



Mountain Training Conference Tollymore November 28&29 2013

What Clubs Need – Supporting and mentoring the next generation of participant - Colette Mahon, Wexford Hillwalking and Mountaineering Club

- Dependence of GPS (solely) within Clubs – Mountaineering Ireland emphasises the core navigational skills through it's training but should it also have a 'policy' or short statement on the use of technology in navigation and the limitations and possible risks of over dependence?
- GPS isn't currently covered in the MS syllabus but is mentioned as a back up tool and should be part of the mountain safety kit
- Club Mentor Scheme – more sharing of knowledge between existing clubs with training programmes (both among themselves and also in support of new clubs starting off). Idea of running and 'aspirants' weekend which offers guidance to new and existing clubs in their training programmes and the opportunities available from Mountaineering Ireland both financially and in terms of workshops and general support
- 'Club Training Officer' – the title can be misleading and in some cases off-putting. The training officer is simply someone within the club who can co-ordinate and arrange training rather than delivering it themselves. This spans areas such as identifying training needs and deciding the best way to achieve the necessary training (whether it's via BOS Awards or bringing a BOS Provider into the club for bespoke training)
- Youth – clubs lining in with schools and other youth organisations
 - Perception of hillwalking as being boring among young people – need to think of ways of changing this impression.
 - First impressions are so important and if the first impression of hill walking is a negative one the interest in the activity is broken
 - Introduce 'exciting' activities such as treasure trails and challenges to build the interest in young people in being out on the hills