

## NORTH WALES BRANCH REPORT

When we last met events were being attended by the committee, three men and a dog (stuffed). Oh how we have progressed. There were 2 real dogs at our BBQ. There were also over 25 two legged attendees and whilst guests outnumbered members it was very gratifying to run something and actually have people turn up. What's more the hoards were repeated at our public showing of Dan Snow's "Stone Rising". Run in conjunction with a local film club attendance of 30-ish was down on their usual 60+. The moral of this Dan is next time do it in French with sub-titles! Another film club has asked to see it and "Fuzzy Slippers" have again kindly given permission. I'm told this club is new and only has a few members so we'll probably be back to counting stuffed animals.

Training has continued apace with 75 trainee days spread amongst 49 members of the public. Two have even joined and Branch membership has reached the dizzying heights of 26, not bad when you have a catchment area only slightly in excess of 7000 square kilometres. Mind you 20% of our membership lives beyond the Branch borders anyway. One member for every 350 km<sup>2</sup>, aren't there Branches covering smaller areas than that? We even managed a certification day for the first time in almost as long as anyone can remember. The Phoenix soars, although it almost became Icarus in September with events every weekend and yours truly reaching meltdown, especially when a non paying non member phoned up to complain that an event had been cut from 2 to 1 day. I cannot be held responsible for my reaction. This job would be all right if it wasn't for the public. Fortunately our Chairman is (these days anyway) a calm collected peacemaker. Oh and a father to boot – congratulations on the arrival of Annie Rose to Craig (Chairman) and Gwenan (Treasurer). One way of boosting membership I suppose.

Getting back to September... we wouldn't normally countenance something every weekend let alone in the monsoon season, someone smiled on us as it was wall to wall sunshine. It didn't even rain at the competition, which was even graced by the presence of a non-local an unheard of in recent years. Ed Park from Cumbria – last years Amateur Grand Prix Champion walked away with the Amateur prize, fortunately we had been able to dust off the Best Local Amateur Trophy so local feathers were not too ruffled. Modesty prevents me from announcing the professional winner, who reached a milestone by finally eclipsing Steven Allen's 5 victories, although he's only entered about 6 times to my 14.

Next year promises to be even more hectic judging from our provisional programme. Happy New Year ! (and Merry Christmas). Please send any unwanted straight jackets to...

Sean Adcock

Potential photos: Left guided walk looking at local walls during BBQ. Right Ed Park(left) and Sean Adcock (right) at Cerrig competition.

