

# News 4 Clubs



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**News 4 Clubs Bulletin Number 5**

**20 November 2009**

## **Graduate Membership Category**

The MCofS is launching a new membership category this month. The “Graduate” category is aimed at people who have just left a student club. Graduate membership is designed to help those leaving university or college make the transition from being a member of a student club to maintaining an ongoing connection with the MCofS after leaving university or college.

Over the past few years the MCofS has put a lot of resources into working with student clubs, especially in terms of providing safety initiatives and courses. This followed on from statistics that showed members of student clubs were more likely to have an incident than other groups of mountaineers. The work done by the MCofS Mountain Safety Adviser and, more recently, the newly appointed Scottish Students’ Mountain Safety Officer has helped to encourage good practice on the hills by students.

However, each year there are around 200 graduates leaving student clubs and potentially losing contact with the MCofS. They may also be losing contact with our ongoing safety work at a vital stage in their development as a mountaineer. We therefore want to provide university and college leavers with an incentive to stay with the MCofS, by either joining another club or becoming an individual member.

The MCofS website carries a list of clubs at: <http://www.mcofs.org.uk/clubs-list.asp> and those who have just left a student club can look up their local clubs and become a member. Alternatively, for those wishing to become an individual member we are offering the new Graduate category as a one-off

year's membership for only £9.99. After that one-year deal an ex-student would be expected to join at the normal individual rate, but if at that point they choose to sign up by direct debit they would get their first year of full individual membership at half price.

Those who left a student club in the summer of 2009 are welcome to apply for Graduate membership up to a year after leaving university or college, and final year students may wish to consider Graduate membership for when they leave next summer.

We would be grateful if secretaries of student clubs could pass on this information to their members please.

### **Clubs looking for new members**

Club members leaving student clubs may well wish to join a non-student club in which case there are plenty to choose from. In order to help those that are about to leave student clubs into another club we would be interested to hear from club secretaries whose clubs are actively looking for new members and who would like us to point final year students in their direction. If you would like to be placed on a list of clubs that would welcome in new members from student clubs then please send an e-mail with your club name to: [mike@mcofs.org.uk](mailto:mike@mcofs.org.uk).

### **Female only GPS courses**

The Mountaineering Council of Scotland (MCofS) and [Chicks Unleashed](#) are joining forces to run two 'ladies only' one-day GPS (Global Positioning Systems) training courses in May next year.

The MCofS runs a number of safety-related courses throughout the year, including regular GPS courses, but this is the first time a 'ladies only' course has been organised. The two courses will be held at Glenmore Lodge on Saturday May 15<sup>th</sup> and Sunday May 16<sup>th</sup>, and will be run by the MCofS Mountain Safety Adviser, Heather Morning and Rosie Goolden of Chicks Unleashed. Further details of these two courses can be found at: <http://www.mcofs.org.uk/chicks-gps.asp>.

A series of 4 GPS courses for men and women will be run in October 2010. Details can be found at: <http://www.mcofs.org.uk/navigation-courses-gps.asp>.

### **Club Membership Renewal Reminder**

Thank you to those clubs that have already paid and sent in their membership lists. For the rest, can we remind you that the end of December is the deadline for returns and can you get in touch with Jane Anderson please at [membership@mcofs.org.uk](mailto:membership@mcofs.org.uk) if you haven't received your renewal pack.

Mike Dales  
20<sup>th</sup> November 2009

## **From the Clubs Director's Keyboard – November 09**

The keyboard here has been kept busy. Although much of its activity was for all the wrong reasons. I had a near death experience with the hard disk on my desk top machine. After considerable effort I have managed to recover with only emails and the address book lost for ever! Should have brought an external disk drive sooner. I am now backing up on a weekly basis.

**Voting Review Working Group** - Responses have now been received to my first discussion paper. I am running behind schedule however I am moving forward with a second paper.

The draft questionnaire has now been revised to version 2 and is being circulated around the **Clubs Advisory Group** again for comments. I hope we can have the Research Questionnaire with Clubs before Christmas.

The CAG web page has been tidied up. In the meantime if you wish to contact me please use the [cag@mcofs.org.uk](mailto:cag@mcofs.org.uk) email address which I have set up and it will automatically forward to me at home.

**Club Seminar** - The date for this has been set for 4<sup>th</sup> September at Glenmore Lodge, Aviemore to coincide with the Annual Gathering and AGM. The theme will be 'Growing Clubs'. The BMC are holding their club seminar on the 28<sup>th</sup> November in Manchester. I am attending as an observer. What I learn will be input into the planning for our event next year.

Finally a reminder we have a page on the MCofS website for the Clubs Advisory Group. I hope it will be of interest to Clubs and their members.

<http://www.mcofs.org.uk/cag.asp>

Ron Payne  
Director Club Affairs and Development