



# Brecon Mountain Rescue Team



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Team Leader: Nigel Dawson

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## Information for Applicants to Brecon MRT

### Introduction

Welcome to Brecon Mountain Rescue Team. This information is aimed as a reference for you to be able to gain some knowledge of the team, what we do where we do it and also what we would expect of a new member. While this information is not all set in stone, it is a good guideline to start from.

If you are successful in your interim assessment more information will be sent to you.

### Team Membership Application Requirements

To be suitable to apply for team membership you must:

1. Be at least 18 years old.
2. Have a good hill walking background, including experience in the Brecon Beacons
3. Be able to navigate proficiently and be able to move safely and competently over mountain and high moorland terrain in all weather conditions during the day and at night in all seasons.
4. Possess suitable clothing and personal equipment to spend at least six hours working effectively on a rescue incident.
5. You must be capable of carrying all of your personal equipment plus any team kit required for an effective rescue
6. Be **physically and mentally fit and endeavour to remain so.**
7. Be willing to work as part of a team carrying out tasks as required by team and party leaders
8. Have a reasonable degree of availability for callouts.
9. Pay a membership fee of £12 a quarter.

You must be prepared to serve a trainee period of at least six months and more realistically ten to twelve months. During this time applicants will be expected to show their commitment by attending most of the training sessions offered by the team and will be continuously assessed on their existing hill craft skills, newly acquired mountain rescue skills, level of fitness, temperament and suitability for team membership.

You are asked to declare that you have no criminal record, medical condition, or similar which may make you unsuitable for membership of a mountain rescue team.

If you think that you fit this description and you want to be considered for membership of the Brecon Mountain Rescue Team, then complete and return the application form at the back of this booklet.

## **To Apply, or Not to Apply ?**

Applying to become a member of the Brecon Mountain Rescue Team is not something you should consider lightly.

Our team of volunteers provides a very 'professional' standard of mountain rescue service. We can only maintain this high standard of service with **full** commitment of **all** team members and the ongoing support of their immediate families and employers.

Team membership will cost you time and money, and **will cause** inconvenience.

- You will not be paid for your time spent on rescues or training.
- You will not be paid for any expenses incurred other than that agreed by the team.
- You will be provided with personal equipment or clothing relevant to your duties as a FULL member.
- You will suffer the inconvenience of call outs at any time of the day or night.
- You will, at times, find yourself cold wet and tired.
- You will be expected to attend most of the training offered by the team, and your competence and commitment will be monitored.
- You will be expected to raise the profile of the Team by assisting in fund raising events

That said, it will not be long before you will be rewarded with the tremendous personal satisfaction that comes along with being involved in helping save a life and meet many like minded individuals.

### **Conditions of team membership**

Once your application for team membership has been accepted, you will be invited to meet the team and the team leadership for an informal chat. A successful applicant will be offered a place on our twice yearly pre-assessment intake, which usually takes place on a Wednesday evening between 19:30 and 21:30.

Whether you pass or fail the pre-assessment, you will be told at the end of the evening. Successful candidates will then need to attend the next available training session to be introduced to your training officer.

## **Pre-assessment**

This is conducted twice a year on an evening chosen by the assessors; you should have a good working knowledge of the following :-

Navigation.

Safe movement over difficult terrain in all conditions.

Confident movement over very steep ground.

Adequate equipment, suitable for all weather conditions, summer and winter

Experience and knowledge of basic hill skills.

## **Brecon MRT Membership modules**

There are three levels of membership :

1. Trainee member (time scale. 6 – 10 mth)
2. Probationary member (time scale. 12 mth)
3. Full team member

**The team also occasionally needs Support Members.**

### **1. Trainee member**

You will be required to attend as many training exercises as possible, on Wednesday evenings and the first Sunday in every month. Your training is recorded in your log book to ensure complete knowledge of the basic skill / team procedures necessary to become a full team member. At this period of your training you are NOT eligible to attend any team callouts that they may have.

The trainee must attain proficiency in the following :

- a. Navigation.
- b. Use of radios and procedures.
- c. Assembly of stretchers and uses.
- d. Personal and stretcher belays, systems for lowers and raises, rope work.
- e. Team equipment / methods.
- f. Search techniques / patterns.
- g. Basic first aid ; knowledge of the teams first aid equipment and use.
- h. Basic helicopter procedure relevant to mountain rescue operations.

When the trainers are satisfied that the trainee member is of an acceptable standard in the above, and meets the minimum attendance requirements, you will be recommended for probationary membership to the team leadership. At this stage the team leadership will assess your progress by means of a practical and theory test. On satisfying the team leadership the trainee will be invited to join the team as an operational Probationary team member and would be eligible to attend callouts. The period from entry as a probationary member to becoming a full team member is generally twelve months.

## **2. Probationary member (Operational)**

A prospective member becomes a probationer after successfully completing his/hers log book and passing the practical and theory test. Now you start paying your membership fee, preferably by Standing Order.

Probationary members will be issued with :

- a. Message pager
- b. Water proof clothing
- c. Montane jacket
- d. Fleece trousers
- e. Polo shirt
- f. Wind shirt
- g. Tabard

***These items remain the property of Brecon MRT at all times.***

Probationary status entitles you to attend all callouts where possible, for which you will be “buddied” up with a full team member.

As a probationer you will spend a minimum of twelve months attending as many training sessions, fundraising events and callouts as possible, where you will be continually assessed, and will be expected to demonstrate to the leadership of the team the appropriate level of commitment, motivation, fitness and the ability to work in a team.

At the end of the probationary period, the candidate will be assessed by the leadership for full team membership.

### **3. Full Team Member**

A full team member will continue to:

- Demonstrate the appropriate levels of commitment, motivation, fitness and ability
- Attend Brecon MRT callouts
- Attend Brecon MRT training.
- Attend MRC/ other regional training.
- Attend Brecon MRT AGMs and vote.

The full team member will be issued with a membership card.

A full member may ask to be withdrawn from the call out list for a period of up to six months without losing full team membership entitlement, subject to review by the committee and team leadership.

If a period of more than six months is required off the call out list, the individual will revert to a probationary member, or if deemed necessary by the team leader a prospective member.

### **4 Support Member**

The team has most need for operational members; however, there is also a need for support members. Support members are appointed in the same way as Operational members, and have the operational role of supporting team members on searches, rescues and in training. This support includes setting up Control, managing the deployment and return of team equipment, communications and providing transport and refreshments. Their training differs in some respects from that of Operational members, in order to provide them with the special skills required for their role.

### **Maintaining full team membership**

All team members must continue to satisfy the current Brecon Mountain Rescue Team commitment requirements for attendance at call outs, exercises, team training, fund-raising and other events for their level of membership.

The committee will review each member's commitment at six monthly intervals, and where necessary, recommend to the team that an individual's membership be revoked due to lack of commitment, or on any other grounds deemed appropriate by the committee or team leadership.

## **Desirable Personal Qualities of a Mountain Rescue team Member**

An ideal member:

- Is always reliable
- Is able to respond quickly to demands
- Maintains professional conduct when cold, exhausted and stressed
- Has stamina
- Is aware of own limits in terms of skills or fitness
- Works well and fits in with the team
- Participates willingly at all stages

**Understands that there is no Glory in this job. Our core purpose is to save life in a potentially very hostile and dangerous environment.**

**Nigel Dawson  
Team Leader**

AFFILIATED TO THE MOUNTAIN RESCUE COUNCIL OF ENGLAND AND WALES CHARITY  
REGISTRATION NUMBER 517732