

# News 4 Clubs



# News 4 Clubs

**News 4 Clubs Bulletin Number 4**

**16 October 2009**

Welcome to the fourth edition of News 4 Clubs and thank you to those of you that have written to us with your comments on this new service from the MCoS. Your feedback is always welcome and helps us to better meet your needs. Once again we have a wide range of news items that should be of interest to our member clubs in this October edition.

The following articles can be found in News 4 Clubs this month:

1. Changes in Governance at MCoS
2. Board Members and Responsibilities
3. Advisory Groups
4. Working Groups
5. Volunteering
6. News from the Clubs Director's Keyboard
7. MCoS Winter Safety Lecturers
8. Avalanche Awareness Courses
9. Workshop on Access Issues
10. Vehicle Access to Tracks for Mountaineers – Have Your Say!
11. Volunteer required to help update our Media Contacts List
12. Volunteers with financial expertise sought
13. Volunteer(s) required to help on MCoS stand at the Dundee Mountain Film Festival
14. Volunteer sought to carry out ongoing work on our Members' Discount Scheme

## 1. Changes in Governance at MCofS

MCofS members voted unanimously for change in governance at the Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) held at Glenmore Lodge on 5 September. The changes expanded the current Board of directors from 6 to 8 elected members. In addition, the Executive was stood down and advisory groups now replace standing committees. As a result, there are more opportunities for volunteers to support the work of the MCofS across a range of activities.

## 2. Board Members and Responsibilities

At the AGM, held on the same date as the EGM, President Chris Townsend and 4 other directors were elected unopposed, and were joined by Brian Linington, who was re-elected, and by newly-elected directors Martin McCallum and Ron Payne. The Board have since agreed that Directors' responsibilities shall be:

<b>Chris Townsend</b>	<b>President</b> Chairs the Communications Advisory Group; acts as Individual Members' representative on the Board
<b>Brenda Clough</b>	<b>Director – Human Resources</b> Chairs the Membership Development Advisory Group; and the Ski-Mountaineering Development Group
<b>John Irving</b>	<b>Treasurer</b> Also responsible for Support Services
<b>Brian Linington</b>	<b>Director - Strategy and Planning</b>
<b>Martin McCallum</b>	<b>Director - Development and Promotion</b> Chairs the Hillwalking Advisory Group; and the Climbing Advisory Group
<b>Graeme Morrison</b>	<b>Director - Safety &amp; Training</b> Chairs the Mountain Safety Advisory Group; the Elite and Competition Climbing Advisory Group; and the Scottish Mountain Safety Forum; represents MCofS on MLTUK and MLTS Boards
<b>Ron Payne</b>	<b>Director - Club Development</b> Chairs the Clubs Advisory Group, to which the Huts Advisory Group reports, and the Voting Review Working Group
<b>Richard Spencer</b>	<b>Director - Access and Conservation</b> Chairs the Access and Conservation Advisory Group; MCofS nominated director - Nevis Partnership

### 3. **Advisory Groups**

Advisory Groups are established to inform MCofS strategy development and contribute to operational plans in a specific area of activity. Members will be drawn from the MCofS membership and others with appropriate expertise.

Existing and planned advisory groups include:

- Access & Conservation
- Climbing (including the Youth Working Group)
- Clubs (including Huts)
- Communications
- Elite and Competition Climbing
- Hillwalking
- Membership Development
- Mountain Safety
- Ski-Mountaineering Development

### 4. **Working Groups**

Working Groups are established to contribute to the delivery of specific projects included in the MCofS operational plan, and normally include volunteers, members of staff and where appropriate, representatives of other organisations such as suppliers.

### 5. **Volunteering**

We anticipate that volunteering vacancies will be announced in due course. Any member interested in volunteering to work with the MCofS is encouraged to check the 'Get Involved' section of the MCofS website and the page <http://www.mcofs.org.uk/volunteeringvacancies.asp>

### 6. **News from the Clubs Director's Keyboard**

Ron Payne writes: The keyboard here has been kept busy. The first discussion paper has gone out to the **Voting Review Working Group** with a deadline for responses of 9<sup>th</sup> November. A draft questionnaire has been circulated around the **Clubs Advisory Group** (CAG) for comments. I hope we can complete the Research with Clubs before Christmas. The CAG web page needs some tidying up. I have been holding off so that a CAG contact form could be placed on it. This has yet to appear as I write. 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.

The recent Board meeting was mostly given over to agreeing the roles and responsibilities of the Directors following on from the changes to the Governance of the MC of S at the EGM in September. To see the news item

on the website please use this link:

<http://www.mcofs.org.uk/news.asp?s=2&id=MCS-N10345&nc>

The BMC will hold 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/caq.asp>

Ron Payne  
Director Club Affairs and Development

## **7. MCoFS Winter Safety Lectures**

The ever popular MCoFS Winter Safety Lectures will be taking place from January 20<sup>th</sup> to March 11<sup>th</sup> this coming winter. The lectures will be at three locations (Clachaig Inn, Glencoe – Mountain Café, Aviemore – Lochaber Mountain Rescue Base, Ben Nevis Industrial Estate, Fort William) and the 21 lectures will be presented by the following speakers: Richard Bentley, Nick Carter, Di Gilbert, Rosie Goolden, Stuart Johnston, Cameron McNeish, Ian Sherrington, Simon Steer, David (Heavy) Whalley and Roger Wild. Check out <http://www.mcofs.org.uk/winterlectureseries.asp> for full details.

## **8. Avalanche Awareness Courses 2010**

Next winter, the MCoFS will be running a series of one-day "Avalanche Awareness" courses. Aimed at the general winter hill walker, the courses are non-certificated and will be suitable for anyone wishing to increase their knowledge of snow and avalanches, learn which areas to avoid and improve their understanding of reports and forecasts. Each course will consist of an indoor introduction to avalanche theory followed by a practical session on the hill.

The courses will be delivered by qualified and experienced instructors at a ratio of 1 tutor to 4 participants. Basic winter skills will NOT be covered. It is essential that course participants are comfortable and competent in winter conditions and have their own winter hill walking equipment.

The course costs £35 per person and the dates are:-

- Saturday 9th January 2010 (Cairngorms/Glenmore Lodge)
- Sunday 10th January 2010 (Cairngorms/Glenmore Lodge)
- Saturday 30th January 2010 (Aonach Mor/Nevis Range)
- Sunday 31st January 2010 (Aonach Mor/Nevis Range)
-

For more information please contact the MCofS office or book your place now by sending a £35 cheque along with your address and telephone number to the MCofS Office, or alternatively by telephoning the office to pay by card. *Please indicate which day you wish to attend.* Details and a booking confirmation will then be sent to you.

## **9. Local Access Forum Workshop on Access Issues - Stirling - 7th November 2009**

Register now!

This year's national training event for representatives of recreational users on Local Access Forums (LAFs), which is likely also to be of use to those interested in access issues generally, is being held in Stirling on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> November. This event is organised by the British Horse Society, Cycle Touring Club, Mountaineering Council of Scotland, Ramblers Scotland, Scottish Canoe Association, Scotways and Sustrans, and is supported by the Paths for All Partnership.

The training will be workshop-based, with opportunities for discussion and networking, and is aimed at LAF members, but also open to members of these organisations who are involved and/or interested in access. The event aims to deepen understanding of the implementation of the access legislation and will include time for discussion on future roles for LAFs now that the core path planning process is coming to an end. There will also be an update on recent legal cases and national access issues.

Please obtain a registration form from Helen Todd, Ramblers Scotland, Kingfisher House, Auld Mart Business Park, Milnathort, Kinross KY13 9DA, or [helen.todd@ramblers.org.uk](mailto:helen.todd@ramblers.org.uk). Phone 01577 861 222.

## **10. Membership Consultation: Vehicle Access to Tracks for Mountaineers – Have Your Say!**

### **Where, Why, How and What are the Implications?**

The MCofS has been approached by members and the Forestry Commission with reference to a small number of publicly owned tracks being considered for opening to mountaineers, or a subset of mountaineers - one in the north-west, and 4 or 5 in the south-west. The automatic response may be, “of course MCofS should be promoting vehicle access up tracks - they are there so we should be able to use them!” However, it is not that simple. As it stands, it is fairly clear that we cannot actively be positive about opening up new vehicle access based on our current Access & Conservation position statements, on which we consulted with members in early 2009. The relevant sections are:

1. [The] “principle of a long walk in is an effective protection mechanism”

- i.e. the more concentrated the foot (or off-road bike) the greater the erosion
2. [The] “construction or upgrading of vehicular tracks should be avoided in remote areas” i.e. including widening to provide car parking
  3. “unnecessary tracks should be removed” i.e. unnecessary for their original purpose

### Existing Examples

- Glen Strathfarrar ([www.mcofs.org.uk/strathfarrar-access.asp](http://www.mcofs.org.uk/strathfarrar-access.asp)) - plenty of parking, enables otherwise impossible mountaineering days, MCoFS does not monitor / enforce, road is tarmac
- Ben Nevis - with sufficient insurance a guide can buy a key for £200 / year, little / no monitoring / enforcement has taken place, MCoFS has no direct involvement

### Pros and Cons

- **Mountain and crag accessibility** – vehicle access would enable easier use of more mountains or crags, increasing choices in some areas
- **Parking Considerations**
  - Either numbers may be severely restricted because of limited space or seasonal restrictions; or
  - A parking area would need to be excavated and surfaced, in which case who would pay and how would this sit with our position statement on no track development?
- **Resource costs** – depending on the system required for permission, MCoFS may need to find staff time or financial resources. How would this be paid for? Is this a priority if we could find more resources?
- **Erosion** – concentrated erosion may increase in new locations
- **Any other issues we are missing?**

So what do you think MCoFS’s position on this issue should be? Please contribute - MCoFS needs to know your views in order to represent them, especially if you are the silent majority! Please respond, preferably by email to [hebe@mcofs.org.uk](mailto:hebe@mcofs.org.uk). The deadline is the end of Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2009.

### 11. Volunteer required to help update our Media Contacts List

We are looking for a volunteer that could spend some time (either in our office or working from home) updating our list of media contacts. This will involve making some phone calls and doing some Internet searching, and will probably take two or three full days of work. If anyone has the time to do this we would be delighted to hear from you. Please contact me at [mike@mcofs.org.uk](mailto:mike@mcofs.org.uk). Thank you.

### 12. Volunteer with financial expertise sought

John Irving, our Treasurer, is seeking suitably experienced volunteers with expertise or interest in financial matters who can assist him, and who may be interested in taking the Treasurer's role in future. Contact me at [mike@mcofs.org.uk](mailto:mike@mcofs.org.uk).

**13. Volunteer(s) required to help on MCoFS stand at the Dundee Mountain Film Festival**

We are looking for one or two volunteers to spend some time working on the MCoFS stand at the Dundee Mountain Film Festival. Would anyone who could help us out on the evening of Friday 27<sup>th</sup> and through the afternoon and evening of Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> November please send an e-mail to [davidg@mcofs.org.uk](mailto:davidg@mcofs.org.uk).

**14. Volunteer sought to carry out ongoing work on our Members' Discount Scheme**

The MCoFS is actively developing its Members' Discount Scheme and we would welcome some ongoing help from a volunteer who could assist us in the process of contacting a wide range of companies and organisations to seek their participation in this scheme. Depending on your location this work could be carried out from home or the MCoFS office. If you are interested, please send me an e-mail to [mike@mcofs.org.uk](mailto:mike@mcofs.org.uk).

Mike Dales  
Membership Development Officer