The BMC provides 3rd party liability (Civil Liability) protection for all affiliated Clubs and individual members and Personal Accident disability cover for Individual members. Club members do not benefit from Personal Accident cover. Travel and Activity insurance cover is also available to members along with financial protection through Summit Financial Services.

Civil Liability Protection

The policy covers you for any claim made against you for any civil liability arising in connection with hill walking, climbing and mountaineering. The limit of indemnity in respect of any claim made during the period of insurance is £5 million for any one period. The cover operates worldwide and there is no excess applicable. The cover does not apply to people who are acting as professional instructors, guides or in a similar professional business capacity.

Liability protection covers you for claims against you for injury or damages caused. You and your assets are protected if you are taken to court, for example, for dislodging a rock that caused injury to someone else and that person sues you.

Personal Accident Disability Insurance Cover

Personal Accident cover provides you with compensation if you are unfortunate enough to suffer a permanent injury while you are engaged in one of the activities covered by the policy. There is no death benefit under the policy or cover for recoverable injuries such as broken limbs. Cover for death and loss of earnings while injured are available separately from Summit Financial Services – see below.

- A. Total and permanent loss of all sight in one or both eyes £10,000
- B. Total loss by physical severance or total and permanent loss of use of one or both hands and feet £10,000
- C. Permanent total disablement from usual employment £10,000
- D. Total and permanent loss of hearing in both ears £10,000
- E. Total and permanent loss of speech £10,000
- F. Hospitalisation Benefit £30 per day (365 days maximum)
- G. Convalescence Benefit £100 per week (£400 maximum)
- H. Emergency Dental Treatment £500 maximum

The Personal Accident Disability benefit applies on condition of A to E occurring within two years of the happening of the event and not causing the death of the Person Insured within such two years.

The Personal Accident Disability benefit only applies when involved in BMC insured activities, e.g. all forms of mountaineering (including ski mountaineering), climbing, walking and abseiling. The cover includes travel to and from these activities within the UK.

For a claim to be successful under the terms of the policy, the claim must be reported to insurers within 2 years of the date that the incident occurred.

Terms & Conditions

Protection for Individual (including bona fide family members) and Club members is only in effect when they are fully paid up and the BMC has details of their names.

Clubs must maintain appropriate membership records and update the BMC on a regular basis with details of new members. New members are protected from the day they pay membership to the club, provided that the club clearly records the date of payment (e.g. by using a receipt book) and that the money and the member’s details are passed on to the BMC by the end of every quarter (March, June, September and December).

In the event of a liability claim members must not admit liability but must first inform the insurance brokers and the BMC – see Reporting an Incident below.

Civil Liability and Personal Accident Disability cover does not extend to those resident outside the UK.

This is a brief outline of the Civil Liability Protection Policy and the Personal Accident Disability Policy. Full details including all exclusions are set out in the Master Contract held by the BMC. Copies of the Civil Liability Protection Policy or the Personal Accident Disability Policy are available from the BMC office on request.

These details are correct as of December 2007 but please check your renewal details as cover benefits can change.

Members of Organisations and Bodies affiliated to the BMC i.e. Associate Members do not benefit from Civil Liability protection or Personal Accident insurance.

Reporting an Incident

All incidents involving injury or damage to a BMC member or a third party must be reported to Perkins Slade within 21 days. This is a requirement under the Civil Justice System in the UK. Please also copy your notification to the BMC office. If you or your club are involved in an incident that could lead to a court case please report the incident immediately. In the case of a possible liability claim, the incident must be notified to Perkins Slade Ltd by the party likely to be sued (e.g. the club, leader, etc.) rather than the injured party. It is important that the party likely to be sued does not admit liability prior to speaking to Perkins Slade. With personal accident claims, the injured party is the claimant and they should report the incident to the Perkins Slade Ltd.

Perkins Slade Ltd
British Mountaineering Council
3 Broadway
B15 1BQ
Birmingham
M20 2B8
Tel: 0121 698 8000
Fax: 0121 625 9000
Tel: 0161 445 6111
Fax: 0161 445 4500

Both the BMC and Perkins Slade are authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority.

Travel & Activity Insurance Cover

Comprehensive insurance is also available from the BMC to cover medical, rescue, baggage, and cancellation from 3 days to annual cover. Rates are available to cover all activities from beach cover for non-active members through to cover for an ascent of Everest. For your copy of the BMC Travel & Activity Insurance Guide contact the BMC office on 0161 445 6111.

Summit Financial Services

Summit Financial Services have developed a range of products that can provide financial cover for climbers, hill walkers and mountaineers. Cover is available, in many instances without loading, for income protection, mortgage protection, life cover and critical illness cover. To obtain more details and a no obligation quote please contact:

Summit Financial Services
FREEPOST NWW 1071A
Milnthorpe
LA7 7BR
Tel: 015395 64200
Fax: 015395 64477
Email: enquiries@summitfs.co.uk
Web: www.summitfs.co.uk

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This article is intended to give assistance to BMC Club and Individual members in understanding the cover that is available through the BMC and is not intended as a legal interpretation of the BMC insurance and protection (schemes) and should not be used as such. Reference should be made to the insurance and protection policies themselves, which are available from the BMC Office, Perkins Slade Ltd or Summit Financial Services.

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