

mountain rescue

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JANUARY 2012



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WELCOME TO ISSUE 39

Mountain Rescue is the membership magazine for mountain and cave rescue in England and Wales.

Contributions should be sent to the editor at the address below.

Every care will be taken of materials sent for publication however these are submitted at the sender's risk.

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NEXT ISSUE ISSUE 40

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5 MARCH 2012

Editorial copy must be supplied as Word document. Images must be supplied as high resolution (300 dpi) JPG/EPS/TIFF/PDF.

Advertising artwork must be supplied, ready prepared on CD or via email as font embedded PDF/EPS/TIFF (300 dpi) or Quark document with all relevant fonts and images.

FRONT PAGE

South Lakes teams engage in joint swiftwater training session
Photo: Paul Burke

EDITOR'S NOTE: Articles carried in Mountain Rescue do not necessarily reflect the opinions of Mountain Rescue England and Wales. We do not accept responsibility for information supplied in adverts/advertorial.

**mountain
rescue**



first Word

DAVID ALLAN



The meeting in November witnessed two major changes to the way in which mountain rescue in England and Wales will carry out its work in future years.

Firstly I was delighted to see the benevolent fund come into being after several years of discussion and procrastination. I believe there will be a sense of relief, particularly amongst team leaders, to know that there is now a provision to help any team member in the event of injury or other unforeseen circumstances. Due recognition is appropriate for Huw Birrell, Trevor Cotton and Tony Rich all of whom have laboured to bring the project from a good idea into a working system.

It is a little over a year since the suggestion that MREW officers should be appointed for fixed terms of office began to gain momentum. Fairly detailed discussions ensued. At some of these there appeared to be 'a difficulty for every solution' but finally proposals emerged that dealt as fairly as possible with both new and long established post holders. One essential part of the new process is the appointment of successors some twelve months before the existing officer stands down. This should ensure a gradual handover with new appointees able to run in tandem which is especially important in meetings with outside bodies.

Underpinning this new arrangement is a belief that people will emerge from all areas of mountain rescue to apply for the posts. We have been fortunate in the past few years to have had a very eclectic management group. Each officer has brought their

specialist skills to the table but has also made major contributions from their wide ranging experience of the many different facets of mountain rescue. I have no doubt that across the country there are many people with the ability, skill and experience to take up the reins of management and hope they will come forward. With the publication of a 'retirement list' it will be much easier to plan ahead and balance commitment between team, region and national body.

As each post approaches the time for change, the job description will be revisited. Some posts have grown beyond expectation and it may be necessary to share out some of the workload, possibly with the creation of new posts.

The last year has overall been a very good one for mountain rescue in England and Wales. In several regions the number of incidents has fallen significantly. Whether this is due to the safety messages that have been promulgated or simply a reflection of the weather is not clear at this stage. SARCALL has gone from strength to strength, a government grant has arrived, national fundraising has made big strides forward, there have been more successful training courses and communication is slowly but surely improving.

Finally, I have previously made reference to the injudicious use of rapid fire email messages that have later been a cause for regret. It would seem that the root cause is not so new after all...

'And once sent out, a word

Takes wings beyond recall.' Horace 65BC ■

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INSURANCE MATTERS

NEIL 'WOODIE' WOODHEAD
insurance@mountain.rescue.org.uk

As I reported in the last magazine **vehicle insurance** is being looked into and it is hoped that some central funding will be available in 2012. Initially this is likely to be a subsidised scheme but I hope that central fundraising will enable us to fund the scheme fully in future years.

At the November meeting there was overwhelming support to take this forward. What we need now is to know from the teams what vehicles they have, any special cover they have in place and claims history. A survey will have been circulated around the regions and teams by the time you are reading this and it is important your team completes this and returns it by the end of January. This will then give us time to consider your needs and return to you at the May meeting with a firm proposal. My plan is to have the scheme live for you in the summer.

I know you support this idea and I'm determined to make this happen in 2012, so every team can benefit.

Whilst we are on the subject of vehicle insurance, many of you will have seen the subject of volunteers and their own motor insurance policies. This is particularly pertinent to our members.

Insurers take different views of people volunteering and the Association of British Insurers (ABI) have recently issued a commitment that motor insurers have signed up to. I have added a link on the MREW website with the resource documents, so you can check the ABI website to see how your own personal motor

insurer views volunteers and what needs to be disclosed to them. Check out your own insurer and see – you may need to take action.

The **training presentation** is now available to download from the website, which will help trustees to understand their insurance requirements and enable them to educate their team members on the subject. It's a 'death by powerpoint' presentation, but hopefully will help you educate yourselves and your teams in the riveting subject of insurance!

All the guidance notes and documents relating to insurance can also be found on the website – in the member's area, under resources and insurance. These should be used alongside the presentation to guide you through some of the areas.

The national **personal accident** (PA) policy, funded by various police forces, continues to go from strength to strength. Meetings are taking place with brokers and insurers to ensure we have the best cover we can, with some enhancements likely at the renewal in March. More police forces have signed up, with teams in North Yorkshire and Lancashire now included. This brings the number of teams covered to 33 and Northumbria are also showing interest.

If your force hasn't signed up to the policy you should continue to question them about the cover you have and whether it compares. If you need any help in speaking to them to explain the cover under the national policy,

TRAINING UPDATE MIKE MARGESON

The recent round of national courses – Media Skills, Train the Trainer, and the Medical Symposium – all went well. We now turn our attention to 2012 and, in January, the National Water Conference, where we launch the new

Level 5 Water Controller Programme. Hopefully the first courses will be run as soon as possible thereafter.

SECOND NATIONAL TRAINING DAY: MONDAY 5 MAY, PLAS Y BRENIN, NORTH WALES

Following last year's extremely successful formula

we will be hosting a series of six workshops – through the morning and repeated in the afternoon – at the National Mountaineering Centre in North Wales. See the full ad for further details. It would help Richard Prideaux with the booking logistics, and fitting in as many of your session requests, if folk booked as early as possible.

UK MR CONFERENCE: SEPTEMBER 2012

In September, we will be at Leeds University for the bi-annual UK Mountain Rescue Conference. I am assisting the group charged with putting the programme together. If you have any speakers or topics you would really like to see at this event, please get in touch via

email: trainingofficer@mountain.rescue.org.uk

REVISED GUIDELINES FOR TEAM MEMBER AND PARTY LEADER

We are currently working on the Hill Member and Party Leader guidelines, now over ten years old. Your views are welcome in order to move these documents forward.

national News

WATER CONFERENCE

Date: Saturday 21 January (One day)
Location: Peak District
Contact: Andy Lee
07802 878666
nwc@edalemrt.co.uk

NATIONAL TRAINING DAY

Places: 60
Date: Saturday 5 May (One day)
Location: Plas y Brenin
Contact: Mike Margeson
01229 889721
mmargeson@hotmail.com

TEAM LEADERS MEETING

Places: 60
Date: Saturday 4 February (One day)
Location: NEWSAR HQ
Contact: Iain Ashcroft
01978 860392
iain.ashcroft@virgin.net

MREW SUBCOMMITTEES AND BUSINESS MEETING

Date: Saturday 19 May & Saturday 17 November (One day)

NATIONAL MOUNTAIN AND CAVE RESCUE AWARENESS WEEKEND

Date: Bank Holiday Weekend, 5-7 May
Location: Locally to all teams

NSARDA TRAILING DOG TRAINING WEEK

Date: 13-17 February
Location: BPMRT's Smelt Mill Centre
Contact: Iain Nicholson
iain@sardogs.org.uk

then let me know. For teams covered by the national policy, I will shortly need you to declare numbers of team members ready for renewal – please help me keep admin to a minimum by replying as quickly as you can.

The agreed fundraising activities covered under the **civil liability** policy continue to be welcomed by teams and the guidance notes are being well used. This gives you the certainty you are looking for when arranging fundraising events. The number of enquiries has diminished dramatically with the use of the guidance notes.

Remember to contact me as soon as you can with the queries for cover that isn't automatic, as it can take some time to have discussions with insurers and hopefully ensure adequate cover is in place without incurring any additional premium. I know teams are looking at their fundraising events for 2012, so keep insurance in mind.

The civil liability policy is also renewing shortly, so please help me once again with completing the declaration they require. This will be sent out shortly, if it hasn't already landed in your team's inbox. A copy is, of course, on the MREW website.

It was good to meet many of you at the November meeting and to help answer a few queries for you and your teams.

Remember, as always, that if you have any queries then please just send me an email and I'll give you whatever assistance I can. Contact is insurance@mountain.rescue.org.uk ■

- What do you think of the current the MR National Training Guidelines?
- Do they reflect the changing variety of scenarios?
- Do they reflect changes in technology?
- What would YOU modify?

The current MREW training guidelines were set up in 1996, but since then the variety and number of MR team operations has changed significantly, technology and equipment has evolved, as have the skill levels of the latest recruits joining teams. The end result of these changes is that team training has had to adapt, so members can meet the challenges of the current and future operational demands.

In response to these changes, MREW decided in May 2011 to review and update the Hill member and Party Leader Guidelines. The training sub was tasked to carry out the review by November but, due to incomplete feedback from areas and teams, the completion date has been moved to the next MREW meet in May 2012.

I was asked to facilitate the completion of the review. I am the current SWSARA training rep, and also assist when possible on the National Party Leader course. I joined MR, after leaving the Army, in 1988, served as team leader of Bridgend MRT (now Western Beacons MSRT) and am currently a deputy of the same team. I have a solid background in mountain rescue and its training however, as we all know, there are regional variations that need to be reflected in the national guidelines, and this is where I need your help and support to ensure this task is completed on time but, more importantly, that the resulting guidelines reflect your team's current and future training needs and issues.

By the time this is published, I will have written to your training rep, with a suggested format, to assist with the creation of new draft guidelines. I will ask them for their and your team's comments and suggested changes. Without your feedback, we cannot ensure your regional input is reflected in the new guidelines. I am, therefore, taking this opportunity to encourage you to ask your training rep to share the draft with you and for them to pass your thoughts back to me. I am also happy to take feedback directly via my email: selwyn.keenan3@virgin.net from new and long-standing members alike. The timescales we are working to:

January	February	March	April	May
Consultation within teams on guidelines	Consultation within regions on draft guidelines	Revise draft guidelines to reflect feedback	Final draft sign off by teams and regions	Updated guidelines sign off by MREW

In these times of increased partnership and collaborative working, we need to ensure other agency partners, and our members, understand and value training and regional knowledge. I am therefore counting on you to make sure your team feedback gets to me!

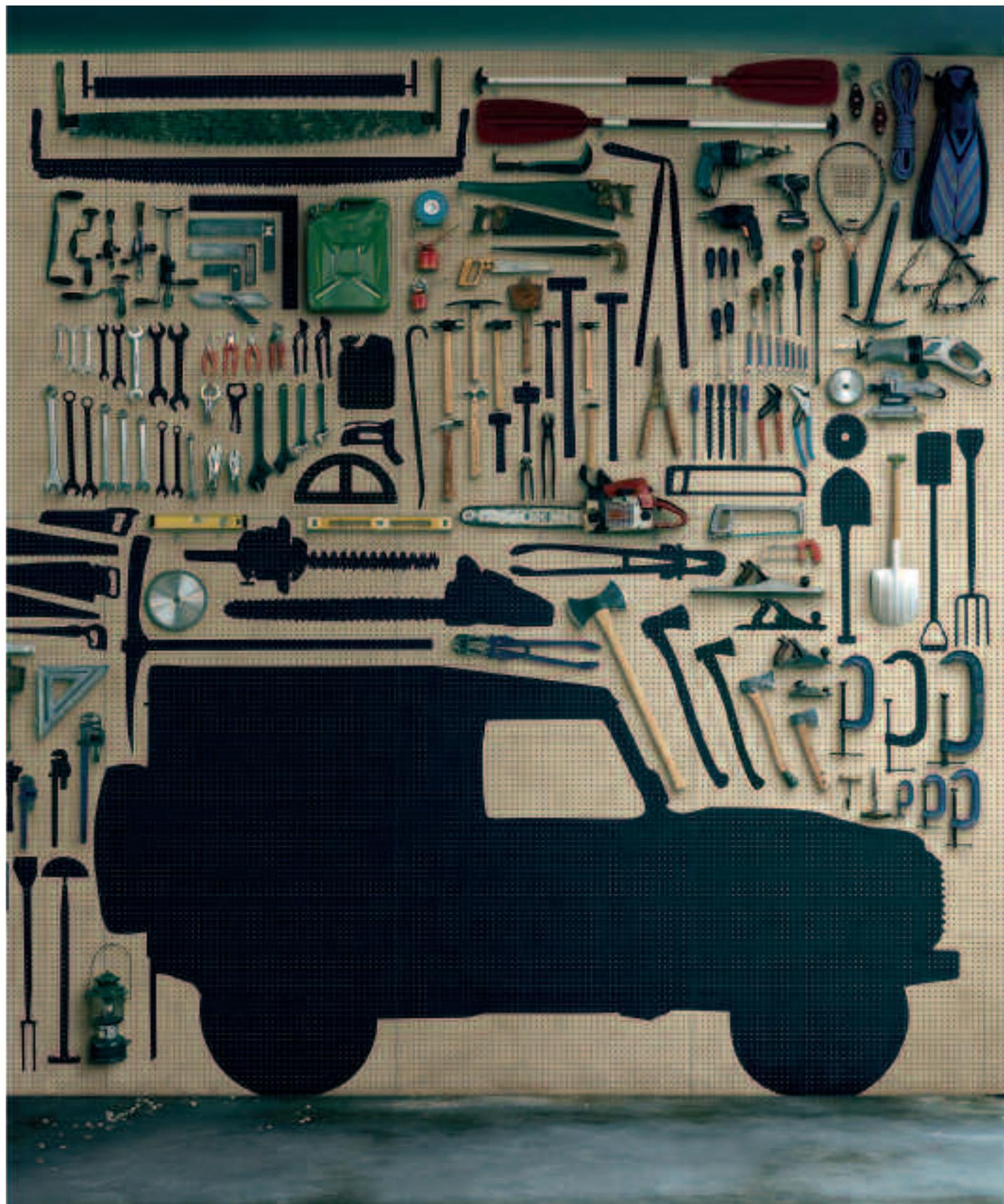
SELWYN KEENAN

HILL MEMBER AND PARTY LEADER TRAINING GUIDELINES REVIEW

OFF ROAD AND BLUE LIGHT DRIVING

We will also be supporting Daryl Garfield and the vehicle subcommittee in the creation of national Off Road and Blue Light Driving guidelines.





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PROPOSED LIVERY GUIDELINES FOR MOUNTAIN RESCUE VEHICLES REVEALED

DARYL GARFIELD

I'm pleased to show the new Mountain Rescue England and Wales livery guidelines, as shown at the MREW business meeting in November.

These have been looked at from many different perspectives but the two main purposes for the proposed guidelines are to make our vehicles as visually conspicuous as possible as emergency response vehicles, and to harmonise the mountain rescue image across the country. This will enable members of the public and other emergency services to immediately identify MR vehicles en route or at the scene of an incident.

As you can see, the orange and white checkerboard is the main and obvious marking, making the vehicle highly conspicuous when

used for emergency response and this ties in with the colours already in use with MR. The rear of the vehicle is covered in inverted orange and yellow chevrons. The use of Prismatic grade material is recommended. The use of two rows of Battenburg could be used by teams if they feel they have a need and work or stop primarily on high speed roads (motorway/dual carriageways).

Teams are requested/required/asked to use this new recommended livery on their team vehicles and keep the design as it is. The area on the rear side window or panel, depending on vehicle model, is open for the individual teams to use their team logo and wording as appropriate. For example, 'MOUNTAIN

RESCUE', 'Name of Mountain Rescue Team', either with or without the MREW or team logo. The website indicated above, on the rear door, is an example only and obviously, if needed, could be your own team's web address.

The word 'AMBULANCE' must be on all four sides of the vehicle if you want to claim VAT back on a new conversion or have the vehicle exempt from Road Fund Licence.

Please avoid putting anything, including writing or logos, on the checkerboard as this disrupts the conspicuous markings and detracts from the reason why it is being used in the first place.

By the time you read this, vehicle officers or the person responsible for vehicles in your team, should have received a Vehicle/Driving

survey from your team secretary via your regional secretary. Please ensure these are completed and returned to me before 31 January 2012, as parts of this survey are needed by Neil Woodhead, MREW National Insurance Officer to move the National Vehicle Insurance Scheme forward for a proposal for May's meeting. If your team want to be involved with the vehicle insurance scheme and the possibility of having your vehicle insurance paid for by MREW, be sure to get the survey back in time with all sections filled in. No survey: no possibility of free insurance! If you haven't received the survey, please contact me ASAP at vehicles@mountain.rescue.org.uk

the exec:

As if the job of national treasurer wasn't enough for anyone's 'spare time' work load, Penny Brockman just took on another mountain rescue hat in the form of Central Beacons team leader. The first in South Wales, we think, and not one many women in mountain rescue would be happy to wear. Female training officer, yes... female equipment officer... medical officer, deputy team leader even... but female 'Stop That Buck Here' officer, they're few and far between.

So – and I'm playing Devil's Advocate here, because I've talked to quite a few women in MR so I already know the answer, but let's ask Penny – can a woman cut it in this still-predominantly (sometimes fiercely so) male environment? What about the mountaineering and other skills, the perception that women are less strong, less committed maybe than men? That they can't command the respect of men, let alone tell them what to do?

'Well, for a start...' she says, matter-of-factly, 'I've spent my entire career in a male oriented environment as a Chartered Accountant and now in IT. All the way through working with male colleagues. And we do have a number of women in Central Beacons who play an important part in developing a rounded and well-balanced team.'

Okay, change of tack, what about the time element? National treasurer... team treasurer ('Oh, I've stood down from that')... conference treasurer... team leader... the day job... There's no doubt Central Beacons is a busy team, fielding an average of 80-90 call-outs a year – in an area that stretches roughly from Pen Y Fan down to the coast and from

the Neath valley in the west across past Newport in the east – 1437 square km in all. That takes some looking after. Then there's the regular trips, generally northwards, to attend a variety of meetings. And the several years' worth of involvement with the UK MR Conference which can involve a great deal of travel, by whatever means, across the British Isles.

In fact, Penny has long operated a multi-centre approach to life. For many years, she commuted between her then base in London and South Wales as she trained to be a chartered accountant. Once qualified she moved to Wales. When she undertook a career change – to IT project management for Mercer, a global provider of consulting, outsourcing and investment services – it took her back to London but, thankfully for her sanity and bank balance, she now works remotely from home in Wales. That said her work is in the global arena (her 'patch' covers Singapore, Shanghai, India, USA and Canada) requiring any number of early morning or late night conference calls and an understanding of several different cultures.

Life must have become busier still since taking on the role of TL but has'

team leadership made any other difference to her life?

The response is instant: 'The phone bill!' Which is probably down to her style of leadership: being available on the end of the phone, listening, keeping an eye on how people are feeling, recognising she can't please all the people all the time, motivating team members so they want to be part of the team. It has to be fun, she believes, so team members want to be there. But doesn't it get a bit time-consuming, this approach?

'It's important not to get drawn into everything. I try to be casual in my style and delegate. I think you have to recognise that, within a group, you're always going to get people who will offer different opinions and one needs to maintain a balanced view throughout these discussions and help to draw conclusions. I believe in collaboration and empowerment but if a decision needs to be made, then I am happy to make it.

'Leadership is a very personal thing. Different people have different ideas about what makes a strong leader. Some want a tough line with boundaries, others see it as better where they're empowered. Yes, I still have to make the end-decision on

stuff, but you have to bring people in along the way.'

Will team leadership impact on her national role? She thinks not – and her response doesn't invite further exploration. And why should it, given how many other team leaders sit at the 'top table'.

Okay so what about the future for mountain rescue in general?

'It'll change. It's bound to. New blood, new expectations. Some of it will be change just to keep up with the times, others will be forced upon us. Just look at the last twenty years – significant changes. Then again, some things haven't changed at all – the voluntarism and the passion. We appreciate we have to look at different aspects of the organisation to create success – it's not all about mountaineering.

'And it's tough getting money in. So we can't just have strong technical people, we need an organisation with



who's who?



**PENNY BROCKMAN
MREW TREASURER**

**INTERVIEWED BY
JUDY WHITESIDE**

different skills such as marketing and fundraising skills, and people willing to do the work to keep us going.'

Any other job she fancies then, beyond the treasury role?

'I'd love to take on project management. The more we get involved with sponsors and government funding, the more we'll need to run things with a project management approach.

On to another hotly-debated topic: 'women's clothing'. It's one we're both familiar with – much to the amusement (nay, withering disdain on occasion) of our male colleagues.

'It's not actually about the clothing,' she stresses. 'It never was. It's more about women in mountain rescue having a right to their own voice and their choice as much as men.

Women, after all, come in all shapes and sizes. How many, we wonder, have been forced to chop the bottom twelve inches off their 'men's cut' trousers, or cinch in the waist so far to stop the damn things falling down they feel like a sack of spuds? How many wear jackets which fit perfectly over their ample bosoms but won't fasten round the hips? There's no doubt in my mind that feeling comfortable in the clothes you wear goes a long way to keeping you smiling in the worst of circumstances – which mountain rescue often enjoys – and it's true, many choose to wear men's cut clothing anyway. So, 'choice' is the keyword!

Whatever the label in the jacket says, what does Penny bring to MR 'as a woman'?

'I'm Penny Brockman,' comes the enigmatic reply. Her point being that Penny does what Penny does as 'Penny' not as 'a woman'. But she does concede men and women can approach things in different ways: 'men are about getting something done, very practical, whereas women bring the softer touches, take a different view.'

In her own words, she's not the most conventionally 'feminine' of women. But it might surprise some to learn that as a young girl she benefited, at her

mother's behest, from a few years of grooming and deportment classes from the woman who trained Miss Australia. 'I know how to get into a car or take off my coat properly,' she says, with a wry smile. 'I don't smoke, I don't swear – it's been said I'm not a tomboy, but an adventure girl.'

Injuries and subsequent operations on her ankles have limited her mountaineering over recent years and it's been a fight to get back to full strength but she's done her fair share. And not many people can claim to have free abseiled 140 feet out of a hovering helicopter...

When questioned whether she has anything 'controversial' to say – other than what's already been said – the answer is a simple 'No'. Although her view on the casualty may differ from the oft-espoused 'casualty is king'.

'Some people say the casualty should come first, it's all about the casualty. I say your team is the most important – the environment, the training, the emotion. Get that right and the casualty benefits too. Focus too much on the casualty and you might miss things going on with team members which impact on that end result. It's a management philosophy, about input and output.

'It hasn't been an easy ride,' she admits, a sentiment with which newer female recruits might not identify. 'There were a lot of challenges along the way as there were few women in mountain rescue and the team, the sexism that sometimes existed. And it DID exist, however short people's memories might be, perhaps more in some areas than others. It was a totally different culture. What has been so great and enjoyable is to see the number of women that are now in mountain rescue and especially Central Beacons team.'

And with that, our time together is up. Penny's off to Statham Lodge for an MREW Exec management meeting and I'm exhausted just thinking about her busy schedule. I don't know how she keeps all those plates spinning but it seems to work! ■

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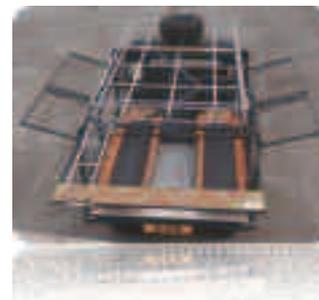
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WHAT DID THEY EVER DO FOR YOU? the execs

If you've ever wondered who those invisible people were, beavering away on your behalf at national level (or even, dare we say it, doubted their very existence), here's your chance to find out. This is by no means a definitive list but it's a page-worth of key people – and it certainly doesn't mean the ones not detailed further aren't also beavering away on your behalf. The plan is to update this on a regular basis as projects develop so watch this space....



CHAIRMAN: DAVID ALLAN

EMAIL: allan986@btinternet.com

Represents the interests of mountain rescue to the Government, the emergency services and other SAR organisations and The Princes' Charities Forum. Currently involved with the BMC and MLTE in the development of a national Safety Forum and, with Daryl Garfield, is seeking to establish national guidelines for team vehicle livery.



PRESS OFFICER: ANDY SIMPSON

EMAIL: press@mountain.rescue.org.uk

Represents MREW to the national press, TV and radio, liaises with Clarence House regarding any Royal involvement in MR, supports teams in their own publicity, advises on corporate identity, and works with the fundraising group to further sponsorship deals with companies such as Goodyear – currently helping develop the relationship with Go Outdoors.



SECRETARY: PETER SMITH

EMAIL: secretary@mountain.rescue.org.uk

Acts as an interface between teams, regions and the national body, records and produces minutes at MREW meetings and generally deals with reams of admin.



MEDICAL: JOHN ELLERTON

EMAIL: medical@mountain.rescue.org.uk

Represents the interests of mountain rescue in medical matters to government, the emergency services and ICAR, and maintains the 'morphine' licence. Currently looking at possibilities for updating the Casualty Care handbook and conducts mountain medicine research.



TREASURER: PENNY BROCKMAN

EMAIL: treasurer@mountain.rescue.org.uk

Besides ensuring the smooth running of MREW finances, is currently working with Insurance Officer Neil Woodhead, the insurers and police authorities to thrash out better deals for us in insurance, and with the fundraising group and Tony Rich to secure sponsorship deals to benefit team members.



VEHICLES: DARYL GARFIELD

EMAIL: vehicles@mountain.rescue.org.uk

All things vehicle oriented including liaising with the police, Department of Transport and other relevant bodies. So... driver competency guidelines, fleet insurance, blues and twos, vehicle livery...



PRESIDENT: PETER BELL

EMAIL: president@mountain.rescue.org.uk

Demonstrates wholehearted support for mountain rescue, attending national meetings and acting as an ambassador outside the organisation. Whilst there is a requirement for him to remain apart from day-to-day business, he thoroughly enjoys engaging in the technical discussions.



TRAINING: MIKE MARGESON

EMAIL: trainingofficer@mountain.rescue.org.uk

Instrumental in creating the MREW Rope Rescue Guidelines and successfully re-establishing a national training day at Plas y Brenin. Currently initiating and developing new courses, such as media skills and 'train the trainers' and updating party leader and team member guidelines.



ASSISTANT SECRETARY: PETER HOWELLS

EMAIL: assistant-secretary@mountain.rescue.org.uk

Organises MREW search/management courses, represents us on the Youth United National Committee and co-ordinates our role in the UK MR conferences – currently working with Leeds Metropolitan University for 2012, and also working with Peter Smith on the Queen's Diamond Jubilee initiatives.



CENTRAL PURCHASING: NEIL RODEN

EMAIL: purchasing@mountain.rescue.org.uk

Chairs the Forward Planning Group part of which involves developing a central purchasing policy. Currently part of the team working with Go Outdoors developing ideas for fundraising and gear testing.



FUNDRAISING: MIKE FRANCE

EMAIL: nationalfundraising@mountain.rescue.org.uk

Chairs the fundraising group to develop revenue and PR opportunities and further sponsorship deals with a variety of companies including developing the relationship with Go Outdoors. Also acts as the link with the Princes' charities.



INSURANCE: NEIL 'WOODIE' WOODHEAD

EMAIL: insurance@mountain.rescue.org.uk

Currently reviewing all mountain rescue-relevant insurances, including developing guidance notes and presentations for teams, looking at a scheme for vehicle insurance and possible enhancements to personal accident cover.



WATER: EWAN THOMAS

EMAIL: water@mountain.rescue.org.uk

Liaises with DEFRA and the fire service in the development of guidelines for water rescue, training and best practice. Currently creating a central register of water resources.



EQUIPMENT: RICHARD TERRELL

EMAIL: equipmentofficer@mountain.rescue.org.uk

Looks at all things equipment, reviewing, researching and liaising with suppliers and manufacturers and is currently involved in development of the new stretcher project.



COMMS: MARK LEWIS

EMAIL: communications@mountain.rescue.org.uk

Aims to develop better comms technology for MR, most notably working with Mapyx to provide mapping systems. Also sits on the UKSAR Comms working group.

PLUS...
VICE CHAIRMAN: TONY JONES
EMAIL: vice-chairman@mountain.rescue.org.uk
STATISTICS: GED FEENEY
EMAIL: statistics@mountain.rescue.org.uk
MAGAZINE: JUDY WHITESIDE
EMAIL: editor@mountain.rescue.org.uk
LEGAL: TONY RICH
EMAIL: legal@mountain.rescue.org.uk
CAVE RESCUE: BILL WHITEHOUSE
EMAIL: billrhw@aol.com

LIMITED EDITION PENCILS GIFTED TO MOUNTAIN RESCUE ENGLAND AND WALES

DAVID ALLAN

Sitting in the sunshine in Keswick drinking, coffee with Mike France and Peter Bell is always going to be a pleasurable activity, but to be doing so having just received the generous gift from Derwent Cumberland Pencils made the occasion very special.

We are delighted to have received such a unique and valuable 'wedding present'. Alex, the manager, entertained us with a trip around the pencil museum

before handing over the limited edition pencil collection. The limited edition has been produced to mark the wedding of Prince William and Katherine Middleton and as such is a unique feature.

The beautifully crafted case contains every pencil the company makes and is an item that anyone with more than a passing interest in art and illustration would dream of owning.

So what is to become of this present? We have sadly

discounted the possibility of Judy and me assuming shared ownership on behalf of mountain rescue. The intention is to auction the gift at a high profile event during 2012 with the proceeds going to MREW. Should you wish to make a pre-emptive bid then Mike France will be pleased to advise whether you are near the target.

Once again I wish to express our gratitude to the company for recognising mountain rescue in this generous way.



EQUIPMENT RICHARD TERRELL

MREW has paid for fifteen Bell stretchers to be serviced during 2011. Can I remind teams to check the date on their Bell stretchers and it would also help if you let me know if you have taken any out of service. To arrange Bell stretcher service, teams must submit a request to me, on team headed paper, including the relevant serial number. The letter must be signed by two committee members or team officials.

On the subject of stretchers, the new jigs have now been made and a test frame built. The headguard is about to be attached and the frame sent for test mid-December. Thanks to Ray Griffiths for all his hard work on this project. I was asked in November what we will call the stretcher, so: send your suggested

names to me and I'll get Peter Bell to pull one out of the hat.

CENTRAL OR BULK PURCHASING?

Due to confusion over the term 'central purchasing' we have now clarified the meaning. There will now be two categories: 'central negotiated purchasing' and 'bulk purchasing'. 'Central negotiated purchasing' is when a number of teams come together to purchase the same items, where clearly MREW could secure a better rate buying, say, 1000 units than ten individual teams buying 100 units each. For this to work, teams need to tell us what they want, and in what timescale. 'Bulk purchasing' is where MREW buys each team member an item.

VACMATS & CASBAGS

We have recently issued six vacmat and seven casbags to teams who

have requested them. Ireland has also purchased four vacmats and three casbags. I have three lightweight casbags available – the normal application process applies. There will be no more of these bags made.

At the last meeting, we looked at a number of casbags on the market, including the wiggie bag, buffalo bag and the current model. Taking feedback from teams, we plan to produce one for each region to test. This bag will be longer and wider for bigger casualties and with less strapping. An evaluation form will be sent with the bags for each team to complete and return.

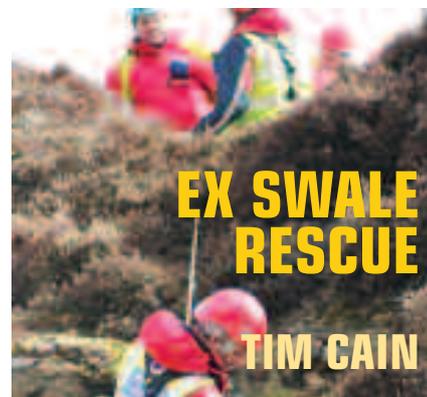
EVENT FORM & LOG

Finally, to capture any incidents with equipment, we have introduced a significant event form and log sheet. This should help identify recurring issues and keep teams

informed. A copy of the form will be downloadable from the members' area.



TOP: THE SNOWSLED BAG WITH THE CASUALTY STRAPPING SYSTEM
ABOVE: THE BUFFALO BAG.



Swaledale MRT would like to invite all comers to join us again for the third running of this popular day in the Northern Dales.

'...an excellent day – enjoyable, informative and challenging – in excellent company'...

'...a cracking day, it was great to mix with other teams rather than remain grouped just with ourselves, to gain a wider view of different ways to approach things'...

This year's exercise takes place on Sunday 25 March in Swaledale North Yorkshire. The aim is to learn from each other and meet like-minded people, so we'd love to see members of other teams, either as groups (max six) or individuals. If you're interested, email Tim Cain on ctimboc@aol.com or text 07713740578, and we'll get joining instructions out to you.

Do you have the Vision?

In use world-wide, Thermal Imagers enable you to see a person at night, in total darkness and through mist, rain, fog and snow... dramatically reducing your search time; reducing the time a victim is exposed to the elements and improving their survival probability.

Designed and manufactured in the UK, the ISS range of advanced thermal imagers are available now...

Do you have the vision to contact ISS and find out more about how our thermal imagers can benefit your team?



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Foxhall Lodge, Foxhall Road,
Nottingham, NG7 6LH
United Kingdom

Tel: +44 (0) 115 845 6573
Fax: +44 (0) 115 845 6574
email: sales@iss-thermal.com

ISS would like to thank the Croatian Mountain Rescue Service for their kind permission to use this photograph.

...AND THE LUCKY WINNERS ARE...

Lucky winners of the new Hood Buff® are Gail Todd and Ivy Limbrick...

... picked at random by Lindsay at Buffwear. Thanks to all those who took the time and trouble to send in your entries. The new Hood Buff is the ideal winter kit for the hill – keeping you snug whatever the weather. Gore Windstopper® for top warmth and protection from cold wind around the head and ears, whilst the neck is protected by two layers of soft and stretchy polyester microfibre fabric. The adjustable drawstring allows the Hood Buff® to be fitted to the head as required. RRP £35.00.

We have one on test too. Despite the unseasonably late autumn warmth, there have been moments of ear-battering wind on higher ground and the Hood Buff certainly proved its worth: snug, wind-jamming and adjustable, a welcome warmth just at that point between hairline and collar, chin and collarbone where the wind and cold have way of seeping in through the gaps. Definitely worth adding to the armoury!



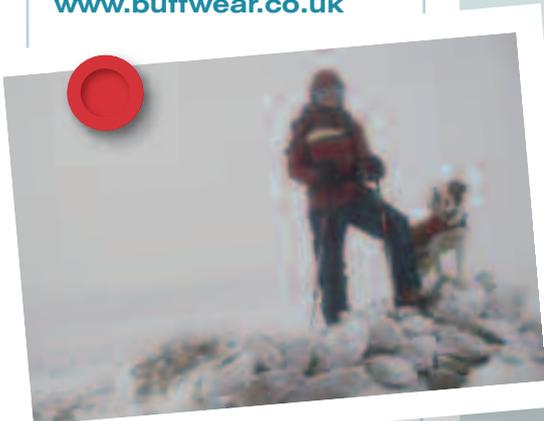
Photo competition

And the winner of a High UV Protection Buff® is...

Andy Keen of Buxton MRT, with his image of Sacha and Zak on the summit of Fairfield last December, modelling a frosty fleecy Buff and frozen Spaniel ears. 'As requested,' said Andy, 'there's a stunning view in the background. Just the whiteout decided to come in and ruin it...' We believe you Andy, we believe you!

Bufs winging their way to our three lucky winners soon. Enjoy people!

For more about Buff products, go to www.buffwear.co.uk



ENLIGHTENMENT AT BANGOR

STEVE ROSE TRAINING OFFICER DARTMOOR SRT PLYMOUTH

I attended the Search Field Skills course at Bangor over the August Bank Holiday weekend. I have not reported on the course for a while, the reason for which I will go into later. There were six students; Glynn Jones and Jason King from Longtown MRT, Geraint (Gee) Owen and Chris Pinch from Central Brecons MRT, Davie Thomson from Swaledale MRT, plus myself from Dartmoor SAR Team Plymouth.

Principal instructor was search guru Don Cooper from Ohio. What Don doesn't know about searching isn't worth knowing as he has vast experience in this field. Don's instruction and examples were varied and a pleasure to listen to. It was quite a surprise to find that what we had previously thought were the best methods to carry out searches were in fact not wrong but incorrect. Don expounded on current research into search techniques, and provided plenty of evidence to back this up. We also had plenty of time to put into practice the things we'd learnt. On the second day we learnt how to use tracking as a tool to aid searching.

We covered some old ground with regard to search theory and the methods employed and needed by search managers. POD being one of them. One point made over and over again was that POD cannot be estimated by a search team. The search managers will establish

the POD based on the information passed onto them by the search teams. Any and all relevant details the search teams can pass to control are important and can be used to get an even more accurate POD.

The course also included tracking as an aid to finding a misper or their intended direction from PLS. I was extremely sceptical about this aspect of the course, but I kept an open mind. It eventually dawned on me that tracking could drastically cut down search times and provide better POS than I could ever have thought possible. However I did have a mental picture of how we could do this on a windswept and misty Dartmoor!

In the afternoon we went to a nearby barn with a raked earth floor (used for training horses). Here we practised what Don had taught us about tracking and managed to track several routes taken by 'persons unknown'. We even recognised when another persons sign crossed our track. Although this was just a practice in almost perfect conditions, we still had to concentrate for a period of time. This was another aspect of tracking to consider: taking regular breaks to let your mind rest.

The next day we learned from John O'Shea (a serving policeman), Mark Gibbins and Chris Jones (retired policeman) what we should do with regard to finding and collecting evidence.

We were encouraged to have an 'evidence kit' to aid this. Given a scenario, we then put this and our newly learnt tracking skills to work on the hillside below Tryfan. Here in the pouring rain, and with limited visibility, all of us were able to track a set of prints and pick up evidence on the way. We tracked footprints which even went through a water course.

I became a convert. I think all of us are now committed to practising this new skill and keen to pass it on to our teams back home.

I said earlier that I delayed reporting on this course. This is because I was privileged to be able to pass on some of the course content during our Group Training Weekend in early November. On the slopes below Okehampton Battle camp, I went over as much of Don's course as I could in 90 minutes, concluding in a small search exercise. Nearly everyone found the session interesting and would take away a lot of the information for their own teams. The evidence bag was one example of this.

I found both the course in Bangor and the opportunity to relate that which I had learnt to other MR team members very fulfilling. I would recommend that all MR members attend the course at some stage whilst they are a member of a mountain rescue team. Whether it should be made mandatory is for other people to decide, however. ■

DMM UPDATE: NUTS, ROPES AND SLINGS

Over the last few years our product development plan has been very ambitious, with the result that we now have a hardware range that is unrivalled in many categories worldwide. This is especially true in Active and Passive protection categories.

While we are fully committed to continue the development of hardware, what is less well known is that we have also invested heavily in the sewing facility at DMM, and can now sew standard 11mm dyneema quickdraws in all lengths, as well as open slings. Not only this but we have perfected the sewing of 8mm open slings and quickdraws which will be sold on the new Alpha Light quickdraws. The 8mm is also used on the Torque Nuts and the Dragon cam slings. Our standard width of Nylon is 16mm for quickdraws and slings, but we also offer 26mm wide Nylon which has a higher strength rating of 30 Kn.

Having this facility on site here in Llanberis means we are ideally set up to produce bespoke or one-off slings in different lengths to fit into systems that you may well have designed for specific purposes. If you have any requirements along these lines please feel free to contact us at DMM, or for full details of our standard range of slings and quickdraws please consult our website. www.dmmwales.com. Oh and lastly, our range of Dynamic ropes is in stock and selling through very well – half ropes, full ropes, and wall rope.



DMM
CLIMB NOW WORK LATER

NATIONAL TRAINING DAY

PLAS Y BRENIN: SATURDAY, 5 MAY 2012

After the success of the 2011 Training Day Mountain Rescue England and Wales will host the 2012 event at the National Mountaineering Centre Capel Curig.

TIMETABLE & SESSIONS



10.00-10.30: Coffee
10.30 Introduction
welcome and admin
10.45-12.45:
Morning sessions
12.45-1.45:
Lunch - bring own
or buy at the bar

1.45-3.45:
Afternoon sessions
4.00 Departure
at the latest



Equipment

Richard Terrell
Including Mechanical
advantage and pulley
session

Water Rescue

Ewan Thomas

Technical Rope Rescue

Ogwen Valley MRO

Medical Workshop

John Ellerton
Update of findings of the
Analgesic Survey
Managing lower leg
injuries

Vehicles and Driving

Daryl Garfield

IT and Technology

Mark Lewis

We have 150 places - 25 per session - all of which will be repeated in the afternoon. To help planning and session allocation, Richard asks could you please book places as a team if possible as this will help logistics. To book, email Richard with team member names and the sessions you would like to attend.

First come first served so early booking advised to avoid disappointment.

Please email Richard Prideaux on
richprideaux@gmail.com

or call him on

07799 031128 or 01824 703 121





Diary of an Editor

Luddite at Large

Loosely translated as:

The Things I Do For Mountain Rescue



MREW Exec management meeting: early November...

They've been chewing over the embryonic Benevolent Fund for some time now... barely listening as just putting finishing touches to packing list for forthcoming ski trip... Seems things have stalled somewhat following my triumphant, champagne and hot chocolate, rain and sea-soaked arrival in Robin Hood's Bay last May, with fellow Twirlie GT (the short, pink-haired one) and random selection of mountain rescue mates. Four grand or so (including Gift Aid) currently languishing in the bank waiting to kickstart our benevolence... meeting coming up at Hutton – need to announce something soon or there'll be trouble... what we need now is a COMMITTEE... willing VOLUNTEERS to take it forward... an independent committee for an independent charitable trust... chairman, treasurer, secretary... blah, blah, blah...

A familiar four-letter word cuts through the rumble of debate. Silence. Glance up from the particularly fascinating and infinitely promising doodle impelled to create at foot of packing list and fourteen sets of eyes are looking my way. 'Judy.' That's all he said. Four very small letters. Quiet, yet assertive. Barely a screamer in sight. Damn! Doodle thread lost! Our Esteemed Chairman seems to be singling me out for something. And there's nowhere to hide! And I've seen this happen SOOOO many times!!! How could I POSSIBLY fall for it?!! SYNCHRONISED STAIN-SPOTTING: you know how it goes... Job needs doing, team leader asks for volunteers and thirty-five heads, as one, stare at a particularly intriguing section of carpet at their feet in the deluded belief it somehow makes them invisible. And, to be fair, for thirty-four of them at least, it generally does... Anyway, that's how I found myself appointed Benevolent Fund Secretary. 'Just while we get it up and running... and we find someone else to do it.' Yeah right.

So... Another plate to spin. And jolly exciting it is. Joining me in the fun is Trevor Cotton, as chairman (TWO Esteemed Chairmen!!) and Shirley Priestley, as treasurer. Tony Rich is working on the legal side of things and Bill Whitehouse is involved from the cave point of view. Huw Birrell, of course, is also on board having put in a sterling effort to get things this far down the line. The Fund will be a separate charitable trust from Mountain Rescue England and Wales. Now the initial trustees are in place, the plan is to get representatives from each region – and hopefully things will be in place well before the May meeting so we'll have some significant progress to report. I await responses from the regions as I write... (you know who you are...). Lots to be sorted out yet, but it's all looking very promising.

In fact, speaking of Esteemed Chairmen, seems Esteemed Chairman Number One got himself into a bit of a pickle back in November (not long after the main meeting, in fact). Or so his email said. Only one week after 'volunteering' me as trustee of said fund and he's making a claim!

Just getting stuck into some pre-issue magazine housekeeping when it lands. Ping! '*Subject: VACATION MESS!!!!*' and it's from HIS email address, so it MUST be legit, yeah?

Oh Lordie, and I only saw him at the weekend... never mentioned he was out of the country... Must've got himself into a pickle VERY quickly! Flattered though I am that he's chosen me to get him out of this pickle, I can't help wondering why.... He's clearly after 'my' benevolent money. He goes on (and I quote exactly from the original: sic, as they say): '*I'm writing this with tears in my eyes, i came down here to Spain Madrid for a sbort vacation...*' (a little bit more worried now, as he has clearly, in his pickle, lost the power of punctuation, use of the space key and basic grammar, into the bargain)...*unfortunately we got mugged at the park of the hostel* (hostel? What is he: down and out?) *where we stayed, all cash, credit card and cell* (OMG now he's American!) *were*

stolen off us (that's 'from', Mr Chairman, 'stolen FROM us'...) *but luckily for us we still have our passports with us.* (Phew!)

'We've been at the embassy and the Police here, but they're not helping the issues at all (nor mine) and My flight leaves in a few hours from now but we having problems settling the hotel bills and the hotel manager won't let me leave until i settle the bills (I can see his point – I'd have you locked up for inability to string a begging letter together...but I digress...). *Wondering if you can lend me* (ah, NOW we're getting to it...) *1350 Euro* (Oh... not down and out then...) *to sort out my hotel bills and get a cab down to Airport, you can have it wired to my name via Western Union outlet I'll show my passport as ID to pick it up here, you have my word and i will make it up to you, I promise to refund it back as soon as I get back home...*

'As soon as it has been done, kindly get back to me with the MTCN confirmation number. Let me know if you are heading to a western union outlet now... I owe you a lot.'

Hmmm... Hyperventilate for a few moments at the breathtaking transformation in our Esteemed Chairman... tragic such an educated man can be reduced to such appalling grammar by one trip to Spain, Madrid. And so soon. This TRULY must be a PICKLE.

But how to get the cash? This close to ski trip, all Euros tied up in future chocolats chauds, paninis jambons and increasingly frantic bets on whether the snow will actually fall in time. And having handed over the benevolent fund cash back in the summer... well, it's out of my hands. Literally. But then I remembered my friend in Nigeria. He's good at this sort of thing, especially when it comes to 'esteemed' persons. Last time we exchanged emails he was happy to deposit several hundred thousand in my bank account at the drop of a woolly bobble hat. All I had to do was let it fester there for a bit while he sorted out something tricky with his tax office. Something to do with keeping his money safe for a while – didn't really get into the details. And it wasn't TOO much of an inconvenience – before I knew it my bank account was empty again – in fact, that several hundred thousand were in and out so quick, didn't even see it. Not so much as a fiver. My friend Dr Ben Mutambo was delighted. And the bank was clearly REALLY impressed by my business acumen – been sending me lots of letters ever since. Must get round to reading them some time.

Anyway... just about to fire an email off to Dr Mutambo in Lagos when another email pings. PING!! This time it's addressed to the exec, and a whole ream of other people, each of whom I KNOW will be reaching for the phone with one hand, favoured credit card clutched in the other. Riding to rescue our Esteemed Chairman.

'VACATION MESS!!!!: DO NOT ANSWER THIS EMAIL!' Crikey! Lots of shouting! '*This is a SCAM!!!!*'

What?!! You mean the Esteemed Chairman isn't in a pickle after all? Phew! That was a close call! Back to the packing and betting on the snow then... although, for those who are interested, I needn't have worried on that count – the Snow Gods of France were indeed kind, dumping more snow in Tignes and Val d'Isere in the space of a week than you could shake a ski pole at!

Oh... and speaking of plate spinning, just set up a new FB page for MREW – please check it out at www.facebook.com/MountainRescue.MREW and start the likes piling up!



Judy W xx

LAKE DISTRICT

CONISTON TEAM SWIM

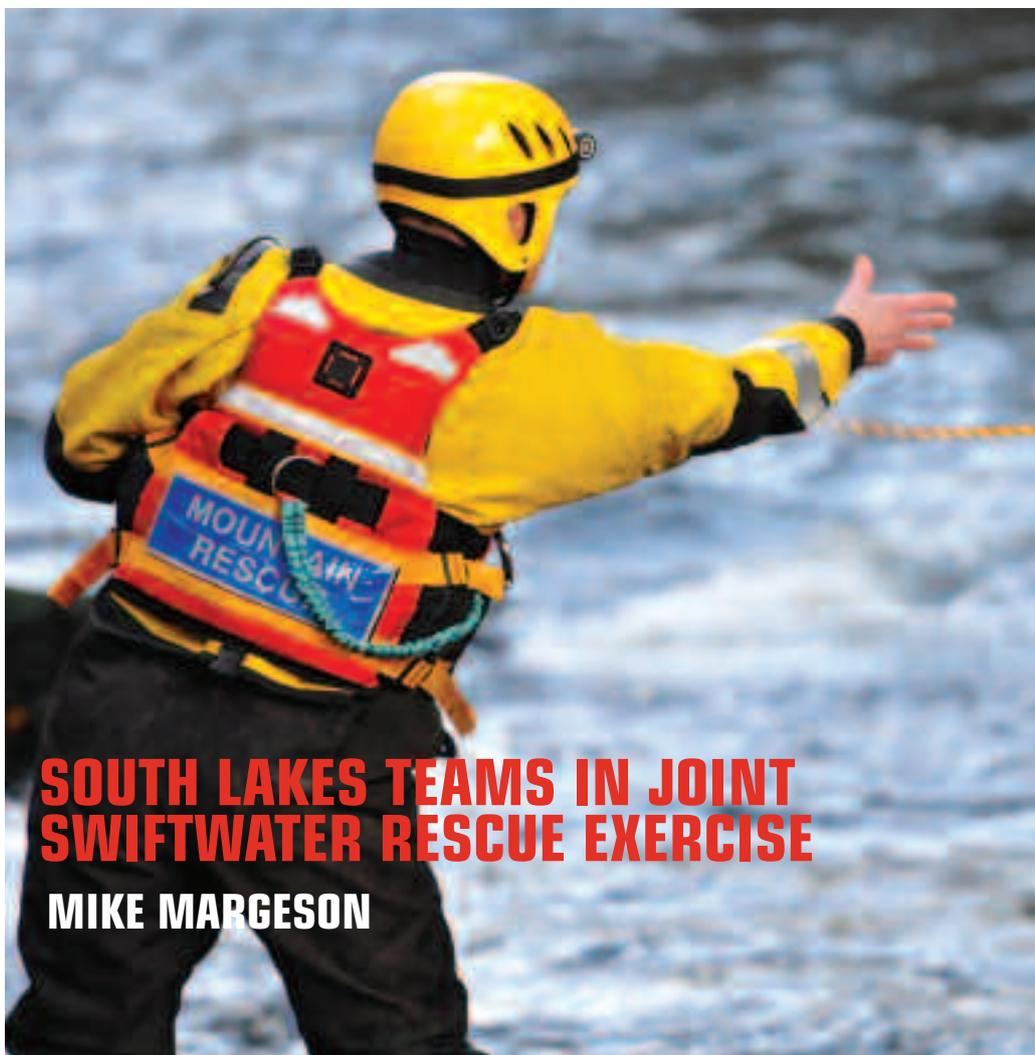
On Saturday 24 September six members of **Coniston MRT** swam the length of Coniston Water to raise funds for the team. The swim was over 5.5 miles in length with a water temperature of just 13°C. The swimmers wore thin wetsuits for safety as the time in the water was over four hours. Three team members swam the whole length and three swam in relay. The weather was not good with driving rain and a south westerly breeze. The swim raised over £2000 for the team.



INCIDENT NUMBERS REDUCING?

Richard Warren writes... At the end of 2009 we had real concerns over the 14% increase in incidents (532 incidents) over the previous year (425). As a consequence, the region continued to invest heavily in communicating the messages of taking personal responsibility and being better prepared when venturing out on the hills. But did it work? Unfortunately, the statistics for 2010 show no improvement, with just under 600 incidents compared to 532 in 2009: a 13% increase. Incident totals have increased 50% over five years.

2011 brought some respite – a quieter year compared to previous years, with a noticeable reduction in the numbers of call-outs, generally around 10% fewer. There remain a significant number of '999' alerts where team leaders have been able to resolve the incident without having to put team members on the mountain, able to talk them off on the phone or wait for the missing persons to turn up safe and well. Teams are increasingly able to use GPS technology in the lost person's phone to assist in establishing their location. This is helping reduce the time spent searching but remains a worrying trend where walkers rely on electronic devices rather than the traditional, reliable map and compass.



SOUTH LAKES TEAMS IN JOINT SWIFTWATER RESCUE EXERCISE

MIKE MARGESON

Looking forward, 2012 will be a busy year from a different point of view with some demanding arrangements for the 60th anniversary of LDSAMRA and also playing host to the Princes' Forum charity event, involving Centrepoint, WellChild and Child Bereavement (who joined the activities for the first time, last year). This will be the fourth year of the charities getting together, hosted by MREW, and the second time for the region. Patterdale MRT hosted the first event in July 2009, attended by Mountain Rescue England and Wales patron, the Duke of Cambridge. The 2012 event will be organised by Keswick MRT on behalf of MREW.

SIXTIETH ANNIVERSARY

The 60th anniversary of LDSAMRA (founded as LDMAA in 1952) will be marked by a celebration event on Saturday 5 May. To mark this significant milestone, we will carry out a re-enactment of an early rescue on Great Gable in April 1946, which triggered the establishment of the Lake District's voluntary teams. This historical milestone came about when Wilfred Noyce, who later became a key member of John Hunt's successful 1953 Everest team, fell while climbing Shark's Fin on Tophet Bastion, Great Gable. A gust of wind blew Noyce off his holds and he fell onto a ledge breaking one

PS...

In the last issue, we told the story (page 20) of the gentleman stuck in a peat bog and subsequently freed by Bowland Pennine team

members. Paul Durham sends a footnote to the tale:

'As a post script to the story, you may have heard of the tragic case of the deceased man stuck in bog for three weeks. The two sites were

only 30 metres apart. Clearly the terrain has changed dramatically there for some reason. The gentleman was Bill Smith, chairman of Clayton le Moors Harriers.'

Bill Smith, 75, from Everton, Liverpool, was found at Saddle Fell in the Trough of Bowland on Saturday, 6 October. He had recently been elected Honorary of Clayton-le-Moors Harriers,



Two years on from the Cockermouth floods, the Cumbrian teams are considerably better equipped, trained and prepared for any such future event. Within the four South Lakes MRTs there are now over 70 SWT level 3 trained and certified team members. This represents a major commitment in training time and equipment resource over the last two years and, like all MR skills, they must be kept current.

The teams have not only responded to, and learned from, the major incidents at Carlisle and Cockermouth, but also enhanced their capabilities to deploy to any incident at the many lakes, tarns and rivers throughout our area.

It was decided the next step should be to train and work together, which is very likely to be required in any major future incident. Working together is nothing new for local teams: it happens regularly. However, we have never trained together on water incidents.

Coniston, Duddon and Furness, Kendal and Langdale Ambleside team members duly met up on a November Saturday on the banks of the river Leven that flows out of Lake Windermere. The exercise had been set up to simulate a multi-team response with one mobile and a swiftwater unit of five or six team members from each team responding.

The plan was to practise a variety of swiftwater retrieval techniques. It also gave the opportunity to practise the planning, command and control processes. To add to the pressure on the group we'd invited ITV cameras and the local press to join the event. The group had only an hour and a half to scope out the location, practise and agree a number of demonstrations for the media. This provided the necessary urgency to get on with the training!

By the time the media arrived and the cameras were in position, the team had a range of demonstrations ready to go that gave the impression of a well-practised single team. The benefits of a national programme such as SWT were quite clear in the teams' core understanding of methods, techniques and communication on the day.

In debrief, the teams all agreed it had been very valuable to train together. It was also beneficial to discuss equipment and locations on our respective patches. It was planned we should repeat this sort of joint training at least once a year.



IMAGES © CHERYL KING WWW.CKINGIMAGES.CO.UK

of his legs. Noyce's climbing partner went for help and a scratch group of six was collected. After a complicated and gruelling rescue lasting all night, Noyce was safely taken to Wasdale Head. One of the rescuers, 'Rusty' Westmorland, was disturbed by the lack of any organisation. Legally, the responsibility lay with the police, as it still does, but they were neither trained nor equipped for mountain rescues at the time. Rusty decided there was an urgent need for a team of volunteers. An appeal in the *Keswick Reminder* produced an encouraging response and some thirty men were recruited to form the initial team, the Borrowdale

Mountain Rescue Team, which later became the Keswick Mountain Rescue Team.

The re-enactment will be two-fold: firstly, a rescue of a well-known local climbing celebrity carried out by Keswick MRT in the clothing and techniques used in 1946 and, secondly, a modern day rescue of another local climbing celebrity carried out by Wasdale MRT, this time using up-to-date equipment and techniques, including a military search and rescue Sea King helicopter evacuation, weather permitting. The day will end with a celebration BBQ at the Wasdale Head Inn for members of all the Lake District teams.

LOOKING TOWARD THE FUTURE: RESCUE 2020

Looking even further forward, LDSAMRA has commissioned a survey to consider the future of mountain rescue in Cumbria. Called *Rescue 2020*, the survey follows a similar approach undertaken in the early 1990s, titled *Rescue 2000*.

This new survey considers the views of all our mountain rescuers within the Lake District teams and the views of external agencies and others who are either impacted by the service or closely associated with our operations. The report will be completed in early 2012 and summarised for

in recognition of his service to the club and the sport. Lancs Police think he may have fallen into the bog and lain there for up to three weeks. Mr Smith was renowned for

his many articles on the sport and his 1986 book *Studmarks On The Summit - A History Of Amateur Fell Racing 1861-1983*. Fell Runners Association chairman Graham Breeze

said: 'Fell runners come and go, champions come and go, but no one will ever be as important to the development and history of fell running as the man who died in September on the

Bowland Fells.' Bowland Pennine team members recovered Mr Smith's body by helicopter on the Sunday. A tragic end to a life well lived. ■

Turn the page
for more
regional news



MREW magazine readers later in the year. Hopefully, the findings from this extremely comprehensive survey, which has been undertaken by two highly respected independent mountain rescuers from outside our region, will pave the future for the Lake District service.

NORTH EAST

YORKSHIRE CEREMONY SPOTLIGHTS THE WORK OF LIFE-SAVING TEAMS

Ian Hugill, of **Scarborough & Ryedale MRT** writes... Over recent years, North Yorkshire Police has recognised the work of the five volunteer search and rescue teams in North Yorkshire with a formal dinner. PC John Rushton from NYP has been instrumental in organising these events and this year managed to gain sponsorship for the event through Welcome to Yorkshire and the Raven Hall Hotel, Ravenscar. As this is our patch John asked Andy Crossley and me to help with the organisation. At times, trying to get four representatives from five teams covering the length and breadth of North Yorkshire, and leaders of the emergency services, in one place was like trying to herd cats but it all came together on the day.

Guests represented all the blue light services in our area, Lord Crathorne the Lord Lt of North Yorkshire, the Chief Executive of Welcome to Yorkshire, the chairs of the two national parks, RAF Leconfield and local press. Speakers included local author Mike Pannett, Gary Verity, ACC Sue Cross and MREW chairman David Allan, and the evening was compèred by Tony Peers. However, the highlight was undoubtedly the speeches from two members of the public who had recently been rescued by two of the teams. All in all an excellent night, worth all the hard work and superb publicity for the service we provide.

A total of 20 awards were presented on the night. Zoe Ketteridge, from Methley, Leeds, was rescued by the **Cave Rescue Organisation** after falling on Whernside, Yorkshire's highest peak in the Dales. The 42-year-old is lucky to be alive after

MID PENNINE

TEAM SCRUBS UP FOR REUNION

Members of **Bowland Pennine MRT** scrubbed up twice during the second half of 2011 to welcome to its Garstang base some of the founding members of the service of mountain rescue in Lancashire. The reunions for the early members of South Ribble Fell Search and Rescue and The Northern Rescue Organisation resulted in serious reminiscing between people who had not seen each other for decades.

The two teams amalgamated in 1980 into Bowland Pennine and it was during 2010 that chairman Tim Cox asked whether a team history existed. This sparked two team members – one from each of the founding teams – to search the attics and wardrobes to dust off photos and documents from the old days.

Way back in 1962 it was the death of two young children from hypothermia on the Lancashire fells, and the local outcry why no search and rescue service existed, which resulted in the formation of the two teams. This, in turn, resulted in the formation of the current Mid Pennine Search and Rescue Organisation.

During the search, a 16 millimetre cine film of the South Ribble Team recorded in the mid '60s came to light. Despite poor acting, bad continuity and no sound the techniques seen have changed little over time. The last two editions of MR magazine have illustrated these early days chronicled by NRO member Phil Lund.



THE THREE PEOPLE FRONT AND CENTRE ARE LES SEED, PETER WILLIAMS (FOUNDING MEMBERS AND TEAM LEADERS) AND PETE TAYLOR (LONGEST SERVED TEAM LEADER) IN THE 50 YEAR SERVICE.

falling 100 metres when she slipped on ice, as horrified husband Jon looked on. The couple were at the ceremony to personally thank the volunteers for the crucial part they played in saving Zoe's life after the accident in February 2009.

Zoe, who has fundraised for the team ever since, said, 'I have a vivid memory of falling but I've stopped having the nightmares now. Everyone in this room was involved in my rescue – I am in awe of their dedication, it is amazing. They are the unsung heroes.' Jon added, 'I was very close to losing the most important person in my life that day. It's wonderful to have the opportunity to say thank you for the wonderful work you do.'

Callum Rock, aged 17, from Middlesbrough, was rescued from Highcliff Nab, Guisborough, in August after falling 70 feet. **Cleveland MRT** played a major part in helping to save Callum, who had been on a climbing expedition with his dad. Callum suffered horrendous injuries including multiple skull and facial fractures and was on a life support machine. He said, 'They saved my life and I wanted to be here to support them and to say thank you.' In total, the five teams have responded to 163

incidents over 15 months: roughly one call every 48 hours. Gary Verity, chief executive of Welcome to Yorkshire said, 'These life-saving volunteers are vital to Yorkshire and vital in keeping our visitors safe. It has been an honour to support tonight's awards ceremony to highlight the invaluable work they do.'

David Allan writes... I was delighted to be invited again to what has become an annual event. Now in its third year it has gone from strength to strength and this year was probably the most successful. That the dinner was underwritten by the Yorkshire Tourist board and strongly backed by the police and other emergency services is a tribute to the esteem in which the mountain and cave rescue teams in North Yorkshire are held. They have very clearly engaged with the local communities in such a way as to be seen as a vital part of the infrastructure, particularly in respect of the tourist industry.

If anyone there doubted the value of the service provided, that doubt was quickly removed by the testament from two people who had been rescued in challenging circumstances and whose lives



SCARBOROUGH & RYEDALE, SWALEDALE AND UPPER WHARFEDALE TEAM MEMBERS WITH THEIR AWARDS.

regional News



CALDER VALLEY TEAM BENEFIT FROM MASONS' GENEROSITY

One of several teams to benefit from a generous grant offered by the Freemasons' Society was Mytholmroyd-based **Calder Valley SRT**. The team was supported in its grant application by the local Prince Frederick's Lodge No 307.

Conversion work was carried out by a combination of the West Yorkshire Police vehicle workshops in Bradford, and Crake International of Cumbria. As is often the way with these things, the handover ceremony was not without incident: just as proceedings were about to commence the pagers went off. Could we attend to a mountain biker with a shoulder injury in nearby Heptonstall?

Whilst our president Bob Uttley held the fort, the team quickly departed to evacuate the injured biker (and his bike) and then made a hasty return in time to officially receive the keys to the by now 'used' Land Rover. We couldn't have planned a better demonstration of the value of the Masons' kind gift!

PRESIDENT BOB UTTLEY, CENTRE SHOT, AND TEAM LEADER AL DAY RIGHT OF SHOT, BOTH IN RED, WITH MEMBERS OF THE FREEMASONS.

would have come to an end on the hills but for mountain and cave rescue intervention.

Seeing this sort of occasion roll out into other areas of the country is something we must hope for. Its existence solely in Yorkshire certainly gives lie to the perception that Yorkshire has a tighter grip on its purse strings than the rest of the country.

PS. The decision to invite a comedian to make the awards to teams and individuals was an act of inspired genius.

NAME CHANGE FOR CLEVELAND

Please note: In October, Cleveland team dropped the 'search and rescue' from their name and will now go under the title of 'Cleveland Mountain Rescue Team'.

'The purpose of the change,' explains team secretary Pete Mounsey, 'is to fit in with the corporate image of mountain rescue and to reduce confusion about our role with outside bodies and potential financial donors.'

MANAGEMENT OF WATER AND FLOOD INCIDENTS

The leadership team from **Teesdale & Weardale SMRT** and the team leader of **Scarborough & Ryedale MRT** attended the Management of Water and Flood Incidents Course thanks to funding from The National Lottery 'Awards For All' scheme. North East teams have been looking very closely at their water and flood responses and this course was seen as an essential part to that development. The course runs for four days and was delivered by Rescue North East.

'Our thanks go to Bishop Auckland Fire and Rescue for providing an excellent location for the course,' writes Chris Roberts. 'The course is designed to meet the needs of incident commanders at water and flood incidents providing the knowledge and skills to manage such operations. We were very



LEFT TO RIGHT: PAUL RENWICK, ANDY CROSSLEY, STEVE OWERS, ADAM HEARN AND CHRIS ROBERTS. ALSO PRESENT BUT NOT PICTURED: IZZY BARNES.

fortunate to have Domonic Brown (Station Manager, Durham Fire Station) as a speaker; he was able to give us a real insight into the Incident Command Systems employed by the FRS, which would in turn allow us to work effectively with them.

'The final day was a table top exercise that challenged our pre-planning for a major flooding incident and our managing of events as they unfolded. It was beneficial to have contribution from Paul O'Sullivan from Rescue 3.

'Our thanks to Paul Renwick, Director, Rescue North East for putting together a very relevant course for us'.

PEAK DISTRICT

FORTY YEARS FOR MIKE

When Mike France joined his local mountain rescue team, the M62 and Scammonden reservoir were still under construction, you could still pay for your weekly groceries with a ten bob note and get change and the car and telephone were still luxury items. That was in 1970. Forty years later, both the world and mountain rescue have changed beyond recognition.

Mike spent his youth, teens and early twenties in scouting. He was the mountaineering adviser for the Scout Association (West Yorkshire) checking people's mountaineering skills and signing their authorisation forms. In 1970 he joined what was to become **Woodhead MRT**. Formed in the early '70s by the amalgamation of the Huddersfield Scout MRT, Stocksbridge Barugh Rovers and Sheffield Scout MRT, formed after the 1964 Four Inns fatalities.

Whilst the ethos of rescuing others remains unchanged, the methods and technology in MR with GPS tracking, satellite phones, the mobile phone, and satellite imagery have changed beyond Mike's wildest young imaginings. He recounts one particular call-out where it took twelve hours to mobilise the team because each member with a car had a 'pick-up list' and would drive from one house to the next waiting for them to make flask and sandwiches before moving on to the next pick up. In contrast, the team can now achieve ten-minute response times on certain calls.

Mike's mountain rescue CV is impressive by any standards: he has worn many hats during his 40 years including five as a SARDA handler. He has been both deputy and team leader and, for the last fourteen years, a PDMRO incident controller. He was PDMRO chairman and rep to MREW for twelve years and is the current PDMRO Operations Support Manager. On top of this, he still finds time to chair the national fundraising committee. This contribution to mountain rescue has recently been officially recognised with the presentation of two Long Service certificates, from PDMRO and MREW. Mike's 40 years have taken him all over the country, through many highs and, no doubt, just as many lows. The highs include those lives saved and

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for more regional news

OBITUARY

KEN DWYER: MEMBER OF OGWEN VALLEY MOUNTAIN RESCUE ORGANISATION SINCE 1966

BY CHRIS LLOYD, PRESS OFFICER OVMRO

Just before 1.30pm on Monday, 26 September, the hearse carrying Ken drove into Bangor Crematorium. It was escorted by an OVMRO Land Rover and met by fifty team members standing in line in their red fleeces. After Ken was carried into the crematorium, his wife Ann and two sons, Carwyn and Gareth and other family members followed, then the members of Ogwen Valley Mountain Rescue, Llanberis Mountain Rescue, NEWSAR, Snowdonia National Park Authority, work colleagues from Joe Brown's climbing shops, the Capel Curig community and others. Quickly, the room was full. But the mourners kept on coming. The foyer was filled. And more mourners arrived. They sheltered under the entrance canopy. Suddenly, we realised that this rather quiet and unassuming man, this

team member who was 'always there, knew what to do and quietly got on with it' had influenced a large number of people in his life.

Ken was born in the early 1950s, the second son of the Mountain Guide George 'Scotty' Dwyer. They lived in a remote farmhouse in the Ogwen Valley. There are probably many mountaineers who will remember Tal y Waen. In fact, Ken continued to live here until the early 1980s when he and his family moved down to the comforts of the village of Capel Curig.

Ken started working life as a laboratory technician

at Bangor University. This was quite a hike for him, when public transport was rare and cars less numerous. Many a time, a wet Ken could be seen walking up the A5 from Bethesda having missed the last bus. And, on a number of occasions, Roger Jones (OVMRO) would take pity on this young man and give him a lift on his motor cycle and side car. There must be many a driver who thought they were on The Isle of Man TT track as they encountered this motor cycle combination driven by the enthusiastic Roger Jones with young Ken playing the full role on the side car.

In the early '70s Ken left Bangor University to work in Joe Brown's climbing shop in Capel Curig and that is where you probably met him. He was happy to have a chat about different types of kit or clothing and give you some sound advice.

He joined Ogwen Valley Mountain Rescue Organisation in 1966. Though he was never the front runner, the advance party, the rock jock or the casualty carer, Ken was 'always there, knew what to do and quietly got on with it.' In his later years, Ken spent more time at low level. He was the man who drove the team Land Rover to ferry equipment and troops; he was the man that would be positioned at the bottom of Tryfan or the Idwal Slabs and guide the team members to the casualty; he was the man that would get the soup cooking and the bacon butties made ready for the troops coming off the mountain; and he was the man who would help off load all that wet kit and hang it up to dry whilst team members enjoyed that soup and the butties.

In August of this year Ken discovered that he had cancer, cancer of the liver. Ken knew what to do and quietly got on with it. Then, on the afternoon of Friday 16 September he quietly went to bed for a rest. He died looking out on Moel Siabod, just one the mountains of Snowdonia he knew and loved so much.

That evening all the members of Ogwen Valley Mountain Rescue Organisation received a personal telephone call from one of the senior team members to inform them of Ken's death. Later that evening team members were out on the Idwal slabs to retrieve a group of benighted climbers, a regular and routine call-out. But it was different this time, no cheery Ken to taxi us down the valley and collect us, no Ken to have made the hot tea, soup and bacon butties, no Ken to help unload the wet kit and hang it up.

There will be many others in Ken's other walks of life who will also be missing him too.



TOP: TEAM MEMBERS LINE UP AT KEN'S FUNERAL. RIGHT: KEN RECEIVES HIS LONG SERVICE AWARD FROM TONY JONES.



MIKE FRANCE RECEIVES HIS 40-YEAR-SERVICE AWARD FROM TEAM LEADER KEITH WAKELEY.

changed, meetings with Royalty and one or two celebrities too. So what about the lows? Mike is typically upbeat, preferring not to dwell on the darker side of mountain rescue, despite being a veteran of many major incidents: the Lockerbie and Kegworth air disasters, 2007 floods in South Yorkshire (for which he received a Chief Constable's Commendation) and, more recently, the A57 road closure at South Anston near Rotherham last December. Then there are the searches, and rescues, literally hundreds of them, more than he can remember and the harrowing ones he would rather forget...

Like all mountain rescue volunteers, on call 24 hours a day, 365 days a year helping young and old, novice or experienced, night or day, rain or shine, mountain or crag, hill or dale, come what may for the last 40 years, Mike France has shown to one and all that those who can, do. But those who can do more, volunteer.

CATHEDRAL ABSEIL

Nearly one hundred fundraisers abseiled down Derby Cathedral in September, in support of **Derby MRT** and the cathedral itself, raising around £14,500 in pledges of sponsorship. The team set up an abseiling platform at the top of the 212 foot tower of the cathedral, the second highest in the country and invited members of the general public to raise sponsorship to support both the team and Derby Cathedral Charity, which supports projects connected with the cathedral.

Despite some very windy conditions on the Saturday, most abseilers commented how much they had enjoyed the experience, even though many had been very nervous before putting themselves in the hands of the experienced rescue team. Among the adventurous participants was a partially sighted man, who bravely climbed the steep narrow stairway to the top before stepping off the edge of the tower, even though the night before he had asked his wife exactly what abseiling was as he was unsure what he'd agreed to do!



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Another woman was celebrating her fortieth birthday by taking part, having completed the challenge previously when the team had held the event four years earlier. The Sunday also saw the characters of Superman and Scooby-Doo make the descent in full costume, much to the delight of several children in the audience gathered below. One abseiler from Rolls Royce in Derby managed to raise close to £1700 in pledges by taking part. Several groups from various organisations also took part, including six members of Ilkeston Round Table, who had had to find a last minute replacement for one of their number after he underwent an operation on his knee. Three WI members, including the president of Burnaston WI also took part, having been persuaded to sign up when a rescue team member attended one of their fundraising events. Several companies, including Syntax Consultancy and Aztec Oils, also had groups taking part, supported on the ground by many of their colleagues. Pizza Express provided free pizzas for the team members organising the event on both days, much to the delight of the hungry rescuers. Other refreshments were provided to the general public by members of the cathedral.

A team spokesman said, 'It was great to meet so many proud and happy abseilers and to have so many other passersby ask when we'd be doing it again so they could have a go. We're really grateful to all of them for supporting us.'

Proceedings were interrupted on the Sunday afternoon when the team was called to an incident at Leashaw Woods, near Whatstandwell. All members who could be spared from the abseil and other members not involved were called out to evacuate a cyclist who had been injured whilst taking part in a national trails bike event. The rest of the abseil continued without incident and the missing members returned to assist with clearing the site after the casualty had been taken to hospital.

SOUTH WEST

ROTORS, RIBBONS AND ROBES: A NEW HOME FOR DARTMOOR ASHBURTON

Craig Scollick writes... September saw the grand opening of a new rescue centre for **Dartmoor SRT (Ashburton)**, near Buckfastleigh, on the southern side of the Dartmoor National Park – their first permanent base in the team's 35 year history and the end of relying on the goodwill of local farmers and factory owners for storage of vehicles and rescue equipment. Due to the team's contribution to the local community the new rescue centre was provided by the monks of Buckfast Abbey. The team can now securely store their vehicles, dry their equipment and give lectures to team members. Local dignitaries, representatives of Devon and Cornwall Police, the press, past



OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE DARTMOOR ASHBURTON BASE.

members and friends and family all joined the team to celebrate the event.

To acknowledge the contribution by Buckfast Abbey, the team asked the abbot to cut the ceremonial ribbon to officially open the new building. Speeches of thanks led into a fabulous open day in the rescue centre. Part way through the event the attendees were also treated to a fly past by the RAF SAR helicopter from 22 Squadron RMB Chivenor.

SARA TEWKESBURY IN UK FIRST FOR WATER RESCUE

Sovern Area Rescue Association

Tewkesbury has joined the Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service in an unprecedented partnership for UK emergency response agencies, moving into the fire station premises in Tewkesbury, with the station renamed the 'Gloucestershire Water Rescue Centre'. The move will create a hub for water rescue in Tewkesbury and the surrounding areas with improved coordination and interoperability between the two agencies.

At the official opening on the 15 October, attended by MREW President Peter Bell, Gloucestershire's Chief Fire Officer Jon Hall explained, 'Tewkesbury is absolutely the right place to bring the two agencies together considering the flood history... it is actually a bit of convenience as SARA had a crew and enthusiasm but did not have a permanent home [in Tewkesbury]. We are using this as a catalyst of how we deal with water and flood rescue right the way through Gloucestershire... a completely different approach and way of thinking.'

Alan Stanley, SARA chairman said, 'This closer relationship with the fire service is a great opportunity. The sharing of premises indicates a recognition of our professionalism, however, SARA is still an independent charity and apart from GFRS offering some services we still require public support to enable us to perform our role.'

SARA Tewkesbury combines boat (river and flood), SRT and land search operational ability, with the majority of crew being multi-disciplinary. The station has three flood boats alongside the ubiquitous Land Rover station wagon for boat haulage and crew transport. The multi-disciplinary nature of most

crew is seen as a key advantage in responding to the different demands placed on the station that include being fully prepared for future wide-area floods – many of the skills used in land search, especially the observational/detection skills, are directly transferable to SRT and boat ops.

The Tewkesbury Station was founded following the unseasonal floods in 2007, to ensure a rapid response to any future flooding within the area. John Dutton, a member of the Tewkesbury station, feels strongly that the external belief that SARA 'just does boats' is erroneous. 'The Beachley and Wyre Forest stations have a history of undertaking land search and SRT and Tewkesbury quickly embraced these disciplines, wishing to ensure maximum benefit to the local community as well as realising the transferable nature of many of the skills.'

In fact Tewkesbury ensures it undertakes land search to best practice by undertaking external training with UKLSI and ALSAR teams, having particularly strong links with NorLSaR, John Dutton's previous search team. Sergeant John Garner, Lead Police Search Adviser with Gloucestershire Constabulary, agrees that SARA's land search capabilities are important. 'We are keen to see further development in this area as such an asset may make the difference in locating future missing persons in a timely manner.'

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The Peli 1460EMS Case is designed to safely carry and protect medical supplies, ensuring gear arrives ready and in place for any emergency. The rugged watertight case splits 50/50 between the base and a deep lid which opens 180° for maximum stability, offering a wide base in use. The three-level, fully customisable tray system lifts out of the case on reinforced stainless steel brackets with a lockable tray section for secure controlled substance storage. The top tray and lid work together as a seal to prevent contents spillage during transit.

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regional News

Indeed a Memorandum of Understanding between Gloucestershire Constabulary and SARA has been drafted and awaits final approval, and there are multi-agency exercises planned for March 2012. The station cohabitation means that SARA Tewkesbury has a stable future. Chris Crowley, station chairman, thanked BasePoint for their support in providing temporary accommodation over the last two years but said, 'the move means the station can now focus on recruitment and training to ensure an effective and professional response to both land and water-based incidents.' Both GFRS and SARA crews are settling into the new relationship well. One interagency training exercise has successfully been undertaken, with more interagency training planned for 2012 to ensure all crews are aware of each other's expertise and operating procedures.

The Severn Area Rescue Association has been in existence since 1973 and became a member of Mountain Rescue England and Wales in 1985 due to its then cliff rescue team. Perhaps better known for its boat operations, it has four rescue stations: Beachley (Chepstow), Sharpness, Tewkesbury and Wyre Forest (Kidderminster). Beachley and Sharpness are declared facilities of the Maritime Coastguard Agency being their statutory response for incidents on the estuarial waters below Maisemore Weir in Gloucester into the Severn Estuary. The placement of the four stations allows the organisation to operate effectively in a wide area, covering Gloucestershire, Worcestershire, Shropshire and parts of Monmouthshire, Herefordshire, Warwickshire and the Black Country.

FUNDRAISING SUCCESS FOR CORNWALL RESCUE TEAM



A 'pint and a pasty' presentation evening at the St Austell Brewery Visitor Centre in November saw **Cornwall SRT** celebrating a fantastic £12,000 raised over the past year – enough to buy a new Land Rover Ambulance, totally refurbish the existing Land Rover and upgrade the control van to carry more specialised rescue equipment.

Cornwall chairman Tim Hughes said, 'We'd set a fundraising goal of £6,000 and were truly humbled when, after only twelve months, we'd doubled that thanks to the generosity of so many organisations and individuals.'

The keys to the vehicles were handed over by Kate Waddams, representing Pete's Dragons, a local organisation that has been helping with the fundraising. The group was set up in memory of Peter Wicks, a young man for whom the team had searched, to thank and support the people and agencies which had helped his family and friends. In the past year they have taken part in a series of fundraising events, including the Great British Bike Ride 2010.

Accepting the keys, Councillor David Hughes said, 'The majority of the work that Cornwall Search and Rescue Team does goes unnoticed, which is why I am so pleased to support their work in our county. While they do not have the profile of some of the larger emergency charities, I'm sure this achievement will allow the team to respond to incidents throughout Cornwall more rapidly.'

Jo Bond from the St Austell Brewery Charitable Trust said, 'The work carried out by the team is vitally important, especially in rural areas of the county. Supporting local good causes is just as important to the Charitable Trust as fundraising for better known charities and we were more than happy to donate £1,000 and host the presentation evening to show our support.'

The St Austell Brewery Charitable Trust has raised a massive £280,000 since it was started in 2003, and is on target to reach the £300,000 mark by Christmas. Money is raised by individual pubs and employees through events such as darts tournaments, sponsored walks and quizzes, plus the annual Celtic Beer Festival in November.

The major donors to the team included St Austell Brewery Charitable Trust, Pete's Dragons, Mounts Bay Rotary Club, Sgt Capp and the 999 Day at the Eden project, South West Water, Western Power, RAOB Rock Lodge, Rock View Vets and a number of local councillors.



TOP: CORNWALL SRT WITH JO BOND FROM THE ST AUSTELL BREWERY CHARITABLE TRUST, OUTSIDE THE BREWERY'S VISITOR CENTRE
LEFT: CORNWALL COUNCILLOR DAVID HUGHES BEING HANDED THE KEYS BY KATE WOODFORD OF PETE'S DRAGON

PETZL

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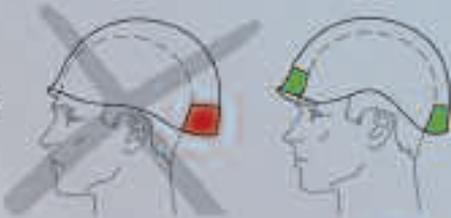


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SARLOC AIDS SEARCHERS TWICE IN ONE WEEKEND: 26/27 NOVEMBER

The new software system, SARLOC, developed by Russ Hore of the Ogwen Valley MRO, proved its worth in the mountains of the Lake District and Snowdonia, with two incidents occurring over the same weekend late in November.

In the first incident, a couple from Derby, in their late twenties, had set off to climb Scafell Pike. The weather conditions on the mountain were extremely poor with high winds, driving rain and visibility down to five metres in dense cloud. They became totally disorientated on the summit plateau – around 50m below the 978m summit – and unsure exactly where they were. They called the police mid-afternoon on their mobile and the team mobilised due to the severe conditions, the lateness of the day and the fact they only had a small torch between them.

'Fortunately,' said Richard Warren, 'they were carrying a smartphone and the team managed to get a message to the couple which allowed them to feed back the phone's exact grid reference position to the rescue base in Gosforth.'

'Nine team members headed to their location, with a further five back at base ready to bring up additional gear and manpower if the walkers, who were very cold, tired and wet, were unable to make their own way down. They were quickly found, warmed and assisted down the mountain. The six hour search ended, with everyone safely off the mountain, at 7.00pm.'

Sunday saw SARLOC leading Ogwen Valley team members directly to two 58-year-old lost walkers, after the pair set off without map or compass, heading for Moel Siabod, just south of Plas y Brenin. The pair, with one torch between them, quickly ran into low cloud, heavy rain and high winds.

Chris Lloyd of the OVMRO said, 'By 4.00pm, when they still hadn't found the summit – or got anywhere near it – they called 999 on their smartphone. When they were questioned over the phone by the team leader, a definitive description of where they might be could not be established. In fact some of the descriptions seemed contradictory.'

'There was some urgency for this search as one man had a managed medical condition, and having been out in the poor weather for such a long time, his condition might have changed, making the search and rescue more urgent.'

SARLOC works by the team sending a text with hyperlink details to a casualty's smartphone. When the casualty contacts the hyperlink, a grid reference and latitude and longitude coordinates are transmitted back to the team, enabling rescuers to accurately locate the casualty. That said, the message remains that walkers might better avoid its deployment in the first place by ensuring they are well equipped with good waterproofs, torches for each member of the party and the ability to navigate off the mountain with map and compass, particularly in poor conditions.



WASDALE TEAM MEMBERS
DURING THEIR SEARCH ON
SCAFELL PIKE

real
rescues

incidents

figures

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Lake District

Cockermouth	01/07, 09/07, 19/07, 07/08, 13/08, 30/09, 24/09
Coniston	23/07, 26/07, 07/08, 12/08, 21/08, 26/08, 19/08, 04/09 06/09, 10/09, 19/09, 29/09
Duddon & Furness	03/07, 05/08, 15/08, 21/08
Kendal	01/07, 02/07, 02/07, 03/07, 11/08, 15/08, 01/08, 10/08 04/09, 23/09, 21/09, 24/09, 13/09
Keswick	02/07, 08/07, 12/07, 19/07, 19/07, 19/07, 24/07, 27/07 30/07, 31/07, 01/08, 05/08, 06/08, 13/08, 21/08, 25/08 28/08, 03/09, 06/09, 10/09, 14/09, 14/09, 17/09, 24/09 24/09, 20/08, 07/09
Kirkby Stephen	09/07, 31/07, 07/08, 21/08, 22/08, 17/09, 21/09, 25/09 21/09, 17/09
Langdale Ambleside	02/07, 02/07, 02/07, 05/07, 05/07, 08/07, 14/07, 14/07 15/07, 16/07, 16/07, 20/07, 23/07, 30/07, 30/07, 03/08 11/08, 13/08, 14/08, 14/08, 15/08, 14/08, 19/08, 20/08 21/08, 23/08, 04/09, 08/09, 12/09, 14/09, 23/09, 24/09 28/09, 18/08
Patterdale	18/07, 19/07, 19/07, 12/08, 13/08, 13/08, 16/08, 20/08 22/09, 01/09, 02/09, 06/09, 07/09, 1/09, 13/09, 21/09 11/08
Penrith	26/07, 29/07, 30/07, 06/08, 07/08, 15/09, 13/09, 20/08 24/09, 21/09, 30/09
Wasdale	20/08, 03/08, 04/08, 04/08, 18/08, 04/09, 04/09, 11/09 11/09, 12/09, 15/09, 24/09, 30/09, 02/07, 02/07, 02/07 09/07, 14/07, 16/07

Mid-Pennine

Bolton	04/07, 01/07, 17/07, 21/07, 26/07, 26/07, 30/07, 02/08 03/08, 05/08, 05/08, 08/08, 11/08, 23/08, 02/09
Bowland Pennine	08/09, 03/07, 17/07, 26/07, 30/07, 02/08, 04/08, 14/08 23/08, 18/09, 20/09, 25/09, 30/09
Calder Valley	04/07, 04/07, 24/07, 29/07, 30/07, 08/08, 14/08, 18/08 19/08, 21/08, 08/08, 28/08, 08/09, 10/09, 12/09, 12/09 14/09, 18/09, 25/09, 29/09
Holme Valley	02/07, 05/08, 04/07
Rosendale & Pendle	02/07, 08/07, 09/07, 23/07, 03/08, 09/08, 21/08, 14/08

North East

Cleveland	04/07, 26/07, 28/07, 29/07, 15/08, 18/08, 20/08, 21/08 31/08, 10/09, 10/09, 24/09
North of Tyne	07/08, 29/07
Northumberland Nat Park	07/08, 29/07, 16/09, 24/09
Scarborough & Ryedale	26/07, 21/08, 31/08
Swaledale	30/07, 17/09, 24/08, 11/09, 25/08, 16/09, 17/09, 21/09
Teesdale & Weardale	18/08, 26/07, 29/07

North Wales

Aberglaslyn	13/08, 25/08, 19/09
Llanberis	03/07, 02/07, 05/07, 03/07, 02/07, 05/07, 28/07, 28/07 01/07, 17/08, 18/08, 22/08, 28/08, 13/08, 21/08, 21/08 28/08, 21/09, 18/09, 10/09, 29/08, 01/09, 01/09, 29/09 09/09, 10/09, 15/09, 29/09
North East Wales	13/08, 24/09
Ogwen Valley	08/07, 09/07, 11/07, 22/07, 23/07, 24/07, 06/08, 06/08 06/08, 08/08, 13/08, 15/08, 15/08, 19/08, 22/08, 22/08 26/08, 29/08, 02/09, 15/09, 16/09, 17/09, 17/09, 24/09 25/09, 24/09, 24/09, 21/09, 30/09

Snowdonia National Park	15/08, 17/07
South Snowdonia	17/07, 11/08, 13/08, 25/08, 26/08, 19/09

Peak District

Buxton	06/07, 11/07, 27/07, 28/07, 29/07, 01/08, 05/08, 12/08 17/08, 18/08, 22/07, 10/09, 10/09, 23/09, 28/09, 28/09
Derby	25/07, 22/07, 07/08, 08/08, 18/08
Edale	03/07, 06/07, 11/07, 20/07, 23/07, 23/07, 27/07, 28/07 29/07, 01/08, 02/08, 05/08, 11/08, 12/08, 22/08, 15/08 17/08, 18/08, 19/08, 22/07, 24/08, 29/08, 03/09, 04/09 04/09, 10/09, 10/09, 10/09, 08/09, 23/09, 28/09, 28/09
Glossop	17/08, 22/08, 02/09
Kinder	09/07, 02/08, 17/08, 22/08, 17/08, 10/09, 02/09, 08/09 22/09
Oldham	10/07, 22/08, 23/08, 04/09, 08/09, 21/09, 21/09, 21/09
Woodhead	21/04, 07/05, 05/06, 07/05, 05/06

Peninsula

Cornwall	23/07, 24/07, 28/07, 03/08, 05/08, 08/08, 01/09, 26/09
Dartmoor (Ashburton)	19/07, 19/07, 24/07, 25/07, 01/09, 29/09
Dartmoor (Okehampton)	01/09, 29/09
Dartmoor (Plymouth)	25/07, 01/09
Dartmoor (Tavistock)	15/07, 25/07, 25/07, 28/08, 01/09, 24/09, 29/09
Exmoor	10/07, 20/07, 25/07, 12/08, 21/08, 09/09, 23/09, 29/09

South Wales

Brecon	13/08, 27/08, 02/08, 03/08, 09/08, 22/08, 25/08, 29/08 06/07, 08/07, 10/07, 11/07, 13/07, 14/07, 16/07, 19/07 25/07, 25/07, 02/08, 03/09, 06/09, 08/09, 10/09, 24/09 25/09, 30/09
Central Beacons	27/07, 13/08, 27/08, 02/08, 03/08, 09/08, 22/08, 29/08 06/07, 08/07, 11/07, 13/07, 19/07, 25/07, 25/07, 03/09 08/09, 24/09, 30/09
Longtown	27/08, 09/08, 29/08, 13/07, 19/07
Western Beacons	27/07, 13/08, 27/08, 03/08, 09/08, 22/08, 06/07, 08/07 11/07, 25/07, 03/09, 08/09, 24/09, 30/09

Yorkshire Dales

CRO	02/07, 13/07, 20/07, 21/07, 23/07, 26/07, 06/08, 14/08 14/08, 24/08, 28/08, 29/08, 04/09, 04/09, 24/07, 20/09 20/09, 08/09, 08/09, 30/09
Upper Wharfedale	08/08, 09/07, 24/07, 27/07, 06/08, 06/08, 08/08, 08/08 20/08, 26/08, 27/08, 28/08, 01/09, 03/09, 05/09, 09/09

Search Dogs

England	10/07, 25/07, 24/07, 20/09, 08/08, 21/09, 29/09, 26/08
Lakes	08/07, 20/08, 29/07, 06/08, 03/08
Wales	19/09, 24/09, 21/09, 29/08, 12/09, 09/09
South Wales	27/07, 13/08, 27/08, 03/09, 08/09

Non-specialists

	17/07, 24/09
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Unknown unit

	01/07
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RAF

Leeming	16/07
Valley	06/08, 06/08, 21/09



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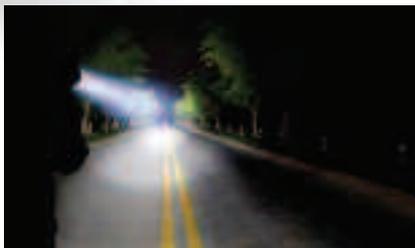
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MAYDAY 'TEST' SPARKS RESCUE DRAMA: ULLSWATER SEPTEMBER

When a sailor from Darwen in Lancashire accidentally made a Mayday call while testing his radio on Ullswater in September, it sparked a rescue operation that involved the Coastguard, Ullswater Steamers and members of Patterdale MRT.

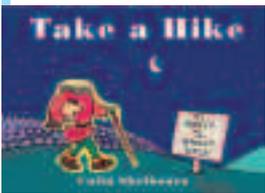
The man had been showing his passengers, including his grandchildren, how the radio worked but was unaware that his mock mayday message had been broadcast and received by Liverpool coastguards. When they could not get back in touch with him, a rescue boat, MRT and other search support were deployed on the lake.

'After about an hour or so, the boat and crew were found safe at their mooring in Howtown Bay,' says Patterdale TL, Martin Cotterell, 'and the gentleman was mortified to find out what had happened and extremely apologetic. We tried not to make too much of it given his response but the local media picked up on the incident and Colin Shelbourn, cartoonist with the Westmorland Gazette and a great supporter of mountain rescue in Cumbria, couldn't resist featuring the story in his weekly cartoon. It was certainly one of those occasions when you 'have to laugh.'



"Which button did you press this time?"

CARTOON © COLIN SHELBOURN
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Find out more about Colin Shelbourn at www.shelbourn.com. You can even follow him on Facebook and Twitter.

And, if you like Colin's cartoon style, his online shop will happily sell you Take a Hike, his comprehensive, in-depth cartoon look at the world of mountains and fell-walkers. If you've ever been baffled by a GPS, confounded by digital camera or wondered what the sheep are really thinking of you, this is the book for you. It's a witty guide to the world of walking, featuring 96 B&W cartoons covering topics as diverse as weather, trekking poles, mountain rescue, braille viewfinders and the weather – not to mention the ultimate challenge... finding just the right waterproof jacket for posing on the high street.

NEWS Snippets... Tales from The Shoreline

RNLI FACES £650,000 TAX HIKE

The Royal National Lifeboat Institution has revealed it is facing a massive £650,000 tax hike, since the coalition government came to power. The amount is equivalent to the cost of three new Atlantic 85 inshore lifeboats plus the annual running costs of one lifeboat station. RNLI chief executive Paul Boissier said, 'The day after the budget in March, I woke up and realised we were going to have to find an extra £650,000 a year. The loss of transitional relief on Gift Aid cost us £400,000, the VAT rise cost us £200,000, and the increase in national insurance cost us £50,000. 'At a time when it's already difficult for us,

we found we had this additional burden. When the government increases taxation, it should have one eye on the charity sector. This isn't party political. The message is the same for all parties.' Boissier points out that many charities, like the RNLI, offer services that the government might otherwise be called upon to provide. Yet if a government agency provided lifeboats and lifeguards, he said, it would not have to pay a VAT bill. The RNLI currently pays £2m in VAT.

He added, 'Neither could the government do it as efficiently. They could not harness the same volunteer workforce. About 97 per cent of people who work for the RNLI are volunteers. That's not a model that could be replicated.'



IMAGE © RNLI

FIRST ALL-FEMALE LIFEBOAT RESCUE

A shop worker, classroom assistant and Royal Navy specialist are believed to have become the first all-woman lifeboat crew to respond to an emergency call in Wales.

Gemma Griffiths, a classroom assistant, was helmsman. She was joined by her sister, Sarah, on leave from the Royal Navy, and Louise Francis, a shop assistant, when

Cardigan lifeboat was called out to aid a swimmer thought to be in trouble.

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FLASH MAKES THE GRADE!

You might recall our earlier series, chronicling the progress of Search Dog Flash through the rigours of training and assessment. Well, back in November, she and handler John Coombs made the grade...

JOHN COOMBS
PIX: WILL COOMBS



Flash is my fourth dog, following in the pawprints of collie Spider and German Shepherds Bonnie and Biscuit. From the word go, she was a bit of an experiment – rather than getting an eight-week old puppy to train, I started out with an older dog. We think she was eight or nine months old when I first got her. Normally a young dog is two or three years old before it makes operational search dog grade. The idea was to save a year in the training and eliminate the chance that a pup might not develop a suitable temperament or not be physically up to the work on the hill.



The second and third parts of the plan worked: Flash is definitely the right dog – but it took more than two years to get her up to the standards needed to pass a SARDA assessment.

So why did it take so long?

Most working dog people say that a dog needs to mature – it might need to reach four years old before it is consistent and ignores distractions. Dog and handler will probably need a year to develop a bond. Getting a bit more technical about it:

● Flash took to the work very quickly and is very 'body focused' but this meant she made finds a long way off – so her indication had to be very reliable.

When a SARDA dog picks up a scent she should follow it to its source then, having found the body, trail herself back to a point where she can indicate to her handler and then repeat with a 'refind.'

In Flash's case, she was finding up to 1km away which meant she had got to 'commute' two or three times, fixed on her find for up to fifteen minutes before her wheezy old handler arrived with a reward. This sort of concentration took time to

develop – it was not dependable until she had a lot of experience and had begun to grow up.

● Having passed four out five of the areas on the January 2011 assessment course, in the fifth, Flash decided to chase a Herdwick sheep – adding some barking just to keep it moving at an interesting pace! This meant we couldn't pass and set us back nine months.

In fact, the pursuit had occurred in the same search area in Newlands Valley where a previous dog of mine had gone after a sheep in 1987. My wife says it was probably the same ewe! I seem to recall it winking at me, but I can't be sure...

I returned to Derbyshire to find my mates(?) in the Edale team had entered us for the Longshaw sheepdog trials!

Flash had learned to chase things for entertainment before I got her and is a bit of a late developer – both of us appeared to have reverted to 'factory settings' under the pressures of the assessment course.

Rare outside the Lake District, Herdwicks smell and act differently from other sheep and Flash had little experience of working



Two of Flash's quirks: she definitely prefers men, and hates it when someone else is the centre of attention!

through them. Excuses were no use though – we couldn't go operational then and had more work to do. So I got some help from a couple of sheep dog experts.

We didn't use any harsh or cruel techniques to explain to Flash that sheep chasing was not allowed. A few well timed telling offs and a plastic bucket thrown in her direction was enough. She had, in fact, got the wrong idea about what was 'fair game.' However, it did take time and lots of experience working through sheep to reinforce the message before my confidence was back up there.

Flash and I passed all five areas in the Brecon Beacons assessment in November and is now operational.

One of the things that kept me going through the setbacks was the bond that had developed between us. Flash is great fun, a charming companion and covers a lot of ground really fast. She has got a few quirks – but best of all she always seems to bring a smile to the bodies' faces as they play with her after a find.

Conclusion: If you start with young adult dog, you might be bringing some 'baggage from the past' but at least you know more about what you are getting. Experienced handlers will be in the best position to avoid pitfalls when rearing a pup. In any case, a dog might not be ready until he is two or three years old. To get the best of both worlds perhaps we should use puppy walkers. Any volunteers?

So now it's down to the real job of searching for missing people and property – much more relaxing! (Especially for Biscuit my old GSD – who is now concentrating on wearing the settee out).

Nothing could have been accomplished without loads of advice and support. So, many thanks to Derek Scrymgeour, Andrew Carson and David Robinson for sheep dog help. Also thanks to good friends in SARDA England, Wales, South Wales, Lake District Mountain Rescue Search Dogs and everyone in the Edale team. And, most of all, our bodies who give so much. ■



SARDA WALES NEWS

The SARDA Wales autumn assessment was a busy weekend with six dogs up for assessment, as well as two dog call-outs (including a find). After three days of mixed weather and varied areas all dogs passed.

New to the call-out list are Rich Beech and Scout (his second qualified dog), Andy Dunn and Max (Isle of Man) and Rob Johnson with Skye, who all qualified as Novice Lowland Search Dogs. Cazz Duce and her dog Tess were graded at Full Lowland, Jim and Star (Isle of Man) were graded at Novice Mountain and Helen Howe with Cluanie achieved Full Mountain Search Dog status.

A great result for all concerned and a testimony to all the hard work of the many people who put hours of their free time into helping train the dogs, bodying, catering at training weekends, organising equipment and kit, organising training weekends, fundraising and the many other jobs that go on behind the scenes. Many thanks also to the external assessors who visited from South Wales, England and Scotland.



THE WHOLE ASSESSMENT TEAM WITH HANDLERS IN THE FRONT ROW WHO PASSED THIS WEEKEND: ROB JOHNSON AND SKYE, CAZZ DUCE AND TESS, ANDY DUNN AND MAX, JIM AND STAR AND RICH BEECH AND SCOUT.

DODGE AND ZAK

Wayne Thackray and Nick Smith (SARDA England) also passed their upgrades in the Autumn.

For Wayne (Woodhead MRT), it's been an interesting three years since his initial qualification, with three finds on five people – one deceased and

four alive – and a delay in achieving his upgrade due to injury to both himself and Dodge. Wayne was injured in 2009 during a call-out to assist Edale MRT, prior to upgrade assessment in 2010 then, in November 2010 Dodge cut open a hind foot severing tendons, successfully 'cabbaging' (Wayne's words) another upgrade test. Then, in January last year, Wayne slipped six foot injuring his back at Honister Pass, resulting in another two months off the call-out list.

Four-year-old collie Zak is the first SARDA dog for Nick (Buxton MRT). At their initial grading in the Lake District, in January 2010, the pair were awarded the Novice Handler Shield. This had last been awarded in 2001 so was a great achievement. In the 22 months since going on the call-out list, they've been on nearly 50 call-outs and been credited with five finds.

Upgrade, or Full Search Dog Assessment takes place after the handler and dog have been on the call-out list for at least a year. The dog team must complete this upgrade before the third anniversary of their initial grade.

'As you can imagine,' says Nick, 'things are a bit tougher for the upgrade. The areas are bigger and, whilst more time is allowed to search them, the work rate is considerably higher than for the Initial Assessment. Overall, the dog team has to demonstrate that they have matured in their relationship and are capable of searching with speed and efficiency as well as good area coverage ensuring the hidden dogs/bodies are found.'

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BUXTON DEPUTY RECEIVES CHIEF CONSTABLE'S COMMENDATION

In March this year Dave Mason and search dog Megan were called together with the Derby Mountain Rescue Team to search woodland in the Somercotes area. A 25-year-old Thornton's Chocolate worker had been reported missing on her way home from the factory.

The body of Jai Ashton was located by search dog Megan hidden deep in woodland brush. A murder investigation by police followed, resulting in the conviction of a local man who was sentenced to serve a minimum of 28 years imprisonment.

Derbyshire Constabulary invited members of Buxton MRT together with Dave and Megan to a 'Celebrating Achievement Awards' ceremony at Derbyshire Constabulary HQ, Butterley Hall, Ripley on Tuesday 6 December to each receive the Chief Constable's Commendation. The presentation was made by the Chief Constable Mick Creedon.

Dave Mason is a serving Derbyshire police officer, currently based at Buxton. Following the award, he said, 'The body of Jai had been hidden so well it is possible she would not have been found without the use of a dog. This was a challenging search. Megan's find ensured that vital forensic evidence was secured. I am extremely proud of her.'

ISLE OF MAN HOLDS THE FIRST NSARDA TRAINING WEEKEND

JIM MACGREGOR SARDA IOM

During the weekend of 17/18 September, the Isle of Man held the first weekend of joint training with search dogs from the British Isles. Teams from SARDA Ireland, Wales, England and Anglia travelled to the island.



Accommodation was kindly offered by Civil Defence where luxuries included camp beds, showers and even a dishwasher! The first night proved useful in making new contacts and discussing search techniques and training issues. All visiting teams arrived by 21.30 hrs on the ferries. A discount was given by the Steam Packet Company for the travel which allowed the teams to be able to finance the weekend. Some then decamped to the local hostelry to further cement new friendships.

The overall plan for the weekend was for NSARDA teams from different parts of the country to meet and train

together. The emphasis was very much on assisting each other and discussing the various aspects of working and training search and rescue dogs.

Saturday started with a briefing, after breakfast, on how the training areas would be run, and use of the TETRA radios. The weekend was greatly improved by twelve SARDA bodies travelling over for the weekend to assist with the training of the dogs. Without these volunteers the weekend could not have happened. The location chosen for training was moorland with also a mixture of farmland and forestry. After

an initial downpour, the searching began in earnest with all handlers completing two or three of the search areas including a hasty search along a firetrack. When handlers were not working, they were observing each other and constructive comments were given which all added to the training element.

By mid-afternoon, all handlers were satisfied with their searches so an option was given for a group to Climb Snaefell (the island's only mountain at 621m). Fortunately, the promised views appeared between the clouds although the summit café had just closed.

After refreshments, John Foster gave the group a talk on tracking. John used to be a professional tracker in Rhodesia and he showed a practical demonstration of what to look for. It was shown how simple observations could give clear direction to a search and reduce the area and time spent searching. Afterwards a barbecue was cooked by SARDA IOM for all to enjoy.

Sunday had a focus of an all-island exercise by the inland search team. The scenario was a group of walkers lost trying to watch the End to End mountain bike race. The visiting search teams worked in coordination with Civil Defence and the exercise was observed by the Isle of Man Police. The search area was split up

for the dog teams to work and a hasty team was deployed by the Civil Defence. Casualties were quickly located and evacuated or stretchered to the control point run by Civil Defence. Further lessons were learned on how to effectively manage a number of resources and cope with difficult comms. All casualties were successfully located and evacuated and the group returned to Civil Defence for refreshments and debrief.

Evaluating how the first joint NSARDA training weekend went, handlers, navigators and bodies all benefited from the close cooperation between the teams. There was a real interest in learning from and each other and offering assistance. Future cooperation and training weekends have been offered and hopefully an annual NSARDA training weekend has been started.

Thanks must go to all on the SARDA IOM committee for organising the event and to Civil Defence for assistance with accommodation, vehicles and the joint exercise. NSARDA also supported the event with a subsidy for the food and thanks to all the handlers, navigators and bodies who supported this training weekend. Final thanks to the Steam Packet Company for their support of search and rescue work on the Isle of Man and beyond. ■



TOP: DOG TEAM GATHER ON SART FELL ABOVE: BODY RUSS TAKES SHELTER



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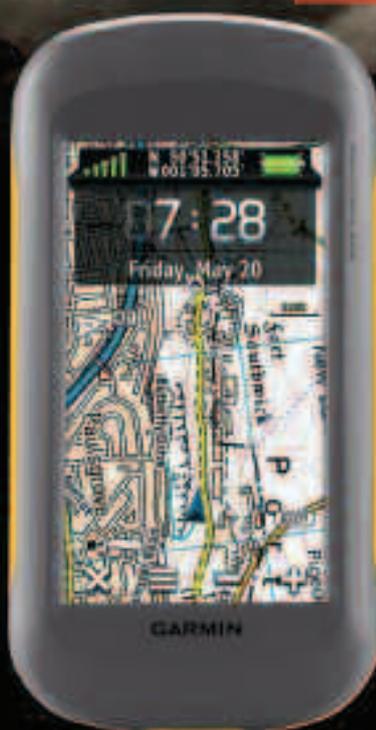
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STUFF Book

SEARCH DOGS AND ME ONE MAN AND HIS LIFE SAVING DOGS

by Neil Powell

Review by Bob Sharp

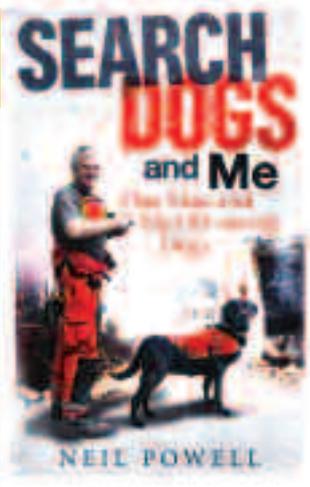
Over the past two years Neil Powell helped me with my own book on mountain rescue search dogs, providing a number of stories and information about the history of the Search and Rescue Dog Association (SARDA) in Ireland but I didn't realise how long he had been involved in rescue work and was certainly unaware of his wide involvement in the many diverse aspects of search work using dogs. Mountain rescue tends to attract people with remarkable commitment to the cause. The vast majority stay the course for many years, often several decades, and Neil is one of these people. Indeed, he has been involved for forty years. However, Neil, like a very small number of other people have made a double commitment, making a contribution not only to the search and rescue efforts of their own mountain rescue team, but also the operational work of SARDA. It's a testimony to his unfailing commitment to both areas of endeavour that he has not only given a major part of his life to rescue work, but also held down a full time job and bought up a family at the same time. Balancing these things is not an easy task and many find it a huge challenge. Forty years on, Neil is as committed as ever and this was evident when he discussed his latest ventures with search dogs on BBC's Breakfast TV.

Neil's book is essentially a timeline of his involvement from the early 1970s to the present day. He describes the early challenges of working alone in Ireland, unaware of developments elsewhere in the UK. Once he discovered that people in Scotland – notably Hamish MacInnes and Kenny Mackenzie had been training dogs for mountain search work for some years – his involvement moved forward quickly. Within a short time, he received essential help from dog handlers in England, Scotland and Wales. As the book progresses, Neil describes numerous searches, both in Ireland and elsewhere, along with the challenges and satisfaction training his many dogs. Understandably, Neil tends to focus on the positive finds of missing people, but readers unfamiliar with the work of search dogs should note that more often, search dogs spend much time 'clearing' areas and searching areas where subsequent events show the missing person was not located.

Most dog handlers in the UK focus on training dogs to 'air scent' in a mountain or semi-urban environment but whilst this was the starting route for Neil, he diversified and became one of the few people to train dogs to search for people trapped under collapsed buildings. He describes the expeditions abroad where he was tasked to take his dogs to search for victims of natural disasters, especially earthquakes. He played a seminal role in this kind of work (founding British International Rescue Dogs along the way) but also played a significant role in training dogs to search for drowned victims. He recounts his frustration in trying to convince members of other emergency services about the value of dogs for this kind of work, but after several 'finds' (when others had failed) he quickly made his point. In more recent times, Neil has trained dogs to 'ground' scent as trailing dogs and also trained dogs to recognise the particular odour of DVDs. The latter project came about when he was invited by the anti-piracy unit of The Motion Picture Association of America to examine the feasibility of using dogs to locate counterfeit discs. Neil showed that it was possible to train dogs to identify the particular smell of DVDs and as a result, he was flown around the world – New York, Hong Kong, Dubai – to demonstrate his dogs working.

That's a broad account of Neil's book, but what should be highlighted is the manner in which he has developed each chapter and each rescue story. Soon into the first chapter, I was hooked and found it difficult to put the book down. Neil has a natural gift with words and a talent to tell a good story. He has the kind of style I see in the stories told by the celebrated vet Jim Wight (AKA James Herriot). This is a real bonus and something that will attract readers not just from the world of SARDA but also the wider population of dog lovers. Each of the thirty-four chapters is a crafted gem. Every one tells a particular story and draws the reader into the challenges, frustrations, emotions and pleasures of living with, training and working with dogs. I should add that some sections are not for the faint-hearted. Similar to the way in which James Herriot touches the reader's heart strings with tales of sadness, despair and death of a loved pet, Neil does the same when describing the dreadful moments when his loved dogs reach the end of their life. It is fitting that he dedicates the book to all the dogs that were part of his life. It is the way in which he writes the book that will make it appeal to more than those interested in training and working search dogs. The book is also a comprehensive historical account of search dogs and how the training and operational deployment has developed and diversified in the past forty years. For this reason, it's a must-read for everyone involved in search and rescue. In short, *Search Dogs and Me* is a heart-warming, inspiring and beautifully told story that will melt – and occasionally break – the hearts of dog lovers everywhere.

'Search dogs and me. One man and his life saving dogs' by Neil Powell is published by Blackstaff Press, Dublin. www.cicerone.co.uk. Price £11.99. ISBN: 978-0-85640-867-0.



FACEBOOK FAN COUNT: 1747

Some of the stories that got you chatting last quarter...

...plenty of 'Ahhh factor' as lucky cross-breed Jason plunged over an icy ridge on Stob Ban, near Ben Nevis, in December, after triggering an avalanche. Fortunately for Jason, Scottish mountain rescuers Mick Tighe and his wife just happened to be in the area. The pair battled sub-zero temperatures and the threat of further avalanche to rescue the distressed dog. So, a happy ending for all concerned...

...not so, earlier in the month, on Y Garn in Snowdonia, when a man died after falling 150 feet following a cornice collapse. A mountain guide who was in the area rescued his female companion and dug the man out of the avalanche debris. Sadly he had died of his injuries. A salutary tale of winter walking...

...Jezzer Clarkson prompted more than a few comments as he took a pop at hill walkers and those who rescue them in yellow chopper things. All in the name of publicity, of course, but doesn't stop us getting wound up does it.... grrrr... doubtless the DVD in question is languishing on many a coffee table post-Christmas...

...news of a ladies 'powder room' high in the Lake District hills definitely tickled my fancy. The new loo includes a urinal and sit-down toilet and is adjacent to the Lake District Ski Club hut. Members lugged a septic tank and all the other necessities up the hill from the Greenside road above Glenridding over the summer and club members spent more than 300 hours constructing the 'loo with a view'. At that rate, could be a while before there's one on every Wainwright – best keep the Shewee in the rucksack, methinks...

...LOTS of comments about plans to ditch our Sea King helicopters in favour of a civilian scheme. The consensus is it's the end of an era – very sad times, for so many reasons: loss of our working relationship with the RAF and their Sea King fleet, fears for casualty care and safety, implications for team training and the financial aspect of mountain rescue, loss of control... sad days, indeed..

...and finally, just set up a new FB page for MREW (will replace the Basecamp page in time) so please check it out at www.facebook.com/MountainRescue.MREW and start the likes piling up! JW

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2010 & 2011

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The GPS for Mountain Rescue

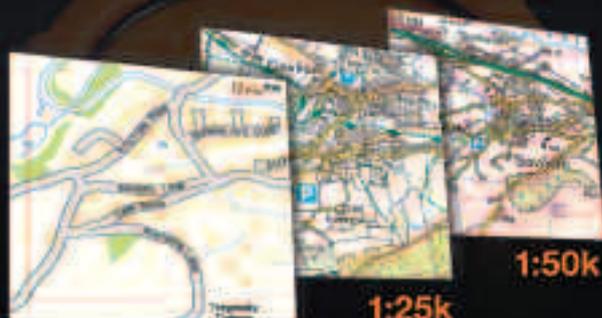
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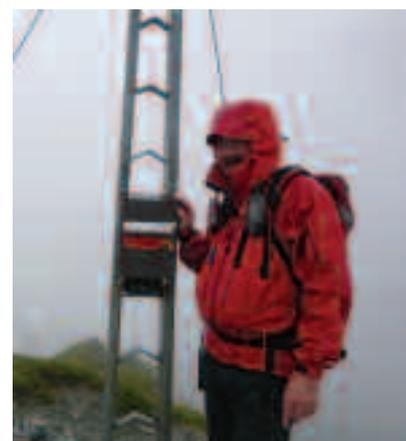
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MOTORWAY EXIT SYNDROME

LYLE BROTHERTON

have now encountered a common navigational mistake working with two MRTs, firstly in Canada and more recently in France. Unlikely as it may seem, France has more public footpaths than Britain! In fact more than eight times the kilometres of public foot paths than in England.



The most spectacular of these are called the Sentiers de Grand Rondonees (GR) and they are all numbered GR1, GR2 and so forth. Some are incredibly long, such as the GR5 which runs from the Luxembourg border, through the Vosges, Jura and Alp mountain ranges to the Mediterranean.

The organisation that established and maintains the trail system is called the Fédération Française de la Randonnée Pédestre (FFRP) and although headquartered in Paris they have around 2000 local clubs who maintain the route markings and signs along these tracks.

The tracks are marked with white over red blazes and these signs are invariably, yet not always, prominent and frequent. Turns are always marked and there are even signs informing you if you have made a wrong turning.

to integrate satnav (GNSS/GPS) and digital mapping (GIS) into their standard operating procedures.

A key component in building the system is creating a bespoke base map for the team area. Team members record information commonly missing from conventional mapping, such as new areas of scree, stream caused by flash floods, permanent pools of water, potholes and so forth.

In addition to this, the search managers compile the records of past incidents, the exact location of each one, where precise positions are marked on the map of all their previous callouts: the Incident Record Overlay (IRO). From the IRO, accident hot spots can be identified and, from this, safe routes determined both for walking in and for stretcher carry outs, possible kit stashes positioned for ease of access, and so forth.

frequently got lost. By plotting the tracks the casualties had reported that they had taken into the valley before becoming lost, it became apparent that one track in particular – part of GR5, a wide and made up track – was the most often taken by the people who subsequently got into difficulties.

Many of the hikers were competent navigators and maintained they had been on the GR5 all the time and could not understand how they had subsequently become lost.

The weather conditions varied from summer to winter but in both there were regularly poor visibility conditions: in summer, usually fog created by the formation of stratus clouds in the valley towards the end of the day – this is also when the available daylight is starting to fail. Stratus clouds are flat, hazy, featureless clouds of low altitude varying in colour from dark gray to nearly white and may produce a light drizzle or snow. They frequently form in mountain valleys and, during the day, rise with the warmth of the sunshine and late in the day settle back down in the valleys.

In winter the forest floor has a permanent covering of snow and, in either heavy snowfall or high winds creating spindrift and blowing the powder snow from the trees, whiteouts were a frequent occurrence and common event to many of the people who had become lost.

Studying the map it became apparent that wrong turns had been taken along GR5 repeatedly at one junction where many people incorrectly forked left.

We flew out to visit the area and surprisingly this junction had a very well marked sign. There was a remote weather monitor and to the immediate right of the track was a steel stanchion on top of which was an anemometer (wind speed measurer), in faded yet very clear acrylic paint was the unmistakable

sign that this was the correct fork to follow.

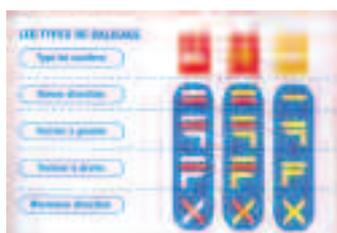
It was an almost identical pattern of events that I had encountered with the Canadian MRT a few years earlier and I instantly recognised it as the phenomenon I have named 'Motorway Exit Syndrome' – and we are all susceptible to it.

Avoiding MOTORWAY EXIT SYNDROME

In poor visibility, or at night when using a head torch, if following the edge of a track it is easy to veer off onto the wrong track if it forks, especially where the angle of the deviation is relatively low.

To avoid this error I recommend four simple actions:

1. Walk in the centre of the track.
2. When the track turns sharply walk to the other side of it to confirm that it is not an exit.
3. At frequent intervals, say every 100m pace count, stop and check the bearing you are on compared to the bearing of the track on your map where you should be.
4. If you are in a group, use out-riggers.



I was assisting a Pelotons de Gendarmerie de Haute Montagne (PGHM), professional mountain rescue teams made up of police and some military personnel, in the Alps,

Compiling this information with the team, an accident hotspot, already well known to them, revealed some interesting information. It was coming out of a valley, where hikers

Lyle Brotherton has worked with over 130 search and mountain rescue teams in 24 countries. He is an active member of the Tweed Valley MRT, and both lectures and instructs 'Advanced Navigation' to search and mountain rescue teams, and the Special Forces. He also advises governments on navigational strategy in Emergency Management Planning and works with them post major disasters. His book 'Ultimate Navigation Manual' is reviewed over the page.

TOP: SMALL WIND SPEED STANCHEON. LEFT, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: GR MARKING ON A TREE; A GR MARKINGS CARD AND THE PGHM MOTIF.



IMAGES © VAUGHAN JUDGE

ULTIMATE NAVIGATION

New from Harper Collins is the modestly titled *Ultimate Navigation Manual*. The preface, by Sir Ranulph Fiennes, summarises this book well: ‘Search and rescue teams are regularly called out in the worst weathers and need to reach inaccessible areas quickly and safely. These same requirements apply to anybody who wants to safely enjoy the outdoors. This field instruction manual brings together for the first time ‘Best Practice’ as used by these teams throughout the world and makes it accessible to everyone.’



EXPERT TIPS

Adopting the brace position while out with a group signals to the others that you are working and should be left to get on with it.

Work with the map facing away from the prevailing wind and weather. If on a steep slope make sure you are parallel with the contour lines for stability.

What makes the book different from other navigational resources is the professional background of author Lyle Brotherton, who spent six years working with over 130 mountain rescue and SAR teams in 24 countries. An active member of the Tweed Valley Mountain Rescue Team, he both lectures and instructs ‘Advanced Navigation’ to mountain rescue teams, SAR teams plus the Special Forces. Lyle also advises governments on navigational strategy in Emergency Management Planning and works with them post major disasters, such as the floods in Pakistan, 2010.

Written in an accessible, modular format to cover navigation from basic principles right through to advanced technologies, its appeal is further

enhanced throughout by the striking photography of Vaughan Judge, Professor of Fine Art and Photography at Glasgow School of Art, and Kate Jo, a practising visual artist who exhibits internationally. These images are combined with stylised, yet uncomplicated, diagrams to illustrate various concepts and procedures.

It is a hefty tome, over 360 pages, divided into five main sections, starting with the essentials maps, compasses and grid systems, from clear explanations of latitude and longitude (used to call in a fixed wing asset) to understanding how to use 12-figure grid references, the type frequently used by both the police and the fire and rescue services. As well as explanations of the various

compasses and specialist equipment used in SAR, including information such as the correct way to use binoculars.

Combined with the more conventional aspects of a chapter on ‘Environmental Navigation’, a subject not usually instructed in conventional map and compass navigation, with specifics such as the air traffic corridors in the region you work in and searching for aircraft contrails to orient yourself, or using television satellite dishes to do the same.

Also a chapter on ‘Stellar Navigation’, both in daylight and at night, with simple techniques like finding direction from any star at night time or estimating the time to sunset using the height of the sun above the horizon.

navigation

The second section details dozens of techniques that can be mastered, over four weekends with lesson plans that are graded like ski runs from green (Beginners) through to black (Expert). Most of it you will already know from Catching Features to Slope Aspect, yet at the same time there are a lot of techniques you may never have considered or even know about such as Cliff Aspect or Warning Bearings.

It is good to be both reminded of best practice for basic navigation, maybe changing or relearning more modern approaches to navigation to being introduced to new techniques, some never previously written about.

The third section deals with navigating in different environments from Arctic and Mountain to Coastal and Urban areas. Focusing on which techniques work best in each environment and variations of them specific to that location.

There is an entire section that looks in detail at satnav (GPS/GNSS) from basic use in the field right through to advanced satnav use creating very accurate waypoints and using proximity alarms. An overview of the satellite systems available and being developed gives a good insight into the continuing development of this technology and its importance to SAR. Digital mapping is comprehensively explained, with 'how to do it' screen captures from popular digital mapping programs.

For mountain rescue there is an important chapter dedicated to Emergency Management.

The combining of Satnav data with Digital Mapping for use in mountain rescue is nothing short of a revolution, providing for ground-breaking new strategies and tactics. Gone are the days when satnav and digital mapping may have been useful, optional tools to consider in



planning and response. The technologies have now become so reliable in enabling us to plan, conduct and expedite missions more quickly and safely that we would not be fulfilling our duty of care to our response teams, the casualties and the general public at large if we did not employ them.

Bespoke emergency management digital mapping is now readily available. Such as the missing person mapping program, Mountain Map, developed by Scottish Mountain Rescue or software from commercial organisations such as SARMAN by Mappyx.

The Emergency Management chapter is broken down into five stages for teams to employ, from choosing satnav handsets to incident management and post-mission analysis.

Specifics for search managers in creating bespoke operational mapping for individual team areas, combining data such as accident hotspots, emergency headquarters, including telephone numbers and alarm codes, even kit stashes.

Added to this operational team map are known escape routes, new features such as new scree slopes or mountain streams, even down to

individual gates in walls and fences and if they are locked where the keys are held.

Specific detailed operating procedures describe how to mark incidents at the locus and record the data for evidence that can be both used for incident reports to the police and the use of satnav at potential scenes of crime, whether suspected by the police, or mandatory such as an air crash site, that can later be used as evidence in a court of law.

The last section provides information, again much of which previously not in the public domain, about the best use of mobile phones in contacting the emergency services and illustrations of modern ground to air arm signals.

To accompany the manual, an interactive website has been developed where there are resources such as downloadable fact sheets and navigational aids plus a library of videos, free to view, describing techniques and tips.

More info can be found at www.micronavigation.org which includes some preview pages from the book along with option to buy.

List price is £14.99 although from a certain famous river site you can get a good discount. ■

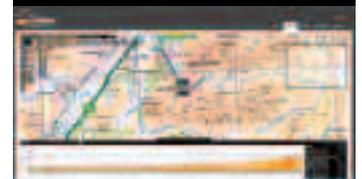
SATMAP XPEDITION

Satmap are to launch a ground-breaking online application to view maps, plan and share routes and much more. Features include topographical mapping from OS as well as international mapping. Great and useful display options include both full and split screen view, giving you the option to work across the entire length of your monitor or on two windows/map types side by side.

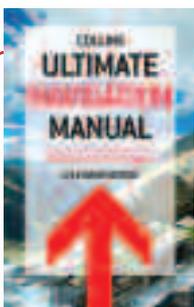
This flexible split screen view can display two different sized maps, two different types of map and two different zoom levels at the same time: total flexibility to see both the whole mountain and the detail of a craggy hill!

Xpedition also incorporates well known tools from your Active 10 such as AOlS (areas of interest) and POlS (points of interest) to overlay the map with key information. Search areas and PLS are easily marked and uploaded and maps can be customised through LOlS (lines of interest), highlighting particular boundaries or recent constructions and modifications. The practical snap-to-road function easily plans road navigation, automatically adjusting the position of waypoints to follow road network. A standard and a premium version will be available with all current Route Planner users receiving the first year of premium subscription completely free. More info coming soon!


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ULTIMATE NAVIGATION MANUAL: ALL THE TECHNIQUES YOU NEED TO BECOME AN EXPERT NAVIGATOR by Lyle Brotherton

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ISBN: 978-0-00-742460-3. £14.99. 368 pages.

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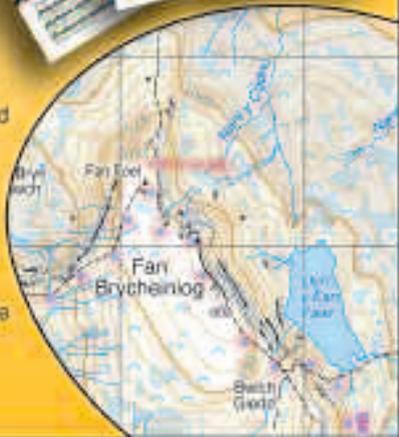


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VIEWRANGER NOW DEPLOYED WITH OVER 50 SAR TEAMS

ViewRanger Search & Rescue (VSAR) programme continues to grow reaching the milestone of over 50 teams actively using the service - primarily MREW but also ALSAR, MRCOS, SARDA and IMRA. VSAR is the company's initiative to support accredited rescue organisations in England, Wales and beyond in their important work with free and discounted copies of its award winning GPS navigation mobile app and mapping.

Given widespread ownership of compatible smartphones (Apple, Android, Symbian) the service is simple and inexpensive to deploy and has proved invaluable in supporting team coordination, navigation and data capture.

Besides the comprehensive GPS feature, a key benefit is ViewRanger's BuddyBeacon, location-sharing capability that allows team members and search coordinators to view the real time location* of others using their mobile, tablet devices (ie. iPads) or via the web (*requires mobile signal).

The ability to record search patterns and use the exportable, time stamped data for evidential purposes has also proved useful. A very recent development is the ability to link location-tagged photos or video captured with the phone to the recorded track.

The mobile app has been complemented by a web-based route planning tool. Routes can be created on the big screen using OS mapping, then instantly published ready for download. ViewRanger is currently testing the viability of automated ground guidance software, originally designed for military applications, to make this process even faster.

To find out more or to join the VSAR programme see viewranger.co.uk/SAR or contact craig@viewranger.com.



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UPDATE: GO OUTDOORS MIKE FRANCE NATIONAL FUNDRAISING



Re: Llanberis MRT team profile...

I think we all know that, just at the moment, sponsorship deals are hard come by. That's why I was very excited when John Graham, the CEO of Go Outdoors came to us with a proposal to fundraise and subsequently nominated us to be GO's national charity.

I think it fair to say that this is the most lucrative sponsorship deal ever undertaken by Mountain Rescue England and Wales. So to get where we are today a lot of hard work and many meetings have taken place, involving a few officers.

As with any contact, be it a business contact through your work, or one such as this, there are do's and do not's. This deal is just the same and if we all follow the rules it could be worth a lot of money to mountain rescue over the next few years.

A key part of this deal was to look at micro-donations. We'd heard about the potential of Pennies, 'the electronic charity box', through the Princes' Forum, which our chairman David Allan attends with representatives of other charities under the patronage of Princes William and Harry. Having been shown the power of micro-donations, and now with a major retailer supporting us, we had a platform to try this. I believe micro-donations are a new and simple way to fundraise, so hopefully we will see an increase in giving to Mountain Rescue England and Wales.

To quote the Pennies website: *'We're all familiar with the idea of dropping the coins from our change into the charity box sitting on the shop counter. These boxes used to be everywhere, but as we pay for our shopping more and more by card, they're becoming less common. In recent research, 4 in 10 people said that they see these boxes less frequently than they used to. Another 30% said that they barely notice them at all.'*

'That's where Pennies comes in. The electronic charity box is exactly the same idea, but it works when we pay by card or electronically. Whichever way you shop, donating to charity through Pennies couldn't be easier: just press 'YES' on the Chip and PIN machine, or click the 'DONATE' button online. That's all you need to do to send your small change to charity. The Pennies Foundation then ensures all of your donations are received by charities.'

Once the systems have been put in place, donations should just appear in our bank account. Pennies quote an excess of 140 million credit and debit card holders in the UK. If you're like me when buying something, I pay by card. It's so easy to round up by a few pence, it doesn't cost me a lot, and lots of charities gain.

But back to 'following the rules'... we've all been told who's doing what with GO at the last two national meetings, and that contact with GO should be via those people alone, so please can we all stick to this system, at whatever level. If we don't, it only shows us up for having no discipline and that's so untrue – we are a very professional organisation.

Provided the money come in as we hope, I have put forward two options for your consideration: the details were sent out to teams via your regional secretaries in December. It is very important to me that this deal is fair to all the teams and it is essential that teams continue to support their local GO stores with events and displays to maintain the national partnership and secure long-term funding, even if some teams have to travel to a store. National fundraising is going well at the moment – let's work together to make it work for everyone in mountain rescue.

I quote a passage from the October MR Mag, which is in the regional news section, regarding Llanberis MRT. It reads as follows:-

'You wont find any Llanberis team member wearing anything that says Mountain Rescue on it. As far as we are concerned there's no need, we know who we are...etc etc'

I have been a member of Bolton MRT for 25 years, on and off, and it is this team who have spent time and money in my training.

Over the course of five years, I trained long and hard to gain recognition as a full search dog handler with SARDA England. Upon passing the assessments, I was given a jacket with the SARDA England Search Dog Handler badge on it. My goodness, I am PROUD to wear badges that represent both factions. It is a symbol of the hard work and dedication I've put in.

Even now, with my dog having retired, I still wear the handler's badged jacket whilst assisting other handlers along the same pathway so that they may achieve parity. Long may it be so.

In my opinion, Rob Johnson has the wrong attitude towards others that wear badges and would not last long in the presence of other dog handlers.

Dave Marsh
SARDA England
and Bolton MRT



THE ORACLE HAS MOVED... AGAIN

This particularly nomadic section of the website has moved yet again. Originally in the 'Members' area only, it was moved to the public area last year as it was felt it should be more accessible to team members, public and journalists/media. To this end, we created the 'Media Centre', incorporating information sheets, incident statistics, news, useful forms, distinguished service awards and Oracle articles. The intention is also to include a downloadable photo resource at some stage in the future. Back in November it became apparent that the title 'Media' was misleading, giving the impression this was purely for 'the media' and not relevant to us ordinary mortals! So... the Media Centre was retitled 'Information Centre'.

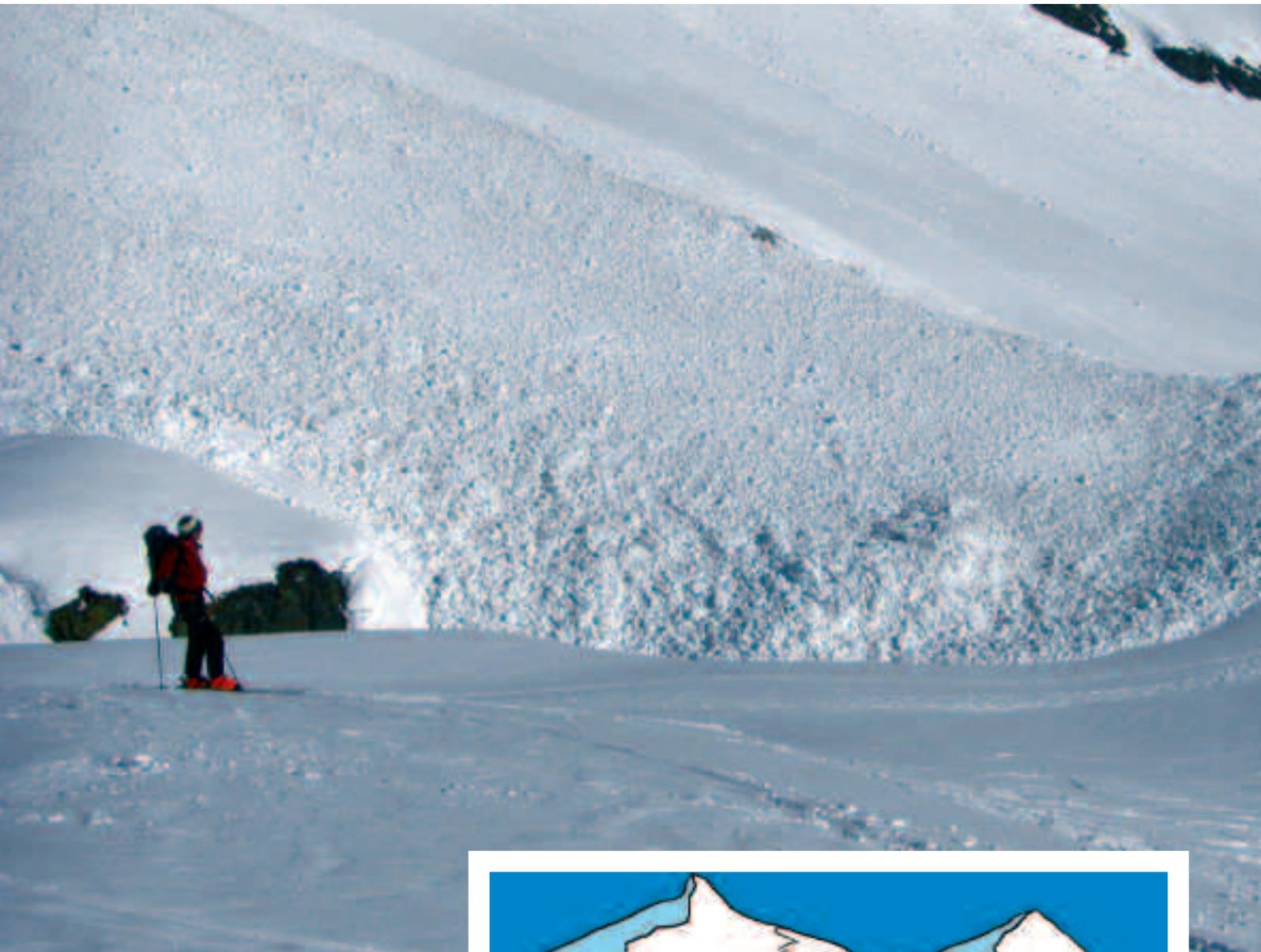
It's worth reminding you here that the website has a search facility. So, if there's anything you can't immediately put your finger on, it's always worth trying the search box on the top of the left-hand navigational column.

And, speaking of the Oracle, for those team members unaware of this valuable resource – content is still developing, and the idea is to add to this over time. Each article is written by an expert in their field. Latest addition to the resource was 'Working with Helicopters' by Duncan Tripp, RAF Winchman Paramedic, the official training guide produced by the RAF and applicable to anyone with any dealings with Sea Kings and other helicopters.

Other articles include 'Sleep deprivation', 'Team leadership', 'Knots and anchor selection' 'Understanding the weather' and many more. Please take a look and, if you feel there are any topics you'd like covered, let me know: editor@mountain.rescue.org.uk

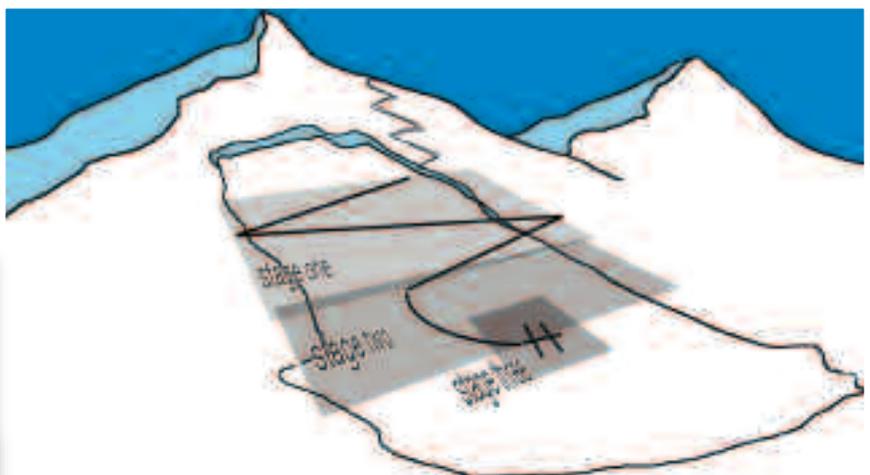
You can find the Information Centre at <http://www.mountain.rescue.org.uk/information-centre>.

WINTER SKILLS



MARTIN CHESTER

Martin Chester is a British (IFMGA) Mountain Guide, and the Director of Training for Plas y Brenin National Mountain Centre. He regularly contributes to the Backcountry section of *Fall-line* skiing magazine, and has delivered some (well received) transceiver training to Ogwen Valley Mountain Rescue Team. Find out more about him and his team at pyb.co.uk.



**MAIN SHOT: A LOT OF DIGGING TO DO!
DIAGRAM: AVALANCHE SEARCH STAGES FROM
OPE** ALL IMAGES AND DIAGRAM © MARTIN CHESTER



EVERY SECOND COUNTS...

New technology, equipment and research all help, but with most folks getting buried over a metre down, you've still got plenty of work to do. So, from using your beacon, to finally liberating your mate from the snow, here are a few of the most significant developments in the last few years. Whatever kit you use, all companion rescues have five critical stages – here's how to optimise each stage when every second counts.

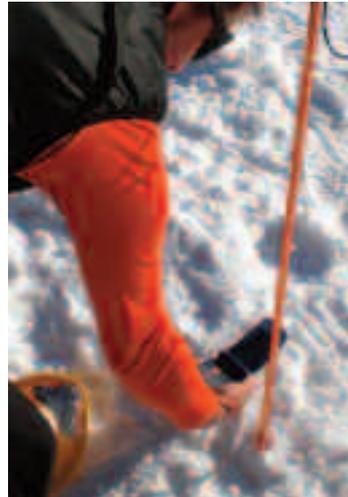
1: Find a signal

You need a transceiver, and now your mate is buried somewhere you'll be wishing you bought the best you could get. Any modern three-aerial, digital device will do. I currently favour the Pulse above all others (simply from having seen the results of giving them to students). Turn all other transceivers off (or to search, of course) to avoid the classic Sunday League error of a Benny Hill style chase after your mate who is still beeping. Start your search at the point you last saw the victim (or evidence of them). Best to mark this point as it will get a bit chaotic later on to tell where you've been, and where you haven't. Search the debris in wide sweeps and don't underestimate how far folks can travel, or how far under the edge of the debris they may have been pushed.

The top tip to optimising signal range is understanding that the orientation of your longest aerial really matters. You can't guess what this might be – so instead of holding your device low and staring at a blank screen – hold the transceiver to your ear and keep rotating the unit through all three possible axes (see diagram).

2: Zoom in on the signal

This stage is all about balancing speed and efficiency. Follow the display on your transceiver (whatever type you have) and trust the technology over your instinct. Your transceiver is not as prone to getting emotionally hung up on a particular direction or area as you are. Kids (used to blind faith in a 'Game boy' or



GET CLOSE AND GET LOW

DS) tend to do better than adults at this, which says all you need to know. Knowing that you are likely to sweep in on a curve helps (in case you were wondering why you seem to be going in a massive arc) so just stick with it! Move fast, but not so fast that you overshoot. If it all goes a bit weird there is a good chance it's deeply buried. A great analogy is that finding a transceiver is like landing a plane. You can fly as fast and high as you like to begin with. As you home in, you need to get slower and lower when you get close.

3. Grid search

Be ruthlessly systematic here. Your beacon has brought you in to the signal on the optimum line. In our 'landing a plane' analogy, this is like lining up on that imaginary runway. Change your position and the transceiver orientation at the same time and you won't know which change made the greater difference.

Keep the transceiver the same way round (lined up with the runway) and get right down on the surface of the snow. Don't get giddy at the first sign of a strong signal – keep going until you are sure you have passed the 'peak'. Mark this point, and go back

over the peak (the way you came) to find the next point where the signal starts to consistently fade a little. Most people are reluctant to look for the worsening signal – be strict. Now go back to the peak or mid-point, keep the unit facing the same way, and take a sweep out to each side looking for the same effect. Be quick, slick and thorough, but don't get hung up on this pin-pointing. If you struggle to get as close as you would like, remember they could be deeply buried. This used to be a bit of an epic with old analogue devices, but less so with modern digital technology and three aerials. You can waste ages splitting hairs over a few centimeters here or there, when you would be better off probing.

At this point, whilst practising, many of you will be digging out a transceiver from just below the surface; glancing at your stopwatch; and congratulating yourselves on a job well done. But here's the bad news: in reality you will be out of range of the signal to begin with, and then (with median depth of burial at just over a metre) you still have a load of work to do to find the body with a probe. You may then have tons (literally) of snow to shift before your rescue is effective. With so little chance of surviving burial for more than twenty minutes, the clock is ticking. Set up your practice exercises with a transceiver that is well out of range to begin with. Then make sure you have buried it in something like a rucksack (to probe for) and at a suitable depth to get the measure of digging. So this brings us to the often overlooked skills of:

4: Probe outwards in a spiral and square to the slope

Practise assembling your probe in a hurry, so you don't muff it up when you need it most. Starting at your best point with the transceiver, probe deeply into the snow. Don't be scared to really shove the probe with some welly, in case you need to punch through blocks of debris or icy crusts. Your victim has way more to worry about than a probe up their nose if

Let's be honest, we all know it could happen but we all pray it won't. Those statistics aren't numbers – they were people who were equally hoping it wouldn't be them. When all that fine pow turns out to be soft slab and starts to slide, there is no time to go looking for help from others – it's up to you and your mates! You better hope you all came prepared, equipped with (and know how to use) the off-piste essentials: transceiver, shovel and probe.



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you don't find them soon!

Bending double to probe a deep snow pack means you'll wish you bought that three metre probe, rather than that Gucci two metre stick. Likewise, those fancy probes that fit in a shovel handle are a bit like probing with a banana.

You'll soon have no idea where you've been, and where you haven't. Work your way around and out in a spiral, with 20cm or so between holes. Be aware you should always probe at right angles to the slope (regardless of steepness) to be sure to find your victim fastest. See diagram for details or, even better, see the excellent chapter in the Off Piste Essentials DVD.

Finally, once you've found your mate, just leave that probe in. I cannot imagine how comforting it would feel, and how dismayed you would be if it was taken away again. Wiggle it from time to time to let them know you're still coming.

5. Dig efficiently as a team

Okay, so you probably think I'm being a right pedant now! What could possibly be technical about digging? The harsh reality is that you may have several tons of snow to move so early enthusiasm and brute strength may lead to the wheels falling off before the job is done. You'd also be amazed how many rescuers would consider standing on top of the person they are trying to rescue, and digging straight down to them. Every kilo of snow being lifted out of a metre deep hole! Thankfully, this one is relatively simple: get a metal shovel which works, and dig the snow out, not up! With your probe in the snow, start by moving downhill to start digging in to the slope from the side. One and a half times the depth on the probe is a good rule of thumb to start with. With one member taking the lead, keep aiming in at a point level with the base of the probe (not the surface). Shovel the snow out behind you to the rest of the team, who can clear it out in a conveyor system. Work efficiently as a team, in a V-shape, and swap roles as you start to tire (see diagram). As soon as you find the body, try to work out where the mouth will be, as getting that airway clear is your number one priority.



**TOP: TRY TO PROBE SQUARE TO SLOPE
ABOVE: DIG AS A TEAM**

Like all skills, the only way to get good at this is to practise, and to practise all five stages (not just stages 2 and 3 like so many of us are prone to do). Getting some training from an expert can really help hone your skills, or go on a course with a British Mountain Guide (www.bmg.org.uk). Do some homework on the web to keep abreast of new technology and ideas, and try to keep up to date. You can find out more info from the excellent 'Staying alive in avalanche terrain' book, reading the latest research at www.genswein.ch (the brains behind the Pulse), or buy a copy of the excellent Off-Piste Essentials DVD. Better still, buy one for your mates – as it'll be them coming to your rescue, should the worst occur! ■



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WATER SEARCH INCIDENT MANAGEMENT

HOPE for the **BEST...**
PLAN for the **WORST**

Water search incidents are often urgent but difficult incidents to deal with. The initial response is often framed around an urgent rescue effort that is complicated by the casualty not being in the expected location. The change of mode required means that the rescue effort needs to refocus into a search. Key to developing an effective response is the understanding of:

- Where to search
- How to search
- AND developing a plan to maximise the chances of success. Within that plan there is a need to be aware of incident management considerations so the search is managed as effectively as possible.

This article discusses the application of typical water rescue incident management considerations to the water search and some of the dilemmas that may be faced.

Zones and PPE

Within water rescue, three zones are usually used to indicate relative hazard people may be exposed when operating.

Hot Zones

These are typically taken as areas where personnel are working in, on or over the water.

Warm Zone

This is an area that typically extends 3m or so away from the water's edge or a point that a person may accidentally enter it, such as the top of a steep embankment.

Cold Zone

This zone is outside the hot and warm zone and personnel operating in the cold zone are unlikely to enter the water.

The zones also indicate the level of training and personal protective

equipment for personnel operating in each of these zones.

In the hot zone it is typically taken as full water rescue PPE with training typical at MREW In Water Team or DEFRA Module 3 Water Rescue Technician.

In the warm zone the level of training would typically be based on MREW Bankside Team training or DEFRA Module 2 Water Rescue First Responder.

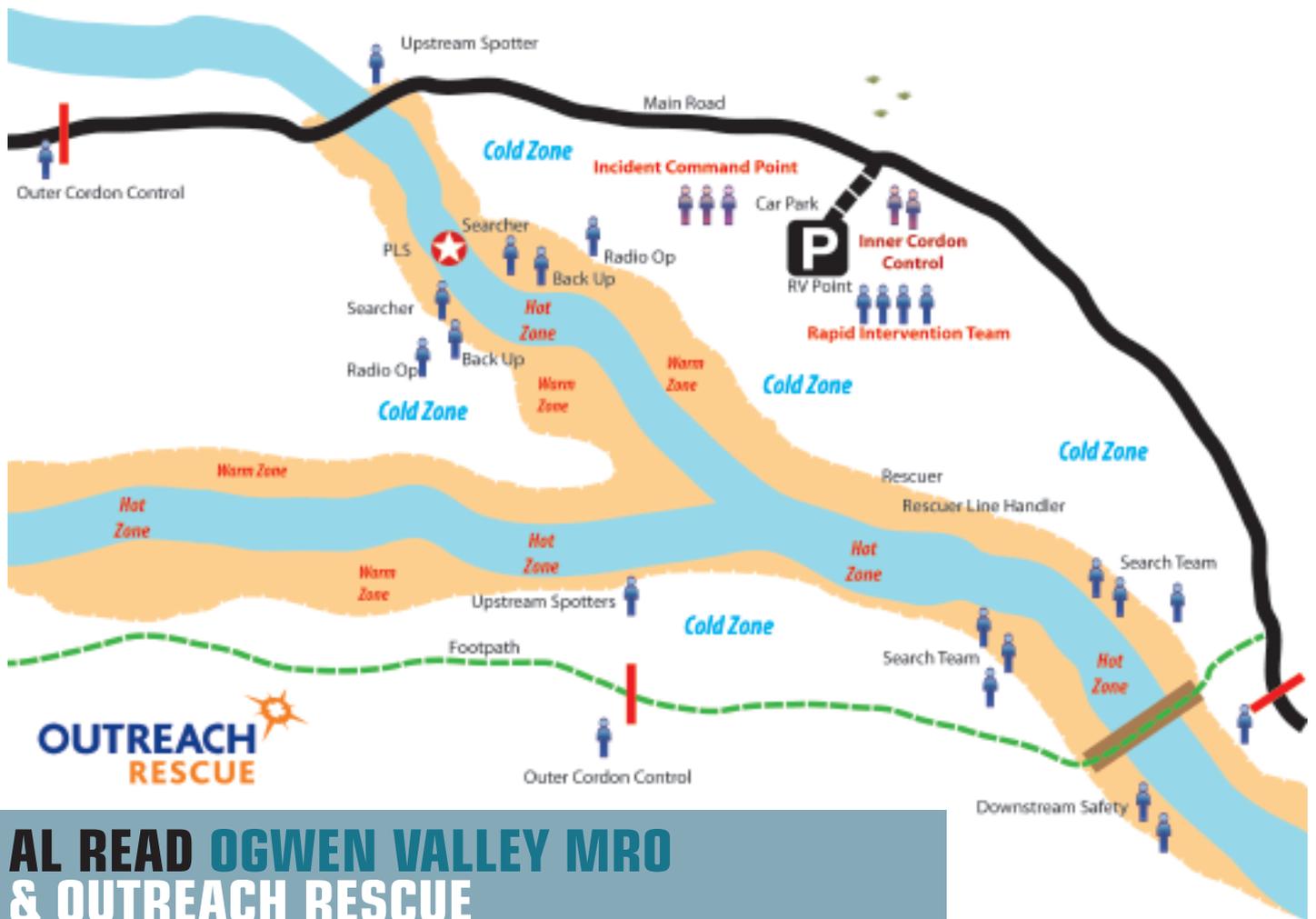
In the cold zone an awareness of water hazard and the relevant PPE is typically expected, not least to enable people to recognise that they may be exposing themselves or their team members to risks they have not had specific training in.

When searching, team members will often transit through different zones as they progress along the river. At different times the team members actively searching may find themselves in the water, working above it or very close to it.

The equipment used has ideally to be matched against the range of hazards but it is difficult to meet all the requirements all the time and compromises need to be understood.

The requirements of full water rescue PPE may cause difficulties for searchers as it is difficult equipment to operate in under certain circumstances. Drysuits, personal flotation devices with thermal undersuits are ideal for working in the water (typically at a temperature of 7-14°C), but when working along a difficult bankside on a hot day it can be less than ideal due to factors such as heat stress and limited range of movement. However, the consequence of accidental entry into the water may be extremely hazardous.

For parties being deployed they should be briefed to minimise their risks accordingly and it might mean



AL READ OGWEN VALLEY MRO & OUTREACH RESCUE

that most of the search work is conducted not wearing full in-water PPE but carrying it in case it is required. The changing into and out of the PPE may be balanced by the overall speed of the search when compared to the speed if wearing the PPE all the time.

Cordons

At most major incidents, cordoning to limit the access to the incident site can be expected. This serves a number of different functions but, in a river search context, they can be difficult to establish and maintain.

The Outer Cordon is usually managed by the police to ensure the safety of all personnel required to assist with the incident. Usually this will be based on the roads or footpaths that are used to approach the scene.

The Inner Cordon aims to ensure that all personnel operating within it are risk aware and have suitable

training, PPE and equipment to manage the risks. In incidents that have a Fire and Rescue Service attendance they would usually expect to manage the entry and exit of personnel into and from the inner cordon and ensure that organisations operating within the inner cordon are aware of risks and have suitable control measures in place to protect their personnel.

In search incidents these cordons are difficult to establish, mainly due to the relative size of the search area and the fact that, theoretically, it can grow. Practical considerations may mean these cordons are 'leaky' with multiple unmanaged access points.

To help manage these issues, establishing Rendezvous Points (RVPs), Incident Control Points (ICPs), briefing processes, party deployment and return plans, and getting people to run them, may help to minimise the early incident management time pressures.

Recording the deployment and return of searchers can be achieved by establishing an inner cordon control point and ensuring that everyone operating inside the inner cordon checks in and out with the control point.

In a large search where search teams may travel large distances then multiple inner cordon control points with good communications may help to manage deployment of teams into and out of their search tasks.

Plan for the unexpected

The distributed nature of search work means that the search teams will often be operating with a degree of isolation and removed from immediate support. During water searches, planning to hold back a rapid intervention team of 3-4 people fully capable of quickly responding to request for assistance can be a consideration. The more hazardous

the water, then perhaps the more important this function is, but they can also be tasked to conduct investigative activities if full PPE is required.

Conclusions

Water search incidents rapidly grow in size, both in terms of potential search area but also the sheer number of potential responders. The nature of rivers mean that the search can be more difficult to manage but planning and careful use of PPE for the teams can help to build an effective search response.

Cordon and zones are difficult to establish in a widescale search and there is always the chance of the unexpected.

Good search management processes will consider different facts and develop a range of tactics to deal with them. ■



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from The
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PROPHYLACTIC ANTIBIOTIC USE TO PREVENT WEIL'S DISEASE AFTER IMMERSION IN WATER

The incidence of Weil's disease (leptospirosis) in the UK is very low. Nevertheless cases are reported and the effects of the disease are potentially serious. Anything that will reduce the chances of infection is therefore worth employing.

A review has been carried out to assess the evidence in favour of using prophylactic antibiotics. Most of the studies come from countries outwith the UK where the disease is common but the findings are applicable to any situation.

The risk from immersion in clear running water is virtually non-existent. However if immersion has occurred in standing water, known areas of rat infestation and drainage channels there is very good evidence in favour of prophylactic antibiotic use to be used as soon as possible after immersion. The antibiotic of choice is doxycycline.

Emergency Medical Journal Dec. 2011

SINGLE HANDED RESUSCITATION

Fortunately, it is rare to be presented with a situation where single-handed resuscitation is required.

Nevertheless when it does happen it is a daunting task and any information that points to the most efficient practice is to be welcomed.

A recent study has looked at the best position for the rescuer. The research was done using a bag-valve-mask device and the results cannot be extrapolated to situations when this equipment is not available.

However, the results are sufficiently robust to be worth noting for the occasions when equipment is to hand. The study looked at three different positions for the rescuer; over the head CPR; lateral CPR (with the rescuer to the side of the casualty); and alternating the two positions.

102 health care professionals using a manikin were studied. The results demonstrated a clear advantage to the over the head position particularly in respect of using a bag-mask device

Stefan Maisch et al, Comparison of the over-the-head, lateral and alternating positions during cardiopulmonary resuscitation Emergency Medical Journal 2011,11, 974-978

Edale Mountain Rescue Team **MOUNTAIN RESCUE CASUALTY CARE TRAUMA/MEDICAL WEEKEND** 31 MARCH – 1 APRIL

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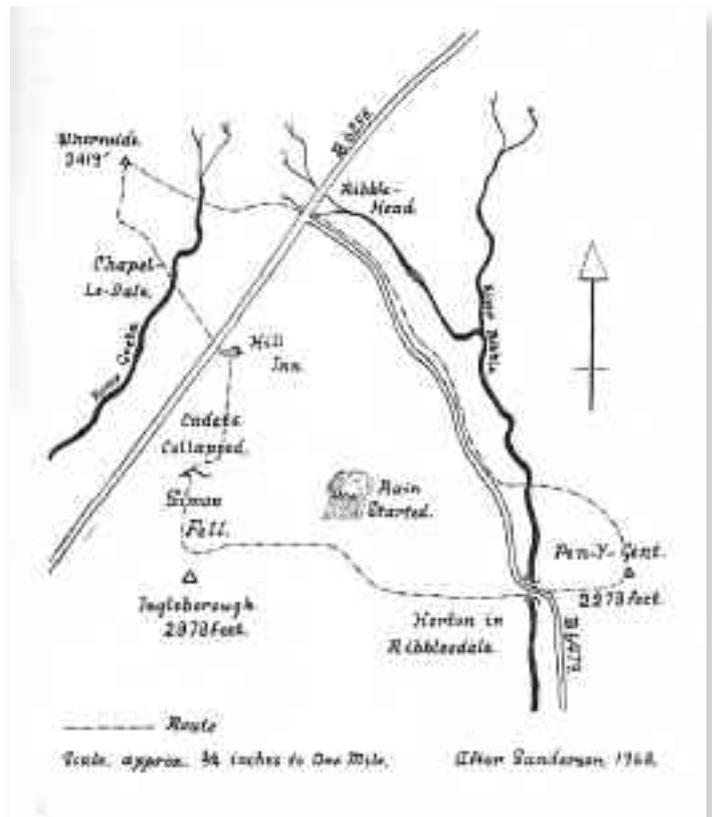
AN INCIDENT ON INGLEBOROUGH

The occurrence of accidental hypothermia has become recognised during recent years as a cause of morbidity and death in those engaged in mountain activities. Those particularly at risk are the young, the inexperienced and those with inadequate equipment.

Excessive physical stress is thought to be a precipitating factor. The random grouping of young people of different physical fitness as occurs in youth organisations and the armed forces may lead the weaker members of the party to excessive physical exertion in order to keep up with the rest of the party. Recently the possible errors in diagnosing all cases of

collapse in fell walkers under adverse climatic conditions as accidental hypothermia has been pointed out by Ogilvie and has led him to coin the term Exhaustion-Exposure Syndrome. The incident on Ingleborough Hill near Ingleton, Yorkshire, in 1967, illustrates these points and also enables some comments to be made on methods of treatment currently available.

On Sunday, 21 May 1967, a party of 80 members of the Army Cadet Force were camped at Chapel-le-Dale, near Ingleton. It was intended that the cadets should walk the Three Peaks route over Whernside, Pen-y-Gent and Ingleborough, a distance of 25 miles involving 6000 feet of ascent. The party arose at 04.00hrs and had breakfast of beans and sausage



medical

looking back...

ROBERT R GRIEVE NORTHERN RESCUE ORGANISATION, PRESTON: 1967

before setting out at 05.00hrs. The weather was fine, wind west sou-west speed 30-35 mph at 2000 feet, temperature was 10°C in the valley. During the ascent of the second mountain, Pen-y-Gent, at least one of the party (AB) was complaining of cramps in the legs and appeared to be lagging behind the rest of the party. The party had dinner of stew and rice pudding on descent from Pen-y-Gent. During the walk to the next mountain, Ingleborough, precipitation commenced at 14.00hrs, in the form of heavy rain and hail, temperature fell to 2°C at 2000 feet during the showers. At 15.15hrs, one of the cadets collapsed in the area of Simon Fell a little below the summit of Ingleborough. He was treated by covering with a sleeping bag and polythene bag by members of a mountain rescue team escorting the party. A stretcher was dispatched from Hill Inn, Chapel-le-Dale, to collect this casualty. At 16.00hrs, two more cadets collapsed and a request for assistance was made to the Northern Rescue Organisation who were in Ingleton having completed the safety check for the annual Fellsman 50 mile Hike. Five minutes later, it was learnt that two more cadets were being escorted off the mountain. It now appeared that there were at least three stretcher cases and two walking cases coming off the mountain. The landlord of the Hill Inn offered a bathroom and a bedroom for the treatment of the casualties and the public bar became the receiving room. Resuscitation equipment from the NRO's ambulance was installed in the bathroom.

The first casualty (AB) arrived at 17.15 hrs being half carried, half dragged by one of his companions. On examination, he was unable to respond on simple commands. He was cold to the touch but was not shivering and was very pale, muscle tone was increased. At this time:

Rectal temperature: 33.5°C (92°F)

Blood pressure: 120/80.

Pulse: 60 per minute, regular.

It was decided to treat the patient by the hot bath method as facilities for this were available. He was placed in water at 40°C and remained there for twenty minutes. His progress during treatment is shown below:

0 minutes:

Rectal Temp: 33.5°C. BP: 120/80.

5 minutes:

BP: 110/75.

10 minutes

Rectal Temp: 35°C. BP: 80/50.

General condition deteriorated, became unconscious. Head lowered, legs raised.

12 minutes

BP: 85/50

Improving, conscious, becoming pink.

20 minutes

RT: 37°C. BP: 110/60.

Rational, active.

25 minutes

BP: 120/70.

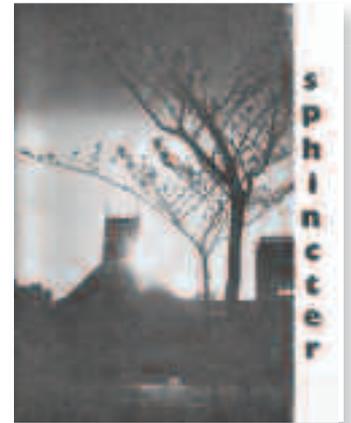
Removed from bath.

After treatment AB was able to walk unassisted to the bedroom. AB was noted to be wearing cotton vest, string vest, cotton pants, wool pullover, denim trousers, denim jacket, wool socks and boots All his clothing was soaking wet. He was aged fifteen, height 180cm, weight 68kg.

Three other casualties were treated at Hill Inn, one walking case and two stretcher cases. None of these casualties were hypothermic and they were all shivering. The two cases transported by stretcher appeared to have been improved by the treatment they received on the mountain from the rescue teams. This consisted of insulation in a down bag and covering with a polythene bag together with the administration of warm fluids. The clothing worn by these three casualties was similar to that worn by AB, All three casualties were given a bath at 40°C. This produced a considerable subjective improvement in their general condition. Two showed a transient fall in blood pressure after about five minutes in the bath. A fifth casualty, a

stretcher case, was transported elsewhere for treatment. No details are known of this case although his general condition after treatment was poorer than that of the four patients treated at Hill Inn. All five cadets were later transported to hospital for overnight observation.

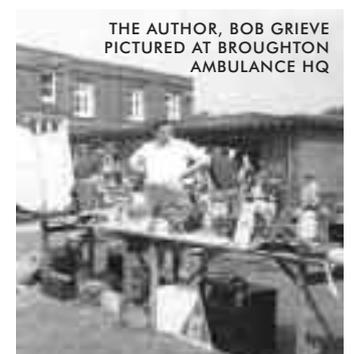
A number of important points emerge from a study of these cases. The clothing worn by the cadets was inadequate for mountain activities. On later investigation, the clothing assembly worn by AB was found to have an insulating assembly of 1 Clo. None of the party had any outer waterproof clothing although groundsheets were available at the camp. It is obvious that more publicity must be given to the standard of clothing required for mountain activities. None of the cadets interviewed had received any instruction on mountain clothing or exposure. From the comments of some of the party, the food provided was insufficient to sustain the cadets during a rigorous mountain day. It was noted that the condition of the casualties evacuated by stretcher was better than that of the two casualties assisted off the mountain when they arrived at the road head. However, no definite comparison can be made as the exact original state of the two groups is unknown. The recovery of the four cases treated as soon as they reached the road head was quicker than was that of the case evacuated nine miles before treatment. This illustrates the possible adverse effects of an ambulance journey for victims of exposure and that efficient treatment facilities at the road head are desirable in all cases and may be essential in a few cases if they are to be resuscitated. During treatment of three of the casualties, a fall in their blood pressure was noted whilst they were in the hot bath. This fall was most marked in the hypothermic casualty (AB) and produced a transient period of unconsciousness. In a person with a more profound degree of



hypothermia or a less stable cardiovascular system it is possible that the fall may be more pronounced and could conceivably lead to nervous system damage unless the fall is looked for and appropriate action taken by lowering the patient's head and raising his legs. The exact cause of this fall in blood pressure is unknown, it is likely however that it will prove to be due to a sudden decrease in peripheral vascular resistance. Until more information is collected on the effects on blood pressure and other vital functions, it is felt that the method of active rewarming by means of a hot bath should only be used with great caution and preferably only then with medical advice and attention.

The author would like to thank Mr Cliff Price, Secretary of the Lancashire Mountain Accident Panel for permission to publish information contained in the LMAP report on this incident. ■

Thanks, once again to Phil Lund for sharing this material over the last three issues.



FIFTH EUROPEAN CAVE RESCUE CONFERENCE STARIGRAD-PAKLENICA CROATIA 15-18 SEPTEMBER 2011



PETER ALLWRIGHT
BCRC



Following the UIS Cave Rescue Conference held in Bulgaria in May, the 5th European Cave Rescue meeting was held in Starigrad, Croatia – located on the coastal road between Zadar and Rijeka. The conference was based around the Croatian Mountain/Cave Rescue Base for the Paklenica National Park. The conference was attended by Pete and Barbara Allwright, from BCRC and Dr William Lumb, Medical Officer BCRC, with delegates from several European cave rescue groups including the French, Italian, Austrian and Croatian organisations.

Whereas the weather in Bulgaria has been unseasonably cold in May, the weather for this conference was unseasonably warm and sunny with temperatures regularly reaching 31°C in the shade. So it was a good thing the Adriatic was within a few hundred yards of the conference location and good use was made of this fact. The accommodation was very comfortable and clean whilst the food was good local cuisine, with use of local hotels and restaurants for various meals.

The conference was split into various threads. The Medical thread comprised a variety of meetings of doctors at which Dr William Lumb represented the BCRC.

There was a meeting of cave divers during the conference, primarily from France, Italy and Croatia. I do not have a full report on events but am advised all 'went to plan'. The Italians brought their portable decompression chamber, which proved to be of great interest.

Another thread was technical and looked at testing loading on ropes during the use of a Tyrolean with a loaded stretcher. The testing party were able to simulate the failure of a belay and, using modern dynamometer load gauges connected to a laptop, were able to measure the peak loading. The testing was carried out on a very hot Friday afternoon high in the Paklenica hills. The Tyrolean was strung between two suitable rock faces identified before the conference. For those not involved

directly in the testing, there was a long wait between 'things happening', until the interesting bit when it came to cutting the rope to simulate a failure.

The net result of this testing was analysed on the Saturday and a report prepared. This showed that the maximum loading encountered was well within the safety limits. A report on this testing is available from the author if you require more details.

The author was scheduled to present the Nicola 3 cave radio on the Sunday morning. During the period leading up to the conference, strenuous efforts by the designer Graham Naylor, supported by Pete Allwright, had been made to get a working pair of radios. There had been one successful test in Oxford but this had been terminated early by the intervention of a rather large bull showing great interest in Graham's red rucksack!

Subsequent tests had been disappointing with no communication being made. So on arrival in Starigrad, Pete decided to make sure the batteries were fully charged and tested the voltage level first – and found the level was much too low for the radios to operate, thus explaining the problems.

So the batteries were all fully recharged and checked. On the Saturday morning, further bench tests were carried out which showed that the Nicola 3 radios would talk to each other if the aerials were in close proximity. Further, Christian Dodelin and Olivier Lanet were present with a prototype of the SSF (Spéléo Secours Français) Pimpernel cave radios. After resolving problems with its battery power supply, we were able to show that the Pimpernel would successfully talk to Nicola 3.

So the presentation of Nicola 3 was duly given on the Sunday morning and we adjourned into the hills to attempt some testing. This was only partially successful with one Nicola 3 talking to the Pimpernel (if only just). The second Nicola 3 gave no results. Later that week, the batteries were tested again and it was discovered there were further battery problems in that one had failed completely. (The current prototypes of Nicola 3 uses internal rechargeable batteries.)

The CaveLink radio system used in

the Hölloch was presented by Felix Zeilger, from Switzerland. This is now a mature radio system offering a lot of facilities but using only text messaging. The CaveLink radios can be attached to a number of specialist data collection devices (the initial design objective).

A text message can be entered in a manner similar to a mobile phone and, when transmitted, will take many seconds (and possibly minutes) to send depending on the transmission distance. The system guarantees successful transmission requiring the receiving station to check the data is correct using software techniques. CaveLink will retry failed messages, increasing the transmission power until successful. This system can be connected to mobile phones and to some radio systems.

It has been used extensively by the Swiss Cave Rescue (Spéléo-Secours Suisse <http://www.speleosecours.ch/fr/> in French/German) and is also used for long term data collection. See website for details www.cavelink.com.

European Cave Rescue Association

The idea for a grouping of cave rescue organisations across Europe has been developing over recent years. The thrust for this comes from the active continental teams – France, Italy and Croatia – together with a number of eastern European teams.

This year, shortly before the conference, a draft constitution was circulated. This was quite detailed and contained a number of clauses to which the BCRC was unable to subscribe. The immediate reaction was not the support the progression of such an organisation – the brief was to support the current loose arrangement supported by regular conferences.

A more formal meeting to discuss the proposal was held on the Saturday (17 September).

The cited objectives in the Third Circular for the conference could be summarised as:

- Means of exchanging experience and knowledge.
- Increasing cooperation, particularly in the case of major operations.
- Producing information and reports about incidents.



Other ideas conceived included making an active contribution to 'caver safety'. Whilst the BCRC would subscribe to these ideas, to quantify them formally was felt a step too far. For example, aspects of 'caver safety' and training here falls into the remit of the British Caving Association, deliberately separating the role of training and the like from that of rescue in the event of problems occurring.

There was some support for the idea of keeping a loose arrangement, but overall the teams represented almost unanimously supported the idea of a formal setup. There was a suggestion that some funding might be available from the EU. Within this, having a formal organisation would allow cave rescue to speak with one voice and thereby be taken seriously by the authorities.

There were different opinions whether cave rescue should fall within the FSE (Fédération Spéléologique Européenne www.fsue.org) or act as a separate body. This matter is to be investigated further.

The outcome of the meeting was to progress the draft constitution to one that is acceptable to all teams, with a

view to ratification at the next European Cave Rescue meeting in the Jura, France next October.

Further Nicola 3 testing

Following a holiday in Croatia, we headed to France through Italy, arriving late afternoon on Saturday 24 September in the Vercours, immediately making contact with Benoit Joly from 3SI (Speleo Secours Isere). After a drinks break, we carried out some surface tests with the working Nicola 3 and a Nicola 2. At last some real success with clear 2-way communications albeit over a very short distance. So the tentative plans for testing the next day were now confirmed.

An intense thunderstorm overnight lead to a very misty morning, but a dry clearing day was forecast. A rigging group from 3SI started early; we were collected from the hotel at 9.30am and headed to the Gouffre Fumant.

At the entrance, both Nicola 2 and Nicola 3 radios were set up. Not too long afterwards, communication from underground was established on the Nicola 2. However, whilst the Nicola 3 (N3) was picking up the signal, the

audio was very quiet and was being drowned by the background interference. The fact that N3 reception would be quiet was an expected problem – the amplifier settings are presently fixed and are at a low amplification setting. The fact that the background completely swamped the signal was not so expected.

However, transmitting from N3 to the underground station (at, I was advised, –30 metres) was good and clear, although the Bluetooth coding settings are not quite correct leading to 'robotic' voice reception. Some time was then spent experimenting with aeriels and configurations, but no significant improvement in Nicola 3 reception was achieved.

To conclude, the first Nicola 3 underground tests were deemed on the whole to be successful with the major problem of the signal amplification being known. The N3 developer, Graham Naylor, is planning a further round of prototypes shortly with a view to going to production first quarter of next year – watch this space! ■

YORKSHIRE DALES RESCUE PANEL & BRITISH CAVE RESCUE COUNCIL

25TH BCRC CAVE RESCUE CONFERENCE 12-14 OCTOBER 2012

On behalf of the British Cave Rescue Council, the Yorkshire Dales Rescue Panel (YDRP) will be hosting the 25th National Cave Rescue Conference on the weekend of 12-14 October 2012. The conference will be based in Clapham, North Yorkshire, the location of the Cave Rescue Organisation (CRO) headquarters.

A First Circular is planned for the New Year. At this stage, it is expected that Saturday will comprise a number of workshops, whilst Sunday will be more lecture based.

Any suggestions or proposals for workshops or lectures, please contact the organising secretary, Graham Hughes hughesg01@hotmail.com in the first instance.

Plus

THE EUROPEAN CAVE RESCUE CONFERENCE 2012 IS EXPECTED TO BE HELD 19-21 OCTOBER IN THE JURA, FRANCE.

... a busy period for some cavers!

caves

NEWS FROM CLAPHAM... A BRIGHT FUTURE FOR THE CRO DISPLAY TRAILER

Two local firms, well respected within the Yorkshire Dales, have jointly enabled CRO to complete their display trailer with the installation of the latest high tech display medium. Steve Tullett, Northern Sales Manager for SDMO, is seen presenting CRO's Malcolm Linford with a 240v generator, which will be used to power a DVD television unit generously provided by Tooby's Electrical of Ingleton in association with Toshiba UK.

The trailer is used for PR purposes, visiting local shows and events to educate visitors and locals about the team and their rescue work, and to provide sound advice for those venturing into the outdoors. The team will be putting together a montage of video and photos to show their recent and highlight the variety of rescues they undertake. Despite the name, the Cave Rescue Organisation undertakes rescues above and under the ground and increasingly the majority of the call-outs are to surface incidents. Viewers of 'Helicopter Heroes' will have seen the team feature many times in several episodes, providing the vital expertise and support that enables the Air Ambulance to evacuate casualties to hospital.



GRAND RAFFLE WINNERS

The winning tickets for the 2011 Grand Raffle have been drawn and a list of winners can be found on www.cro.org.uk. Ben Lyon of Lyon Equipment kindly visited the depot to pick the 26 lucky winners who have now been informed.

Local businesses supplied a wide variety of very generous prizes and team members and supporters sold tickets to friends and family and at events attended by the team across the summer. The raffle was a huge success, raising around £3500, which will be used to purchase essential team clothing for the winter.

A gentleman from Shropshire won the first prize of two weeks villa accommodation in Florida donated by Zoe Ketteridge, who was herself rescued by the team from Whernside in February 2009 and has since been one of the team's most active supporters.

Raffle organiser and team member, Heather Eastwood said 'we'd like to thank everyone who bought a ticket, sold a ticket or donated a prize for their extreme generosity.'

ULTIMATE THREE PEAKS CHALLENGE

Early on the morning of Saturday 12 November, nearly 40 walkers and runners met in Horton-in-Ribblesdale to undertake The Cave Rescue Organisation Ultimate Three Peaks Challenge. The aim of the Yorkshire Three Peaks walk is to complete a route of 24 miles taking in the peaks of Penyghent, Whernside and Ingleborough, within a period of twelve hours but the time of year for this event meant that the start and finish parts of the route were undertaken in darkness.

For once the weather was kind and there were no serious problems experienced by the walkers. Indeed the fastest time was four and half hours! Afterwards, CRO received many messages from those who took part, praising the support and encouragement from the team members who turned out to help. Amongst the walkers was a team of three from Fresh Radio, who had been publicising the event prior to the date, including Mike Lennon, who described their experience as 'an absolutely brilliant day.' And it proved to be the best year yet for fundraising from this event - £4,000 to date.

MEANWHILE, BACK AT SNAILBEACH...



EMMA PORTER MIDLANDS CAVE RESCUE ORGANISATION

In the last issue, Midlands Cave Rescue Organisation (MCRO) reported on their recent multi-team training event, held over the weekend of 3-5 September. Little did we know our first call-out after that practice would be to the same underground location at Snailbeach Lead Mine in Shropshire!

The accident happened on the evening of Wednesday, 16 November, when one of the members of the group who was descending in the mine, suffered an epileptic fit on a short fixed ladder. This caused the caver to fall a short distance and, once she had recovered from the fit, she complained of neck, back and pelvic pain and had a number of further fits. When the first MCRO team reached the caver, of all the

places to end up she was positioned in exactly the same awkward location as the casualty in the recent rescue practice had been!

This time however, rather than hauling the caver up a number of fixed ladders and pitches, once she was comfortable and stable in the stretcher, a decision was made to carry her along the 40-yard level to Chapel Shaft and to do a one pitch haul. Chapel Shaft

is 165m deep from the surface down and the 40-yard level intercepts it at -90m. It was very fortunate that a scaffold platform at the 40-yard level had been erected where it meets Chapel Shaft - for the National Association of Mining History Organisation (NAMHO) Conference held at the end of July 2011 - and was still in place, which made the start of the haul much easier.

A total of 51 cavers attended the incident -

mainly MCRO members plus Gloucestershire Cave Rescue Group who provided surface support and a doctor. Many team members worked in the same positions as they had been on the training event and, six hours after the call-out had been initiated, the caver was safely on the surface and on her way to hospital.

Not only were the new radios (taken delivery of that evening) put into use, the multi-team training really paid off... if only we could always forward plan so well when we organise training events!

VOLUNTARY EMERGENCY LEADERSHIP COURSE

PAT HOLLAND

Mountain Rescue Ireland conducted the second run of its new custom-designed training course on Leadership of Voluntary Emergency Services in the Horse and Jockey Hotel over the weekend of 20-22 May, 2011. The aims of the course were to 'provide senior emergency service and community leaders with appropriate leadership knowledge, skills and self-awareness.'

This was the second time this new IMRA training course had an outing. From the laudatory comments returned by the attendees from various voluntary emergency services – including many from Ireland's own mountain rescue teams – it seems MRI has succeeded in producing an important new additional training resource specifically designed for voluntary emergency services.

The course, to be titled 'Voluntary Emergency Leadership' in 2012, was designed and delivered by Mary Mullins of South East Mountain Rescue Association (SEMRA), Diarmaid Scully of the Glen of Imaal MRT, and led by Pat



professional public services.

The leadership course, designed on behalf of Mountain Rescue Ireland to develop future mountain rescue team leaders, deliberately did not focus on technical mountain rescue techniques, but rather upon relevant human interaction aspects and techniques useful in leading and directing effectively the operations of voluntary emergency service responders in the attainment of operational missions and unit development goals.

Topics focused on those key leadership traits and human interactions of particular value to voluntary emergency services leaders where the delivery of the unit mission is so critically dependant upon the integrity and leadership qualities of the team/unit leader, who may not have the organisational and management supports typically available to professional

The course programme was revised on foot of evaluations from the 2009 course with, for example, all operational emergency management modules being removed. This clearly separated the course from the operations training course now delivered by a separate MRI SAR Operations Management course.

The course modules were delivered as taught leadership theory, facilitated sessions on various human interaction topics, discussion periods for learner groups and practical scenarios. The training ethos of the course was based on coaching rather than teaching.

As well as the MR learners, five learners came from non-mountain rescue services – three from the Irish Coast Guard, and one each from the Irish Red Cross and Civil Defence. Their different, and yet often very similar experiences, in delivering their individual emergency service missions to the public brought valuable insights and experiences in regard to voluntary services leadership. There was a lot of learning from each other on this course and lots of time to do so.

During both the 2009 and 2011 courses – each module was evaluated in writing by the

emergency service officers in the direction of their team and the delivery of operational tasks and roles.

HUMAN ASPECTS OF EMERGENCY TEAM LEADERSHIP MODULES:

- Leadership styles and values
- Changing a leadership style
- Creating a learning organisation
- Team culture
- Different individual working styles
- Practical scenarios involving interpersonal conflict and some solutions
- Personal leadership action plans
- Taking care of oneself as a leader



Pat Holland has been a member of South-Eastern Mountain Rescue Association (SEMRA) since the late '80s and served in a number of roles including new member liaison, deputy team leader and chairman. His

particular interests are in search planning and incident command, both operationally and as a trainer. He led Mountain Rescue Ireland for three years as national chairman during a period of great change, has been chairman of both the Irish Museums Association and the Local Authority Curators Group and was a co-founder of the South Tipperary VES committee.



Mary Mullins has been involved in mountain rescue since 2000 and is a member of the South Eastern MRT. She has served as team secretary and chairman, for three years as the secretary for Mountain Rescue Ireland and currently

holds the position of deputy team leader. Her particular areas of interest are casualty care, search management and CISM.



Diarmaid Scully is a management consultant and retired Irish Defence Forces' Commandant with 25 years service in both the Army and the Air Corps, and has been a member of the Glen of Imaal (Red Cross) MRT for eighteen

years. He served as Mountain Rescue Ireland's treasurer from 1999-2004 and chairman of their Training-Development group in 2010. He was awarded a MRI Distinguished Service Award in 2010. He has worked in Eircom, and as the National Services Director of the Irish Red Cross. He is MRI's liaison officer to the Irish Air Corps, the Irish Coast Guard's SAR Aviation Forum, and the HSE's National Emergency Management Office.

Now see working with people is something that has to be done everyday

Holland also of SEMRA – all of whom have qualifications in relevant areas as well as several years service in voluntary and

Ireland

attendees – all of whom were experienced responder officers intent on evaluating the suitability of the MRI course for their own voluntary services. This was followed at the end of the course with an overall course evaluation. Reaction was very positive. Most participants felt their view on voluntary service leadership has changed, now agreeing that leadership starts with understanding their own personal management style, values and work ethic as well as the culture, ethos and value of their organisations. They also identified the differences between leadership and management in their roles as leaders/future leaders in their organisation.

An agreed conclusion emanating from discussions with participants is that attendance at this type of course is highly recommended for experienced MRT/VES members' who are:

- * Trained, experienced rescue party leaders
- * Skilled in incident command
- * Have ambition to become a team leader or take up a senior management or committee position in their mountain rescue team or voluntary emergency service.

The new, twice-tested and successful national 'Voluntary Emergency Leadership' course has therefore graduated from its pilots in 2009 and 2011 and is recognised as both necessary and recommended. Following formal approval and endorsement by Mountain Rescue Ireland earlier this year, it is expected to become a staple of the Mountain Rescue Ireland annual training programme. We would like to invite leaders from our colleague voluntary emergency services to participate in the course. The next is provisionally scheduled for 20-22 April, 2012 and applications from voluntary emergency service leaders are more than welcome. Enquiries to mary.mullins@gmail.com. ■

HUMAN ASPECTS OF EMERGENCY TEAM LEADER

MATTIE SHANNON
OFFICER IN CHARGE
DOOLIN UNIT IRISH COAST GUARD

I'd had the idea we'd get a manual or set of instructions and lectures on best ways to be a leader but the course didn't give a general set of guidelines (there probably are none as each individual has their own style). It was well organised and open at the same time, more philosophical, its aim was to get us to look at our own style, give us ideas, open our minds and share with other participants.

The course is evolving all the time and they are hoping to get it FETAC certified in the future. There were three lecturers and a guest speaker and attendees included one rep from Civil Defence, one Red Cross, four from mountain rescue, one from Tramore Cliff Rescue and three from the Irish Coast Guard.

The theme was on leadership types, styles and values. We completed a questionnaire to show what style of leadership each participant uses, then discussed each style and looked at ways of enhancing a particular style.

We discussed many topics including 'leader' versus 'manager' and the importance of defining the two. Also up for discussion was conflict resolution and ways of dealing with it within a team and how not to get sucked into role play in conflict. We discussed the importance of being open to new ideas and able to delegate, to create a learning organisation and stand back.

Other topics discussed were the cultures of each of

the organisations involved in the course, and how best to work together and learn from each other. We looked at the challenges within leadership and the importance of looking after oneself, time management, dealing with PR and families of casualties etc. Discussion groups formed at different stages to cover and tease out different views on material we were covering. We also did a number of live sessions, role playing various complications within an organisation, between management, team members and team leaders and management. This aspect I found difficult as I'm not comfortable at role playing – I normally need a lot of time and concentration to analyse situations. There was little in the way of lecture notes but, in the course pack supplied, there were notes and a note book and a CD of all the material needed to revise the course and help put ideas and plans into action.

Overall I thought the course was very well worthwhile, I got a lot out of it, with twenty years' experience as team leader, I feel it would be more advantageous to have done this course earlier. As the whole outlook and activity of a team depends on the type of leader that is in place, it is essential that each officer in charge is given every help, know how and assistance in leading and managing each team. Courses such as this, and in this format, are a great help to Coast Guard team leaders in their task of leading a team of up to 25 volunteers with each member having very different ideas, strengths and weaknesses. It would give them an insight into themselves at first and pointers on how to deal with team members and problems that exist in all volunteer groups. To compliment this leadership course a management section or course would prepare most OICs to effectively lead and manage their team in a safe and coherent working unit.

EVERYBODY LEADS SOMEBODY SOMETIME!

ROBIN ATKINSON SEMRA

At The Horse and Jockey Hotel, Co. Tipperary: an excellent place. Not an emergency in sight...

'Managers manage but leaders lead,' they say. We have a task to complete on every call-out; we have to manage the process somehow, and we have human relationships to deal with all along the way! Whether we are mountain rescue, Coast Guard, Red Cross, Civil Defence, Fire Service, Garda, or any other volunteer emergency response group, we have to cope with conflict, resolve issues as they arise,

and implement progress and change in order to stay on top of our game! Easier said than done!

The title 'Human aspects of emergency team leadership' in no way adequately portrays the heady, exhausting mix of flotsam and human porridge we all have to deal with when we set out on our emergency volunteer careers... and these may be our very own team comrades we're talking about! Not just Joe Public!

Whaddya do with Bizzy Christina, BeeStrongLee, TryHard Robin,

Perrfect Zara, or Please-the-people Vijay when they all want to be team leader this time out? When they all know best, better than you do anyway, and the rain is belting down and the casualty slowly bleeding out? Will you let them make a drama out of a crisis? Or can you find a way forward and get the job done and make everybody feel good about it too?

Not that straightforward when you think about it, is it? This leadership course opens your eyes in the middle of the melée and I believe that every one of us needs to attend it. We all lead somebody sometime! And we all need somebody to move. Unreservedly recommended!!!

I learned that there is so much I have to learn!

Really vital, want more of this

Turn the page for more 

**JOHN RONAN
WATERFORD CIVIL
DEFENCE**

Early in April, my CDO asked me would I be interested going on a Team Leadership course been given by Mountain Rescue Ireland. After some more explaining, he finally convinced me I wasn't going to have a stretcher strapped to my back and sent off up a hill somewhere.

A few days before the course, I received an email with several articles covering Leadership in Search and Rescue, along with a small bit of pre-course preparation work. The articles themselves were interesting reading as I probably would not have come across them otherwise.

I arrived in the Horse and Jockey on Friday evening, a bit apprehensive. After registering and getting a quick bite to eat, we hit the ground running. After a few minutes of organised madness, and lots of laughs doing a team bingo exercise to break the ice, we settled down to an overview of the course from the instructors. The overview was very thorough, and made sure no one was under any illusions about what would be expected of them over the course of the weekend.

Ed Fagan (who I had already met in the bar while getting a bite to eat) gave an interesting presentation entitled 'Conflict - A Journey of reflection.' He gave a very relaxed presentation which generated much discussion, outlining his experiences and opinions on topics such as a team code of conduct, induction, the art of anticipation, and bullying. After lots of discussion it was eventually decided the discussion could continue in the bar, so class was adjourned.

Saturday morning, we kicked off at the agreed time of 09:00 (to the surprise of the instructors, I think). After a quick review of the previous night's work, we jumped right into subjects such as leadership styles,

leadership values, the PAC model, learning organisations and working styles. As I had never come across any of this material before, I really found it interesting, so much so that one of my concerns after the course will be how to remember it all.

Now it was time to put some of our learning into practice, so we broke into groups, and given scenarios to 'act' out (I use that term loosely). It became obvious quite quickly that some had more of a thespian ability than others. While initially seemingly silly, each scenario had quite a serious learning message, and related to part of the work we had done earlier. I found them very useful for reinforcing the learning concepts covered during the day.

After some representations were made to the instructors, and with the agreement of those not interested in rugby, it was agreed to finish at 17:00, eat dinner, returning to class at 19:00. As the food was arriving at the table, the signs were ominous for Leinster. After inhaling the food, we went back out to watch a most spectacular second half. And finished up the evening with a session on The Drama Triangle and some discussion around it and how to try and avoid getting dragged into it.

Sunday morning we started earlier than scheduled: earlier to start, earlier we'd all get to head for home. After a recap of the previous day, this morning was more introspective, focusing on ourselves and our own leadership traits, lessons learnt, filling out our final evaluation forms, giving feedback to the instructors before having a light lunch and heading home.

Personally I found the course very interesting, even illuminating at times. All of the class engaged in constructive debate, brought valuable and diverse experience to the course and were great company.

And a short note of Thanks...

Many thanks for facilitating a really good course last weekend. I thoroughly enjoyed it, being challenged to look at situations in a different light. You even organised the weather to be so bad, but I think you forgot to tell the weather men that the course was only for a weekend and not the week!

One of the aspects I enjoyed most was the interaction with the other agencies, I think it smartens us all up a bit to work with other like-minded people who have slightly different agendas.

Once again, thank you so much, I hope you were not too exhausted at the end of the weekend. Surprisingly, I didn't feel too tired at all, I think it was the refreshing thoughts and ideas!!

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SHAPING THE MOUNTAIN LANDSCAPES OF SCOTLAND

THE ICE AGE

BY JOHN GORDON

The mid-nineteenth century saw a revolution in geological thinking about the processes that shaped the present landscape. Until then, most geologists explained surface landforms and deposits in terms of a great flood or marine submergence.

Although the former extension of glaciers and their effects on the landscape were recognised in areas close to the Alps and in the mountains of Norway, the realisation that large areas of northern Europe and North America had been affected by continental-scale glaciation during a great Ice Age represents one of the major scientific advances of the nineteenth century. Building on ideas by Jens Esmark, Jean de Charpentier, Karl Schimper and others, the Swiss geologist, Louis Agassiz, was pre-eminent in developing and promoting the Ice Age theory, and evidence from the mountains of Scotland played a key part in the story. Scotland was an ideal place for Agassiz to test his ideas since there are no present-day glaciers and the mountains are relatively low in comparison with the Alps. Agassiz visited Scotland in 1840, travelling north from Glasgow through the West Highlands, searching for the traces of former glaciers. He found striations and moraines in various places, including below Ben Nevis, but in Glen Roy and Glen Spean he recognised the Parallel Roads to be the shorelines of former ice-dammed lakes, similar to modern features he had observed near Chamonix. He thus had the compelling evidence he needed, and on 7 October 1840, under the headline, 'Discovery of former glaciers in Scotland, especially in the Highlands, by Professor Agassiz', the Ice Age was first announced to the wider public in the pages of The Scotsman newspaper.

*"It was in Scotland that I acquired precision in my ideas regarding ancient glaciers."
Louis Agassiz (1842)*

Although the last glaciers in Scotland vanished 11,500 years ago, our mountain landscapes and landforms owe much to their influence. This article introduces the Ice Age in Scotland.

The Ice Age

We now know that ice ages have occurred numerous times in the geological record. The latest, or Quaternary Ice Age, began 2.6 million years after a long period of global cooling following the 'hothouse' conditions of the Early Eocene. This cooling culminated in the expansion of ice sheets on northern land areas in North America, Greenland and Eurasia. The last few decades have seen great advances in the understanding of climate change during the Quaternary Ice Age, particularly from the remarkable climate archives preserved in the sediments on the floors of the world's oceans and in the ice layers of the Greenland and Antarctic ice sheets. The results have revealed that the Ice Age was not one long, unbroken period of glaciation. The climate has regularly switched between warm and cold conditions (Figure 1). There were many long, cold episodes (glacials), broken by shorter, warmer intervals (interglacials) when the climate was similar to, or even slightly warmer than, that of the present day. Typically, glacial intervals have lasted for about 100,000 years, interglacials for about 10,000 years.

Even the glacial periods were characterised by marked fluctuations in climate, and the most extreme conditions when the ice sheets were at their maximum extent generally lasted only 10,000 to 15,000 years. Not only have the climate shifts been

frequent, but they have also been extremely rapid. For example at the end of the last glaciation, 11,500 years ago, the climate in Greenland warmed by as much as 10°C from glacial to interglacial conditions in the space of a few decades.

During the early part of the Ice Age from 2.6 to about 0.75 million years ago, the climate record suggests that small mountain glaciers and icefields formed repeatedly in the Scottish Highlands. Subsequently, a succession of ice sheets enveloped the whole country, extending eastwards out across the floor of the North Sea (which was dry since global sea level was lowered by as much as 120 metres due to the volume of water locked up in the expanded global ice

sheets) and at times merging with the Scandinavian ice sheets. Westwards, the ice sheets spread out across the continental shelf and terminated near its edge west of the Outer Hebrides. Such ice sheets probably built up five or six times during the last 750,000 years. During intervening times, the mountains were occupied periodically by less extensive corrie glaciers and icefields. The scenery of Scotland's mountains has therefore been sculpted during many phases of glaciation.

The last glaciation

The last time that the climate was broadly comparable to that of today was during the last interglacial between about 128,000 and 116,000

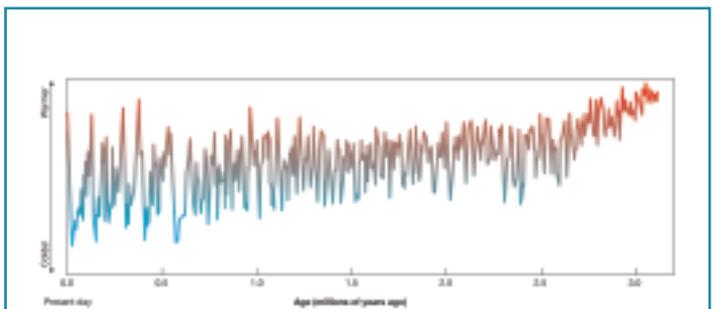


FIGURE 1: Climate change during the last 3 million years reconstructed from a sediment core from the mid-Atlantic Ocean. The diagram represents changes in global ice volume, interpreted in terms of warmer or colder climate. During the most intense glacial periods of the last 750,000 years, ice sheets periodically covered the whole of Scotland and moved offshore; during the many less cold episodes, smaller icefields and corrie glaciers existed in the Highlands. Interglacial periods, when the climate was similar to that of today, or warmer, have been relatively brief.

Turn the page
for more

Shaping the mountain landscapes of Scotland continued

years ago. After a marked cooling around 75,000 years ago, glaciers were then present in the Highlands in one form or another until 11,500 years ago. The last ice sheet built up before about 32,000 years ago. At its maximum about 26,000 years ago, it merged with the Scandinavian ice sheet on the floor of the North Sea and spread out across the continental shelf west of the Outer Hebrides (Figure 2). The ice sheet may then have retreated for a short time before advancing again around 22,000 years ago. During this later phase, the ice was less extensive, with the icefront possibly located some 30 kilometres off the present coast of eastern Scotland and some 80 kilometres to the west of the Uists.

The main directions of ice flow have been reconstructed from the patterns of striations and dispersal of erratics (glacially transported rocks). The glaciers grew outwards from major centres of ice accumulation in the Western and Northern Highlands, with an ice shed extending from Sutherland to the Clyde (Figure 2). Local ice centres formed on the islands of Skye, Mull and the Outer Hebrides and merged with mainland ice flowing west and northwest. An ice centre also developed in the western Southern Uplands. At its maximum extent, the ice sheet probably buried all but the very highest mountains. At other times, some of the higher summits in the Northern Highlands, Skye, Rum, Mull and Outer Hebrides protruded as isolated, rocky summits (nunataks). The presence of summit blockfields on Ben Nevis, Bidean nam Bian, Ben Starav, Ladhar Bheinn, Ben More Assynt, Conival, An Teallach and Clisham, for example, suggests they may have escaped an icy burial for extended periods.

At some stage prior to the last glaciation, ice from the mainland is believed to have crossed the Outer Hebrides. However, the patterns of striations and transport of erratics indicate that during the last glaciation an independent ice cap existed on the islands, with ice centres or domes

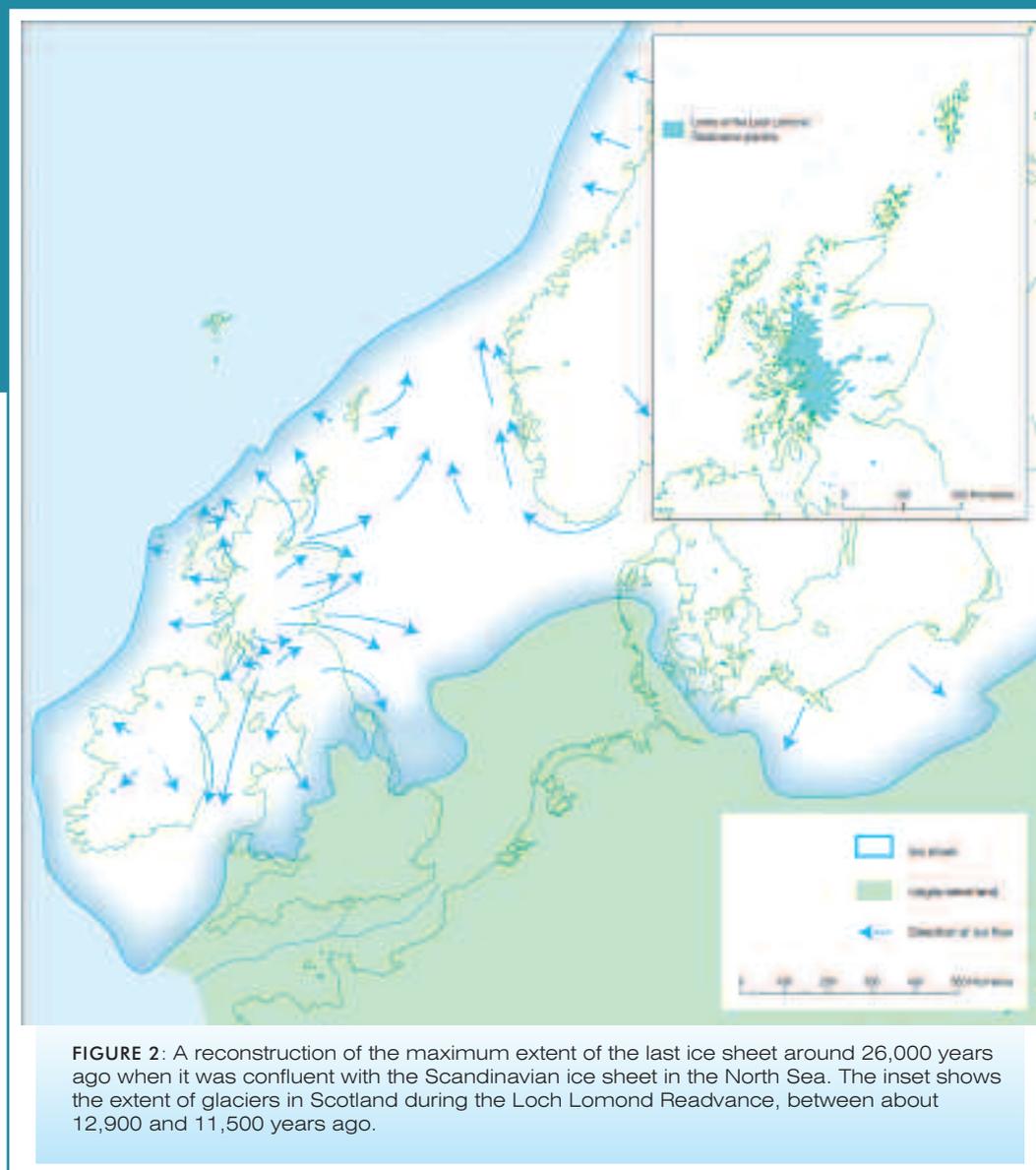


FIGURE 2: A reconstruction of the maximum extent of the last ice sheet around 26,000 years ago when it was confluent with the Scandinavian ice sheet in the North Sea. The inset shows the extent of glaciers in Scotland during the Loch Lomond Readvance, between about 12,900 and 11,500 years ago.

over the mountains of Harris and along the west coast of the Uists.

The period from about 17,000 to 14,000 years ago was one of intense environmental change as the climate ameliorated, the last ice sheet wasted and vegetation began to re-establish on the unstable mineral soils. Just after 15,000 years ago, the climate warmed rapidly and ice retreat accelerated. The melting ice released vast volumes of meltwater, forming meltwater channels and extensive deposits of sand and gravel in the glens and straths. The glaciers retreated actively, with local readvances (eg. in the northern Cairngorms in Gleann Einich and in the northern Lairig Ghru). Only one regional readvance of the ice sheet is recognised, the Wester Ross Readvance, which is marked by a well-defined end moraine in Coigach and Applecross.

However, the Ice Age had a sting in its tail. By about 13,000 years ago, the climate was again cooling rapidly, and glaciers once more expanded in the

Highlands. This final glacial event is known as the 'Loch Lomond Readvance' after its type area at Loch Lomond, and the time period is known as the 'Loch Lomond Stadial'. The largest icefield built up in the West Highlands, extending from Torridon to Loch Lomond, with smaller icefields on Skye and Mull and numerous small corrie and valley glaciers elsewhere (Figure 2 inset). There was a very strong precipitation gradient from west to east, so that much smaller glaciers formed in the Cairngorms compared with the large icefield 50km to the west, reflecting snow-bearing winds from the SW. Mean July temperatures at sea level in western Scotland were 6°C, some 8°C lower than that at present, and permafrost probably existed down to sea level.

The Loch Lomond Readvance glaciers produced some of the most striking moraines that occur in the Highlands and Islands (eg. in Glen Torridon). Frost weathering was intense on exposed summits, and

solifluction on slopes beyond the glacier limits produced a variety of lobes and sheets of frost-weathered debris. Rockfall talus also accumulated below steeper rock slopes. The vegetation reverted to tundra communities, with the loss of all trees and most tall shrubs. Rivers flowed in braided, unstable channels, infilling upland valley floors with sediment.

Glaciers and glacial processes

To understand how glaciers shape the landscape, it is helpful to know a little more about them. Glaciers are moving bodies of ice. They form in areas where more snow accumulates in winter than melts in summer. The snow is transformed into ice, which deforms and flows downslope under gravity to lower altitudes where it melts. Glaciers exist in various shapes and sizes but can be categorised broadly according to their size and relationship to the underlying topography (Figure 3). Mountain

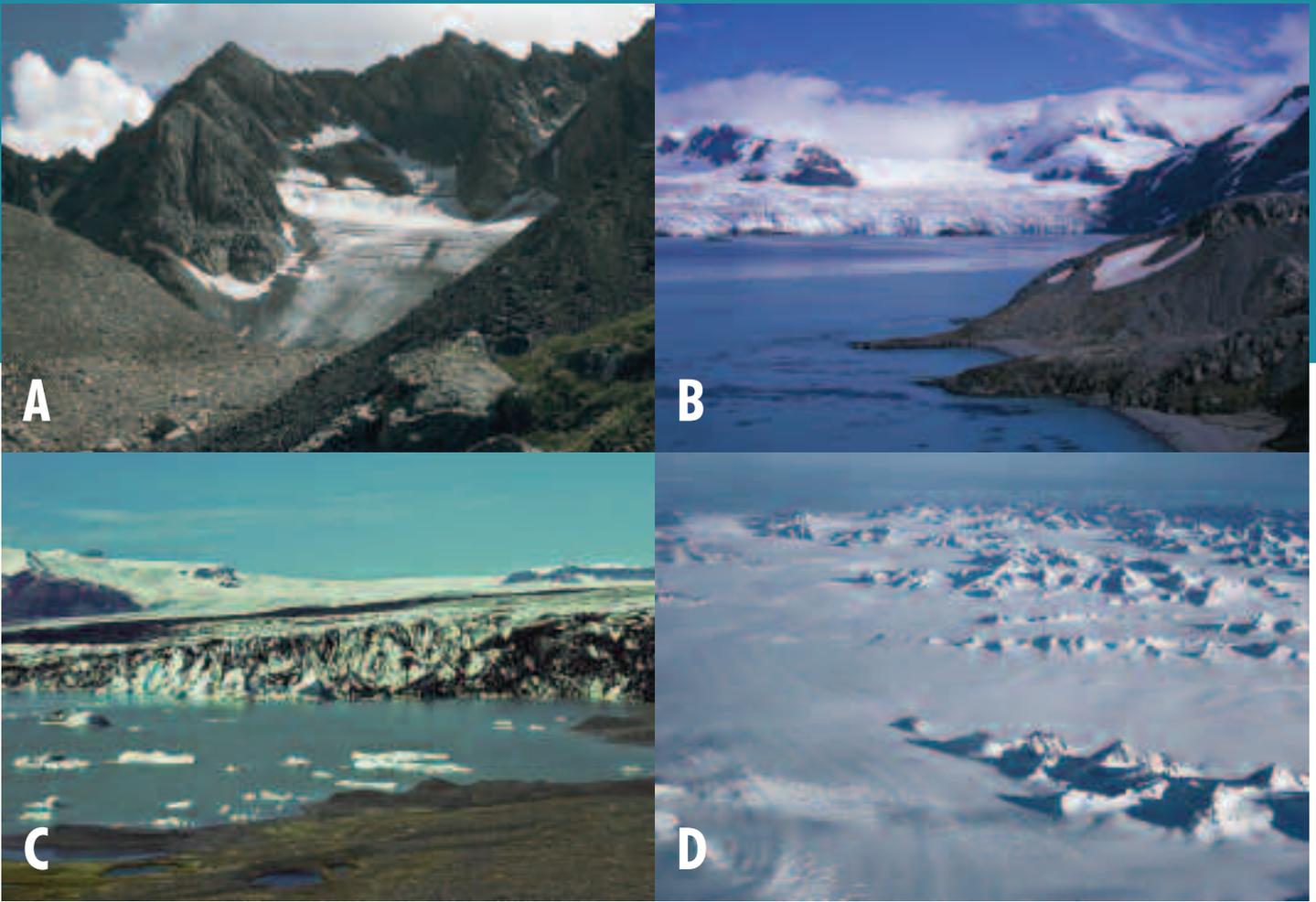


FIGURE 3: Modern glaciers reveal how the mountains of Scotland might have appeared at different times during the Ice Age. A. As the climate cooled, small corrie glaciers occupied many shaded valley heads. B. During periods of more extensive mountain glaciation, glaciers from icefields in the West Highlands flowed down the glens to the coast, like these glaciers on South Georgia. C. Outlet glacier draining from the Vatnajökull ice cap in Iceland. D. Ice sheets similar to that in Greenland covered Scotland numerous times during the coldest parts of the Ice Age, leaving only the tops of the highest mountains as nunataks above the ice surface. A fast flowing ice stream drains through the mountains in the left of the photo.

glaciers include small corrie glaciers, which occupy shaded basins at the heads of alpine or highland valleys, and valley glaciers flowing out from corries or mountain icefields. Icefields are extensive areas of interconnected valley glaciers, above which higher peaks rise as nunataks (eg. the Patagonian Icefields). Ice caps are discrete, dome-shaped ice masses that largely bury the underlying mountain topography. They are usually drained by outlet glaciers, which tend to follow the valleys that lie beneath the ice; examples include Vatnajökull in Iceland and Jostedalbreen in Norway. Ice sheets occur on a much larger scale, like those that cover Greenland and Antarctica today.

The temperature of the ice in a glacier is important, particularly in the basal layers, since this influences whether water is present. Water pressure plays a crucial role in the flow of the glacier, the processes of erosion and deposition and the landforms produced. A glacier is said

to be 'cold-based' where the temperature at the base is below the pressure melting point (the pressure at the base of a glacier lowers the melting point of the ice there below 0°C) and it is frozen to its bed. Meltwater is not present at the ice-bed interface and the glacier moves very slowly at only a few metres per year, largely by plastic deformation in the basal layers of the ice. Conversely, if the basal ice layer is at the pressure melting point, the glacier is said to be 'warm-based'. Meltwater is present and the glacier is additionally able to slide over its bed or to move over a layer of lubricated, deforming sediment at much faster speeds of tens to hundreds of metres a year or more. Cold-based glaciers occur today in polar and continental areas and at higher altitudes where temperatures and/or precipitation are low (for example in Antarctica, the north of Greenland and in higher parts of the Alps). Warm-based glaciers are typical of more oceanic areas where temperatures and snowfall are higher

(for example in Norway, Iceland and south-east Alaska).

Some glaciers, however, are composite, comprising zones of warm- and cold-based ice. Where temperatures and snowfall are low or the ice is relatively thin (eg. at higher altitudes or over underlying hills and mountains), the ice may be cold-based. Where temperatures and snowfall are higher, or the ice is thicker (eg. in valleys or at lower altitudes), then the ice may be warm-based. Within ice sheets, zones of fast moving, warm-based ice are known as 'ice streams'. They can flow at speeds of several kilometres a year or more and typically produce highly streamlined subglacial landforms.

Generally, warm-based glaciers are able to carry out much greater erosion and landscape modification than cold-based glaciers because they are sliding over their beds and are faster moving. This can result in quite marked differences in landforms and landscape modification, as subsequent articles will reveal.

Conclusion

The Ice Age glaciers changed considerably the pre-existing mountain landscapes of Scotland and left behind a legacy of distinctive landforms. They carved out corries and glens, breached pre-existing watersheds, deepened pre-glacial river valleys and deposited moraines. In the Cairngorms, the glaciers excavated deep glens through the mountains but left the plateau surfaces in-between relatively unmodified. In North West Scotland, the ice sheets extensively scoured the landscape, forming ice-scraped hills and loch-filled depressions. As the glaciers melted, they fed large rivers of meltwater which deposited extensive spreads of sand and gravel. The next articles will look at these changes in more detail and how the Ice Age glaciers shaped the mountains of Scotland. ■



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