

## MOUNTAIN LEADER TRAINING UK

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### Summary of the Meeting of Mountain Leader Training UK held at Plas y Brenin on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2007

Mountain Leader Training UK held its sixth AGM followed by a quarterly business meeting in Snowdonia on 12<sup>th</sup> May at the National Mountain Centre, Plas y Brenin. **Twenty-one representatives** were present from all four home nations, some from Mountain Leader Training, some from the Mountaineering Councils and assisted by observers from the Association of Mountaineering Instructors, Mountain Guides and the National Mountain Centres.

The Board approved the annual reports from the Chairman, John Mason, and Treasurer, Pete Butler, as well as the report prepared by the Chief Officer, Steve Long. John Ellis Roberts stood down from the Board of Directors and was thanked for his long service by the Board. Mary Matthews from Mountain Leader Training (Scotland) was appointed as a new Director

**The review of the Walking Group Leader** scheme has been completed and the new handbook has been published.

**The review of the International Mountain Leader** has also been completed but the handbook will not be professionally published until the new style courses have been trialled in case requirements for specific clarification become apparent. The text has been posted on the website (<http://www.mltuk.org/docs/documents/IMLHandbookMay2007.doc>) and a laser printed copy will be sent to registrants.

The Board was encouraged by developments of the Mountain Leader Training Association ([www.mlta.co.uk](http://www.mlta.co.uk)) which now has over 1350 subscribing members and an active support group who have greatly assisted in the organisation of training events (a meeting of this support group was held immediately after the Board meeting to conduct an S.W.O.T. analysis and agree targets for the coming months).

The Board discussed the potential effects of EU legislation that seeks to support the ability of people with similar qualifications to work throughout the EU. There may be countries that recognise the MLTUK awards as equivalent in standard to their own, but MLTUK only includes international components in the IML scheme and any arrangement for transferability of skills would have to address this issue by means of additional, assessed components. For hill walking this means that only the IML can be internationally recognised.

The Board welcomed financial support for the development of the proposed Climbing Wall Award obtained through the BMC from UK Sport.

It was reported that MLTUK has had a successful year with strong sales of the new book '**Winter Skills**' alongside the earlier volumes '**Rock Climbing**' and '**Hill Walking**'. All of these publications have achieved strong sales online which brings maximum financial returns for the Board. The board agreed that with funding uncertainties it was still appropriate to aim for a reserve equivalent to six months expenditure.

Steve Long 1/6/07