

Mountain Leader Training Association Autumn Conference

Plas y Brenin 8/9 November 2008

My first MLTA conference was eagerly awaited. As with BMCC it's always rewarding to spend time in the company of kindred spirits and with around 90 members in attendance including WGL's, ML's, IML's, MIA's not to mention the many experts in their fields who were to provide the workshops, the weekend certainly didn't disappoint.

Members were asked to select their preferred workshops several weeks in advance and were then notified of their allocation prior to the weekend.

Available workshops were:-

- Setting up/Marketing a small business
- Teaching Navigation skills
- Making the most of the environment
- SPA skills and techniques
- Gorge Walking
- BMC Fundamentals of climbing
- Improvised rescue
- Rope work for ML
- GPS Navigation Risk Assessment

I attended the Setting up/Marketing a small business on Saturday which proved to be a very informative and interesting presentation delivered by Karen Frith – Chief Executive of the Institute for Outdoor learning.

On Sunday it was time to brave the Welsh weather for a day reviewing ML rope work with Mal Creasey BMG and Cat Forster. Not much seems to have changed since my ML assessment but I did get to do the South African abseil for the first time – think I'll stick with the 'Classic'!

All in all the conference seemed to be a great success and with a couple of social evenings in the PyB bar, it was a great chance to meet fellow 'outdoors types' and put some faces to names from the MLTA and BAIML.

The weekend was hosted by Steve Long, President of MLTUK and he discussed the future of Mountain Leader training in the UK with exciting possibilities of collaborations with other bodies including AMI and BMG.

On a positive note for BMCC, we had a large display board courtesy of Amanda which was installed in the main lecture room for the duration of the conference and seemed to attract a lot of interest. A large wad of BMCC cards were left on reception and in the lecture room so lets hope we have some response from those who attended.



Mark Ainsworth Nov 2008