



**Circular letter to all
UIAA Member Federations**

Bern, 1st March 2008

Dear Member Federations,

The last year was a somewhat tumultuous one for the UIAA. There were both high and low points.

The high points included the overwhelming acceptance of the recommendations of the Calvi Working Group. These reforms allowed us to move forward. However, these democratically approved changes have cost the UIAA dearly. We received (and I have attached a copy) a letter from the German and Austrian clubs informing us that they would leave the UIAA after December 31st, 2008 (in accordance with the Statutes and the term of notice given. It would not be end of 2007 as stated in the enclosed letter). The reason given is that they do not approve of the new constitution because "... It is not the organization where our democratic principles, balance of interests and effective work for the benefit of the member associations and their associated individuals, can be guaranteed."

So after 75 years our two largest federations will leave the UIAA. What does this mean for us? Does it portend the end of the UIAA?

Well that is up to us! Let us not forget the turnaround that the UIAA has undertaken during the last year.

- We have successfully parted from the IFSC.
- We have regained our position with the International Olympic Committee - at a meeting in December they commented on the 180 degree turnaround that the UIAA had undertaken.
- We have undertaken the greatest constitutional changes in many years.
- We have created a modern database of our membership.
- We created a new website.

A busy year indeed!

The withdrawal of two of our largest federations will present us with financial challenges but these will be manageable. The board and the management committee will shoulder the challenges given to us by the General Assembly. Our course was charted for us by this body. This is our mandate and we must follow it!

Our immediate concern related to this decision will be to ensure that the work of the commissions - where there has been cooperation - be continued, this is particularly so with respect to youth, who are the way to our future.

Safe Climbing!

Mike Mortimer
UIAA President