and maintenance, with the aid of DMM. The Better Bolts Campaign continued with further donations to local bolt funds across the regions. An M.Eng project commenced under the supervision of Prof. Bill Stronge, investigating "Performance of abseil/belay devices."

Rob Foster represents the BSITechnical Committee SW136/5 at CENTC136/WG5 Mountaineering Equipment, and represents the BMC at the UIAA Safety Commission. This ensures that a British perspective is included when standards for equipment are drawn up or revised. Ben Lyon is Chairman of SW136/5. Fred Hall attends CENTC136/WG5 as a manufacturer. After many years service, Neville McMillan has stood down from both SW136/5 and the UIAA SafCom, but continues to advise informally.

The plan for 2012 is to continue to publish technical advice and reports through Summit and the BMC website. Advice guides to knots and ropes will be published in e-book format, and the helmet guide will be converted into an e-book. An equipment advice section will be included in the forthcoming Rock Climbing Essentials DVD.

In 2012 the BMC will run a helmet campaign, the aim of which is to raise awareness about helmets. The portable tester will be used to run informal educational seminars at area meetings and other events, and an equipment workshop will be run at the annual Student Seminar. Bolt workshops will be run in any areas which request them. Standards work and representation will continue both at the CEN working group and the UIAA SafCom.

### Technical Committee

Oliver Milling	(Chair)
Dan Middleton	(Secretary/BMC staff)
Scott Titt	(Exec Rep)
George Steele	
Neville McMillan	
Alan Huyton	
Ben Lyon	
Rob Foster	
Stu McAleese	(Plas y Brenin)

### Equipment Investigation Panel

Fred Hall	
Steve Long	(MLTUK)
Jane Blackford	
Richard Terrell	(MRC)
Mark Taylor	
Phillip Tootill	
Dan Robinson	(AMI)
Virgil Scott	
Megan Hadley	
Bill Stronge	
Kunal Masania	

### Paper Members

Nick Williams	(BCA)
Petra Ernst	
Paul Seddon	
Mike Margeson	(MRC)
Heather Morning	(MCofS)
Rob Allen	
Dave Brook	
Trevor Hellen	
Jim Titt	

### Training & Youth

**The Training & Youth Committee (TYC) had a productive year. The first ever BMC Coaching Symposium was a great success, the Youth Climbing Series continues to be the BMC's largest event with over 500 young climbers competing, and almost 100 students attended the annual Student Safety and Good Practice Seminar.**

### BMC Youth Climbing Series

Proving as popular as ever, the series was made possible by the dedication of the BMC Area Youth Coordinators (AYCs), the many volunteers, and the hosting climbing walls. The MCofS organises the rounds in Scotland. Those who did best in the British and Irish rounds then competed in the National Final, held at the Wolf Mountain in Wolverhampton. There was a festival feel to the final, with Wolf Mountain pulling all the stops out to make an excellent weekend of the event.

It was decided to change the age categories from three three-year ones to five two-year ones for 2012, bringing the banding in line with international competition categories, and helping to reduce the difference between the youngest and oldest competitors in any one age band.

### BMC National Academy

With the help of Sport England funding, six training days were organised last year, drawing talent from the Youth Climbing Series and nominations from Area Youth Coordinators. National Academies were held in Derby, Kendal, Milton Keynes, Newcastle, Reading and Sheffield. 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.

The National Academies have developed a lot since being piloted in 2007. Dedicated coach training for those working at the events was delivered in September.

### BMC FUNDamentals of Climbing Workshops

These popular events continued and work began on a third workshop, looking at the fundamentals of physical training, which will be launched in 2012.

### BMC Student Safety and Good Practice Seminar

Over 30 volunteers delivered good practice talks and practical workshops to almost 100 student representatives. Hosted by Plas y Brenin, this event is in its eighteenth 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 a second year; the same team will be touring the country again in 2012. The BMC Alpine Lectures, sponsored by Berghaus, will be touring in May and June 2012 and will this time be delivered by BMG Guide Tim Neill and seasoned pro Nick Bullock.

### BMC Rock Climbing Masterclasses

Lucy Creamer delivered these workshops for a final year. They again proved a great hit, with many dates selling out very quickly. Naomi Buys will be taking up the reins in 2012.

### BMC Coaching Symposium

Over 60 coaches descended upon Plas y Brenin for the BMC's first ever 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 the early 20's to the late 50's. With many other people still wishing to attend once the symposium was full, a second symposium is planned for 2012 and will be held at Calshot Activities Centre on the south coast.

### Other work

TYC discussed a range of other issues at its five meetings including the coaching system, the hill skills courses being developed by Mountain Leader Training, and the use of fingerboards for training by under-18s. TYC also oversees the BMC Child Safeguarding Group. In a bid to reduce committee costs TYC decided to move to four meetings a year in 2012, which was felt would not impact upon the effectiveness of the committee.

### Training & Youth Committee

Andy Newton (Chair)  
 Jon Garside (Secretary/BMC staff)  
 Christian Lund (Exec Rep)  
 Ed Allaway  
 Anne Arran  
 Martin Chester  
 Nick Colton  
 Mal Creasey  
 Mark Dennison  
 Mark Dicken  
 Ian Dunn  
 Ian Fenton  
 Tim Hogan  
 Adrian Japp  
 Mike Margeson  
 Mike Rosser  
 John Simpson  
 Jon Wilson

### Paper Members

Dave Binney      Iain Blanche  
 Angela Carlin    Anne Chevalier  
 Aaron Cox        David Farrell  
 John Gibbons    Tina Heselden  
 Kevin Howett    Sam Johnson  
 Heather Morning   Ifan Roberts  
 Andy Say         Paul Smith  
 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 2011 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 achieved the Advanced Standard of the Child Protection in Sport Unit's Standards for Safeguarding and Protecting in Children in Sport.

### Child Safeguarding Committee

Christine Scarborough (Chair)  
 Nick Colton (Secretary/BMC staff)  
 Mike Coxsey  
 Shauna Coxsey (Junior Climbing Team Member)  
 Iain McCallum

### Paper Members

Mark Alderson  
 Dave Binney  
 Matthew Brown  
 Dick Green

# Areas

## Lake District

**The fourth Lakes Festival of Climbing successfully came and went with numbers similar to the first three events, thanks to the efforts of a friendly and efficient team based out of Kendal. The Festival is now firmly fixed in the minds of many climbers as an annual event...the best sign of success.**

Attendances and involvement have been good and the area meetings are consequently sociable and interesting affairs. The access team under Peter Latimer's leadership has been hard at work ensuring fair access for walkers and climbers throughout the nesting season, and the meetings as a whole have dealt with various ethical conundrums. Access disputes at crags such as Fairy Steps (an important local resource) have been faced up to. The Lakes Bolt Fund is a significant part of the area activity, spearheaded by Dan Robinson and Ron Kenyon. It has made great strides in the rebolting of St Bees in the last 12 months. A Winter Ethics Debate in November (in a brewery), organised by Steve Scott, was a roaring success with over 100 local climbers contributing to the event. It made progress towards a sustainable set of guidelines to protect the natural environment. Area meetings are at the four points of the compass in order to involve as many people as possible. See you at one of the meetings, or at the Lakes Festival in mid June.

### Lake District Area Notes

4 meetings, average attendance: 17

- Chair: Ewen Turner
- Secretary: James Bumby
- National Council Representatives: Steve Scott, Polly Sullivan
- Access & Conservation: Cumbria Co-ordinator – Peter Latimer; Borrowdale & Thirlmere – John Burrows; Coniston – 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	2010	2011
No. of clubs in the area	8	8
With club membership of	691	662
Share of national clubs	357	334
Individual members	1,601	1,630
Total members in area	2,649	2,626

## London & South East

**The Area had three meetings in 2011, down from four last year due to a disastrous triple booking by our usual venue. In fact, the pattern of disaster was repeated a couple of times in the year too, with our outdoor meet to Harrison's cancelled by the wettest weekend of the year!**

As a result, the area was relatively quiet this year; average attendance was steady at 26, but far

from the heights of previous years. Planning is afoot for a much more involved scene during 2012 however, including plans for two outdoor meets, and a move to using the Alpine's Club's London HQ as our regular venue.

On other fronts, the youth events continued to be well attended and 2011 was a year for several new walls - with more of these coming up in 2012 too!

## London and South East Area Notes

3 meetings, average attendance: 26

- Chair: Christian Lund
- Secretary: Elizabeth Holley
- National Council Representatives: Christian Lund, Vic Odell
- 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	2010	2011
No. of clubs in the area	91	91
With club membership of	4,989	4,786
Share of national clubs	2,578	2,418
Individual members	15,268	15,357
Total members in area	22,835	22,561

## Midlands

**A symposium on the recreational use of quarries in Leicestershire was held in March 2011 at County Hall Leicester, organised by Leicestershire County Council, and sponsored by the council, all the major quarrying companies and the BMC.**

The event brought together Head of Leicestershire Planning, the Chief Executive of the BMC, explosives, blasting, access, quarry law, quarry restoration experts, as well as interest groups including naturalists and geologists. The authority displayed by those speaking in the morning sessions caused all those present to take the issue very seriously. Everybody learned something.

In particular Geoff Mason presented the coherent and ambitious Vision and this was reinforced by authoritative presentations by BMC representatives. In particular Elfyn Jones made a very informative presentation on access for climbers in quarries re. the Occupiers' Liability Acts and owners' liabilities. Henry Folkard's explanation of the BMC's experience in managing its own quarries was fascinating and illuminating and underlined the BMC's commitment and credibility.

Some conclusions were agreed. Quarry companies have to restore quarries at the end of their lives. Imaginative and attractive restorations either for naturalist purposes or for climbing and recreational venues were presented by Lafarge Aggregates and Henry Folkard (Horseshoe Quarry).

Hardrock quarries, such as those in Leicestershire, are clearly far more intractable than limestone or shale and clay quarries. Quarrying techniques and face stabilisation to leave the quarries in as safe a place as possible were deeply

discussed. Restoration concurrent with extraction was recognised as a method of face stabilisation.

## Llanymynech Quarry & Rocks

The BMC's Access Officer Elfyn Jones had talks with Shropshire Wildlife Trust who manage the site, with the intent of reinstating access to some of the significant sport climbing areas. However, two pairs of peregrines trying to nest in the area have restricted access again, especially to the classic Black Wall and the steeply impressive Red Wall areas, Details are on the Regional Access Database (RAD).

## Earl's Hill at Pontesbury

The Wrekin club undertook a day of Crag Restoration here early in February, cleaning and restoring the area known as the Fifty Foot Wall; this is the lower part of the crag that you walk under when first approaching the rocks up the scree path, and it acts as a lead-in to a couple of classy VSs higher up (Epiglottis, Varsity Buttress) that had become badly overgrown through disuse in recent years. That's now been rectified.

The peregrines have returned to the crag this year, and after some discussions with the Wildlife Trust and the Shrops Peregrine Group, climbers were asked to avoid three specific routes on the main part of the rocks, and the nearby descent gully that we cleared on the restoration day until the birds had fledged by late June. Signage on site and details were posted on the RAD.

## Youth

Big thanks to Midlands Youth Officer Iain Blanch for all his work in making the youth indoor climbing so successful. 100 young people have taken part in the Midlands Youth Climbing Series and the BMC Youth Climbing Series National Final was at Wolf Mountain, Wolverhampton, on the 24th June.

## Midlands Area Notes

4 meetings, average attendance: 18

- 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: Ed Proctor (to Sep 2011), Stewart Moody (from Nov 2011)
- Youth Co-ordinator: Iain Blanch

Members	2010	2011
No. of clubs in the area	38	39
With club membership of	2,130	2,181
Share of national clubs	1,100	1,102
Individual members	5,008	5,042
Total members in area	8,238	8,325

## North East

**No major issues have occurred in the North East Area, the region is ticking over nicely and climbers are enjoying the crags, hills, boulders and indoor walls. Historically the main clubs in the area are the Cleveland Mountaineering Club (CMC), the**

## Northumbrian Mountaineering Club (NMC), Wanney's Climbing Club and the Swaledale Outdoor Club (SOC).

The CMC is Middlesbrough based, with summer Tuesday evening meets mostly on the North Yorkshire Moors. The crags here are mostly sandstone with a couple of Jurassic limestone cliffs for adventure. In winter indoor wall meets are often at Rock Antics in Newton Aycliffe, although a few hardy CMC climbers go winter night 'tooling' on the Moors rather than the indoor wall. They usually find semi-frozen mud, loose rock, turf and heather although recently it has been frozen turf, snow and ice.

The NMC is Tyneside based with summer Wednesday evening meets on Northumberland sandstone crags, with the odd foray to the Whin Sill Dolerite of Crag Lough. Winter sees wall action in the Tyneside area with either a local school wall or the excellent Newcastle Climbing Wall in a converted Byker Church. Another excellent Geordie training venue is Climb Newcastle, the dedicated bouldering venue.

Another significant club in the area, the SOC is a multi activity club i.e. not just a climbing club. It has a Richmond, North Yorkshire clubhouse and members from a wide area of the North of England (and further). The SOC climbing section has meets just like a climbing club, in summer Wednesday evening meets in the North Yorkshire area, crags on the North York Moors, North Pennines and Dales. In the winter months there are socials in the Richmond clubhouse and wall meets at Rock Antics Newton Aycliffe, Sunderland and Harrogate Climbing Centre.

Harrogate Climbing Wall is just outside our area in the BMC Yorkshire Area, but as it is easily accessible on the outskirts of Harrogate not far off the A1 it is frequently used by North East area climbers.

Thanks to all the volunteers and with no major access issues in the region everyone is looking forward to summer evening club meets.

## North East Area Notes

3 meetings, average attendance: 23

- Chair: Lloyd Murray
- Secretary: Lloyd Murray
- National Council Representatives: Lloyd Murray
- Access and Conservation: Durham & North York Moors – Peter Hay
- Climbing Walls Representative: Mark Goodings
- Clubs Representative: Malcolm Rowe
- Youth Co-ordinator: Ian Walton

Members	2010	2011
No. of clubs in the area	7	9
With club membership of	506	664
Share of national clubs	261	335
Individual members	1,851	1,834
Total members in area	2,618	2,833

## North West

**2011 has been another productive year for the NW area with a large number of climbers involved in work on key local crags. Meetings have continued to rotate around the area and attendances have varied. There is a sense that a lot of climbers in the North**

**West support and approve of what the area does and will often get involved in practical projects.**

**However, there were fewer climbers attending actual area meetings over the last year and this is a concern as it diminishes the authority with which the area can speak on matters of national policy. Perhaps the fact that our best attended meeting featured the Christmas quiz needs to be taken as an indicator that more effort is required to stimulate and entertain during meetings.**

On the positive side 2011 saw the first real progress at Hoghton Quarry, one of the finest grit crags in the North West. A succession of fairly intense cleaning days were undertaken by a very dedicated band of volunteers and lo! from behind the veil of moss, saplings and dirt Hoghton unveiled itself as the truly magnificent crag that it is. Most of the classic lines were back in good condition and saw many ascents with climbers travelling quite long distances to climb gems such as Mandarin, Rhododendron Buttress and Boadicea. Feedback on the internet about the work undertaken was very positive. It is hoped that the 'deep cleaning' that a lot of these lines saw in 2011 will make the job of tidying up routes for 2012 a great deal easier. Relationships with the Hoghton Estate remain positive although progress on further extending the available climbing season remains a work in progress. There is every prospect that with the continued support of existing volunteers and hopefully with some further recruits (go on, you know you want to) Hoghton will continue to be a major venue for North West climbers.

Similar good work has been undertaken by the Wilton Management Group who continue to improve the crag environment and the condition of routes. A number of access issues have arisen and been resolved with the gun club. It is probably fair to say that the leverage of owning a large part of the Wilton area has assisted the BMC in these discussions and has vindicated the original decision to purchase the crag in 2009.

Across the area as a whole the access situation has remained largely positive, particularly in relation to the major crags and we owe a debt to our access representatives, Les Ainsworth and Mark Hounlea, for the hard work they have put in.

Work on the latest editions of the Cheshire and Lancashire guidebooks rumbles on with drafts of both publications edging towards publication. It is perhaps disappointing that it has taken so long to complete these guides but we can say that the finished products are now likely to be comprehensive in scope and of the highest quality. Just don't ask me for the actual date when you will see them in the shops please.

Finally, as is traditional, I will conclude the Annual Report with an appeal to all climbers in our area to get involved with the BMC's work. Meetings really aren't that painful and volunteer work can bring a warm glow of self-righteous satisfaction as well as making a major difference to the quality of climbing we can all enjoy in the future. Hope to see you all out there in 2012.

## 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 Hounlea; Lancashire – Les Ainsworth
- Climbing Walls Representatives: Ian Dunn, Mark Hounlea
- Clubs Representative: Richard Toon
- Youth Co-ordinator: Tim Lloyd

Members	2010	2011
No. of clubs in the area	33	30
With club membership of	2,302	2,161
Share of national clubs	1,189	1,092
Individual members	5,899	5,622
Total members in area	9,390	8,875

## Peak District

**This year we have based our meetings at The Maynard Arms in Grindleford, with three meetings there and the regular pattern of a further meeting at Ramshaw and another in Glossop. All meetings have been very well attended, and as a result we will probably stick with this pattern of venues going forward.**

I think the reason that meetings have been so well attended is that this is a time of truly momentous change in Peak District climbing, brought about by the decision by the Peak District National Park Authority to conduct a review of the assets it owns and manages. The change in policy which resulted has seen the Authority begin disposing of many of the estates it previously managed, either by outright sale or long term lease.. When you consider that the estates in question are home to crags like The Roaches, Hen Cloud, Froggatt, Curbar and Stanage, then the significance of this to climbers really cannot be overstated.

To say this has kept our Access Reps busy is, however, definitely an understatement!

We have been fortunate to strike up alliances with some key players, in particular the National Trust and the RSPB, and this has already borne fruit on The Eastern Moors. Guests at Area Meetings during the year have included the current National Trust General Manager for the Peak, Jon Stewart, (as well as his predecessor) and the Manager of the Eastern Moors Partnership, Danny Udall.

In fact, there have been so many access issues in the Peak that we have taken to including a summary in the excellent Peak Area Newsletter, which is published a few days before each Area Meeting, as there simply isn't time to cover everything at the meetings. Contributions to future newsletters in the form of articles, profiles, photos or whatever you fancy are welcomed, and encouraged, by Martin Wass, who compiles the Newsletter.

Other topics debated during the year include Guidebooks, with tantalising glimpses of Over the Moors (allegedly imminent) and some useful

discussion on the format of the next limestone guide as well as the updating of the Peak bolting policy for inclusion in that book.

To round off the year, we had an enjoyable AGM featuring a tremendous, very challenging quiz from Adam Long and Jon Coe field. The usual suspects won, so we should be in for more of the same next year, so don't miss what traditionally is a memorable night out.

## Peak District Area Notes

5 meetings, average attendance: 59

- 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; Kinder, Bleaklow & Alport – Henry Folkard; Bouldering and Eastern Moors – Adam Long, Simon Jacques; Sheffield Area Grit – Trudi Materna, Julian Materna; Western Grit & Staffordshire – Andi Turner, Dave Bishop; Northern Limestone – Henry Folkard; Horseshoe & Aldery – Henry Folkard, Gary Sheppard; Southern Limestone – Chris Nunn; Dovedale & Manifold – Chris Nunn; Matlock Area – Reuben Brown
- Youth Co-ordinator: Mark Dennison
- Newsletter Editor: Martin Wass

Members	2010	2011
No. of clubs in the area	22	21
With club membership of	1,263	1,292
Share of national clubs	653	653
Individual members	3,287	3,523
Total members in area	5,203	5,468

## South West & Southern

**This has been a busy year in the South West Area. Despite only three meetings being held during the course of the year, there has been plenty going on behind the scenes. The big events of the year have taken place at opposite ends of the region.**

First was the West Cornish Bolt debate, held in April at Redruth School. Over 60 people attended, and a high-quality debate was held. The upshot of the meeting was an agreement to ban all new fixed protection on the sea cliffs and natural inland outcrops, and also to remove existing drilled protection. A working group to carry out this resolution was set up under the leadership of Shane Ohly.

A possible Avon Gorge Project proposal had been aired at several of the meetings this year, and after discussions with BMC HQ and meetings of local activists the proposal is to be presented by Martin Crocker at the January 2012 meeting.

Other activity has included:

- An Avon Gorge clearance in January. This built on work to clear scrub at the base of the Main Area cliffs, started a year earlier.
- Bird ringing in the Bristol and Somerset area.
- Replacement of belay stakes in Dorset, led by Scott Titt.

- BMC members, attending the Coastal Path Public Hearing in Lulworth to register objections to a proposed climbing ban between Durdle Door and Lulworth Cove. (Subsequently the climbing restrictions have been rejected).

Big thanks to Sam Mayfield who has been Area Secretary for three years and also NC rep. Thanks also to the other NC rep, Rich Mayfield. A huge thank-you to Steve Findlay who has been Avon access rep for very many years. All of them cite “spending more time abroad” as the reason for standing down. Hopefully this isn’t the start of some new trend in the South West. And last but not least, thanks to the BMC staff who’ve made the long trek SW to attend meetings, and all the meeting participants and access reps, without whose participation and dedication this huge area would not function.

## South West & Southern Area Notes

3 meetings, average attendance:23

- Chair: Jerzy Wiecezorek
- Secretary: Sam Mayfield
- National Council Representatives: Rich Mayfield, Sam Mayfield
- Access and Conservation: Bristol & Avon – Steve Findlay; Cheddar Gorge – Martin Crocker; Somerset & Mendips – Ian Butterworth; Wye Valley – Rick Seward; 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 Heselden

Members	2010	2011
No. of clubs in the area	24	24
With club membership of	1,520	1,632
Share of national clubs	785	825
Individual members	5,866	5,861
Total members in area	8,171	8,318

## Wales/Cymru

**2011 was another interesting year for BMC Wales/ Cymru and although meeting attendances dropped slightly versus 2010, there was still plenty of activity.**

The new area chair has settled in well and four meetings were held in the north: The Vaynol, Llanberis, The Old Station Hotel, Llandudno Junction, South Stack Café and a joint AGM/ Ordinary meeting at the Heights, Llanberis.

Lowest attendance was at South Stack, where the idea of climbing or walking before the meeting was ruined by dreadful weather; and the highest was 62 at the AGM, where Nick Bullock provided some excellent entertainment.

There were also three in the South (two in Cardiff and one in Swansea) as well as a very lively special meeting to discuss bolting and conservation on the Gower. Attendances ranged from four to 35.

In December an exploratory meeting was held in Mid Wales and with over 20 attendees it was decided that an outreach group was a viable proposition. This will run on a similar basis to South Wales.

Four issues of the bi-lingual newsletter have been published and this has continued to keep members informed as well as prompting discussion at meetings. The Facebook page continues to be a useful tool and the number of followers on Twitter has continued to rise.

There have been fewer major events this year, although the Gower Festival in September was another great success with over 30 people in attendance.

But major access gains have been made across the principality with the highlights being increased access at Pen Trwyn and the Orme on the north coast, increased access and a complete removal of the seasonal climbing restrictions at Mowing Word in Pembrokeshire and a some significant reductions in the seasonal climbing restrictions on Range East, also in Pembrokeshire.

Work in progress includes Dalí’s Hole, where the dialogue continues, and also a few access issues in some disused quarries in the South Wales Valleys north of Cardiff.

Concerns regarding the Nant y Moch wind farm development on Pumlumon continue to be aired but with the planning application delayed until spring 2012, it’s not been possible to lodge a response.

On the political front, a successful meeting was held with John Griffith AM, the Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development, where discussions included coastal access, the CROW act and development in the uplands. Plans are now afoot for a field visit by the minister during 2012.

## Wales/Cymru Area Notes

4 meetings (North), average attendance: 39

3 meetings (South), average attendance: 18

- Chair: Tom Hutton
- Secretary: Ray Wood
- National Council Representatives: Tom Hutton, Ray Wood, Stuart Llewellyn (South) (to be replaced by Gareth Tucker from Dec 2011)
- 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	2010	2011
No. of clubs in the area	15	18
With club membership of	1,298	1,352
Share of national clubs	671	683
Individual members	2,852	2,956
Total members in area	4,821	4,991

## Yorkshire

**Crag access in Yorkshire, especially on Limestone venues, became 2011’s major issue; with one outright ban (Foredale), landowner imposed complications at another (Blue Scar), a host of confusions at a series of minor venues (e.g. Feizor**

**Nick and Beggar’s Stile) and ongoing negotiations regarding new development at a now disused quarry. The reduction of Yorkshire Dales National Park (YDNP) funding and probable transference of access responsibilities to local authorities is expected to add to these problems into 2012, but it’s worth recognising the tireless behind-the-scenes work of the access reps dealing with these issues.**

On a more positive note about access – attempts by certain landowners to impose ‘voluntary’ additional restrictions have receded by the simple act of pointing out they went beyond what the CROW act permitted, and a good relationship continues with various local authorities regarding crag clean ups and tree felling (for example at Caley and Heptonstall respectively). With the latter, more scope for supporting volunteering exists, and will be discussed at forthcoming meetings.

In the background, work still continues on the forthcoming two-volume epic that will be the Yorkshire Gritstone guide.

Attempts by the Youth Officer to provide youth walking and climbing events were moderately successful, but suffered from limited participation (outside of a few ‘usual suspects’). It was conjectured that the advertising for these events wasn’t reaching the correct audience, an issue that will be revisited in 2012.

The area has become blessed with a profusion of climbing walls, mainly in or near the urban centres, with one major and one minor development opening in the last six months alone!

Given the area’s abundance of hill walking, it is gratifying to have the BMC’s first Hill Walking Local Area Volunteer in Yorkshire; and to note that Pateley Bridge hosted a very successful walking festival in September, a now annual event.

Generally the meetings were well attended, but the same usual faces, welcome though they are, need to be supplemented by new participants, so, as Chair I’m attempting to utilise resources like UKC and advertise into local climbing and walking clubs.

## Yorkshire Area Notes

4 meetings, average attendance: 20

- Chair: James Rowe
- Secretary: Deirdre Collier
- National Council Representatives: Deirdre Collier, Mick Johnson
- 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

Members	2010	2011
No. of clubs in the area	22	23
With club membership of	1,377	1,375
Share of national clubs	711	695
Individual members	3,466	3,433
Total members in area	5,554	5,503

# Trusts

## The BMC Access & Conservation Trust

**In 2011 the BMC restructured and relaunched its charity – the BMC Access & Conservation Trust (ACT) – which funds projects to protect our cliffs and mountains.**

The BMC is now raising the profile of the charity in order to help identify new projects to fund, and to generally boost support. ACT has helped fund worthwhile projects in the mountains for over 10 years, yet it is not widely recognised as the BMC's charity. It is hoped ACT's new identity (including a new logo and publicity material) plus a new online donation facility will make it easier for people to support its valuable work for years to come.

In 2011, eleven projects were supported. These have included the publication of the annual nesting restrictions poster and a contribution to a feasibility study for scoping green house gas emissions from the hill walking and climbing sector so we can investigate ways to reduce the sector's climate impact.

Similarly ACT has 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 on the Black Mountain which is in the western part of the Brecon Beacons National Park (to start in 2012).

The Trust is extremely grateful to all its supporters without whom none of its work would be possible. The Trust very much welcomes corporate donations and would like to acknowledge those from the Castle Climbing Centre, the Climbers' Club, the Yorkshire Mountaineering Club, the Northumbrian Mountaineering Club, Colchester Climbing Club, EAH Recycling, Mr R. Evans 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](http://www.thebmc.co.uk/act)

## Mountain Heritage Trust

**Mountain Heritage Trust (MHT) celebrated the end of its eleventh year with a hugely successful and enjoyable evening at the Royal Geographical Society entitled *Triumph and Tragedy on the Eiger*. Chris Bonington and Swiss speed climber, Ueli Steck, held an audience of over 700 spellbound for two hours as they each talked about their unique and personal experiences on the great North Wall. Nothing could have underlined the relevance of caring for mountaineering's great heritage more than hearing these two men speak of their role in the continuing history of Europe's most famous north face. This event, which raised over £10,000 for MHT through ticket sales and an auction, crowned a busy year during which MHT has sought to raise its profile and bring to a wider audience the value of the work we do.**

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. To help towards this we revamped and relaunched the MHT website in August - [www.mountain-heritage.org](http://www.mountain-heritage.org) - and the site has attracted considerable traffic. The first MHT newsletter was published on line in December and will appear half-yearly initially.

Two events at Kendal Mountain Festival gave us ample opportunity to present some material for handling and for visitors to seek advice from our highly qualified archivist, Maxine Willett. We were thrilled that visitors brought a variety of items, such as Bentley Beetham's watch from the 1924 Mount Everest Expedition. Links were established with the family of Charles Meade, the maker of a popular tent in its day. We were made aware of a large collection of mountaineering slides held locally and there were discussions concerning the climbing club local to Kendal, the K Fellfarers, as well as the Polaris Club. KMF also provided Maxine with an opportunity to receive artefacts from Stephen Venables, two Don Whillans audio tapes from Paul Diffley, further artefacts which two visitors brought down from Hamish MacInnes and lastly to learn that the Bullshit books (featuring Alex MacIntyre and his contemporaries from Leeds University) are safe in a private collection. MHT is pleased to report that Keswick Museum had been successful in its application to the Heritage Lottery Fund. Final details are still being worked out but it is expected that building work will commence in April 2012 with an opening for summer 2013 planned. MHT will be opening with an exhibition about Lakeland rock climbers to tie in with the Keswick link.

2011 saw donations of material from: Jim Curran (literary material); Derek Gamble (Peck Climbing Equipment); Peter Gilman (research papers); Barbara James (journal collection); Hamish MacInnes (prototype Terrodactyl and two oxygen cylinders used on Everest expeditions); Stephen Venables (crampons worn on Kishtwar Shivling and nailed boots worn by Sir Peter Holmes on Spiti); Ken Wilson (papers relating to unpublished novels and research papers together with a sizeable collection of mountaineering journals); Yvon Chouinard (his own Chouinard ice hammer used on the Diamond Couloir, Mount Kenya, 1975); Johnnie Lees (film and slide material plus papers detailing climbs, correspondence and an article); Paul Nunn (administrative papers of Mountain magazine); and Tom Patey (the desk he used whilst working as a GP). Our sincere thanks to the donors for these most generous gifts.

MHT's negotiations with the University of Cumbria continue and we hope that 2012 will bring some concrete developments. We continue to occupy a room in the library on the Ambleside Campus for storage of items.

### MHT Trustees

Julie Summers (Chair)  
Doug Scott CBE (Vice Chair)

John Porter (Secretary)  
BMC (Ed Douglas, Exec Rep)  
Sir Chris Bonington  
Professor Terry Gifford  
Ron Kenyon  
Dr Jerry Lovatt  
Paul Braithwaite  
John Innerdale  
Richard Lemmey  
Jim Lowther

## Mountain Training Trust (Plas y Brenin)

*by Martin Doyle, Chief Executive*

**In 2011 Plas y Brenin worked closely with the BMC contributing to the work of the National Council, the Training and Youth Committee and the Technical Committee. Support was also given to the MLT Coaching Technical Group and NICAS workshops.**

Sport England awarded the Mountain Training Trust a 15-year management contract for Plas y Brenin in April. The BMC has been closely involved throughout the lengthy negotiations and this result will ensure the National Mountain Centre operates with the interests of climbers and mountaineers foremost and continues the success of managing Plas y Brenin since 1997.

A series of summer and winter hill and mountain courses in Snowdonia were developed for BMC members and were very popular. The BMC website will feature offers at Plas y Brenin for members again in 2012. BMC events hosted by Plas y Brenin in 2011 included three new events, the Coaching Symposium, Equity Symposium, and the 'Working with New Members' Workshop for BMC affiliated clubs. Other annual BMC events hosted by Plas y Brenin included the AGM and Student Seminar, as well as National Council meetings and the BMC Cymru/Wales AGM. Other conferences included the 4th British Ski Mountaineering symposium (on behalf of the Eagle Ski Club, Alpine Ski Club and Alpine Club) and the AGM weekend for the Outdoor Writers and Photographers Guild.

30% of all the mountain qualification courses (MLT) in the UK were delivered at Plas y Brenin as well as a lot of informal training for club members and event organisers. Under the club instructor support programme, members of BMC affiliated clubs have received training at Plas y Brenin. Climbing and walking club members used the two bunkhouses at Plas y Brenin for club meets and held annual dinners at Plas y Brenin.

MTT continues to administer the 200 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 an annual £4k contribution.

Plas y Brenin continued to contribute to the developing MLT Technical Coaching Award Scheme. Martin Chester (Director of Training) is a member of the MLT Coaching Technical Group and presented at the BMC Coaching Symposium.

BMC members attending winter climbing, rock climbing and expedition courses and seminars increased in 2011. Plas y Brenin is now a NICAS approved Centre. The production of the next Rock Climbing Essentials DVD is underway as a partnership venture between the BMC and Plas y Brenin.

# 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 world-wide, 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 2011 IFMGA meetings took place in Sulden and Prague and the annual IFMGA climbing championships (attended by BMG members for the first time) took place in Bolzano, South Tyrol. In November 2012 BMG are honoured to be hosting the IFMGA meeting and climbing championships in Scotland.

At the 2011 annual gathering and AGM of the BMG, held in the Peak District, we were delighted to enjoy the company of Doug Scott as guest and speaker. This marked the end of Roger Payne's term as BMG President; it is now the turn of Tim Walker to take the helm. In 2011 we welcomed four new applicants to the British Guide Scheme and wish them all the best for the training and assessment over the coming years. Individuals interested in a career as a guide may attend an Open Day on May 19th 2012 at Plas y Brenin in North Wales to explain the training and assessment scheme.

## 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 2011, Graeme Alderson continued as the BMC's representative on the IFSC Plenary Assembly and also as the Technical Delegate for the majority of Bouldering World Cups and the World Championships. Ian Alderson is President of the Disciplinary Commission which deals

with such things as Doping Offences. Ian had a quiet year in 2011 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 Slovenian round of the Boulder World Cup in May 2011. Tim Hatch is the BMC's representative on the Rules Commission and is also an active Jury President (chief judge). He had two appointments in 2011 including the World Championships.

The IFSC ran a very successful World Championships in Arco (Italy) including the first ever Paraclimbing World Championships. Record numbers of athletes and countries took part. The story was the same at the World Youth Championships in Imst (Austria) in August.

In early July the announcement was made that Climbing was on the shortlist of sports for possible inclusion in the 2020 Olympic Games. A very successful year for the IFSC.

## Mountaineering Council of Scotland

by David Gibson, Chief Officer

**Looking back to 2011, we recall with relish the challenges of the winter season, and with less enthusiasm the ever-increasing encroachment of wind farms and other developments on the mountains.**

Through our mountain safety work we provided a range of courses and lectures reaching more than 2,000 people, including Scotland's Mountain Safety Day, organised jointly with the charity, Mountain Aid, which attracted over 700.

Whilst it is impossible to make a direct correlation between our work, and that of a range of other members of the Scottish Mountain Safety Forum, there was a welcome and significant reduction in mountaineering incidents and especially fatalities.

Our total membership grew again to 11,400 members, achieving growth of 5.4%; we also supported more than 20 clubs through our 'Building Clubs' initiative which aims to share good practice in membership recruitment.

Our access and conservation work is jointly-funded by The BMC, The Scottish Mountaineering Trust and our members. BMC members will recall our work to promote the need for formal planning procedures relating to tracks in the uplands: Scottish Government processes grind slowly on, and we expect a formal statement regarding Permitted Development Rights by summer 2012.

We undertook a strategic review of our conservation work, driven by the fact that despite our best efforts in responding to 28 wind farm planning applications over two years, our efforts achieved little in the way of refusal or mitigation of approvals, which are clearly driven by UK and Scottish Government policy imperatives. Our new Landscape Strategy will see the MCoFS take a higher profile stance against wind farms which already pose a serious and cumulative threat to the landscape of Scotland. If you value Scotland's mountains, you can contribute to this effort by following our website news and making your views known to your own elected representatives and by responding directly to planning applications.

On a more positive note, there is a vibrant and growing Scottish competition climbing scene and we continue to work with colleagues in the BMC to develop and support athletes capable of competing at international level in the GB Team. Much of this work has to be undertaken on Scottish 'home turf' due to the time and cost incurred by our young climbers and their parents in travelling south. Working together we believe that talent from north of the border will continue to make a strong contribution at UK and international level.

## Mountaineering Ireland

by Karl Boyle, Chief Officer

**Perhaps the highlight of 2011 was Issue 100 of the Irish Mountain Log, Mountaineering Ireland's membership magazine. The edition, marking 25 years of publication, was a very significant milestone for both the magazine and MI. The volunteer editorial team put in an incredible amount of effort and they deserve credit for providing Mountaineering Ireland's membership with such a wonderful magazine.**

Amongst many others, MI made submissions on the following during 2011:

- Forest Service (Northern Ireland [NI]) - response to draft Forestry Land Bye-laws
  - Department of Arts, Heritage & Gaeltacht (Republic of Ireland [ROI]) - response to issues paper on National Landscape Strategy
  - Department of Environment (NI) - response to consultation on enabling legislation for national parks in Northern Ireland
- The general election in the Republic and the Northern Ireland Assembly elections provided a timely opportunity for MI to engage with all political parties regarding our key priorities as outlined in our Strategic Development Plan. In the Republic, our campaign focused on the retention

of Coillte, the state owned forestry company, in state ownership. This resulted in a Dáil statement by An Taoiseach confirming that Coillte would not be sold. However, this campaign goes on, as speculation continues that Coillte will be sold in some form. MI remains adamant that there is nothing more strategically important than access by future generations to outdoor recreation. Coillte's importance is not simply as a provider of recreational infrastructure or forest parks. What is considerably more important, from both a recreation and tourism perspective, is the access that the Coillte estate provides onto the majority of Ireland's uplands.

In response to a growth in events such as walking festivals, adventure races, club challenges and fundraising hikes, MI reviewed its policy on organised events in Ireland's mountain areas during 2011. After a call for submissions in the spring, a draft policy was published and a series of regional consultations took place during October and November. A new policy incorporating guidelines for event organisers and participants will be put to MI's AGM in March 2012 for approval.

MI held a number of member meets and gatherings in 2011. The Spring and Autumn Gatherings focused on club development. The MI Winter Meet was held in Onich, Scotland; a Ski Mountaineering Meet in Chamonix and a very well attended Summer Alpine Meet took place in Argentiere.

Dominic Burns, a 14 year old from Belfast, ranked in the top 15 in the world in his category. This is something MI is immensely proud of. MI's relationship with Scouting Ireland continues to grow and this, together with our Youth Participation, Training and Development Programmes, is preparing the ground for future generations of mountaineers.

Chief amongst those members who passed away during 2011 is Joss Lynam (1924 – 2011). Joss was a Giant of a Mountain Man in every respect. He was a great advocate for Ireland's uplands and his contribution to promoting the sport of mountaineering and developing rural recreation in Ireland continues to have a very positive impact throughout Ireland. Mountaineering Ireland is commemorating Joss through a number of projects, including, the Lynam Lecture and a Hillwalking Guidebook to Ireland's high mountains. May he rest in peace.

## Mountain Leader Training England

*by Andy Say, Executive Secretary*

**2011 was largely overshadowed for MLTE by serious injuries suffered by our Chair, Dave Rogers; knocked down whilst out running. Dave has served for years**

**on the Board initially as a member representing AHOEC and latterly as Vice-Chair and then Chair. His devotion to the Board and the hard work and skill he devoted to his changing roles within the Board were astonishing. His decision to step down as Chair to concentrate on his recovery, made late in the year, was a sad loss to the Board. All members of the Board are fully supportive of his decision and all wish him well on his road to recovery; a road that he seems to have got a fair way down. A hard act to follow – but it's good to hear that he is now cranking up some pretty steep stuff on Kendal Wall! The relatively healthy state of MLTE is largely down to his hard work which should never be forgotten.**

The injury to Dave threw a greater than normal burden on the remaining Directors – the members of our Executive Committee, Anne Newcombe, Mike Pinder and Michael Hunt. All of these people are volunteers with their own lives to lead and their own concerns so it is a testament to their dedication that the Board and the Executive continued to function nearly as normal despite the strains. Towards the end of the year the Board was happy to receive additional support to the Executive through the co-option of Rab Carrington as an ex-officio member. His contribution has been valuable and helps to cement an ever strengthening relationship between the BMC and MLTE.

Another concern for all of the Boards was the potential impact of the Government spending review. It was obvious that one of the implications, especially in the education sector, might be shrinking staff training budgets and less ability to free staff up for courses. It was noticeable that the first quarter of the year saw fairly steady registrations which then started to slump as we moved into the new financial year. Overall our 'established' awards suffered a slump of around 7% over the year; the CWA however still continuing to provide a ray of growth. It will be an area of concern to see whether this trend continues or whether, after the initial cuts in spending, some stability is arrived at.

Financially the Board has maintained fairly good health. The end of year figures indicate a reasonable surplus. As a charity we are not in the business of building up 'profits' but it is good to finish up just about 'in the black' at the end of the year and to be building some reserves that will allow the Board to continue to function and weather storms such as the spending review. The oversight of the finances over the last few years has been in the hands of Michael Hunt as Treasurer; a steadying hand.

MLTE was happy to contribute to the Equity Symposium held at Plas y Brenin by the BMC; this was a fantastic event which, hopefully, has

sowed more than a few seeds and leads the way to other similar events. A pilot WGL programme run for community workers from Bradford again should provide the spark for more such ventures so that skills and expertise get extended beyond our 'normal' catchment. Also, thanks to support from Sport England and MTT, the management side of Plas y Brenin, we were able to finalise the production and printing of Hillwalking for All, a booklet designed to support those working alongside people with a variety of disabilities in the outdoors. It was a tricky job steering this project through some of the minefields of terminology and theory; but we got there in the end. It is worth recording a further gesture of thanks to Nick Colton of the BMC who is ever supportive in these initiatives

For the future, work is afoot on a new website and integrated database which should reduce much of the day-to-day mundane administration. The walking awards are under review.

## Mountain Leader 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 2011. Out Technical Officer, Steve Long has worked closely with the BMC and other partners in the continuing development of a Coaching Scheme and we're particularly grateful to Jon Garside and Nick Colton at the BMC for their work. Syllabuses were agreed during the year for Level 1 and 2 in preparation for detailed implementation planning.**

The continuing development, personal or professional (CPD), of our leaders has taken another step forward this year. The Mountain Leader Training Association (MLTA) has for some time now offered summer and winter Mountain Leaders (ML & ML(W)), Walking Group Leaders (WGL) and anyone with any of the climbing qualifications a range of further training events, regular news updates, specialist insurance services, web forums and we hope a sense of belonging. A new CPD policy has meant that those people who choose to be full members of MLTA have a straightforward way of demonstrating that they are up to date and through these training events far more able to support one another. Rachael Hinchliffe, MLTA's Development Officer, has overseen the continuing rise in membership throughout the period.

MLTUK's range of textbooks continues to flourish with a revised edition of Rock Climbing coming out in the autumn and Navigation in the Mountains now on its way to the printers. The Publications Management Group has

been managing these productions and also developing new titles for 2012 and beyond.

The management board of Mountain Leader Training UK has met in the four home nations during the year, in winter at Glenmore Lodge, a spring visit to Tollymore Mountain Centre in Northern Ireland, early autumn at Plas y Brenin and a final meeting at Ingleborough Hall. 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 and Nick Colton. We've also really appreciated being able to accommodate and work alongside Elfyn Jones.

## Mountain Rescue England & Wales

*by David Allan, Chairman*

**We are pleased to note a significant fall in the number of incidents in 2011. It would appear that the dramatic rise in numbers during 2009 and 2010 has been an anomalous elevation rather than a progressive increase. For most teams 2011 has seen returns to the figures of 2008. There are two marked exceptions where the numbers have continued on a steep upward path. These are in Snowdonia and incidents on the Derbyshire edges.**

It is difficult to account for any of these changes. It would be tempting to suggest that combined efforts to inform and educate are showing signs of success. However, nowhere has more effort been put into 'preventative' steps than in North Wales and this area has seen continued rises in the incidents. It is probable that the changes relate more to actual numbers of hill goers plus the weather conditions. Disappointingly the percentage of call outs to those who are 'lost' compared with those who are actually injured has risen across all regions. Despite all our efforts the reliance on mobile phones over map and compass continues. We await with interest the effects of licensing of PLBs. In theory it will make searching much simpler but time will tell whether this is born out in practice.

Recruitment into mountain rescue teams is in almost all areas at an all time high with teams having waiting lists for probationer team members. It is sometimes easy to forget that although most rescues are uneventful significant risks to team members do exist. 2011 witnessed five people being injured during the course of rescues. Fortunately none were serious with permanent damage but this serves as a sharp reminder of the conditions in which mountain rescue is often required to operate.

## Sport & Recreation Alliance

**The Sport and Recreation Alliance is the new name for the Central Council for Physical Recreation (CCPR). After 66 years as the CCPR, the name has been changed to better reflect the organisation and its work as an alliance of governing and representative bodies in sport and recreation.**

The BMC has been active in the Alliance this year. Bill Renshaw is Deputy Chair of the Outdoor Pursuits Division and chairs the newly re-established 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 Alliance has published Red Card to Red Tape – How sports clubs want to break free from bureaucracy, a report into the regulatory burden on sport and recreation clubs, commission by the Minister for Sport. The Access Working Group has also been focusing on a landowner liability project with the Cabinet Office to produce a code of practice to increase access opportunities. The Group has also been working with the Forestry Commission to improve relations with members with the aim of increasing access opportunities in forests and woodlands.

## Union Internationale des Associations d'Alpinisme

*by Doug Scott, UIAA Council Member*

**The BMC continued to be well represented within the UIAA and its specialist Commissions during 2011. Doug Scott continued as the BMC representative on the UIAA and also as a member of the Management Committee (MC). The BMC continues to support the International Federation of Mountaineering and Climbing by advising and financially supporting the presence at meetings, not only of Doug but of other BMC representatives who work hard and enthusiastically on the various UIAA Commissions. The Presidents of Commissions, of whom three are from the UK, are funded directly by the UIAA.**

Of note are the efforts of Doug Scott and also Phil Wickens to set up a Working Group on Traditional Values. This is now established and has gathered information on traditional climbing and policy on bolting from national federations from around the world towards revising the UIAA document of ten years ago, To Bolt or Not to Be.

A full report of the UIAA's work, including more information about the Working Group on Traditional Values and the development of The Strategic Plan (including Steve Long's work on

The Training Standards Working Group) can be found on the BMC website.

At the UIAA General Assembly (GA) in Bormio in October 2010, Mike Mortimer was unanimously re-elected for another term as UIAA President. Unknown to Members of the MC the President had seriously failed to follow the UIAA's guidelines on expenses over the past few years. There was also concern over the President's attitude to staff, leading to the resignation of Executive Directors Judith Safford and Ingo Nicolay and also Executive Board Member Rita Christen. Other resignations followed with the result that the President lost the confidence of the MC. During the MC meeting on 13th Oct 2011 in Kathmandu the vote went against the President 7-4 with two abstentions giving him no option other than to resign. Before a vote of confidence could be taken on the remaining EB members Jan Bonding, the Treasurer, and Silvio Calvi also resigned. The remaining Board Members achieved a vote of confidence with Vice-President Jordi Colomer assuming the role of President until elections take place at the GA, Amsterdam, in October 2012.

## BMC Support to the UIAA in 2011

- UIAA Council Member: Doug Scott
- Mountaineering Commission: Steve Long (Training Standards working group), Phil Wickens, Martin Wragg (Legal Experts working group)
- Access & Conservation Commission: Clare Bond
- Appeals Commission: Martin Wragg
- Discipline Commission: Ian Alderson
- Medical Commission: Dave Hillebrandt (President), Audry Morrison (Corresponding member), James Milledge (Corresponding member)
- Safety Commission: Rob Foster
- Youth Commission: Anne Arran

# Club & Associate Members 2011

<b>Club Name</b> .....	<b>No. of Members</b>		
2 Degrees Climbing Club .....	71	Clwb Mynydda Cymru .....	306
Aberystwyth Expedition Society .....	57	Clwyd Mountaineering Club .....	123
ABMSAC-Association of British Members of the Swiss Alpine Club .....	210	Colchester Climbing Club .....	102
Adventure and Expedition Society.....	130	Congleton Mountaineering Club .....	27
AGC Mountaineering Club .....	23	COPA .....	20
Aldermaston Mountaineering Club .....	24	Coventry Mountaineering Club .....	53
Allen & Overy Climbing Club.....	27	Cragrags Mountaineering Club .....	29
Alpine Club .....	939	Craven Mountaineering Club.....	72
Alton Mountaineering Club.....	23	Cromlech Club.....	72
AMI (England and Wales) .....	622	Croydon Mountaineering Club .....	53
Anabasis Mountaineering Club .....	44	Dacorum Adventure Group.....	43
Arete Mountaineering Club.....	16	De Montfort Uni (Leics) Mt Club .....	20
Army Mountaineering Association- Climbing Section .....	43	Derby Mountaineering Club.....	29
Ascent Barry Climbing Club .....	20	Derbyshire Pennine Club .....	52
Avon Mountaineering Club .....	143	Derwent Mountaineering Club .....	85
Aylesbury Climbing Club.....	89	Dobroyd Mountaineering Club.....	22
Barnsley Mountaineering Club.....	59	Durham Mountain Sports.....	51
Barrow Mountaineering & Ski Club .....	88	Durham University Mountaineering Club.....	92
Basingstoke Climbing Club .....	32	East Grinstead Climbing Club.....	32
Bath University Mountaineering Club.....	97	East Pennine Outdoor Club .....	47
Battle Climbing Club .....	20	East Yorkshire Mt and Climbing Club.....	40
Bedford Mountaineering Club .....	33	Eden Valley Mountaineering Club .....	54
Bedroc.....	23	Edge Outdoor Club.....	20
Beeston Hill & Mt Cb - Formerly Siemens .....	35	ELC Hill Walking Club .....	29
Bewdley & District Mountaineering Club.....	22	Exeter University Climbing Club .....	68
BHMC - Bassetlaw Hill & Mountain Club .....	38	Exploration Group of North Somerset .....	98
Birmingham Medical Research Expedition Society.....	20	Extreme Sports Central.....	26
Bournemouth University Climbing Club.....	41	Forest of Dean Hillwalkers.....	25
Bowline Climbing Club .....	124	Frayednotts Mountaineering Club .....	28
Brathay Exploration Group Club .....	53	Free Barbarian Climbing Club.....	22
Brecon Beacons Climbing & Mountaineering Club .....	23	Fylde Mountaineering Club.....	183
Bremex Mountaineering & Climbing Club.....	28	G S Exiles Mountaineering Club .....	23
Brighton University Mountaineering Club.....	20	Gentian Mountaineering Club .....	62
British Airways Mt Walking & Trekking Club.....	45	Gloucestershire Mountaineering Club .....	116
Bromsgrove & Redditch Mt Club.....	41	Gorphwysfa Club.....	57
Buxton Mountaineering Club.....	70	Gritstone Club .....	118
Calderdale Mountaineering Club .....	43	Guernsey Mountaineering Club .....	60
Calshot Climbing Squad.....	40	Guildford Mountaineering Club .....	78
Cambridge Climbing & Caving Club.....	68	Gwent Mountaineering Club.....	103
Cambridge University Hillwalking Club .....	141	Gwydyr Mountain Club .....	102
Cardiff University Mountaineering Club .....	20	Hampshire Constabulary Mountaineering Club .....	32
Carlisle Mountaineering Club .....	130	Hampshire Mountaineering Association.....	39
Castle Mountaineering Club .....	45	Harpden Expedition Club.....	29
Cedars Mountaineering Club.....	20	Hastings Rock & Fell Club.....	53
Cerberus Spelaeological Society.....	20	Hereford Climbing Club .....	20
Ceunant Mountaineering Club .....	158	Hereford Mountain Club.....	52
Chamois Mountaineering Club.....	198	Heron Outdoor Pursuits.....	34
Chelmsford Mountaineering Club.....	66	Hertfordshire Mountaineering Club .....	105
Cheshire Amateur Ramblers Club.....	20	Herts and Essex Climbing Club .....	57
Chester Great Outdoors Club.....	103	Highdown Hillwalking & Mountaineering Club .....	48
Chester Mountaineering Club.....	222	Hillingdon Mountaineering Club .....	23
Chippenham Mountaineering Club.....	20	Hinckley Mountaineering Club.....	82
Christian Rock & Mountain Club.....	83	Ibex .....	118
Cleveland Mountaineering Club .....	200	Imperial College Union Outdoors Club .....	20
Cliffhangers Climbing Club .....	28	Innominata Mountain Club .....	69
Climbers' Club.....	1,547	Ipswich Mountaineering Club.....	104
Climbers Section - Cave & Crag Club .....	39	Jersey Rock Climbing Club.....	43
Clingons Climbing Club .....	20	John Clare Mountaineering Club .....	25
Clitheroe Mountaineering Club .....	74	Junior Mountaineering Club of Scotland .....	41
Clogwyn Mountaineering Club.....	45	K Fellfarers.....	135
Clwb Antur Dwyfor.....	40	Karabiner Mountaineering Club .....	134
		Keele University Mountaineering Club .....	91
		Kendal Mountaineering Club .....	71
		Keswick Mountaineering Club .....	85
		Kings College London Mountaineering Club.....	71
		King's Mountaineering & Kayaking Association .....	20
		Kingston University Mt Club.....	20
		Kodak Walking & Climbing Club.....	20
		Lancashire Caving & Climbing Club .....	229
		Lancashire Mountaineering Club .....	190
		Lanchester Mountaineering Club .....	67
		Landlopers Mountain Club.....	20
		Lands End Climbing Club .....	20
		Leeds Mountaineering Club.....	126
		Leeds University Mountaineering Club.....	100
		Leicester University Mountaineering Club .....	72
		Lichfield Mountaineering Club.....	23
		Lincoln Mountaineering Club .....	69
		Lindsey Climbing Club.....	20
		London Mountaineering Club.....	320
		London Rockhoppers MC .....	173
		Loughborough Students Mt Club .....	100
		Loughton Mountaineering Club .....	36
		MACS (Royal Holloway Uni of London) .....	25
		Maidstone Mountaineering Club.....	36
		Malvern Mountaineering Club.....	20
		Manchester Metropolitan Mountaineering .....	23
		Manchester University Mt Club.....	140
		Marylebone Mountaineering Club .....	76
		Mercian Mountaineering Club.....	50
		Merseyside Mountaineering Club.....	212
		Midland Association of Mountaineers.....	544
		Milton Keynes Mountaineering Club .....	46
		Mountaineering Club of Bury .....	52
		Mountaineering Club of North Wales .....	72
		MPMC LTD .....	45
		Munro-pineapple Society Notts Univ .....	32
		Mynydd Climbing Club.....	184
		Newbury Mountain Club .....	48
		Newcastle University Mt Club .....	67
		Nimrod Mountaineering Club.....	20
		Nor' West Sgurr Ramblers .....	21
		Norfolk Hillwalking Club .....	26
		North East Wales Mountaineering Club .....	38
		North Kingston Hillwalking Club .....	42
		North Leicestershire Mountain Club.....	38
		North London Mountaineering Club.....	207
		North Yorkshire Fell Club.....	46
		Northumbrian Mountaineering Club .....	140
		Norwich Climbing & Mountaineering Club.....	30
		Not So Trad - Southern Lesbian & Gay Climbers.....	104
		NotThe MLC Mountaineering Club.....	20
		Nuneaton Mountaineering Club.....	33
		Ohjac Club .....	20
		Oldham Climbing Club .....	28
		Open University Mountaineering Society.....	58
		Oread Mountaineering Club .....	184
		OutThere.....	43
		OverThe Hill Club .....	104
		Oxford Mountaineering Club .....	90
		Oxford University Mountaineering Club.....	103
		Oxford University Walking Club .....	75
		Patterdale Mountain Rescue Association .....	32
		Peak Climbing Club .....	71
		Pembrokeshire Climbing Club.....	77
		Peterborough Hospitals Walking Club .....	20
		Peterborough Mountaineering Club .....	128
		Phoenix Mountaineering Club.....	32
		Pinnacle Club.....	155

Polaris Mountaineering Club .....	47
Powers Mountaineering Club .....	42
Prestatyn Climbing Club .....	12
Preston Mountaineering Club .....	78
Reading Mountaineering Club .....	85
Reading University Mountaineering Club.....	100
Red Rope Walking & Climbing Club .....	265
Robinwood Mountaineering Club .....	20
Rock & Heather Club - Nottingham .....	29
Rock Chicks Climbing Club .....	20
Romsey Climbers .....	26
Royal Air Force Mountaineering Association..	399
Royal Navy & Royal Marines Mt Club .....	774
Rucksack Club .....	396
Rugby Mountaineering Club .....	42
Salford University Mountaineering Soc.....	57
Saltley Hillwalking Group .....	20
Sandstone Climbing Club.....	20
Scunthorpe Mountaineering Club.....	20
Sheffield Hallam Fellwalking & Mountaineering .....	25
Sheffield Hallam University Climbing Club .....	30
Shrewsbury Mountaineering Club.....	122
Skyline Mt Club - Burton on Trent.....	43
Slough Mountaineering Group .....	41
Solihull (Police) Mountaineering Club .....	20
Solihull Mountaineering Club .....	76
South Cheshire Climbing Club .....	20
South Devon Mountaineering Club .....	133
South Wales Mountaineering Club .....	155
South Yorkshire Police Mountaineering .....	29
Southampton Rats Climbing Club.....	33
Southampton Uni Mountaineering Club.....	60
Southern Trekking & Mountaineering Club .....	40
Sphinx Mountaineering Club.....	28
St Bartholomews & Royal London Alpine Cl .....	40
St Helens Mountaineering Club .....	61
Staffordshire University M.C .....	46
Sunderland Mountaineering Club.....	24
Super Drooper Mountaineering & Caving .....	43
Surbiton & Kingston Mt Club.....	46
Swindon Mountaineering Club .....	41
Taunton School Climbing Club .....	20
Thames Valley Climbing Club .....	30
The Barcap Climbing Club.....	20
The Chapel Mountaineering Club .....	31
The Fell and Rock Climbing Club of the English Lake District Limited .....	1,174
The Heights Climbing Club .....	20
The LMC Mountaineering Club .....	26
The Mill Climbing Club .....	32
The Mountain Club - Stafford .....	49
The Outcasts.....	32
The Walking Club .....	50
The Warminster Adventure Sports Club.....	50
Trentham Outdoor Pursuits Club.....	20
Tuesday Climbing Club.....	46
Tunbridge Wells Mountaineering Club .....	47
Tyne Valley Mountaineers.....	24
Unemployed climbers Club (Craggers).....	58
Univ of Birmingham Mt Club.....	90
Univ of Bristol Explorers Club .....	84
Univ of Essex Mountaineering Club .....	38
Univ of Glamorgan Climbing & Mt Club .....	20
Univ of London Graduate Mt Club.....	145
Univ of Nottingham Mt Club.....	50
Univ of Sussex Mountaineering Club.....	40
Univ of West England Climbing Club.....	100

Univ of West England Mt & Hillwalking Club.....	33
University College London Union Mountaineering Club .....	20
University of Bolton Climbing & Walking Club.	20
University of Chester Mountaineering Club .....	22
University of Hertfordshire Mt Club.....	20
University of Manchester Hiking Club .....	22
UWFRA Outdoors Club.....	42
Vagabond Mountaineering Club .....	82
Vertigirls .....	56
Vibram Mountaineering Club .....	41
W.T.F.A.I. Club .....	20
Walking & Adventure Group (WAG) .....	24
Wanneys Climbing Club .....	46
Warwick Climbing Club.....	68
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## 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 Ltd
Upper Limits
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 Mt Rescue Association

### Multi Activity Groups:

Bicton College
Dynamic Adventures Ltd
Eldon Leisure Centre
Haltemprice Adventure Activities

Portsmouth Youth Activities Committee
Swaledale Outdoor Club
The Bendrigg Trust
The Old Vicarage Adventure Centre Ltd
Water Park (Eric Wright Trust)

### National Body:

British Association of Mountain Guides
Fire Service Sport & Athletics Ass
Girl Guiding UK
Lake District National Park Authority
Ramblers Association
South West Lakes Trust
The Reach/Leap Trust

### Other:

Barclays Bank R and C Club (BBRCC)
HF Holidays Limited
Outdoor Industries Association
The Gateway Academy

### Outdoor Training/Expeditions:

Adventure Dolphin
Calshot Activities Centre
Calvert Trust Adventure Centre
Consett YMCA Ltd
Fairbridge
Hagg Farm Outdoor
ICICLE Mountaineering Ski & Adventure
In2venture
Joint Services Mt Training Centre
Manor Adventure
Nantmor Mountain Centre Assoc
Northants Asso Yth Clubs & Action C
Northants C & YPS
Outdoor Lads
Rhos-y-Gwaliau Outdoor Education Cent
Trekking Encounters Ltd
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
Warners Group Publications

### Youth/Schools/Groups:

Air Training Corps
Blue Coat School
Herts Young Mariners Base
Highgate School D O E Scheme
Millfield School
Oakham School
Portsmouth Grammar School
Romford Young Men's Christian Association
Roseberry Sports and Community College
Simonside Centre for Positive Youth Activities
St Albans School
Swindon College
The College of St Mark & St John
The Wey Valley School and Sports College
Wolsingham School & Community College

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# BMC Annual Report 2011

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