

**NOTE:** HOVIP is delighted to have helped to attract Rock UK to Wales. HOVIP with the support of Bob Shepherd Associates, Parrys Commercial and Gary Baker (Wales and West Media Ltd.) worked with the Trustees of Taff Bargoed Development Trust, to attract this major inward investor to the Centre.

## ROCK UK EXPANDS TO WALES



Release Date: 19<sup>th</sup> October 2010

Rock UK is delighted to announce that it has acquired its fifth adventure centre and its first in South Wales.

The new centre will be known as **Rock UK Summit Centre** and is located south of Merthyr Tydfil in the South Wales Valleys. It will be officially opened by Jo Gambi, an accomplished Everest climber and one of Rock UK's Rock Stars, on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2010.

Currently known as the Welsh International Climbing Centre, it is built on the site of the former Trelewis drift mine which closed in 1989. The Taff Bargoed Development Trust then redeveloped the site into a climbing centre in 1997 turning it into an international climbing centre. The climbing walls are up to 18 metres high with over 180 climbing routes in the main climbing centre plus an additional bouldering area. The centre also has a world-class man-made caving system with a waterfall inside it.

Rock UK has extensive expansion plans for the centre during 2011 that will include developing the land to accommodate exciting outdoor adventure activities including an extended high ropes course, low ropes and archery and developing the already substantial residential accommodation. Off-site mountain biking, climbing and walking will also be offered making use of the extensive natural resources in and around the South Wales Valleys and the Brecon Beacons. Rock UK also plans to run water based activities at the Taff Bargoed Millennium Park which will include open canoeing, kayaking and raft building.

Mark Heasman, Group Chief Executive of Rock UK, said "This is such an exciting development for Rock UK. The acquisition of this internationally acclaimed climbing centre and its proximity to some incredible adventurous locations in Wales gives us a fantastic opportunity to bring the Rock UK adventure offering to Wales for the first time."

This exciting new venture for Rock UK will also bring job opportunities into the local area with qualified instructors, administrative and maintenance staff all being required.

The climbing wall reopened to the general public on the **2<sup>nd</sup> October**.

For more information about Rock UK please visit [www.rockuk.org](http://www.rockuk.org).

**“Rock UK are Christians passionate about developing young people, bringing adventure into learning and using the outdoors to transform lives.”**

**For more information, interviews or images please call the Rock UK Press Office on 0844 8000 222 or 07735 617354 or email: [karen.mccarthy@rockuk.org](mailto:karen.mccarthy@rockuk.org)**

### **Notes for Editors**

Rock UK Adventures Centres Ltd is a long established Christian charity providing exciting outdoor adventures through its existing 4 UK venues and Trailblazers, the newest division providing UK and worldwide expeditions and charity challenges. It provides over 50,000 people from more than 500 different Churches, Christian Unions, Schools, Community Groups and Corporate Groups a choice of adventure programmes that are flexible to suit most budgets and needs, allowing for time to enjoy your own day or evening activities if appropriate. Rock UK is committed to providing safe adventure sessions that are also challenging and a lot of fun! All centres are licensed by the Adventure Activities Licensing Authority (AALA) and are regularly inspected by technical advisors. Wherever possible National Governing Body qualifications are used, and strict training and assessment programmes and run, overseen by technical advisors amounting to over 500 hours of training for each instructor.

#### UK venues:

Summit Centre, Trelewis, Treharris, CF46 6RD

Frontier Centre, Addington Road, Irthlingborough, Wellingborough, NN9 5UH

Halls Green, Weald, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN14 6NQ

Carrot Wood, Higham Lane, Tonbridge, TN11 9QX

Whithaugh Park, Newcastleton, Scottish Borders, TD9 0TY