

News 4 Clubs



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Festive Season Close Down at the MCoS Office

Contrary to certain rumours we do actually close the MCoS office at Christmas and New Year, and MCoS staff have been known to get out in search of a snow covered hill or two over the festive season. Our last day of normal working will be Thursday 23rd December. After that we will be closed from December 24th to January 4th inclusive. Normal service will be resumed on Wednesday 5th January.

Strathfarrar

In view of the fact that our office will be closed over the festive season, anyone wishing to take a vehicle up Glen Strathfarrar between December 24th and January 5th should phone the MCoS office on 01738 493 942 on or before December 23rd.

Scottish Avalanche Information Service

The Scottish Avalanche Information Service (SAIS) will begin its winter season on December 14th this year. Look out for the SAIS button appearing on the [MCoS home page](#). This will take you direct to the SAIS website.

Avalex Avalanche Card

Whilst on the subject of avalanches, this would be a good time to remind club members about the MCoS Avalex Avalanche Card, which is full of useful information about avalanches. The price for members is £3.50 post free, and can be ordered from the [Publications page within our Online Shop](#). Scroll down to Mountain Safety.

Winter Safety Lectures

The programme for our [Winter Lecture Series](#) is now finalised. Check out the webpage and please publicise these dates to your members. These ever-popular lectures are a vital source of safety information. Plus they make a great evening out in the middle of the winter season.

Website buttons

Would you like a button on your club's website for linking to the MCofS website? If so, we have a range of specially designed buttons that you can download from our site and paste onto your site.

[Click here](#) then choose one of the buttons and follow the instructions. If you do use one of these on your website, and you have a moment just to drop me an [e-mail](#) to confirm you've done it, then we'll have an idea about how many clubs have made use of them.

Member Offers

The range of products on sale in the [MCofS online shop](#) has been growing in recent months. It's worth a look if you haven't been into that area of our website for a while.

Recent additions to the shop in the last few weeks include a Troll bivvy shelter, Silva headtorch, Silva compass and Harvey Southern Highlands British Mountain Map (1:40,000). Our aim in sourcing these products for our members is to encourage the use of appropriate safety-related equipment. The prices are very attractive, and only available to MCofS members, so please have a look via the link above or the direct button from our [home page](#).

Rock climbers might be interested to know that we will soon have a MCofS chalk bag in the shop. We'll let you know when that is available.

Elite Mountain Supplies

The online outdoor retailer Elite Mountain Supplies has joined the MCofS members' discount scheme offering a generous 20% off for MCofS members. In addition to this ongoing discount they also have a new special offer on our [Short Term Offers](#) page every week. It's worth having a regular look to see what their latest deal is.

Scot Rail offer

The MCofS is currently in discussions with ScotRail with a view to agreeing a members' offer for the winter months. We are still working out the precise details of what the offer will be, so watch out for further details in the December edition of News4Clubs or check out the News section of our website around the beginning of December.

Insurance FAQs

We have been asked on numerous occasions to provide a webpage of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about the Civil Liability Insurance cover that clubs and their members receive. That webpage is now complete, so click here to view the [Civil Liability Insurance FAQs](#).

Questionnaire on Children in Hill Walking and Mountaineering Clubs

Calling Club Secretaries. Could you complete the attached questionnaire about Children in Hill Walking and Mountaineering Clubs please and return it to Kevin Howett at the MCoFS office.

Protection of Vulnerable Groups Training

The MCoFS has a webpage with information about the [Protection of Vulnerable Groups \(PVG\) Scheme](#). This should be of particular interest to clubs with young members.

Perth and Kinross Council are running a PVG update session for clubs and other organisations on 30th November at 7.00 p.m. in the North Inch Community Campus. Contact Ross McMillan from the Outdoor Education Department on 01738 472 246 for further details.

Planning responses

The MCoFS has responded to seven planning consultations in the past four weeks. Click here for a full list of our [Access and Conservation responses](#).

Doctors, Dentists, Nurses and Receptionists

If you work somewhere like a doctors or dentists, and would like some old copies of Scottish Mountaineer for your waiting room, then please send me a quick e-mail to mike@mcofs.org.uk and I will get some sent out to you.

Dundee Mountain Film Festival

If you're heading to Dundee for the [Mountain Film Festival](#), we'll be there with the MCoFS stand and pleased to meet members for a chat. Dates are Friday 26th and Saturday 27th November.

Kinlocheil Outdoor Centre

The centre, managed by the Highland Council, has recently been redecorated and had some refurbishment, and is again open for business. It is bunkhouse style accommodation, and will be available to let to clubs and societies subject to demand from our local schools and other groups.

Situated 10 miles from Fort William on the Mallaig road, the "Road to the Isles", Kinlocheil Outdoor Centre is an ideal base for schools, groups and clubs wishing to take advantage of the wealth of outdoor activities available in the area, from climbing on Ben Nevis and other nearby hills, skiing at Aonach Mor and Glencoe, mountain biking, canoeing and kayaking, fishing or lazing on the beaches at nearby Arisaig.

There are 14 bunk spaces in total, 2x6 bunked rooms and 1x2 bunked room. There are 4 toilets and 4 showers, in 2 separate rooms, and a fully equipped self catering kitchen with a small lounge upstairs. There is a separate drying room.

Charges are £160 per night inclusive of electricity and VAT for exclusive use. As of November 8th there is still availability for Christmas and Hogmanay. Minimum 5 nights booking!

Please contact Phil Swainson on 01479 861 734 or e mail phil.swainson@highland.gov.uk if you require further information or wish to make a booking.

December News4Clubs to go electronic

This should be the last time we send you News4Clubs in its current format. We are working on an electronic version of this e-newsletter and hope to introduce it with the December edition on Monday 13th.

From the Clubs Director's Keyboard – November 10

The trees have been playing a wonderful game of nature this autumn with a marvellous display of golds, oranges, yellows and reds with a mix of green for good measure. I was up in Glen Lyon a week past Sunday, just before the big blow, and it was a beautiful drive up the glen. Mind you it was damn cold on the tops, but that is winter arriving.

Sorry I missed last month; however that is because having written my piece I forgot to send it! Much more to report this month in any case.

I gave my presentation to the **BMC Club Seminar** on October 23rd at Plas y Brenin. It was well received and they will now have a better understanding of their cousins north of the border. I noted a handy feature of the centre is the facility to paddle and play on water right at the back door. However parking is not so great and I ended up in the staff car park.

The **Clubs Advisory Group (CAG)** is looking at my proposals to review how the group represents clubs and once we have agreed where we are going I will be able to advise you further.

I attended our **Huts Seminar** recently in my role as director. The **Huts Advisory Group** is a specialist group who work to ensure that our huts are up to date with all the developments, both legal and technical. They are also a reclusive bunch but I am sure everyone appreciates their work in supporting the hut network. They also work closely with their counterparts in the **BMC**.

I have been receiving reaction from members of the **CAG** on the subscription resolution at the AGM. I would only be too pleased to take comments from any clubs on the pros and cons of a subscription rise.

Next Board Meeting is scheduled for the December 2nd. Looks like it will be a packed agenda.

Ron Payne
Director Club Affairs and Development

Mike Dales
Membership Development Officer