



**THE INTERNATIONAL MOUNTAINEERING AND CLIMBING FEDERATION**  
UNION INTERNATIONALE DES ASSOCIATIONS D'ALPINISME

Office: Monbijoustrasse 61 • Postfach  
CH-3000 Berne 23 • SWITZERLAND  
tel.: +41 (0)31 3701828 • fax: +41 (0)31 3701838  
e-mail: office@uiaa.ch

## **Mountaineering Commission. Report 2006-2007**

**Pierre Humblet**

This year stands out by the renewal of the officers of the Commission intervened during the meeting of the Commission and its sub-groups at Bled, Slovenia at the kind invitation of PZS and its delegate in the Commission, Klemen Medja, whom I make a point of thanking here.

I will thus distinguish two periods in this report:

- From Banff October 2006 to Bled May 2007;
- From Bled May 2007 to the day of this report (August 2007).

### **a) From Banff to Bled (October 2006 – May 2007)**

#### **Mountaineering Commission meeting and mini seminar held in Canmore, Canada**

Beside the Mountaineering Commission traditional meeting, the Training Standards Working Group held a mini-seminar at Canmore and the Wheeler Hut, Roger's Pass BC in Canada. This was an opportunity for a small group to share and practice techniques developed in various elements of mountain craft with each other.

Delegates in attendance were:

Steve Long (Chair/President) MLTUK, UK  
Mike Galbraith ACC, Canada  
Patrick Lamarque CAF, France  
Xose Manuel Perez Prego FEDME, Spain  
Doug Nelson, ACC, Canada,  
Ron Whitehead ENEQ, Quebec,  
Steve Castonguay, FQME, Quebec (1st day only)

The main topics explored included:

- Teaching GPS: how much emphasis on modern technology for training/assessment?
- Candidate's ability to use/awareness
- As a teaching resource (mapping software)
- Collection of evidence by assessor/candidate
- Coaching movement skills; bouldering, cragging. Core basics, advanced skills
- Teaching/coaching lead climbing. Preferred methods for handling safety/quality.
- Improvised rescues. Emphasis on prusiks vs., gadgets. Safety issues in teaching rescues. Gravity fed or hoisting?

#### **Based on Eliza Moran intermediary reports**

Steve Long, Chair of the TSWG, has kindly established a link from his **website** for the UIAA Mountaineering Commission TSWG.

The Mountaineering Commission continues to have **new experts** volunteer for its working groups. The Mountaineering Commission has grown in size. It now totals 18 official delegates, with the latest addition of Gabriel Porti from the FECC.

Yuri Baikosky will now join the TSWG, Ron Whitehead (ENEQ) and Steve Castonguy from FQME. The last two are new expert members of the TSWG from Quebec.

In addition we have 4 new legal experts joining us from the US, Norway, France and Austria (OEAV). This is a strong statement of support/confidence from the UIAA Federations in the work accomplished by the two working groups and the goals set by the Mountaineering Commission.

We hope to have Patrick Lamarque validate requested **ice climbing standards** for the ENEQ within the next several months.

### **Tyrol Declaration**

As you're aware, Eliza Moran withdrew the motion for the UIAA to endorse the Tyrol Declaration, due to one single objection.

The Mexican Federation was pleased to inform that they have translated the TYROL DECLARATION into Spanish, for use by their members and education of their young climbers.

Nejat Akinci advised that the TMF has translated this into Turkish, so this adds to the English, Spanish, German, and French etc translations. The TYROL DECLARATION is translated into 12 languages.

The American Alpine Club's Board of Directors endorsed the TYROL DECLARATION unanimously in May of 2006.

**Eliza Moran** led a woman's seminar in Banff, entitled, "Women who make a difference". 5 leading Canadian Climbers, (including the first ACC North American woman to summit Everest), joined her and two American women in the evening presentation at the Banff Centre, hosted by the ACC and UIAA and funded by Marmot. 145 climbers attended, with approximately 40% men, (leading climbers/authors of Canada), the AAC intending to follow up with their own dedicated women's seminar during the Ouray Ice Festival in January of 2007 and requesting her to lead this seminar.

### **Publications**

The Mountaineering Commission encourages those who write Guide/ best practice technique books, to share them with us, either via emails, or through obtaining a UIAA book label. The Mountaineering Commission is always pleased to share this knowledge with others, book of this type need to have our collective UIAA support, and or critiques. The TSWG may, at a future time, do brief summaries of these books to be shared on the web site. All federations are invited to provide the Mountaineering Commission with the information about their publications.

## **b) From Bled to present (May – August 2007)**

### **Meetings in Bled**

The importance of endorsement of the **Tyrol Declaration** was highlighted by a promotional video that shows a foreign mountain guide, who runs a commercial operation in Turkey, **bouldering on archaeological sites** in Turkey.

In a previous Mountaineering Commission meeting it was reported that similar activity in Mexico (the bolting of ancient rock paintings by US climbers) has been very damaging to the sport, and as a result that is a very serious risk that the government of Mexico could enforce a ban on climbing.

The Tyrol Declaration has been translated into Slovene and published in the PZS journal 'Planinski'.

### **Revised Training standards**

The TSWG agreed on the final wording for the revised Training Standards document. It was agreed to publish this on the internet and to obtain pricing for printed publication.

### **Applications & Approvals: ENEQ (Quebec)**

The group discussed and approved the report on ENEQ ice climbing instructor scheme, Canada produced and submitted by Patrick Lamarque.

Congratulations to ENEQ on attaining for the first time the Ice Climbing standard.

The group discussed ENEQ's enquiry about their fixed gear climbing instructor scheme. As ENEQ already have approval for the trad gear scheme it was proposed to consult their previous inspector, Patrick

Lamarque for recommendation that a specific inspection visit is not required.

### **Seminar**

The TSWG agreed to explore dates for a seminar to be held in North Wales entitled, “**training the trainer**”, to include input on audit methods and recording systems to cope with increasing membership. This will be publicised on the internet with a deadline for applications.

### **Book Standards**

It was agreed that whilst the group would not propose a standard for technical/instructional books, any books recommended by individual experts could be promoted by the TSWG as long as this does not create a conflict of interests.

ELIZA MORAN has contacted the CMA (China) regarding sending TSWG and LEWG **experts** to seminars. Dr. Ma has responded that they are interested in attending TSWG seminars.

PIERRE HUMBLET has developed a relationship with **Petzi**, who approached him regarding their mountaineering foundation. They have proposed several projects, one of which relates to the Mountaineering Commission: the development of teaching of mountaineering techniques in Asia (firstly in India, then Nepal, Pakistan, China, and states of the former Soviet Union). PIERRE HUMBLET has worked with Petzi and the IMF (India) to determine what how this could be taken forward considering what is done at the moment. In Nepal a proposal will be drafted which will be sent to the UIAA in due course to be examined.

### **Environmental Legal Seminar**

The LEWG has decided in principle to organize a Legal Seminar on Environmental Legal Issues, to be held in Spain.

The LEWG noted the need to involve Access and Conservation Commission. Txomin Uriarte advised that he was confident of getting support and assistance from the University and the Court and advised that the former Spanish legal expert on environmental issues is Professor Jose Maria Nasarre who is a member of Access and Conservation Commission. He indicated that he would need around two or three months notice to organise the seminar and confirmed that if it was agreed, he expected to be able to organise one to be held in San Sebastian in September 2007. The Access and Conservation Commission will be consulted and member federations will be asked to determine if there is a need and sufficient interest in such a seminar.

Martin Wragg reported that he had been put in touch with Mac MacKay, President of the British **Mountain Guides** by John Cousins and had exchanged notes with him and informed him of the work of LEWG. Martin Wragg had suggested that if the international guides had concerns they should liaise with their own national federations and ask the federations to pass these concerns onto LEWG. Mike had agreed to pass this on to Claude Rey, IFMGA President. Martin Wragg had subsequently corresponded with the IFMGA Secretary, Armin Oehrli. The IFMGA had agreed to bring this to the attention of all their members but nothing further had developed since.

### **Bolting**

Martin Wragg noted that liability issues arising from bolts had previously been briefly reviewed by the LEWG who had concluded that there were no special legal concerns but there were practical difficulties in identifying whether or not a bolt was secure and because it was intended to be fixed equipment for use by all liability could arise on the part of the installer and possibly the land owner. As a result of liability concerns by the BMC (UK), , it set up a diversely qualified working party and has now published an Installer’s Guide and a Users’ Guide to bolt protection.

Due to the impossibility of testing bolts CAB-BAC (Belgium) has set up a team to replace old bolts on crags.

### **Expert Witnesses**

Following the creation of an Expert Witness Register and training on legal aspects for those on the register by the BMC, the possibility of LEWG Expert Witness Seminar was discussed. This may not be applicable to those countries, such as Austria and Germany, who already provide mountain training to the judiciary and lawyers, so a letter will be sent to the Presidents of member federations to determine if such a seminar would be of interest.

Each member of the LEWG will submit a brief report setting out the way in which legal experts were used in that member’s jurisdiction and that this would be explained within the context of the litigation protocol in that country.

## Recent Developments

Recent developments in Countries were examined (Belgium, USA, Austria, Slovenia, Switzerland, Great Britain, Spain, France). A number of recent cases were highlighted; largely involving civil cases (see LEWG minutes for further information).

Peter Farkas highlighted an issue in Hungary regarding the exclusion of state medical care to those injured while participating in 'extreme sports', which include climbing (including on climbing walls) and mountaineering above grade V in their definition.

The LEWG referred to the decision made a year ago to create a **database** to record basic details of those cases reviewed by LEWG since the 2002 report. It was noted too that the French delegate had already prepared her own database of French cases and that the Austrian had undertaken something similar in connection with cases in Austria. It was proposed that each member should accept responsibility for entering up cases from their own jurisdiction onto the database and this was agreed.

The LEWG decided that we will also ask all those who had contributed a paper to the 2002 report that they should review and **update** those reports as appropriate.

Peter Farkas, liaison with the Board, raised the issue of **dry tooling** and asked, in view of its increasing popularity, if the UIAA could take a stance on this to protect crags from abuse.

It was considered that the Tyrol Declaration states that the local ethos of a climbing area should be respected. In several countries it is not currently controversial at the moment while this is becoming increasingly an issue in others as Austria, Canada and Slovenia. The Commission stressed that existing routes should not be abused or damaged.

Dry-tooling is sometimes used to reach existing ice.

It was suggested that members highlighted the issue with their home federations, and that a decision about dry tooling is not made until a later date.

As usually done, the Mountaineering Commission asked the hosting federation to present its organisation. Klemen Medja made the presentation and stressed that in Slovenia training is important, but integration of training into youth development from a very young age is of far greater importance to ensure a solid foundation and respect for the mountain environment. He suggested that the UIAA could draft methods for good practice for integrating 'mountain training as a way of life' into personal youth development. It was noted that the Tyrol Declaration was originally drawn up as a format of education for mountaineering as a way of life, but its adoption and application is left to each country.

## Election of Officers

A vote was taken for President: Pierre Humblet was voted in as the new President of the Mountaineering Commission. Due to workload, Axel von Willigenburg, offered his resignation as vice-president. The Mountaineering Commission thanked him for the valuable work he provided and support he has given to ELIZA MORAN.

A vote was taken for Vice-President: Nejat Akinci was voted as the new Vice-President of the Mountaineering Commission. Confirmation of Secretary: ELIZA MORAN proposed Phil Wickens, all accepted.

## TSWG

Since Steve Long (BMC) is currently an appointed chair, ELIZA MORAN proposed voting for the official chair. Steve Long was voted in unanimously. ELIZA MORAN thanked him for his work and commitment to date, and in particular for creating the TSWG webpage.

## LEWG:

Renée Hopster has served as Chair for one year, but an election is still necessary as there is a 3-year cycle and RENÉE HOPSTER had stood in to replace Anthony Rich. ELIZA MORAN Proposed RENÉE HOPSTER as chair of LEWG and Martin Wragg as Secretary. Both were voted in unanimously.

The attendance thanked warmly ELIZA MORAN for all the hard work and enthusiasm.

This meeting was Gian-Carlo Del Zotto's last meeting as CAI representative. The Mountaineering Commission thanked GZ for his work and will miss his involvement with the Mountaineering Commission during so many years.

Lluís Giner explained that this was his final meeting following his appointment on the Management Committee for UIAA Climbing. The commissioned thanked Lluís Giner for his work for the Commission.

The Mountaineering Commission would like to thank the Alpine Association of Slovenia (PZS) for hosting this meeting, and especially Klemen Medja and other members of PZS who have helped to ensure we were all well looked after.

## **From Bled till today**

### **a) Presentation by Pierre Humblet to the Council at Chamonix**

The ppt presentation is attached as *Annex 1*.

### **b) Developments**

#### **The Petzl Foundation (\*)**

In February 2007, the Petzl Foundation notified the Mountaineering Commission that they changed their mind and decided to start their training process in Asia in Nepal due to the numerous contacts already available in this country. The Mountaineering Commission arranged the encounter with the NMA representatives during a visit of the Petzl Foundation's General Secretary in Nepal

*(\*) La fondation PETZL (Document provided by Petzl)*

*La Fondation PETZL a pour objet de conduire, en France comme à l'étranger, des actions concourant au développement durable, avec comme priorité, l'éducation et la prévention des risques liés aux pratiques des activités verticales et la recherche des équilibres entre l'homme et son environnement culturel, économique et écologique.*

*Dans l'ensemble des pays du monde où PETZL est présent, la fondation d'entreprise Petzl, créée à la fin de l'année 2005, apportera son concours et soutiendra des projets dans trois domaines :*

*- Le domaine de l'éducation et de la prévention*

*L'éducation et la prévention des risques liés aux pratiques des activités verticales font partie des valeurs fondamentales développées par PETZL depuis de nombreuses années.*

*La fondation PETZL est destinée à élargir les actions de l'entreprise dans ces domaines en soutenant des projets d'intérêt général.*

*- Le domaine de l'environnement*

*Agir pour l'environnement était déjà inscrit dans les pratiques de l'entreprise PETZL.*

*La Fondation soutiendra des projets avec un souci de recherche des équilibres entre l'homme et son environnement culturel, économique et écologique.*

*- Le domaine de la recherche*

*Entreprise de haute technologie déposant chaque année de nombreux brevets, PETZL souhaite à travers sa Fondation contribuer à aider la recherche en lien avec ses cœurs de métiers, dès lors que les projets s'inscriront dans une démarche d'intérêt général des bénéficiaires.*

*La fondation PETZL a été créée sous la forme juridique de la fondation d'entreprise régie par la loi n°87-571 du 23 juillet 1987 modifiée par la loi n°90-559 du 4 juillet 1990, la loi n°2002-5 du 4 janvier 2002 et la loi n°2003-709 du 1er août 2003, ainsi que les textes pris pour leur application dont le décret n°91-1005 du 30 septembre 1991, le décret n°2002-998 du 11 juillet 2002, et l'instruction fiscale n°112 du 13 juillet 2004 (4C-5-04 BODGI).*

*Sa création a été publiée au Journal Officiel du 17/12/05 sous le n° d'annonce : 2422 et selon l'autorisation administrative du 17 novembre 2005, délivrée par le préfet du département de l'Isère et son n° SIRET est le 488 028 515 000 10.*

*Fondation Petzl :  
Jean-Jacques Eleouet*

## **Respective incidence of the rules of the Olympic movement and the International Conventions against doping in Sport on the duties of the International federation and the member federations:**

The Mountaineering Commission LEWG was requested to advise several members of the Board and the Working Group on the UIAA new structure regarding the impact of the existing international conventions about the fight against doping in sports. The goal was to compare under the current public law the obligations of Federations recognized by the IOC and not. They are mainly two international conventions currently enforced:

- The Council of Europe Anti-Doping Convention, Strasbourg, 16.XI.1989;
- The Unesco International Convention against Doping in Sport, Paris, 19 October 2005.

Most of the work has been done with the valuable help of the Antidoping Commission (See the report below (\*\*)).

The conclusion is that the IOC recognition does generate obligations similar to these already proceeding from the above international conventions.

A comment has been drafted by Anti-Doping Commission member, Borja Oses (EMF Spain), which is attached in [Annex 2](#).

### **The Israeli application**

The Israeli member federation has applied for validation of their training process by the TSWG. This is going on.

### **The TSWG's seminar: "Training the trainers"**

This seminar will be held next spring at Plas y Brenin, Wales (BMC training centre), UK. More information is soon available on the Website.

### **The LEWG's seminar on Environmental rules' impact on mountain sports activities**

As mentioned above we asked the federations to communicate their possible interest in such a seminar's topic. The response has been scarce and in view of this the group decided to postpone this project for a better appropriateness to the willing of the federations and a better preparation.

The LEWG started the **digitization** of the old data from the 2002 report presented at Flagstaff. The work was achieved in August.

### **The Tyrol Declaration**

The Mountaineering Commission has been involved for many years in the writing and the promotion of the Tyrol Declaration. A motion for endorsement of the TYROL DECLARATION by the UIAA has been tabled by Eliza Moran last year but this item of the General Assembly agenda was withdrawn. The Mountaineering Commission's opinion, after a recent internal consultation, is that we should close this chapter putting this question back on the agenda for a final decision by the General Assembly in Matsumoto this fall (the 75<sup>th</sup>). Even if someone could discuss the adequacy of one or two points, this is an excellent document reflecting the ethics at the beginning of the 2000. This could be a good starting point for further discussions on this issue and adaptations to the always moving climbing and mountaineering world's trends.

Pierre Humblet, August 2007