



MIDLANDS AREA NEWS

Issue 002 14th Oct 2007



Brought to you by the
BMC's Midland Area Meeting.

BMC MIDLANDS AREA



Iain McKenzie, Area Chair, Suited and Booted in Canada.

Welcome to the second issue of the BMC's Midlands Area News. It has been put together by the volunteers of your local Area Meeting to keep you up to date about Midlands walking and climbing. We are a happy bunch who are involved with crag clean ups, guidebook work, rebolting and access work. We would love to see you at our next meeting (see next page for details). We are a "doing, not talking" kind of meeting, and we are here to represent you.

If you would like to get involved or contribute to this Newsletter email: iain.a.mckenzie@btinternet.com or come along to the Open Area Meetings.

Area Open Meeting News

Date: 6th September 2007

Venue: Old Edwardians Sports Club, Solihull.

Summary by Fiona Divine:

A new venue for the "West" Midlands meeting the Old Edwardians Sports Club, Solihull, the home of the Solihull Mountaineering Club and new style proved a winning combination. 36 people attended, a good mix of climbers, hill walkers and mountaineers.

The meeting started with quick introductions from the BMC Rob Addy, the new Walls officer and Martin Koscis, Volunteers Officer. Followed by Phil from Redpoint Climbing Centre, the new climbing wall in Birmingham. Its location was always a guarded secret but Phil revealed the location "77 Cecil Street, Birmingham B19 3SU". Just 8-mins from the city centre. To register on line or find out more details see www.redpointclimbingcentre.co.uk

Area & National Council Meeting

Then the meeting was opened up for a discussion on how to improve the meetings. Thanks for the many suggestions. Ideas for thought included a new West Midlands Guide book, clean ups, slide shows, talks with a hill walker slant, workshops etc. Watch this press.

The regular slots of report from the access reps for the East and West were also provided. See Access section for details. An update on the new Leicestershire Guide Book was also provided.

Finally to quote the chair, Iain "we want to make the meetings – 'the 3I's' Interesting, Informative and Informal". This was certainly the case with a lively discussion-taking place. I would like to thank everyone who attended and I think it's fair to say you all added something to the night. It's good to hear the support for the newsletter. We hope to see you all at the next meeting on Thursday 4th December 2004

Please note that there will be a formal aspect to the meeting as we shall be electing the new committee posts of Chair, Secretary, Access East, Access West, Elections of Officers, Climbing Walls – East and West and Youth Officer. If you are interested in finding out more on the positions and wish to volunteer then please get in touch. We are particularly keen to have a Climbing Walls – West Officer as for the last couple of years no volunteer has come forward and the role has been taken by the East officer.

Front Cover Picture:

Trevor enjoying playing at Markfield Quarry, Credit: Iain McKenzie

National Council Summary

Date: 15th September 2007

The September 2007 meeting of the National Council, held at a new location Brenscombe Outdoor Centre, Swanage. Swanage is a very popular area for climbing with many different climbs from Hard to E7 along the limestone sea cliffs. With the late start (4.00pm) to meeting many of 20 members in attendance went climbing.

The main topics discussed were the new BMC Crag Code. The final draft design was agreed. Look out for it in publications, as it should hit the press shortly. Discussions also took place on having a Crag Code for groups and this matter has been passed ACEG's to consider and report back at next National Council meeting.

The updated draft Equity & Diversity policy was also discussed. A number of issues were raised with the suggested amendments proposed fed back to Nick Colton. The Policy should be finalised shortly and be endorsed at the next council meeting.

It was agreed that people entering senior national climbing competitions (BLCC's and BBC's), the British Team's (all) and all hosts on BMC International Meets are required to be BMC members. Other events like leading ladder events are either 'members only' or have differential entry fees for members / non-members.

Finally the Midlands newsletters received glowing review and commendation.

On-Line at www.thebmc.co.uk

Local Area Action

BMC MIDLANDS AREA



Carver's Rocks Clean Up, Part 2.
Andy Richards

Never volunteer for anything, well, unless it involves climbing !

Having been climbing for only 2 years mainly indoors and occasionally at Slawston Bridge i found myself surprised when at a Tower meeting my hand involuntarily jerked upwards to suggest to all that i was willing to help out with some much needed route cleaning at some of the local Leicestershire crags.

Having never done this before i had no idea quite what it involved, but i guessed it would be fun and involve a day at some remote beauty spot initially doing a little brushing and weed pulling followed by lots of climbing. I even visualised myself having to climb one handed up and down the routes whilst cleaning them which would obviously test my technical ability and strength to its limit!

Sounds like fun right?

Well let me tell you having done it only once, thus far i would definitely do it again and i would recommend anyone interested to get out there and get involved. It was loads of fun, even though like so many things in life it was not quite what i expected it to be.

Anyway a few weekends later after a triple climbers breakfast, that's porridge, a veggie fry up with 3 eggs and a selection of fruit to munch on route, off we shot. The we being made up by my friend Luke, who i had talked into joining me for a lazy days climbing!

On arriving we had a little trouble finding the exact off road trail bit as i had (yet again) left my Google Map print out on my printer, c'est la vie. Nevertheless some 10 minutes later we were wondering down a dense forest path, which felt like the right path!

After a short distance the path opened out into a lovely forest clearing and sure enough our gut instinct was right and we had arrived. It felt good. Perfect in fact, sunshine, shade and a lovely open space right in front of the crag.

An excellent spot to climb, picnic, chuck Frisbees, whatever and for those with partners and families plenty of dense forest for them to run riot in. I could immediately see at least 3 forest paths leading off in different directions all offering visitors the usual forest magic and mystery for exploration. One of the climbers helping out also told us of an excellent walk around the large lake. Of course with all this forest to soak up the weekend walkers and kids the actual climbing spot was very peaceful leaving us not so serious climbers to get on with the serious business of climbing or should i say cleaning. I smiled, it was going to be a good day.

By the time we had arrived most of the other volunteers were there and were in the process of setting up some ropes. I looked around, the spot was excellent, peaceful, and with the sun streaking thru the trees the ambience was superb. But what of the Rocks, well i ain't no expert and i certainly ain't Jenny from the block, but in my opinion the Rocks are good.

Anyway I probably ought to tell you what this clean up involved, but i guess if you've been before you already have a good idea and if you haven't then its about time you did. Besides helping to keep our local crags open your going to get a good work out, learn some new skills and make some new friends.



Anyway now Carver Rocks is all shiny and new you better get your asses down there and make good use of it because with so few people climbing what's on our own door step here in Leicestershire, I think we all know its a question of use it now or lose it once more to new growth and the green slippery stuff.

For more information contact Iain 07984 172403

AREA ACCESS INFORMATION...

MIDLANDS EAST

Markfield Quarry: This is a report from the Access officer for the East Midlands regarding the situation at Hill Hole quarry (Markfield), Markfield is as follows. I have asked Caroline Lambert, the Greenspace Officer at Hinckley and Bosworth Council, to explain why the No Climbing, No Absailing (sic.) signs have been erected at the quarry. She stated that several years ago Leics. Co.Council were going to buy it as an outdoor pursuits venue, but following a ROSPA survey decided against it. Hinckly and Bos. council then purchased it as a nature reserve. She states that H. and B council have never allowed climbing there. When I told her that when I visited the quarry to look at the signs, a group of school children from Beaumanor Hall were climbing there with an instructor, who was under the impression that he had permission, she stated that no one had applied for permission to climb, no one had ever been given permission to climb, nor would they be if they applied. I tried to tell her that permission was given some years ago to climb in the top part of the quarry and that hundreds of climbers were aware of this and used the quarry, but she wouldn't listen or discuss it. Her final answer was, climbing is not allowed. I am gathering evidence to submit to her.



MIDLANDS WEST

No New access information to report

The Crag Code...

Following on from the short article we did in the last news letter we are pleased to be showing you this, for those of you who missed it, The BMC has produced a new code of conduct - the Crag Code - to encourage the sustainable use of crags in England and Wales.

The code consists of ten important reminders for people visiting our crags - from respecting the rock and other people, to keeping to established footpaths and keeping dogs under control. Whilst the majority of climbers and boulderers have a positive attitude towards crag access and protection - the BMC felt a code was needed to help prevent situations whereby access may come under threat.

Dave Turnbull, BMC Chief Executive, said: "The BMC Crag Code is a simple set of common sense principles. It's in all of our interests to look after our crags. Whether you're an individual climber, part of a club or running outdoor activity courses, the Crag Code applies to you. Read

and respect it."

The Crag Code was approved by BMC National Council in September 2007. It is part of a wider programme to help protect our crags - including Green Guides & Tread Lightly publications, which are freely available to all climbers, hill walkers and mountaineers.

The idea is that it will be reproduced in guidebooks, climbing magazines/books, Mountain Leader Training literature, outdoor websites, crag noticeboards and posters at climbing walls. We're calling on organisations and individuals to promote sustainable climbing by following the Crag Code and publicising it as much as possible.

CRAG CODE

Access	Check the Regional Access Database (RAD) on www.thebmc.co.uk for the latest access information
Parking	Park carefully - avoid gateways and driveways
Footpaths	Keep to established paths - leave gates as you find them
Risk	Climbing can be dangerous - accept the risks and be aware of other people around you
Respect	Groups and individuals - respect the rock, local climbing ethics and other people
Wildlife	Do not disturb livestock, wildlife or cliff vegetation; respect seasonal bird nesting restrictions
Dogs	Keep dogs under control at all times; don't let your dog chase sheep or disturb wildlife
Litter	'Leave no trace' - take all litter home with you
Toilets	Don't make a mess - bury your waste
Economy	Do everything you can to support the rural economy - shop locally

BMC Participation Statement - Climbing, hill walking and mountaineering are activities with a danger of personal injury or death. Participants in these activities should be aware of and accept these risks and be responsible for their own actions and involvement.

Insight into Student Clubs

BMC MIDLANDS AREA



The following week we start our indoor wall sessions at the Moat Community College in Highfields. These take place on Tuesday's from 7.30pm-9.00pm and Wednesday 1.30pm-3.00pm, and often attract members who do not manage to get a place on our fresher's meet. The socialising then continues that Wednesday, when we host our 'roped up bar crawl!' where teams of 6-8 people rope up alpine style and proceed their way around a variety of different bars. The second week is then topped off by a weekend camping trip to Pembroke, South Wales. By now our new members have made several friends, and are partnered up with experienced members who build upon their basic climbing knowledge.

Despite the intensity of the two weeks, our new members thoroughly enjoy their time with the club and often progress on to become experienced rock climbers.

If you are interested in joining ULMC, please do not hesitate to contact us on su-climbing@le.ac.uk

ULMC - It is not a rapper or DJ...

The University of Leicester Mountaineering club (ULMC) is one of the universities most popular sports clubs. Open to current students, graduates and staff of the university, ULMC attracts over a hundred members each year.

October is our busiest time of the year simply because of our high intake of freshers. The first few weeks at uni can potentially be frightening and lonely, however, we at ULMC attempt to remedy this by providing the ultimate distraction – rock climbing!

The fun all kicks off at the end of their first week at uni, when they attend our freshers meet to the Peak District. The party is split between Millstone and Laurancefield in order to limit our impact at the crag, and members of all levels of ability are encouraged to participate in both climbing and abseiling. Then in true student style, we flock to the Millstone Pub in Hathersage, where we enjoy a fantastic roast dinner, and do more than our share in supporting the local brewery. The evening is spent making many friends whilst participating in several ice breaking activities.



For more information contact Iain 07984 172403

BMC MIDLANDS AREA

Climbing Club Focus



The Ceunant Mountaineering Club is a Birmingham based club. Like many clubs the was formed in the 1950's , in fact on the 9th May 1956 when a number of members of the Mountaineering Association (Birmingham and District) looked for their own club that they could join after completing courses in mountaineering. Our name was taken from the cottage, "Pen Ceunant" near Llanberis a favourite haunt of the Birmingham & District club visited.

The original object of the Club was to "provide facilities for the pursuit of mountaineering in all its aspects" and this is certainly the case today. Our members participate in all aspects of mountaineering from rock climbing to hill walking, high mountaineering to trekking, winter ice to summer sport climbing. Some of us have even been spotted kite surfing but that's another story.

Our Club has grown from these early days with a membership of approximately 150, encompassing a wide age range from 18 upwards. The majority of active members come from Midlands and but so we also have members around the country and even further a field.

Take a look at the meets list for some ideas of the various activities through the year. This year the meets have included the Peak District, The Lakes, Anglesey (a joint meeting with N W Leicestershire MC, Chamonix and wild camping in the Ogwen Valley to name just a few. The meets list evolves from year to year as the membership of the club changes. Our current Outdoor meets secretary Steve Ratcliffe designed it to get good participation, attendance averages 20 with a record of 46 at the Peak meet. The meets list reflects only a fraction of what people do, many trips are arranged informally on a Wednesday evening at the pub "Spotted Dog", Alcester Street, Digbeth.

We pride ourselves on keeping members informed via a quarterly newsletter. Packed full of photographs from meets, details of up and coming meets, new members etc. Have a read of our newsletters , see section on our website <http://www.ceunant.org/NewsletterArchive.htm>

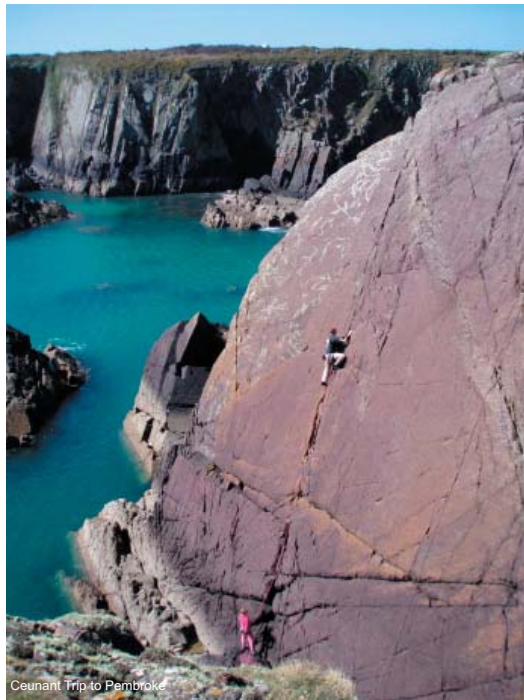
One of the best things about the Ceunant MC is the club hut "Ty'n Lon". Our home from home situated in Nant Paris next door to the Vaynol Arms, within handy reach of all the main climbing and walking areas.

This Five star accommodation with all mod cons including central heating was acquired in 1957. The club is very proud of the cottage which is the result of extensive renovation in the 90's, and it is a fantastic place to just sit outside after a good day, relaxing with a beer and gazing up the pass at the view.

Have a look at our website for more pictures, articles, a full meets list for the year, the club forum and more. You can find us at www.ceunant.org.

We welcome new members at all levels of ability and in all fields related to climbing and mountaineering. You don't have to be a great alpinist to join! We have members who climb at various grades, and in various styles from bouldering to mountaineering. So you'll almost certainly find someone suitable to climb with. Indeed, if you're completely new to mountain sports, you're welcome. Our only restriction is that you need to be 18 or over to join. See the "get involved" section on our Web Site. You can even down load and information pack. We meet socially every Wednesday from 9.30pm at the Spotted Dog, Alcester Street, Digbeth.

If you would be interested in knowing more about us, then come along to the pub on a Wednesday, or email secretary@ceunant.org We would love to hear from you!



Ceunant Trip to Pembroke

On-Line at www.thebmc.co.uk

Climbing & Mountaineering Clubs

BMC MIDLANDS AREA

This is a list of clubs locally in the Midlands. All the clubs on the BMC database were emailed and asked if they wished to be included in this list, if a club is not here, they did not get back to us. If a club wishes to be included, please check your details are correct on the BMC database and email us direct.

BEWDLEY MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

Bewdley and District Mountaineering Club is a small group of mountaineering enthusiasts based on the towns of Bewdley, Kidderminster and Stourport, about 20 miles from Birmingham. We are BMC affiliated, but have an informal and friendly atmosphere. The BMC affiliation means that members can obtain discount on climbing or hillwalking gear from many retailers.

We cater for both climbers and mountain walkers and people of all levels and abilities are welcome to join.

The Club's main activities are centred around a programme of hut meets (with the occasional camping meet) most of which are in North Wales or the Lake District, but club members also make arrangements to go further afield, e.g. Scotland or the Alps.

Club Meet: Thursday's

Time: 21:45

Venue: The Great Western, Kidderminster Road, Bewdley.

Contact Name: Vince Harrison

Telephone: 01299 871724

Web Address: www.bewdleymountaineeringclub.co.uk

Email: vince.harrison@btinternet.com

BOWLINE CLIMBING CLUB

The Leicester based and BMC affiliated Bowline Climbing Club has been established for more than fifty years and is an active and friendly club with over 100 members, holding regular meets throughout the UK and further afield. We also own a hut just outside Llanberis.

Characterised by a healthy spirit of competition and no small amount of p**s taking, the Bowline exists to foster a love of the outdoors, not just in climbing but in hill walking, ice climbing, mountaineering, cycling, running and skiing and the many other activities which our members participate in. These activities are enjoyed at many different levels within the club, so there really is 'something for everyone'!

Although there are many meets based further afield, most weekends there are people going up to the Peak District for a day of fun on the grit, or limestone. In the winter we generally try to get away for at least one week sport climbing on hot rock and/or a week skiing. We also have an active program of evening events in the week, including running, cycling and climbing.

Club Meet: Wednesday Night

Time: From 21:00 onwards

Venue: Cow & Plough, Stoughton, Leicester.

Contact Name: Zoe Pickering

Telephone: 07709 337976

Web Address: www.bowline.f9.co.uk

Email: meetsec@gmail.com



Ceunant Trip to Froggart

CEUNANT MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

We are a long established climbing club based in the Midlands (centred on Birmingham). We number about 150 members. A mixture of all sorts.

From big range mountaineers to rock climbers, sports climbers, skiers, ski tourers, walkers and scramblers.

We organise a varied program of meets and longer trips around the UK, Europe & occasionally international. In previous years, these have included Chamonix, Alps, Lundy, Italian Dolomites, Corsica and the Canadian Rockies to name just a few. We also have an active programme of social events like canoe trips on the river severn, curry evenings and slide shows. For more details See the "Meets and Events" page on our website

New members are always welcome, regardless of experience, an interest in climbing, walking, camping, biking, skiing or any other mountain sport is all you need. See the "getting involved" page on our website. scramblers.

Club Meet: Every Wednesday

Time: 21:30 - 23:00

Venue: Spotted Dog, Corner of Alcester St & Warwick St, Digberth, Birmingham, B12 0NH

Contact Name: Debbie Sharp

Telephone: 01746 862 011

Web Address: www.ceuant.org

Email: secretary@ceuant.org

For more information contact Iain 07984 172403

BMC MIDLANDS AREA

COVENTRY MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

The purpose of the club is to encourage every branch of mountaineering.

The main activities of the club are a varied series of weekend meets held every two to three weeks in the popular and also the less well known climbing and walking areas of the UK and beyond. In winter we generally base our meets in mountain huts and cottages and in summer we normally camp.

The club owns a hut, or cottage, at Corris in southern Snowdonia, which is available to members. Corris is close to Cader Idris, the Arans and Plynlimon. The Corris area is much quieter than the Snowdon area. It offers good hill walking, forest trails, mountain biking trails and rock climbing.

It is quite common to go out for a day and see no more than a handful of people.

Club Meet: Socially every Wed evening

Time: 21:30 - 23:00

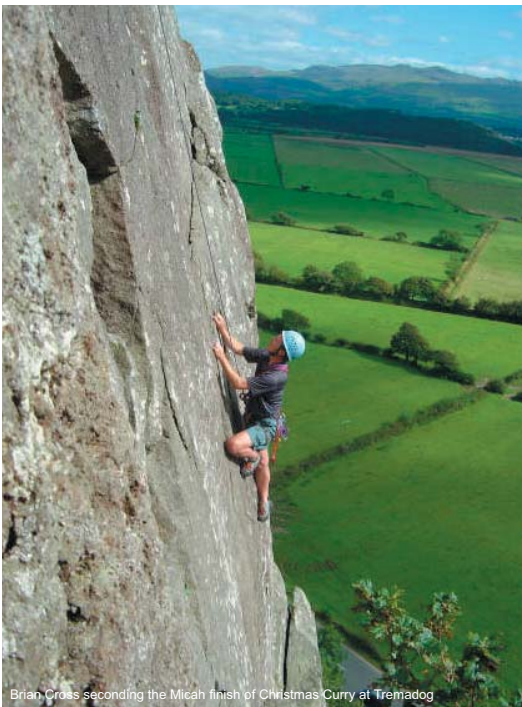
Venue: London Road Social Club, Paradise St., Coventry.

Contact Name: Mike

Telephone: 024 76597125

Web Address: www.coventry-mc.fsnet.co.uk (new site shortly)

Email: mike_o_bike@yahoo.co.uk



Brian Cross seconding the Micah finish of Christmas Curry at Tremadog

Climbing & Mountaineering Clubs

HINCKLEY MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

We are an active club that exist for the benefit of the members. With a full programme of activities there's ample opportunity for walking, scrambling, rock climbing, mountaineering, mountain biking, skiing and socialising.

Check out this website to find out more, or come and have a drink with us on Thursday evening.

New members whether beginners or experienced are always welcome.

Club Meet: Every Thursday Night

Time: From 21:00

Venue: The Holywell Inn. London Road, Hinckley.

Web Address: www.hinckleymc.org

NORTH LEICESTERSHIRE MOUNTAIN CLUB

We are a mountain club rather than a mountaineering club and so enjoy all activities associated with the outdoors environment. These include: Climbing, Walking, Mountaineering, Caving and Mountain Biking.

We are child and dog friendly, as long as they are well behaved and you look after them!

In the dark winter evenings we have a weekly indoor climbing meeting at the Tower Climbing Centre (Tuesday's), on summer evenings might go to a local crag or quarry or maybe up to Wildcat Tor at Matlock.

Club Meet: Tuesday and Thursday Evenings

Time: From 19:00 (Tuesday) & From 21:00 (Thursday)

Venue: The Tower on Tuesday & White Hart public house in Quorn.

Contact Name: Adrian Thorpe

Telephone: 0116 2892421

SOLIHULL MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

The Club is based in the Solihull area of the West Midlands with members from all round the area. We are actively involved in many mountain sports including mountaineering, scrambling, hill walking, rock climbing and mountain biking to name but a few. We welcome anyone with an interest in mountains.

Although we have a number of very experienced rock climbers in the club we also cater for novices with regular ad hoc meets targeted at their needs.

The club has both a structured programme of events and an informal set of events that are arranged at short notice. Check out the Activities section of the website, message board or turn up on a club evening for up-to-date details.

Club Meet: Every Tuesday many members go to the Creation Wall climbing centre at 582 Moseley Rd, Birmingham. Check the website for location details. If you want to make contact with us there its probably best to get in touch beforehand to make sure we meet up on the night.

Thursday night is club night. Although there may not always be a committee member there every Thursday, we guarantee to have someone there on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays in the month.

Time: 21:30 - 22:00

On-Line at www.thebmc.co.uk

Climbing & Mountaineering Clubs

BMC MIDLANDS AREA

Venue: The Old Edwardians Sports Club is at the junction of Streetsbrook Road and Olton Lane, in Solihull. A map showing the location of the Old Ed's can be found on the website.

Contact Name: Rob Trezise

Telephone: Rob on 07976 840679

Web Address: www.solihullmc.org.uk

Email: See Web Site

WARWICK CLIMBING CLUB

Warwick Climbing Club is based in the west midlands, so if you want to go rock climbing, mountaineering, scrambling or hill walking, you have come to the right place!

The club have approximately 80 members drawn from Warwick, Leamington Spa, Stratford-upon-Avon, Coventry and the surrounding areas.

We aim to offer a friendly atmosphere where local climbers can meet so come along one evening and say hello.

The club organises outdoor trips about three times a month during the summer months and less frequently during winter. Have a look at our website to find out our planned activities for 2007.

Club Meet: Every Monday & Wednesday

Time: 19:00 - 21:30

Venue: St Nicholas Park Leisure Centre in Warwick.

Contact Name: Neill McMullan

Telephone: 07754397703

Web Address: www.warwickclimbingclub.co.uk

Email: info@warwickclimbingclub.co.uk

WARWICK MOUNTAINS

The University of Warwick Hillwalking & Mountaineering Club is an active and open club for students and staff at the University of Warwick.

Catering for people of all abilities with a wide range of interests, we go on weekend trips every three weeks to Britain's mountainous regions.

Whether you want to take an easier walk through beautiful mountain scenery, or have a technical day on the mountain we can accommodate your interests.

We also run two annual trips: one winter trip to Scotland for winter walking and climbing, and a summer alpine tour.

From walkers to alpinists, this is the club if you love being in the mountains.

Club Meet: As above, three weekend trips per term, plus an annual Scottish winter trip and summer Alpine trip. We also have social events which tend to be fortnightly.

Web Address: www.warwickmountains.co.uk

Email: info@warwickmountains.co.uk



Brian Cross and Jackie on top of The Cobbler in the Arrochar Alps.

WEST BROMWICH MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

WBMC is a friendly mountaineering club based in the heart of the West Midlands.

We welcome all kinds of mountaineering activity, including climbing, hill walking and fell running.

We welcome experienced mountaineers and complete beginners alike.

Club Meet: Every Thursday evening & Coach Meet 2nd Sunday (rarely Saturday) of the month

Time: From around 9pm or 8pm if there is a talk/slide show (7am for coach)

Venue: "The Globe", Reform Street, West Bromwich (opposite the Police Station)

Contact Name: Jonathan Howells (Membership Secretary), John Eadon (Secretary)

Telephone: 07739 694079 (Jon) 01547 540466 (John)

Web Address: www.wbmc.org

Email: jaejed@hotmail.com

WREKIN MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

The Wrekin Mountaineering Club is a very active Club and friendly Club based in Shropshire, but includes members from all over the Midlands and other parts of the Country.

Meets are held every 2nd Sunday, and weekend and longer meets are held throughout the year in all major climbing areas in the UK and Europe. Members are active in all areas of mountain hill walking, rock

For more information contact Iain 07984 172403

BMC MIDLANDS AREA

climbing, bouldering and winter mountaineering.

Membership is for persons over 18, and our rock climbers and mountain walkers are of all levels of ability, all willing to pass on their skills and experience to new members.

We are a BMC affiliated Club, and have excellent discounts with National and local retailers.

Club Meet: Socially 1st Tuesday of each month but indoor wall and outdoor meets every Tuesday

Time: 1st Tuesday of the Month 20:30-22:00

Venue: George and Dragon, High Street, Much Wenlock.

Contact Name: Bob Mitchell

Telephone: 01746 761696

Web Address: www.wrekinmc.co.uk

Email: mitch@wrekinmc.co.uk

THE UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER M.C.

Membership to the club is restricted to students, staff and graduates from the University of Leicester.

Whether you are climbing in the High E grades, or don't know a karabiner from a friend, then the Mountaineering Club is for you.

We provide the means, equipment and safe instruction from experienced club members. The club runs regular trips to the Peak District, Lake District, Snowdonia Yorkshire, Portland and Pembrokeshire.

New members are readily welcomed and you can get involved as much as you like. All you need to join is enthusiasm. In return we promise to offer you a year packed with fun and adventure.

Club Meet: Tuesday Night and Wednesday Afternoon

Time: 19:30 - 21:00 (Tuesday) & 13:30 - 15:00 (Wednesday)

Venue: Moat Climbing Wall

Contact Name: Steve Elliff

Email: su-climbing@le.ac.uk



Dealing with Mountain Hypothermia in a controlled environment

Clubs and First Aid

Mountain Hypothermia

Mountain hypothermia and exhaustion exposure is a potentially dangerous problem faced by hill/mountain walkers at any time of the year; and can occur when the temperature is well above freezing point; particularly if you or your group are ill equipped; have travelled to far; become exhausted; hungry; and are overloaded. Many hill/mountain walkers have experienced the early warning symptoms and escaped more serious consequences without realising that they were becoming hypothermic.

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

1. Slowing down
2. Loosing interest
3. Grumpy
4. Slurred speech
5. Poor coordination
6. Stumbling
7. Shivering and possibly cramp

At this point the walker is becoming chilled so thoroughly that his or her body is losing heat faster than his or her body can produce it from food or through exercise. In the early stages this heat loss affects only the body's outer shell (face and limbs). Exposed flesh of face, hands and legs will quickly become almost as cold as the surrounding environment. As this happens the body starts to shiver to produce heat and keep the vital organs warm. Hypothermia could also happen to someone if they are injured in some way. IF THIS HAPPENS STOP AND TAKE PROMT ACTION.

1. Get out of the wind
2. Group hug
3. Food And drink
4. Use a group shelter
5. Put on hats and gloves
6. Consider going down.

There are many other aspects to hypothermia and this is only a brief description, I advise that you attend a mountain first aid course to learn more and practise the skills required before the worst happens. Information provided by David P Richardson. expeditionfirstaid.com

This article has been written by Dave Richardson who runs Expedition First Aid (www.expeditionfirstaid.com) based in Leicestershire. We will look at different climbing scenarios each issue, although these are not designed to act as a definitive handbook by any means, they are simply to raise awareness and the importance of knowing how to deal with an array of situations you may find yourself in.

On-Line at www.thebmc.co.uk

Climbing Wall Feature



Construction of the eagerly awaited Redpoint climbing centre in the heart of Birmingham is now at an advanced stage, although we are running a little behind schedule, it's evolving daily and it'll all be worth the wait!



The multitude of faces and angles promise spectacular climbing across a full range of grades. Many local climbers have popped in for a sneak preview and it's fair to say that there is a great deal of excitement and anticipation building within the Midlands climbing community. And it's not just the climbers who have shown an interest: many manufacturers have come on board with sponsorship offers from Petzl and Beal, and holds provided by Entreprises, Bendcrete, HRT and Bleaustone.



BMC MIDLANDS AREA

With all the support and encouragement coming our way, we're more excited than ever about finally realising the dream – a unique climbing centre built by climbers, for climbers, with quality routes for all abilities, ages and heights. Specialist climbing shop Rock On is taking shape, we've got our café and chill out spot marked out and completion feels closer than ever.



We've now revealed the exact location of Redpoint – you can check this out on our website or our postcode is B19 3SU.

The site is central and easy to get to, perfect for public transport and has lots of free car parking as well as secure indoor parking for bikes. Anyone wishing to arrange a visit before we open can contact us via the website.



We are keeping everyone informed with regular updates, construction blog and photos on our website www.redpointclimbingcentre.co.uk and emails to everyone on our mailing list. You can pre-register for free via the website for special pre-opening offers and we are taking time out to answer everyone's questions and comments.

For more information contact Iain 07984 172403

BMC MIDLANDS AREA

From EP to The BMC

My name is Rob Adie, and I am the new Climbing Walls Development Officer at the BMC, replacing Graeme Alderson. I met some of you guys at the midlands area meeting at the beginning of September. I will be attending this meeting regularly from now on, so if you have any issues with the climbing walls in your area make sure you attend the meetings and voice your opinions. Lucy Creamer takes over the other part of Graeme's post as the Competitions Officer at the end of October.



Previously I was employed by Entre-Prises Climbing Walls up in Yorkshire as a designer, which involved producing computer generated drawings and proposals for the construction of climbing walls. I did this for almost two years before I moved to the BMC.

My role at the BMC involves dealing with general climbing wall enquiries, from informing members where their local climbing wall is to offering advice on the development of new climbing walls around the country. Also at the moment I am working on producing the new Climbing Walls Directory, which should be published with this month's Climber magazine. I am also helping to produce the 3rd edition of the Climbing Wall Manual – an information publication for designers, facility owners and architects on the development of indoor climbing walls.

My next project is to update some of the content on the climbing walls section of the BMC website. This will include feature articles on 'a beginners guide to climbing walls' and 'common mistakes made in climbing walls', both of which will include several short video web clips to convey the information.

If you have any issues with climbing walls in your area or would like to see any other climbing wall related information on the BMC website, please do not hesitate to contact me on 0161 438 3318 or rob@thebmc.co.uk

I look forward to hearing from you. Cheers, Rob.

THE TOWER CLIMBING CENTRE - LEICESTER

There are three climbing areas, "The Tower" 15m lead wall, "The Bouldering Wall" with an Arch & Cave and "The Bloc" 8 m training room with 12 bottom ropes in-situ. The centre boasts over 200 established routes from F4 to F8b+, a total surface area of 600m2 and provides a unique and friendly base for the teaching of rock climbing in all its forms.

Opening Times:
Weekdays 12:00 - 22:00
Saturday 10:00 - 17:30
Sundays 10:00 - 16:00*
(*closed May - September on Sundays)

Cost:
Casual Peak - £5.50 Concession - £3.90
Casual Off Peak - £3.85 Concession - £2.60
Casual Lunchtime - £2.55 Concession - £2.05
Casual BMC Member - £3.70
Equipment Hire Available

Web Address: www.thetowerclimbingcentre.co.uk

Email: enquiries@thetowerclimbingcentre.co.uk

Climbing Walls

THE BEAR ROCK - WARWICK

The Bendcrete-built facility - open to both members of the University and the general public offers indoor climbing of a regional status. Indeed the Bear Rock has hosted a round of the British Indoor Climbing Championships on several occasions, and regularly hosts rounds of the British Youth Championships. Routes are changed on a regular basis and top class route setters are used on the main competition/lead wall.

Opening Times:
Weekdays 07:30 hrs - 21:30 hrs
Saturdays 09:00 hrs - 17:30 hrs
Sundays 10:00 hrs - 19:30 hrs

Cost:
Weekdays £6.10
Weekends £4.95
Children Under 18 anytime £4.00
NUS/UB40 Card Holders - before 17:00hrs £4.00
- after 17:00hrs £6.10
Equipment Hire Available

Web Address: www.warwick.ac.uk/services/sportscentre/bear_rock

WOLF MOUNTAIN CLIMBING CENTRE - WOLVERHAMPTON

Good selection of featured walls and some mildly overhanging technical walls with good route setting. All the routes are toproped; though if you want to lead you can but bring your own quickdraws. New boulder room open, also a stamina tunnel, 12 meters of continual roof climbing at 35 degrees plus 13 rung campus board) Also planning permission being sought to build through the roof for a large lead wall.

Opening Times:
Mon to Thurs 10:00 hrs - 22:00 hrs
Friday 10:00 hrs - 20:00 hrs
Saturday 10:00 hrs - 18:00 hrs
Sunday 10:00 hrs - 20:00 hrs
Bank Hof's 10:00 hrs - 18:00 hrs

Cost:
Adults Peak - £6.00 Jnr (u16) & Nus - £5.00
Adult Off Peak - £5.00 Jnr(u16) & NUS - £4.00
(off peak times 10am - 4pm - Monday-Friday)
Registration - £6.00
Climbers wishing to use the wall must have registered before climbing.

Web Address: www.wolfmountain.co.uk

Email: info@wolfmountain.co.uk

CREATION CLIMBING CENTRE - BIRMINGHAM

Here at Creation we have a variety of different angles and volumes for you to master your bouldering skills as well as training on our: finger boards, campus board, circuit board and of course the famous moon wall. Currently open are 28 bottom roped walls and 23 lead walls totaling 146 climbs ranging from F3 - F7c+.

Opening Times:
Weekdays 10:00 - 22:00
Weekends 10:00 - 19:00

Cost:
Adult Peak - £6.75
Adult Off Peak - £5.75
Concession Peak - £5.30
Concession Off Peak - £4.30

Web Address: www.creationwall.co.uk

Email: creationwall@gmail.com

On-Line at www.thebmc.co.uk

A Dogs Tale...

I can tell when it's going to be a Big One: piles of clothes, boots, camping stuff, maps, cans, packets, and bottles everywhere, not to mention spare film, and "Adult Complete, with chicken, formulated to maintain a glossy coat". Well, we had two Big Ones to Scotland in winter '06.



480 miles without a sniff of a decent walk. Then, it was walkies every day! Starting near Bonar Bridge, we ticked off a succession of Corbetts, and the higher Munros. It wasn't really winter, just rainy and unpleasant, with scant snow and ice higher up, until we reached Ben Loyal, not far from the north coast. Here, the wind changed to an Arctic blast delivering squalls of hail, and the dramatic rocky tors on the summit ridge were all glazed with ice.

At Durness, a large but scattered community, a sign saying "Award Winning Beach" shook under a Force 8 hammering, and the whole bay was a white maelstrom. Not a day for the seaside, so we tackled Beinn Spionnaidh, the last hill before Iceland. A decent summit shelter let us hunker down to eat, though our drinking water was starting to freeze up. Coming down, all looked clear and bright, until a squall raced up the glen and strafed us with hail. I soon shook off the doggie snow goggles which looked . . . well, silly.

The snow-dusted road undulated south through the desolation of Sutherland between noble hills - Foinaven, Canisp, Quinag. On 1st March, we woke at Inchnadamph to blizzard conditions, so headed off to the fleshpots of Ullapool for a day at leisure. Some fleshpot - I got shut in the car while 2-legs went in a nice tearoom and came back smelling of bacon, egg, and sausage.

Next day, we set off for a multi-day trip in the wilds from a pass at 300 metres and -5°. The gentle slopes were blanketed in fresh snow hiding deep troughs cut in the peat by legions of deer. Periodically, he plunged through into black goo. Language was used.

The snow was like granulated sugar due to the temperature, and the tent had to be secured with sections of walking stick plus fabric pockets buried in the snow. By morning, the anchor points were almost welded in. The route to the 1084 m summit of Beinn Dearg sparkled in the sun, but deep soft drifts made going very difficult, and the extended tour of these remote hills had to be abandoned. Even going down was hard, stumbling over hidden boulders!



Next day, we toiled along the shore of Loch a' Bhraoin, but had to retreat from Creag Rainich in another blizzard. The wrong kind of snow attached itself in dense balls: 2-legs said it was the wrong kind of dog. Later, a low sun made some lovely views for Christmas cards.

One more slog through deep drifts got us to the top of Little Wyvis, after

BMC MIDLANDS AREA

which we packed it in and came home. 7 Corbetts and 3 Munros wasn't a bad tally, with only two blank days in 10.

We returned in April, to find plenty of snow remaining on the tops. However, we had to endure bands of rain. Higher up, it fell as snow, but the streams were gushing, and the ground was sodden.

In a raging stream below Sail Mhor, on Little Loch Broom, I set up a splendid Stag at Bay shot for 2-legs, but he just stood there hollering and whistling! I even tried the paws-on-haunches pose I'd seen on Planet Earth. You just can't please some people.

Our grande finale was 6 days in the wilderness of Fisherfield. From the head of Loch Maree, a track led north into featureless terrain, cut by rivers in spate. We pitched tent below the south flank of Creag Rainich - yes, the hill we'd given up on in March.

This time, after a night of wind and rain, it was a 2 hour round trip from the tent. To the west towered the rock and snow ramparts of the heart of Fisherfield, a horseshoe of six Munros. After negotiating raging streams, we struggled up swathes of snow, crossing streams on collapsing snow-bridges. At the 1019 m summit, gale-force winds peppered us with hail. Poor visibility and the lateness of the hour ended hopes of doing more of the ridge. We camped in the glen, after a steep descent and a tedious wet traverse over umpteen swollen side-streams.



The morning was spent trying to dry out. Heading north, the final side-stream was a big one. The derelict suspension bridge wasn't fit for a dog! 2-legs shuffled crabwise with feet on one swaying steel cable, and hands on the other. I swam.

There'd been no rain since lunchtime, and we enjoyed the fine views from the rocky tops of Beinn Dearg Mor and Beinn Dearg Bheag in clear and cold conditions. Another river had to be crossed before camping. Lochan na Bearta nestles between craggy peaks at 490 m. A small island, orange-brown with dead grass and heather, provided a focal point. Now, the horseshoe of Fisherfield lay to the east of us, and after another hail shower, we tackled Ruadh Stac Mor by its less-frequented north-west ridge. The descent to the next dip involved a great deal of zig-zagging and scrambling through crags, culminating in a death-defying leap onto a grassy slope.

A'Mhaighdean, our 3rd Fisherfield Munro, commands fine views out to the west, Loch Ewe, and Gairloch. 2-legs kept disappearing in waist-deep wet snow. Happily, there was a good path beyond, speeding us to the shore of the Dubh Loch. After 10 hours, we reached the Carmore camping barn for our 4th night.

Following three solitary days, we started to meet people again. We traversed the long range of hills flanking the north side of Loch Maree, and made our final camp amid the ruins of old iron workings, at a lowly 70 m altitude.

One last mountain remained: Slioch. A frosty morning allowed splendid views all round. With all our food gone, we crunched down the snow, onto a rocky path, through sheep-infested meadows, to Incheril, the car, and home. Despite doing 17 Corbetts and 4 Munros in 14 days, we recovered pretty quickly, and after a week, all the blood-sucking ticks had been ripped off - even the baby ones that hatched out on my nose!

Article and Photos provided by Richard Llyod, Coventry MC.

For more information contact Iain 07984 172403

BMC MIDLANDS AREA

Club Meets Listing

Events Diary

All the dates you need as a Midlands Climber on Events, Competitions, Lectures and Club Meets happening with Local Walls and clubs. The dates from, 12th October 2007 to the 12th January 2008

Please contact us if you wish to advertise your event/meet between 12th January 2008 and 12th April 2008

HINCKLEY MC - NORTH WALES MEET

Hinckley Mountaineering Club meet in Llanberis, North Wales.
Date: 13th & 14th October 2007 Time: Email for Details
More Details: www.hinckleymc.org

HINCKLEY MC - NORTH WALES MEET

Hinckley Mountaineering Club meet in Dolgellau, North Wales.
Date: 13th & 14th November 2007 Time: Email for Details
More Details: www.hinckleymc.org

HINCKLEY MC - YORKS MEET

Hinckley Mountaineering Club meet in Ingleton, Yorks.
Date: 8th & 9th December 2007 Time: Email for Details
More Details: www.hinckleymc.org

CEUNANT M.C. - WORK MEET @ TY'N LON

Ceunant Mountaineering Club 50th Work meet and Bonfire Party
Date: 2nd - 4th November 2007 Time: Email for Details
More Details: secretary@ceunant.org

CEUNANT M.C. - MOUNTAIN NAVIGATION W'SHOP

Ceunant Mountaineering Club Mountain Navigation Workshop at Ty'n Lon.
Date: 24th November 2007 Time: Email for Details
More Details: secretary@ceunant.org

CEUNANT M.C. - WEEKEND MEET

Ceunant Mountaineering Club 50th Weekend Meet at Ty'n Lon.
Date: 14th - 16th December 2007 Time: Email for Details
More Details: secretary@ceunant.org

CEUNANT M.C. - NEW YEARS EVE PARTY

Ceunant Mountaineering Club New Years Party at Ty'n Lon.
Date: 28th Dec 07 - 1st Jan 08 Time: Email for Details
More Details: secretary@ceunant.org

CEUNANT M.C. - WINTER WALK

Ceunant Mountaineering Club Winter Walk in the Peak District.
Date: 06th January 2008 Time: Email for Details
More Details: secretary@ceunant.org

BOWLINE C.C. - MEETS

Wednesday Nights

Running meet – all abilities
Zoe Pickering - 07709 337976

Wednesday Nights

Drinking/Social sessions
From 9pm at the Cow & Plough, Stoughton
All Welcome

Thursday Nights

Climbing at indoor walls
Zoe Pickering - 07709 337976

Winter Weekends

There is usually someone out either bouldering, climbing or walking when the weather allows, and once a month we meet at our hut in Llanberis.
Zoe Pickering - 07709 337976

November 3rd/4th

Backpacking Meet
Zoe Pickering - 07709 337976

If you would like to help out with this leaflet, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Please send any Club information, events or photo's or Climbing Wall information, events or photo's through to:

iain.a.mckenzie@btinternet.com

The next issue will go out on the 12th October 2007, copy and photo's need to be with me by the 6th October 2007.

Next Area Open Meeting

Date: 4th December 2007
Venue: Railway Hotel, Hinckley.
Time: 19:30hrs

Agenda:

- AGM Election of Officers
- Area Reports
- Leicestershire Guide update
- Meetings, the role of them and what people expect.
- Matters Rising from Newsletter
- Open Forum
- Special Guest Lecture

Free Food and a Drink, all welcome

On-Line at www.thebmc.co.uk



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Club Name

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† Family membership includes up to 2 adults and 3 children living at the same address. Please supply family names and dates of birth.

** Concessionary membership for under 18s, full time students and the unemployed (please supply proof of status).

*** Fully paid members of BMC affiliated clubs can gain access to the full range of Individual Membership benefits on payment of this additional premium. Please supply your club name on the application form.

www.thebmc.co.uk

BRITISH MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL, FREEPOST NAT 11244, Manchester M20 7ZA

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For more information contact Iain 07984 172403