

# UWS Hiking Club - Preparing a route card

## *For the Person Planning the Route.*

- Remember the following restrictions on walks.
  - a) A walks: 6-8 miles (9-12 Km), little climbing.
  - b) B walks: 8-12 miles (13-19 Km), some climbs.
  - c) C walks: 12-14 miles (19-23 Km) and more, often with several climbs or one hard climb.
- If the club has walked in the area before check the club minutes. If not talk to anyone who has walked in the area before. Then adjust your plans based on this experience.
- Do not be tempted to plan routes that are too long and be aware that a large, mixed ability group will not be able to walk faster than 3 kph. Only when a walk is advertised as a harder, faster or longer walk plan to go faster.
- If it is possible, plan a route that is easy to shorten to the original finish point and note these escape routes on the route card. If you plan to shorten the route to a different location, the group still needs to get home. If this is not possible, plan a second route on a separate attached route card, which will be used in the case of a bad weather forecast.
- If escape route cannot go to go to the planned finishing point, try to plan them to locations that the coach or bus can get to and if possible a pub etc.
- If possible plan a long (harder) and shorter (easier) route. Therefore, on a C walk there might be a walk of 12 miles and one of 14 miles.
- Make sure that the route is available at the committee meeting before the walk. If possible, be present at that meeting. If the committee does not pass the route, make sure any changes needed are made.
- Once the route card is complete, give the copies to the equipment officer to give to Leaders and Backmarkers with their equipment.
- On the day of the hike, advise the Leaders of the best route(s) to take. If not possible in person, add notes to route card.

## *For the Committee*

- Check the route passes the above criteria.
- Decide whether it is a safe route for the members who will be attracted by the advertisement of the walk. If the route is unsuitable either change the route or ask for a second route option to be added.
- Decide whether there are suitable Leaders and Backmarkers of the route. Set the group size if different from normal. Set a limit on the number of member that can go in total.  
Suggested maximum group sizes are as follows:
  - a) A Walks - 30
  - b) B Walks - 20
  - c) C Walks - 15

## *For the equipment officer*

- Insure that enough copies of the route card are made for each group and fill in all the remaining details.
- Insure that the Leaders and Backmarkers are given the route card with the other equipment of the day of the walk are the latest.