

# News 4 Clubs



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**News 4 Clubs Bulletin Number 6**

**11<sup>th</sup> December 2009**

## **Seasons Greetings to all MCoS Club Members**

Before going into the usual list of news items in News4Clubs I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy Christmas and Peaceful 2010. Whilst we all bid farewell to the norties and welcome in the teenies, I hope you all manage to get outdoors for a spot of your favourite mountain activity over the festive break. Who knows, we might even get some snow. That would be a welcome present for walkers, climbers and skiers alike.

## **The MCoS Office will be closed over Christmas and New Year**

Our office will be closed from 24 December to 4 January inclusive. Please advise your members concerning the holiday period arrangements for Strathfarrar access information below.

## **News4Clubs Online**

As well as sending News4Clubs to club secretaries in Word and PDF formats, this newsletter is also available (in PDF format) on the MCoS website at: <http://www.mcofs.org.uk/club-news.asp>.

## **MCoS Winter Safety Initiatives**

Over the past few weeks we have been promoting the Winter Mountain Safety message with the aim of raising awareness of the wide range of advice that we provide on the subject.

This is an appropriate time therefore for clubs to forward onto their members the following links to some valuable Winter Safety pages on our website.

<http://www.mcofs.org.uk/winter-safety.asp> - the introductory page to our Winter Safety advice. This section is always worth checking because there is so much vital information in there.

<http://www.mcofs.org.uk/winterlectureseries.asp> - Our free Winter Lecture Series in Aviemore, Glencoe and Fort William. These lectures are always popular and this year's speaker line-up features some famous faces from Scottish mountaineering.

<http://www.mwis.org.uk/> - for a link to the Mountain Weather Information Service.

<http://www.mcofs.org.uk/snow-avalanche-reports.asp> - for a link to the sportsotland Avalanche Information Service.

<http://www.mcofs.org.uk/youtube-videos.asp> for links to some Safety related MCofS video clips on You Tube.

Our Mountain Safety Adviser, Heather Morning, recommends that walkers and climbers always check the MWIS and SAIS forecasts prior to their intended outing.

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

I have now indulged in a replacement computer. I have changed breed and opted for an iMac this time. It is a steep learning curve and consuming a great deal of time. I note that while some activities are easier others seem to be more difficult or maybe it is that steep learning curve.

- **The Website.** - This has now acquired a new row of menu buttons under the top row. **Clubs** is one of these and will take you to areas dedicated to, well, Clubs. So selecting Clubs gives one a side menu selection and clicking on Club Services leads through to another side menu, within which is the link to the page devoted to the Clubs Advisory Group. The web address is still the same, <http://www.mcofs.org.uk/cag.asp>. I believe there are some further enhancements to come with an interactive map for finding clubs. Please make use of the website, it is intended for all with an interest in the Scottish Mountains.
- **Voting Review Working Group** - The Working Group has concluded that the existing Club Block Voting arrangements should be retained. The summary conclusions are on the VRWG web page. This is accessed via Clubs, Club Services, then click on Voting Review Working Group at the bottom of the side menu.
- I must apologise, but the draft questionnaire has not advanced since the **Clubs Advisory Group** responded with their comments. My revised target is to get this out to Clubs in the New Year.
- **Club Seminar.** - I attended the BMC Club Seminar in Manchester on the 28<sup>th</sup> November. It was quite interesting and instructive; perhaps more for that which I felt did not work. I have reported on the seminar to the Clubs Advisory Group (CAG). Can I remind you that the MCofS Club Seminar has been set for 4<sup>th</sup> September at Glenmore Lodge, Aviemore to coincide with the Annual Gathering and AGM.

Ron Payne  
Director Club Affairs and Development

### **Glen Strathfarrar Gate Access Arrangements during the Xmas and New Year Break**

Due to the closure of our offices during the holiday period, we are taking notification details for access to Strathfarrar in advance. Please advise your members that they may contact our office up to and including 23 December on 01738 493 942 for this purpose.

We will require the following information: intended date of visit, vehicle registration number, names of occupants and contact telephone number. We will provide combination lock details in return and pass on the details provided by your members to the gatekeeper. Note that the gatekeeper is unable to receive direct calls during the holiday period.

### **Summit Financial Services**

The Christmas and New Year break is a time for getting out onto the hills for a blast of cold air and hopefully some stunning snow clad landscapes. It is also a time for making New Year resolutions and putting personal finances back into shape. If like a lot of other hill walkers and climbers the mention of climbing related interests has made it hard for you to get life insurance, or any other form of financial product then Summit Financial Services should be able to help you.

Summit Financial Services is a firm of financial advisers, run by climbers, and run for climbers. If you are spending a day indoors over the next few weeks in order to go over your finances then take a look at this page on our website: <http://www.mcofs.org.uk/summitfinancialservices.asp> and check out what Summit might be able to offer you.

### **Annual Return Deadline Reminder**

Thank you to those clubs who have contacted us and made their annual returns. Reminder copies of the annual return pack were emailed or posted in the last two weeks to secretaries and treasurers of clubs we have yet to hear from. Please note that the deadline for receipt of fees is 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).

### **Scottish Climbing Code of Practice (Summer and Winter)**

We are consulting members on a Scottish Climbing Code of Practice for summer and winter climbing. If you would like to read the draft document and submit your views then please visit: <http://www.mcofs.org.uk/news.asp?s=2&id=MCS-N10387&nc=>. Closing date for responses is 11<sup>th</sup> January 2010.

We have received details of this offer from C-N-Do in Stirling.

### **Virtual Club Nights by C-N-Do**

Raise money for club funds whilst receiving a discount on our range of Paramo Outdoor Clothing.

You choose the date to suit your own club members.

Order online from [www.cndoscotland.com/paramo](http://www.cndoscotland.com/paramo).

Discount can be split between the club member and the club – e.g. a 15% discount can be split with the individual receiving a 10% discount and the club receiving 5% towards club funds.

Club secretaries contact us on 01786 445 703 or

[Margaret@cndoscotland.com](mailto:Margaret@cndoscotland.com) to arrange your virtual club night.

### **Energy Saving Trust**

We have received information from the Energy Saving Trust about their advisory service and householder grants that can enable people to install renewable energy systems into their homes. Club members may be interested in their information so we have posted it on our website at

<http://www.mcofs.org.uk/news.asp?s=2&id=MCS-N10392&nc=>

Mike Dales

11<sup>th</sup> December 2009