

### Expedition Committee Report – January 2010

The last year has been a challenging year, with the re locating of the Greenland expedition and also the slow application uptake, but as a result of some extremely hard work, six expeditions made it into the field and in the region of 200 young people had a wilderness experience that only BSES can deliver.

Our 2009 Expeditions went to Arctic Svalbard in the Spring, Ladakh, Greenland, The Amazon, Norway Sea Kayaking and we also had a Leadership Development Expedition in Norway. In addition to this we had recces to Baffin, to Kyrgyzstan, and to Seas of Greenland. We were fortunate to have developed a partnership with the Army and also the Next Generation project – which again fulfilled a BSES objective of managing to mix young people from all backgrounds together and for them to live, seek adventure and be part of scientific projects in some of the most beautiful wilderness areas of the world.

Our 2010 Expeditions will be going to Arctic Svalbard in the Spring, the Summer and also Sea Kayaking. In addition to the frozen North we will be going to Ladakh and the Amazon. These locations may be repeat destinations, but the Expedition Committee are keen to create some economic stability within the Society, in choosing tried and tested locations, where science can be continued and where the wilderness experience is guaranteed.

The structure of the Expedition Committee has been strengthened in the past year with some enormously experienced and passionate members volunteering to seat around my table. I now have some world experts in science, youth development, expedition medicine, equipment, polar and independent travel to help me plan and take the BSES expeditions into the future. We have a robust and detailed Chief Leader selection program, we have planned a thorough briefing and debriefing process and have targeted and identified a balanced destination plan for the next five years. This plan has looked at expanding the variety of expeditions that BSES can offer and going to places in the world that offer a real wilderness experience, places that are key to scientific projects, that will appeal to young people and that will show that BSES continues to offer exciting, different, meaningful destinations to global destinations, that young people will struggle to go with any other organisation.

We are looking five years ahead and planning recces to these destinations to establish the suitability for BSES and also to assist in detailed planning and marketing.

All our future planning has to have a wilderness element, a youth development element and the expeditions must continue to collect scientific data that is meaningful and useful for the future, as Murray Levick would have expected.

The plan of offering a Polar, a Mountain, a Jungle, a Dessert expedition each year plus a Hot and a Cold gap year 'extreme' expedition every year - is an aim that excites me.

Nigel Harling