

# News 4 Clubs



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**News 4 Clubs Bulletin Number 7**

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## **Happy New Year**

A Happy New Year and a Happy New Decade to you all. Here is the first News4Clubs of 2010 and the first of the Teenies. I hope you had a good festive season and got out into the snow and ice. I also hope you are looking forward to the year ahead with some exciting plans for the walking, climbing and skiing that you hope to get done. Whatever your own personal activity and level of ability I hope you have an enjoyable, adventurous and safe 2010. All the best.

## **Annual Return Deadline Reminder**

Thank you to those clubs who have contacted us and made their annual returns. Please note that the deadline for receipt of fees was the end of December 2009. Unfortunately if we do not receive your club fees by the end of January 2010 then your club, office bearers' and members' civil liability insurance will lapse. Please contact Jane with any questions or comments. Tel: 01738 493 943 or email: [membership@mcofs.org.uk](mailto:membership@mcofs.org.uk).

## **MCofS on Facebook**

We started the MCofS Facebook site a few months ago without shouting about it and now have nearly 150 members. If you are not already into Facebook you can sign up by putting Facebook in your search engine and then following the instructions on the welcome page. You need to provide your name and email address, then gender and date of birth to register. When you're registered go to the Facebook search box (top right of the page) and put in MCofS and click to find us.

Our main website carries news which is often picked up by the media and tends to be a more formal platform for MCofS views and news about Scottish mountaineering issues. MCofS on Facebook is an informal way of sharing news and your views about the Scottish mountaineering scene, and making contact with people with similar interests. Anyone can make a contribution to MCofS on Facebook. We look forward to hearing from you!

### **Beaully-Denny Campaign Support**

We would like to pass on our grateful thanks to all those clubs and individuals who contributed to the Beaully-Denny Landscape Group funds. Following the Minister's announcement we are reviewing how we are going to take matters forward with the aim of mitigating the impact of the power line.

### **Fancy a free Buff?**

The MCofS Winter Safety Lectures were mentioned in the last News4Clubs, but they are so good and the things you learn from them could save your life one day, so they are worth another quick reminder. The lectures are sponsored by Buff and there will be a prize draw at every lecture, so someone will win a Buff at all 22 events. It could be you! Full details of the Winter Lecture Series can be found at:

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

### **WinterFest Twenty Ten – Glen Affric – 29<sup>th</sup> January to 1<sup>st</sup> February**

If you fancy a weekend around Glen Affric in a couple of week's time, check out the website for WinterFest Twenty Ten:

<http://www.naturalhighguiding.co.uk/winterfest.htm>

### **From the Clubs Director's Keyboard – January 2010**

May I wish you all the best for 2010. Christmas is now becoming a memory although I will remember it for the struggle I had to journey to and from Cornwall for Christmas with my parents. At least it provided a slight respite from the cold. We certainly cannot complain about the lack of snow. Unfortunately with the bad roads and a brush with a cold and chesty cough over the New Year I have yet to benefit from the splendid conditions.

At long last the **Club Research** is ready to go. Those of you with a Club email contact should have already received the Research **Questionnaire**. The mail may take a little longer for those without e-mail. When I first looked at the role of Club's Director I realised we had a gap in our knowledge and the aspirations of our Member Clubs. The questionnaire has been developed by members of the Clubs Advisory Group, and the officers and Directors of the MCofS. Please give it your attention.

Ron Payne  
Director Club Affairs and Development

### **MCofS Videos on You Tube**

The MCofS is constantly looking for new ways of communicating our messages to the widest possible audience. News4Clubs, Scottish Mountaineer and our website are the three most obvious means of

communication we use, but we are also developing our presence on You Tube via a number of short videos. So far our videos on Crevasse Rescue, Roping Up for Glaciers, Ice Axe Self Arrest, Water Hazards and Ticks have attracted over 44,000 hits.

Check out our videos on You Tube and watch out for more in the future.

<http://www.mcofs.org.uk/youtube-videos.asp>.

### **More You Tube**

One of the most amazing sights I had over the festive holiday was the icefloes on the River Tay at Newburgh in Fife. It was more like how I imagine the St Lawrence Seaway in Canada to be than somewhere in Scotland, but given the low temperatures we were getting and the length of time the cold spell went on for, this spectacular scene really was in Scotland. Anyway, if I can be self indulgent for a moment, here are my videos of the icefloes on the Tay Estuary on [New Year's Day](#), [January 2<sup>nd</sup>](#) and [January 10<sup>th</sup>](#). The first two are heading right to left, which is the upstream direction because they were being carried on the incoming tide.

**Time for a quick competition for club members.** If you took a short video of the wintry conditions over the last few weeks and have posted it on a video channel, then send the link to [mike@mcofs.org.uk](mailto:mike@mcofs.org.uk) and the best video will win a prize and be included in next month's News4Clubs. Your video could be doing something technical in the mountains or it could simply be out on a local path close to where you live. It could be spectacular, it could be funny or it could just be a dog on skis.

Closing date for entries is midday on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> February. The prize will be a choice of a Water Hazards in the Mountains DVD or a set of 3 Avalex Safety cards. Please tell us your name and which club you are from when you send the e-mail to us. Good luck.

### **Volunteers Required – Help Us Celebrate the Mountains!**

This year's MCofS Annual Gathering promises to be bigger and better than ever. It's a great opportunity for our members to celebrate the mountains and enjoy a range of mountaineering and social activities over the weekend of 4/5 September 2010. The venue will be Glenmore Lodge, near Aviemore.

We are looking for volunteers to help us develop ideas for the weekend, organise events, and help with organisation. MCofS director, Brenda Clough is co-ordinating the event and will be the main point of contact for volunteers. If you would like to get involved, please send your contact details to David Gibson, MCofS Chief Officer, at [davidg@mcofs.org.uk](mailto:davidg@mcofs.org.uk) or phone 01738 493 947.

We look forward to hearing from you.

The following article is from the Keep Scotland Tidy group

### **Recruits needed for National Spring Clean 2010**

Keep Scotland Tidy has started the new decade with an appeal for volunteers exasperated by litter to sign up for National Spring Clean 2010 – Scotland's biggest volunteer clean-up event.

Registration for the annual blitz on litter during April has opened and already there are more than **7,000** volunteers committed to pulling on their bright yellow spring clean tabard at **82** clean up events across Scotland.

Re-established four years ago the month long campaign has grown exponentially becoming one of the country's largest volunteer events. Families, schools, community groups, environmental organisations and businesses have all taken up the challenge to do something to improve the cleanliness of their local areas – and now Keep Scotland Tidy is calling for even more people to come forward and help make National Spring Clean 2010 the biggest yet.

Almost 60,000 people, at over 1,000 locations across Scotland, took part in fun litter pick events during the month of April 2009, filling enough black sacks of litter to fill 28,819 standard wheelie bins, but this year the campaign aim is to achieve even more.

Donna Niven, Programme Manager said, "Keep Scotland Tidy hopes to attract back many of those who took part in National Spring Clean last year, but we also look forward to welcoming some new recruits to bolster numbers and really give the country a good Spring clean".

"Not only is a litter pick a way of getting out in the fresh air after an over indulgent festive period, it also provides a cheap, yet fun activity for all of the family". "So, please help us this April and organise, or take part in, an event near you – all you have to do is chose a location and sign up on line for your FREE clean up kit at [www.KeepScotlandTidy.org/springclean](http://www.KeepScotlandTidy.org/springclean)".

Environment Minister Roseanna Cunningham said, "Last year's National Spring Clean was the most successful campaign by some distance with almost 60,000 people taking part – and we aim to do even better in 2010!

"As well as providing substantial funding in a bid to make this year's clean-up the best yet we have set ambitious recycling targets and outlined our vision for a zero waste Scotland".

"Litter is an ugly intrusion on our public places, offends our sense of pride and is a poor advertisement for Scotland. This month-long blitz offers people throughout Scotland the opportunity to restore a sense of community pride and clean up their neighbourhoods for themselves and visitors to our country".

Mike Dales  
18<sup>th</sup> January 2010