

mountain rescue

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52 **SPRING**
2015



THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE FOR MOUNTAIN AND CAVE RESCUE IN ENGLAND AND WALES



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WELCOME TO ISSUE 52

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.

EDITORIAL

Editor: Judy Whiteside
07836 509 812

editor@mountain.rescue.org.uk

Publicity Officer: Andy Simpson
0161 764 0999
press@mountain.rescue.org.uk

Advertising: Caroline Davenport
01270 878 324
caroline@media-solution.co.uk

Web: mountain.rescue.org.uk

NEXT ISSUE ISSUE 53

Editorial Copy Deadline:
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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 high resolution PDF/EPS/TIFF (300 dpi).

FRONT PAGE

Langdale Ambleside rescue at
Raise Gill © Paul Burke

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**mountain
rescue**



SPRING 2015

first Word

MIKE MARGESON



Ok Mike, thank you for letting me have the front page... so here goes, with the focus firmly on operational issues! By now, Bristow Humberside will have completed the first three-month training phase for northern teams and will be operational. The training has been well planned and delivered and no doubt all who have taken part are impressed by the new aircraft's capabilities. This success is in no small part due to the hard work of the SAR-H migration working group and regional reps so massive thanks to them for all their hard work on our behalf.

Since November, there has been progress on the peer review project. We now have an agreed budget for a two-year pilot scheme and intend to interview and appoint a project coordinator to steer this (page 5). We aim to cover three to five teams each year over two years. I've received interest from a number of teams — please email vice-chairman@mountain.rescue.org.uk if you'd like your team to take part. We envisage that one of the three external reviewers would have some form of medical background. The process will be reviewed and developed on an ongoing basis and there will also be a final report on the project.

Informal discussions at the Forward Planning group, the MITG and in some regions have highlighted the need to change, develop and review our operational structure. Various models and ideas have been put forward. I am very keen we pursue this issue as an organisation and take a good hard look at how our present structure of officers and subcommittees meets the needs of mountain

rescue. What could be done to make us more efficient and closer to the operational business of rescue for the future. I welcome your views and ideas on this. Our strength has always been that we are driven by our membership.

Achieving Libor funding for training is fantastic and a significant opportunity to develop the provision of training at regional and national level. For this to be most effective, it needs to be planned and submissions made both regionally and nationally. The application format is quite clear that to be successful it must meet strict criteria and benefit as many members as possible. This is the beginning of a funding track for training which will help us into the future and an opportunity to further enhance our national and regional programmes.

In January, I took part in the major incident exercise run by LDSAMRA, testing plans developed last year. This included virtually every region including many teams and resources in Scotland now using Sarcall. It's fair to say we couldn't have got near this sort of response in a major incident exercise a few years ago. I believe North Wales intend to run the next exercise, to test their systems and take the learning forward.

In the last issue, Mike made reference to our relationships and moving the organisation forward. I fully support this but believe there is considerable work to be done in making our organisation ready for the future. There are, of course, elements that need to be done nationally but I believe our greatest strength comes from being a bottom-up organisation, particularly operationally.

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MOUNTAIN RESCUE MAGAZINE

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NEIL WOODIE
WOODHEAD

Once again many thanks to North Wales Police, who have managed the renewal of the national **personal accident** (PA) policy for us with Aviva.

The **civil liability** policies have also been renewed with Brit Insurance. Unfortunately, a quarter of the teams didn't return their annual declaration to me and I'm not prepared to chase individuals. It is your responsibility and if a claim arises at a later date where you have made a declaration or notified the insurers, then you face the risk of the insurer declining indemnity. Of course, many of you respond promptly as ever and I really appreciate that — you should all know who you are.

INSURANCE MATTERS

insurance@mountain.rescue.org.uk

I produced 'A Guide to Insurance for Teams and Members' that was circulated to teams at the beginning of the year. I've had some very

positive feedback and am pleased you have found it to be of assistance.

Remember that, as always, if you have any queries, please just send me an email and I'll give you what help and assistance I can. But please remember that I can't give individuals or teams professional advice — for that you must speak to your insurance broker. ●

Image © Spaceheater. Dreamstime.com

MREW PR consultant and media trainer **Sally Seed** looks at an aspect of media coverage from the past few months and suggests things to be learnt for future media relations.

Sensitivity on searches and creating coverage

I had a contact from Duncan Massey, chairman of Avon and Somerset SAR, one of the teams in the South West of England, after my last column. It was about a particular angle on my theme of creating stories and making mountain rescue happenings more newsworthy.

The key question in his email was how best to get recognition of a search team's expertise and commitment when a lot of its work is on high profile but very sensitive cases relating to despondents intending to do themselves harm. Add to this a lack of understanding of the need for a rescue team in a relatively lowland area and the fact that a lot of their work is done in support of the other emergency services, and Duncan felt that the media challenge was a tough one. Consequently, as many teams will recognise, community awareness of the team is low and fundraising is tough.

One piece of advice is to build up the awareness of a team's broad activities — its training and fundraising events as well as its call-outs and incidents — with a core group of target journalists. Keep in touch via email and social media channels as well as more formal press releases and focus on stories or angles that reflect a couple of key messages such as:—

- **So much more than mountains** — mountain search and rescue covers urban searches and lowland rescues too.
- **Professional expertise, voluntary service** — investing time and resources into equipment and training so the team of volunteers is available to support the emergency services as experts in search management and swiftwater rescue.

In terms of recognition for work done, especially on searches, have a team press release ready to go as soon as your local police issue their news report — and include facts and figures about the number of team volunteers involved and the hours committed to the search, perhaps with a thank you to employers who were willing to let their staff take part (another way of communicating the volunteers message).

Over time, those releases will build up into a newsdesk team's awareness that you are probably involved in most of these sorts of activities and working with the police and others.

Working in partnership can also create a strong local news media story and it will say something about the work that you are doing. For instance, if counsellors from a MIND group have trained team members for TRIM, that's a double story of two local charities using their expertise. Or perhaps the team could invite someone from the Alzheimer's Society or Age UK to talk about dementia and its impact on elderly people as part of training for searches. Again, that joint working (with a

photograph at the session) has a double reason for local press coverage.

Finally, when there is a need for fundraising for specific equipment or an investment in training, create a photograph of team members that tells the story and issue it to your local media with an indication of why you need it — and how it will benefit your communities.

And, as for any press and media activity, be prepared for questions!

The journalist might not just use the story as sent to them in a release but they might want to talk to someone about it and follow up on one particular angle. Make sure you're clear on who will do those interviews (informal for print or live or recorded for broadcast) and on the key message that they need to get across. Then go for it.

If you've found constructive ways of handling sensitive subjects in the media or you've created good coverage from a training story, please get in touch — sally@stoneleighcomms.co.uk or via the Editor. Thanks. ●

BE PREPARED FOR QUESTIONS!

THE JOURNALIST MIGHT NOT JUST USE THE STORY AS SENT TO THEM BUT MIGHT WANT TO TALK TO SOMEONE ABOUT IT AND FOLLOW UP ONE PARTICULAR ANGLE.



OPEN INVITATION

WE ARE SEEKING TO APPOINT A PEER REVIEW PROJECT COORDINATOR

MREW is looking for an experienced individual with the skill, time and motivation necessary to lead a team peer review process across the organisation. The successful applicant will be able to demonstrate a good understanding of mountain rescue activities, a proven track record in project management, plus a flexible and effective management style.

Interested parties should express an interest by email to vice-chairman@mountain.rescue.org or secretary@mountain.rescue.org.uk

Closing date for applications 30 May 2015



MOUNTAIN RESCUE ENGLAND AND WALES

EQUIPMENT UPDATE

RICHARD TERRELL

This will probably be my last update for the magazine, as I stand down as the national equipment officer in May. My children are getting older, I want to get out on the hill a bit more — and the role continues to get busier. I feel the time is fast approaching when I won't be able to do the job the justice it deserves so I took the decision to leave in consideration not just of my family and myself, but also my own team and the wider world of mountain rescue. Other the last few months we have gone into production of the new longer and wider casbags which are available to teams who have not had a casbag in the last five years. Most of my efforts in the last few months have been focused on the CE marking of the Bell stretcher — which would fill a full-time job in itself — and the light is at the end of the tunnel.

I have also been working with the SAR-H team, and my counterpart in Scotland, over the issue of the new helicopters being capable of winching stretchers. Please can I stress to teams the importance of carrying out inspection and maintenance according to the manufacturer's guidelines, and then documenting this systematically. We hope to produce a form that teams can use to document these inspections if they so wish. As a reminder, all PPE should be inspected and records kept. As part of the record, MREW and Lyon have been reviewing the register of Bell stretchers to check they all have a current load test certificate and have been serviced. An email was sent to teams reminding them to check their serial numbers, and an article appeared on page 8 of the Winter issue regarding load testing, records and servicing. If you've not already done so, please refer to these and check your Bell

stretchers as directed. As one final point, I'd like to thank those on the equipment committee who I've worked with over the last six years and wish them all the best for the future.

MOUNTAIN RESCUE IN THE MOVIES

JUDY WHITESIDE

A couple of years ago, the publications and information subcommittee (PISC for short!) came under some pressure from the previous chairman, David Allan. He, in turn, was experiencing some degree of pressure from BAFTA, during his regular meetings with the Princes' Charities Forum. And when BAFTA say you should be producing a film, well, you sort of have to listen. It's been

a long time in the making but by the time you read this, the film will be launched on an unsuspecting market, raising awareness about the 24/7, voluntary nature of team members and the broad range of incidents they can be called to attend — and, we hope, raising a few bob in the process. You can read more about it on page 11 and we would ask teams to engage with the campaign by sharing the film on Facebook and Twitter, through our MREW social media channels.

meetings

MREW BUSINESS AND COMMITTEES
Places: 100
Saturday 15 May
Lancashire Police HQ,
Hutton

MREW BUSINESS AND COMMITTEES
Places: 100
Saturday 20 November
Lancashire Police HQ,
Hutton

To book in, contact:
Keith Gillies secretary@mountain.rescue.org.uk

Or speak to the relevant officer for your subcommittee — contact details available on the MREW website.



How to get in touch with not just the officers and trustees but also some of the key specialist advisers who assist in running the organisation: producing the magazine, maximising PR opportunities, developing and maintaining SARCALL and securing insurance cover on your behalf.

who?

your management team



CHAIRMAN: MIKE FRANCE

chairman@mountain.rescue.org.uk

Represents mountain rescue with Government, the emergency services, other SAR organisations and The Princes' Charities Forum. A member of Woodhead MRT.



VICE CHAIRMAN: MIKE MARGESON

vice-chairman@mountain.rescue.org.uk

Works on operations and governance, supporting the officers in their roles. Currently developing a peer review process. Team leader of Duddon and Furness MRT.



SECRETARY: KEITH GILLIES

secretary@mountain.rescue.org.uk

An interface between teams, regions and the MREW management team, Keith is a member of Bowland Pennine MRT.



ASSISTANT SECRETARY: DAVE CLOSE

assistant-secretary@mountain.rescue.org.uk

Supports the MREW Secretary in his role, enabling better communication within the organisation. Dave is a member of Dartmoor SRT (Ashburton).



FINANCIAL DIRECTOR: PENNY BROCKMAN

treasurer@mountain.rescue.org.uk

Manages MREW finances and the administration of grant monies and continues to review our financial systems. Penny is team leader of Central Beacons MRT.



MEDICAL: MIKE GREENE

medicalofficer@mountain.rescue.org.uk

Represents mountain rescue in medical matters to the Government, the emergency services and IKAR, and maintains the morphine licence. Mike is a member of Wasdale MRT.



PRESS OFFICER: ANDY SIMPSON

pressofficer@mountain.rescue.org.uk

Deals with the press, TV and radio, and supports teams in their own publicity, chairs the communication group (PISC) and is also chairman of Rossendale & Pendle MRT. Vice chair: Judy Whiteside: editor@mountain.rescue.org.uk



VEHICLES: DARYL GARFIELD

vehiclesofficer@mountain.rescue.org.uk

Works with the police, Government and teams in all matters 'vehicles'. A member of Penrith MRT. Vice chair: Paul Smethurst: smethyp@gmail.com



WATER: ANDY LEE

waterofficer@mountain.rescue.org.uk

Works to establish the necessary guidance and standards to ensure the safety of members in a water environment. Andy is a member of Edale MRT.



ICT: MARK LEWIS

ictofficer@mountain.rescue.org.uk

Develops comms technology across mountain rescue. Mark is a member of Western Beacons MRT. Vice chair: Iain Nicholson: iaim@sardogs.org.uk



EQUIPMENT: RICHARD TERRELL

equipmentofficer@mountain.rescue.org.uk

Liaises with suppliers and manufacturers. Rich is a member of Central Beacons MRT. Vice chair: Ray Griffiths: raygriff@btinternet.com



FUNDRAISING: NEIL HAYTER

fundraisingofficer@mountain.rescue.org.uk

Develops revenue opportunities and sponsorship deals to benefit all teams. A member of Edale MRT, Neil also oversees the MREW social media presence. Vice chair: Bill Whitehouse: billrhwaol.com



TRAINING OFFICER: AL READ

trainingofficer@mountain.rescue.org.uk

Develops training and guidelines for team members at all levels across a range of disciplines. Al is a member of Ogwen Valley MRO. Vice chair: Tim Cain: tim@timcainleadership.co.uk



BCRC: BILL WHITEHOUSE

bcrc@mountain.rescue.org.uk

As chairman of BCRC, Bill represents the interest of cave rescue and supports the management team. He is also a trustee of the Benevolent Fund.

internal trustees



MREW CHAIRMAN: MIKE FRANCE

chairman@mountain.rescue.org.uk

Part of Mike's remit as MREW chairman is to represent the interests of the organisation at trustee meetings, to ensure the smooth running and continued governance of the organisation.



SHIRLEY PRIESTLEY

shirley.priestley@mountain.rescue.org.uk

Shirley has been a member of the Scarborough and Ryedale MRT for 24 years, during which time she has undertaken a variety of roles at all levels. She is also treasurer of the Benevolent Fund.



MARK HODGSON

mark.hodgson@mountain.rescue.org.uk

Mark has a wealth of mountain rescue experience, with one of the busiest teams (Keswick MRT), and an impressive attendance record over many years. Team leader for twenty years, he stood down in 2013 but continues to be involved with rescues.



CHAIR OF TRUSTEES: PAUL AMOS

paul.amos@mountain.rescue.org.uk

An Emergency Management and Leadership Development consultant, Paul also lectures on field operations at Coventry University and teaches flood rescue management at strategic level. He was with Hereford and Worcester FRS for fifteen years.



STEVE WOOD

steve.wood@mountain.rescue.org.uk

Steve is well known within the SAR community through his work at Mapyx Limited which has long been a supporter of all charitable rescue organisations.



PHIL PAPARD

philip.papard@mountain.rescue.org.uk

Phil has been a member of the Cave Rescue Organisation for over forty years, serving as controller, training officer and chairman. He retired as Principal Inspector in the HSE in 2012, after 25 years.



PETER DYMOND

peter.dymond@mountain.rescue.org.uk

Peter's professional background is with the UK Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) and the Coastguard Rescue Service, the volunteer emergency response arm of the MCA.

external trustees

STATISTICS: GED FEENEY

statisticsofficer@mountain.rescue.org.uk

Ged collects and collates incident information from the teams, producing an annual report analysing the statistical evidence and observing the key trends and influences.



PRESIDENT: PETER BELL

president@mountain.rescue.org.uk

Acts as an ambassador for mountain rescue to the outside world and thoroughly enjoys engaging in technical discussions.

VICE PRESIDENTS: TONY JONES & PETER HOWELLS

specialist advisers



EDITOR: JUDY WHITESIDE

editor@mountain.rescue.org.uk

Provides design and editorial services for the magazine. Outside her role as editor, she assists in a number of areas in communication, publications and marketing and supports the fundraising group. Judy is also secretary of the Benevolent Fund.



INSURANCE: NEIL WOODHEAD

insurance@mountain.rescue.org.uk

Woodie is a member of Kinder MRT and also chairman of the Benevolent Fund. He is consulted by the management team and other specialist advisers on insurance matters, helping to manage the insurances we have in place. He will also offer basic help and assistance to teams with their general queries.



SAR-H: JOHN HULSE

SAR-H@mountain.rescue.org.uk

The creator of SARCALL and a team leader of the Ogwen Valley MRO, John continues to lead on the SAR-H migration process.



PR SUPPORT: SALLY SEED

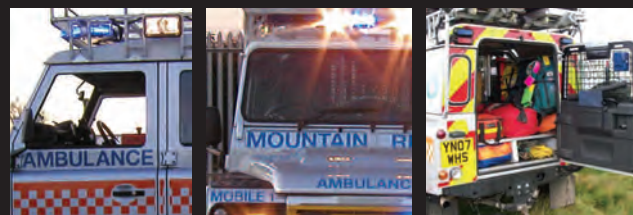
sally@stoneleighcomms.co.uk

Supports Andy Simpson and Judy Whiteside in their roles and provides PR advice and support to MREW and teams where required, seeking to improve communication both internally and externally. Sally also helps deliver media skills training.

...turn to page 30 for BCRC contacts



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Summer's just around the corner and no doubt you've already booked a relaxing week or two away. And, once you've left dear old Blighty, the last thing you need is your mobile going off, informing you of a call-out.

GOING ON HOLIDAY? INTRODUCING A NEW FUNCTION FROM SARCALL

So the Sarcall team have developed a really simple, clever way to temporarily suspend call-out SMS messages coming to your phone — although you will continue to receive email notifications, if you currently get these. There are two possible ways to initiate this temporary suspension of messages. The first is a manual removal with automatic reversal, the second a manual removal and addition. We recommend the first method, as this will automatically add you back into the call-out list once you return from holiday. All team members can now interact with Sarcall to undertake this temporary removal from the availability list — it's easy to do and will remove all entries in the team lists, regardless of the type of number (mobile, pager numbers or landline numbers).

Method one: Send an SMS to the Sarcall SMS response number, containing the keyword 'OFF' followed by a space and the team abbreviation code, followed by another space and then the numbers of days or weeks until you're available again.

Sarcall will identify the sending number and look up the name and all numbers associated with the name, and deregister those numbers. It will then undertake a scan of the system on a daily basis, looking for those numbers with specified return dates, if a specified return date matches the current calendar date then Sarcall will automatically add any names and all associated numbers back on. An individual can override the automatic reversal by undertaking manual add if they return earlier than expected.

Method two: A team member who is unable to provide a definite return date will be able to manually remove and add themselves off or on to the availability list, by sending an SMS with the key word of 'OFF' or 'ON' followed by a space and the team abbreviation.

As a team member, if you operate across a number of different 'teams' eg. regional water response team and standard mountain rescue team, then you MUST undertake the process for each team you're a member of, using the appropriate team abbreviation.

Specific details on the above process are now available via the Sarcall site, your team admin or regional admin will be able to provide a copy of a briefing note, found in the documents section. The specific briefing note is: '0030_Going_on_Holiday'. Don't forget you will need to obtain the appropriate team abbreviation from your Sarcall team admin. Happy holidays!



ANDY LEE
MREW WATER
OFFICER

WATER UPDATE

In February, the Module 2 instructor training, run by Outreach Rescue, was consolidated with the first annual Instructor Day, at the AA Road Operations Centre in Oldbury, West Midlands. Thirty Module 2 instructors attended, from across England and Wales, and I had great support from instructors George Smith and Lawrence Harris from Outreach, as well as Daryl Garfield and Mike France for MREW and Darron Burness of the AA.

The aim was to provide a fuller national picture for water rescue and look to the future, inspiring the new instructors to get out in their regions and teach team members to a Module 2 standard. They were also provided with a key contact list and an opportunity to collate their details for the website.

We began with an update about the structure of the water group and where the Module 2 instructors would fit within that, followed by a look at current and future projects. The aim is to create a comprehensive set of standards and to publicise our work through partner organisations and interagency

liaison. It is hoped that with future LIBOR funding we will be able to produce a water incident manager course, a Module 2 instructor handbook and further Module 2 instructor courses.

I detailed how team members will become fully-fledged Module 2 personnel through a robust, structured process and how the relevant paperwork must be completed. Some minor amendments were made to the paperwork on the day, based on suggestions from those present. On successful completion of the training, members will receive an MREW certificate, issued by assistant secretary Dave Close and forwarded to team secretaries.

Each instructor received a folder containing all the paperwork required for delivery of the courses, including risk assessments, candidate declaration and skill sheets, a CPD record and a copy of the first MREW Module 2 candidate exam. Further exams will be developed over the coming months — sadly for those participating in Module 2 training, the exam is not available for download! CPD requirements were covered both for

maintenance of Module 2 status for members, and Module 2 instructor status.

I'd like to say a huge thanks to Outreach for their continued support. George and Lawrence delivered sessions on PPE and equipment, including inspection regimes and familiarisation. They were a great support in getting our members through the training with some excellent sessions, as well as getting involved in the production of lesson plans as an ongoing development process.

The new instructors were reminded that their regional reps provide six-monthly feedback to the water committee and they should feed back to them about developments within their regions. They were also reminded that the national water conference would be a useful day for maintenance of CPD and this is scheduled for late 2015.

Good practice was shared, with discussions around decontamination kit and documents, and feedback invited on the prerequisites for future participants, as well as agreeing achievable and



recognisable interagency standards.

I would like to thank the AA — especially Darron Burness, as operations manager for SORT — for their support throughout the day and the endless tea and coffee. The venue was superb, offering every facility necessary, and opening a number of possible avenues for the future.

Feedback has been extremely positive. This process could be applied in other instances where it meets the needs for rolling out an MREW instructor programme.

WATER SEARCH DATABASE

The new instructors were asked to encourage their teams and regions to participate in the Waterborne Death Questionnaire project, to help improve water

search research for the future.

Teams can download the questionnaire from the Members area, and should return their completed copies to me to ensure the information is entered onto the database. We are also seeking support from the police, fire and other rescue organisations in this process — which will help identify any duplication. We would ask that you please include any historical or recent incidents, even if you think the information has already been provided by other responding organisations as developing this database will inform our future.

THE ABOVE INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE TO DOWNLOAD FROM THE MREW WEBSITE. LOG IN, GO TO RESOURCES, THEN WATER.

SARCALL UPDATE

JOHN HULSE

The roll-out continues with the remaining few teams in England and Wales now looking at the system. North of the border, there are now ten Scottish teams actively using Sarcall and a programme is well underway to have all those teams called out direct from the new Police Scotland control centres. There are now 85 teams and fourteen police forces/ambulance services using the system.

The ability of Sarcall to greatly improve the shared situational awareness, especially in more complex multi-agency operations is resulting in greater take-up by police and ambulance services. RAF SAR is making significant use of the system at both ARCC and team/flight levels during operations involving MR teams. Initial discussions with Bristow are very encouraging and it is hoped we will soon have Sarcall in all the new bases where there is a significant level of interaction with volunteer SAR teams.

The SAR-H survey form continues to provide important information. There are now 573 listed interactions with MILSAR, Helimeds and NPAS aircraft listed by teams in the system. This detailed data is exceptionally important in discussions with our partners and we actively encourage all teams to record their operations and training interactions with aircraft so that MREW can negotiate on your behalf.

Whilst we try very hard to ensure that Sarcall is as robust as possible, there are external factors outside our control that could degrade the availability of any online system. These could include major network failures, prolonged power outages, major hacking attacks etc. Given that it is important to plan for failure rather than be unpleasantly surprised, teams need to retain the ability to operate effectively in the absence of Sarcall and the internet. The technical availability metrics are highly impressive but this must not lull people into a false sense of security. We recommend you periodically print out your team and regional contacts lists. New features are being built in to help team leaders have this information in a readily usable format — the regional admins will be able to help teams on this issue.

There have been a steady stream of minor but important improvements to the platform, mostly focused on major incident messaging between teams and improving the security and resilience. A new release is planned this summer which will add team-level asset declaration for major incidents, the ability for team members to manage their own availability in the system by SMS and also new work on an online, integrated incident form for trial in specific areas.

The major exercise in the Lakes in January provided an excellent test. The system enabled six regions, 34 teams and four police forces to interact at varying levels during the event. At its peak, we had 149 users active in the system but, even at this level, there was a lot of capacity for further concurrent major operations. As always, we learn a lot from such events and the agreed ideas will turn into new features in the system to ensure Sarcall continues to deliver the performance and capability needed for the full spectrum of incidents.

MOUNTAIN RESCUE: THE MOVIE

Thursday 2 April, just ahead of Easter, saw the launch of a new film. Aimed at raising awareness of the nature of the volunteers who make up mountain rescue teams. It also focuses on how that commitment affects their home, family and working lives, whilst demonstrating the surprising breadth of incidents they can be called to help. **Judy Whiteside** explains.

The film, which is squarely pointed at the general public, was launched by means of a social media campaign and the response — from across the UK and far beyond — has been overwhelmingly positive. It's drawn admiration from our mountain rescue colleagues around the world and even prompted a fifty dollar donation from Aspen Colorado.

But why did we need to produce a film in the first place? The idea had been discussed for two or three years but gathered impetus through our involvement with the Princes' Charities Forum, which we attend by virtue of our Royal patron, HRH The Duke of Cambridge. These regular meetings see our national chairman sitting alongside representatives from each of the charities, including no lesser body than BAFTA. So it was no surprise that a film about mountain rescue became a discussion point at those meetings and former chairman,

David Allan, was keen to make this happen. However, taking that germ of an idea and creating a useful communication tool took many months of planning and development.

Dave Freeborn, a member and ex-team leader of Patterdale MRT was commissioned to produce the film. Dave has been involved in mountain rescue for over thirty years but in his 'day-job' he is a professional film and documentary maker and a member of the Institute of Videographers — so ideally placed to commit the nature of mountain rescue to film.

The process kicked off in late 2013, when we set about scripting and storyboarding a number of scenarios for the film.

We knew we needed to keep to a couple of strong but simple messages. We wanted to show real rescuers, reacting to a wide range of realistic situations and we wanted to emphasise that they are all volunteers, on call every day of the year, by showing

them being called away from work, family commitments and sleep. Sounds quite simple, but we also wanted to create something that would have a fundraising as well as an educational impact.

As professional creative people who feel passionately about mountain rescue, this was a great opportunity to produce an emotional, powerful and creative piece of work — and hopefully inspire people to share our passion and donate!

From our original script, screenwriter Nick Green was able to craft a screenplay. Meanwhile, Dave began putting together a film schedule and network of partners, including fellow filmmaker and co-director, John Hamlett, to help capture the story.

'We filmed at more than twelve different locations with various mountain rescue teams,' says Dave. 'The schedule included a huge amount of negotiation and liaison with what seemed like

hundreds of people. We wanted to show the changing seasons as well as the broad nature of incidents and environments. In all, there were about twenty days of filming in all weathers — all to create just over six minutes.

'Some scenes were shot using a drone and we also edited in some actual footage from winter and underground rescues. The music was composed specially for the film by Miles Hancock and the finishing touch came when Broadchurch actor Matthew Gravelle agreed to record the voiceover.'

It was important that we had the voiceover in both English and Welsh so Welsh-born Matthew was perfect for the part and able to record both versions. And we must also take this opportunity to thank Ann Corkett, who translated the words into Welsh.

All the team members involved with the filming were incredibly enthusiastic and keen to make this work so a huge thanks to them and their families.



LAKE DISTRICT

TAN HILL CUSTOMERS AND STAFF RAISE OVER £500

Kirkby Stephen team were handed the collected funds one evening in January. They were also treated to a slap-up meal after a training exercise on the fells around the pub.

After the meal, team leader Adrian Cottrell accepted the combined donation from Tan Hill Inn manager Roger Staniland. 'I know the staff at Tan Hill are enthusiastic about encouraging customers to make a donation to their chosen charities and we really appreciate those efforts,' said Adrian. 'This is a significant contribution to the funds we need each year for training and equipment and we're very grateful for the support.'



LAKE DISTRICT TEAMS LAUNCH SAFETY LEAFLET INITIATIVE

The Lake District teams, in conjunction with walking guidebook publisher Cicerone Press, launched their new safety leaflet in March, just ahead of the Easter break, aimed at reducing casualty numbers through free media.

The number of mountain rescue incidents within the Lakes is starting to rise again with 474 incidents last year across the county — nearly 10% up on 2013 when there were 433 — the greatest increase being between July and September when 182 incidents were recorded. This year has seen no let up, with thirty rescues in the first three weeks of January alone and a number of fatalities as we head towards spring.

Forty thousand copies of the new Stay Safe leaflet are being distributed across the county, and will soon be found in most popular tourist areas.

'The leaflet is intended to help people



Left to right: **Gold** in the relatives' room. Kendal MRT leader supported by other leaders along with medical and media specialists

Silver in the main meeting room became a hive of activity with numerous flip charts and task boards on the go.

Bronze operated out of the storeroom with a challenging work load in a confined space.



The feedback and learning from the incident itself was presented at a national team leaders meeting in 2013 and one of the teams present, Duddon and Furness, saw a real benefit in having a major incident plan of their own in advance of the day they might be called to assist in a major incident and need to call in additional resources from surrounding areas.

The Duddon and Furness plan set out the Command and Control arrangements they would need to adopt. It was quickly picked up by other teams as an extremely helpful document and, at a Lakes regional leaders' meeting in April 2014, the concept was expanded to cover the entire region with each team providing detailed local arrangements as appendices to a central LDSAMRA Major Incident Plan.

The plan was finally accepted by all teams at the LDSAMRA quarterly business meeting in September 2014, ready for testing along with the equally important LDSAMRA Water Rescue Response Plan.

The Water Response Plan means that in addition to regional arrangements for

responding to major incidents in general, LDSAMRA has a specific regional water rescue capability to cover anything from standard water searches to a major flooding incident in Cumbria and beyond, bringing all the teams together in terms of manpower and assets. The regional water arrangements have been accepted by the Cumbria Local Resilience Forum and key partner agencies and the intention is to present the LDSAMRA Major Incident Plan for the same review.

Planning started immediately for a regional table top exercise with the aims of testing all the arrangements in both plans, getting team leaders working together in managing a major water incident and testing Sarcall for use in a major incident. Exercise Cloudburst was formulated and took place on 28 January 2015 at Keswick MRT base.

The exercise was based on major flooding in west Cumbria as a result of intense rainfall accompanied by a high incoming tide and strong winds. It commenced with a simulated declaration of a major incident by Cumbria

Constabulary with exercise controlled use of airwaves and Sarcall and, over the course of a very intense two and a half hours, the region was bombarded with more than twenty separate incidents as local rivers burst their banks.

Incidents related primarily to the declared incident but there were a number of extra curved ball '999' call-outs for the more routine 'exercise' MR incidents.

Gold, Silver and Bronze rooms were kept busy throughout the evening as the major incident escalated requiring more and more resources from across the county and the rest of the country. Tasks included the requirement for rescue or evacuation of in excess of 150 people from Egremont, the evacuation of Sellafield workers from a stranded train, looking after our own personnel and preparing press statements. Realism was built into the tabletop exercise by having a very demanding Gold Commander provided by Cumbria Police to keep the pressure on the team leaders and specialist support members playing the various roles.

EXERCISE CLOUDBURST

Following the heavy involvement of mountain rescue teams in the search for April Jones, in mid Wales in October 2012, MREW formed a Major Incident Task Group with representatives from every region. The group was actioned to pull together the learning from what was recognised as a bit of a wake-up call in managing multi-team, multi-region and multi-agency incidents, particularly in command and control.

Obviously an incident of this nature, by necessity, would require assistance from outside the region and the exercise included the first big multi-regional test of Sarcall together with communication between the new MR regional Silver Groups. The Sarcall statistics from John Hulse, Sarcall developer, indicated that during the exercise, the Lake District, Scotland, North East, Mid-Pennine, Peak District and North Wales regions were all actively working at team, region and interregional levels, with PenMacra and Devon and Cornwall Police monitoring the exercise.

Altogether, representatives of 36 different teams were involved, together with four police forces and the North West Ambulance Service monitoring. More than 3,500 individual SMS messages were sent, team members responded with 630 SMS responses back to the system and there were 149 unique users logged-in to the system.

The initial feedback received was that the exercise was a success and all those that took part felt it was very worthwhile. A detailed review is currently

being prepared highlighting areas for further development and training, both regionally and between regions, and will be presented in a formal feedback session. However, the key areas that have been identified are command and control in general, but specifically of the water assets during a major incident, managing information records and flow and ensuring that all levels of command share the same situational awareness.

Follow up training is currently being developed, using best practice from the nuclear industry, so that across mountain rescue we have the opportunity to become fully versed in standard tools and techniques. The next step is to organise a regional command post exercise, involving live play on the ground. Watch this space!

Many thanks to the other regions who got involved — we were really impressed with the enthusiasm and input. The full exercise documentation, including the plan and injects will be made available, through Resilience Direct or by direct request, to any team interested in holding a similar exercise. ●



RICHARD WARREN
CHAIRMAN
LDSAMRA



MIKE GULLEN
WASDALE MRT



TRACEY BINKS
DUDDON &
FURNESS MRT

make the right choices before going into the hills', said Richard Warren, 'and it also provides information on what to do in the event of an accident. It will be available in numerous outlets throughout Cumbria and the Lake District and would be a very helpful addition to anyone's rucksack as they head into the fells.'

Lesley Williams of Cicerone, said, 'Supporting charities which are directly

associated with mountain activities is a vital part of our role as responsible guidebook publishers and we are delighted to sponsor this information leaflet.'

LDSAMRA is looking to continue the partnership with Cicerone for future publications with the aim of reducing casualty numbers through free and available mountain rescue information.

'We want to encourage people to enjoy

the fells,' said Richard, 'but to do it safely, understanding the risks and taking the right precautions.'

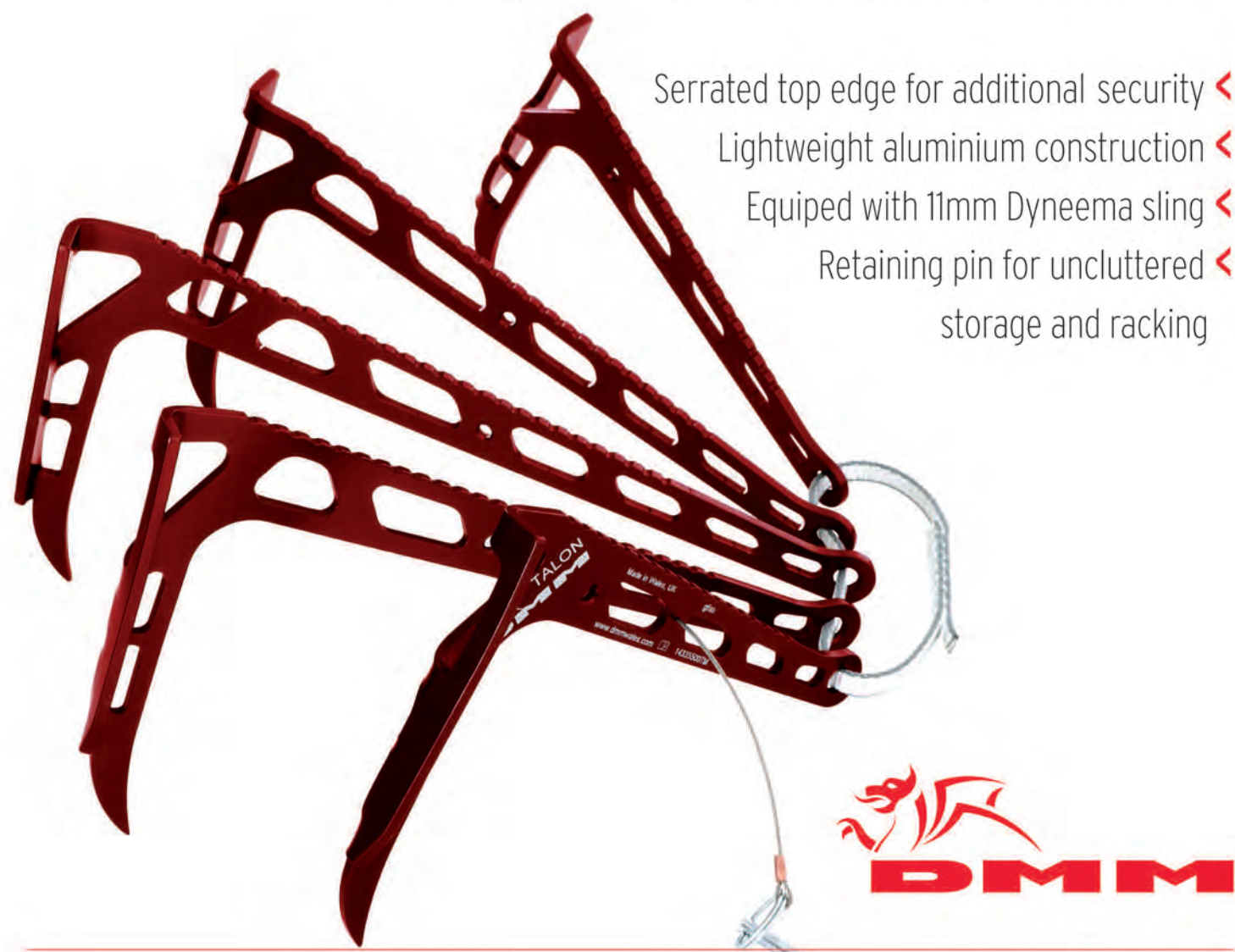
Illustrated and designed by Judy Whiteside, the leaflet will also be heading out to a wider public thanks to Lakeland Walker

magazine. A series of icons and bullet points focus on the key messages familiar to all mountain rescue teams: get the skills, be prepared and be aware. And, of course, there's also information on how to call out mountain rescue if you do get into difficulties.





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COCKERMOUTH TEAM WORKS WITH DMM TO DEVELOP THE TALON

JOHN BULMAN

In the early days of the team, Cockermouth would use ground anchors for belaying the back rope during stretcher skidding on long grass rakes, where no convenient boulder existed. This was in the form of a five-legged mild steel claw on a welded mild steel ring.

The device had been fabricated by a team member in his engineering workplace, based on a gut feel with regards to shape and size. It served its purpose but, over time, its use declined and this heavy, mild steel version was left to gather rust on a hook — next to the sheep net it was used with so many times in the rescue of crag fast sheep.

Without this piece of kit, belaying of the back rope during stretcher skidding was carried out by a line of six to ten team members sitting on the fellside behind the stretcher on the descent line, paying out the back rope and leap-frogging down past each other as they became the last uphill person. Whilst an effective technique for many years, it caused many a rope burn and melted waterproof, and members needed to be very fleet of foot to take up their position lower down the fellside as the skid progressed.

In 2004, whilst browsing the HB Products stand at an Industrial Health and Safety Exhibition at the NEC, an eagle-eyed team member spotted a ground anchor almost identical in size and shape to the old mild steel version. The item was produced primarily for the armed forces, for creating anchor points on the grass slopes at the top of cliffs to help protect soldiers as they stormed and scaled up cliffs.

At the next team monthly meeting, a decision was made to place an order for two to trial. The trials proved effective and the anchors immediately became part of team kit, fixed to the side of two of the ropes and affectionately known as the 'ground claws'. Fabricated from the aluminium bar used for the manufacture of carabiners, they consisted of five individual legs, bent at 90 degrees, each with a flattened, splayed, pointed end and joined together through drilled holes with a doubled crimped wire.

In the early days of the use, a metal hammer was used for hammering them into the ground and, because they suffered little damage or distortion, it was easy to forget they were fabricated from aluminium and not titanium. The metal

hammers were subsequently replaced by weighted rubber tent peg mallets as, by that time, HB Products has ceased trading and the feeling was that the two claws would have to last forever.

The team later heard that DMM had taken over many of the HB Product designs so, around two years ago, the same team member who'd discovered the ground claws at the NEC, phoned DMM to enquire if they'd begun manufacturing the item. They hadn't but they were willing to initiate discussions with the design team.

All went quiet for six months until, it transpired, a further call to DMM coincided with a call from the Marines, also wanting replacements.

DMM established that sales to both the Marines and MR teams would make a production run feasible. So, over the last eighteen months, with trials on a number of prototype models and feedback from a number of teams — particularly Cockermouth — DMM have developed a replacement to the ground claw which they are to put into production.

The resulting DMM Talon Ground Anchor is similar to the original HB Product in that it has five individual legs joined with a belay loop. However, it is fabricated from laser cut aluminium plate instead of aluminium bar and the belay loop is stitched Dyneema tape rather than a crimped wire loop.

The top edges of each individual leg are serrated to give a degree of grip underfoot for the individual who stands, with both feet spread over the anchor, when it is set in the ground — standard procedure for Cockermouth when skidding a stretcher.

During stretcher skidding, the back rope is connected to the Talon's Dyneema loop by carabiner and Italian Hitch. The individual controlling the back rope through the Italian Hitch and the individual standing on the Talon, work as a two-man team at the belay station with the individual standing on the anchor relaying comms back from the stretcher party on the required back rope speeds.

In normal ground condition testing, DMM have attained a substantial increase in holding power over other comparable products.

They also offer servicing of the Talon should the individual legs become damaged in use or the Dyneema loop requires replacement.

During a rescue rigging course in autumn 2014, run by Kirk Mauthner in the Dolomites and attended by both Cockermouth and Keswick team members, the Talon proved effective when used as a ground anchor for the pre-tensioning of top-of-crag belay systems. ●



FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE TALON OR ANY OF DMM'S RESCUE SPECIFIC PRODUCTS CONTACT PAUL EDWARDS ON 01286 873511.

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Nikwax, is excited to introduce Down Wash Direct®, the first aftercare product specifically designed to clean and maximise the performance of both regular untreated down and treated hydrophobic down.

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With repeated use, dirt, oil, and other contaminants diminish the water-repellency of treated down and so to restore performance it requires special care. Down Wash Direct ensures optimal results by cleaning effectively, revitalising insulation, and restoring the water-repellency of hydrophobic down clothing and sleeping bags. It also reduces the water absorption of regular down and maintains a down item's outer fabric.

Nikwax founder and CEO, Nick Brown, said: 'Building on the market leading Nikwax Down Wash, this is the solution that our customers will be looking for to keep their treated down gear performing at the highest level.'

Like all Nikwax products, Down Wash Direct is PFC-free and water-based for the lowest environmental impact. In addition, Nikwax only works with down processors that are committed to ethical sourcing. The new products will be hitting the shops in time for winter 2015.

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MID PENNINE

NEW HOME FOR HOLME VALLEY

The Holme Valley team has completed the purchase of Marsden Fire Station building, securing its first permanent HQ in fifty years, after a concerted fundraising effort. The new building marks a major milestone in the history of the team and coincides with their major anniversary year: 2015 marks fifty years since the team was founded, following a tragic incident in which two boy scouts



sadly lost their lives whilst taking part in a challenge hike on the moors.

The team now responds to an average of 25 to 30 incidents a year. Although primarily concerned with upland and rural areas, their operational boundary covers the southern half of West Yorkshire — more than 1,000 square kilometres with a diverse geography.

It's not uncommon for team members to be called to search closer to the metropolitan centres of Leeds, Huddersfield, Wakefield, Dewsbury Pontefract and Castleford, providing vital assistance and expertise to West Yorkshire Police.

Owen Phillips, an assistant team leader said, 'The former Fire Station building at Marsden is perfectly suited to the job, having good road access close to the moors, space for training, dedicated vehicle bays and plenty of space for kit-storage.'

The team formerly leased a small portion of the building, but when plans were announced to close the fire station due to cutbacks, they began negotiations with the Fire Authority to purchase the whole building outright. A deal was struck which allowed a deposit to be paid in June 2013, permitting the team to take up residence in the full building immediately upon the departure of the Fire Service.

The agreement then allowed the remainder of the balance to be paid within two years, sparking a major fundraising effort by the team. By mid-December 2014, the target was met and the building officially transferred into the team's hands.

The building has now been reconfigured to the team's requirements, providing facilities such as a control room for planning managing incidents, gear storage facilities, a drying room, a kitchen, toilets and a training room with AV facilities, as well as dedicated vehicle bays.

The team would like to extend their gratitude for the generosity of the public and local companies and organisations for their kind donations and help with fundraising, however, they are conscious of the new responsibility of maintaining a building.

'Obviously it's fantastic news that we've finally met our target,' said Owen, 'but in terms of fundraising we're not out of the woods yet. Now we have to maintain a building on top of the team's normal day-to-day running costs, so it's vital we keep up the fundraising effort.'

To help with the continuing fundraising effort, the team has a number of events planned throughout the year — keep an eye on holmevalleymrt.org.uk and the team's social media channels for details. An official opening event for the new HQ building is planned for April.

NORTH EAST

NEW CHALLENGE EVENT FOR SCARBOROUGH

In summer the Scarborough and Ryedale MRT will be running a new challenge event although, in truth, the Crosses is not a new idea. Back in 1971, the then Scarborough and District SRT was short of cash and striving to think of ways to make money. From this was born this incredible walk, taking in 53 miles of fantastic moorland scenery to be walked in 24 hours.

'Any regular visitor to the moors will know it is littered with these rather strange antiquities we call crosses,' explains Ian Hugill. 'These large erect stones have been used for hundreds of years as way markers, religious sites and meeting places. The lads in the team then probably had no more idea than me what they were originally used for, but if no one else was using them then a

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PEAK DISTRICT



Eddale team member John Coombs was presented with a Long Service Award in February in recognition of his unbroken twenty-five-year service as a dog handler.

TWENTY-FIVE YEAR AWARD FOR JOHN

During this time John has trained and worked four dogs: Spider, Bonny, Biscuit and, more recently, Flash. He's attended over 500 searches and made 34 finds. And his services are not just available to the Peak District teams — he frequently travels to other areas of the country to assist other teams in the search for missing and vulnerable people. John was one of the dog handlers involved in the search for April Jones. However, it's not just people John and his dogs specialise in, but also lost property which can help gather crucial evidence — or just help a fellow team member recover lost keys on the hill!

Not only has John devoted his time to training working search dogs, he has also found the time and commitment to be involved as Eddale's equipment officer in two stints over ten years. At a national level he was training coordinator for SARDA England and now sits as Peak District search dog coordinator. It takes a huge amount of commitment to train just one search dog — that John has trained and worked four is a fantastic achievement. We take this opportunity to thank John for his on-going services to mountain rescue.

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PEAK DISTRICT LAYS FOUNDATIONS

PHIL RIDLEY KINDER MRT & PDMRO TRAINING OFFICE

Mountain rescue teams from around the Peak District came together for their annual foundation residential weekend course at Crowden in October.

This is primarily a regional course, but places have been offered nationally. All seven PDMRO teams were represented in fifty hours of non-stop mountain rescue activity. The course is aimed at mountain rescuers who are in the first couple of years of membership and covers a range of topics that complement the individual teams' training programmes.

Topics included a look at what goes on behind the scenes in the early stages of a search, incident site management, water safety, working around helicopters and various other key topics.

The weekend commenced with presentations from Mike France (MREW chairman) and other senior members from the PDMRO on topics such as incident control and search planning. This led into the first practical session of the weekend — now regarded as the course's classic ice-breaker — a real time table top exercise followed by the customary social gathering and singalong (if you can call it that) led by Dave 'Dangerous' Yates, which set the tone and camaraderie for the rest of the weekend.

With an early start on Saturday (for those who managed to get to bed, of course), it was straight into the business end, with topics as diverse as search techniques and field skills, observation exercises, SARDA capabilities, an overview of missing person behaviour, casualty site management, scene of crime



and major incident procedures, who rescues the rescuer and helicopter assets.

More socialising in the evening, with a much needed visit to the Bull's Head in Tintwistle where Mick the landlord had arranged for local tribute act Ginger Hendrix to provide some guitar and drum wizardry.

With another early start on Sunday morning (no time for the hangover to clear) it would be another intense day of outdoor practicals in and around Crowden Great Quarry and a series of scenarios looking at search, casualty care, casualty site management and difficult extractions.

To round off the weekend, there was the 'full search and carry off exercise', an opportunity for all the students to put their newfound skills into practice (and put any regional or interteam rivalry to one side) and show that, when it matters, they can work together efficiently as a coherent mountain rescue unit.

'I finally managed to attend the course this year,' admitted Dave Hadden, of Kinder MRT, who has been with the team for three years. 'I'd already done a good few training

sessions and call-outs with Kinder team and other regional training events, but there is always so much to learn from joint training and the schedule of sessions and guest speakers was excellent.

'The number of experienced team members who came along to help run the weekend was tremendous.

Being run away from the team bases in the centre at Crowden really helped bring everyone together and gave the opportunity to get to know other team members socially too — if you could hear them talk over the musical entertainment that is!'

Thanks must go to Dave and Amy Morgan who have committed so much time over the years to organising and running the course, along with all the other members of the training team who put so much effort into making the weekend a big success. And not forgetting all the students for their enthusiasm and attention.

The content for this year's October course is currently under review, but it's hoped it will be another success for the region. ●

Left: MREW Chairman Mike France (left) presents Steve with his 47-years long service award.



PEAK DISTRICT

VETERAN LEADER RECOGNISED

Steve Hilditch, team leader of Derby MRT, has been recognised for his services to the team and to the wider rescue community over a forty-seven-year career.

At a recent PDMRO meeting, Steve was presented with his long service award by Mike France, MREW chairman. As one of the longest serving team leaders in mountain rescue, Steve is widely recognised within the rescue community as one of the most experienced and gifted. He has led the Derby team for 34 years, having first joined in 1967, but stepped down from the role in March.

Team chairman Nic Berry said, 'I have worked with Steve for over 26 years. His fatherly nature within the team has always shone through, as has his dedication to team members and casualties. He has strived to have the best team around him, hardly missing a call-out or training session and always thinks of others before himself. I

was pleased recently to give him our internal Above and Beyond Award for his exceptional contribution to the team.' Aside from mountain rescue, Steve has been heavily involved with the scouting movement in Derbyshire and held many key positions over 44 years, having only just stepped down as the county adviser of hillwalking and climbing in the region, responsible for the training and assessment of all instructors in these areas. As such, he was honoured before Christmas with the Silver Wolf, the highest award in scouting, presented for services of the most exceptional character and an honour that can only be awarded by the Chief Scout, currently TV presenter Bear Grylls.

route around them would make a damned good walk and the Crosses Walk was born. We have all the same financial problems now as then, so we're reintroducing this truly monolithic walk for our anniversary year.'

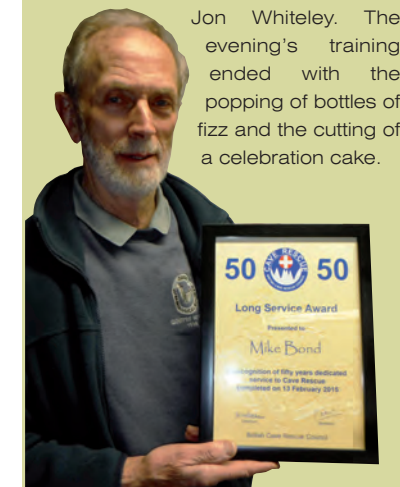
Hopefully, long distance walkers and runners who enjoy a tough challenge will take the opportunity to tackle this 53-mile route around some of the most beautiful scenery Yorkshire has to offer. The route winds its way through woodlands, down dales and over the high moor. Indeed, it is the variety that produces both the challenge and the attraction.

PENMACRA

DOUBLE CELEBRATION FOR DEVON CRO

On 13 February 1965, a group of local cavers met to discuss the need for a formal cave rescue organisation in Devon — at what turned out to be the inaugural meeting of Devon Cave Rescue Organisation.

Present at that first meeting was Mike Bond, a 21-year-old, active and fit caver, a builder by trade, representing the Devon Speleological Society and, fifty years on, Mike is still an active member of the Devon CRO. His dedication to fifty years of service was certainly worth marking along with celebrating fifty years of the organisation. So, in February, members of DCRO attending their normal training session saw Mike awarded a 50-year British Cave Rescue Council Long Service Award by team leader Jon Whiteley. The evening's training ended with the popping of bottles of fizz and the cutting of a celebration cake.



BENEVOLENCE AT WORK

NEIL WOODHEAD BENEVOLENT FUND CHAIRMAN

The Benevolent Fund is continuing to work in different ways for the benefit of mountain and cave rescue team members. Open for business for over eighteen months and we've already been able to help two team members who have approached us for assistance.

Our first applicant recently summed up the assistance very succinctly with 'Thank you for your support, it's greatly appreciated.'

We will continue to work over the next couple of years to change the perception that many team members have about asking for assistance. We're all keen to respond quickly to call-outs, to go out in foul conditions and rescue those in need. But every now and again something goes wrong whilst training or on a call-out and a team member is injured. This may mean time off work, which can result in financial hardship for the team member, their spouse or partner and any dependants. Insurance claims can be made but these often take time to process. So where does the team member turn for help?

The Benevolent Fund is here to be called upon and team

members should feel no shame in asking for some assistance in their time of need. The whole process is very confidential — just contact your regional rep or someone senior in your team, or come direct to one of the trustees at the Benevolent Fund. We're here to help and will treat everything you tell us very sensitively.

But what if your need isn't financial? You may continue to be paid in full by your employer, but can't return to full team duties due to your injury.

That is obviously bad news for you, but it's also bad news for your team and the casualties calling your team for help. If the medical advice is that rehabilitation will help you recover, then our arrangement with the Fire Fighters' Charity and the use of their rehabilitation centres may just be what you need. Some intensive rehabilitation may see you back on the call-out list quicker — and on the road back to fitness — and that can only be of benefit to everyone involved.

Once again there's no shame in asking for our assistance and everything is handled confidentially and sensitively.

It might not be a physical injury preventing you from working and returning to team duties. The mental health charity MIND has recently launched their Blue Light Programme, at an event kindly hosted by funders the Cabinet Office. The Benevolent Fund was invited and trustee Bill Whitehouse attended the meeting, where he heard from emergency service staff and volunteers at all levels about why the Blue Light Programme is so important to both the statutory and volunteer emergency services — including mountain and cave rescue. MIND's Blue Light team have been busy developing the programme and we've been engaging with them for the benefit of team members.

There will be much for us to report over the next few months as we work with MIND to ensure team members are made more aware of mental health issues and how they can access

services for assistance.

To ensure the Benevolent Fund has sufficient funds for these initiatives, in addition to the more typical request for financial assistance, we continue to be very grateful for any donations from teams, regions, team members and other parties.

WAYS TO GIVE

1. Raise a cheque and send it to Shirley Priestley, Treasurer, Mountain and Cave Rescue Benevolent Fund, 13 Maple Grove, York YO10 4EJ.
2. Make a BACS transfer direct to the Benevolent Fund CAF Cash account (clearly marked with who you are!) Sort code: 40-52-40. Account Number: 00023601. Our charity number: 1152798.

FAQS, FORMS AND OTHER STUFF

You can download the FAQs, a claim form and a sponsor form, from the Members area of the MREW website. Just go to the folder in Resources marked 'Benevolent Fund'. ●

TRUSTEES:
NEIL WOODHEAD
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NM.WOODHEAD
@BTINTERNET.COM
SHIRLEY PRIESTLEY
(TREASURER)
SHIRLEYPRIESTLEY7@
BTINTERNET.COM
JUDY WHITESIDE
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WALES), GRANT
WHITESIDE (PEAKS),
IAN COUSINS (SOUTH
WALES), ROGER KING
(PENMACRA), CARL
FAULKNER (NESRA),
BOB SCURR
(YORKSHIRE DALES),
PETE ALLWRIGHT
(CAVE RESCUE).
*SWERA: NO REP



Left: Tom Redfern at the rescue of a canyoneer with a broken leg from below Beezley Falls, Ingleton, September 2011 © Rae Lonsdale.

YORKSHIRE DALES

TOM'S OFF TO CHAM!

Tom Redfern, formerly team leader with Langdale Ambleside MRT and, more recently, a duty controller with the Cave Rescue Organisation (CRO), has retired, sold up and moved to where they have bigger hills, snowier winters and sunnier summers: the Haute Savoie.

Tom began his rescue career with the Teesdale and Weardale team, before moving to Cumbria and joining LAMRT. Having joined CRO in 1997, he became an underground controller in 2001 and was a duty controller from 2004 until 2015. Tom joined Langdale and Ambleside MRT in 1974, becoming first their training officer, then team leader, from 1982 until 1984, when he moved north. He was also a SARDA dog handler and involved in setting up the

NORTH WALES



TRYFAN RESCUE CAKE

Ogwen team members kicked off their 50th anniversary celebrations in style with this magnificent 'Tryfan rescue' cake baked by Anne Aspinall.

UPPER WHARFEDALE THREE PEAKS

The last Saturday in June brings UWFA's second fundraising challenge following last year's inaugural event — a day that brought in an amazing 419 entrants. Already recognised by the Long Distance Walkers' Association it has three choices: 22 miles (Birks Fell, Buckden Pike, Great Whernside) 13.5 miles (Birks Fell, Great Whernside) or the shorter 4.5 miles Valley Walk. The walks all start and end in Kettlewell. For full details go to uwfra.org.uk/w3p.

A year of events began with the AGM in early March — and cake — followed later that evening by a Grand Dinner at the Venue Cymru in Llandudno, attended by invited guests and team members past and present, including Ron James, co-founder of the Ogwen Valley MRO, the first rescue team in Wales. Chris Bonington was also there to say a few words and share his memories of climbing in the Ogwen Valley. The dinner was hailed a great success and there are plenty more ideas in the pipeline, to mark the fifty years, including a raft race, dinner on Tryfan and a line of lights up the iconic mountain. There is also a book in the offing, tracking the history, memories and tales of the team and its members since 1964.

Left to right: Five of the team's longest-serving team members cut the cake: Bill Dean, Roger Jones, Maggie Adam, Neil Adam and KC Gordon © OVMRO.



BENEVOLENT FUND NOW ENABLING REHABILITATION

In association with the Fire Fighters Charity, beneficiaries from the Benevolent Fund can now access the residential rehab programme at their three centre locations: Jubilee House in Penrith, Cumbria, Harcombe House, near Exeter in Devon and Marine Court in Littlehampton, West Sussex.

CONDITIONS TREATED

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- Orthopaedic problems
- Neurological conditions
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- Regain fitness levels post-surgery or oncology
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- **Specific exercises** with a personalised exercise programme to suit each individual's rehabilitation needs
- **Physiotherapy** — on arrival clients are assessed and then receive physio as

their condition requires during the rehabilitation programme

- **Outdoor activities** — walking and cycling (cycling at the Jubilee Centre only)
- **Health education sessions** — a range of seminars covering topics such as coronary heart disease, men's/women's health, weight management, alcohol awareness, principles of rehabilitation, back care and pain management.



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE BENEVOLENT FUND AND THE BENEFITS DESCRIBED, CONTACT JUDY WHITESIDE VIA JUDY.WHITESIDE@ZEN.CO.UK



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STATISTICS: WHY BOTHER?

Far from being dry and boring, the gathering and interpretation of statistics is increasing relevant to mountain safety and mountain rescue funding, as **Dave 'Heavy' Whalley** demonstrates here.

For many years I was involved with two of the protagonists in Scottish mountain rescue stats, Ben Humble and John Hinde. Ben was a renowned mountaineer with a great interest in mountain safety. He left a great legacy through the Scottish Mountaineering Club annual journal. His article, 'A survey of Mountain Accidents In Scotland 1925-45' was a breakthrough at the time and he continued to compile a yearly listing of mountain accidents in the SMC journals.

When Ben passed away, John Hinde took up the role and did an outstanding job for many years. They left a unique history and so much information for future generations, especially in the aspects of mountain safety.

Today's mountain rescue teams are extremely busy. After a call-out, quite possibly the last thing you want to do is compile a call-out report — yet they are so important.

I took over the statistician job for several years and had various problems keeping up with the reports. In those days, there were some 400 call-outs a year, many involving several teams. The paperwork involved was hard work, a constant battle to keep up to date. It was almost a full time job.

I often gave talks, encouraging teams to realise how important the reports are. None of us like paperwork but it's so essential especially when trying to raise funding from government sources. I found this out the hard way in the late 1980s, when they were about to cut the RAF teams (or even get rid of them). Mine was the only team with a history going back to 1944 and I was able to prove to the bean counters that 10% of our incidents were for military



HEAVY WHALLEY
WAS WITH RAF MOUNTAIN RESCUE FOR 36 YEARS. A MEMBER OF THE SCOTTISH MOUNTAIN RESCUE COMMITTEE EXECUTIVE FOR OVER TWENTY YEARS, HE SERVED FOR FIVE OF THOSE AS STATISTICIAN AND THREE AS CHAIRMAN. NOW RETIRED, HE IS WRITING A BOOK.

aircraft and military personnel. It was also very relevant in the early days of seeking funding from the Scottish Government, when I was chairman of Scottish Mountain Rescue. We had to explain to the First Minister that teams puts a huge amount of hours in on training, courses and looking after equipment, apart from attending incidents.

INFORMATION

Information gained from incidents can be so helpful to teams, showing where training should be directed. If your team mainly does lowland urban searches, should you spend do much time and money on expensive equipment on technical gear? Maybe look more into search planning and training? Or if you carry out a lot searches in areas of swift water, should training be increased in this area?

A rich profile of what a team does and where it does it can help inform not only training but also what kinds of equipment to purchase. It's all about matching what the team does in theory to what it does in practice. I suspect, in many cases, this still doesn't happen.

An accurate, up-to-date picture about what happens across the country can help advise the press, Government and safety organisations about what aspects to focus on and also avoids these organisations passing on, year after year, inaccurate myths (such as the oft repeated 'all mountaineers are ill-equipped, inexperienced numpties hell-bent on jumping off cliffs'!)

SEARCHES

All team areas have accident 'hot spots'. It may be worth having a look back to see if any

changes are relevant. Casualties do get found in areas that were hot spots in the past. Many of the current team may have limited knowledge of this historical fact as elder team members leave and their knowledge is lost.

A recent Professor of IT is quoted as saying that 'the experiences of our past are still the best road map to our future'. Hot spots of the past do disappear and new ones appear but it's only when we carry out an objective analysis that trends like this appear. Statistics help a team find out more about the new hot spots (where they are, how you gain access, technical challenges and so on). Far better to be warned than caught out on a rescue!

MEDICAL

Looking at the injuries your team deals with enables you to make priorities in the right areas. If you deal with 80% ankle lower limbs, make sure all team members are able to treat these and that the equipment is suitable. How many stretcher carries do you do, how often do you practice? It's easy to get side tracked.

No point in spending thousands of pounds on fancy kit to deal with a broken femur when your team has never seen such an injury! And if a team mainly deals with searches with no injured people, why train numerous members to become EMTs and the like, when the money and time would be better spent on training people to become better at searching and search management?

FUNDING

The Government is interested in stats — man/women hours

are so important. But what about the hours on training and sorting gear and exercises? These are never included in the figures, only call-out hours. What about travel to and from a call-out, sorting out gear, standby hours? It's worth working out how many hours the team spends on training, courses and kit maintenance? It will amaze you! When you add up all the hours carried out by every team across a full year it adds up to around 40,000 hours — which translates into many, many full time police officers, and shows not only what a comprehensive job we do, but also how much money is saved from the public purse.

SAFETY AND RESEARCH

It may be worth alerting climbers and walkers to current trends in your area — but is safety a mountain rescue concern? In my view, the national mountain rescue bodies are in the best possible position to advise about what can go wrong. We have a moral obligation to publish our annual statistics far and wide and in a timely manner — not two years late! Also, as we receive funds from central government, do we have a legal responsibility to do this too? For example, some of the recent accidents on Ben Nevis, during winter 2015, have been in the same area and involving walkers — why is this trend happening?

HISTORICAL

So many casualties or their families come back many years later to find out what happened to them or a loved one. It's good to have some background on the incident and what happened. Many things reoccur on a regular cycle. We can all recount instances where family

members have come back to us for information about someone who died (a grid reference, more detail, who assisted). We have a moral responsibility to help these people by providing relevant — and correct — information.

STATS ARE SO IMPORTANT

The world has changed so much concerning data protection and personal privacy, with new regulations to ensure this is adhered to. We don't need to name any casualties but age and other factors are very relevant. With one police force, I was assured we would have current and accurate stats that we can use for the next generations to learn from. I wonder how far we are from this now in Scotland, with the single police force? I feel we owe it to John Hinde, Ben Humble and all the other statistics officers who have maintained and published accurate and up-to-date records to tackle this problem before it is too late. Is it only me that sees this as a problem? Your comments are welcome.

WORTH NOTING

Mountain Rescue England and Wales is very open about what it does. You can download annual figures from as far back as 1980 right through to 2013 from mountain.rescue.org.uk/information-centre/incident-statistics

Mountain Rescue Ireland is not quite as up-to-date but still open about publishing its annual statistics — mountainrescue.ie/teaminformation

This article first appeared on Heavy's regular blog at www.heavywhalley.com, with thanks to Bob Sharp for his input and to Ben Humble and John Hinde for their inspiration.

Oct•Nov•Dec•2014

Lake District		Kinder	4
Cockermouth	11	Oldham	7
Conistون	10	Woodhead	6
Duddon and Furness	7	(Last quarter: 69)	51
Kendal	12		
Keswick	9	Peninsula	
Kirkby Stephen	7	Cornwall	6
Langdale Ambleside	20	Dartmoor Okehampton	7
Patterdale	21	Dartmoor Tavistock	5
Penrith	6	Exmoor	1
Wasdale	8	(Last quarter: 13)	19
(Last quarter: 198)	111		
		South Wales	
Mid-Pennine		Brecon	11
Bolton	6	Central Beacons	8
Calder Valley	8	Longtown	6
Holme Valley	3	Western Beacons	3
Rossendale & Pendle	1	(Last quarter: 53)	28
(Last quarter: 38)	18		
		South West	
North East		SARA	4
Cleveland	15		4
North of Tyne	8		
Northumberland NP	9	Yorkshire Dales	
Scarborough & Ryedale	10	CRO	8
Swaledale	5	Upper Wharfedale	9
Teasdale & Weardale	1	(Last quarter: 32)	17
(Last quarter: 46)	47		
		Search Dogs	
North Wales		Lakes	8
Aberdyfi	1	England	7
Aberglaslyn	2	Wales	4
Llanberis	9	South Wales	8
North East Wales	3	(Last quarter: 22)	27
Ogwen Valley	32		
South Snowdonia	1	RAF	
(Last quarter: 107)	48	Leeming	4
		Valley	1
Peak District		(Last quarter: 4)	5
Buxton	17		
Derby	4	Total	375
Edale	6	(Last quarter: 582)	
Glossop	7		

RESCUE+ RECOVERY

When **Lyndon Marquis** fell from a route he'd completed half a dozen times before, on Cam Crag in Borrowdale – sustaining significant spinal and shoulder injuries – members of the Keswick team were there to bring him down to safety. He considers himself lucky to be alive, thanks in no small part to his climbing helmet. Several months on, his recovery continues.

It's a dreich November morning in the Lakes and I've chosen Cam Crag (a grade 2 scramble) as a route up Glaramara. I know the line and I can navigate from Langstrathdale to the summit and back into Borrowdale even in this low visibility. Also the geology is good, grippy, volcanic rock I can trust even in the wet.

I park just past Stonethwaite school and follow the road into the village, whence it becomes a farm track running up into Langstrathdale. It's pleasant (if damp) going, winding up through old woodland, mist-shrouded and hung with moss. Where Stonethwaite Beck splits into two, I take the western fork, following Langstrath Beck out of the trees onto open fells. It's wild

The first three or four metres of the scramble start here: easy going on rough-textured rock – always with three points of contact – to warm up. I top out above Woof Stones and head across a long, flattish slab to the next stage of the scramble.

What follows is reconstructed from fractured memory, medical notes, and conversation with the mountain rescue paramedic who treated me on the scene. I cannot swear to its veracity as I have viewed these events through the prisms of injury, shock, relief and a great deal of morphine – I'm certain, for instance, that the search dogs were not allowed to lick my face, but that is how it appears in my mind's eye in the romanticised afterglow of not dying. I've tried not to overplay the seriousness of my injuries nor indeed my stoicism in the face of them. Anything giving the impression of pragmatism is displacement activity to avoid thinking about how much trouble I'm in.

country here. On a sunny day, there'd be picnickers and possibly swimmers where the stream broadens near Blackmoss Pot, but today it is bleak, grey and forbidding.

As the track crosses the flow to join the Cumbrian Way, I start to angle gently uphill. At the 200 metre contour, I turn my face to the heights and handrail Woof Gill up to Woof Stones. I pause on the southern side of the stones for a bite and a drink and strap on my climbing helmet.

hub of pain, fear and panic. Towards the end of my tumble, my helmet is ripped off by the violence of my descent. At some point I pass out.

When I return to the world, I'm on my back, head pointing downslope. I can feel there's something wrong with my ribs and when I look up, my right foot is flopping about horrifically. I lever myself upright and try to drag myself backwards into a position that will allow me to assess the situation. When I load my weight onto my arms, I discover that my right collarbone may be broken and I can't feel my left arm. Sitrep unfavourable.

For the record, courtesy of my LGI discharge notes, these were my injuries:

- Left 4-10 rib fractures – these were managed supportively and have improved well.
- Thoracic 6 vertebral body fracture – underwent surgical fixation.
- Thoracic 5 + 6 and lumbar 1 + 4 transverse process fractures, sacrum 1 + 2 spinous process fractures – managed conservatively.
- Right clavicle fracture – managed conservatively with a sling.
- Left brachial plexus neuropraxia – no injury found on MRI – improving with physiotherapy.
- Open right tibial fracture – managed operatively.

In short, I traumatised the nerve cluster that works my left arm, broke my back, my right

collar bone, seven ribs and my right leg (and punched my tibia out through my calf).

At one level, I know that I left a decent route description with my family and they'll call mountain rescue if I'm not back by 17:00. At a rather more pressing level, I'm in pain and shock and some difficulty.

My iPhone has survived so I try to summon rescue myself. No signal for a 999 call. Also, I notice it's only 14:30. I'm not sure what time I fell. Elsewhere in the rucksack, my flexi flask burst during the fall – doubtless the litre of water there soaked up some impact that would

across my shoulders to insulate myself from the sky. I can't get my gloves back on because my left hand won't work so I tuck them (and my cold hands) into the kangaroo pocket on my smock. Then I hunker down to wait for the cavalry. I am weatherproof but I am frightened, distressed and I have never felt so alone. I would not wish this situation on another living thing.

There is a saying that pain is weakness leaving the body. I know not its provenance and nor do I care – it is the hollow sound of someone selling you gym membership. The roiling

The roiling wave of nausea that writhes up through you when one half of your broken tibia grates across the other half of your broken tibia is not weakness leaving the body. It is your body telling you that, this time, you may have bitten off more than you can chew without choking.

body. It is your body telling you that, this time, you may have bitten off more than you can chew without choking.

I slip in and out of

at some point it is very dark and still raining and I try again for a 999 signal – I notice that it is around 20:30.

In my deepening despair, I fear they have called off the search for the night because the weather's too grim or it's just too dark and they don't want to risk anyone else's safety on difficult terrain at night. Fair enough, I think, and then consider the prospect of a night out here alone and the possibility that hypothermia or blood loss might reach me before mountain rescue.

I have no sooner had this thought than out of the corner of my right eye, I see two dogs bounding past on the edge of torchlight and I hear voices. I cannot communicate how utterly full of relief I am at this moment. For all the ruin in which I huddle, my entire body floods with gratitude and joy. I rear up on my shattered frame shouting 'Help me, please help me! I'm here, please don't leave me!'

Somewhere in the darkness, a voice answers. 'It's alright, keep shouting and we'll find you.'

Half in elation, half in agony, face puffed up with tears and



Left: Post-surgery © Emma Adams. **X-rays:** Titanium Man! Well, small parts of me are. And actually, I don't know if my spine is. X-rays of spinal and tibial repairs, courtesy of Leeds Teaching Hospitals.

have otherwise have been transmitted to my back. I have a flask of coffee, some sandwiches, a survival bag and my Buffalo belay jacket.

I swapped rucksacks this morning. My other Macpac sack had an emergency whistle built into the sternum strap. This one doesn't. I didn't transfer my first aid kit or my headtorch.

I manage to drag/push myself backwards into a position where my back is supported and my leg is in a straight line and elevated. I drink coffee. I eat sandwiches. I can't get my legs into the survival bag because one of them is broken, but I get it underneath me to insulate myself from the ground. I can't get my belay jacket on because my left arm is too unmanageable, but I get it

wave of nausea that writhes up through you when one half of your broken tibia grates across the other half of your broken tibia is not weakness leaving the

consciousness for I know not how long. In my bouts of lucidity I find it is raining, it is getting dark and there is blood dripping from my right trouser leg. Joy. Then



Left: 'Selfie' taken on the very same Cam Crag, the year before my accident. **Centre:** Bruising on my neck and shoulders ten days after my accident © Maria Spadafora. **Right:** The grooves on my helmet.

...he fell from the high place and broke the mountainside where he smote it in his ruin. JRR Tolkien, The Two Towers

Above: Top image shows a person if blue at the team's best guess for a fall location (may be completely wrong)! The dog in the foreground showing where Lyndon landed. Images courtesy of Martin Bell, Keswick MRT.

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snot, I call over and over, 'Help me, I'm here, help me, I'm here.' until my voice cracks and my world irises down to a little circle of headtorch glow and happy, licking muzzles. When the paramedic gets to me, I have toppled face down, I have no idea where my left arm is relative to the rest of me and my right leg is three or four inches shorter than my left. A multi-person shelter is pulled over me and, after over seven hours alone with my injuries, I dimly grasp that I am not going to die this time. Then the morphine arrives and I am cast free of this world's shackles for a short while.

A voice tells me they've ordered a helicopter and it will be half an hour. Where on Earth is it coming from? Scotland, as it happens. A notion of being in the wind again, a strap coming tight over my torso, so much light and so much noise, a voice warns me I'm going to be winched and someone very gently takes my contact lenses out. I will not see clearly for two weeks.

I spend two days in surgery of which I have very little memory. (I now have a titanium rod

Eventually, the hospital moves above me in a scrolling mosaic of ceiling tiles as I am wheeled from the HDU to a trauma ward. I am suddenly confronted by the intimacy, the sheer langour of my slow-dance with death and I cry uncontrollably for what seems like two hours. I explain my situation and ask for some medication to take me out of the world for the night.

Two friends drive up from Bradford to visit me. In my mind's eye, the visit takes place in a corridor next to a fire escape. In reality, it was on the ward. To try to nail something of the world down, as they are leaving I ask one of them if they are really real and if the visit really happened. She takes my hand and assures me of both.

A friend rents me one of the television consoles and I make my blurry way through Pacific Rim, Skyfall, The Lone Ranger, The Dark Knight Rises and, bizarrely, a lot of James Martin cookery shows — strangely relaxing if you've broken your back, leg, collarbone and seven ribs, can't use your left arm and can barely see.

For each trip to the toilet, even to transfer to the chair next to

doubled-checked with someone on my ward).

It's now almost two weeks since I've had a cup of coffee. Those that know me will understand what an absence this is. It's odd what you can do without when it comes down to it.

The man opposite me has an oxygen mask, one of those exoskeletal frames on his leg and multi-packs of crisps strewn round his bed. When the curtains are drawn, I hear him take his mask off so he can eat crisps. The next morning, his lung collapses and a surgical team push a tube through his ribcage to drain the fluid. I'm definitely not saying *post hoc ergo propter hoc* here. It's just odd the choices we make, given our circumstances. Not that I have room to talk — look how I got here.

The physiotherapists have me moving from bed to chair on a banana board, which makes excursions to the bathroom a bit more self-reliant. Then I'm on a walking frame and then on crutches. I take my first more-or-less-solo shower for weeks. I need help to wash my back and my calves but apart from that, the nurse affords me as much dignity as she can without compromising my safety.

To avoid deep vein thrombosis, I am injected in the abdomen with tinazaparin each night. The nurse shows me how to do it myself as, regardless of left-handed incompetence, I will have to manage it when I am discharged. I make a bish of it the first night but he is very patient with me and I get it right thereafter.

An occupational therapist takes me through Addenbrooke's Cognitive Examination to test my... um... cognition. I'm asked to write at least two sentences about my last holiday. How I laughed! Another exercise has me naming the subjects of various drawings.

'Well, that could be an alligator or a crocodile. The illustration doesn't have sufficient detail about dentition for me to make that distinction.'

I score smartarse out of twelve.

Finally, the physios teach me to take stairs on crutches and

10 NOVEMBER 2014: FALLEN CLIMBER, CAM CRAG: THE RESCUE TEAM

This call-out (number 98 for the year) came into the team as a search for a missing person. Initially I thought there would be a little wait prior to the call-out just to see if he turned up. However, there was very reliable information regarding Lyndon's route and capabilities, so deployment of the team was swift. Despite the team being given a good route plan (a factor which aided greatly in a positive outcome) a full search plan was instigated, with team members and dog teams liberally distributed around the Borrowdale area.

Cam Crag ridge appeared to be the 'crux' section of the route plan so a party was quickly dispatched there. I was part of this group, acting as a navigator for a dog team. Due to the nature of Langstrath, communications always need several relay stations setting up and the weather on this evening didn't aid much either!

As with any search, personnel and equipment are spread widely — fortunately, as the focus was initially on Cam Crag, a good deal of medical and insulating equipment went that way, so was close by when the find was made. When the find was made I was some way down the fell and so during the time it took me to flog upward, the first on scene had time to do a primary survey and gain some insight into the casualty's injuries. Also, the call for a helicopter with night time and winching capability had been made.

I found the casualty in remarkably good shape considering the nature of the fall and length of time he'd lain out in the cold and wet. It was obvious Lyndon was well equipped and resourceful. Surmising that the mechanism for his injury had been quite severe, all care was taken with treatment and packaging with the indication that his injury would be more severe than the obvious visible injuries. Timing worked well as, by the time injuries had been treated and the casualty immobilised and packaged, the Sea King was hovering overhead. I made the decision that it would be beneficial to fly straight to the Major Trauma Centre at the Royal Victoria Infirmary in Newcastle due to the extent of the injuries. This proved the correct option, even though I had to travel in the helicopter for continuity of patient care.

MARTIN BELL PARAMEDIC & KESWICK TEAM MEMBER

this means I can be discharged. It swirls up far more quickly than I expect and within three hours I'm strapped in an ambulance wondering if I'm ready to leave hospital. There's no pleasing some people.

I can never adequately thank the good people (and hounds) of Keswick MRT for my life. That anyone should give up their free time to look for me in such conditions is almost beyond my comprehension. Similarly I am indebted to the staff of the High Dependency Unit and Ward 22 of Newcastle Royal Victoria Infirmary, Ward 22 of Leeds General Infirmary and the physiotherapy team at St Luke's Hospital for my treatment, care and continuing recovery. Mountain rescue volunteers and the NHS are two things that should make us proud to be British.

One final thank you — to my helmet. I cannot absolutely swear that it saved my life, but looking at the grooves scratched into its dome, I'm very glad they weren't in my skull.

SOME LESSONS TO CUT OUT AND KEEP

- I now have a **safety whistle** in a pocket of all of my rucksacks.
- If you're heading for the hills, leave a **proper route description and return time** with someone — Keswick MRT was able to find me as quickly as they did because they weren't searching the whole of Glaramara.
- **Headtorch!** That was a stupid omission and the strobe setting on my torch would have made me easier to find and

may have been spotted earlier in my plight.

- If you're scrambling, wear a **helmet** — it's better to wear one and not need it than to need it and not be wearing one.
- Finally (for those readers not involved in mountain rescue) if you enjoy any activity in the mountains, please make a donation to mountain rescue. You never know when you might need them, whether or not the route is within your capability! ●

**post hoc ergo propter hoc: after this, therefore because of this.*

LYNDON MARQUIS

LIVES IN BINGLEY, WEST YORKSHIRE, AND WORKS FOR NATURAL ENGLAND. FOR OVER 30 YEARS HE HAS ENJOYED HIKING, SCRAMBLING AND WINTER MOUNTAINEERING ACROSS NORTHERN ENGLAND, SNOWDONIA AND THE SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS. YOU CAN READ ALL ABOUT HIS EXPERIENCES ON NOTREALLYALLAMA.WORDPRESS.COM. FOLLOWING HIS ACCIDENT, HE RETURNED TO WORK IN APRIL AND LOOKS FORWARD TO A FULL RECOVERY.

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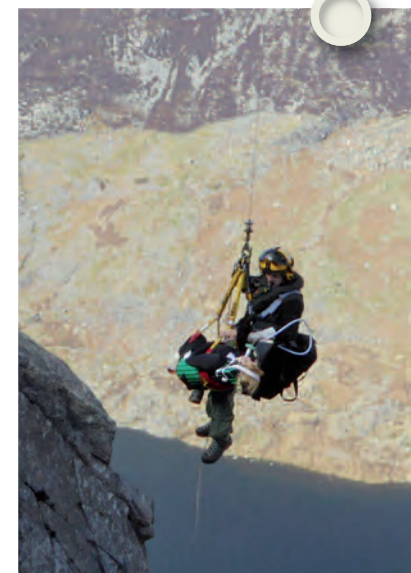
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APRIL: C-FLIGHT 22 SQUADRON RAF VALLEY CLOCK UP THEIR 10,000 ON TRYFAN IN A BUSY DAY FOR THE OGWEN VALLEY TEAM

Easter Saturday was a big day for the Ogwen team, with multiple back-to-back jobs and amazing support from the RAF on three of the incidents. The calls began at 12.30pm with the final incident finished at 9.30pm, under a glorious moonlit sky. **Chris Lloyd** describes the day's events.



The morning cloud lifted from the tops to reveal a superb and memorable day for visitors to the Ogwen Valley. A party of four (two couples, middle aged from Runcorn and Warrington) were just part of the hundreds of people making the notorious scramble up the North Ridge of Tryfan. Unfortunately, as one of the women climbed up to her partner, she lost her footing and fell about 50 feet.

She bounced a couple of times before coming to rest on a ledge, her continued fall prevented by the second man in the party. He was knocked off balance and fell about 20 feet hitting his female partner. The first lady to fall suffered lacerations to the head and injuries to her arm, leg and possible pelvis. The man suffered head injuries and his partner suffered an ankle injury. Fortunately, a senior member of Keswick MRT was first on scene and was able to call for mountain rescue.

Two team members were deployed to carry out immediate casualty care. A Sea King from RAF Valley was requested and a stretcher party mustered at Oggi base. As the stretcher party made its way up the North Ridge, the helicopter was able to get to the casualty site and eventually winch the three casualties aboard. Whilst they were flown to Ysbyty Gwynedd, the remaining man walked off the mountain with team members. After some refreshment at base, he was delivered to his friend's car (his friend having

handed over the keys before being winched) and was able to drive to the hospital. The incident was concluded by about 3.30pm.

Whilst members were repacking kit and grabbing some late lunch, two people drove to base to report the sighting of a lone black Labrador stuck on a ledge on the lower slopes of Penryolewen. At about 4.15pm, three team members drove down to the mass of visitors and cars at the Idwal Visitor centre and went in search of the dog, now no longer visible from the road. As they reached the Point Last Seen, the team received a further call-out for a casualty with a dislocated shoulder above Tryfan Bach (Little Tryfan). The search party of three returned to the valley floor and headed back up the lower slopes of the North Ridge. Here a couple, from near Bristol, had deviated from one of the many paths in the area. Whilst descending a steep heather-covered slope, the woman, who was from Ecuador, slipped and dislocated her shoulder whilst arresting her slide.

Due to the steep location of the casualty and the injury, the helicopter was requested once more — the 9999th rescue by C Flight, 22 Sqn RAF Valley. Our three-member team arrived almost at the same time as the winchman. Once more, a stretcher was deployed up the mountain side, the casualty treated and winched aboard. Her partner walked down with team members back to base for refreshment before being delivered to his car. This incident was concluded shortly after 7.30pm.

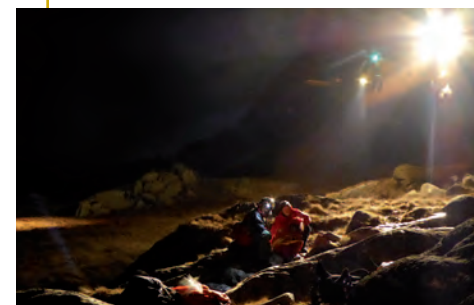
As team members were once again sorting kit, we received reports of screams heard by a number of people in the Cwm Bochlwyd area. So shortly before 8.00pm, three team members were deployed to investigate. In the meantime, the warden at Idwal Cottage Youth Hostel reported that friends had



reported a man overdue. As the three team members made their way up to Cwm Bochlwyd at dusk, a small cluster of people could be seen low down on the ascent to Bochlwyd. On investigation, they found the injured woman sitting down with her partner, having been assisted by other walkers including the overdue man.

The young woman (in her early 30s and from London) had injured her ankle high up in Cwm Bochlwyd. Assisted by her partner and fellow walkers, she had made a very brave effort to descend the steep and rocky footpath. She and her partner from Kent had also been up the North Ridge of Tryfan earlier in the afternoon and had descended into Cwm Bochlwyd. They had become separated for a short time, just as the woman injured her ankle. Her screams of pain and for the attention of her partner, were heard through out the Cwm on the glorious and calm early evening. With the onset of dusk and still some distance to the road, 22 Squadron were requested again.

Shortly afterwards, once again the familiar sound of the yellow Sea King was heard coming up the valley: Rescue number 10,000. Congratulations C Flight! The young woman was winched aboard and flown down to hospital in Bangor. Her partner joined team members walking down to the road. He was then driven to his car and given directions to the hospital. This incident was concluded at about 9.30pm on a glorious moonlit night in the Ogwen Valley.



Brief introduction to the
British Cave Rescue
officers and how to find
them...

who?



CHAIRMAN: BILL WHITEHOUSE

chair@caverescue.org.uk

Represents cave rescue with Government, the emergency services, UKSAR and MREW, including fundraising and forward planning. An executive trustee of the Mountain and Cave Rescue Benevolent Fund and chair of Derbyshire CRO.



VICE CHAIRMAN: DANY BRADSHAW

vicechair@caverescue.org.uk

Assists the chairman in his role and represents BCRC at MREW. Currently taking the lead on the team assessment process. He is chairman of SWERA and Warden for Mendip Cave Rescue since 1979.



SECRETARY: EMMA PORTER

secretary@caverescue.org.uk

Currently involved with revamping the BCRC website. Represents BCRC at the British Caving Association and lecture secretary for the national caving conference and the 2015 BCRC conference. Member of MREW forward planning group. Emma is training coordinator of Midlands CRO and member of Gloucestershire CRG.



TREASURER: PAUL TAYLOR

treasurer@caverescue.org.uk

Manages finances and coordinates fundraising and conference secretary for the BCRC Conference. Represents BCRC at the MREW vehicle committee. Paul is chair of Gloucestershire CRG and a member of South & Mid Wales CRT.



TRAINING COORDINATOR: JIM DAVIS

training@caverescue.org.uk

Addresses national training needs and works closely on the team assessment process. Represents BCRC at the MREW training committee. Jim is a member of the Cave Rescue Organisation.



EQUIPMENT OFFICER: MIKE CLAYTON

equipment@caverescue.org.uk

Liaises with MREW regarding the Government grant and runs PPE inspection courses for teams. Represents BCRC at the MREW equipment committee. Secretary of Midlands CRO, he is a member of Gloucestershire CRG.



COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER: JON WHITELEY

communications@caverescue.org.uk

Seeks to enhance ICT for cave rescue and is BCRC rep to the MREW ICT committee and also PenMaCRA comms rep. One of three MREW SARCALL administrators and a rescue controller for Devon CRO.



INFORMATION OFFICER: HEATHER SIMPSON

informationofficer@caverescue.org.uk

Maintains contact details for the fifteen teams. Part of MREW fundraising group and also manages MREW collecting tins from Stratford-upon-Avon — as far as you can get from a cave or mountain! Heather is a member of North Wales CRO and Midlands CRO and a new recruit of the Derbyshire CRO.



LEGAL ADVISER: TOBY HAMNETT

legal@caverescue.org.uk

A solicitor by profession, focuses on pragmatic solutions and believes in communication to ensure legal risk is minimised. If a case requires specialist knowledge outside his area of expertise he can assist in ensuring the right expert is identified.



DIVING OFFICER: CHRIS JEWELL

diving@caverescue.org.uk

Advises on cave diving issues and liaises between the Cave Diving Group and BCRC.

MEDICAL OFFICER: VACANT

medical@caverescue.org.uk

Advises on medical matters and keeps teams aware of medical issues of concern to cave rescue. Represents BCRC at the MREW medical committee and represents BCRC at UKSAR.

BCRC CONFERENCE NEW DATE: 12-14 JUNE

For a number of reasons, the date of the conference weekend has now changed and we will be sharing the venue and evening entertainment in Clearwell Cave with the British Caving Association, who are holding their party and AGM weekend. This should make for a great event and a weekend not to be missed!

The conference will be at the excellent Dean Field Studies Centre, in the heart of the Forest of Dean. Advance bookings (before 10 May) are available at an all-in rate of £24 (including Friday and Saturday night camping, coach to, evening meal, drink and band at, and coach back from Clearwell Caves), plus all on-site events. Accommodation can be upgraded to indoor bunkhouse accommodation for a further £11 in advance.

The programme of events will be as follows:

Friday Registration from 6.00pm and late-night bar.

Saturday Practical workshops and presentations on a wide variety of topics.

Saturday evening Welcome drink, meal, band and bar underground in Clearwell Caves (bring warm clothes and a headtorch) with transport by coach for those that pre-book.

The bar at the Dean Field Studies Centre will open after the coach returns from Clearwell Caves and be open till late.

Sunday Underground exercise in Old Ham Mine.

Prices increase after 10 May so book now to secure your place via caverescue.org.uk. Any questions, please email: booksecretary@caverescue.org.uk. Any profits from the event will be shared between the organising cave rescue teams, GCRG and MCRO.

ARE WE THE BEST WE CAN BE?

Over the last couple of years, BCRC officers have set up a working group and devised a self-assessment questionnaire for cave rescue, aimed at continuous improvement and development through the sharing of good practice. After consultation with teams, the questionnaire was rolled out and teams given the opportunity to go through the process. The second stage has been to commence peer reviews. Mendip Cave Rescue were the first to trial and test this process in February, closely followed by Derbyshire Cave Rescue Organisation in March. **Richard Marlow** gives an account of his team's experience.

Mendip Cave Rescue (MCR) was formed in 1936 as a voluntary organisation, based on the ethos of 'cavers rescuing cavers'. Over the decades caving techniques and equipment has evolved with cave exploration and underground adventure flourishing locally, nationally and worldwide pushing the limits beyond what could only be imagined historically.

The caving community is a unique loose association of people from all walks of life, backgrounds and ages but with a very strong sense of comradeship and self sufficiency. To this end, cavers are ready 24 hours a day across the country to help their fellow cavers in case of accident, illness or emergency underground, hours away from normal frontline services in complex mazes of underground passages often filled with water, tight squeezes, deep vertical pitches in an often changing and unpredictable environment.

From its early origins of doing the best job for colleagues with any equipment and skills which could be mustered in an emergency by local cavers we have evolved those sound foundations to keep pace with modern techniques and equipment but the rescue service is still delivered voluntarily by local cavers bringing a wealth of knowledge and expertise to care for fellow cavers in our underground world.

But how good are we really?

Cave rescue is organised locally across the UK, but under the umbrella of the BCRC, to give a national coordination and support to all the local volunteers and provide a conduit to UK search and rescue providers and a close working relationship with Mountain Rescue England and Wales. There is a saying that 'we don't know what we don't know', so under BCRC we have

started a programme of peer review to take an analytical view of provision within each cave rescue area, benchmark against each other and share best practice so we can all learn and develop to provide the best possible care to our fellow cavers in the future.

The process started with the completion of a detailed self-assessment of assets, training, communications, record keeping, skills, medical provision, with detailed review of the availability and abilities of our volunteers. Peers and national officers from BCRC then met together with local volunteers on Mendip for a weekend of discussions, demonstrations and a full rescue practice to enable MCR wardens and local cavers to



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The final but most fundamental feature is in the case of incorrect use. Should the device be used incorrectly, the Click Up continues to allow you to break and lower your partner in complete safety. This is the most appreciated feature as it avoids several mistakes that can happen when using traditional belay devices when climbing.

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GAS MONITORS IN ACTION

Above left: Nasir prepares to descend © Andy Clark.
Above right: Okay to descend © Robin Weare.
Inset: The sacrificial goat © Bernard Lips.



In Mountain Rescue January 2014, we reported on the use of one of the Gloucester Cave Rescue Group gas monitors (provided to all the BCRC teams via funding from MREW) during a caving expedition to Ethiopia. The caves in this country are well known for containing bad air and having the monitor with the team contributed considerably to their safe return.

The team had viewed this usage as an excellent training opportunity, so when we were approached with a further request to borrow the unit it wasn't refused. The team has three of these units, having purchased an additional one so our response level was not compromised.

Once in Ethiopia, the monitor was put to good use each time a cave site was visited. Firstly, the monitor was lowered down the entrance shaft to establish the oxygen level and, if this proved satisfactory, the first descending caver would enter the cave carrying the monitor. During the exploration of the cave, if oxygen levels were to fall below a safe limit, exploration would be curtailed and a return to the surface made.

Having been in the field for around a week, a late night phone call was received by the Ethiopian official accompanying the expedition. It was from the head of the Department of Culture and Tourism. At village approximately 260 km from the location of the expedition, two local people had disappeared. It was thought they may have entered a nearby cave complex well known to its bad air. The expedition cavers were requested to undertake a

search and recovery.

In the UK, to travel what is only just over 160 miles would be a short trip. However, in Ethiopia this would take at least eight hours and then there would be a ninety-minute walk to the cave.

Leaving the next morning (night time travelling would be even slower) the team made the journey across with only one flat tyre to deal with. But, on arrival, the local officials confirmed that the cave was located a further 45km (just over 28 miles) away. As this would take a further two hours, and with daylight fast fading, it was the next morning at 8.30am before the final vehicle journey was made, followed by the ninety-minute walk to the cave.

A senior Ethiopian official was on hand when the team arrived to provide a full briefing and establish the probable requirements. Overnight he had arranged for the local hospital to send an ambulance and that was already at the village. He had also arranged for some breathing apparatus to be made available but this was going to have to come from Addis Ababa, some considerable distance away.

Once at the cave (Enkuftu Tufte) it was established that it contained

three rooms (chambers) and was used occasionally for the mining of crystals and the recovery of mercury. The local villagers stayed clear of the site as there had been deaths in the past. It was confirmed that the missing pair were not locals.

The cave entrance was a six-metre pitch and the normal pre-descent check was made by lowering the gas monitor to the foot of the pitch where it remained for a short time and then was brought back to the surface. This confirmed that the oxygen level was 18.4%.

Two cavers descended into the first chamber and confirmed that the oxygen level was still at 18.4%. Crossing the chamber, a slope was reached that led to the second chamber. By now, the level had dropped to 17.4% and only a few metres further it had dropped to 16% and was causing a degree of breathing difficulties. A short distance further on, a large boulder was seen and from here the floor fell away for an estimated further five metres. With a rope attached to his harness one member of the party crossed cautiously to the boulder while the other remained ready to haul him back should a problem develop. At the boulder the gas monitor was lowered and retrieved and when checked this showed an oxygen level of 12.2%.

At this point, any further progress was determined as being completely unsafe and it was certain that anybody beyond this point would not have survived. The two cavers returned to the surface. En route, a small bag of gypsum crystals was found and presumed to

be part of the haul being mined by the unfortunate casualties who were very likely to be located in the base of the third room.

It later transpired that a few weeks earlier the cave had been accessed safely so it strongly suggested that the change in oxygen levels had occurred relatively suddenly and caught these two people out.

Back at the village thanks were extended by the officials and the villagers to the cavers for their efforts in attempting the rescue and they were invited to stay overnight, accommodated in the village health centre and entertained by the village elders to a very nice meal.

Although not part of the original plan for the expedition this unfortunate incident has helped considerably to build relationships between the cavers and the Ethiopian officials and the next day the cavers were taken to and explored some more caves that they did not know about.

Thanks are extended to Gloucestershire Cave Rescue Group for the loan of their monitor and I think they will be adding this rescue to their statistics for 2014. ●

ARTICLE PREPARED BY
PAUL TAYLOR FROM A
FULLER REPORT IN THE
GCRG NEWSLETTER
JANUARY 2015, BY
**ROBIN WEARE &
ANDREW CLARK**

PAGE 31



demonstrate our capabilities to our peers. Being the first assessment of this nature in the country, everyone was uncertain what to expect. An air of nervousness, with eager anticipation of how we would match up to our peers' expectations rapidly changed to a fantastic learning opportunity where ideas were shared and our own volunteers became more critical of ourselves than our reviewers, inspiring the planning of activities for further learning and development to keep us at the forefront of new techniques, equipment and practice.

Thank you to everyone who has made this possible and helping us keep Mendip Cave Rescue the best we can be and ready for the challenges of the future.

Emma Porter concludes. Throughout the pilot, improvements have been taken on board. The plan now is for BCRC to review a number of teams each year on a three-year rolling basis so we can demonstrate, if required, that the teams use good practice and can fulfil their roles safely.

WORKING DAY AT THE SUE RYDER HOSPICE

Paul Taylor writes: Steve Tomalin spent the last few weeks of his life as an in-patient at the Sue Ryder Hospice at Leckhampton, Cheltenham. The care he was given during this time there can only be described as fantastic, right up to the end. Prior to his death, late last year, Emma Porter, Mike Clayton and I were very lucky to be able to visit Steve. With deteriorating health, he limited his visitors to a very small group. After one such visit, we took a walk around the grounds and the idea came to arrange a session helping with some work in the gardens.

I contact Steve Kirkwood, head of support services at the hospice, and explained the proposal. After a little shuffling of the diaries, a date was set for Sunday 16 November and details circulated around the GCRG and MCRO membership. The day dawned and the gathered team members, along with some of the regular volunteers, heard what was in store for them: not weeding, but heading out into the woods to remove brambles, elder trees and undergrowth. Chainsaws were started, loppers and hand saws issued and, like an army of ants, work got underway and the piles of timber and rubbish continued to grow.

By the end of the day, twenty-nine people had helped clear a large area of the woods — to the great satisfaction of the regular volunteers who couldn't believe how much had been achieved. Steve's sister, partner and his dad came over during the afternoon and although not fully equipped to venture far into the muddy woods, they were able to meet with us and convey their sincere thanks for everybody's efforts.

At the end of the day, we were given an insight into the work undertaken at the hospice including a tour of some of the unoccupied rooms — including the room Steve had used during his stay. Although not planned, this gave those who were unable to visit him during his stay some degree of satisfaction, knowing he was in such wonderful surroundings during his final few weeks. Steve Kirkwood told us it was groups like ourselves, undertaking voluntary work in the grounds, that help the hospice channel vital funds into the equipment and care of the patients.

It was a great day all round, with a vast amount achieved. We'd like to say a BIG thank you to everybody involved — and we hope to see you later this year for a return trip, suggested date Sunday 15 November.





IN NAVIGATION TERMS BIGGER IS SMALLER

The National Grid is the map reference system used on all Ordnance Survey maps to identify the position of any feature and works by breaking down Great Britain¹ into progressively smaller squares identified first by letters and then numbers, which is why a grid reference places you inside a square (an area) – this is not an absolute position (pinpoint).

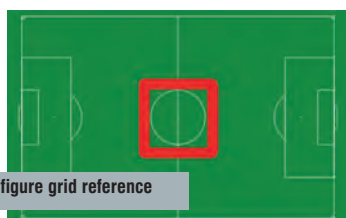
4-figure grid reference



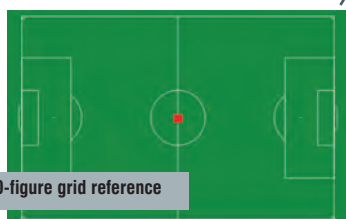
6-figure grid reference



8-figure grid reference



10-figure grid reference



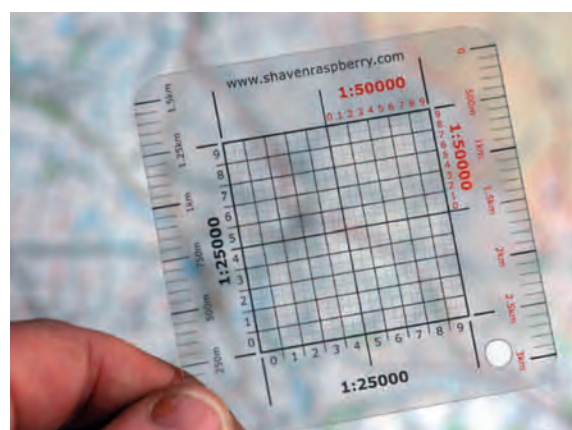
Like most of my contemporaries, I was taught to use six-figure grid references, simply because at the time the equipment needed to accurately calculate bigger grid references was out of the reach of most individuals. Global Navigation Satellite Systems, to be precise the American GPS system, changed everything and today other GNSS, such as the Russian GLONASS system give greater resilience to the use of handheld satnavs.

The bigger the grid reference the smaller the square it describes. On a 1:25 000 scale map these areas are:-

Grid Reference	Example	Using	Boundary of area covered (m)	Area described by the grid reference (m2)	Area equivalent to
4-figure	NT 54 16	Finger	1000 x 1000	1,000,000	An area larger than Wembley Stadium
6-figure	NT 540 162	Compass roamer	100 x 100	10,000	1.4 Wembley-sized football pitches
8-figure	NT 5405 1623	Grid reference tool	10 x 10	100	The centre circle on the pitch at Wembley
10-figure	NT 54058 16239	Satnav/Google Earth/SARMAN	1 x 1	1	The centre of the pitch

¹ Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland use their own National Grid system.

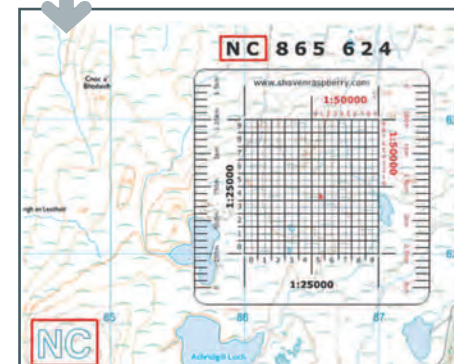
LYLE BROTHERTON
INSTRUCTS ADVANCED SEARCH AND RESCUE NAVIGATION TO MOUNTAIN RESCUE TEAMS AND THE SPECIAL FORCES. HE IS AUTHOR OF THE ULTIMATE NAVIGATION MANUAL: ALL THE TECHNIQUES YOU NEED TO BECOME AN EXPERT NAVIGATOR.



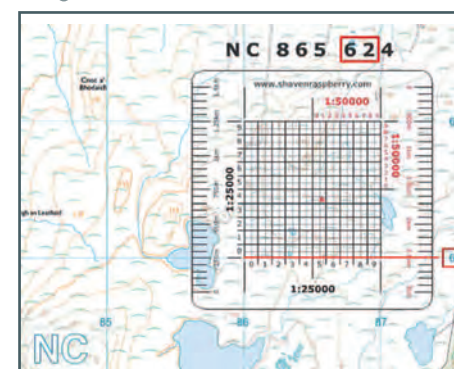
In theory, your handheld satnav is going to give you an area inside 1m² in reality this is more likely to be 3-5m² because of inaccuracies of the system. If you are using GIS such as Sarman, Mountain Map or Google Earth you will obtain ten-figure grid references. However, working with an eight-figure grid reference is perfect for most mountain rescue applications and these are easy to do with a handy tool I created a few years ago.

TO USE THIS GRID REFERENCE TOOL →

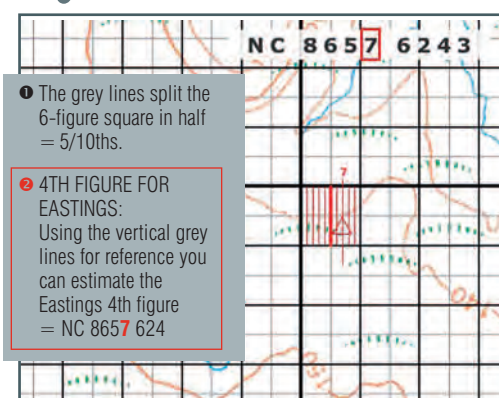
STEP ONE



STEP FOUR

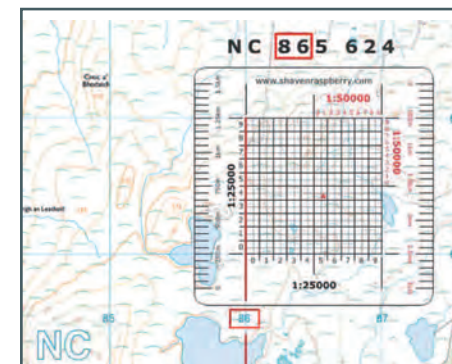


STEP SIX

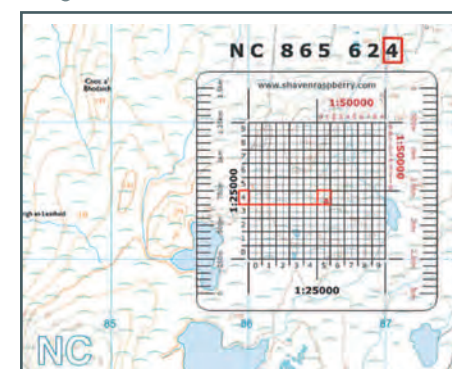


1 The grey lines split the 6-figure square in half = 5/10ths.
2 4TH FIGURE FOR EASTINGS: Using the vertical grey lines for reference you can estimate the Eastings 4th figure = NC 8657 624

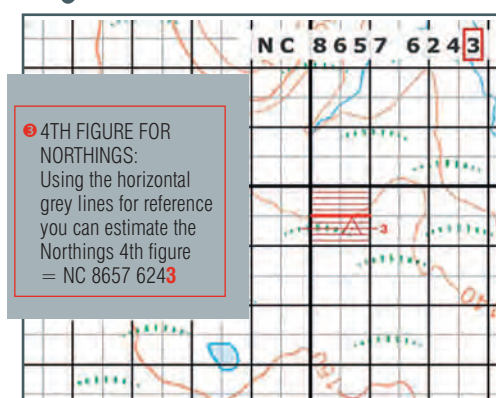
STEP TWO



STEP FIVE

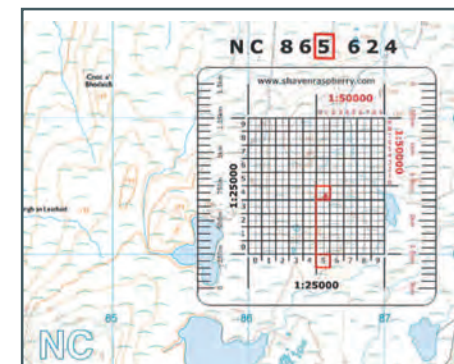


STEP SEVEN



3 4TH FIGURE FOR NORTHINGS: Using the horizontal grey lines for reference you can estimate the Northings 4th figure = NC 8657 6243

STEP THREE



You now have a six-figure grid reference which you could also read (not as accurately) with your compass roamer. **NC 856 624**

To make it an eight-figure grid reference (Step 6), use the faint grey line as marking 5/10ths both easting and northing.

Now simply estimate how many tenths your easting is (Step 7), then your northing. Your eight-figure reference is: **NC 8567 6243**

These tools can be used on any 1:50 000 or 1:25 000 metric grid reference system, because all metric map grid systems are the same!

Buy one of these tools at cost direct from shavenraspberry.com using the purchase code MR15 – this discounts the item by 50%. Offer limited to 2 per person or 40 per team for 60 days.

Over the years, working with the military and the emergency services, I have picked up a few tips when working with grid references.

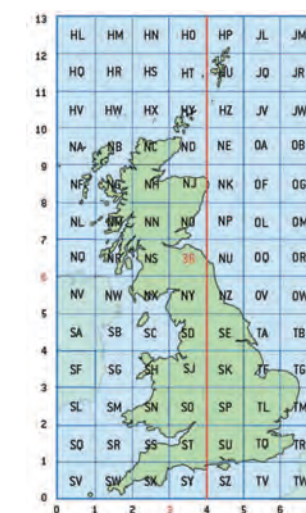
- Be clear! When somebody gives you a grid reference verbally, either in person or via a phone/radio, repeat it back to them to confirm that you have heard it correctly and always give the two prefix letters, because the numbers alone could relate to any map within a mapping system.
- If you are reading a grid reference from a map in order to put it into a satnav you will notice that your receiver asks for a ten-figure grid reference and you only have eight. Simply add a zero to the end

of the easting and one to the end of the northing. You can now enter this grid reference into your satnav. Example: NC 8567 6243 becomes NC 85670 62430.

- Similarly if you take a grid reference from a satnav it will be ten figures yet you can only plot an eight-figure grid reference on your map. Simply round up or down the last digit of the easting and then the last digit in the northing. Example: NT 57631 20447 becomes NT5763 2045.
- If you wish to give the reference to somebody who can only use six-figure grid references (say with a compass roamer) the same reference would change from NT 57631 20445 to NT 576 204.
- Twelve-figure British grid references

sound confusing – but they aren't. Some agencies in the UK, such as the police and fire service, use this system. It is exactly the same as the Ordnance Survey grid, only with the two prefix letters replaced by numbers. Pic of British National Grid So the NT box in the diagram becomes 3 and 6. So, for example, the OS grid reference NT 57631 20447, becomes 357631 620447.

• A quirk of the system is that there are 13-digit grid references that are required for locations in most of the Orkney Isles off the north of Scotland and north of there. The cathedral in the capital city of Orkney, Kirkwall is at: HY45786 15247 or 345786 1015247.



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LAND SEARCH AND RESCUE, NEW ZEALAND

In October, **Pete Roberts** was a guest of LandSAR at their annual conference in Hanmer Springs, New Zealand. As well as making a presentation at the conference he gave a talk in Wellington to a group of senior officers of the NZ SAR council and SAR secretariat, including representatives of the police, coastguard, Civil Defence and LandSAR as he reports here.

I spoke about my experience of 40+ years in mountain rescue and the work of the Centre for Search Research and also contributed to a two-day tutor forum of volunteer search managers and the police in Oxford near Christchurch.

The organisation of search and rescue in New Zealand is an interesting model. Dating back to 2003, it is contemporary, innovative and built on best practice. The NZSAR council has a mandate from their Government to provide strategic leadership to the New Zealand search and rescue sector. Accountable to the council is the SAR secretariat who provide leadership to a consultative committee made up of key stakeholders. The three work closely as a team — the council provides strategic leadership and the secretariat operational direction.

LandSAR is the national volunteer organisation providing land search and rescue services to the police. It comprises over 3000 trained volunteers within 62 groups, divided into seven regions across North and South Island. There are also two national specialist groups, Land SAR Dogs and LandSAR Caving. It's run by an elected board but Land SAR has a full-time, paid chief executive, a national training and development officer, four group support officers, an organisation support officer and a training support officer — all full-time paid positions. They have an approved business plan financed from central government and also lottery funding which provides equipment and training to all volunteers. Their annual budget is about 2.4m NZ\$ (about £1.2m). The outcome is an agreed standards-based curriculum of training modules customised to area need and is provided free to all volunteers. It is subject to regular review and development by the tutor forum which is made up of volunteers and police from each of the regions.

I spoke on a broad range of topics which I believe to be most valuable:

- The UK Missing Person Behaviour Study. New Zealand is working towards developing their own statistics.
- With the recent shooting down of the Boeing 777, they were keen to hear of my involvement in the search of Northumberland, post-Lockerbie, for evidence. My personal involvement lasted three weeks and was the first big test of the theory of critical separation in search large areas of mixed terrain.
- How we've developed the concept of the initial response, in terms of management and search skills, from first introducing the concept in 2000 to our current thinking.
- The importance of scenario-based search management — how, what and why?
- The Sector Ladder — an approach to dealing with shifting PoA.
- The concepts of critical separation and critical distance and how they are linked to search theory and PoD.

There was plenty to take away too, and links established for future collaboration. Some topics gave me food for thought:

- The national organisational model.
- Investigation procedures (which we have already incorporated into our 'After the Initial Response' course).
- Scenario analysis techniques.
- The debriefing of search groups.
- Critiques of past incidents in a non-threatening group atmosphere.
- A move away (a police directive) from maths-based approaches to search management, in particular PoD.

It was an invaluable opportunity to share ideas with like-minded people. I particularly enjoyed this aspect of the visit. It reminded me of the old adage, that the mind is like a parachute — it only works when it is open. There were no vested interests to cloud issues and the 'open mind' approach was like a breath of fresh air. My thanks to LandSAR for inviting me and to NZSAR and TCSR for jointly sponsoring the visit.

JANUARY: DANCING ON ICE

Four Central Beacons team members had a terrifying ordeal, while searching for a hiker missing in freezing conditions.

Team leader Penny Brockman was one of those in the vehicle when it hit ice and rolled over. The four escaped uninjured, but the Land Rover was a write-off. 'It was as being a scene from the ballet,' said Penny. 'It just sort of glided across the road before slowly toppling onto its side, then the ground came to me, or I came to the ground, and glass shattered everywhere. We were battered and bruised, but the most important thing is, we are alive and the way everyone rallied around was fantastic. It just shows the strength of our team and what an effective system we have in place.' And, despite the unexpected hitch, the walker was also successfully located.

18 JANUARY WWW.WALESONLINE.CO.UK



lifeonline

MARCH: SIX SWALEDALLES SAVED FROM TWENTY-FOOT CUMBRIAN RAVINE

Six pregnant sheep had to be rescued after getting trapped down the ravine.

The farmer called Cockermouth team out to the Croasdale Beck area in Ennerdale, where the sheep were stuck but it was quickly going dark so the rescue operation was delayed until the following morning. Team members returned next day and devised a pulley system to get the animals out. With one team member standing in the stream, attaching the sheep one at a time to the pulley, his team mates pulled all six Swaledales to safety. The operation took around two and a half hours. 'We're always happy to support our local farmers,' reported the team's Facebook page. 'Over the years we've rescued a whole range of animals: a raven, goats, a horse and numerous dogs.' Just another day in the life...

8 MARCH WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/COCKERMOUTH-MOUNTAIN-RESCUE-TEAM



JANUARY: DERBY CHURCH TOWER RESCUE

Derby team members were involved in an unusual call-out one Sunday in January when a bell ringer got entangled with the rope and fell to the floor injuring her arm and hip.

Due to the extremely narrow stairway leading to the tower, the team's expertise was called on to get the casualty to the ground. She was secured in a vacmat then carried down the narrow stairs to the ambulance. Definitely a first for the team!

18 JANUARY
FACEBOOK.COM/DERBYMOUNTAINRESCUETEAM

Casualty Care development day: Eddale 2015

Image © Paul Burke.

A ship is safe in harbour but that is not what a ship is for!



MIKE GREENE
MREW MEDICAL
OFFICER

On 14 March, we started a journey to examine how we can improve the delivery of care to patients we treat in Mountain Rescue England and Wales. We could stay 'safe in harbour' but our aim is the best possible care in the challenging environment of mountain rescue. So we 'set sail' from the Eddale base with a crew who represented all nine regions, thirty-eight teams and with fifty-five individuals. This demonstration of the importance you attach to casualty care was encouraging and quality of the debate during the day was excellent. The purpose of the day was to open a conversation which would help describe the direction of travel for change and define the priorities for work required to support this in the organisation. The topics were chosen by the membership from feedback received during the syllabus review in 2014 and a questionnaire sent prior to the meeting.

THREE AREAS FOR DISCUSSION WERE IDENTIFIED:

- Levels of care
- Assessment of the MREW Casualty Care Certificate
- Delivery of courses and training.

I OPENED THE DAY WITH A REVIEW OF WHERE WE ARE NOW. SOME OF KEY CHALLENGES IDENTIFIED IN THIS PRESENTATION WERE:

- Large number of responders
- Relatively few casualties
- Broad spectrum of injury and illness
- Variable background and expertise
- Variable support
- Wide geographical spread
- Tradition of local independence
- Variation in training and assessment.

I went on to describe the work already completed or in progress within the medical subcommittee under the three work stream headings.

THESE SUPPORT OUR STRUCTURE TO DELIVER HIGH QUALITY CARE:

- Clinical practice
- Delivery of care
- Clinical governance.

The output from this work below can be found in the documents available to all team members on the MREW website by following the links: Resources/Medical.

CLINICAL PRACTICE WORK STREAM

- Medicines formulary
- CD guidelines

- Hypothermia guideline
- LAMRT lecture notes
- Recognition of Life Extinct — UK SAR
- Tyromont lifting bag project —medical aspects.

CLINICAL GOVERNANCE WORK STREAM

- CD Licence
- UK SAR framework governance
- Review use of medicines
- Advice doctors appraisal
- Advice paramedics CPD
- Advice doctors in training posts
- Critical incident reporting
- Clinical documentation guideline
- MREW governance document.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING WORK STREAM

- Syllabus and learning outcomes
- Exam and course regulations
- Provision of Casualty Care in Mountain Rescue 2nd edition (electronic)
- Review of lecture notes and free distribution LAMRT
- Examination question co-coordinator QA
- Moderation of exams
- MCQ and exam writer — team approach
- Casualty Care Course manual
- Distant learning materials (ICT and Moodle)

- Training trainers, delivery and consistent assessment methods.

The remainder of the morning was spent discussing two topics central to resolving a forward direction. After an introduction to each topic the room divided into smaller groups with a chairperson to discuss their views. They then met together again with a summary and to share consensus views.

THE FIRST DEBATE OF THE DAY WAS: SHOULD MREW RECOGNISE A LEVEL OF CASUALTY CARE BEFORE THE MREW CASUALTY CARE CERTIFICATE?

Some of the comments received before the meeting expressed the following views: Few team members use Casualty Care Certificate level skills which leads to a problem with skills decay and performance. However, more would use a knowledge and skill set similar to 'Outdoor First Aid Course' more frequently. Building this into the training programme would provide a progression in learning and understanding and make the Casualty Care Certificate more accessible.

In broad terms, the consensus was that we must maintain our objective that all casualties are treated by a provider holding a level of care no less than the

Casualty Care Certificate during an organised rescue, whenever possible. There was little appetite to formalise an intermediate level of care. However, the value of such training in-house or through other organisations to build solid foundation skills and knowledge was recognised and should be encouraged. It was felt that the level of care expressed in the current syllabus is fit for purpose.

THE SECOND TOPIC FOR DEBATE WAS: IS THE CURRENT ASSESSMENT PROCESS FOR THE MREW CASUALTY CARE CERTIFICATE FIT FOR PURPOSE?

The main discussions were around the process of assessment. This was focused on the need to have a consistent standard for examination which is deliverable and administered in a fair and consistent manner across the organisation.

The consensus was that we should retain a written paper of MCQ-type and move towards a more robust assessment of practical skills. The use of in-course assessment, log or work books were offered as solutions. The use of OSCE exams was considered good practice but had significant resource implications across the organisation. There is a need to manage the consistency of examination through external and appropriately appointed examiners.

In the afternoon we rotated around a number of workshops in which facilitators held a focused discussion around prepared topics. The aim was to share practice and identify what good practice might look like in our context.

- How I organise a Casualty Care course
- Running casualty scenarios for teaching and testing
- Making use of lectures and group discussions
- The role of CPD and distance learning in Casualty Care.

THE MEETING CONCLUDED WITH A FLOOR DEBATE ON THE MOTION THAT: THIS HOUSE BELIEVES THE MREW CASUALTY CARE COURSE WOULD BENEFIT FROM EXTERNAL ACCREDITATION

This is an important debate with some holding the view that external accreditation would provide extrinsic motivation for us to make change and enable us to collect the information required to demonstrate we have a robust training system. Others argue that we have the skills and capability to do this internally and as a responsible organisation must effect change by our own intrinsic motivation.

I write this article only a few days after the event with minimal time to assimilate the detail of the valuable feedback and work produced during the day but there are some clear general messages:

- MREW (ie. all of us as members) is serious about delivering high quality casualty care
- There is a determination to engage as a collective organisation to achieve this objective
- Through meeting and discussion we can have a better understanding of the challenges faced by others in our organisation
- There is some excellent practice and, where change is needed, we must provide support to those who have less resource for whatever reason
- We can achieve much by sharing what we already have and do

MORE SPECIFIC DEVELOPMENTS REQUIRED:

- Access to a common ICT learning platform across the organisation
- Access to models of good practice in delivering the material required for the Casualty Care Certificate
- Access to common learning materials to support teaching and learning
- A review of the assessment process, in particular the

practical elements of the exam

- A need to increase the MCQ question bank and have a panel approach to question papers
- A task group to explore options available to support continuing development of practice between recertification which is deliverable and has minimal bureaucracy.

At the end of the day several people came forward to help with these pieces of work. This is the time to show your enthusiasm to help in the process and you can contact me at medicalliafficer@mountain.rescue.org.uk to offer help in these or other matter connected with casualty care.

AT THIS STAGE WE REQUIRE:

- Models of course programmes and lesson plans aligned to the syllabus
- Teaching materials, written or visual
- Copies of manuals and course notes
- MCQ questions to increase the bank
- Specimen exam questions.
- Offers of help to support the moderation of the exam process at regional and national level.

Please be aware that we will need agreement to use and alter material and it must not be subject to any copyright restriction. We will always try and acknowledge the original source.

I would like to express my thanks to the Eddale team for hosting the day in such a professional manner. In particular, to Steve Rowe for his encouragement and practical support. Thanks to the chairs of each day (Jon, Mike, Tom, Chris) the facilitators of the workshops (Tim, Helen, Chris, Nick, Karen, Mike) and debaters in the afternoon (Dave, Matt).

Most importantly, thank you to all of you who drove from all parts of England and Wales to share your ideas and be part of this important conversation. ●

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CHRIS COOKSON
LDSAMRA
TRAINING
GROUP CHAIR

LDSAMRA HYPOTHERMIA TRAINING DAY JANUARY

On 10 January, LDSAMRA held a Hypothermia Day, which was kindly hosted by Langdale Ambleside MRT. The aim was to share good practice and promote a common approach to the way we deal with severely hypothermic casualties.

It was also an opportunity to learn how mechanical chest compression devices can provide vital help in these cases, as several teams have each received a Zoll AutoPulse as part of a donation from Rotary in Cumbria and Lancashire.

Each LDSAMRA team was asked to send two delegates who will then champion 'all things hypothermia' within their team. Beforehand, delegates were asked to submit any questions they may have, so they could be addressed on the day. All teams in the region were represented. The Hypothermia

Protocol, which has now been adopted by MREW, was developed for use by people who are not healthcare professionals and has been tested by them to ensure it is workable. The majority of those who attended the training day were non-medical and most hold a current Casualty Care qualification.

The programme started with a summary of why we need a hypothermia protocol followed by an overview of it. The rest of the day consisted of four workshops and a scenario. The first workshop covered the use of the AutoPulse including potential problems, how to avoid them and/or deal with them. The second was about assessing and treating a hypothermic casualty and the third dealt with how to package and transport them. The final workshop looked at ECMO and

the ECMO referral process. For this we were delighted that Julian Barker, director of the Wythenshawe ECMO Unit, could join us. He explained what ECMO can do and its role in the whole process. A mixture of doctors and non-medical team members with the Casualty Care qualification led the other workshops. The scenario allowed us to put it all into practice and reinforce what we'd learned during the day. We were able to discuss any issues that had arisen during the debrief at the end.

Judging by the feedback received, it was a worthwhile event. People now feel more confident about dealing with a severely hypothermic casualty and understand more clearly what they are aiming for. Delegates were requested to ask their teams to provide feedback on any practical

experiences during exercises and rescues so that we can share knowledge and experience and so provide the best casualty care possible. Even with modern clothing and kit, hypothermia is a very real issue for those venturing out and for mountain rescue teams to have to deal with. The protocol has been put into operation on several occasions within the region since its major revision a few years ago. This is an indication of how important it is to have thought through the issues beforehand and to have a structured approach to managing this difficult group of casualties.

A big thank you should go to Les Gordon for his enthusiastic approach to pulling it all together, along with John Ellerton, and also to Andy, Neil and Una from Langdale Ambleside MRT for their clear



and informative approach to teaching in the practical sessions, which were excellent. Thanks also to Robert and Peter from Langdale Ambleside for their work in making sure everything ran smoothly. ●

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GED FEENEY
MREW STATISTICS
OFFICER

WHO PAYS ATTENTION TO WARNING SIGNS?

The Data Protection Act 1998 requires every organisation that processes personal information to register with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO), unless they are exempt. Failure to do so is a criminal offence.'

Mountain rescue teams handle personal information during the majority of incidents. When the incident reporting software was released for general use, in April 2006, the following advice was included in the help file:

'Data Protection Act 1998. It is an offence under the above legislation, to hold personal information in an electronic form without registering such use. As a registered data user, you are required to notify the Registrar of the type of data held, and how it will be used and/or released. Registration lasts for three years and can be renewed with or without amendment.'

The MREW is a registered data user (No Z4637828), as are some regional bodies. The MRCofS is a registered data user (No Z6590338). Teams considering the use of this and other such applications should seriously

consider registration.'

However, there are many other ways in which personal information is 'processed' by MRTs during the course of a year. These have been outlined for all teams in advice from the Statistics Officer³ and the Legal Officer⁴. In addition, at the team leaders meeting held in Keswick February 2013, one presentation restated the same advice. So it seems appropriate to examine what has been achieved as a result of this advice.

CURRENT SITUATION

The following information was obtained from the Information Commissioner's Office website at the start of February 2015. MREW is a registered data user, as are one regional body and seventeen mountain and cave rescue teams. In other words, eight regional bodies and 40 teams are NOT registered with the Information Commissioner's Office. So, 89% of regional bodies and 70% of mountain and cave rescue teams do not think the law applies to them. (Notice there are no graphs or charts!)

I do not wholly believe the last statement. I think many organisations in MR do not have data protection on their radar or have assumed that because MREW is registered, they are somehow included. It is my personal view that regional bodies and teams do not 'inherit' inclusion in the national registration. This registration applied to the work of MREW and its trustees and officers.

Regions and teams are independent organisations. They are separate charities. For years they have rightly defended their independence of national and regional bodies. These same national and regional bodies have been at pains to point out that they are only representative, advising and making representations on their behalf.

LDSAMRA is currently considering an Information Sharing Agreement (ISA) with Cumbria Police. ISAs are primarily concerned with managing any information disclosure⁴. ISAs try to ensure that the chance of and associated risk with unintentional

and malicious disclosure are minimised. They implicitly assume that participants use good practice with regard to personal information. Good practice has always been that the organisations register their holding and processing of personal data with the ICO.

ISAs do not replace registration with the Information Commissioner's Office and they definitely do not make it redundant. Instead, ISAs are seen as an enhancement to registration enabling the partners to have greater confidence in their procedures for 'processing' personal and sensitive information.

HEADS UP

The main focus here is directed at chairmen and team leaders. The opportunities for uncontrolled disclosure are growing every day. This disclosure may result from

References:

¹ ICO website: <http://ico.org.uk/about-the-ico/what-we-do/register-of-data-controllers/> ² Data management in mountain rescue: MREW Oracle, Jan 2010. www.mountainrescue.org.uk/information-centre/the-oracle/national-organisation-admin ³ Data protection and mountain rescue: MREW Oracle, Jan 2013. www.mountainrescue.org.uk/information-centre/the-oracle/team-organisation-admin ⁴ Data Sharing Code of Practice: Information Commissioner's Office May 2011; <https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/guide-to-data-protection/data-sharing/>

data



SAR-H migration update

JOHN HULSE



SAR-H

The past few months have been dominated by a series of training events supplied by the Humberside S-92 and also the steady introduction of the Bristow iSAR online training package. Although we have not got as many team members trained to Stage 1B as we originally hoped, we believe that all the SAR-H user teams have got a viable core group through the critical training. Coupled with the newly released online training for each member, we feel that the overall level of training provision for the teams in the Humberside footprint is adequate for most of our immediate operations.

It has become obvious to all that have met with the Bristow crews and been inside the new S-92 aircraft, that we will be working with very professional SAR crews flying an exceptionally capable and robust aircraft. This is great news for the teams and our casualties.

The newly available iSAR online training package supplied by Bristow is a step-change for some teams but the system enables every member to have a log-in to their own area and to take the Stage 1A training followed by the test on an annual basis. In addition, the attendance at other SAR-H training events delivered by Bristow can be recorded together with all operational interactions with their aircraft. With access available to the team admins, the iSAR system offers a simple and robust way to help ensure that all team members have their training recorded to a level of currency appropriate to their operational need. The design and coordination of exercise opportunities with the S-92 will increasingly fall to the SAR-H link reps to work on behalf of all the teams in the footprint based on an assessment of need.



Main image and above © Keswick MRT.

During the next eight months, it is entirely possible that teams in the north of England could be working with either or both the RAF and Bristow aircraft on operations. As such, it is important that teams maintain a safe level of currency with the Sea Kings until they are officially 'stood down'.

The key transition date of 1 April has just passed and this marks the start of live operations for Humberside and Inverness. On this day, both bases were operational in the North Sea and the Ben Nevis areas respectively.

Finally, we all need to thank Mike Park who has done an incredibly difficult job of bringing five regions and thirty-four teams into a common training environment for the Humberside base. Despite all the challenges and hurdles along the way, Mike, supported by the SAR-H link reps, has kept everyone informed, with most teams achieving Stage 1B training with the S-92. ●



Winch man brief: Strop off, bag off and bog off. That should stick © Scarborough & Ryedale MRT.

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MOUNTAIN KING TRAIL BLAZE POLES

RICHARD WILLIAMS

I'm a member of the Galloway MRT. As well as being a keen hill walker I'm also a runner. I've never used walking poles for either activity though I've been aware of their potential benefits.

It was just before Christmas when on a night time call-out, and carrying the usual heavy rucksack, I was making my way up a fairly steep path and was thinking how useful it would have been to have had a pair of poles. At about the same time I was reading a friend's blog about his running exploits around Chamonix in France. He said how he couldn't have managed the route without his lightweight and collapsible Mountain King Trail Blaze poles. I then read a number of reviews about the Mountain King poles — all of which were positive — and decided to contact the company to see if they'd be willing to let me test a pair of their Trail Blaze poles. They kindly obliged and in return I agreed to provide (what I hope is an unbiased) review.

I've tested the poles on a number of occasions whilst out hill walking or running. Whilst I've had them, the team haven't had the kind of call-out where I could put the poles to good use though they have been tried during an exercise when it was hilly, boggy, slippery and wet.

I'd like to comment on the poles under a number of headings:

Weight: A typical team member's rucksack is heavy and anything that substantially adds to that weight will not be welcomed. I'm pleased to say the poles are extremely light. According to the website the weight of the poles I tried (110 cm in length) is 115g. Even the longest poles, at 130 cm, are only 135g. Being so light is a huge benefit and it's one of the principal reasons I'd advocate them being part of every team member's kit.

Durability: Even though they are lightweight they appear to be very strong and durable. The poles comprise four sections of 'high performance' aluminium alloy and seem very sturdy when ascending or descending. There was some flexing but at no point did I think they would break. I was told by Mountain King that in the unlikely event of the poles breaking they could be easily fixed with replacement sections.

Ease of use: They were extremely easy to assemble with the four sections coming together quickly and easily. Once assembled the poles are comfortable to use and can quickly be taken apart and stowed away in a side pocket when finished with.

Benefits: I suppose a true indicator of how good the poles are is whether I would continue using them now this period of testing is over, and the answer is yes. Having never used them before this, I can see there are clear advantages in using poles and in using these ones in particular. As I have said, weight is an issue for me (and I'm sure others also) as is ease of use. These poles score highly in that regard. Additionally, they provide extra stability especially when coming downhill and I found they can reduce fatigue especially when going uphill. It's for these reasons, and more, I'd recommend the use of poles to mountain rescue team members and, in particular, the Mountain King Trail Blaze poles.



Mountain King have this to say on their website www.mountainking.co.uk. 'We are specialist designers and manufacturers of superb quality and very cool... lightweight ... poles. Often big brands which appear European are now mass-produced in the Far East. Our poles are made with a little extra love by highly skilled specialists at our factory in Newcastle upon Tyne, UK.'

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NO MORE COUNTERPART

Above: Langdale Ambleside vehicles in line © Paul Burke.
Below: The old counterpart. Image from www.gov.uk.



In July 1998, explains **Daryl Garfield**, the two-part driving licence was introduced in the UK consisting of a photo ID card and a paper counterpart. The photo ID card displayed information including personal details as well as licence categories and expiry dates, while the counterpart displayed provisional entitlements and endorsements. Seventeen years later, on 8 June 2015, the DVLA will scrap the paper part following the Government's Red Tape Challenge consultation on road transportation.

It also falls into place with the DVLA's strategic plan and commitment to simplify its services. From this date, the DVLA will no longer be issuing the 'paper' licence.

Needless to say, it's the part of the driving licence everyone forgets when asked to produce it: 'Oh, I didn't realise I needed that bit too' So, just when we were starting to get used to the driving licence having two parts (unless you still have one of the old paper ones — held together with gaffer tape and staples), it's time to say goodbye to it.

The following is based on information available through the Government website and explains what this means for drivers, how it may affect you and how you can access licence details. I've also uploaded a document to the member's area of the MREW website titled 'DVLA. Abolition of the counterpart'.

It's worth remembering that the card licence is only valid for ten

years and needs to be renewed. Failure to do this can result in drivers being prosecuted for 'failing to surrender their licence', an offence which carries a £1000 fine. The current renewal cost is £14 for online applications or £17 for postal ones.

WHAT DO THE CHANGES MEAN FOR YOU AS A DRIVER?

- You need not to do anything. Just keep your current photocard driving licence.
- The Government is not abolishing paper driving licences issued before the introduction of the photocard in 1998. Any driver who holds this type of licence should keep it and not destroy it.
- From 8 June 2015, the licence (whether photocard or paper) will remain the official document that shows what vehicles a person can drive but the driver record held by DVLA will be the only legal source of penalty point endorsements.
- From 8 June 2015, paper driving

licences will no longer be annotated with endorsements.

- Drivers can check the most up to date information on their driving record online, by phone or post
- The next time a driver needs to update their name, address or renew their licence, we will issue them with a photocard only.
- Entitlements, penalty points and the status of their driving licence won't change.

HOW CAN YOU CHECK YOUR DRIVER RECORD?

In 2014 DVLA launched View Driving Licence which allows GB licence holders to view their driving record online. You can do this at any time, it's free and easy to use and available 24/7. To access the service the driving licence holder will need the following:

- Driving licence number or personal details (full name, date of birth, gender)
- Post code
- National insurance number.

In 2015, the Government is introducing GOV.UK Verify to authenticate drivers accessing View Driving Licence.

WHAT INFORMATION IS CURRENTLY AVAILABLE THROUGH VIEW DRIVING LICENCE?

- Personal details: name, address and date of birth and gender
- Licence status (provisional, full, revoked or disqualified)
- Licence expiry date
- Licence issue number
- The vehicles they can drive (either with full entitlement or provisional)
- Penalties and disqualifications.

WHAT INFORMATION ISN'T CURRENTLY AVAILABLE THROUGH VIEW DRIVING LICENCE?

- Driver photo and signature
- Medical history
- Tachograph and driver qualification card data
- Entitlement history.

WHAT OTHER CHANNELS ARE AVAILABLE TO CHECK DRIVING LICENCE INFORMATION?

Driving licence holders can check the details on their driving licence record by phone or post.

HOW WILL TEAMS CHECK DRIVING LICENCE INFORMATION?

The new Share Driving Licence service will provide an online alternative for those who currently have a 'business' need to check the information currently displayed on the driving licence counterpart or paper licence. This free, 24/7 service is currently in development and will be available before the counterpart is abolished.

HOW WILL IT WORK?

Similar in principle to the paper counterpart, Share Driving Licence places the driving licence holder in control of their information and who they share it with. The first part of the process requires the driving licence holder to generate a unique, one-time use access code for their record. This is done by the driver logging on to the View Driving Licence service.

The driving licence holder may then share the access code, plus the last eight digits of their driving licence number, with anyone who has a right to see it. The second part of the process will enable the third party to enter the access code and last eight digits of the driving licence number via the Share Driving Licence page on GOV.UK. This will allow the third party to see the driver's licence status, endorsements and what vehicles they can drive.

The view of the driving licence presented back to the third party will be date/time stamped and downloadable in the form of a PDF. The information will be accurate at the time of download and is a snapshot of the record at that time. Drivers will also have the option to download a PDF summary of their driving licence information that will also have the unique one-time access code printed on it.

WILL THERE BE ANY OTHER NEW WAYS THIRD PARTIES CAN CHECK A DRIVER'S RECORD?

Yes. The Government is developing an Access to Driver Data service for trusted partners which will provide real-time driving licence data through a business-to-business interface. This will require the agreement of contractual terms

and conditions. The service should be available in summer 2015.

WHAT DATA WILL BE AVAILABLE?

The data items will include name, address, date of birth, driving entitlement, penalties and disqualifications.

HOW WILL USERS CONNECT?

Initially, the ADD service will be offered through a dedicated leased line connection with existing DVLA data customers. When the service is fully live, it is likely to be offered through an online connection.

WHAT ABOUT DRIVER CONSENT?

Consent from the licence holder will still need to be obtained and retained for audit purposes. This can be captured via the existing D796 form. DVLA is also considering proposals for driver consent to be captured and stored electronically.

WHAT IF YOU DON'T WANT TO GO ONLINE TO CHECK A DRIVER'S RECORD?

Alongside the new online platforms being created by DVLA in readiness for the abolition of the counterpart, there is a range of existing service channels available to the motoring industry to allow driving licence checks to be carried out. Businesses and organisations can continue to use the existing service channels DVLA provides, as well as the new online services.

You can check a driver's entitlement by phoning DVLA's Premium Line (calls cost 51p per minute). The driver must give their permission before any information can be released.

DRIVER ENTITLEMENT CHECKING

You can check with DVLA that the information on a driver's licence is correct, including:

- Licence validity dates
- Categories of vehicle the driver can drive
- If there are any current endorsements on the licence
- If the driver is disqualified.

The driver must complete a D796 form and you must send this with a cheque or postal order for £5 payable to 'DVLA, Swansea' to: Driver Licence Validation service, DVRE 5 DVLA, Swansea, SA99 1AJ



Contact decs@dvla.gsi.gov.uk for more information.

Above: The soon to be defunct two-part licence. Image from www.gov.uk.

FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO:
WWW.GOV.UK/GOVERNMENT/NEWS/DRIVING-LICENCE-CHANGES

FOR A REPORT ABOUT THE DVLA GIVING ACCESS TO THE ONLINE CHECKING SERVICE TO ORGANISATIONS A MONTH BEFORE IT GOES LIVE:
WWW.FLEETNEWS.CO.UK/NEWS/2015/3/9/EMPLOYERS-GET-EARLY-ACCESS-TO-DVLA-LICENCE-CHECKING-SERVICE/55062/

TEN YEAR PHOTOCARD LICENSE. HAS YOUR EXPIRED?

Back in 2009, tens of thousands of unwitting motorists were said to be facing £1000 fines as their photocard driving licences expired. It's a situation which no doubt holds true today so it's worth checking yours out.

At the heart of the problem is the small print on the credit card-sized photo licence. Just below the driver's name is a numbered series of dates and details, the significance of which is only explained when the licence is turned over. Then a key on the back explains each point in turn.

Motorists who fail to renew their licences could be charged with 'failing to surrender their licence', an offence carrying a £1000 fine. A DVLA spokesman said it was important that photocards are updated every ten years to identify whether a licence is being used fraudulently.

WWW.DAILYMAIL.CO.UK FEBRUARY 2009

life online

MARCH: INTRODUCING THE PURR-FECT MOUNTAIN RESCUE COMPANION

The role of dogs in mountain rescue is well documented — in fact it's often said it's they who do all the work — but now the Canadians have put the cat amongst the pigeons with their introduction of a new player in the rescue field.

A new Canadian Avalanche Rescue Cat Association video demonstrates how these sometimes reluctant feline friends are helping ski patrols in British Columbia. 'CARCA has been hard at work since Steve Ruskay first decided to stand up to the dog-dominated establishment,' says their site. 'We now have teams on four continents and coverage in most of the major mountain ranges with more teams being activated as fast as we can train them. With demand for feline rescue teams at an all-time high we thought it would be a good time to look back at our humble beginnings and remind ourselves what is possible when you combine vision and passion.'

Our friends in Scotland have also chipped in. A Lochaber MRT spokesperson said, 'Following the success of search and rescue cats used by ski patrol in Canada, the Lochaber team has ordered two cats from Canada to use on searches on Ben Nevis.' We can only watch and wait with interest.

5 MARCH WWW.GROUGH.CO.UK



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MARCH: MAN SPENT AN HOUR CLINGING TO MAM TOR TRIG PILLAR IN HIGH WINDS

The walker called for help when he became hypothermic on the summit of Mam Tor as sleet and gales swept the hill.

It was an early morning call for Edale team members who were alerted at 7.55am to a person 'stuck due to winds' on the 517 metre peak. The man had travelled from Nottingham to get an early start to take pictures on the hill. He left the car park at Mam Nick near Castleton in reasonable weather but, once on the ridge, he was caught out by gale force winds and driving sleet. Having sheltered for an hour holding on to the trig point on Mam Tor, the cold began to take its toll. The team was initially unable to communicate with the man by his mobile phone, but on arriving at the roadside beneath the hill, the walker managed to contact the team leader to tell him two walkers had helped him from the ridge. He was duly checked out before being taken to the team base to dry off and warm up. It was a valuable reminder not just of the unpredictable weather in the Peak District hills, but also that winter hadn't quite done with us yet.

4 MARCH WWW.GROUGH.CO.UK



Image Mam Tor in snow © Roger Temple

WINNER OF THE CANON POWERSHOT D30: PAUL TAYLOR

Thank you to all those who sent in their entries. Paul's name was first out of the hat. Pictured above climbing Whazzup Cozza, Heptonstall, Paul is a member of Calder Valley SRT. And he's already out and about in the hills enjoying his new toy. 'Thanks for such a fantastic prize,' he writes. 'I've been thoroughly enjoying using the camera.' He also cheekily asks us to support his team further by promoting their 'exciting 50th anniversary challenge walk, planned for 2016' for which he intends to use the Canon PowerShot D30 to record the event. Oh go on then, Paul, as it's you! Keep an eye on the team's website (cvstr.org.uk) and their Facebook page, for details...

Thanks also to Park Cameras for organising the draw.



The answer to the question **Down to what temperature in Celsius can you keep using the Canon PowerShot D30?** was, of course —10C.

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DROWNED VICTIM SEARCH — dogs



In the last issue **Dave Marsh** outlined how he had begun training Sasha as a drowned victim search dog, one of the first in the UK. Here he gives a brief update on development since.

Dogs have been used to search for drowned victims for over thirty years by handler Neil Powell. During this time he has trained six dogs for this very purpose, with seemingly little or no interest from any third party. It was after I attended one of SARDA Ireland North's air scenting assessments that I became interested, after chatting to Neil.

An initial course was formulated, with people attending from Ireland, England and Wales but very little uptake followed. Of those who did show an interest, this same interest slid off rapidly to the effect that once again Neil was out on his own.

As secretary of National SARDA, I received numerous calls of interest on the topic, from all corners of the world. Unfortunately, these could not be followed up due to cost and distance — although, if somebody would like to pay for an all-inclusive trip to Guam on a three-monthly basis, then I'm your man!

After several conversations with Neil, I decide to have a go. We now have two qualified dogs up and running, if you'll pardon the pun, but what does the future hold? Well, Phillip Eichman, a member of Berkshire Search and Rescue, is following in our footsteps with Skye and hopefully should have also qualified by the time you read this.

It's interesting to note that it's not only mountain rescue going down the drowned victim search dog route. There are qualified police dogs in Northern Ireland, Northumberland, the Thames Valley and South Wales.

Norfolk Fire Search and Rescue have a recently trained dog that is being used to

search the vast expanses of water in East Anglia. Devon Fire and Rescue also have an interest.

I would like to think that the NSARDA standards, which have been produced by Neil Powell and John Sojberg, create an all rounded dog capable of searching large areas of water and river banks. The only problem now is educating search managers — both police and mountain rescue — to use such a resource to its best potential.

Speaking of resources, the aspiring handler needs access to the following:

- Water (for training obviously)
- A boat — preferably a rib
- People who are skilled to drive a boat to act as coxswain on actual searches

He or she also needs to hold the Royal Yachting Association's level 2 Power Boat certificate and most importantly needs support from people from the outset. For this I'd like to thank my team leader, Garry Rhodes, for his unending support throughout my period of training. His interest has always been at the highest level, with him advertising this new team asset to all and sundry at every opportunity at every meeting he has attended.

Alongside him, thanks go to my fellow team members for suffering the cold wintry days out on a lake somewhere with no shelter whatsoever and in particular, my team's water training officer, Dave Cook, who has spent his time teaching me the finer arts of boat handling and who is also now coxswain when we are called to a search.

If anybody would like further information, you can call me via secretary@nsarda.org.uk.

DAVE MARSH
NSARDA
& BOLTON MRT

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