



B2(a) HOME AGENT - PURPOSE

Tony Land (Revised 13/03/07)

The “HOME AGENT” provides 24 hour support to the expedition. The Home Agent team is made up of a number of members with a central team leader. The team leader needs to:

- be unrelated to any expedition member (so as not to be emotionally involved);
- be competent to undertake the role;
- be available 24/7 when the expedition is in the field;
- be able to contact the leader team as quickly as practicable;
- have access to full personal details of all expedition members ;
- have next of kin / parents' contact details (**BECAUSE HOLIDAY AND OTHER PLANS CHANGE THESE SHOULD BE UPDATED JUST BEFORE THE EXPEDITION LEAVES**);
- have details of insurance and travel plans,
- have access to medical, media and legal advice;
- have an agreed press statement (and procedures) available in case of need (see Crisis Plan);
- be regularly informed about the expedition's progress, so that parents and others can be informed if they contact the team.
- have a link to the Immediate Response Team (IRT) as outlined in the Crisis Plan.

In addition:

- The Home Agent must be as knowledgeable as possible about all aspects of the expedition (e.g. it is useful if (s)he attends training weekends).
- It is vital that everyone understands that the Home Agent is the primary conduit for communication with the Expedition except in an incident when the IRT becomes the primary contact, (see crisis plan).
- Written records should be kept of all communications.
- (S)he should have access to a team of reliable supporters who could help in the case of a serious emergency, as well as helping to provide 24-hour cover.