

# MEMBERS' NEWS AUGUST 2006

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[www.countrysideassociation.org.uk](http://www.countrysideassociation.org.uk)

## CMA helps make the IRF Congress a great success.

By Roger Cole

The next edition of RANGER magazine will carry a full report of the 5<sup>th</sup> World Ranger Congress which was held in Stirling Scotland in mid June. Here follows an account of how CMA members contributed to this major international event.

It all started back in 2003 at the 4<sup>th</sup> Congress in Australia. The Scottish Countryside Rangers Association (SCRA) had been "handed the flag" to host the next Congress in 2006 and then asked CMA to join them as a co-host. The then CMA chair, Nick Eade, readily volunteered CMA's help and thus started a relationship which resulted in CMA and SCRA working closely together to ensure the 300 or so delegates had a truly fantastic 7 days at the World Ranger Congress.

Initially, CMA offered to organise pre/post Congress delegate tours in England and Wales and also to fully organise one of the Congress programme days. We also took on the task of vetting and scheduling the various papers and posters that would form part of the Congress programme. We further contributed to fund-raising to assist rangers from developing countries to attend and finally agreed to produce a joint edition of RANGER and SCRAMble for the Congress – a bumper edition. (And for good measure we also produced the daily Congress newsletter burning the midnight oil each night).



Some of the CMA sponsored delegates with Mike Woods (CMA Chair) and Chris Baines (CMA Patron).

The Congress could not operate without the help of volunteers and 12 members of CMA had put their names forward to join the same number of SCRA rangers to form the "Purple Gang". Dressed in vivid purple shirts to identify them – they assisted with every aspect of back room and front-of-house organisation during the Congress. Thus the CMA was well represented both as volunteers and as full delegates and though we all returned rather shell-shocked and weary, we were also inspired and our faith renewed by having spent a week in the company of fellow professionals from over 40 countries. Roll on the next one in Bolivia!

**FOOTNOTE:** CMA helped to fund at least 4 Eastern Europe delegates to the Congress as well as providing two 50% bursaries for members. We acknowledge the great fundraising efforts particularly by South West region to help the 4 overseas Rangers attend.

## Ode to IRF 5th World Congress Stirling, Scotland

*I sat by chance under a leafy oak, near the shadows of  
Stirling Castle  
A beautiful green and shady spot, away from the city's  
hassle  
Perhaps I slept - or only dozed - but was amazed when I  
woke to see  
A large and hairy Scotsman, standing over me  
His hair was long, his beard was red, and he held a big  
broadsword  
The kind you see in the movies, carried by a medieval lord  
His arms were strong, his hands were huge, this guy was  
really built  
And I'm glad that from where I was sitting, I couldn't see up  
his kilt  
"My name is William Wallace lad, perhaps ye've heard of  
me  
Do you mind if I sit beside ye lad, in the shade of this old  
oak tree".  
He sat his weary body down, like a great weight was on his  
back  
Like someone who's gone hiking, with an overloaded pack.*

*"This world is always changing lad, and not always for the  
best  
So let me give ya a bit of advice, while y'er having a bit of a  
rest"*

*I looked at him while he chatted on, and the more I began to listen  
I realized the more I looked - he looked nothing like Mel Gibson  
"Ya may think" he said "that ye cannee win, that everything's agin ya  
But never give the b#st#rds a break, or else they're gonna skin ya"  
If the cause is just, if the cause is good, then carry on the fight  
Always keep on fighting lad, if you know your cause is right  
So gather up the Ranger Clan, they come from every nation  
Tell them to fight for protected areas, and fight for conservation  
The battle will be long and hard - and even some will die  
Fighting for what they believe in, under many a foreign sky".*

*"But I've seen you're clan, it's good and strong, so just before I go  
Tell em lad, tell em all, William Wallace told you so"  
I woke with a start, and no one was there, just a strange and haunting sound  
And I swear to this day, that it sounded like - "John Muir ya owe me a pound".*

By Chris Artiemiew, June 2006 (Queensland, Australia)  
IRF 5<sup>th</sup> World Congress  
Stirling University, Scotland

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## Member, Accredited

From the meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> June the Review Panel is pleased to confirm that they have accepted the applications of **Gareth Wilson, Fiona Shipp** and **Christopher Livsey** to Member, Accredited status.

## countrysidemanagement.org.uk

Timed to coincide with the 2006 conference, the CMA website has at last been redesigned to bring it up to date. A number of exciting new features are now online at [countrysidemanagement.org.uk](http://countrysidemanagement.org.uk). Your feedback is welcomed! Members have their own area for downloading information and there are two new lists for news and events. The password for the members' area can be obtained from CMA administration. If there are any documents you think should be available in the Members Area, just let me know.

But it's not just downloading stuff, you can also upload your latest news and events to the website yourself. This supersedes the old regional news pages. Anyone who is authorised can do this. So if you want to get a password to do this (and we hope that each region will authorise one or more people to do so) or for any other query or comment please contact Matthew Chatfield, CMA webmaster on [editor@naturenet.net](mailto:editor@naturenet.net) or 01983 823893.

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## Flitch Way Study Day

On 5th July a regional study day coupled with the regional AGM was held at Flitch Way Country Park. Approximately 20 members attended and were able to discuss issues related to operating a linear park and viewed recently installed access barriers to facilitate horse access whilst deterring motorised vehicle access.

The new Chair for HCEA Region is Gary King from Essex County Council who has been based at Hadleigh Castle Country Park for the past 8 years. Gary has been a member of CMA for 10 years and a regular attendee at regional study days. He follows Malcolm Busby who has stepped down after 10 years as regional chair and we thank both for their dedication to the region.

The next scheduled training days will be about Green Flag and Woodland Management (dates to be confirmed).

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## The 2<sup>nd</sup> Junior Ranger Camp in Tatra NP

*By Ing. Juraj Svajda, Tatra National Park and Biosphere Reserve Administration*

The second junior ranger camp finished on 25<sup>th</sup> August 2006 in the mountain hotel Popradske Pleso (Tatra National Park - Slovakia) with the award of graduation certificates and uniforms to 20 junior rangers. The camp was organised by Tatra National Park (TPN) and Biosphere Reserve Administration under the head of the Europarc Federation. The main goal of the project, which is also running in other European National Parks, is to create a network of teenage people, who will in future be actively involved with nature conservation, and also improve the image of national parks and inform the public about the problems of nature conservation especially the work of rangers in national parks.



Unique to this year's camp was the participation of Polish children who joined in the camp programme. Under the supervision of the National Park the participants visited the educational trail in Morske oko (TPN), climbed on Koprovsky Peak and Rysy Summit, took courses on mountain safety, were involved with documentation, nature conservation and international co-operation plus many practical activities including observation of flora and fauna.

Being involved with the subject of nature conservation, specifically the nature of Tatra Mountains, as well as the participation of the Polish junior rangers led toward a bridging of language barriers.

During the 5-day camp the idea was raised about organising next year's summer camp in neighbouring Poland.

Thanks goes to Tatra National Park, the Europarc Federation, the town of Vysoke Tatry, Tatra Mountain Rescue Service (voluntary corps) and the mountain hotel Popradske Pleso. Thanks also to all participants for making the camp a success.

The following photographs are from the closing ceremonial at Popradske Pleso and the visit to TPN.



## **Polo Shirts - Collectors Item**

We are now down to the last remaining stock of 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary CMA embroidered dark blue Polo Shirts, which have proved to be extremely popular. There are only 12 shirts left, and current sizes in stock are limited to Extra Large or Small. Price is £15 plus £1.30 p/p from CMA Admin Writtle. However, we can always get more embroidered in other sizes if we get a minimum order of 6.



So there is still time to own one of these highly desirable collectors' items!

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## **Regional Round Up**

### **Home Counties & East Anglia Region**

*Update from Gary King*

The region recently held its Regional AGM at Flich Way Country Park in Takely, Essex (see item above). Members discussed the possibility of having an e-mail reminder to be sent out two weeks before any study days that are taking place to try to increase attendance. I also became the new chairman of the region, taking over from Malcolm Busby's long and distinguished service. So a big thank you to him.

Finally, there will be a training day on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October (provisional date) at Whitlingham Country Park in Norfolk looking at the new visitor centre and recently opened main broad. Then looking at issues regarding large trees and their safety.

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### **Head of Marketing takes a sabbatical**

Roger Cole (Head of CMA Marketing Group) is taking a year out from his main CMA responsibilities leading the Marketing Group in order to focus on a project he is involved with as a member of the World Scout Jamboree Organising Team. 2007 is the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Scout Association and the 21<sup>st</sup> World Jamboree is taking place in Roger's hometown of Chelmsford. Each of the 40,000 scouts attending the Jamboree has to spend one day undertaking a community service project. Roger's role is to try to identify suitable conservation projects in Essex and the surrounding counties. He has already been in touch with many CMA colleagues in HCEA region and would like to hear from any others who might like to get involved in the high profile event.

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