

MCofS BURSARY

SCREENING COMMITTEE

GUIDELINES FOR ASSESSING APPLICATIONS

2011 Updated



THE SCOTTISH CHARACTER OF AN APPLICATION:

1. MCofS would normally expect the main contact of the expedition to have a full-time Scottish address.
2. The bank account of the expedition should be in a Scottish account.
3. Character References quoted in the application should be predominantly Scottish and / or Scottish based (full-time).
4. The commitment of the expedition members to Scottish climbing either through their past climbing experience in Scotland (number of routes climbed, first ascents or important ascents and competitive history at Scottish level) or through their work or other activity (writings, social comment, voluntary work etc.).
5. The length of time that expedition members have been in membership of a Scottish Club or as Individual Members of the MCofS should be considered.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE OBJECTIVE:

As the Bursary is available to a wide range of activities it may be beneficial to categorise applications taking account of the following:

- The difficulty of the objective, whatever (and wherever) it is.
- The remoteness of the climb and the commitment involved. It may be difficult to make relative comparisons between different kinds of activities (e.g. a 7,000m peak and a 30m rock wall) but it can be argued that there will be different but equally important hazards in each.
- The status of the climb in a world context. The committee should keep an open mind on the relative importance of various forms of ascent - the MCofS award concentrates on excellence in whatever field of climbing and does not see one form as being worthy of greater praise than another.
- Whether it is a first ascent or a repeat ascent / or an ascent in different conditions (e.g. a winter ascent of a former summer climb).
- The relative experience of the expedition members (past pertinent climbs).
- The committee should also consider what environmental commitments are being made by the expedition. This should include an assessment of their commitment to 'leaving no trace' both on the route and at base camp.
- The general ethos of the expedition in the way it will tackle the climb should be born in mind and compared with generally accepted ethos in the country of origin as well as the ethos held in Scotland. This would preclude the rap-bolting of big walls and a presumption against the use of bolts on bigger mixed routes.
- For competitive sport climbing consideration should be given to the aim and potential to gain podium / Top 5 / Top 10 or Top 50 at various levels of competition. International competition selection is dependent on selection to the British Team (GB Team). Both MCofS and BMC and GB Team management are involved in this process.

CATEGORIES OF IMPORTANCE (Expeditions):

- **A+:** An application intent on a first ascent of international importance, with exceptional commitment required and at the forefront of difficulty in its field.
- **A:** An application intent on a first ascent of international importance, but with less commitment and not at the forefront of difficulty or a first free ascent of an established line that may be at the forefront of difficulty.
- **B+:** An ascent of an unclimbed line of severe difficulty but not of international standing. May include a first free ascent of a previously climbed line, but not at the forefront of difficulty.
- **B:** An ascent of an unclimbed line well below the upper level of difficulty but still a first ascent.
- **C+:** A repeat ascent of a climb already established but still worthy of recognition.
- **C:** A repeat ascent of a relatively 'easy' route.

CATEGORIES OF IMPORTANCE (Competitions):

- **A+:** An application from a sport climber which has the potential of gaining a podium position at an international (IFSC) competition (GB Team selection).
- **A:** An application from a sport climber which has the potential of gaining a Top 5 position at an international (IFSC) competition (GB Team selection).
- **B+:** An application from a sport climber which has the potential of gaining a Top 10 position at an international (IFSC) competition (GB Team selection) / a podium position at a British Competition.
- **B:** An application from a sport climber which has the potential of gaining a Top 50 position at an international (IFSC) competition (GB Team selection) / a Top 10 position at a British Competition and Top 10 position at a Scottish National competition.
- **C+:** An application from a sport climber which has the potential of gaining a podium position at a British Competition / gaining a podium position at a Scottish National competition.
- **C:** An application from a sport climber which has the potential of gaining a Top 10 position at a British Competition and Podium position at a Scottish National competition.

GRANT AWARD STATUS

When making comparisons between expeditions in order to set the amount of award:

1. It is not pertinent to compare the relative costs of each expedition,
2. It is not pertinent to take account of the mandatory costs of the expedition, such as peak fees,
3. It may be helpful to look at the expected personal financial outlay of the members.

This then allows a better comparison of the need for support.

Linking the amount of the award with the category of importance:

A+:	£1,000 - £1,200
A:	£ 800 - £1,000
B+:	£ 600 - £ 800
B:	£ 400 - £ 600
C+:	£ 200 - £ 400
C:	£ 100 - £ 200

MIXED NATION SUPPORT

Applications for grant must now be made independently to:

- The Mount Everest Foundation (MEF)
- The MCoFS Bursary
- The BMC

NOTES:

1. All applicants can apply to the MEF as well as to the BMC or MCoFS.
2. The MEF award is for suitable expeditions that have a scientific interest as well as mountaineering and exploration.
3. The BMC and the MCoFS awards are made to members of their respective organisations only.
4. An individual applicant cannot apply to both BMC and MCoFS.
5. The awards from the BMC and MCoFS are given to the individual member.
6. An expedition may apply to both the BMC and MCoFS if it contains members of both organisations.
7. An expedition made up of members of both organisations, when applying to both organisations, will receive a grant awarded for the respective individual member only.
8. The level of the award given will then reflect a proportion of the overall award that the whole expedition would receive.
9. This level of award should be parable from each organisation if at all possible to prevent competition between the organisations.
10. Liaison with the BMC as to such applications is achieved via the MCoFS Rep on the BMC International Committee (2011: Rab Anderson) at the March meeting.