



## MOUNTAINEERING COMMISSION'S REPORT TO THE UIAA MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE AT BUSTENI, ROMANIA, MAY 2008

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1.1. General Mountaineering Commission **meeting** and separate Working Groups meetings held in Wales at **Plas y Brenin**, UK, on May 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, 2008;



1.2. With the TSWG **seminar** in the aftermath on 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> at the same venue;

2.1. List of **members**, corresponding members: Unfortunately we have never had any contact from our Russian delegate so this position and opportunity for collaboration is not being utilised.



During both the meetings and the seminar we gathered about 40 people coming from Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Portugal, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, The Netherlands, UK.

2.2. Election of a **Vice-President**: due to the decision of the Turkish Federation to withdraw the position occupied by its former delegate Nejat AKINCI, the MC had to elect a vice-president to complete the term. **Patrick LAMARQUE** (FFCAM France) has been voted as vice-president.



3.1. The UIAA since the last meetings held in Slovenia in April 2007: Peter FARKAS, board member and liaison officer with the MC, and Pierre Humblet updated the attendance on the evolution within the UIAA. You have to know that even people involved in the UIAA work has no real knowledge. This is a sign that the communication is still poor.



3.2. The MC since the meeting at Bled: Pierre Humblet updated the LEWG and TSWG about the works done by the other working groups so that everybody could be aware of all the MC activities.

# I. ETHICS

## 1.1. Updating the Tyrol Declaration.

During our meeting in Wales, we went through the "Mountain Code" published by the Mountaineering Commission in 2001 and the "Tyrol Declaration" adopted by the Future of Mountain Sports Conference, at Innsbruck, in September 2002, to conclude that it was evidently the same document with numerous "improvements" in the TD, which is definitively the better version of the former Mountain Code, so that the TD could certainly be "endorsed" by the UIAA, but "adopted" could be a better word due to the fact that this document is an UIAA work.

We believe that the Tyrol declaration is a good document opening fair doors to all styles or ways of climbing and mountaineering.

For further coordination by Nico de Jong, Board member in charge of this issue to be tackled by not only the MC, but the Medical, the Antidoping and the Expeditions' Commissions too, we had to give our opinion about the difficult topics raised in article 8, dealing with Style, and especially paragraph 8:

*"8. Good style on big mountains implies not using fixed ropes, performance-enhancing drugs, or bottled oxygen".*

(Article 9, paragraph 3, 4 and 5 in the former "Mountain Code":

*"3. If possible, we should refrain from using chains of camps and fixed ropes and instead strive for an alpine-style ascent in one push without external help.*

*4. The use of artificial oxygen in climbing should be limited to medical purposes.*

*5. Refrain from the consumption of all substances illegal in other sports if their administration isn't medically indicated.")*

The conclusion of the discussion is as follows:

1. It was maybe a mistake in the TD to congregate in the same paragraph so diverse elements as fixed ropes, bottled oxygen and performance enhancing drugs and the evolution compared to the "Mountain Code" is a disputable amendment.
2. The word "good" should be replaced with "best" or "ideal".
3. The terms "performance-enhancing drugs" are problematic and we should distinguish between therapeutic, prevention and enhancement.

We submit to the debate the following wording:



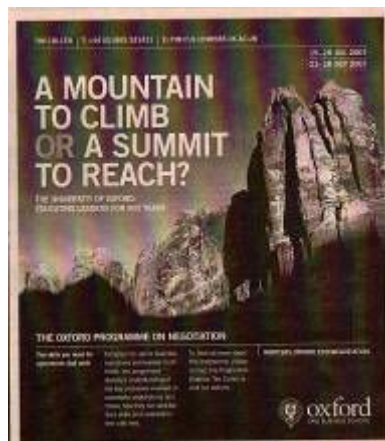
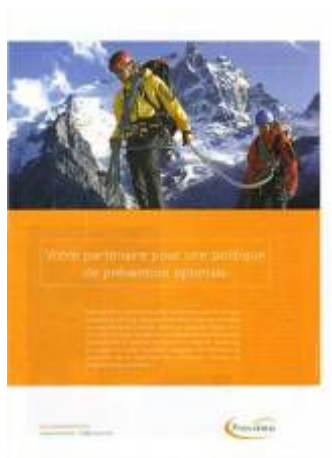
“8. Best style on big mountains implies presently not using fixed rope except while part of a specific technique;

9. Ideal style values currently climbing in high altitude without complimentary oxygen which should be reserved for medical purposes.

10. Climbers should refrain from the use of all substances illegal in sports to enhance their performances if their administration isn't medically prescribed. In case or instead of using such drugs, they should consider going down in place of continuing their ascent.”

## 2. Advertising and mountaineering/climbing:

Companies are often advertising using pictures or drawings related to mountaineering. We would be interested in collecting such advertisements to determine the **values** conveyed. We believe it could be interesting while searching for sponsors. We would like to get your help.





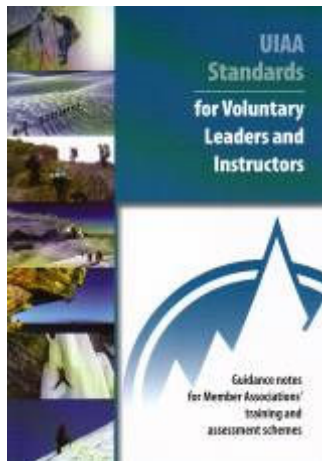
## II. TECHNIQUE.

### A. UIAA TRAINING STANDARDS WORKING GROUP



*Chair: Steve Long.*

1. Publication of the Standards document:



The **booklet** has now been printed in Hungary with the help of Peter Farkas our link to the UIAA Board.

2. Current approvals and re-approval time-table:

The TSWG is standardizing the application forms for approval and updating of former approvals on the basis of the experience from the past.

The TSWG will follow-up the pending applications from South Africa, Turkey and Singapore and produce a list of re-validation dates and distribute.



### 3. Recent applications for approval or collaboration

#### 3.1. Chile.

Edison Acuña Leiton, President FEACH (Chilean Mountaineering Federation), on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2008:

*“Dear Pierre...our Federation has decided to apply to UIAA Training Standards. Our 40 year's experienced Mountaineering School needs to begin the evaluation process to get the UIAA Label. I have studied the published training standards for the seven categories included. I think we could easily reach 6 of seven ...So we need to define the whole process and it's milestones and 2008 schedule to begin as soon as possible”.*

Our two Spanish delegates have been appointed to follow the process. We are particularly glad of this new collaboration with South America we often do not involve as much as we would like.

#### 3.2. Israel.

We received an application from Israel but had firstly to be sure that the question of their relationship with the UIAA was solved. Their delegate has been participating in the Plaz y Brenin seminar.

#### 3.3. Russia.

Andrei VOLKOV, President of the RMF, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2008:

*“Dear Pierre... Russian Mountaineering Federation is certainly interested in taking part in the discussions on standardisation of the training and assessment tools for leaders, trainers and assessors at national and international levels, and record-keeping strategies for the UIAA's Model Standards for Voluntary Leaders with the intention of producing a standardised format for moderation visits...”*

*We are looking forward to further collaboration and cooperation...”*

We received a similar demand from the CFR too.

Unfortunately we have never had any contact from our Russian delegate so this position and opportunity for collaboration is not being utilised. Of course we need an experienced one able to talk the language to be used in teaching. We draw again the attention on the Working Group in charge of the reform on this membership issue. We will of course do all the necessary steps to solve the case since Russia is evidently an exceptional country for high level mountaineering and this collaboration could enrich both partners.



### 3.4. USA.

We received an application supported by the American Alpine club. We are investigating at the moment since the applicant, AFMGA, is not directly the AAC and a UIAA member federation, and we have to know the links they have with our US member. We don't want to be in conflict with the professional guides' associations too.

1. Partnership with the **PETZL Foundation** in Asia [www.petzl.com](http://www.petzl.com):



#### Report of the Meetings with the Petzl Foundation reps near Grenoble:

1. **Pierre Humblet** and **Steve Long** met the Foundation Secretary General **Jean Jacques Eleouet** and independent trustee **Philippe Descamps** (Editor in Chief at "Montagnes Magazine") for an informal discussion during the evening of 24<sup>th</sup> January.
2. On January 25<sup>th</sup> they visited the Petzl headquarters at Crolles. At that time they met with **Damien Piat**, training and product information manager, who is in charge of the draughtsmanship of the syllabus we will talk about below. He would like to use the UIAA signs for topos' label but the quality of the material available on the UIAA website is too poor. We promised we will try to provide him with the original file. This is significant that they like to use the UIAA standards.
3. This visit was followed by the formal meeting with M. Jean-Jacques **Eleouet**, General Secretary, project co-ordinator **Stephane Lozac'hmeur** and field advisor **Patrick Magnier** (IFMGA) to discuss the training programme that the foundation has initiated in Nepal and hopes to extend in India and elsewhere in Asia, and perhaps to Southern America.
4. Pierre Humblet introduced the UIAA Mountaineering Commission and the fields of its activities. The Petzl reps introduced the enterprise with its two main focus on sports (Mountaineering, caving etc.), on one side, and on working at heights on the other, and its Foundation as well.

This report begins with a brief introduction to the work of the Foundation and seeks to inform members of its work from a detached and unbiased viewpoint. It is important that members are satisfied that any



connections with this project would be entirely independent, with no conflict of interests and no compromise to the work of the Mountaineering Commission.

## **Background.**

The Petzl Foundation was formed in 2006 and seeks, like other major companies specialising in adventurous activities, to “put something back” into the mountain environment and communities. It aims to support efforts that promote environmental responsibility and sustainable development, specifically enhancement of the environment, education and research and risk management related to activities-at-height.

The Foundation has begun work on several projects from which we noted:

1. The Kakani Centre in Nepal. This is a training centre 50kms from Kathmandu, established in partnership with the Nepal Mountaineering Association. The intention is to complement existing training programmes by providing basic training for mountain walking leaders.
2. Phenoclim. This project enlists the public’s assistance to measure the impact of climate change on Alpine vegetation. The data is publicly accessible on the Centre of Research on High Altitude Ecosystems (CREA) website.
3. Glaciology and Environmental Geophysics Laboratory Project. This focuses research on the behaviour of ice in frozen waterfall, (rather than glacial or laboratory ice which has been quite extensively studied already).
4. Physiological studies on the dramatic effects for workers of falls followed by long stay sitting in harness.

## **Potential for Training Standards Working Group.**

All these projects may assist specific UIAA committees to achieve their goals, but for the Training Standards Working Group it is the Kakani Centre project that holds specific interest. The intention is to assist the Nepal Mountaineering Association to develop autonomy in administering its own basic training scheme for leaders to underpin specialised training for more advanced work. The Foundation hopes to extend this model to India and after to other countries, but for the scheme to work it is vital that uniform standards are achieved that can be measured against an international benchmark.

The Foundation has already begun work on designing teaching resources, based on high quality line drawings in the style that will already be familiar to most members of the TSWG from Petzl climbing, caving, canyoning and industrial brochures. These will feature generic equipment rather than “locking in” to Petzl products. Initially these teaching resources will be made available in French and English languages but should be quite straightforward to translate as they are highly visual in content.

It seems that this could provide an ideal symbiotic relationship for our group, particularly in this time of economic constraint. The teaching materials and artwork can be used by other countries and significantly reduce duplication of effort. Investment in high quality artwork represents a high percentage of the cost of teaching resources and material that can be used with equipment from any manufacture is a highly desirable and effective donation without any implication of sponsorship. Certainly at this stage the Petzl Foundation has not requested anything in return nor has it requested that these materials be used more extensively.

Naturally, the Foundation was specifically interested in acquiring a Training Standard for the training courses. The syllabus for the basic course scheduled for the Kakani Centre is very similar to the syllabus for our walking leader standard and also contains some basic snow awareness sessions. It seems to me highly likely that it will be appropriate for the Nepal Mountaineering Association to apply for this standard since the Petzl foundation recognizes that she has to work on the field with the local National Federation, and this could be a target for the Petzl Foundation: to assist any federation to develop a level of autonomy in mountain leader

training to be able to apply for UIAA accreditation. It would therefore be vital for the Petzl Foundation to consult our Training Standard document when assisting a federation to develop basic training courses. They



perfectly understood the importance of the UIAA labels and the UIAA member federations' net to relay their action on the ground.

#### **Actions.**

The Petzl Foundation would be happy to get help from the UIAA at several levels:

- The contacts with the countries' national federations, in the case of the Kakani school with NMA for coordination and personal involvement in view of reaching sufficient autonomy after a term of about 3 years;
- The possible coordination with other actors working on the same ground to avoid discrepancies, useless duplications and dispersals of means;
- The enhancement of the value of their foundation's work in this field by the UIAA label(s). We have to remember that they already use to label their gears' production with UIAA recognition and are working effectively for a long time with the UIAA Safety Commission.

#### **Conclusion.**

It should be possible for the UIAA to influence and support the basic training of mountain leaders by encouraging the Petzl Foundation (or indeed any organisation with similar charitable aims) to use the Training Standard Document as a model when designing leader training courses and providing them the contacts they need with our local member federations. This would act as an incentive for more Asian and American mountaineering federations to join the UIAA, and by accrediting these federations' programs (rather than the Petzl Foundation itself) we would avoid any potential for conflict of interests whether perceived or actual. Additionally, the provision of high standard technical diagrams may be very useful to incorporate in teaching materials for any UIAA affiliated organisation, unless there are valid objections that this would also imply recommendation of the equipment contained in the Petzl catalogue. But such opinions could then refrain the UIAA to seek for any grant from commercial corporations (For example the UIAA is currently sponsored by Grivel the famous axes manufacturer).

At Plas y Brenin we had the opportunity to discuss further steps for collaboration in India with our guests from Mussourie.

A meeting is scheduled this summer with Ang Tshering Sherpa, NMA President.

We should receive the draft of the Petzl teaching book in July.





## 2. Accidents' statistics:



I met at Matsumoto with Prof. Chaiki Aoyama, Faculty of Informatics, Kansai University, who wrote a book about the Mountains accidents in Japan on the statistical aspect. He provided me with a short translation in English of his statistics in the format of a PPP. Since this encounter Steve Long and I have been remaining in touch with him. Of course we are familiar with the North American publication about accidents in Mountaineering, I appreciate very much. We know several other national reports. We think it could be interesting to gather as much as possible those statistics to broader the analysis and distinguish between general and local hazards. Once more we certainly need the member federations' help. This could be considered on an other facet by the LEWG.

## 3. Difficulties' scale:

The UIAA office in Bern is quit often requested to provide information about the UIAA climbing **difficulties' grading systems**, they forward to the MC. We have been discussing in Plas y Brenin about the comparisons between more than 13 scales!

We didn't finalize our work which is really complicated and needs the expertise of people having a perfect knowledge of both the UIAA grades and their personal regional scale. We even considered different UIAA scales published during the last years (+ and – starting either at V or at III)

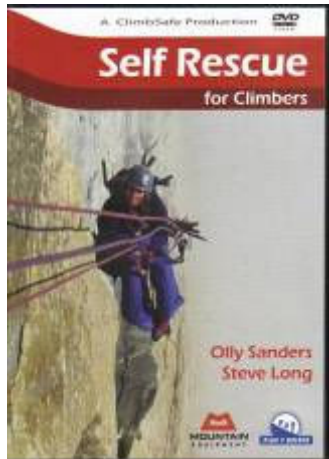
I personally noted that the UIAA table of difficulties is using old Roman figures. I wonder whether this kind of numbers is widely accessible throughout the world.

The current UIAA scale doesn't cover artificial climbing.

We have still an enormous job to achieve, would we intend to sort it out!



4. Exchanges' platform for **technical books**, dvds etc.:



People involved in the UIAA affairs for long will certainly remember that this was an undertaking for the “Documentation Commission” which has been abolished, in my view because not really well managed but certainly not due to the lack of interesting tasks to achieve.

Of course we don't want to promote the sales, what could nevertheless be a side effect for interesting productions, but we would so exchange the knowledge especially for the small federations which do not have their own technical publications.

5. **Guidebooks standards:**

Petzl will use the signs recommended by the UIAA in its guidebooks standards.

Last year the Office forwarded us several inquiries for the use of our standards, what we always encourage.

During our last meeting we had a discussion about the fees to pay for not only using our recommended symbols but after exam from our TSWG to be allowed to use the UIAA logo. We likely could link the fee to the circulation of the first edition.

## **B. SEMINAR**

### **“TRAINING THE TRAINERS”**

*Organizer: Steve Long MLTUK*

May 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>

Presentations and Discussions.



- Introduction, aims of seminar (Steve Long & John Cousins)
- Quality Assurance at the National Mountain Centre (John Cousins)
- Tour of the centre (John Cousins)
- Origins of the Adventure Activity Licensing Scheme (John Cliffe)
- Outdoor Education Advisor's Panel voluntary quality assurance scheme (Steven Brown)
- Federation Training Scheme's methods for maintaining standards
- Visit to PyB Stores for equipment
- The Llanberis Pass and Dinorwig Slate Quarry
- Tour to UK's first national nature reserve, Cwm Idwal
- Practical session sea level traverse of part of the coast of Anglesey
- Institute of Outdoor Learning presentation
- Summary and Conclusions.

**Objectives:**

1. It is intended to allow substantial informal discussion between representatives on all aspects of leader training.
2. Draft record-keeping system for UIAA TSWG moderators to use and also for possible adoption within home nations.
3. Strategies for integrating knowledge and appreciation of the mountain environment into leader training programmes;
4. Adventure climbing – practical guidance on how to help sport climbers to develop additional skills and what self-rescue skills are needed.





### III. REGULATIONS.

#### UIAA LEGAL EXPERTS WORKING GROUP

*Chair: Renée Hopster, the Netherlands;  
Secretary: Martin Wragg, United Kingdom;*



1. Works in progress:

- Update of 2002 report

We did not get sufficient answers at the moment. We will have to relaunch the project and badger the federations. Once more we need your help.

- Database:

Bénédicte Cazenave, FFCAM delegate, started her own database before joining the Working Group. She provided us with her former work. During our meeting at Plas Y Brenin, we discussed several improvements in the standardization

2. Recent developments in the jurisprudence were analyzed. The Legal Experts Working Group is a platform for exchanges gathering very enthusiastic participants.

3. Matters referred :

Fight against doping: I refer to the work done in analyzing the international conventions on the fight against doping in sports



Trade marks:

The LEWG tried to provide assistance to the Office with regards to the matter of the UIAA marks in the US.

4. 2009 Seminar:

After the successful seminar held by the TSWG in Wales this year we are handing over the baton to the LEWG which discussed the opportunity of the following topic:

***“Expert witness in different law systems. The utility of a corps and its education”***

**MOUNTAINEERING COMMISSION’S FUTURE MEETINGS AND SEMINARS:**

1. Future seminars:

- The utility of the seminars is not questionable (see the attendance);

- Where to hold the seminars:

This is, in some way, Europe v. the rest of the World; We need evidently to be active worldwide but the majority of our delegates are European and so we are divided between on one side the budgetary requirements and on the other the federations’ needs.

2. Next meetings of the Mountaineering Commission and Working Groups:

September seems the best month for the autumn meeting of Mountaineering Commission. Suitable locations: Turkey has offered to host a Mountaineering Commission activity. Russia is another possibility because of the need to follow up their request to strengthen ties and the lack of an active Russian delegate within the MC. Don’t hesitate to make proposals for hosting the MC meetings. The possibility of meeting in India was discussed and appreciated. Mr. Chamoli will check the possibilities with IMF but this has to be taken in the context of travel costs. September 09 seems a possibility for this and perhaps could we combine this travel with the Petzl Foundation work if extended to India.

**Pierre HUMBLET  
Mountaineering  
Commission President**

**Liège 2008-05-11**