

## MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

### BEN FESKINETH - a lost Munro.

PETER WARBURTON attempts to pin down some moving goalposts.

It will be recalled, or not, as the case may be, that Mr J.C. Donaldson's research (SMCJ XXXII, 1981) established that this hill flourished in the period 1861-1874, also that Mr Peter Hodgkiss (SMCJ XXXIII, 1987) reported an 1875 sighting by a party of distinguished military gentlemen and, thirdly, that the unromantic have glibly identified it with Ben Hearnarnich. I can add a year to Ben Feskineth's confirmed life span by reference to the 1876 (21st) edition of Black's Guide, where its height remains 3530 ft, the House of Black here displaying a healthy disregard for the arbitrary removal of 48 ft by the Major-General.

Recently I parted with £3.25 for a battered copy of Johnston's 10 miles to the inch map of Scotland, an impulsive decision much influenced by the clear delineation of various detached portions of Cromarty, Elgin, Banff, Nairn and Inverness-shire beguilingly scattered across the Highlands. Keith Johnston's Royal Atlas first appeared in 1859 but the Scottish sheets were regularly revised and republished separately from the Atlas. In the best (?) traditions of Edinburgh map publishing copies were not dated but, since mine shows the completed Callandar to Oban line (1880), but not the Killin branch (1886) it can safely be attributed to the early 1880s, a crucial period in the life of Ben Feskineth. Disappointingly, no spot height is given. Interestingly, the plate shows signs of alteration, the name being given as Ben heskernich, the only example on the map of the use of a lower case initial letter. The spelling has all the air of compromise. Could Keith Johnston FRSE have been a trimmer, a middle of the road man, half convinced by the advancing Ordnance Survey teams. In search of corroboration I looked further north to see what he had done about Mealfourounie, a hill that suffered most grievously at the hands of the Survey. Black's in 1876 were measuring it at 3060 ft with a small map of the immediate district to prove the point. Baddiley (1884 edition) had marked it down to 2284 ft. And Johnston - 2700 ft. Q.E.D.

### A Posthumous Completion

As noted in my recent article about Munro (SMCJ,XXXIV,219), Sir Hugh died with three Tops to go; Carn an Fhaidhleir (Feshie), Carn Cloich-Mhuilinn and the Inaccessible Pinnacle, the first two Tops being Munros in the 1891 list. When carrying out the research for this article I formed the opinion that something should be done about this regrettable state of affairs. Light-hearted and tasteless discussions with friends explored the possibilities and eventually arrived at the goal of constructing an effigy of Munro and transporting the object to the three missing Tops. I believe it was Paul Brian who made this ingenious proposal, but he may well wish to deny this now.

Last year I found myself in the position of having to address the great gathering of baggers on November 23rd with little to say, so I resolved to set the effigy project in motion. It was late October before I managed to acquire a kilt (Hunting Fraser) and Glengarry bonnet at affordable (Oxfam) prices. The Munro tartan is a red and yellow abomination which would put the most somnolent deer to startled flight. I cannot imagine that Sir Hugh would have worn it on the hill; surely he would have preferred the douce and furtive hues of the Hunting Fraser. Once these essential items had been obtained, construction of the effigy could proceed with some confidence that it would be completed. However, I took the precaution of paying a visit to the grave at Lindertis - to seek permission, as it were. No ominous event occurred, so I thought it safe to proceed. I fashioned a mask for the head, using gauze strips loaded with plaster over a clay mould of Sir Hugh's face, and painted it with tempera-based colours. Latex hands were found in a joke shop: rival manufacturers of these curious products obligingly offered different hands. Ears were fashioned from Fimo clay. Limbs and head were made

from stuffed tubular bandages, fixed to a trunk of supernumerary pillows and reinforced with coathanger wire. A visit to the barber provided hair for wig and whiskers, and amusement for the staff. The effigy, when finally assembled in early November, weighed 30 lbs., stood about 5ft. tall and had cost about £100. If I say so myself, it bore a tolerable resemblance to Munro and was sufficiently lifelike - or deathlike - to frighten visitors to my house severely. It was too bulky to fit in a rucksack but, protected by plastic bags and folded in Z, it could be strapped to a packframe. We were ready.

On Sunday 10th November we left Forest Lodge in Glen Tilt, accompanied by my colleague Dr Helen Ross, in darkness and steady rain, at 7.30 a.m. The approach to Carn an Fhìdhleir involves climbing over a shoulder of Carn a' Chlamain to the Tarf Bothy, which we reached around 10 o'clock. The weather meantime worsened considerably, the rain turning to sleet and a lively westerly beginning to blow. Dr Ross gave it up about a mile beyond the bothy and Munro and I proceeded alone. On the final ascent to the summit the winds were so strong that at times, furnished as I was with a kind of sail, I dared not move for fear of being whisked away. Much snow had fallen and this became a whirling mass of icy spindrift in the fiercest gusts. We reached the cairn about 1 o'clock. Since there was plainly to be no photo-opportunity, Sir Hugh declined to leave his cocoon, and so we immediately began to descend in the teeth of the gale. When we reached the Allt a' Chaoruinn the winds eased and it began to snow heavily. I have a dodgy left knee which acts up worse than usual in heavy winds and it was now providing me with a good deal of discomfort. We collected Dr Ross at the Bothy and left for the final leg around 3.30 p.m. Our progress was slow and painful, so much so that we were engulfed by darkness at the top of the pass. By the time we reached the edge of Glen Tilt our torches were more or less done for: the descent path could not be found and we slid down to the Tilt for the most part on our backs. Parts of poor Munro extruded through the plastic bags in protest. As I limped towards Forest Lodge I fancied I heard him murmur 'Even worse than 1908', recalling his previous attempt to climb this troublesome mountain, which had foundered in thick darkness and torrential rain.

Although I had originally planned posthumous ascents of all three Tops, this unexpected onset of winter ruled out the Inaccessible Pinnacle, so we had to be content with an ascent of Carn Cloich-Mhuilinn on the following Sunday. This was uneventful and, although the mountain was snow-bound and conditions at the cairn were far from ideal, Munro dismounted and I was able to take a number of photographs. Due to an oversight we were obliged to celebrate his posthumous completion of the Munros with coffee: I remarked that since his earliest recorded Munro had been Ben Lawers in 1879, his completion time of 112 years would take some beating. Since he was now qualified to attend his own Dinner I smuggled him into the Roxburghe Hotel on the following Saturday. He occupied a table on his own and remained modestly shrouded by a dustcloth until I exposed him to the assembled baggers at the conclusion of my speech. Despite the atrocious bad taste of this outlandish stunt, it received a generous reception from the gathering. It was perhaps fortunate that no member of the Munro family had attended....

Sir Hugh remains intact and patiently awaits his visit to the Inaccessible Pinnacle, to be celebrated in early June, this time with champagne. In the meantime I have not neglected his spiritual welfare: I offer him readings from the early Journals, usually taken from his own work, and an occasional verse of the Club Song. I trust that members will realise that although this posthumous completion served less worthy purposes at the Roxburghe Hotel, my motive in bringing it about has been to delight the Shade of Munro and to honour his memory.

### **Two puzzles about Sgurr nan Gillean**

The small diagram of Sgurr nan Gillean shown below first appeared in SMCI, II, 214, where it served to illustrate J.H. Gibson's account of the Club's Easter Meet at Sligachan Inn and Glenbrittle House in 1892. Readers will readily recognise the 4th Pinnacle - Knight's Peak - to the right of the main peak. But how high is Knight's Peak? That is the first puzzle. Few readers, however, will recognise the shapely pinnacle jutting out from the base of the West Ridge into Lota Corrie. It has no name. It has neither been described in any book dealing with Skye nor has it been climbed upon, to my knowledge, despite its promising appearance. So what is it and why has no one noticed it? That is the other puzzle.

### The height of Knight's Peak

Determination of the heights of Cuillin peaks has always been a difficult business, aggravated in recent times by the Ordnance Survey's abandonment of Imperial measure. Knight's Peak is a particularly interesting case, for several reasons. In the first place, it is plainly around 3,000 ft. high, one of our significant thresholds. The nearest thing to a full ground survey height is probably that obtained by Collie (SMCJ, II, 170), who listed it as 3,000 ft. Secondly, and adding to the difficulties of non-climbing surveyors, Knight's Peak is actually two peaks, or horns. As Naismith noted (SMCJ, II, 287) 'Knight's Pinnacle has two tops, both of them delightfully acute, the northern being rather the higher (3,000 feet)'. On a visit in 1990, Bill Brooker and I estimated the height difference as 5 or 6 feet in favour of the northerly horn. So if a height is offered for the peak we need to know whether it is being offered for the appropriate horn! In the most recent base map (1963) the height is given as 2994 ft. The 1:25000 Leisure Map of 1987 gives an airheight of 910 m. So the Ordnance Survey heights have been consistently lower than Collie's height, repeated in Club publications over many years. However, if Knight's Peak is judged to be 3,000 ft., then there should be no question about its status as a peak worthy of inclusion in Munro's Tables. It is considerably bulkier than the other pinnacles and is well separated from Sgurr nan Gilleann itself. Indeed, it is surprising that Munro did not include it in the Tables, since the Skye Section was based on Collie's heights. After all, the Basteir Tooth has always been included as a Top, despite its equally debatable height and much weaker claim to the title of mountain. As a new Top, Knight's Peak would greatly embellish the Tables, providing the Salvationist bagger with a *bête* every bit as *noire* as the Inaccessible Pinnacle, and additional employment for the guides on Skye. I suggest that the matter should be investigated by the Master of the Tables and, if there is room to doubt the O.S. heights recently offered, that Knight's Peak should be given the benefit of that doubt and included as a new Top.

'Knight's Peak' is a poor name and is not in consistent use: 'the 4th Pinnacle' is more commonly used, which is an even poorer name. Club practice has always been to adopt Gaelic names where possible. Professor Knight's first name was William, so 'Sgurr Uilleum' would be a suitable name, continuing the practice of naming overlooked Cuillin peaks after pioneers. By a happy coincidence, William was also the first name of our founder Naismith, whose claims as a Cuillin pioneer rank alongside those of the other commemorated pioneers Collie, MacKenzie, Pilkington and Nicolson.

### The peak with no name

The peak shows to good advantage from Lota Corrie or from anywhere between Sgurr Beag and Sgurr na h-Uamha. But these parts of the Cuillin are seldom visited and no doubt weather and visibility are apt to be as bad there as anywhere else. So it is perhaps not surprising that no one has commented on this prominent peak. From the main ridge, walking east from Am Basteir, it makes no great impression, being more or less lost against the chaotic south west face of Sgurr nan Gilleann. Moreover, parties proceeding to Sgurr nan Gilleann turn north at the Bealach to approach the various easy chimneys giving access to the West Ridge and are therefore apt to overlook it. I investigated the peak from Bealach a' Bhasteir in 1991. A short branch ridge leads to the summit from the nose at the lower end of the West ridge with a dip of only 10 feet or so. I found no cairn, so proceeded to build one. Although modest, I see no reason why this peak should not be recognised. If it requires a name, then 'Sgurr Coire an Lobhta' would be appropriate.

Robin N. Campbell.

### Glasgow University Mountaineering Club 50th Anniversary held on the 27th April 1991, at Kingshouse Hotel, Glencoe.

PROBABLY one of the first well known mountaineers in Glasgow University was Professor Ramsay. He was one of the founder members of the Scottish Mountaineering Club and became the first president in 1889. One of his students was another famed mountaineer, William Naismith. Just over 50 years later, the university club was beginning to take root. Why did Prof. Ramsay not help constitute the University club 100 years ago? There were

probably not enough mountaineers at Glasgow University to make this worthwhile. As a member of the Alpine Club his intentions were, with other mountaineers, to form a national mountaineering club.

I suppose that the Glasgow University Mountaineering Club could not have been formed in the days of the 1890s. Things were on a different scale of knowledge, Scottish mountains were Mountains in those days! Most students probably didn't have enough money or time to explore the mountains. They left the climbing to other pioneers. Transportation systems for the Highlands were also a problem. But during the 1930s mountaineering was becoming a more popular pastime, gaining a wider circle of interest. Climbing by many new mountaineers was effected during this period. By the end of this decade, some of the university students who were interested in the outdoor life realised their potential of forming a mountaineering club; by 1941 the club was officially formed. The SMC Journal of 1942 has a short article about the formation of the GUM Club. In that article it is pointed out that with the formation of other Glasgow Clubs it seems curious to have taken so long to infiltrate the University. Yet since its formation, the membership quality has rarely dwindled. The club is still going strong today.

During 1991 there has been an air of nostalgia created by the members of the past. The 50th anniversary on the 27th April was a success. This anniversary would probably never have taken place had not Stewart Orr approached the GUM Club one night in the Partick Tavern, near the end of 1989. Stewart was a member of the club in the early 1950s, a time when the club was very popular with high membership, just like today.

Stewart Orr's enthusiasm, time and knowledge of whereabouts of past members, converted the possibility of a 50th anniversary to a firm reality. He holds a vast chunk of ex-club contacts. Our thanks go also to Lesley Falconer, her organisation and hard work made that week-end such a success. All I had to do in my nineteen years of age was, with Stewart and Lesley, make sure that all things concerning the 50th Anniversary were to run smoothly.

In 1990 Stewart gave me copies of 6 GUM Club journals from the 1950s and 1960s. Ken Crockett (former member, now of SMC) also gave me copies of the two remaining journals of the early 1970s. Something had to be done about this. We decided to compile an anthology of these 8 journals, combined with articles from present members to form a 50th anniversary publication. This was a successful project, the publication of which coincided with the 50th anniversary meet. Thanks also to Mark Sanderson who had powerful computing facilities which made production of the publication a less tedious job.

The attendance at the 50th anniversary buffet was about 130, with a large number from the 1950s era. The Kingshouse Hotel was full to overflowing; the atmosphere was animated, verging on the frenetic, as more and more old friends met. Many of the attenders had over the years met through the club and later married. Even over the last year or two there have been four successful marriages.

Scott and Mollie Johnstone (founder Members) gave us a speech about the early days. Later in the evening David Hamilton gave us a short slide show of his recent expeditions. At 11 p.m. the bonfire outside was lit by fireraiser David Ramsay, this burned well and was well attended. At the same time about a dozen of us attempted a moonlight hill ascent behind the hotel. We all reached the shieling but only two of us proceeded to the summit of Meall Bhalach.

It didn't get dark that night. As the moon set behind the shadow of Buachaille Etive Mor, the sun rose in the eastern horizon of Rannoch Moor. The setting was awesome, the scene unforgettable. We could not have asked for better weather at the Kingshouse that weekend.

A prominent event during the weekend was our effort to ascend 50 Munros around the Glencoe area. This was a fundraising event brought about by Simon Boa. The goal was achieved; 51 Munros were in fact climbed. Due to this success we later presented a sum of £250 to Glencoe Mountain Rescue Team.

The remaining £450 went to hut improvements at our club hut, Clashgour of Inveroran. The hut now has a new woodburning stove, nicknamed Olivia Neutron Bomb. Other things purchased included folding chairs, pots and pans and cutlery. Previous members of GUM will find it hard to believe that the club hut is now in a better state than ever. The overnight charge is still less than a pint.

Probably the most interesting artefact in the GUM Club is not the club hut but the original club minute book. This is a fascinating piece of club history. The original Constitution of the

club would not be recognised now. Things have changed in an unbelievable way, over this 50 years of internal club politics. These days things are taken for granted; it's as simple as jumping into a minibus to the Coe. Whereas in times gone by, a GUM Club meet was an epic as far as getting there was concerned.

As has always been the case, new members are made most welcome. The walking/climbing experience of our many members is good, and we still manage to produce one or two top grade climbers, or vice versa! We should be delighted to see former members too at our weekly meeting in the Partick Tavern, Dumbarton Road, Glasgow (Tuesdays, after 9.00 p.m.).

Let us hope that the club can celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2041. Who knows, many of us will still be around then to say:- 'We met the members who founded the club 100 years ago'. As I sit and work in Gilbert Scott's Gothic palace I think of the famous mountaineers and other people that once worked here, or were taught within its walls.

Brian Dougan.

**Scottish Mountaineering Trust** (A brief description by Stan Pearson, who is currently a Trustee).

The Scottish Mountaineering Trust (SMT) is a charitable body established to further and assist the appreciation of the mountains in Scotland. Although the Trust often works alongside other groups with similar interests, such as the Mountaineering Council of Scotland, the Scottish Mountaineering Club, and the National Trust for Scotland, the SMT is an independent organisation.

The most public aspect of the Trust's activities is the publication of guidebooks to the Scottish hills. Occasionally the SMT is involved as the publisher of these publications, but more often it relies on manuscripts presented to it by the Scottish Mountaineering Club. Significant cross-subsidy between publications ensures that a broad range of information is available to the hill-going population, which might otherwise be restricted if constrained by purely commercial considerations. These activities enable the Trust to support a variety of projects.

Normally the Trust tries to target areas where no public finance is available, or where its involvement would kick start further support. In the past the Trust has assisted an employee of the Mountaineering Council of Scotland, new climbing walls, the John Muir Trust, Scottish mountaineering expeditions, and the repair of bridges and parks. Currently the Trust's main emphasis is on path maintenance. One pound from the sale of each copy of 'The Munros,' 'The Corbetts,' and 'The Northwest Highlands' will go towards path maintenance and improvement. Paths at the Lairig Ghru, the Allt a' Mhuilinn and Lochnagar have benefited this year.

The SMT also administers two grant funds; the Snart Bequest, which is to assist mountain safety, and the Sang award, which offers assistance to expeditions (usually those with a Scottish element).

Further information about the SMT and its activities can be obtained from:

John Fowler  
Secretary of the Scottish Mountaineering Trust  
4 Doune Terrace  
Edinburgh EH3 6DY.

## MUNRO MATTERS

by W D Brooker (Clerk of the List)

**That List.**- With 165 new names the tally of New Compleaters makes a bigger increment than ever before (perhaps because it refers to the centenary year of the first publication of the Tables) but the Editor has graciously yielded space for its entry in full. Cognoscenti will not fail to notice the significance of the last four surnames of the first millenium of the List. The List has now passed the thousand mark and inevitably there is speculation about its future and whether it should be continued. The Clerk is certainly prepared to keep on clerking for the time being but is inclined to the view that numbers have reached the point where the simple listing of the name and year of finishing the first round, with or without Tops, might be adequate, without the continual updating required by the addition of further rounds, Tops and Furths. This would mean, of course, that multi-Compleations and the rest would be unrecorded and the achievements would be entirely for their own sake. This is theoretically the current position, anyway.

AMENDMENTS to the existing List are as follows:-

(107) Nisbet Andrew	1972 1991 1991	(623) Watson Maurice	1988 1991
(352) Havard John	1984 1991 1991	(634) Miller Bill	1987 1991
(354) Borland George	1984 1984 1989	(662) Barker John	1989 1991
(361) Deas Kenneth	1984 1991	(663) Barker Ruth	1989 1991
(451) Caldwell Craig	1984 1985	(729) Lackenby Bill	1989 1991
(455) Rudkin Lawrence	1986 1991 1989	(732)*Maden BEH	1990 1991
(483) Ilieve Peter	1986 1991 1991	(763) Curle Brian	1990 1991 1991
(514) Purser David	1986 1987 1991	(764) Templeton Andrew	1990 1991
(518) Wyllie John	1980 1991	(780) Sutherland Eddie	1990 1991
(592) Geddes David	1988 1989 1991	(781) Sutherland Norma	1990 1991
(602) Cushnie Irvine J	1988 1988 1991	(806) Thompson Ben	1989 1989 1991

ADDITIONS TO THE LIST received during the last year to 1st April:-

855 Patrick Alan W	1990	877 Yates Robert W	1991 1991
856 Young Ivan	1983 1989 1989	878 Eady Ms Pat	1991
857 Hughill Peter Norman		879 Parnham Ken	1991
	1990 1989	880 Rhodes David	1991 1990
858 Gilbert Iain M	1991	881 Carter Geoffrey D	1991
859 Smith Ivan McA G	1991 1991	882 Cook Irene	1991 1991
860 Sellers Peter	1991 1991 1981	883 Telfer Ken G	1991
861 Sellers Sylvia	1991 1991 1981	884 Wrightham Mark	1991
862 Anderson Tom	1991 1991	885 McGeachie Gibson	1991
863 Shepherd Iain D	1991	886 McGeachie Lynne	1991
864 Fraser Kenneth	1984	887 Ferguson George D	1991
865 Fraser Tibbie	1984	888 Hetherington John	1985
866 Kydd David A	1991	889 Simcock Adrienne	1991
867 Gott Alan	1989 1991	890 Simcock Peter	1991
868 Grant Alastair	1991 1991	891 Youngs Lynn M	1990
869 Hagan Stephen J	1991	892 Stone Jamie F	1991
870 Wainwright John	1991	893 Horner Patricia A	1991
871 Buchan Robert Gordon	1991	894 Marr Douglas	1991
872 Knowles William	1991	895 Sanford Anthony J	1991
873 Gruellich Wolf	1991	896 Moxey-Sanford Linda M	
874 Huddart J S	1991		1991
875 *Sinclair Mark	1991	897 Blackburn Derek	1991
876 Yates Elsa	1991 1991	898 Escritt Jack	1991 1991

899	Nelson John	1991	960	Dunn Stephen	1991
990	Landers Ann	1991	961	Henderson Ron A	1991
991	Landers Pedro	1991	962	Connell Bob	1991 1991
992	Dempsey Robin W	1991	963	Sowerby Howard A	1991 1991
993	Huntley Christopher M	1991	964	Cull Thomas	1991
904	Lowe Martin J B	1991	965	Cumming Ian	1991
905	Wood Richard P	1991 1991	966	Anderson J R	1991
906	Futty Mike	1991	967	Sarjeant Andy	1991
907	Thomas Alun Gwyn	1991	968	Finlay Derek	1991
908	Thomas Elizabeth M	1991	969	Harrison Jack	1991
909	Mitchell Ian R	1991	970	Alexander Robert	1991
910	Drew Eric	1991	971	Gardiner Brian	1991
911	Snowdon Derek R	1991	972	Redford William	1991
912	Chow Alan	1991	973	Entwistle James	1991
913	McNeish Cameron	1991	974	Binnie G A C	1986
914	Buchanan William F	1991	975	Munro Alan R	1991 1991
915	Elmes Marian P	1991	976	Johnson Denis E O'N	1989
916	Neave John	1991	977	Myles Dave	1986
917	Baxter John	1991	978	Stewart Stan	1986
918	Lockett Peter	1991	979	Armstrong Alan D	1991
919	Gairey Michael	1991	980	MacDonald Brian J	1991
920	Simpson Colin A	1991	981	Dargie Ian	1991
921	Keir Gordon	1991	982	Stark John A	1991
922	Clark Irene I	1991	983	Inglis John	1988
923	Jack Peter	1989	984	Craig Andrew McD	1990
924	Fyfe J Alan	1991	985	Pownall John	1991
925	Newley Peter	1991	986	Heath Elizabeth S	1990
926	**King Heather	1991	987	Watson William	1991
927	Spencer Dorothy	1991 1991	988	Henry Alan M	1991
928	Ganey Graham J	1991	989	Simpson W A	1988
929	Cantley Goff	1984	990	Gardiner Brian	1991
930	Cantley Judy	1984	991	Bootle R Keith	1991
931	Benson James G	1991	992	Leahy Patrick M	1991 1991
932	Orchard Gerald	1990 1991 1991	993	Ingham Stuart F	1991
933	Rodger Alan J L	1990	994	Irvine Stuart	1991
934	Collin Peter	1991	995	Howie Graham H	1988
935	Crawford Dave	1990	996	McCallum Donald C	1991
936	Sharp Bob	1991	997	Munro Lindsay D	1991
937	Jones Peter N	1991	998	Munro Roderick C	1991
938	Thomson John Whyte	1991	999	Robertson Robert B	1988 1991
939	Morris Frank	1984	1000	Robertson Angus K	1989
940	Harper Pamela	1987	1001	Bramley R	1991
941	Clarke Wal	1990	1002	Harman Derrick	1991
942	Heath Tony	1991	1003	Ramsay Charlie	1991
943	Hassell Bruce	1989 1989 1990	1004	Lingard Teresa	1990
944	Starbuck John	1991 1991	1005	Millar Tom M	1991
945	Boulter Jennie	1990	1006	Bantick Allan	1991
946	Boulter Peter	1990	1007	Cassell Paul	1989
947	Robson Anne R	1991	1008	Orr Nigel	1991
948	Bate Ben	1984	1009	Harben Cedric Y	1991
949	Allan Doug	1984	1010	Lowther David	1991
950	White Cliff	1984	1011	McIlroy Mary	1991
951	Harrison Andy	1991	1012	Barrowman John	1990
952	Smith Iain	1991	1013	Aitken A G F	1992
953	Gothard David N	1991	1014	Wragg Anthony	1991
954	Gunn Robert B	1991 1991	1015	Borthwick W D	1991
955	Stephens Joyce C	1991 1991	1016	Simpson Clifford	1992
956	Heaton Neil	1991	1017	Hartley Janet	1991
957	Herraghty George	1991	1018	Hill-Cottingham Roger	1991
958	Foy Dave	1991	1019	Tees James I R	1992
959	Dixon Mike	1991			

As usual, behind the simple list of names and numbers lies a rich tapestry of experience, woven with the threads of suffering and joy, despair and exultation. Fragments are contained in the many letters sent in with reports of Completions, from which a few points have been extracted from a wealth of interesting material.

**Meaningful Relationships.**- At least 12 cases of *M. matrimonialis* are to be found in this year's roll, including the (860/1)Sellers, (864/5)Fraser, (876/7)Yates, (885/6)McGeachies, (889/90)Simcocks, (895/6)Sanfords, (990/1)Landers, (907/8)Thomases, (929/30)Cantleys, (945/6)Boulters, and (1018/9)Hartley/Hill-Cottingham. Of these, the first five couples seem to be cases of *totalis*, having done all their Munros in marital company. The (878/879)Eady/Parham combination tied the marital knot a mere two days prior to Completion, thus ensuring that they finished as honest man and woman in proper matrimonial style.

**Pace and Style.**- As always the range is wide, with many taking over 20 years, quite a few 30 or more, and (976)Denis Johnson and (910)Eric Drew determinedly leisurely at 44 and 45 years respectively. There is no shortage of rapid Completers of less than 10 years, while (870)John Wainwright of the Yorkshire Mountaineering Club took 11 years but was still only 14 years old when he finished. In spite of his youth John has accumulated a good deal of experience having done some major alpine peaks and leading on gritstone up to VS. (883)Ken Telfer had a solo round except for the Inaccessible Pinnacle and conformed to Dow's Rules, with no camping, bivouacking or bothying and going in and out in a day using only leg power. (514)David Purser did his second round inadvertently while ticking off the Corbetts but redeemed himself by Completing in *M. elegans* style reversing the seasons of all the ascents on his previous round or taking interesting variants such as Tower Ridge, Curved Ridge, and Snake Ridge on Macdui. Others have done the Corbetts and even the Donalds. The former bring their own rewards and in spite of the navigational merit attached to successfully locating some of the summits of the latter, this Clerk has resolutely declined to start any more Lists!

**Trust not number.**- (483)Peter Ilieve was about to have 484 branded on his forehead when, like a few others, he found that he had been promoted in the latest edition of the Tables. (534)Peter Warburton is not the only one to be upset by the omission of the Tops column in the List in this edition, and makes an eloquent case to the Master of the Tables for its restoration in some form. Newspaper reports are even more undependable, as (863) Iain Shepherd discovered when he was credited in the Dundee "Courier" as having made 831,000 feet (277x3000) of ascent in doing his Munros.

**-nor weather.**- (939)Peter Duncan met 90mph winds on Toll Creagach and was blown over the headwall of an avalanche which fortunately for him had already discharged itself. (638)Frank Garforth had a unique and rather costly encounter with high winds which forced him to a crawl among boulders on Ben Hee — 'When I turned into the full force of the wind to get back, it took my breath away and with it my top denture, which had disappeared before I could turn.' \*(875)Mark Sinclair finished on Beinn Tarsuinn in the worst June weather he had ever experienced - rain, hail, two inches of lying snow and nil visibility. However on the final summit the clouds parted and he was treated to a Brocken Spectre within two rainbows - a double glory!

**-nor rock.**- (944)John Starbuck did a solo round except for Blaven. When on the Inaccessible with a back rope and down-climbing to recover a runner a hand hold came completely away to leave him dangling on the rope a second later! It was an ascent of this same Pinnacle, very unusual for an initial Munro, which led to (934)Peter Collin being infected with a dose of Munros which was only cured after dragging himself all over the Highlands for six years with a final alcoholic group therapy session on the summit of Beinn Alligin. It would be a shame to tell him that such cures are only temporary!

**-nor man.**- As (931)James Benson discovered when, having been motivated to do the Munros for a £5 bet that he would never make it, he found that when he Completed, the gentleman who made the bet had gone to ground. He clearly could not have been a typically generous Aberdonian, who would have regarded a rate of 1.8 pence per summit as a modest price to pay to save one's reputation! (Ed. comment:- only an Aberdonian would have worked out the rate per summit.)



**-nor anything.**- To celebrate on their last summit Messrs (980) Brian MacDonald and (981) Ian Dargie had brought up a can of T\*\*\*\*\*t's Lager, only to find that another eight people had arrived to congratulate them and share it! Despite this, Brian was in joyful mood until he found that in his euphoria he had trampled on his spectacles!

**Efforts and Rewards.**- Many letters tell of sacrifices made and even more of the rich returns which justify the investment many times over. Pedro and Ann Landers made 33 trips to Scotland from bases in Buckingham and Devon, usually a round of well over 1000 miles. During his five year round, (960) Stephen Dunn who had never intended to Compleat because of a fear of heights, found this gradually disappearing until he came to enjoy the views down narrow Cuillin aretes. Wild life encounters are often vivid memories. (871) Robert Buchan tells of watching a fox standing on its hind legs to fight off a dozen ravens, of seeing a huge eagle being forced to the ground by two ravens and of reaching a rock on the summit ridge of Garbh Chioch Mhor only to find it was a badger which stayed just ahead of him all the way to Sgurr na Ciche. Some relive experiences in the pages of log books. (962) Bob Connell writes in his of 'A Walk round Glen Affric - Rivers and streams came down the mountains any old how; ten or fifteen pencil-straight gills foamed into Coire Crom; the Sputan Ban was mad, pouring in a wide, frozen rage of foam into its own spray shooting up from the depth of the fall; the featureless hump of Lapaich bled white with streams, like a tight bladder of milk pricked all over. The Allt Garbh ran in wild, naughty loops, where it pleased; and streams could not be forded with any style or dignity..... In the afternoon successive changes of light illuminated the high walls of Mam Sodhail, in an unforgettable leaden subtlety. All was beauty and awe: the wildest of weather; autumn vividness against black, ill-lit skies, roseate ranges of snow; an empty fairy lodge, bridges off its seeming island to nowhere but the bottom of the black loch; and everywhere the glaucous blue of native pines....' Such are memories in which we can all share as they evoke our own.

**Arachnids Ahoy!** - Isobel Baldwin of the National Museums of Scotland is studying the distribution of high altitude spiders which are Ice Age relic species and live under stones above 3000ft. Assistance in collecting these is sought from Munroists and any others who frequent the high tops. Whether or not you like spiders is unimportant.

If you would like to help, contact her at The Department of Natural History, N.M.S. Chambers Street, Edinburgh, EH1 1JF.

**The Centenary Affair.**-The following account is for those Munroists who failed to attend the Centenary celebration for various reasons, which included being in the dark that it was planned, unable to afford it, or downright disapproval of the whole idea.

The Dinner was held in the Roxburghe Hotel in Edinburgh on 23rd November. Space was limited so advertising was restricted to these Notes in the Journal and a notice sent out to new Compleaters when they registered. As it turned out this was enough to reach the capacity to which the Roxburghe were persuaded to expand, taking 223, consisting of 155 Listed Munroists, 65 long suffering partners and 3 guests. The evening was organised by The Master of the Tables (259) Derek Bearhop who attended to printing and menus, Clerk of the List Bill Brooker who acted as M.C., and Keeper of the Regalia (450) Gordon McAndrew who did most of the organisation in Edinburgh, enrolled participants and kept the Purse. Guest speakers were (62) Hamish Brown our maxi-poly-Munroist, SMC historical expert Robin Campbell, and SMC President Iain Smart.

Firstly, participants, who had come from all over The British Isles, had a chance to mix and meet each other. They comprised all kinds and conditions of Munroist and included (493) David Kale the youngest Compleater on record, as well as (17) Harry Hampton one of the most senior. After a welcome and introductions by the M.C. Gordon McAndrew read a message from the grandson of H.T.M. himself. (see letter below). Hamish Brown followed with a talk on Munros and what mountains can mean to some people, illustrated with some superb slides.

Dinner and associated libations were then enjoyed by the increasingly relaxed company.

The after dinner toasts began with Robin Campbell celebrating the memory of Hugh Munro with an illustrated delivery using some slides suited to the vintage of his theme, offset by an outstanding talk about Munro and his almost Completion. He capped it all with the unveiling of his personal version of the Great Man seated at the small table beside him, opposite the empty place set for (277) The Unknown Munroist (see the article this issue). This was a hard act to follow but Iain Smart toasted The Mountains of Scotland in a style both witty

and philosophical and yet maintained perspective. Some concluding remarks by the M.C. and a final toast of 'Happy to Meet, Sorry to Part....' led into the last phase of the evening with farewells and handclaps between old and new friends. It had been a great and unique occasion.

**A Sombre Reminder.**- (145)Rae Graham writes to say she was with quadruple Munroist (76)Matthew Moulton in May last year when the latter slipped and fell on Stob Dubh and was fatally injured. In her view the fact that Matthew was wearing a cagoule with little friction contributed to a simple slip on a slope of wet grass becoming an uncontrollable slide. Modern wet weather gear has attractive qualities but it is important to remember that it can be a source of danger in certain situations, especially if overtrousers are being worn.

A. T. MUNRO

River Ridge, Box 940, Waitsfield, Vermont 05673

11 Nov 1991

Mr. President, Honoured Guests,  
Ladies & Gentlemen:

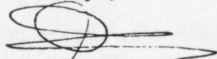
It is with great pride and pleasure that I respond to Dr McAndrew's invitation to send a message to all of you on the occasion of the celebratory Dinner in honour of the Centenary of Munro's Tables, 1891-1991.

I wish that I could be present with you tonight, not only as Sir Hugh Munro's grandson, but as a Munroist. Alas, my ventures onto Scotland's Munro's do not qualify me to sit in your company!

In my annual visits to Scotland, it never ceases to amaze me, given the relatively primitive transport of the day, how my Grandfather managed to get himself from one end of Scotland to the other; not just once, but many times. Perhaps more remarkable is the fact that I understand very few of his measurements needed any corrections, even checked with today's accurate instrumentation. It is sad, however, to think that he died in France in 1919, with still "two to go".

I hope that your Centenary Dinner at The Roxburge is a resounding success. I also would like to express the wish that the second hundred years of Munro climbing provides as much enjoyment to mountaineers as has the first. With all good wishes for the evening and continued successful climbs,

Yours Aye,



Sir Alasdair T. Munro,  
6th Baronet of Lindertis

**SCOTTISH MOUNTAIN ACCIDENTS 1990**

The following incidents were notified too late for inclusion:—

**NORTHERN HIGHLANDS 1990**

**JANUARY 3rd**—Christopher Draper (47) solo walking on Ben Klibreck lost his footing and slid 70 feet. He had no ice axe, but wearing crampons, of which one caught and twisted his ankle breaking it. Crawled downhill till he was spotted by a passer-by who alerted Police. RAF Sea King. 13.

**MAY 8th**—Having walked from Cape Wrath to Sandwood Loch with 2 companions, Dennis Chapman (40) was ill with gastro-enteritis. Airlifted to Stornoway by HMCG helicopter. Aux. Coastguard Kinlochbervie. 16.

**AUGUST 31st**—Coastal search for Catherine Brooks (25) and Gregory Brooks (4) at Ceann na Beinne Bay, Rispond, Durness. Assynt MRT, HM Coastguard, RAF Sea King. 84.

**WESTERN HIGHLANDS 1990**

**APRIL 13th**—Walking from Loch Houran to Loch Nevis, Brenda Slavin (57) slipped on wet grass at the steep descent from stalkers' path into the head of Carnoch Glen. Broken ankle. Airlift by RAF Sea King. 9.

**APRIL 21st**—Ridge walking on Toll Creagach (Glens Cannich/Affric) Alexander Greener (55) collapsed and died. Inverness Air Ambulance. Police. 9.

**MAY 7th**—Alison Kenny (27) injured by a slip on scree. Sgurr na Carnach, Five Sisters. Kintail MRT. 53.

**JULY 21st to 22nd**—Extensive searches of Knoydart by Police, Lochaber MRT, Royal Marine Army Corps? and RAF Sea King for Janet MacAdam (60) who separated from her party in good weather on Ladhar Bheinn. She was found at Loch an Dubh-Lochain next afternoon, very well after her night out.

**BEN NEVIS 1990**

**FEBRUARY 3rd**—3 male climbers overdue on Tower Ridge. Traced by 0800.

**SEPTEMBER 23rd to 24th**—3 women and 1 man (all 30s) benighted when making a video of climbing Tower Ridge. Lochaber MRT.

**OCTOBER 25th**—False alarm. Lochaber MRT called out for reported man in difficulty on Ben Path.

**NOVEMBER 3rd**—Climbing solo after separations, Timothy Walker (20) left Tower Ridge by Echo Traverse, then got cragfast on 'Rolling Stones.' Lochaber MRT walked him down to airlift by RAF Sea King. 24.

**OTHER CENTRAL HIGHLANDS 1990**

**FEBRUARY 3rd**—Ski touring on A'Chailleach (Monadhliath) David Buchanan (41) injured an ankle. Companions dragged him to the Red Bothy on a bivvy bag. Airlifted by RAF helicopter. 8.

**JUNE ?**—2 people (36, 25) overdue walking Corroul to Fersit. Arrived safe.

**CAIRNGORMS 1990**

**JANUARY 19th**—John Cole (25) injured ankle falling at top of Jacob's Ladder, Coire an-t'Sneachda, Cairngorm.

**FEBRUARY 18th**—False alarm that a body had been found in a snowhole in Coire an Lochain, Cairngorm, but it was just gear to be collected later.

**MARCH 8th**—Off-piste ski-ing in Coire an-t'Sneachda, Cairngorm, Sonia Wright (13) dislocated her knee. Glenmore Lodge MRT and RAF Sea King. 5.

- JUNE 17th—RAF Sea King lifted Lisa Miller (19) from Coire Raibeirt, Cairngorm to Glenmore Lodge. Sprained ankle. 12.
- JULY 7th to 8th Chris Smith and Neil Wilson were overdue walking from Derry Lodge to Glenmore via Vynack More. They turned up safe.
- JULY 31st—Exhausted man aged 49, weight 28 stone, was lifted by RAF Sea King from Loch Avon to Glenmore Lodge. He had planned to walk with his son and grand daughter aged 4 from Ptarmigan Restaurant, via Coire Raibeirt, Loch Avon, Strath Nethy and Ryvoan Pass to Glenmore, but only reached Loch Avon. Son and grand-daughter went back to Coire Cas to get help. 10.
- AUGUST 21st—Gillian Webber (25) slipped on scree in Coire Raibeirt and sprained her arm. Airlift by RAF Sea King. Police. 6.
- AUGUST 23rd—William Brown (62) lost on Cairngorm Plateau in mist—no compass. Found by RAF Sea King at Sinclair Hut. Cairngorm MRT. 210.
- AUGUST 31st to SEPTEMBER 1st—David Japp found at Cairngorm Carpark unable to drive because of loss of spectacles and arm injury caused by a fall returning from Braeriach summit.
- SEPTEMBER 29th to 30th—5 walkers overdue from round of 4 main Cairngorm summits. Safe.
- DECEMBER 10th to 11th—Overdue because of deep snow in Lairig Ghru, Hamish Reid (26) snow-holed near Sinclair Hut. Airlift by RAF Sea King. Cairngorm MRT. 32.
- DECEMBER 16th—Paul Henniker (16) slipped ski-ing down Coire Cas Headwall. He fell into rocks at foot of crag with head and pelvic injuries. RAF Sea King. 7.

### SKYE 1990

- MAY 2nd to 3rd—Overdue walker (Male 50) returned safe to Sligachan after night out.
- AUGUST 2nd to 3rd—Walker (Male 41) overdue between Glenbrittle and Loch Coruisk.
- AUGUST 21st to 22nd—Amanda Arnold (17) suffered exhaustion/hypothermia walking the ridge of Quiraing with 5 others on award scheme. Skye MRT. 64.
- SEPTEMBER 22nd to 23rd—James MacCrachan (59) got lost halfway between Kinloch Lodge (Loch na Dal) and Kyle Rhea. Skye MRT. Found by HMCG boat and airlifted by HMCG helicopter. 76.
- OCTOBER 22nd to 23rd—Stuart Bevy (25) and Tracy Parker (17) benighted climbing Baly's Route, S. Buttress, Sgurr Dearg. Found by RAF Sea King when walking down next day. Skye MRT. 21.

### ISLANDS OTHER THAN SKYE 1990

- APRIL 23rd—Search by HMCG helo for Kenneth MacIver (34) of coast and moorland around Bayble Hill, Eye Peninsula, Stornoway, Lewis. Not found.

### SOUTHERN UPLANDS 1990

- AUGUST 11th—SARDA callout for elderly walker missing on Carsphairn.
- AUGUST 15th—SARDA search for 4 missing children. Kirkcudbright.
- SEPTEMBER 10th—Missing elderly walker in Glentroot. SARDA callout.
- OCTOBER 25th—SARDA search for missing elderly woman at Bridge of Weir.
- NOVEMBER 26th—SARDA search for 2 children missing in Mabie Forest, Dumfries.
- DECEMBER 16th—SARDA callout for 2 men (20s) overdue in Glentroot Hills, Newton Stewart.
- DECEMBER 24th—SARDA standby for missing elderly female, Kirkcudbright.

### NON-MOUNTAINEERING INCIDENTS 1990

- JANUARY 18th to 22nd—SARDA search of riverside for boy, aged two and a half, missing since January 18th. Denny.

SEPTEMBER 10th - SARDA dog found person with a suspected overdose at Stranraer.

Revised number Winter Injuries	Add	5	
Revised number Summer Injuries	Add	5	
Revised number Summer Exhaustion etc.	Add	2	
Revised number Summer Illness	Add	2	(1) (fatal)
Revised Total Casualties Winter Conditions (27%)		48	(7)
Revised Total Casualties Summer Conditions (73%)		133	(23)
REVISED TOTAL CASUALTIES ALL REGIONS 1990		181	(30)

#### INCIDENTS

##### ACTUAL RESCUES

Incidents with casualties	Add	14	161
Cragfast	Add	1	20

##### OTHER CALLOUTS

Separated	Add	1	15
Lost	Add	2	16
Overdue or Benighted	Add	17	56
False Alarms	Add	2	23
REVISED TOTAL INCIDENTS ALL REGIONS 1990			191

Revised non-mountaineering incidents	Add	2	20
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## MOUNTAIN RESCUE COMMITTEE OF SCOTLAND

### MOUNTAIN ACCIDENTS 1991

Compiled by John Hinde

INCIDENTS have not been tabulated for this year since some reports have not yet been received. Rather than print amendments, as I have had to do this year, I hope to print complete tables with 1992 incidents.

#### NORTHERN HIGHLANDS

JANUARY 8th to 10th—Frank Part (70) Birdwatcher found dead by Assynt MRT below cliffs at Dunnet Head, Caithness. Evacuated by Thurso Lifeboat, HM Coastguard helicopter, HMCG and volunteers. 150.

FEBRUARY 3rd Coire of Seana Bhràigh. Six members of the Assynt Mountain Rescue Team on a training exercise were traversing steep neve to the start of the gullies in the west of the coire. As Philip Jones (48), the leader of the team, crossed a small patch of windslab, the surface broke above him. A small avalanche carried him down and he was killed on rocks. RAF Sea King. 60.

FEBRUARY 11th—Edward Thomson (31) tried to traverse An Teallach N to S in mist and soft avalanche prone snow. He could not get down the Bad Step on Corrag Bhuidhe, returned to Sgurr Fiona and tried to get down what was probably Lady's Gully but it was too steep. He bivvied 200 feet below S. Fiona summit on west side and was found by observation search in daylight after initial night searches. Winched by RAF Sea King. Dundonnell, Kinloss MRTs, SARDA. 260.

FEBRUARY 16th—Coire Dubh Mor, Liathach. RAF Kinloss MRT on training exercise. Corporal Kenworthy was leading 5th pitch of Poacher's Fall, Grade 5. His axe pulled through the ice and he fell 60 feet breaking an ankle but he was held on his second's multi-belay. Both men climbed the final ice-wall aided by a top rope lowered to them by a rescuer. An RAF Sea King winched Kenworthy off just before dark, and all other rescuers descended on foot. 120.

FEBRUARY 23rd—Fiona Christie (27) slipped wearing crampons when descending a neve gully on the NE side of Maol Chean Dearg. Unable to brake with her ice-axe she fell 250 feet sustaining head and pelvic injuries. Evacuation at night in appalling conditions by RAF Sea King. Torridon MRT. 30.

FEBRUARY 25th Roderick Fab (28) and Chris Morton (Male 25) overdue. Torridon MRT. 2.

APRIL 4th Making a scrambling descent into a river gorge on Sgurr Dubh, Torridon, David Wilson (28) dislodged rocks and fell on to quartzite blocks. Serious injuries. Torridon MRT, RAF Sea King. 46.

APRIL 8th—Crystal Kraus (57) slipped on a path 3 miles SSE of Shildaig, Loch Gairloch, injuring an ankle. She was carried out by her party. Dundonnell MRT. 3.

APRIL 18th to 19th Coast walking from Lonbain to Sand, Stephen Conway (36) and Linda Lewis (32) had their way barred by a cliff, 5 miles N. of Applecross. Trying to get past they were knocked into the sea by a large wave. They scrambled on to a ledge and then further up, but they got cragfast and benighted. Found at night by HM Coastguard helicopter using heat-seeking gear. Unhurt. Torridon MRT. 43.

MAY 15th—Descending wet moorland which had been recently burned, Marion Farquhar (68) slipped and broke an ankle. South slopes of Beinn Alligin. Stretched down by Torridon MRT. 24.

JUNE 5th to 6th Separation incident. Jill Stevenson (25) spent the night at Shenavall Bothy and was found walking out. Dundonnell MRT and RAF Sea King. 29.

- JUNE 13th When descending from Ruadh Stac Mor South to the bealach to Beinn Tarsuinn, Archie Mitchell (60) died of a stroke on Stac a' Chaorruinn of A'Mhaighdean. Because of remoteness, the incident was not reported till 6 hours later. Victim was found by Dundonnell MRT using binoculars and stretchered down for airlift by RAF Sea King. 80.
- JULY 6th—Crag Bhuidhe Buttress of An Teallach. Phillip Laplace (Male 24) slipped descending and fell 70 feet sustaining head injuries. Winched off by RAF Sea King. Dundonnell MRT. 40.
- JULY 9th Woman (c40) got lost in mist on Beinn Dearg of Inverlael. Overdue, she walked out unaided. Dundonnell MRT. 5.
- JULY 22nd—HM Coastguard and Scrabster Lifeboat rescued Leonard Copeland (14) from 40 feet sea cliffs at Thurso. Walking on top, his cap blew off and he climbed down for it. He fell from half height to land on rocks above water line with minor leg injuries.
- AUGUST 11th to 12th Loch of Yarrows, Wick. Angler, James Anderson (70) overdue. He had waited for darkness to lift and he was OK. Assynt MRT and helicopter.
- AUGUST 24th—Robert Sutherland (38) fractured T12 vertebra from a 6 foot fall when his rope-lock failed at Mound Rock, Golspie. HMCG and RAF helicopter. 22+.
- AUGUST 28th to 29th Leaving Polbain at 1500 to walk the Achiltibuie to Blugasary, rocky, coastal path (normal time 8 hours) Allan Liggitt (48) got benighted without a torch. He was found by Dundonnell MRT not far from the E. end of the path. 20.
- SEPTEMBER 14th—Carol Shearer (43) slipped on sea cliffs and was killed. Dunnet Head, Caithness. Found by Assynt MRT. Evacuated by Coast Guard, HMCG helicopter, RAF Sea King, SARDA. 88.
- circa SEPTEMBER 16th Man slipped on grass on Victoria Walk Path, Thurso and was killed by a 40 foot fall down a sea cliff. Recovered by Thurso Lifeboat.
- OCTOBER 7th—Thomas Joures (65) became separated from 2 others on Ben Dearg. Without map and compass he went wrong and was found by Dundonnell MRT walking on a road to Alltguish. 35.
- OCTOBER 18th—HMCG helicopter lifted Gillian Pattinson (50) from Kishorn to Broadford Hospital suffering leg injuries when an ATV rolled. Deerstalking a mile from Ceann-Loch-Damph. Torridon MRT. 17.
- NOVEMBER 30th—Visiting Eas-coul-Aulinn, Loch Glencoul (one of Britain's highest waterfalls) Caroline Walker (30) fell behind her party and got lost in mist, only 1 mile from a road but with no map, compass, torch or food. She stayed put till walked out by Assynt MRT. 35.

### WESTERN HIGHLANDS

- JANUARY 6th to 7th Alone on Beinn Fhada, Joe Quinn (15) Kintail MRT leader, had to abandon 2 descent routes due to fierce winds and avalanche risk, eventually descending with the wind and surviving in a snowhole. Found by Kinloss MRT walking down Glen Lichd. Kinloss, Kintail, Skye MRTs, SARDA, 2 RAF Sea Kings. 476.
- JANUARY 9th—Abandoned tent in forest near A82, 6 miles S. of Drumnadrochit.
- FEBRUARY 3rd Joe Quinn (45), Damon Powell (32) and Jonathan Appleby (29) changed route due to bad weather and descended from South Cluanie Ridge by a safer route. Result—a longer walk. Kintail MRT. 6.
- FEBRUARY 14th to 15th—Jennifer Nichols (31) slipped on snow and got separated from her companion on Beinn Egritheall, 100m below summit, suffering minor leg injuries. Glenelg, Kintail MRTs, RAF Sea King. 183.
- FEBRUARY 16th to 17th—Aaron Longbottom (22), James Cairns (22) and John Dodds (19) got cragfast descending Creag nan Damh (South Cluanie Ridge) into Glen Shiel. They got stuck halfway down the NW Spur of Sgurr a'Chuilinn at 8 pm. Although they had a rope they did not retreat and try and find an easier way down. Extricated and led off by Kintail MRT. Alerted by flashing six times repeatedly. 40.
- MARCH 28th—RAF Sea King airlifted Harold MacCaffrey (34) with broken leg to Raigmore Hospital from Spidean Mialach, Loch Quoich. He slipped on rock, slid 250 feet down snow into rocks. Alone, he had attracted a party of 3 by whistle blasts. Lochaber MRT. 12.

- APRIL 21st to 22nd - Kintail MRT called out by the sister of Nicholas Hunter (25). She had set out with him on Sgurr a' Chaochain, Glen Carron, but decided to give up due to bad weather. He continued but turned up 15 hours overdue. RAF helo called out but did not lift off. 8.
- APRIL 29th - As one of her dogs was lame, and she miscalculated the distance of her walk, Felicity Richardson (37) went to the wrong boat pick up. She was found at night by RN Sea King, uninjured on shore 1 mile from Ardnish Point, Lochailort. Lochaber MRT. 66.
- MAY 5th - Eric Woodall (63) and Donald Woodall (61) separated from another pair near top of Sgurr na Ciste Dubhe, because of a knee injury slowing them. The knee spasm subsided and they continued to walk on a different route, and so were overdue, but safe. Kintail MRT. 10.
- MAY 5th - Kintail MRT spotted a torch shone by an overdue couple descending from the 5 Sisters into Glen Lichd. Andrew Anderson (41) and Sarah Baran (40) walked off but were given a lift down the glen in a 4WD vehicle. 15.
- MAY 10th - George Hill (68) became separated from his son between summit of Creach Bheinn and Maol Odhar (W. of Loch Linnhe). His son, who returned to Kingairloch, had the pack with all the food and gear. George went 180 degrees out and finished up at the head of Loch Sunart. Lochaber MRT alerted. 3.
- MAY 20th - Florrie MacPhail (63) was at 2,000 feet on Sgurr a'Choire Ghlais, Strathfarrar with a broken ankle, caused by a slip descending wet rock and hypothermia. Her companion went for help but RAF Sea King could not reach her because of turbulence. Winchman was dropped to care for her. Helo returned to Kinloss and came back with 7 KMRT and landed 3km below her in darkness. She was stretchered down then airlifted to Raigmore. 140.
- MAY 25th - Mark Ninhan (22) descended from Luinne Bheinn, Knoydart, towards Upper Gleann Carnach with 2 friends. He slipped on wet scree going down a sloping waterfall and fell 50 feet cutting his elbow badly. All walked to Loch Nevis and 'phoned from Camusorry. Rescue by 3 am. Mallaig Lifeboat, HM Coastguard and Police. 19.  
NB Camusorry radiophone is private and there is now no rescue post. Before radiophones were installed at Camusorry, Barrisdale and Glendessarry, Upper Carnach was one of the places most remote from 'phones in Britain. JH.
- MAY 28th - 2 women, ill equipped, lost on Mullach Fraoch Choir, reached Morvich, about 13 miles from rendezvous at Cluanie. Kintail MRT.
- JUNE 3rd - About 1km from main road in Ariundle Nature Reserve, Strontian, Eirene Chilton (59) stumbled on rough ground and sprained her ankle. Stretchered off by Police and local volunteers. 5.
- JUNE 23rd - Searches in Loch Lochy Hills for further clues after the discovery of a body. It may have been that of Bruce Pearce (47). (See 2/6/90).
- JULY 13th - Ascending steeply north out of Coire Chraoibhe on to Beinn Bhan (above Caledonian Canal near Gairloch), Paul Connolly (18) caught his foot between two stones and badly sprained his ankle. Airlifted by RAF Sea King. Lochaber MRT. 10.
- JULY 24th to 29th - German tourist separated from his friend at Upper Lennie, 2 miles SW of Urquhart Castle, Loch Ness. RAF Wessex, Kinloss, Police and dogs searched on July 27. HM Coastguard helicopter, Police and Kinloss searched on July 29. Not found. 442.
- JULY 28th - Dave Rollings (48) stumbled attempting descent from summit, aggravating an old knee injury when paragliding on Sgurr an t-Searraich. Airlifted by Army Air Corps Gazelle Ambulance. Kintail MRT. 23.
- AUGUST 11th to 12th - Patricia McCulloch (39) lost and benighted in Inchnacardoch Forest W. of Fort Augustus. Found in early morning by a forester. Kinloss, Kintail, Leuchars, Lochaber MRTs. 200.
- OCTOBER 27th to 28th - RAF Sea King flew Kinloss MRT towards Glen Mullardoch for John Martin (39) benighted on Sgurr na Lapaich. Whilst they were airborne he turned up safe. 13.
- OCTOBER or NOVEMBER - All terrain vehicle with 3 on board overturned in Movern area. 1 killed, 1 injured. Air Ambulance, Inverness.



NOVEMBER 16th—J.T. Nicol was with 3 others, travelling quite fast on a winter familiarisation rescue exercise. Beinn Fhionnlaigh (1,005m) a particularly remote peak above Loch Mullardoch, was on the intended route. He collapsed suddenly without the usual signs of exhaustion/hypothermia on the NW Ridge of Carn Eighe. Losing consciousness he was put in a sleeping bag and bivvy bag, with a further s/bag and b/bag underneath insulating him from the snow. There was no shelter on the exposed ridge. Fortunately, Rescue 137, an RAF Sea King, happened to be in transit through the area and was contacted by radio. The weather was clear and cold. He was winched aboard and at Raigmore found to have exhaustion, dehydration and mild hypothermia. Kinloss MRT. 15.

### BEN NEVIS

- JANUARY 19th to 20th—Steven Coneys (37), John Keska (40) were delayed and benighted by deep snow and poor weather on Italian Climb. Both abseiled off. Lochaber MRT and RAF Sea King. 53.
- FEBRUARY 3rd to 4th—Delayed by poor snow on Observatory Ridge, Lawson Milne (36) and George Ferns (27) were benighted and bivouacked. They eventually reached plateau, got down and 'phoned in. Lochaber MRT deployed. RAF Wessex. 38.
- FEBRUARY 5th—Jerry Wiekzorek (33) fell 60 feet Douglas Gap, Tower Ridge. Broken ankle. Lochaber MRT lowered him to CIC hut from where he was winched by RAF Wessex to Belford Hospital. 85.
- FEBRUARY 22nd to 24th—Martin James Begg (23) missing from a walk up the Tourist Track with an ice-axe, but no crampons and no compass. He was found dead by RAF Sea King in the deep and narrow Surgeons Gully. Lochaber and RAF Leuchars MRTs, SARDA. 192.
- MARCH 2nd—Con Higgins (51) suffered head and pelvic injuries when blown over descending ramp from 1st Platform, NE Buttress after climbing Minus 2 Gully. Walked with aid of companion to CIC, then stretchered by Lochaber MRT. 43.
- MARCH 3rd—Neil Wilson (25) got leg injuries in a windslab avalanche at the top of Orion Direct. Held on rope. Lochaber MRT. RAF Sea King. 276.
- MARCH 4th—Richard Novak (50) had climbed and descended, with a companion, a route in the area of Slingsby's Chimney. On the snowslope at the foot of the climb, winds were about 100mph. Novak was lifted off his feet by the wind and slid 300 feet to the bottom. Aided by his friend he got to CIC with abrasions and bruising to face and spine, and 2 broken metacarpals. Airlifted from CIC by RAF Wessex on 5th. 18.
- APRIL 27th—Somewhere near the Eastern Traverse of Tower Ridge, Derek Branford (48), leading, was about 50 feet above his 2nd—Miss Paraskevi Terzoudi (27)—when he fell and pulled out 4 runners. He was bruised about the body and arms. She held him on the rope till other climbers arrived and Branford was PULLED UP to the ledge. An RAF Sea King lifted Lochaber MRT to the top of Tower Ridge, whence they climbed down to the casualty, put him on a stretcher and pulled him up to the plateau for airlift. 110.
- MAY 24th—Walking up the Ben with his son and 6 friends, John Rhodes (49) died of coronary heart disease 300 metres beyond 2nd Aluminium Bridge. Lochaber MRT and RAF Wessex. 48.
- MAY 31st—His 2nd stopped his 30 foot fall when Peter Evans (38) slipped on grassy rock leading Minus 1 Direct on the Orion Face, but Evans collided with the rock face and sustained a broken left ankle. Helped by 2 other climbers to CIC Hut, then winched by RAF Wessex. Lochaber MRT. 3.
- JUNE 1st—Leading a rope of 2 up Observatory Ridge, Marijke Tucker (Female 25) was struck on her left side by a rock dislodged by a climber above. Airlifted with bruising by RAF Sea King. Kinloss MRT. 8.
- JUNE 13th—Walking up after a night at CIC Hut, John Greene (46) died of coronary artery disease at the toe of the NE Buttress. Stretchered below rolling cloud by Lochaber MRT for airlift by RAF Wessex. 20.
- JUNE 20th—Descending from Ben Nevis summit, and not far below it, by the path, Norma Moore (44) went over on an ankle and sprained it. She descended slowly helped by her husband till she was met by Lochaber MRT and stretchered off by Lochaber MRT. 22.

- JULY 4th—Patrick Haggerty (50). Heart attack victim on Tourist Path just above Red Burn. Dead on arrival of RAF Wessex. Airlifted to Fort William. Lochaber MRT. 41.
- JULY 6th—Waiting at the foot of Carn Dearg Buttress to do a climb, Alan Rodger (32) was hit by a rock falling which broke his femur. Airlifted by RAF Wessex. Lochaber MRT. 60.
- JULY 6th—Jeremy Wyke (16) went over on his ankle and sprained it, descending Tourist Track at 2nd Hairpin above Halfway House. Stretcher carry by Lochaber MRT. 14.
- JULY 12th—Rei Watanabe (84) was 1 of 21 Japanese going up the Ben. She got tired at 10.30 and descended alone. She tripped and fell near 1st Aluminium Bridge with cuts to her head and severe bruising of the hip. Stretchered off by Lochaber MRT. 14.
- JULY 17th—Descending Tourist Path, Rita Perov (50) slipped and broke an ankle. Stretchered by Lochaber MRT to airlift by RN Sea King. 32.
- JULY 20th—Veronica Anderson (35) was leading Slingsby's Chimney, NE Buttress. 70 feet from the top she slipped and fell 60 feet fracturing 6 ribs. She was held by her 2nd—Anna Lawton (23)—who was uninjured but shocked. Both were winched from the climb by RAF Wessex. Lochaber and Kinloss MRTs. 95.
- JULY 24th—Richard Hunn (42) tripped and tore a knee ligament 1,000 feet from Ben summit on the path. He continued to top but could only get halfway down. Stretchered by Lochaber MRT. 24.
- JULY 25th—Lochaber MRT stretchered Jaroslaw Sawiak (68) off Ben Path. Ankle injury caused by slip descending. 29.
- JULY 25th—Salt tablets for cramp, administered by Lochaber MRT to John Edmunds (52) helped him to continue down Ben Path unaided. 19.
- JULY 27th—David Podd and Gary Bennett, both wheelchair patients, attempted to climb Ben Nevis on all fours, or by sitting down and propelling themselves upwards with their arms. They got close to the Halfway Lochan. Arrangement had been made to airlift them but bad weather and failure of a 4WD vehicle caused them to be stretchered off.
- JULY 31st to AUGUST 1st—Frances Craig (19) descending from the Arete into Coire Giubhsachan with 2 companions, slipped on wet rock and fractured her ankle. They managed to descend 300 feet to a flat area of upper corrie and bivvied for the night. One left at 06.30 for help. Rescue by Inverness Air Ambulance. 4.
- AUGUST 2nd—Norma Aitkin (63) wearing trainers, slipped descending Tourist Path, with fracture dislocation of ankle. Lochaber MRT. 14.
- AUGUST 4th—2 climbers spotted Michael Quinn (23) lying below Echo Wall. Lochaber MRT dep. Idr. was lowered into Observatory Gully by RAF Wessex, climbed to casualty and found him dead, so both were winched into helicopter. It seemed that he was soloing Tower Ridge and slipped or tripped. 38.
- AUGUST 13th—Descending Coire Eoghainn Waterslide with a companion, and trying to get round a wet rock slab, Newton Astbury (Male 23) caught the top of the slab and fell 15 feet injuring a leg. Lochaber MRT. 13.
- AUGUST 22nd—June Banard (51) got so exhausted and dehydrated descending from summit of Nevis that she was unable to complete the last 500 yards to Youth Hostel. Carried down by Police and Lochaber MRT. 5.
- AUGUST 30th—Running down the Tourist path, David Lowe (21) was in danger of going over the edge of Five Finger Gully so he threw himself to the ground and severely bruised and cut a leg. Lochaber MRT, RAF helicopter. 10.
- SEPTEMBER 7th—Collapsed runner Ben Race. Tourist Path airlift by RAF Wessex.
- SEPTEMBER 7th—Male (29) separated from party walked in safe. RAF Wessex. RAF Kinloss searched in Five Finger Gully. 6.
- OCTOBER 15th—White flare spotted near Carn Mor Dearg Arete. Nothing found. Lochaber MRT, RAF helicopter. 20.
- OCTOBER 26th—Barbara Jennings (47) fell near Halfway Lochan on the Ben Track breaking tibia and fibula. Stretchered down. Lochaber and Leuchars MRTs. 39.
- NOVEMBER 20th to 21st—Keith Wilson (31) found by Leuchars MRT in Glen Nevis. He had been lost on Nevis summit, survived an awful night of driving rain with minimal equipment, and fallen several times down Coire Giubhsachan with minor head and rib injuries. No ice-axe, crampons or torch. Night searches by Kinloss and Lochaber MRTs and RAF Wessex. 641.

## GLENCOE

(including Buachaille Etive Mor)

- JANUARY 12th – Piers Strudwick (19) wearing crampons, fell 50 feet down a neve slope on the north side of An-t-Sron, injuring his knee and shoulder blade. Glencoe MRT. 23.
- JANUARY 30th to 31st – NW Gully, Stob Coire nam Beith. Alan Thompson (51) was leading when his axes pulled out of cruddy ice in the hard left fork. He fell and broke both legs. Calum MacLennan got a touch of hypothermia and frostbite. Glencoe MRT and RAF Sea King. 104.
- FEBRUARY 3rd – Ascending a N. facing open slope from Coire nan Lochan towards Gair Aonach, John Caughie (46) triggered a small windslab avalanche. His crampons caught in hard neve and he injured an ankle. Glencoe and Leuchars MRTs. Winched by RN Sea King. 40.
- FEBRUARY 3rd – 2 members of a party of 8 walking on Beinn Fhada were carried by a small slab avalanche down an easy descent gully on the Lost Valley side. One was uninjured, the other killed. The softslab was triggered by some of the party on an open slope (fan) at the top of the gully. Mark Thompson (37) went down the fan with the slab, which was then channelled into a narrower gully before debouching on to another open slope. He was swept about 250 metres before going down into a shallow bergschrund of old neve where he was then covered by debris to a depth of 2 metres, about 50 metres above the snout of the avalanche. His still-helmeted body was discovered nearly 3 hours afterwards by random probing, even though the prober had to probe through the hard neve of the lower lip of the schrund. Avalanche risk was 3 for February 3rd. RN Sea King found search dangerous in steep sided gully with many MRT about so body was stretchered by Glencoe and RAF MRTs. 110.
- FEBRUARY 9th – A group of 10, descending the open slope west from the beach between Stob Coire nan Lochan and Bidean nam Bian, triggered a fairly big slab avalanche and were all swept 300 feet. Jonathon Kohler (30) got a shoulder injury. He stayed on the surface and was the only one injured. Winched by RAF Wessex. Avalanche Risk 3. 48.
- FEBRUARY 11th – John Hamilton (35) sustained hip and arm injuries, while Michael Higgins (30) and Simon Mounicy (26) got injured arms, when all three were swept down 600 feet by a soft-slab, open-slope avalanche in the west branch of Coire nam Beithe near Hidden Gully. They went over 2 cliffs, one of 70 feet. All winched out by RAF Wessex. Avalanche Risk 3. 66.
- FEBRUARY 11th to 12th – David Alexander (49) and John Fitzgerald (46) were reported overdue on Aonach Eagach. A morning search by Glencoe MRT found them descending safely, after benighting and bivouac just below the ridge crest (Stob Coire Leith). 14.
- FEBRUARY 11th to 12th – Glencoe MRT searched for 2 men overdue, Jackson (28) and Haig (25) on Great Gully, Buachaille Etive Mor. They walked off safely. 14.
- FEBRUARY 12th – At 02.15 flashing lights were seen at Glencoe YH from a party of 5 teachers cragfast between Clachaig Gully and Clachaig Gully West. On their way up to rescue them, Glencoe MRT found 2 climbers who declined help, benighted in Clachaig Gully. The 5 teachers were guided down. 60.
- FEBRUARY 16th – One of a party under instruction, David Hall (40) was cutting steps up a snow slope, unroped and without helmet or crampons. He slipped, failed to brake with his axe, and was killed by a fall into 'The Chasm.' Glencoe MRT and RAF Wessex. 31.
- FEBRUARY 17th – After climbing, roped, a frozen waterfall on the E. Face Aonach Dubh, Ian Gallagher (27) untied and was walking off but fell 70 feet into a bergschrund injuring himself severely. Glencoe MRT and RAF Wessex winchman gave first aid while the helicopter went off to the next listed incident, returning to hoist Gallagher. 55.
- FEBRUARY 17th – Coire nam Beith. Catriona Appleby (29) caught a crampon in a snow rut and fell down a slope, damaging an ankle. Glencoe MRT and RAF Wessex. 12.

- MARCH 2nd—When glissading at the head of the Lost Valley, William Halton (19) caught a crampon in neve under the powder snow and broke his ankle. He walked with help to Lost Valley Boulder whence he was airlifted by RAF Wessex. Glencoe MRT. 43.
- MARCH 18th to 19th—5 people and a dog became cragfast descending from Sgor nam Fiannaigh to Loch Achtriochtan. Roped down by part of Glencoe MRT in wind and very heavy rain. 32.
- MARCH 21st—Summit Gully. Stob Coire nam Beith. John Makin (41) attempted the climb with 3 companions. They did not like the conditions and retreated unroped. With his helmet inside his rucksack Makin slipped 90 feet down a moderate snow slope then fell 15 feet down a crevasse and suffered severe head injuries. Glencoe MRT and RAF Wessex. 41.
- MAY 11th to 12th—William Wilson (41) and Robert Neilson (27) were benighted climbing Clachaig Gully. They finished the route next morning and walked down west side Sgor nam Fiannaigh while Glencoe MRT were searching the gully. 20.
- MAY 14th—After failing to descend the North Nose of Gearr Aonach, Derek Cowans (53) retraced to Sron Coire Sgreamach and went down the normal route. Found walking down by Glencoe MRT. 36.
- MAY 23rd—On the way up the coire above Meeting of the Three Waters, intending to do the Aonach Eagach, Callum Anderson (20) stopped to urinate, walking to the edge of an 80 foot cliff. He fell on wet rock and vegetation, very seriously injuring his head and spine. Glencoe MRT. RN Sea King recalled. 27.
- JUNE 8th—Descending wet scree on the NW Face of Aonach Dubh a'Ghlinne (Sgor na h-Ulaidh) Margaret Moss (52) fell forwards, rolling over 3 or 4 times, badly gashing her temple but without unconsciousness. Carried 250 feet up to an RAF Wessex on fairly flat ground on ridge by Glencoe MRT. 42.
- JUNE 8th to 9th—Irigan Shearman (32) separated from his companions who climbed Ossian's Cave, Aonach Dubh. He was seen to go up the steep, damp, vegetative ramp to the right. He was found by RAF Wessex next day with very severe head injuries and hypothermia. Glencoe and Leuchars MRTs, SARDA. 300.
- JUNE 9th—2 of Shearman's friends, searching for him, were escorted down from difficult terrain by RAF Leuchars MRT.
- JUNE 22nd—Walking at the edge of the deep gorge at the entrance to the Lost Valley, Patricia McNaughton (37) slipped on wet rock and tumbled 60 feet. Despite head and scapula injuries and 10 broken ribs she swam down the river as far as a 30 foot waterfall. 2 companions climbed down to her then BOTH went for help. Winched out of the deep gorge by RAF Wessex. Glencoe MRT. 48.
- JUNE 28th—South Face of Sgorr nam Fiannaigh at 138578. Helen Larglays (22) was walking down near the dangerous Allt an t-Sidheim when she slipped on wet rock and injured a leg. Glencoe MRT and RAF Wessex. 38.
- JUNE 29th—Caroline Docherty (31) was walking in Lairig Gartain when she fell 60 feet off the path into a gorge, sustaining spinal injuries. When Glencoe MRT reached her she was lying in water with 2 female companions also lying in water trying to keep her warm. Very careful handling and a vacuum mattress were used. Winched by RAF Wessex. 30.
- JULY 17th—Stumbling on dry moorland Jean Tarrant (44) broke her ankle, on Sgurr na Ciche (Pap of Glencoe). Glencoe MRT and RAF Wessex. 20.
- JULY 25th—Michael Bon (39) and Simon Bon (16) climbing Trapeze on Aonach Dubh overdue. Delay was caused by dropping a rucksack. Glencoe MRT. 5.
- AUGUST 1st—Edward Whale (16) leading No. 3 Buttress (V. Diff.) Stob Coire nam Beith, became cragfast 50 feet up the first pitch. Glencoe MRT walked up to the crag, climbed above him and lowered him off. All airlifted out by RAF Wessex. 38.
- SEPTEMBER 5th—Girvan Malcolm was very badly injured (chest, pelvis, shoulder and leg) when he fell leading the 1st Pitch of 'The Chasm,' Buachaille Etive Mor. He was above a tree runner when he fell but the rope did not tighten. He WAS wearing a helmet. When Glencoe MRT arrived he was lying on the rope but it was not tied to him. It has not been established why the rope was untied. The 2nd did not untie it and the casualty was too badly injured to have done so. Stretchered a short distance then airlifted by RN Sea King. 40.

- SEPTEMBER 6th—Traversing Aonach Eagach E. to W., Andrew Hutchison (34) and Judith Robertson (20) tried to descend from Stob Coire Leith into Glencoe. The girl, in trainers, got cragfast. The man in boots slipped on scree, trying to get further down, and got head and arm abrasions and bruises. Airlifted in darkness by RAF Sea King. Glencoe MRT. 70.
- SEPTEMBER 15th—Gerard McKeown (34) and Stuart Whitelaw (26) descending east down ridge from Bidean nam Bian. In darkness they failed to find the turn north to get down into Lost Valley. Carried on over Stob Coire Sgreamach and went down dangerous east face, safely, into Lairig Eilde. Glencoe MRT. 7.
- SEPTEMBER 24th—Wearing light canvas shoes, Oliver Schmeer (20) slipped on the edge of the Lost Valley Gorge. He fell a long way, suffering cuts and bruises, then was cragfast in the deep ravine. Glencoe MRT sent an abseiler down and the patient was hauled up by manpower, given dry clothes and rewarming for hypothermia, then helped down. 36.
- OCTOBER 26th—Pair descending Stob Coire nam Beith strayed into Summit Gully. They roped to descend part of gully, then unroped. With his helmet in his sack, Mark Bullpit (21) stepped on a foothold which gave way. He knocked off Scott Campbell (18) who was 30 feet below and both fell 50 feet. Campbell uninjured: Bullpit injured head, spine, arm and chest. Gully was in summer condition—wet rock and misty. Lowered down rest of gully by Glencoe MRT. Airlift from corrie floor by RAF Sea King. Leuchars MRT. 148.
- OCTOBER 30th to 31st—Father (50) and son (22) were trying to get down to Loch Achtriochtan in a gale at 22.30 from an E. to W. traverse of Aonach Eagach, 750 feet above the loch they flashed torches for help. Glencoe MRT replied by loudhailer. Pair thought help would come from top of Clachaig Gully, so, as rescuers tried to reach them, they walked back up nearly to top of Sgor nam Fiannaich. Not pleased the team caught them moving down the west flank, very slowly due to poor footwear and the cold. Base reached at 02.00. 79.
- NOVEMBER 3rd to 4th—Joanne Santangeli (19) tore thigh ligaments on Sgor nam Fiannaich, 1 of 10 doing Aonach Eagach E.—W. She and 2 men winched by RAF Sea King after midnight. Glencoe MRT. 54.
- NOVEMBER 10th—P & J report only. Glencoe MRT on standby for unnamed man who suffered a shoulder injury from a snow avalanche in Coire nam Beith. Walked off aided by a companion and was driven to Belford Hospital for treatment.
- NOVEMBER 30th—E.—W. Traverse Aonach Eagach. Party of 4 (Male 16—24) overdue. Glencoe MRT stand-by.

### OTHER CENTRAL HIGHLANDS

- JANUARY 2nd to 3rd—False alarm. Search for a walker reported missing in Glen Duror. RN Sea King. Glencoe MRT. 75.
- JANUARY 10th to 11th—Andrew Ravenhill (29) skied over a cornice on Meall Garbh (3,197 foot Loch Treig) in poor visibility, closely followed by Martin Crean (30). Despite minor injuries, Ravenhill walked out to Corroul Shooting Lodge from which he was airlifted by RAF Wessex on 11th. Crean fell on top of Ravenhill and died immediately: his body being recovered by Lochaber MRT on 11th. 50.
- JANUARY 19th—Avalanche in Easy Gully, Creag Meagaidh. Andrew Lazenby (26) with slight injuries walked off before RAF Wessex arrived. Lochaber MRT. 13.
- JANUARY 27th to 29th—Una Mary Erskine Campbell (82) walking alone in the foothills of the Monadhliath, as she was accustomed, died of a heart attack on a spur of Torr Garbh, Allt Mor, Newtonmore. She was found by a Police dog handler during a search by 121 people. Cairngorm MRT, SARDA, civilian volunteers, RAF Sea King. 818.
- FEBRUARY 3rd—Alexander Tysen (35) and Ian Jeffrey (35) both died on South Post of Creag Meagaidh. Eye witness reports that Tysen led to the plateau, then passed 2 axes down to Jeffrey. As Jeffrey released his belay to set off up the top pitch, he lost his balance and fell sideways. The leader was either not belayed, or poorly belayed, because he was pulled off immediately and both fell 600 feet. RAF Sea King (returned). Evacuation by stretchers and then tracked vehicle. Lochaber MRT. 145.

- FEBRUARY 6th – From a party of 2, Ian Brook (37), without crampons, fell from the SW Shoulder of Aonach Mor and was killed. RN Sea King flew Lochaber MRT up Glen Nevis, but could not turn due to wind conditions. Aircraft climbed to safe altitude and recovered to Fort William for refuel and shutdown. Body stretchered down Coire Giubhsachan. 184.
- FEBRUARY 8th to 9th – Night and morning searches of Beinn a' Bheithir (Ballachulish Horseshoe) by Glencoe and Kinloss MRTs, SARDA and RAF Sea King were stopped when John Drummond (34) was seen walking down safely. 150.
- FEBRUARY 9th – Peter Baker injured climbing on Beinn Udlaidh, Tyndrum. Stretcher winched into RN Sea King able to land at site. 15.
- FEBRUARY 10th to 11th – Janet Fabian (60) separated from 3 others in the Geal-charn area of Ardverikie Forest. Overdue and benighted she 'bedded down' at the head of Lochan-nan-Earba, she was found safe by RAF Sea King near Moy, Loch Laggan. Cairngorm and Kinloss MRTs. 232.
- FEBRUARY 21st – Easy Gully, Creag Meagaidh. Stephen Christian (26) had a broken femur and opposite ankle. John Turner (19) killed. They had just started to descend when they triggered an avalanche which swept both down 1,000 feet. RUC and Lochaber MRTs. RAF Sea King. 67.
- FEBRUARY 21st – Leading Smith's Gully, Creag Meagaidh, Tim Snaith (28) injured a knee and broke both wrists when he slipped and fell 300 feet. His second held him on the rope and was uninjured. RUC and Lochaber MRTs, RAF Sea King. 80.
- MARCH 2nd to 17th – Glen Holme (36) drowned in Blackwater Reservoir on the last day of hillwalking holiday. He may have fallen off the dam wall, or fallen through thin ice. He was found by RAF Wessex. His car had been parked in Kinlochleven for about 2 weeks. Glencoe and Kinloss MRTs, SARDA. 326.
- MARCH 3rd – 2 men completed a climb on Creag Meagaidh, got lost and walked down wrong side. Retraced and descended correct side. Lochaber alerted.
- MARCH 4th to 5th – A man blown off the Carn Mor Dearg Arete and fell 500 metres before self-arresting, uninjured, in Coire Giubhsachan. He initiated a call-out for Lochaber MRT because his companion was left on the arete in a white-out with no map, compass, spare clothing and food. The one blown over had fallen with all the gear. However, the deserted one walked out to Allt a' Mhuilinn Dam before searching started. 11.
- MARCH 4th to 5th – A man of 41, the navigator of a party of 3, fell through a cornice on Stob a' Choire Mheadhoin (Loch Treig) and was uninjured. However he went to the valley and initiated a call-out for his 2 companions. After he had disappeared in a white-out they could not navigate and dug in for the night. Found wet but well by RAF Wessex. Lochaber MRT.
- MARCH 9th – 3 children with an instructor went on to the 'Etive Glades' Run, Cam Ghleann. They got lost in thick mist. Sandra Campbell (14) took a long fall and fractured her pelvis. Instructor walked to Kinghouse for help. Another girl fell but was not badly injured. MRT called out, but Ski Rescue Team found the children and stretchered Sandra off. In former years 2 men have been killed ski-ing Cam Ghleann. 9.
- MARCH 13th to 14th – 4 men benighted in very low mist walking from Glen Nevis to Luib Eilt. Heading for Kinlochleven they were found back in Glen Nevis. Glencoe MRT, RAF Sea King. 85.
- MARCH 21st – Joyce Kelly (27) was ski-ing from the summit of Meall a' Bhuiridh to the 'East Ridge' Run. She fell down a cliff at the edge of 'Flypaper' and sustained serious head, back and arm injuries. First aid by White Corries Ski Rescue Team and RAF Wessex winchman. Hoisted by Wessex later. Glencoe MRT. 28.
- MARCH 28th to 29th – Poorly equipped and without ice-axes or crampons, Paul Hyatt (37) and Melville Walker glissaded the N. Face of Ben Alder. Paul went into a meltwater hole and carried on down a cliff under the snow following the line of a waterfall. He suffered a double fracture of right femur, fracture left fibula and severe hypothermia. It is quite likely that the severe cold in the waterfall saved his life as there was severe blood loss and shock which did not become apparent till he was stabilised in hospital. Extraction by Cairngorm MRT from 20.00 to 08.00 was extremely awkward due to the steepness of the slope, instability of the snow, narrowness of space around Paul, and the continual waterfall on the rescuers. It was like working in a pothole. Melville also had hypothermia. RAF Sea King. 176.

- MARCH 29th – In a group of 4 descending N. Face Sgorr Dhonuill, Ballachulish, Martin Jones (30) started to glissade. A small outcrop appeared; he was losing control and tried to brake. His crampons bit in and he went head first over the outcrop, striking his un-helmetted skull on a rock. Fatal. Stretcher lower of 300 feet by Glencoe MRT to a hoist by RAF Wessex. 47.
- MARCH 29th – Marcus Brown (30) fell 800 feet down Easy Gully, Creag Meagaidh and was found buried in a drift with minor injuries. Shocked, he was airlifted by RAF Sea King. Lochaber MRT. 17.
- MARCH 31st to APRIL 1st – Unable to use a compass, and without a map (although he had Bennet's book on the Munros), a man of 27 split up from 3 companions on Carn Sgulain (Monadh Liath). They returned to Newtonmore and he went on to do the other Munros, following the march fence in mist. He went the wrong way and ended at Loch Ness, even then failing to inform police or his companions that he was safe. Cairngorm MRT and SARDA.
- MARCH 31st to APRIL 1st – Party of 4 men (36, 34, 33, 26) traversing An Gearanach, Mamores. 1 was ill so they went down to Steall Hut where they all spent the night as they were exhausted. Glencoe and Lochaber MRTs. 116.
- APRIL 8th – Ski-ing down Lemming Ridge (Aonach an Nid of Aonach Mor) after runs had been closed because of icy condition, David Hardie (40) fell and slid through a boulder field with serious injuries. Rescued by Ski Patrol. Lochaber MRT and RAF Sea King not needed. 18.
- APRIL 14th – Gordon Sellers (58) exhausted near top of Sgurr Choinnich Mor, Grey Corries. Assisted by 2 companions to west bealach, then airlifted by RAF Sea King. Lochaber MRT. 27.
- APRIL 15th – Search Creag Meagaidh. Lochaber MRT.
- APRIL 16th – Descending a ribbon of rock-hard snow from Carn Mor Dearg Arete to CIC, without crampons or ice-axe, Kai Tarapolevara (26) fell and fractured a collar bone. RAF Sea King lifted him from near hut. Lochaber MRT. 17.
- APRIL 28th – At the bottom bend of Steall Gorge, Glen Nevis, Margaret Scott (42) stumbled on a stone and broke her ankle. Lochaber MRT stretcher carry. Belford and Raigmore Hospitals. 9.
- MAY 5th – Tony Duggins (42) got cragfast on a small crag near White Corries Ski Complex. His predicament was spotted and reported by a paraglider. Hoisted on a rope by Glencoe MRT. 30.
- MAY 12th to 13th – Deliberate separation at col due east of Aonach Beag (Ben Alder). Man (34) failed to rendezvous at Ben Alder Cottage. Cairngorm MRT and SARDA, Police dogs. 114.
- MAY 17th – Allan Adams (42) fell 60 feet climbing alone above Lochan Uaine, Creag Meagaidh, and fractured his skull with shoulder bruises and hand cuts. He bivvied and did a self-rescue to the road. However, he was too ill to drive his car beyond Spean Bridge, where police and ambulance were alerted. Air ambulance from Fort William to Glasgow. 4.
- MAY 19th or 20th – Mary Pendreigh (47) had severe pain in her knee on the last stage of the West Highland Way between Blar a'Chaorainn and Glen Nevis. Lochaber MRT. 15.
- MAY 23rd – Una Cowan (21) broke her leg on scree descending from Ben Alder north towards Bealach Dubh. 3rd rescue on Ben Alder this year. Cairngorm MRT. RAF Sea King. 20.
- MAY 23rd – A very experienced mountaineer, Matthew Moulam (80) died on the SW Ridge of Stob Dubh, above Glenceitlein, Glen Etive. Descending, he fell when he stopped to clean his spectacles in light rain. He took 2 quick paces forward and a sod of heather broke from under his boots, so he rolled down a steep face. His elderly companion searched for an hour before she found him dead. Stretchered down by Glencoe MRT. RN Sea King was turned back by fog. 72.
- MAY 25th – Leading Acapulco E3 on Creag Dubh, Newtonmore, Gavin Thomas (26) fell to the bottom from the crux of the first pitch. Very badly smashed ankle. Stretchered down by Cairngorm MRT. 21.

- MAY 27th – RAF Wessex airlifted Ivy Eley (68) with ankle injury from Beinn an Socaich (Grey Corries). Descending steep path wearing chamfered heel boots. Lochaber MRT. 19.
- JUNE 20th to 21st – A party of 4 walking from Corrou Station to Rannoch on tracks became lost and spent the night on the hill. One went ahead to get help, but waited till daylight then returned to the party. Robert Keppie (64) had been OK during the night but took ill when he started walking again. Tayside Police SARU used a Range Rover, but Robert died from a heart condition before rescue. Evacuation by RAF Wessex. 12.
- JUNE 26th to 27th – Strathclyde Police MRT and RN Sea King found Sydney Firth (58) after he had been separated from his party on Ben Cruachan. 8.
- JUNE 30th – Walking up Mam na Gualainn (north of Loch Leven) with companions, Robert Nicol (67) collapsed with a heart attack and heat exhaustion at about 150 metres altitude. Glencoe MRT and Scottish Ambulance Service, who used a defibrillator, stretchered him down. 24.
- SUMMER – Search by Police and Lochaber MRT after holidaymakers found man's body in ravine of Allt na h-Atha near A82 Fort William – Fort Augustus.
- JULY 4th – All Terrain Vehicle overturned in hills above Loch Laggan. Dead on arrival (RAF Wessex). Body placed with police.
- JULY 9th to 10th – Lewis Clark (18) suffered exhaustion at head of Loch Treig. Airlifted by RAF helicopter. Lochaber MRT. 17.
- JULY 17th – Dominic Thoby (Male 29) wearing T shirt, jeans and trainers, got cragfast trying to climb out of the gorge by the south wall at Lower falls, Foyers (Loch Ness). Winched out by RAF Sea King. 14.
- JULY 27th – Camping at Tigh-na-Sleubhaich, Mamores ((West Highland Way), Rudiger Kohlmayr (19) scalded his foot boiling water for tea. Companion walked to Kinlochleven on 28th. Rescue by Police 4W Drive Vehicle. 4.
- AUGUST 3rd – Robert de Kinkelder (23) slipped on rocky ridge of An Gearanach ('Ring of Steall' seems to be the 'in' phrase) Mamores, dislocating knee (patella?). RAF Wessex lifted him to Fort William with companion. Wanted to pay for rescue. Lochaber MRT. 32.
- AUGUST 5th to 6th – Walking from SSW up the 'wrong' side of Loch Ericht 14 children with teenage leader were lost on the craggy, rough, SE shore for almost 2 days. Some were only 8 years old. Even their (changed) intended new route up the W. side of the long loch would have been far too ambitious. It could have been a disaster if the weather had been poor as they had very little in the way of equipment or leadership. Several were rescued by fishermen in a boat, who raised the alarm at Dalwhinnie. Others were winched out by RAF Sea King. Cairngorm, Kinloss, Leuchars and Tayside MRTs, SARDA, Northern and Grampian Police. Several hundred man-hours.
- AUGUST 24th to 25th – Failing to descend from the Mamores down Coire a'Mhail, Richard Bulmer (47) and Mavis Bulmer (44) had to bivouac. Found by RAF Wessex on summit of ridge just below Am Bodach. Airlifted and placed with Lochaber MRT at PollDubh.
- NB – A real blackspot. This was noted last year. Also see cragfast rescue August 27th to 28th this year. To repeat: – 'The descent of this coire is not recommended to any who do not want to go down Steall Waterfall, unless they know at first hand the escape route.' J.H.
- AUGUST 27th – Derek Liddington (29) stretchered by Lochaber MRT from Steall Gorge, Glen Nevis with fractured patella from slip on path. 23.
- AUGUST 27th to 28th – Whistle blasts and torch flashes alerted as distant person when Philip Wilson got cragfast descending NE from Sgurr a'Mhaim into Coire a'Mhail, Mamores. Led off in 3 hours around midnight by Lochaber MRT. 18.
- SEPTEMBER 7th – David Bawn (59) ill near top of Aonach Mor. Lifted by RAF Wessex.
- SEPTEMBER 8th – John Russell (53) ill on Carn Mor Dearg W. Face above hut. Airlifted from CIC Hut by RAF Wessex. Lochaber MRT. 11.
- OCTOBER 12th – Missing person search of Creag Dhubb area, Newtonmore for someone who had been elsewhere. Cairngorm MRT, SARDA, RAF Sea King. 276.



- OCTOBER 18th—Col between Aonach Mor and Aonach Beag. In a party of 6, no crampons or helmets, Peter Stoneley (61) slipped on ice falling on to rocks and injuring head and back; William Ranger (63) injured his groin from a similar fall. Airlifted by RAF Wessex. Lochaber MRT. 38.
- NOVEMBER 1st—Thomas Cooper (15) slipped and sprained an ankle crossing a river with his party. Loch Ericht track 1 mile NE of Ben Alder Cottage (MacCook's Bothy). Airlift by RAF Sea King with 3 Cairngorm MRT aboard. 202nd rescue by 202 Squadron in 1991. 10.
- NOVEMBER 3rd—Margaret Coutts (60) slipped wearing trainers, went over on her ankle and fractured it, descending from Upper Achintore track into Glen Nevis. Stretcher carried by Lochaber MRT. 9.
- NOVEMBER 25th—Lochaber MRT called out for person thought to be overdue on the hill.

## CAIRNGORMS

- JANUARY 12th—Geraldine Westrupp (37) fell after leading 2 rope lengths of a climb on Hell's Lum, Cairn Lochan, because the ice collapsed. She was held on an ice screw but injured her leg. Lowered by friends. RAF Sea King. 18.
- JANUARY 13th—Injured skier Glenshee. RAF Wessex.
- JANUARY 19th to 20th—Night search of Mayar and Dreish by both Tayside MRTs for Gordon Milne (38), Hugh Bell (32) and Graham Simpson (20). They got lost when benighted and dug in so well they had not heard their intended rescuers close by. Walked in at 09.30. RAF Wessex. 224.
- JANUARY 23rd—Descending to Glen Muick from the Meikle Pap bealach, Nancy Redpath (60) slipped on ice near the path and broke her ankle. She wore lightweight boots. Grampian Police MRT and RAF Wessex. 10.
- JANUARY 26th—James Hunter (20) killed by fall on skis. West Wall, Coire na Ciste, Cairngorm.
- JANUARY 26th—Leslie Anderson (34) was leading a rope of 3 on Parallel Gully A, Lochnagar. He fell 200 feet when climbing the final snow cornice and was injured although held on the rope. Lowered to the foot of the climb by his rope mates and others. Hoisted by RAF Wessex. Grampian Police MRT. 19.
- JANUARY 26th—Stuart Adam (17) was glissading a steep gully in the Winter Corrie of Dreish. His axe struck a hidden rock which knocked it from his hands. He then fell 250 feet and must have struck more rocks, one of which badly dented his helmet. With cardiac and cervical injuries he was airlifted by RAF Wessex but died in hospital. Tayside Police SARU. 42.
- JANUARY 27th—Mark Selwood (27) soloing Aladdin's Mirror Direct, Coire an-t'Sneachda, Cairngorm. At 40 feet up first pitch he removed his right ice tool and the left tool pulled through the ice. He fell to the bottom then slid down neve into rocks. His helmet smashed and he got fatal head injuries, dying after rescue by RAF Sea King. Kinloss MRT. 10.
- JANUARY 27th—Simon Underwood fell 10 feet and suffered a knee injury in Coire an-t'Sneachda, Cairngorm. Stretchered out to Snow-Trac by Kinloss and Dundonnell MRTs. RAF Sea King diverted to above rescue. 42.
- JANUARY 28th—Brett Lund (23) unconscious from ski fall at foot of Coire Fionn, Glenshee. Ski Patrol rescue and RAF Wessex.
- FEBRUARY 1st—Soloing Parallel Gully A, Lochnagar, Renny Allan Croft (Male 38) climbed the ice of the first pitch, then slipped at a small snow basin above the ice. He fell down the pitch and made no attempt to brake when sliding down the steep neve below. He was unconscious from head injuries and died next day in hospital. Grampian Police and Braemar MRT. RAF Wessex. 33.
- FEBRUARY 4th—Kinloss MRT and RAF Sea King airborne for missing boy (9) on coastline N. of Peterhead. Aircraft returned to base when informed that boy was safe. 52.

- FEBRUARY 6th—Steep neve slope NE Face Cuidhe Crom, Lochnagar. Andrew Taylor (19)—his crampons caught in ice and he fell, breaking femur, tibia and fibula of right leg. Grampian Police and Braemar MRTs. Airlift by RAF Wessex to Dundee. 41.
- FEBRUARY 8th—Ian Gilder (36) without ice-axe or crampons, walked through a cornice above Coire an-t'Sneachda, Cairngorm, and fell 400 feet into soft snow and got bruised. He was walking out when he met a party from Glenmore Lodge. 4.
- FEBRUARY 10th—Ascending SW slope of Meall Chuaich, Dalwhinnie, Paul Glover (39) stopped and removed crampons, then stood up and slipped. He fell 30 feet into a shallow, rock strewn burn. His back and ribs were severely bruised with lacerations to his face and hands. His companion went for help and stopped a Police 4WD vehicle on the A9, which was able to reach him. 2.
- FEBRUARY 16th—Descending Coire Cas in darkness, Christopher Watts (39) slipped and injured his ankle. Rescue by Cairngorm Chairlift tracked vehicle. 4.
- FEBRUARY 26th to 28th—Searches of vast areas of moorland by RAF Sea King, police dogs, SARDA, Cairngorm and Kinloss MRTs for a disturbed man (45) wearing a kilt. Drynachan Lodge, Findhorn Valley, Dava Moor areas. Found safe in a cafe at Tomatin. 500.
- FEBRUARY 27th—Aberdeen and Braemar MRTs alerted for 2 skiers overdue in Glenshee. They turned up safe. 24.
- MARCH 2nd—George Blades (68) and Peter Blades (40) both got leg injuries from an avalanche of Aladdin's Couloir, Coire an-t'Sneachda, Cairngorm. RAF Sea King to Raigmore Hospital. 5.
- MARCH 2nd—Jill Murray (19) airlifted by RAF Sea King from Coire Cas.
- MARCH 2nd—Hearsay reports of 9 people avalanched in Northern Corries of Cairngorm. A few slight injuries airlifted by Sea King helo.
- MARCH 2nd—Fiona Stewart (36) and her husband were on summit of Glas Tulaichean in mist. He took a bearing to get them down but she walked ahead a few yards and disappeared through a cornice; falling down the E. Face and getting shaken and bruised. She tried to climb back up but fell again from below the cornice. Her husband descended by a less spectacular route and 'phoned rescuers. She was found descending Glen Taitneach by RAF Leuchars Landrover. Tayside Police SARU and RAF Wessex. 81.
- MARCH 2nd to 3rd—Leading Parallel Gully A, Lochnagar, Richard Berry (28) fell off the large plateau cornice. His second, George Brimlow (34) was belayed by one chock which pulled and both fell 800 feet. Berry was killed and Brimlow was unconscious with a cut face and broken wrist. Brimlow came round in darkness; then they were hit by an avalanche and Berry was partially buried, but his friend could not dig him out because the snow was frozen. With daylight Brimlow went to Gelder Shiel Bothy for help. Braemar, Grampian Police and Leuchars MRTs, RAF Sea King. 142.
- MARCH 2nd to 3rd—Kevin Rogers (32) and Andrew Bunnage (31) completed Eagle Ridge, Lochnagar in darkness and walked east roped. Visibility was poor in wind and snow. Bunnage was 20 feet left of Rogers when he fell through a cornice. Rogers was dragged 10 feet before he managed to hold. With no communication and the rope tight on the harnesses they stayed like that all night. At 09.30 Rogers managed to tie his ropemate off to an ice-axe and go down for help. Another climber lowered a top rope to Bunnage who climbed to safety. Braemar, Grampian and Leuchars MRTs, RAF Sea King. 80.
- MARCH 3rd—Nicholas French (7) fell into the sea from 120 foot cliff-top at Slains Castle, Cruden Bay, Aberdeenshire. Fatal. His father was treated for hypothermia after rescue attempt. Police. Peterhead Coastguard and Lifeboat. RAF Sea King.
- MARCH 9th to 10th—Lynda Blackwell (31) separated from 2 friends in mist and climbed Mount Keen alone. She got lost NW of the summit and stayed put for the night without shelter or extra clothing. She walked out to Glascorrie on S. Deeside Road. Aberdeen, Braemar and Grampian Police MRTs. 39.
- MARCH 15th to 16th—David Park (35) and Douglas Jeffries (35) got cragfast under an unusually large cornice at the top of Parallel Gully B, Lochnagar. They stayed the night. At midday Aberdeen, Braemar and Grampian Police MRTs lowered a rope to them from the plateau, with a radio attached. They were hoisted up and walked off. 328.

- MARCH 21st—Party of 10 ski-touring Lurchers Gully, Andrew Oxley (24) fell and broke leg. RAF Sea King. 5.
- MARCH 30th to 31st—Mayar area, Glen Doll. Robert Bogie (37), with a dog, could not navigate off the hill in mist and darkness, so they stayed the night. When he emerged from his shelter he met another man who had also been benighted, because he lost his compass in snow, but no-one had known he was missing. All 3 got down safely. Both Tayside Teams, RAF Wessex. 94.
- APRIL 23rd—Attempting to walk from Loch Lee over Mount Keen to Ballater, David Hutchison (44) pulled a calf muscle but carried on. He was found by Grampian Police landrover near Shiel of Tanar Bothy. 9.
- MAY 4th to 5th—David Gilhan (40) suffered an illness aggravated by exhaustion (carrying very heavy pack) in Lairig Ghru near Corroul Bothy. Aberdeen and Grampian Police MRTs. RAF Sea King airlift. 30.
- MAY 23rd—Una Warren (12) in an organised party of 24 children simply fell on flat ground on Meall an Daimh, Ben Vrackie, Pitlochry, bruising a thigh. Tay Police SARU, RAF Wessex.
- MAY 24th—Man (25) hoisted by Cullen firemen when he was stuck halfway up a 120 foot sea cliff at Portknockie, Banffshire.
- MAY 25th to 26th—Adam Liversedge (20) fell 20 feet and got knee ligaments torn (rock gave way under his weight) leading 'Citadel,' Shelter Stone Crag. Held and then lowered off by companion and bivvied in Shelter Stone. Could not walk out next day. Good weather airlift by RAF Sea King. Cairngorm MRT. 10.
- MAY 25th—1 mile south of Lochcallater Lodge, Braemar, Sheila Heron (43) stumbled on a rabbit burrow and sprained an ankle. Carried out by Braemar MRT. 6.
- JUNE 1st to 2nd—4 girls (all 14) on an award scheme got lost in Abernethy Forest. They had been told to camp if they got lost and await rescue! They were found by 4 Cairngorm MRT members using mountain bikes for searching. Is this a first for Scotland? Also searching were Glenmore Lodge and RAF Sea King. 100.
- JUNE 1st to 3rd—Searches by Grampian Police, Cairngorm, Kinloss and Glenmore Lodge MRTs for 2 birdwatchers: Graeme Dickson (39) and Michael Millar (25) who camped at Lochan Buidhe on the Cairngorm Plateau. On 2nd June they wakened to find the ground snow covered and visibility poor. Having no map or compass and unable to navigate they stayed put and were found by RAF Wessex at 16.40 on June 3rd. 65.
- JUNE 5th—Robert Wareham (32) was walking on a ridge, midway down a cliff near Todhead Lighthouse, Kineff when he fell 10 feet on to a rock ledge breaking a leg. Ambulance Service and Grampian Police.
- JUNE 16th—Aberdeen MRT alerted for a boy missing in Fetteresso Forest, near Stonehaven. He turned up safe. 10.
- JUNE 17th—Aberdeen MRT on standby for mentally handicapped walker missing in Peters Hill area. Safe. 10.
- JULY 6th—George Fowlie (57) was delayed waiting for a friend on a traverse of Macdui and Derry Cairngorm. Overdue but safe. Grampian Police. 2.
- JULY 8th—A lad of 19 in charge of his stepmother got separated from her in mist, then he got lost. She searched the top of Peter Hill, Forest of Birse, Banchory for 2 hours before going for help. He was found wet and cold, but safe by RAF Sea King on a steep slope above River Avon. Grampian Police and Braemar MRTs. 65.
- JULY 25th—HM Coastguard, Police and RAF Sea King involved when man (24) slipped off rocks into sea, and brother (29) went in to save him. Both treated for shock and one for hypothermia. Cransdale Rocks, Collieston, Aberdeenshire.
- JULY 28th—Polney Crag, Craig a Barns, Dunkeld. Stuart Murray was 20 feet up, leading the 1st pitch of a climb. Leaning back to place a nut runner, he overbalanced and fell sustaining a compound fracture of a leg with a smashed and dislocated ankle of the same leg. Ambulance crew, local doctor, Tayside Police SARU. 12.
- AUGUST 4th—Upper Cave Crag, 'Coffin Corner,' Craig a Barns. Leading, Steven MacKenzie (28) fell off at 30 feet on 1st pitch. His runners pulled so he fell to the ground, breaking his wrist, with cuts to face, arms, shoulders and legs. Carried to road by Police and Ambulance Service.

- AUGUST 4th—On a footpath beside Burn o' Vat, Ballater, Florence Dixon (50) slipped and broke her ankle. Stretchered to road by Braemar MRT. 28.
- AUGUST 9th—Charles Chatterley (42) was late reaching Glen Derry from Sugar Bowl, over Cairn Lochan and Macdui. Aberdeen, Grampian Police MRTs. 23.
- AUGUST 17th to 18th—Steven Webster (35) and Stewart Strang (32) were trying to get back to Coire Cas Car park from Beinn Mheadhoin. They got lost at Fords of Avon, then their map disintegrated in the rain. They rested at Bynack Stables and walked out at dawn. Cairngorm MRT. 21.
- AUGUST 18th to 19th—Overdue in Lairig Ghru, Peter Meenan (44) and Susy Meenan (12) turned up safe. Cairngorm MRT. 4.
- AUGUST 21st—Kirsten Felscher (16) slipped on a scree path near Loch Avon head, spraining her ankle. Member of party of 8 German scouts. All lifted by RAF Sea King. 15.
- AUGUST 31st—Leading 3rd pitch of 'Big Deil's Route' on Hell's Lum, David Bissett (33) slipped on dry rock and fell 13 feet on to a ledge, breaking an ankle. He lowered his 2nd till she was at the foot of the climb, abseiling himself. He was rope-stretchered from there and airlifted by RAF Sea King. Glenmore Lodge MRT. 10.
- SEPTEMBER 1st—Walker with heat exhaustion on Craig an Dail Bheag, Glengairn, Braemar. Airlifted by RAF Wessex. Grampian Police MRT. 11.
- SEPTEMBER 1st—Aberdeen MRT recovered walker with severe blisters from Glen Derry. 2.
- SEPTEMBER 24th—Tracy Reid (Female 20), ill at Bob Scott's Bothy, was taken by vehicle to Aberdeen RI and detained. Grampian Police. 8.
- OCTOBER 9th to 10th—Successful search for deaf man Anthony Duffy (50) found near East Summit Carn Bhac between Glens Ey and Geldie. Though cold and wet he walked off unaided. A mountain bike had been found at the top of Allt Christie Beag track. Aberdeen, Braemar, Grampian Police, Leuchars MRTs, RAF Wessex and Sea King. 555.
- OCTOBER 10th—Leuchars searcher from above incident got separated in mist and walked down wrong glen. Braemar, Kinloss, Grampian Police MRTs, RAF Wessex. 159.
- OCTOBER 11th to 12th—Searches of Craig Dhubb, Newtonmore. Missing man (48) was safe elsewhere. Cairngorm and Gordonstoun MRTs, SARDA, RAF Sea King. 288.
- OCTOBER 14th—Cairngorm MRT plus volunteers and SARDA searched woodlands around Coylumbridge for a missing boy (13). Found safe in Aviemore. 72.
- DECEMBER 7th—Hamish Irvine (28) was approaching the climbs in Coire an-t'Sneachda, Cairngorm—in a party of 3—when he dislodged a large rock which gave him a bad tibial fracture. Lift by RAF Sea King. 8. *See article this issue!*
- DECEMBER 22nd—Neil Mackland (23), walker with minor head injury found near summit Lochnagar by RAF Stafford MRT on training exercise. RAF Wessex airlift and Grampian Police MRT. He had been blown over when descending path with a companion. 32.
- DECEMBER 29th—Catherine Arnold (65) was returning from Chalamain Gap when she slipped on path high above Allt Mor, Cairngorm, opposite and above Sugar Bowl, spraining an ankle. Nearby RAF Sea King effected night rescue in good weather and visibility. Cairngorm MRT. 6.

### SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS

- JANUARY 2nd—Without crampons but carrying an ice-axe, descending W. Face Stob Binnein, Graham Cameron (23) slipped on steep neve. Severe chest (haemo-pneumo thorax) and arm injuries. Stretcher lowered by Killin MRT to RN Sea King hoist. 120.
- JANUARY 14th—A body seen by a lady with binoculars in twilight turned out next day to be a rock protruding the snow on Wood Hill. Ochils MRT. SARDA. 95.
- JANUARY 14th to 15th—Robert Bleach (40) descending NE Ridge, Ben Lui, could not see well because of spindrift so he snowholed overnight, not seeing lights of nearby rescue searchers. His descent next day was hampered because he had lost his glasses in the snowhole, but he did see the Wessex rescue helicopter. However he waved so cheerily they thought he was not the guy they were looking for, so he had to walk down. Killin and Leuchars MRTs, SARDA. 389.

- JANUARY 26th—Descending hard neve on East Ridge, Ben Lui, David Davies (31) slipped, failed to brake with his ice-axe and fell 1,000 feet down slopes and over a crag. Fatal head injuries. He was wearing bendy boots without crampons. Evacuated by Killin MRT using a wheeled stretcher. RN Sea King had to hover/Taxi along A82 to Crianlarich due to deteriorating weather, and was unable to maintain separation from high voltage wires, so landed at Ardlui and stayed overnight once casualty was confirmed as dead. 121.
- JANUARY 27th—Clifford Healey (53) and Susan Healey (49) were descending steep neve on Ciochan Beinn Laoigh (N. Ridge Ben Lui) when one of Clifford's crampon bars broke. Trying to fix it he slipped and fell 500 feet losing his axe trying to brake and sustaining chest and arm injuries. Susan fell 100 feet trying to reach him, with facial abrasions. 130.
- JANUARY 27th—Descending through woods in Coire Chaorach (below Ben More NE Ridge) Amanda Orr (25) tripped and broke an ankle. Killin MRT. 18.
- JANUARY 28th to 29th—With a map and no compass Ronald Bray (45) got lost in thick mist near the top of Ben Lui. He wandered to south side of Ben Oss and bivvied. Picked up by Killin Police 4WD on hill-road Glen Falloch.
- FEBRUARY 3rd—Descending from Ben More by a ridge in mist, Peter White (31) slipped into Central Gully and slid down snow slope about 200 feet. His companion lost sight of him, went down alone and reported him missing. Killin MRT and SARDA were called out but he walked down uninjured. 10.
- FEBRUARY 3rd—4 experienced walkers with crampons and ice-axes were attempting the main Lawers Ridge from Meall Garbh. They were not using a rope or helmets. At the steep ascent of the NE Ridge of An Stuc and near the top of it, Thomas McArthur (54) lost his footing on ice, slid and tried to brake but the axe was wrenched from his hands. He went to the foot of a steep drop and got bad head injuries. He was left unconscious in a bivvy bag. A night search in extreme conditions failed and he was recovered dead next day by Tayside Police SRU. 133.
- FEBRUARY 3rd to 4th—Andrew Neil (29) and Alistair Wilson (27) forced to dig in after a white-out on the Cobbler. Walked down safe. Arrochar MRT positioned and recovered by RN Sea King. 26.
- FEBRUARY 16th—Brian Ludwig (42) descending N. Face Ben More with ice-axe and crampons alone got cragfast because of steepness. Escorted down safely by Killin MRT. 44.
- FEBRUARY 20th—Although it was their 13th Munro a party of 3 were inexperienced and were attempting Stuc a' Chroin from Ben Vorlich without ice-axes or crampons. Near the summit David Nicol (31) sat down to await a companion when he slipped and fell 300 feet down snow and rock, fracturing his neck (5th cv) and sustaining skull and pelvic injuries. Stretcher carried by Killin MRT and winched by RAF Wessex. 72.
- MARCH 9th to 10th—Angus MacDonald (30) and Frederick Fermor (28) started noon and got benighted on Schiehallion. In mild conditions they found good shelter and walked off safe next day. Tayside teams alerted.
- APRIL 3rd—A slip on wet grass when Jacqueline Anderson (22) was descending east slopes of Maol Mor was aggravated by her wearing nylon jacket and trousers. Her outer clothing had negligible friction so she fell further and went over a 15 foot crag causing lumbar spinal fractures. Maol Mor is west of Loch Katrine. Lomond MRT called out. Airlift by RN Sea King. 8.
- APRIL 7th—Margaret Firth (42) suffered a leg injury when she was blown over in Alva Glen. Stretcher carried down steep sided glen by Ochils MRT. Helicopter not requested because of violent wind gusts.
- APRIL 20th—Descending NNE Ridge Ben Lui wearing light summer boots and without ice-axe and crampons, Raymond Collins (22) slipped on neve, fell 100 feet breaking his back and compound fracture of leg. RAF Wessex placed winchman on hill then helicopter landed on ridge to load casualty. Mist came down and helicopter was weathered in at 3,000 feet. Killin MRT stretchered casualty down and also assisted aircrew off the mountain. 144.
- APRIL 27th—Callander Craig—to NW of town. Robert Smart (12) scrambling on heavily wooded rocky steepness fell 20 feet due to looseness and decaying vegetation. Shock and pain to leg and neck but no serious injuries. Stretchered by Killin MRT. 9.

- MAY 4th—Unconscious casualty (J. Kerr) stretcher winched by RN Sea King from foot of outcrop on Ben Cruachan. Fallen climber. 21.
- MAY 11th—Lomond MRT helped Stewart Aikman (32) down Ben Lomond Tourist Path. One of 168 entries in a private entry hill race he had slipped and hurt his leg. 28.
- MAY 28th—Wearing trainers, scrambling on Creag Bheithe, Pass of Leny. With a companion, Martin Nixon (17) was climbing a gully near Poggleswood, Callander. Slipped (rock and grass) and fell 30 feet. Arm and leg injuries. Assisted walked down by Central Police. 3.
- MAY 28th—Walking on a path on Craigmore, Aberfoyle, Margaret Keenan (45) suffered a heart attack. Ambulance stretcher was not good enough so Callander Police assisted with MacInnes stretcher. 7.
- JUNE 3rd—RN Sea King recovered Philomena Muggins (41) from Ben Lomond with a broken leg. 10.
- JUNE 18th—Hills in Loch Ard Forest. Hill walker with broken ankle, Gladys Matthews, stretcher lifted by RN Sea King. Police and Ambulance. 6.
- JULY 1st—Reay Leak (Male 64) died of a heart attack when walking with his wife on moors near Strathblane. Stretchered by Killin MRT. 11.
- JULY 1st—Two men in their 60s got lost and overdue walking from Brig o' Turk to Balquhider without a compass. Killin MRT. 12.
- JULY 17th—RAF Wessex. Report of walker in distress Beinn Dorain. False alarm.
- JULY 21st—RAF Wessex lifted Matilda Ingram (47) from Schiehallion suffering spinal fracture, neck and head injuries. With a party of 23 she had gone ahead of a slower companion descending from the summit to Braes of Foss. She had strayed from main path and slipped on scree. Tayside Police SARU. 4.
- AUGUST 8th—Kenneth Duffus (14) winched by RAF Wessex from 50 feet up Kincaira (sea cliffs) at Elie, East Neuk of Fife. Cragfast on holiday.
- AUGUST 14th—Male of about 65 died of a heart attack on a path through a grouse moor at the eastern end of Glen Lyon. Airlift RAF Wessex.
- AUGUST 18th—Albert Pitters (47) was hill walking with his daughter (10) on Meall Reamber, St. Fillans. Climbing a deer fence, a wire broke causing a fall on to rock and a tumble of 30 feet. Broken pelvis and slight head injury. Airlifted to Stirling by RAF Wessex. 5.
- AUGUST 23rd to 24th—Searches by both Tayside MRTs, Kinloss MRT, SARDA, RAF Wessex and RAF Sea King for 2 lost and benighted boys (both 13). They had run ahead from 2 leaders and 2 other boys in mist on a path at the Ben Lawers/Ben Glas bealach. Walked out to Lawers village safely. 605.
- SEPTEMBER 1st—Lady with ankle injury Ben Lawers. Airlifted by RAF Wessex.
- SEPTEMBER 28th—Descending Ben Lomond Tourist Track, Carol Goddard (36) slipped on grass and broke an ankle. Stretchered by Lomond MRT and airlifted by RAF Wessex. 100.
- OCTOBER 10th—Linda Wilson (17) slipped on wet grass on sheep track beside Glenwhinnel Burn and sprained her ankle. Stretchered. Ochils MRT. 21.
- OCTOBER 12th—James Clelland (50) took ill with a heart attack, when he was in a party of 3 near the summit of Meall Glas, Glen Lochay Hills. Evacuation in mist. Killin MRT & RAF Wessex.
- DECEMBER 20th to 21st—False alarm. Search of Dumyat by Ochils MRT and SARDA for student (Male 24) missing overnight. 18.

## SKYE

- MARCH 26th—Rotten Gully, Inaccessible Pinnacle, Sgurr Dearg. Traversing Cullin Ridge with 2 friends, Mark Pearce (25) was lowering himself down a small drop when his handhold rock came away, causing his death from a 600 foot fall. The party had unroped and removed helmets as the ridge was considered easy just then. Skye MRT, RAF Sea King. 45.

- APRIL 13th – Climbing an unnamed gully on The Storr, Richard Gammack (26) slipped down a scree/clay slope and became cragfast 175 feet up the gully. Rescued by a Skye MRT abseiler. 41.
- APRIL 18th – Michael Goulbourne (34) slipped on screw/scree and was cut and bruised. Great Stone Shoot, Sgurr Alasdair. Skye MRT, RAF Sea King. 68.
- MAY 20th – Cow winched out safely by RN helicopter after 100 foot fall into gorge at Watrnish.
- MAY 21st – Patricia Barnham (21) lifted by HMCG helicopter with badly sprained ankle. Slip in Glen Dibidal (SW of MacLeod's Table South).
- MAY 22nd – Robert Neill (57) fractured a scapula leading on Window Buttress, Sgurr Dearg. He slipped and fell 12 feet, pulling a runner and falling on to his 2nd. Skye MRT and HMCG helicopter. 35.
- MAY 27th – Coir a' Tairneilar. HMCG helicopter lifted Royal Marine. Heat exhaustion.
- MAY 28th – Alan Kimber reported he had seen a woman leader (It turned out to be Kathleen Sweeney (39)) falling to her death on Sron na Ciche, probably on Median Route, or off route on the East Buttress, the falling body accompanied by a shower of loose rock which was probably indicating a hold or holds coming away. Kimber managed to get to a second woman who had stopped the fall and was still on the stance with the body hanging on a tight rope. An RAF Sea King had taken the dead leader off the cliff and then Kimber had escorted the second (who had bruised or broken fingers from holding on to the rope) to above an overhang, where she was in a position to be also airlifted. Skye MRT. 42.
- MAY 30th – A slip on dry rock during a roped climb on the South Buttress, Sgurr Dearg caused Ian Brown (39) to fall 15 feet and dislocate his knee. Airlift by RAF Sea King on training with Skye MRT leader aboard. 3.
- JUNE 7th – Trying to lead 3rd pitch of a climb on Sron na Ciche, Mark Gibson (23) pulled up on a handhold which came away causing a fall and leg injuries. Airlift HMCG helicopter. Skye MRT. 24.
- JULY 24th to 25th – Aella Cage (Male 25), Heather Matthews (24), Kathryn Wycharles (23) and Liza Greatrex (22) got lost on a return walk from Loch Coruisk and camped down overnight. Vain search by Skye MRT. HMCG helicopter called but missing people turned up. 71.
- AUGUST 2nd – Upper Coire Lagan. Mary Millar (44) tripped when running down wet rock slabs fracturing her left lower leg and ankle. Airlift by RAF Sea King. Skye MRT. 30.
- AUGUST 16th – HM Coastguard Boat 007 launched Portree to assist Police in recovery of 2 bodies from base of cliff on north side Portree Bay. They had apparently fallen whilst attempting to climb.
- AUGUST 19th – Coruisk Path, half mile S. of Sligachan. Coro Nurez (Female 33) slipped on mud breaking a leg. Skye MRT. Air Ambulance to Inverness. 13.
- AUGUST 28th – Film crew on location at The Storr. Production manager Ginny Roncoroni (44) slipped on dry moorland twisting her knee. Skye MRT. 3.
- SEPTEMBER 2nd – Ref: 464254 Am Basteir. David Hurst (37) was climbing with Michael Osbourne. Osbourne went ahead a short distance to plan their route and called back to Hurst. Hurst agreed on the route and set out to join his friend. Osbourne heard a noise and saw Hurst fall 100 feet bouncing off rocks then going out of view. Osbourne climbed down 500 feet to where his friend had stopped, obviously dead from extensive injuries. Recovery by Skye MRT, Police, RAF Sea King. 71.
- SEPTEMBER 3rd to 4th – Separation incident. Paul Bright (27) failed to meet his companions camping at Loch Coruisk. He walked out safe to Strathaird Farm. Kinloss and Skye MRTs, HMCG, RAF Sea King. 61.
- SEPTEMBER 8th – Walking near Banachdich Gully, Derek Walker (46) was immobilised by a trapped nerve. Passers-by alerted Skye MRT, but he got down uninjured. 4.
- SEPTEMBER 11th – Beinn Dearg Mhor, Red Cuillin (above Loch Ainort). Peter Molloy (29) slipped on the S. ridge above Coire nan Laogh, fell 20 feet on to scree then rolled a further 30 feet suffering cuts, abrasions and concussion. Companion alerted passing motorists. Skye MRT. RAF Sea King. 29.

SEPTEMBER 19th to 20th Alone on hill James Donaldson (31) sustained arm and scalp injuries descending Sgurr Dearg (Ref: 445214 An Stac or head of Coire Lagan) in rain and mist. At one point he had to abseil from a large block, but it moved and he fell 80 feet and was unconscious for 3 hours. He survived in a bivvy bag and at 11.00 alerted passers-by with whistle blasts. Airlift by RAF Sea King to Broadford, later Raigmore. Skye MRT. 72.

OCTOBER 26th - Party of 5. John Spiller (51) slipped on wet scree in Coire na Banachdich (Ref: 436216) and hurt his leg. Stretcher Skye MRT. 147.

### ISLANDS (other than Skye)

MARCH 1st - Couple in early 20s overdue from Barkeval, Hallival, Askival traverse to Glen Dibidil.

MARCH 15th to 16th - Mull presumably. Salen Coastguard found Catherine MacGillivray (21) and Andrew Howie cold and wet, otherwise unhurt, near Gortferen. They intended to walk from Arivegaig to Acarsaid Point.

APRIL 1st - Rescue of Marie van Keinbi on Isle of Rum.

APRIL 1st - Anne Hempstock (52) slipped on wet rock on Newton shore path, Lochranza, Arran. Leg injury. Stretchered out by fellow walkers and ambulance service. Arran MRT called out. 7.

APRIL 17th to 18th Walking alone, Sandra Murray (46) got lost in mist and darkness and bivvied out amongst rocks. Glen Rosa area. Arran MRT. 26.

MAY 25th to 26th Searches by Rum National Nature Reserve staff and Langside Club for Mr and Mrs Skelton lost and benighted on Askival. Map blew away. Cloud base 500 feet on east, down to sea level on west. Eventually they got down on east side of the range. No route plan had been left so searches were extensive. 120.

MAY 27th - Sarah Risbin (23) leading South Ridge Direct, Cir Mhor, Arran was unable to haul over the top of 'Y' Crack and she came off. Her protection held the first time and she was uninjured. She tried a second time and fell off injuring an ankle. Her party arranged an assisted abseil. Airlifted to mainland by RN Sea King. 15.

MAY 29th - Island of Rona (between Skye and Torridon). Ann Kaley, injured walker, recovered from coast with suspected broken leg by RN Sea King re tasked whilst airborne. 6.

JUNE 13th - Loch .....ovinish? Which Island? Walker collapsed. Airlift to Stornoway by HMCG helicopter. Good weather.

JULY 10th - One of a party of 12. Ardreana Wells (20) slipped on the south side of the Roas/Sannox Saddle and sprained her ankle. Good weather. Stretchered out by Strathclyde Police and Arran MRT.

JULY 14th to 16th A party of 6 girls (16 - 18) on a Duke of Edinburgh Award hike failed to turn up at a bothy and were found on the West Coast of Jura.

JULY 20th - Lynn McCormack (13) injured a leg on the Goat Fell Path. She was helped down by her father and other walkers. Arran MRT. 4.

SEPTEMBER 2nd - Caren-nan-Sgeir, a rock 7 miles NW of Ullapool. While walking on a shingle beach on the island a woman passenger from a cruise boat slipped and broke her leg. Airlifted to Lewis by HMCG helicopter.

SEPTEMBER 15th - Ardmeanach Peninsula, Mull. RN Sea King and HMCG Officer stretcher rescued injured walker from base of cliff near Fossil Tree. 15.

OCTOBER 13th - Leon Shaw (21) fell climbing (a rope?) on Tannera Mòr, Summer Isles. He fractured his skull, 2 ankles and a wrist. Airlift to Raigmore by Rescue 119 helicopter.

OCTOBER 15th to 16th First light search during gales and snow showers for missing stalker in Pairc area, Lewis. Spotted by fish farm boat near head of Loch Shell. Airlifted by HMCG helicopter to Seaforth Head.

OCTOBER 20th Man washed off rocks at Point of Ness, Lewis. HMCG crews and HMCG helicopter. (from ITV report).

OCTOBER 25th - Edith McKelvie (78) and Elizabeth Craig (74) overdue but returned home safe. Arran MRT and SARDA. 12.



- JANUARY 20th—RN Sea King rescued (day into night) 2 injured walkers from Afton Reservoir (New Cumnock to Carsphairn Range). 10.
- MAY 5th—RN Sea King recovered fallen climber, Joseph McMahon, from 2 km east of Largs. 5.
- AUGUST 20th to 21st—St. Ann's area (near Forest of Ae). Moffat HRS searched woods and steep river gorge for partly-sighted male, later traced safe in Dumfries. 110.
- AUGUST 22nd—Moffat HRS walked off 1 woman and stretchered off another. They had been stranded near the waterfall of Grey Mare's Tail. Released after hospital treatment. 60.
- AUGUST 26th to 27th—Youth of 16 was found by forest workers at Blackhill of Bush Bothy after failing to find a rendezvous with his father, for late night fishing at Loch Dee, 3 miles in wrong direction. Searches of river by SARDA, Police and Galloway MRT. 96.
- SEPTEMBER 8th—Alan Warren (70) was recovering from a stroke in Dumfries Infirmary after an airlift by RN Sea King from Barholm Hill, Wigtown Bay. Galloway MRT. 26.
- SEPTEMBER 8th—Christine Millar (55) hillwalking with 2 female companions near Tala Linnfoots, Tweedsmuir, on Carlvain Hill (Ref: 78/142189). She stumbled in a hole, breaking her right tibia and fibula and dislocating her ankle. Stretchered off by Tweed Valley MRT to ambulance. 15.
- SEPTEMBER 16th—Lamb Hill area of Pennine Way, Cheviots. Sarah Martel was walking on duck-boarded path. She stood on one end of a board which went down. The other end see-sawed as it was not fixed down and she suffered broken foot bones. Later she got blistered knees from crawling to a hut. Borders SRU, Police, Ambulance. 84.
- OCTOBER 12th—Elderly male with a medical condition separated from friends near top of Hartfell. Found own way down. Moffat HRS, RN Sea King. 40.
- NOVEMBER 7th to 8th—Near Kirkconnel, Moffat HRS found man suffering from hypothermia at daybreak on his 81st birthday, while awaiting RN Sea King. Stretchered to ambulance and he recovered in hospital. 60.
- NOVEMBER 30th—Forest of Ae.
- NOVEMBER 30th to DECEMBER 1st—Galloway part of Southern Uplands Way. 2 walkers found safe. 100.

## NON-MOUNTAINEERING INCIDENTS

- JANUARY 16th—Search for missing person at Dalbeattie, Kirkcudbrightshire. SARDA and Moffat HRS. 35.
- JANUARY 16th—SARDA standby for missing elderly patient at Dumfries.
- FEBRUARY 18th—False alarm. Aircraft crash suspected when flares and bangs were reported near Peebles, but a youth had discovered pyrotechnics in his father's dinghy and accidentally discharged some. RAF Wessex helicopters. Police. Kinloss MRT. 350.
- MARCH 18th—Moffat HRS helped Police search for young man who left a suicide note. Found dead a week later in a locked building. 80.
- MARCH 31st—Tweed Valley MRT called out to search for a woman missing overnight. She 'phoned in—safe. SARDA. 12.
- APRIL 13th—Police found a car with a note. Called out Tweed Valley MRT but driver was found safe before they deployed.
- MAY 7th—Richard Beattie (20) killed by falling tree when working in forest at Glen Rosa. Recovered on stretcher by Arran MRT. 3.
- DATE—Search for patient missing overnight from Dingleton Hospital, Melrose. She was found safe. Tweed Valley MRT.
- JUNE 22nd—Search by Moffat HRS for driver of Landrover found 48 hours before on its side in a ditch. Missing person found in Merseyside. 72.
- AUGUST 17th—Moffat HRS helped Police search for person missing from remote farm, later known to have been abducted. 50.

OCTOBER 1st to 2nd – 70 year old man was found cold and safe in a cowshed after a pub visit. Glenelg and Kinloss MRTs. RAF Sea King. 324.

NOVEMBER 3rd – Kinloss MRT came on a road accident on A9 south of Aviemore. They alerted Glenmore Lodge on civilian MRT frequency who reacted instantly to call an ambulance. 4 casualties still trapped in a Fiesta were treated.

NOVEMBER 16th – Mid Murthat. Moffat HRS helped Police search for missing person from N-bound train. Nothing found. Carriage door found open when train stopped at signal. 70.

NOVEMBER 30th – Lothian Police, Tweed Valley MRT, SARDA and Border SARU searched River Tweed for Ian Cleghorn (69) found drowned at Gattonside (Weir). 74.

DECEMBER 4th – Search by Tweed Valley MRT and SARDA of grounds and area surrounding a hospital, for a missing woman patient (26). She was found safe in a house by Police. 87.

DECEMBER 8th – Low flying light aircraft thought to be in difficulties in Kirriemuir/Glamis area. Red flares seen in Clova/Prosen area. Search by Police and RAF Wessex called off at dark.

## IN MEMORIAM

### COLIN DODGSON j.1952

COLIN VALENTINE DODGSON died on July 27th, 1991, after a long struggle borne with his characteristic grit and determination. When he joined the Club in 1952, at the age of forty-two, he had already completed all the Munro's, the Corbett's, all the 2000ft tops in England, the 2,500fts in Wales and the 3,000ft summits in Ireland. By the time he was seventy-five, he had completed all the 2,000ft tops in Great Britain. What was even more remarkable was that the great majority of these were done in winter conditions and often alone. His occupation as the owner of a busy tea-garden in his native village of Grasmere precluded anything but strictly local activities for the greater part of the year. During these 'inactive' months, he and his great friend, Tim Tyson, would get up at dawn and wander the local fells achieving their ambition to bathe in all the 729 tarns in the Lake district.

If ever a man could be said to be devoted to the hills, it was Colin; but he had other interests too, the chief of which, apart from his family, was music. He sang in four Cumbrian choirs and made annual visits to Covent Garden and Glyndebourne.

He was a great companion on the hills and quite unshakable by any quirks of weather or fate, greeting any mild disaster with a shrug of the shoulder, a grin and 'it could have been worse!'

His sense of humour was quiet but impish and he had tremendous stamina. Those who enjoyed the pleasure of his company will share, to some extent, the sense of loss that Rita, his wife, and the rest of his family have suffered.

R.R.S. Higgins.

### DEREK LEAVER j.1958

THE SURVIVING mountaineering fraternity of the fifties and sixties was immensely saddened to hear of the untimely death last year of one of the most active participants of that momentous era.

Derek arrived on the Scottish scene in the early fifties as a student at Edinburgh University, and indulged his passion for climbing with both the EUMC and the Edinburgh JMCS - one club was insufficient to cater for the active requirements of Derek and many of his illustrious contemporaries such as Smith, Marshall, the Currie Boys, O'Hara, to name but a few. He was also soon to join the SMC (1958) whereupon he served on the Committee (1962-65) and, for a number of years, as an ever-present Honorary President of the Edinburgh JMCS.

His climbing friends have suffered a double bereavement since Derek lamentably withdrew completely from roped climbing after his marriage in the sixties, although he always retained his love of the mountains. One wonders whether the tragic death of Clarkson, a climbing associate of many years, could have influenced the decision to eliminate his more hazardous pastimes in the interests of family life. Derek's mountaineering abilities were mirrored in his professional life. Notwithstanding his all embracing mountaineering activities on hill, rock, ice and the Continent, he graduated brilliantly in Chemistry, and was instantly retained by Edinburgh University first as a Research Fellow, and then as one of the youngest lecturers in Organic Chemistry. I was privileged to know him well in both capacities, although my contacts with him were infrequent in recent years.

Derek was a remarkable man. At a time when mountaineering was becoming intensely competitive he climbed for pure enjoyment. He probably remains the most under-rated climber that has ever graced the Scottish scene. He would prefer to repeat an elegant Severe rather than attempt a first ascent of an unworthy route. Yet his achievements, when the mood took him, were spectacular - and largely unnoticed. He was in at the beginning of the EUMC's important development of the Fionn Loch area with a number of fine routes on Beinn Lair before the O'Hara influence persuaded him to turn his attention to Beinn a'Chasgein Mor - Avoidance and Sunday Climb. The Scaffell Guide draws special attention to two routes - Chartreuse (HVS), and Leverage (XS) - 'a superb day's work by one of Britain's best climbers' (Robin Smith); Derek was there too. Robin Campbell enthuses over Jimmy Marshall's coup in achieving the 1st ascent of Trapeze on Aonach Dubh (SMCJ 18, 13); Derek was there too.

Derek's slightness of figure belied his impressive strength and fitness, but enhanced his grace on hard rock or ice. He was the most stylish of climbers; one who would take a beginner up January Jigsaw and instantly engage the attention of a gallery of hardmen en route for epics and divert them into watching in admiration for an hour or so. His artistry on ice, in the days when every step had to be cut, was a poem to balance and economy of effort. Throughout his life he remained the best-natured and 'nicest' man that I have ever met. Had he had the obsessive drive of many of his contemporaries for spectacular achievement he would have equalled any of them and been recognised today as another of our mountaineering geniuses.

I will never forget you, Derek.

Mike Fleming.

## MYLES MORRISON j.1952

WITH THE death of Myles Morrison of Kilmacolm, at the fine old age of 90, the Club has lost one of its most genuine and best loved characters. Although our families were very friendly, there was ten years difference in our ages, and it was not until 1938 that I climbed with Myles.

That summer, we were both members of a JMCS party based on the Riffelhaus, above Zermatt, which included, amongst others, such well-known personalities as the late Ian Charleson and the late Benny Humble. Among other peaks climbed were the Breithorn, Liskamm, Monte Rosa, and of course the Matterhorn, Myles doing the Swiss-Italian traverse.

After the war I was glad to propose Myles for membership of the SMC, and for many years thereafter, his kenspeckle figure in the old Argyll kilt and his famous (if rather fusty) vintage Rolls-Royce were familiar features of the many enjoyable Easter Meets of the Club in the fifties and sixties. His nickname, 'The Laird', was apt!

A fanatic about the Cuillin, seldom a year passed without his joining our annual June visits, and latterly he also joined us in August holidays in lesser known Austrian and Swiss ranges of the Alps.

A civil engineer by profession, he acted as our 'marine engineer' on several successful outboard motor on Lochs Mullardoch, Quoich and Morar, utilising this means of approach to the remoter peaks of the district.

Myles continued his regular visits to the hills until nearly 80 years of age, but thereafter failing eyesight and gradual physical deterioration entailed a steady loss in the quality of life.

Of small, wiry and compact build he was an excellent rock climber, while his endurance on long hard days belied his slight figure. One of nature's gentlemen, his kind and genial nature endeared him to all who were privileged to know him, and our sincere condolences go out to his daughter and the sister in South Africa with whom he was so close.

J. Norman Ledingham.

## BARCLAY FRASER j.1945

BARCLAY was a quiet, scholarly, gentle man, who fired all with whom he came in contact with enthusiasm for his many interests.

By profession a teacher of history, he developed over the years a vast knowledge of the history of Scotland which made him, along with his pawky sense of humour, a fascinating companion in the hills. His first teaching posts were in London and later in Halifax, before coming home to be H.M. Inspector of History in Scotland.

Besides a considerable knowledge of the crags of the Lakes, Wales and Scotland, he had visited the Pyrenees which were his second home and it was there, in the 30s, while leading a party of students, that he met his beloved wife Janet.

His home for many years was in the ancient village of Cramond on the Forth estuary. Here he developed a keen interest in archaeology and played a leading part in excavating the large Roman fort in the centre of the village; an account of which was given by Tom Weir in the Scots Magazine in March 1981.

Barclay had the great misfortune to break his neck in a fall when in his early eighties. His enormous willpower soon brought about a recovery sufficient to enable him to climb his last Munro, Carn a' Chlamain, on the day of the Club's Centenary Dinner, a feat which demanded courage and determination of the highest order.

He was a poet of some distinction, and at his funeral service his friend Tom Fleming beautifully read two of his poems and also one written by his brother Douglas, who is also a member of the Club as is his son, Andrew.

W.M.S. Myles.

## ROBERT DENNISON WALTON j.1945

BOB WALTON died suddenly in March 1992, at home in Dumfries.

He had a lifelong love of the outdoors in every shape and form, from climbing in the Alps to beachcombing walks by the Solway Firth. He grew up in Glasgow, began climbing while at Glasgow University and told wonderful tales of student climbing trips to the Alps in conjunction with Austrian students. The last of these was actually interrupted in mid trip by the declaration of war, but he brought back a superb selection of large format black and white slides and prints.

Having found May, a wife who could survive a blizzard on Stob Ghabhar on an early outing together, he honeymooned in an Austria just recently opened to visitors, and on a budget severely impacted by rationing. Forty years later on an anniversary trip back to the same alpine villages he commented that a single dinner cost more than the entire honeymoon.

In 1956 he moved from Galashiels to Dumfries Academy as principal teacher of mathematics, and proceeded to introduce family and friends to the hills. I remember days in appalling rain: the time on Scafell when my mother turned blue from the dye in her jacket and I said I never wanted to climb another hill; and the day on Am Faochagach when we were thwarted by uncrossable burns that you could barely see for the torrential mist. And I remember wonderful days in the sun: rising above the sea fog on Brandon; my first Munro on a snowy Lochnagar one Easter and a picture perfect day for his final Munro - Luinne Bheinn (he always considered it an appropriate name for the last one!)

I remember Easters in the Lake District with my mother while he went on the SMC meet and exciting mountain friends like 'Uncle' Willie Docharty, but in general he enjoyed family expeditions on the west coasts of Scotland and Ireland and to Norway. He also introduced the annual Galloway hill walk to Dumfries Academy and convinced a surprised education authority to pay for it like any other school sport - he always loved to take on bureaucracy for a good cause and in later life was active in various local battles for the Scottish Rights of Way Society.

After I left for University he and May began a twenty year series of high level walking trips in the Alps, and revelled in exploring remote corners of alpine glens and passes. They also enjoyed the chance to explore the Sierra Nevada when I moved to California and were continually astonished at the number of peaks over thirteen thousand feet and the vast wilderness areas. He considered Mono Lake on the California-Nevada border one of the most beautiful places he had ever visited and made several visits to Yosemite. And he shared vicarious pleasure in my recent backpacking and kayak trips to Alaska.

But perhaps his greatest love was the island of Arran which he first visited as a boy and almost every year thereafter. He knew every corner of the island - its shoreline and mountains, geology and weather - and shared that knowledge on our annual family trips in August, and our final trip together last year, just after my mother died. He wrote and published two books on Arran to share that knowledge and love: 'Seventy Walks in Arran' and 'Arran in Pictures', as well as authoring a local book: 'Guide to 200 Walks and Climbs' in Dumfries and Galloway.

He will be greatly missed by those who shared walking and teaching with him, and who enjoyed viewing his superb collection of outdoor slides accompanied by his wry commentary. But we can picture him happily together again with May, climbing endless hills in the Scottish rain.

Ian Walton.

## ROGER O'DONOVAN j.1975

WHEN Roger O'Donovan joined the Club in 1975 he was already well known in mountaineering circles. His name had featured in the Journal with several first ascents in Skye in the early 1970s, when he worked as an instructor for the Scottish Youth Hostels Association. Subsequently he joined the staff of Glenmore Lodge where he naturally became active in mountain rescue work as well as acquiring an intimate knowledge of the Cairngorms. In 1976 he became Deputy Principal, a position which he held until he left the Lodge in 1988, by which time he had become very much a part of the establishment.

I got to know Roger during this period, and we had some great days on the hills together. A stonefall accident had deprived him of an index finger and he was content to do classic routes, but he had of course climbed harder and much more extensively than this. His Alpine climbs included the Lauper Route on the Eiger and he had been on expeditions to Africa, India and Antarctica, as well as to Greenland, Baffin Island and the Yukon. But he appreciated the accessibility of the Scottish hills and his enthusiasm for their every aspect was undiminished by these wider travels. He enjoyed ski mountaineering and canoeing, and in particular sea-canoeing from his retreat in Harris.

After leaving the Lodge, Roger enrolled as a mature student at Aberdeen University, where he studied English Literature, and at the time of his death he was only a few months away from taking his final exams. He also did consultancy work in the safety and inspection aspects of the oil industry. After the Piper Alpha disaster, realising the difficulties of evacuating an oil platform down scramble nets and knotted ropes, Roger was instrumental in developing and testing a new, compact abseiling device which is now standard equipment in North Sea installations. He was deeply concerned, too, with environmental matters, and he acted as a consultant to the Nature Conservancy Council, with a special interest in Creag Meaghaidh.

A day out with Roger was always an enjoyable one, and his great experience made him a thoroughly sound and reliable rope-companion. Our most memorable outing was one mid-summer just a few years ago, when we met at a pre-arranged time below the cliffs of Ben Lair, to make an idyllic ascent of Wisdom Buttress, while June went off for a long walk with the dog. Both she and Roger had by that time climbed all the Munros, some of them no doubt several times.

At the beginning of 1991 we learned that Roger had contracted cancer, and before long he had to undergo surgery of drastic seriousness. He recovered from this sufficiently to do a bit of walking and cycling, but the affliction returned and it became obvious that nothing more

could be done to prevent its spread. The courage and cheerfulness displayed by Roger, and June too, during those last few months, were simply remarkable. A fortnight before he died, some of Roger's friends got together and arranged a helicopter flight which took him for a last visit to the Ben and up the west coast to the Cuillins. It took him a great effort to get in and out of the helicopter but even in this he saw humour, and with failing speech he recalled the trip with the same, unfailing enthusiasm. 'A day on the hill', he said to me, 'is worth ten of any others' - and who among us would disagree?

To Jane, and Roger's mother and sisters, we extend our sincerest sympathy.

Peter F. Macdonald.

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**It is with deep regret that we have just heard of the death of Graham Tiso**

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## PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLUB

### New Members

The following fourteen new members were admitted and welcomed to the Club in the year 1991-92.

- Ian H. Blackwood (26) Accountant, London.
- Allan A. Davidson (37) Freelance Camera-Assistant/Operator, Edinburgh.
- Brian M. Davison (30) Research Assistant, Lancaster.
- Charles A. Hornsby (29) Medical Doctor, Inverness.
- Colwyn M. Jones (33) Dental Surgeon, Glasgow.
- John K. Morrison (31) Student, Glasgow.
- Charles J. Orr (38) Police Officer, Bonnyrigg.
- Doug Rennie (32) Stone Mason/Building Contractor, Bridge of Cally
- Alex. Runciman (31) Shop Proprietor, Perth.
- Peter J. Stewart (43) Electrical Engineer, Banchory.
- Nigel M. Suess (46) Banker, Edinburgh.
- George B. Szuca (32) Unemployed, Glasgow.
- Neil M. Wilson (25) Computer Programmer, Glasgow.
- Gareth S. Yardley (26) Scientific Officer, Edinburgh.

### The One-Hundredth-and-Third AGM and Dinner

December 1991 saw the Club assemble at Pitlochry (the very heart of the tourist version of the Highlands), in that Gormenghast of hotels - the Atholl Palace. This opulent labyrinth was a contrast to anything we have frequented in recent years, and it's a pity that more members did not take advantage of Gerry Peet's bargain rates.

After the Sturm und Drang of the 1990 AGM it was back to business as usual, although the afternoon's debate on the Great Access Question overshadowed our more interminable concerns. It was a historic occasion in one sense, as Jane Naismith made her appearance as the first Lady Member to attend an AGM - we trust she will not be the only one there next time.

Continuing the theme of the afternoon the general theme was access - access to the SMC and to its Dinner.

As usual the early business drifted through easily. Report after Report was accepted, the acquiring and spending of large sums of money passed almost without comment, the apparently endless Agenda was being devoured. Then came the first shot of battle as the Western District expenses were queried by a Dundonian. Indignation was expressed at Glaswegian profligacy. They do things differently in Dundee (when they do them at all that is), and are well known to be able to run a complete weekend at the CIC on a sheep-gnawed turnip and the smell of an Arbroath smokie.

After this the Members got restless. The congratulatory tone of the APRS award to the Aonach Mor ski development (as quoted by Jim Clark) came in for heavy criticism by Bob Reid. The NTS also got some stick, particularly over the way they are tampering with Holy Writ in downgrading Unna's Rules to 'Principles'.

The activities of the Publications Sub-Committee again excited interest. The Byzantine complexities of the Club/Trust relationship are nowhere better exemplified, and Donald Bennet provided an interesting (if incomplete) guide to this Seraglio. Publications is an issue



which exerts a continuing fascination for some members. Are they watching a conjuring trick, or can the Publications Sub-Committee really walk on water

Access to the Club - in the form of the technical qualifications now demanded of aspirants - was the subject of a motion from Bill Wallace. He sought to modify these, at least for the more elderly of those who have discovered a love of Scottish Mountaineering and its true guardian. This motion produced the predictable response. There was a snarling and a lashing of tails in the body of the hall. Older applicants are always regarded with suspicion by the 'technos' ('if not then, why now'), in much the same way as medieval Franciscans must have watched yet another middle-aged Borgia don the scarlet cap. Much growling from past and present tigers ensued until Sandy Cousins rightly reminded everyone of the responsibilities attendant on an applicant's sponsors. (Personally speaking, I sometimes wonder if opposing sides in this dispute are talking about the same thing. Few of our older members have had any experience of stealthy shoes and chalky fingers - never mind banana picks. If they had, they might remember the old song 'The Very Severs almost bored him to tears and he felt about girls much the same.')

Mundane matters of finance intruded again after this ethical passage as the scale of the expenditure required to fund the proposed renovation of Lagangarbh was unfolded. In addition to the magnitude of the funds required there was considerable reluctance to commit serious money to a building on which we did not hold a long lease.

Bill Brooker's and Stan Pearson's proposed amendment to the Constitution baffled many present. It seemed to regard the Dinner as an elaborate biological experiment in which heterosexual partners were not allowed to participate. This was possibly an attempt to ensure the survival of at least one member of a breeding pair - like flying on separate planes. The advice from the floor to leave well enough alone until there was a problem was eventually taken.

Calls for a Club policy on access (to mountains this time) gave rise to considerable discussion, but no definite outcome. There was, however, a general feeling that we should do more than insert paragraphs into Guide Books. The need to campaign for both access and conservation was raised.

The route to the Dinner was devious and subterranean (entirely fitting) and we eventually found ourselves in a tent-like barn of a room. The meal seemed to have met general acceptance and the service was efficient. After the meal came the usual circus.

Iain Smart's Presidential Address contained some pretty far-fetched claims as to his ancestry but, that apart, it was another urbane and polished performance. The toast 'To Our Guests and Kindred Clubs' was largely (fortunately) inaudible to the main mass of diners due to the speaker's lack of preparation, indifferent sobriety, and obstinate refusal to use the microphone (He'll no get asked again!) Alex Mathewson of the Cairngorm Club delivered a restrained Reply.

The unsteady gait of Members and Guests the next morning was entirely due to the ground outside the Hotel being covered with a sheet of ice. It was the last ice most of us have seen this winter.

Bob Richardson.

## J.M.C.S. REPORTS

**Glasgow Section.**- 1991 proved to be another prosperous year both home and abroad for the Section. A slow start due to heavy snows early in the season hampered activities for those celebrating hogmanay in the Highlands. Better pickings proved later on once the snows had consolidated.

In total, 21 meets were held during the year. Most of these were to the usual and popular resorts around the Highlands. Of note, a concerted effort was made by members to make good use of the Coruisk hut.

Three new members were admitted to the Club, bringing the total membership of the Section to just under 100. It is with sadness, however, that the Section reports the death of Jack H. Henson.

Although there was no official meet abroad over the summer period, a contingent of members crossed the Atlantic for a spot of combined climbing and sunbathing in California. Back in Europe meanwhile, the French Alps remained the focal point for some for both climbing and ski-ing while elsewhere trips were made to Italy, Austria and Scandinavia. Further to the east, winter trips were made to both Polish and Czech sides of the High Tatra whereupon the Vice President found himself benighted!

The Annual Dinner, held in October at the Kingshouse Hotel, was the usual affair and well attended by members. The Section was represented by the SMC, Lochaber and Perth Sections. The speeches were provided by guest Tom Weir and President Ian Thomson who recalled many of the highlights from his presidential year. The following day a handful of members suffering from sore heads and bleary eyes, wheezed their way up the Pap of Glencoe to accompany Tom on his first ascent of this prominent hill.

Social events included several slideshow evenings as well as a successful Burns Supper evening. However, dwindling interest in such events finally led to combined activities by both the SMC Western District and JMCS (Glasgow Section). A jointly organised cheese and wine evening at which Simon Richardson also presented a slideshow on sea-stack climbing proved to be an overwhelming success. A diary of activities is scheduled for 1992. The venue for these activities remains as the Staff Club at the University of Strathclyde.

The Section Annual General Meeting was held in November at which the following were elected: *Hon. Member*, W.H. Murray; *Hon. President*, Bill Forbes; *Hon. Vice-President*, Ian Cumming; *President*, Colwyn Jones; *Vice-President*, John Morrison; *Secretary*, Carl Schaschke, 50, Kelbourne St (3/1), Glasgow G20 8PR, Tel: (041) 946 8304; *Treasurer*, Anderson Foster, 14, Minerva Court, Finnieston, Glasgow; *Coruisk Hut Custodian*, Sandy Donald, 2, Baljaffray Cottages, Grampian Way, Bearsden, Glasgow.

**Edinburgh Section.**-The New Year was welcomed in, as is their custom, at the Smiddy, by a band of regulars. Subsequently, our keen XC skiers again departed for their guaranteed (almost!) snow in the Alps, abandoning a tepid, damp Scotland.

Winter meets were well attended, particularly the week-end based on Manse Barn. This could be considered our most successful of the year, for both weather and activity. The summer meets generally were less popular, fickle weather being a contributory factor in this, but the September week-end in the Peak district was very well supported.

Many of us holidayed in the Alps, and experienced good conditions both early and late in the season. One intrepid pair returned wildly enthusiastic from the Caucasus, and have invited Russian friends to Scotland. Visas permitting, Yury and Alex will shortly (i.e. mid-February) arrive in Scotland.

Our Annual Dinner and AGM were held in the Cairndow Hotel on Loch Fyne in November - from the recommendations of the Lochaber Section (They now correspond with the female secretary of this Section - is this a good omen for the future). (I doubt it - they never correspond with the Hon. Editor.) We endured really dreich weather on the Saturday, but things improved by Sunday. We were entertained after dinner with a most appropriate and amusing address by Gordon (Curly) Ross.

During the year, Bill Myles became an Honorary Member, in recognition of his long-standing and much-valued support and commitment to the Section.

The Huts are thriving in the capable hands of our dedicated Custodians. The Smiddy benefited from the attentions of an effective work-party and will soon get a new sink and cooker. Essential external restoration work on Jock's Spot is being costed out. Jock's has become extremely luxurious with a fully functioning electric shower:- the well-groomed among you now need to pack a hair-dryer as essential hut gear, together with all the associated paraphernalia of 'smellies'. (Please note that we female associates don't descend to such a level of fastidiousness.)

Social events during the last few months have been the annual slide show, when J. Fowler generously hosted us again, and a skittles night.

We have a core of around 20 members who persist in being prolifically active and enthusiastic; others participate to a lesser extent. Last year was a lean one for recruitment, but over the last couple of months there have been around 20 or so enquiries about membership and activities.

Office Bearers:-*President*, A. Chow; *Hon. President*, J. Fowler; *Vice-President*, I. Simpson; *Hon. Vice-President*, M. Fleming; *Treasurer*, B. Finlayson; *Hon. Secretary*, B. Leatherhead; *Smiddy Custodian*, F. Fotheringham, Tighe na Sethe, Braes, Ullapool; *Jock's Spot Custodian*, A. Borthwick, 2 Aytoun Grove, Dunfermline; *Committee Members*: D. Buchanan, R. Dalitz, B. Donaldson, R. Sinclair.

**Perth Section.**- Overall membership of the club has increased slightly over the past year with 63 members, 5 honorary members and 17 ladies. The number of introductory associates remains healthy and enquiries continue to be received.

There were sixteen meets during the year, which is one up on last year, and the average attendance dropped to nine. The figure disguises considerable variations with several well attended meets during the year and a meet with an attendance of three! Hillwalking is still the mainstay of the club's activities however rock climbing venues have been very popular this year. The CIC winter meet was perhaps less of a disaster this year than has been the norm of late however the weather was no less kind. There was two compleations during the year. Last year's innovation was the cross country ski-ing week-end and this was repeated, however the snow conditions were not replicated and finding the wretched stuff involved a great deal more effort. The club took part in the Mountain Mind Quiz after a break of several years. The rest must have been beneficial and the trophy returned to Perth again.

The club was represented at the Edinburgh, and Glasgow Section and Grampian Club dinners during the year. Our own Annual Dinner this year was held at the Queens Hotel, Perth. This was a departure from the usual traditional mountaineering venue and was judged to be a success. A guest speaker, Robin Campbell was invited and provided much entertainment. The remaining speech was by Alex Runciman. The Annual Joint Lecture with the Perthshire Society of Natural Science was given by Barry Owen on his trip to climb Mount McKinley in North America. There were three mid-week meets during the winter months which continue to be popular, one was a showing of slides with Tom Rix and Ron Payne sharing the honours, in the next Grahame Nicoll told the tale of his trip to the Canadian Rockies and the last was the President's evening.

My thanks to the committee, which actually had another meeting this year, it must be habit forming, to meet conveners and to everyone who has assisted in the running of the club in the past year.

The Annual General Meeting was held in Perth in December at which the following officers were elected:- *Hon. President*, Bob Milne; *Hon. Vice-President*, Vacant; *President*, Alastair Dutton; *Treasurer*, Tom Rix; *Secretary*, Ron Payne, 70 Spoutwells Drive, Scone, Perth PH2 6SB 0738 51412.

## S.M.C. AND J.M.C.S. ABROAD

### Southern Hemisphere

A day on the 'REMARKABLES' in New Zealand.

See Moir's Guide, Northern Section, edited by R. Chandler and published by the New Zealand Alpine Club 1968 'Trampers Guide to the Southern Lakes'.

THEO NICHOLSON reports:-It was late in February 1972, whilst on a post-retirement world voyage, when my wife and I spent some weeks in New Zealand. A hired car gave the opportunity to see much of the country, especially South Island. While in Queenstown, a chance came of a lone day to climb the Remarkables, 7688 ft - a picturesque range to the East of Lake Wakipitu and about 8 miles SE of Queenstown which lies on the lake at about 1000 ft ASL.

So, having left our excellent B & B motel early on a perfect morning I parked the car at the junction of Boyds Road with the main road to Te Annu at about 1100 ft and set off at 0715. A belt of dense mist lay across the lower slopes about one thousand feet above me but a high barometer and a clear dew drenched night made a fine hot day likely. So it turned out, for the mist thinned and eventually vanished as I climbed.

Moir's guide recommended that the best way was straight up the third supporting ridge or rib from the North end. The previous day, I had examined the route through binoculars from Queenstown Hill so had little difficulty, lacking paths or signs, in hitting off the right approach although the whole mountain, above 2000 ft was hidden in mist. The slopes, covered by low scrub were certainly steep but at least one made height steadily. As I climbed, so the mist rose and thinned. At about 3000 ft I came out on to the crest of the subsidiary ridge leading up to the main backbone of the mountain. The mist now most conveniently dispersed. The way ahead was clear: just steep grass, tussocks and thorn were the only obstacles so progress was fast.

Soon, a lone figure appeared below me, coming up at a very good pace. I waited and found my lone fellow climber was John Stedman, an Englishman working in Christchurch and enjoying a brief holiday in the hills. We continued together for some time till after joining the main North-South ridge, at about 6400 ft, he branched left to go down to Lake Alta at about 6000 ft and a couple of miles away whilst I continued up the rocky ridge ahead. So far, my timing from the roadside at about 1100 ft to the main ridge at about 6400 ft was 3 hours 10 minutes. (Moir writes 'allow about 3 hours'.)

The East side of the mountain is very different from the rock faces, shattered towers and deep rock gullies of the West face overlooking Lake Wakipitu. Below, to the East, wide slopes of good summer grazing fell away at moderate angle and only towards the top, did they become shattered rock and scree.

I wished to go as high as time and energy allowed. The main rock ridge rose invitingly ahead and continued south in a series of rocky tops. On I went over the next top at about 6800 ft. Thence, to avoid a deep cleft in the ridge, I descended leftwards down steep rock and scree into a hollow where snow still lay deeply. Then up easy rock and so back to the main ridge which led up to the next top at about 7000 ft. To the East and about 500 ft lower lay Lake Alta. Ahead, the ridge continued, broken and rocky, to another top about 500 ft higher. This was reached by a pleasant natural rock staircase. I had hoped - not very confidently - that it might have been the main top. It wasn't, but at 7500 ft was a fine viewpoint. South, across a deep gap lay the real twin tops - perhaps 150/200 ft higher but they appeared to require a long descent and detour. Both time and energy were short so I stayed on my top to enjoy the view.

The morning mist had vanished except to the South where the Milford Sound area was wrapped in cloud. Mt Aspiring and the twin Earnshaw peaks were prominent to the North

whilst NE and about 100 miles distant, the snows of Mt Cook glistened in the sun. A host of smaller peaks filled the horizon and Lake Wakitipu lay, deep blue, sleeping below. Regretfully, it was time to descend, so down I went by much the same way as upwards. Soon, I saw John below; he kindly waited and together we descended by the further ridge - the second one from the left as you look up from below. It was both steep and rough for about half its length and our legs and knees were certainly weary!

We arrived back at the car at about 4.45 p.m. after 9 hours and a total ascent and descent of about 14,000 ft. A great day for a 66 year old to cherish!

(Moir, in his book, writes 'allow 10 hours for the return trip'.)

## South America

GRAHAM LITTLE reports:- I spent a total of six weeks in Chile (stepping into Bolivia and Argentina) during August/September 1991 with Adrian Baker. Although our plans for a major Andean crossing were frustrated by exceptionally heavy snow blocking the access road, we did achieve ascents of five major volcanoes in the Puna de Atacama: Volcan Licancabur, 5916m; Volcan Simbad, 5924m; Cerro de Pili, 6046m; Volcan Lascar, 5641m and Nevado Ojos del Salado, 6885m. The latter peak is the world's highest active volcano and the majority of these climbs were first British ascents. Although technical difficulties were few, these volcanoes rise from a very dry desert and hold a mantle of exhaustingly unstable pumice and lava scree. I can also report that the Chilean people are honest and hospitable and produce some really fine wines.

## Africa

Mike Taylor and Donald Bennet arrived at the Kibo Hotel on the south side of Kilimanjaro in mid-December to take part in the seasonal pilgrimage of hopeful high-level hillwalkers to Africa's highest summit. The November rains had not yet ended, and parts of the route were reminiscent of the CIC path. Five days later, after a short diversion to the Mawenzi Hut for acclimatisation, we reached Uhuru Peak on a grey morning. The sun rose from a sea of cloud which seemed to stretch across the continent, and promptly disappeared into a higher all-enveloping cloud cover. The famed views of Africa at dawn were denied to us.

Several days later, reinforced by young bloods Niall Ritchie and Jas Hepburn fresh from their Deeside gymnasia, we were on the lower slopes of Mount Kenya, toiling upwards through the Vertical Bog, still black and glutinous from the November rains that lasted until December. After two days of acclimatisation on Point Lenana and Point Piggott we settled into a very comfortable bivouac at the foot of Nelion a hundred yards from the start of the climb. The following morning by great misfortune MT succumbed to respiratory problems for which Mount Kenya is infamous, and had to descend immediately. More climbers suffer from AMS (acute mountain sickness) on Mount Kenya than on any other mountain, so we are told.

The three survivors climbed Nelion by the E face and SE ridge, which is the voie normale at that time of year. NR and JH continued to Batian and returned to the summit of Nelion at sundown where DB had dinner ready for them in the tiny tin hut which serves as a shelter there. Next day, being Hogmanay, we had a leisurely descent (almost entirely by abseil) and a stroll down to the Teleki valley camp to reunite with MT. Any possibility of a New Year celebration was ended by NR's exotic oriental cuisine which kept half the party on the trot, but not first-footing, throughout the night.

## Europe

### Picos de Europa

DAVE BROADHEAD writes:- In early July 1991 the Broadhead family joined forces with Noel Williams and family for a visit to Spain's Picos de Europa. The Plymouth-Santander ferry made a very pleasant approach, depositing us less than a couple of hours' drive from the mountains, though our first few days were spent on the coast in some bad weather, studying Robin Walker's information packed guide book and a variety of locally produced maps before deciding on an anti-clockwise circuit of the massif. After a couple of days at Soto de Valdeon on the south side the weather finally brightened up and we walked through the magnificent Cares gorge, beginning to get to grips with the complex geography of the area with circuits of the Torre de Friero and the Bermeja group. After moving around to Potes the distraction of a swimming pool enabled Noel and me to unpack our rock gear. In the La Hermida gorge the classic South Ridge of Cueto Agero (TD-, 300m) took a good line up an impressive buttress, unfortunately growing a disappointing amount of vegetation. Thick mist at the top caused some problems in finding the descent, while in contrast the elegant South Ridge of El Jiso (TD inf, 600m) saw us baking in the sun after emerging from the early morning mist but once again this outstanding line proved a bit disappointing in quality. With the help of the cable car we enjoyed a family ascent of the Pena Vieja (2613m) before the Williams family headed home via the Pyrenees, leaving us to spend a few more days on the north side of the range before heading back to the coast and the long drive home, looking forward very much to a future visit and the chance to climb more of the higher peaks and afford a return ticket on the ferry.

Robin Chalmers, Mike Taylor and Donald Bennet were in the Alps during May for some ski-mountaineering. Starting at Saas Fee, the Allalinhorn and Alphubel were climbed in rather bad weather. Plans to go to Monte Rosa were foiled by the gigantic rock-fall above Randa which severed both the road and railway to Zermatt. This was fortunate for us, as the continuing bad weather would certainly have foiled our plans. Instead, acting on the advice of the weather forecasters, we went south with Thomas Kimming to the Italian Alps and in better conditions climbed the Punta Galisia from the Benevolo Hut, and La Tresenta and the Grand Paradiso from the Emmanuel Hut. Finally, on the last day we took the cable-car from Entreves to the Pointe Heilbronner and enjoyed a superb run down the Vallee Blanche, four of us alone on the finest ski-run in Europe.

CARL SCHASCHKE writes:- Six years after I'd met Lasse Stray on Norway's Romsdalshorn, I took the liberty of taking up his invitation in 1991 to climb with him back on his home ground. Meeting up with Lasse in Molde, a town synonymous with fjords, mountains, jazz and roses, we crossed the Romsdalsfjord to stay at his hut on the island of Bolsøy. From here we made a number of day trips across to the Romsdal mountains.

A word of caution: Norwegian weather forecasts are about as reliable as their British counterparts. The blistering sunshine expected couldn't have been further from the truth the day we chose to climb the South Face of Kvanndalstind (1744m). Described in 1885 by W.C. Slingsby as 'The steepest mountain in Europe' our ascent was in typical dreich Scottish conditions, one unidentified pitch followed another. Lost somewhere on the face the sketchy guide book description took on a thousand interpretations. We eventually found ourselves on the West Ridge at the foot of the Torshammer pinnacle. Taking time-out to climb this unusual 27m pinnacle, the guide book states 'exit through a narrow hole'. To this gross understatement I should like to add the clause 'suitable only for persons of restricted growth'.

Signing our names in the summit book on Kvanndalstind, Lasse translated the entries from the previous twenty (Nordic) parties since my last visit. Each declared Kvanndalstind to be the greatest of all the Norwegian mountains. The tales told of T-shirt ascents, blue skies and the breath-taking panorama. Sitting soaked and chilled to the bone this was not a scenario I could immediately relate to. I contemplated selling my climbing equipment.

Like the dedicated Munroist, I ventured south in search of the 2000m peaks of the Jotunheimen and the better weather. These I found where the greatest of all hillwalks is that from Gjendesheim to Memurubu. It comes highly recommended although one should be prepared to be accompanied by the rest of Europe's hillwalking community. Fortunately, the masses dwindled considerably to complete an ascent of Surningsuen (2368m).

As a contrast to the highest mountains our last call was to the remote Setesdal mountains of southern Norway. Based at Lasse's other hut, we attempted the South Face of Fagervass knuten (7° 28', 59° 20'). Previously unclimbed, Lasse and I completed the first ascent following an obvious leftward line and graded it V, 170m.

The final venue with Lasse was in his home town of Kristiansand. On my final evening with him he entered his yacht in a regatta in competition with eleven others. While Lasse captained from the helm, I was his incompetent crew. Having spoken only English on our mountaineering excursions, we decided to use Norwegian for the sailing. Little wonder we crossed the finishing line in second from last place. The only useful phrase I came away with was 'Jeg forstar ikke Norsk'.

### Czechslovakia March 1991.

COLWYN JONES reports:- Continuing the mountaineering exchanges of the last three years, eight SMC, JMCS and Etchachan club members flew into Prague on a warm spring day. A pre-perestroika customs official, demanded two of the group shave off their beards. But we kept our insulation of facial hair and he enjoyed a good joke, we think, before emerging from the mausoleum of Ruzyně airport.

Our friends from the Czechoslovak State Bank Mountaineering Club broke the air of oppression with their spontaneous welcome then loaded us into a fleet of Skodas, supplemented by a B.M.W., a recent addition and a symbol of their new prosperity.

After a welcome dinner we caught the overnight express to The High Tatras, where the carry-out was more expensive than the train ticket. Clear blue skies heralded our arrival at the main line station of Tatranska Strba, with the red faces of the Tatras reflecting the sunrise. The short rack railway up to Strbske Pleso, and we stood at six in the morning below the ski-jumping ramps, hungover and hungry. With two hours until anything opened, we stumbled the 6 kilometres up to the mountain hotel at Popradske Pleso where the frozen lake afforded parapenters a flat landing area.

The hotel was well placed for access to the central mountains, provided basic accommodation and had a restaurant, bar and shop. At a more civilised hour we could have taken a taxi.

Breakfast was devoured as the sun came up, and we discovered the ability to speak German was advantageous as East Germans climbed here during the cold months of the cold war.

Next day saw an early start and a party of six reaching the twin summits of Vysoka (2560 m) above the cloud, by a ten pitch mixed route on the north face. Two reached the opposite summit of Ganek (2459 m) following the impressive pencil-line west couloir. An adjacent route on Vysoka was climbed the next day with a sacrilegious abseil from the summit crucifix to avoid the soft snow descent route of the previous day, divine intervention! We also found the guide books only gave the summer grade, a variable indication of winter difficulties.

After a day spent 'winter cragging' on the vertical ice of frozen waterfalls on the west face of Kopky. The summit of Rysy (2499m) was 'bagged' with the opportunity to step into Poland from the summit. Here we met a Czech lady climber who spoke fondly of her Scottish male friends whom she had met at the international women's meet in Ardspeach!

The long north ridge of Ganek was completed in a long single day despite intimidating spindrift and a broken pick. Mala Basta (2289m) was ascended by the Puskasova route.

The ascent of Rysy allowed a first look at The Gallery, the huge vertical rock face on the north side of Ganek Peak. We also found the Rysy hut in the bealach between Rysy and Cesky Stit, was open and booked in for the next night. All four teams were to be found on the gallery in the morning sunshine.

The Stanislovsky Komin route up the right buttress provided a serious aid route started by three teams climbing in very thin conditions. The left wall of the gallery was bounded by a steep couloir the imaginatively named Klasicka Cesta or classic route. As the day wore on the party in the couloir experienced problems when the head of the leaders' Mountain Technology Vertige ice-hammer fractured. Their only winter gear made in Scotland! The

resulting delay meant the final pitch was completed in darkness with an inspirational lead by the Raeburn hut custodian.

The accompanying Czech could not find the descent route and after some acrimonious debate, we realised an enforced bivouac was inevitable. Every known Scottish folk-song rang through the clear night air to entertain the twinkling stars above. Dental floss was used to find a tasty titbit from between the teeth. A handy tip for any benighted and hungry climber.

Next morning the tired, hoarse and frostbitten party reached the Rysy hut to a derisory chorus of 'what kept ye'. They enjoyed a late breakfast and beat a slow retreat to the hotel to sunbathe, as the Mala Basta route was repeated and a rock climb, the S.E. ridge of Volia Veza (alpine grade 3) was completed in plastic boots.

Next day the party moved east to the Brncalova hut, helped by the bubble lift serving the ski area on Lomnisky Stit. Lastovica Veza (2625m) was climbed by the S.E. ridge and the Brull route. The final day was spent on the point five of the Tatras. Stanislovsky Cesta is a chimney on the Nemecky Rebrík face of Kezmarysky Stit, given a V.S. rock climbing grade. An adjacent gully system on Pysny Stit was also climbed.

The return to Prague was more subdued than the outward journey and we went to a Jazz night and a farewell dinner at the sports club before returning to London.

A successful expedition and mountains worth exploring in summer as well as an excellent ice-climbing area. The friendliness of the Czechs and the relative cheap cost of staying in the country are definite attractions which may not last as they become westernised.

Colwyn Jones.

## The Arctic

DAVE SNADDEN reports:- I spent six weeks in the summer of 1991 on Baffin Island with my wife and 12-year old daughter. For most of this time we wandered around the stunning granite spires, passes and glaciers of Auyuittuq National Park. The logistics and timing of organising trips to this superb part of the Arctic are a little complicated, and anyone who is interested in going is welcome to contact me for reasonably up-to-date information on the area.



## REVIEWS

**Summits and Secrets:**-Kurt Diemberger (Hodder & Stoughton, 348pp., illus., £10.99, ISBN 0-340-56048-7)

This autobiography covers Kurt Diemberger's climbing career, from his days as a gemstone seeker in his local Austrian mountains, to his early expeditions in Asia and Greenland. It does contain some detail of his student and working life but little about his personal relationships. Therefore a complete literary picture of the man is not painted. It was first published in Britain in 1971; re-appearing now to complement his new book about the disastrous events of 1986 on K2.

This book does not follow a strict chronological order. A justification for this is given in the opening chapter of, sometimes, ethereal prose. Several accounts of his early forays to the Alps and Dolomites provide, like those of other famous post-war climbers, amusing anecdotes and pause for thought for modern day activists. More daring climbs, especially that on the Konigsspitze, brought him to the attention of Hermann Buhl and so a place on his first Himalayan expedition. The chapter about this ultimately tragic adventure is probably the best in the book.

His earliest attempt at mountain filming is documented. An early repeat ascent of the Peuterey Integrale was the subject of this prize-winning film. Amusing events from his working/student life are interspersed between accounts of expeditions to the Himalayas, Hindu Kush, and Greenland.

There is a small collection of black-and-white photographs which are a little disappointing by modern standards. A summary of his major climbs to the present, and a comprehensive index, complete a book which is definitely worth reading.

Brian Dullea.

**Scottish Hill and Mountain Names:**-Peter Drummond (Scottish Mountaineering Trust, 1991, 214pp, drawings and colour cover illustrations, £9.95. ISBN-0-907521-30-4).

This selective account on the origin and meaning of Scottish hill names emphasises the great variety of names; the author writes that 'exploring this huge and fascinating variety makes up the bulk of this book'. It is easy to read and there are attractive drawings of hills.

Reliable publications in this field must involve careful study of local pronunciations, old written sources and ground inspection, and the many publications which ignore these basic rules are worthless. This book's author has used some publications that followed these rules, but some that did not, so some of the book is reliable, but some not. Unfortunately, readers will often not know which is which, because of inadequate text references and general guidance. The phrase on the cover that the book is 'thoroughly researched' is therefore an overstatement.

Further, the author is not thorough enough in using publications that he cites. For example, Lairig Ghru and Lairig an Laoigh do not mean gloomy pass and pass of the calf, but Dru pass and Lui pass, the incorrect Carn Eige should be Carn Eite, and the Cath in Coire Cath nam Fionn should be Cadha. Sneachdach Slinnean should not be Slinnean Sneachdach, as the author says on the grounds that adjective should follow noun; the many cases such as Geal Charm should have been a warning.

In a book wholly on place names, it is perverse to ignore the International Phonetic Alphabet and use inaccurate home-made suggestions instead, such as booya for the word Buidhe. The author too often accepts Ordnance Survey spellings, even where publications cited by him show that they are erroneous. The section on language does not mention that Pictish was once spoken over much of Scotland.

Too many derivations are at best highly uncertain without more research, and at worst not worth giving because they are so speculative. The statement that Bonnyfleeces is from Boineid Fleasg stretches credulity, and is typical of much that has brought place-name study in Scotland into some disrepute.

The one thing to be said for the book is that no other book on Scottish hill names exists. It is just a pity that this opportunity was not used to produce something of more reliability and lasting value.

Adam Watson.

A brief response to Adam Watson's review of *Scottish Hill and Mountain Names* (Scottish Mountaineering Trust, 1991).

My book was intended to 'take the mountains to the mountaineers', to let hill-people reclaim the heritage of names - their meaning and pronunciation. Therefore it was deliberately written with the minimum of 'text references' (that hallmark of academic books), and with a pronunciation guide more accessible to the layman than the IPA, and already used in other SMT books. The positive response of reviewers in 4 other journals, both popular and academic, justify my confidence in this approach.

The seven specific names he upbraids me for are a puzzling choice: six of them are little-known, Carn Eige being the exception (and I know of nowhere that it is spelt Eite, except in AW's review); three of them are not even hills (two Lairigs and a Coire) and are mentioned merely in passing in the book. I happen to think that he is probably wrong about the two Lairigs. He is certainly even more wrong about Slinnean Sneachdach, and Geal Charn is one of the few adjective-before-noun exceptions confined to mor, and colours like geal, a pattern discussed on pages 22, 75 and 125 of my book.

He complains that I do 'not mention Pictish'. I do! On page 61 I note that the Picts left us very few words (the experts say perhaps four): and anyway none are found in hill-names, a point Adam Watson must agree with since his own excellent co-authored book on Upper Deeside names has but one sentence on the same topic.

Finally there is his charge of speculation, a disreputable activity. Coincidentally the doyen of Scottish place-name study is also a Watson - Professor W.J. - whose 1926 magnum opus on the Celtic Names of Scotland is the bible of workers in this field. His book is full of words like 'perhaps', 'probably', 'may be' and 'possibly'. Is this speculation? Or is it simply laying out the possible options, as I tried to do, and suggesting how they fit the landscape and the language? I hope my readers will come to a less cynical conclusion than my reviewer.

Peter Drummond.

**Southern Highlands District Guide:-** Donald Bennet (SMC, 214pp., illus., £16.95, ISBN 0-907521-34-7)

This is a good District Guide continuing and a worthy successor to its predecessors. The area covered extends from the central belt northwards to the line of the River Awe, Glen Orchy, the southern edge of the Rannoch Moor, Loch Rannoch and Loch Tummel. From there the eastern boundary follows the rivers Tummel and Tay to the sea and includes the Kingdom of Fife. On the west the area is bounded by the coast from the Firth of Clyde round the Cowal peninsula to Kintyre and up to the lower reaches of Loch Etive.

The principles of entertaining information to be read as an aid to planning an outing or as a means of extracting later pleasure are welcome compared to the spoon feeding of the Munros or Corbetts. Routes are suggested rather than dictated and so pressure on footpaths or the need to devote part of the book's profits to their upkeep are not so necessary. Also welcomed are the descriptions of low level walks, often following old rights of way and Drover's roads. These are the paths that deserve to be popularised and reinstated instead of encouraging weekend crocodiles queuing for yet another tick their list or map. Another feature is the information on the Hydro electric schemes and it is interesting to discover how small is the power output resulting from these power stations. Is the intrusion of dams, tarmac roads, pylons and the inevitable reservoir shore lines really worth the meagre 20 - 40 MW of generation?

The photographs are superb as usual but could there be, just occasionally, a hint of bad weather. A good proportion of our outings seem to be in poor if not appalling conditions and as all hills then look the same even a single example would suffice. It would be also be some consolation that at least one of the photographers had been wet in the Southern Highlands. A thoroughly good district guide for which Donald Bennet is to be congratulated.

Ian Angell.

**Flammes de Pierre:**-Anne Sauvy (Diadem, 176pp, £12.99, ISBN 0-906371 -83 X).

The short stories that make up *Flammes de Pierre* are all set in the Mont Blanc range and the protagonists are all Chamoniards or French climbers from the cities. They are observed by Mme. Sauvy in a variety of predicaments and they exhibit the usual range of virtues and vices encountered in mountaineers. We meet a boastful priest in *The Penance*, a foolhardy youth in *Les Flammes de Pierre*, an enthusiastic but incompetent climber in *The Pest*, and so forth. Some of the story lines are simple, such as the Faust story (*La Fourche*), the husband who jeers at his wife for worrying whenever he returns from a climb late (*For Whom the Helicopter Flies*), and the hyperbolic vision of the future (2084). But most of the stories are clever fantasies in which something quite out of the ordinary happens - perhaps involving a ghost, a doppelganger, a strange death or escape from death. While there is much wit in these stories, and even some satire, Mme Sauvy's comedy usually stops short of farce, which helps to create tension since a tragic outcome is always on the cards, and frequently turns up!

I enjoyed these stories very much. Mme. Sauvy has an effortless narrative style, handles dialogue economically and skilfully, and her evocation of the Alpine scene is the assured product of long years of close acquaintance. Her work belongs in the tradition of short story writing begun in our literature by Poe and Saki and continuing to the present day in the likes of John Collier and Roald Dahl: fine writing, no frills, always a denouement and often a twist. What is perhaps remarkable is that she has managed to find story lines that are necessarily linked to mountains or mountaineering, an achievement which invites comparison with Wodehouse's wonderfully effective golf stories (though these are farces).

There has been quite a lot of short mountaineering fiction published recently. Mme. Sauvy's work is easily the best I have come across. She has two other collections not yet available in English (*Le jeu de la montagne et du hasard*. Montalba, 1985 and *La tenebre et l'azur*, Gallimard, 1991). Diadem's excellent editor Audrey Salkeld, who introduces *Flammes de Pierre*, is clearly impressed by Sauvy: I am sure we will see English versions of these other books before long.

Robin N. Campbell

**Last Days:**-John Roskelley (Hodder & Stoughton, 211pp., illus., glossary, £19.95, ISBN 0-340-55965-9).

A read I enjoyed, to my surprise, many expedition stories being found by me at least tedious if not boring. But then the standard of writing may well be on the increase, given both the increase in expedition writers, and presumably the increase in publishing competition. Evolution can be tough that way.

Roskelley was born in Spokane, Washington, and judging by his exploits in this book and his jacket photo he must fairly ruffy-tuffy. He's certainly pragmatic. The start of each chapter is enlivened by a quotation from 'Roskelley's *First Climber's Dictionary*, 1991', e.g. Chapter 14 begins with the definition of nomad thus:- 1. A member of a people free of stress and madness created by house payments, car expenses, charge cards, and civilized life. 2. What I should have been.

John Roskelley is a good, observant writer. If and when he turns to writing thrillers he'll have to hire an accountant. Arriving in China he meets his official interpreter in Zhangmu only one day late, despite the travel arrangements including the usual Chinese delays. His interpreter 'William' mediates with the official L.O., Liaison Officer, a Mr Chen. 'One look at Mr. Chen Jianjun...and I knew why our American forces had been stalemated in Korea. This guy could make first-string defensive linebacker on any number of NFL teams. Despite his sumo-wrestler build, Mr. Chen's movements were economical and fluid as if it cost him yuan, the Chinese currency, to step too far or reach out unnecessarily.' Roskelley felt that their late arrival had put them on Chen's wrong side. 'William confirmed my suspicion.

"Mr. Chen says you are late."

"Tell Mr. Chen I'm not getting paid enough for this shit. Have him take it up with Mr. Wickwire."

"I don't understand 'shit'," he said.

"It's American for anything that's a problem, like that," I answered, pointing at a pile of cow dung on the road.

"Oh, I see." The puzzled look was quickly replaced with a smile. "Yes, yes. I know what you mean. Good word, 'shit.'"

I'm not going to recount the climbing in this book, though Tawoche in Nepal and Menlungste in Tibet figure large. Suffice to say that you don't survive eighteen major Himalayan expeditions by being stupid. You also don't get your book read from cover to cover by this reviewer by being boring and/or non-humorous. And which famous British climber has left behind a child who has a remarkable likeness (To the British climber that is...) Roskelley is honest in his accounts of mountains and countries and the family life he has to abandon for each expedition. Recommended.

**Quest for Adventure:**-Chris Bonington (Hodder & Stoughton, paperback, 352pp., illus., £10.95, ISBN 0-340-56049-5).

Paperback edition of this adventure compilation, first published in 1981. A good pre-holiday read to get you in the mood for heroics.

**Vortex:**-David Harris (Diadem, 208pp., £13.99, ISBN 0-906371-19-8).

One of our reviewers, Bill Murray, while reviewing 'One Step in the Clouds' last year, commented that 'Vortex' should receive its just reward as a novel standing in its own right, as a 200-page book. And here it is, a thriller involving the North Cascades, drugs, and climbers.

**The Alpine 4000m Peaks, a guide for mountaineers:**-Richard Goedeke (Diadem, 240pp, 96 photographs, 32 sketch maps, 17 topos, ISBN 0-906371-29-5).

This plastic-bound guidebook is an edited version of the translated German edition of 1990. It describes some sixty-one mountains, and might serve as a good introduction to these classic peaks. The print is large and legible.

**Himalayan Climber:**-Doug Scott (Diadem, 192pp, many photos., £19.99, ISBN 0-906371-93-7).

Like Roskelley, Scott is another survivor. So is Bonington, come to think of it. Scott is like a dark horse, suddenly appearing just before the finishing post, pushing hard on the leader's heels, yet he's always been around, ugly Lennon/granny spectacles, flower-power locks and detached air; pretty ordinary really. Apart from the climbs that is. This fine, heavily illustrated book would sit well on anyone's desk; in fact, it's a bargain. The photographs, as Ken Wilson (well he would) says in the Introductory Note, include some of the best high-altitude shots taken, and I have to agree. Once again, looking with envy at some snow-plumed ridge above it all, I wonder whether or not I should have taken the safe route to mortgage and marriage. Stupid question really, considering his grossly elevated abilities. At least, like a few thousand others, I can claim to have had a pint of beer with him.

Colour separations in Bangkok, photostet in Yorkshire, and printed in Italy, this book will have you drooling over the greater ranges. Whether you get round to reading the words in between is another thing, but yes, consult the book.

**Second Man on the Rope:**-Ian Mitchell (Mercat Press, Edinburgh; 136pp., £6.95, ISBN 1873644019).

An enjoyable read for the most part, though here and there distinct fin-de-siècle feelings intrude; this man just might be running out of stories. Thus, the chapter punnily entitled 'Keeping Cuillin Difficulty' was the subject of a Kevin Sutton story in the 1991 S.M.C.J. ('Rainy Days and Sodden Nights'). Other minor pieces of 'secondary tellings' include the cover, where the classic photograph by A.E. Robertson of the crux section of Crowberry Ridge Direct has been crudely redrawn (the others inside are better). It's not that I mind these transforming works of art; we all borrow from before, it's just that there is no real nod, or bow,

or even passing wink to any other pre-existing work in the subject matter - man and the hills. And the leader on Crowberry Ridge is wearing E.B.s (not that I blame him!)

The stories that work best, as might be expected, are those that tell of real pain, such as 'Before a Fall', when Mitchell and his mate Davie, to whom the book is dedicated, are avalanched on Beinn a' Chreachain. But the writer and many of his readers are perhaps closer together than both sides think. It's quite probable, for example, that we crossed paths in the bar of Inverarnan Inn. I would have body-swerved his crowd, jovial, numerous, rough-edged, steaming in front of the log fire by right of being wet, while he would have ignored the p-faced duo or trio in the quiet draughty corner by the window, discussing the crux of the day. And both of us would have enjoyed our day on the hill, just as we were enjoying our foaming pints of ale.

Mitchell has the observant eye and the sharp tongue to go with it, even if reading writing in the vernacular I find irritating. But this isn't a forcan terrible buik, and fan ye gang tae the buik-shop mind an pay for this ane at least.

Ken Crockett.

**Suspended Sentences from the life of a Climbing Cameraman:-Jim Curran (Hodder & Stoughton; ISBN 0-340-51817-0; £14.95)**

For once the Editor did not have to twist my arm to do this. Having been impressed by Jim Curran's concluding chapter in Geoff Birtles' compilation, 'Alan Rouse - a Mountaineer's life', I was curious to read more. Additionally, the relative novelty of a semi-autobiography from someone who had associated with many well-known climbers, yet who never pretended to be any more than an average performer himself, fond of having a good time, appealed to me. As well as his own story, I hoped perhaps that Curran might bring an interesting perspective to bear on some of his more famous contemporaries.

Although it is not without interest, I left the book sadly disappointed. The earlier chapters, including one on making a film of Menlove Edwards' article, 'A Great Effort' and one on the successful Trango expedition, were quite enjoyable, but as I progressed I was increasingly overcome by the feeling that I'd read much of it before (and, it has to be said, better written). The cast was familiar - Anthoine, Brown, Boardman, Bonington, Boysen, Harris, Rouse, Tasker, Whillans et al, as were many of the locations - the Padarn for one. However, if you intend to write a book with names like those in it, I would suggest that you really need to have something new to say about them. For myself, I think I've heard enough stories about outrageous drunken behaviour. Unless they're really something...

In fairness, there is more to the book than I may be implying, and occasionally little insights are offered. Examples include the chapters on Kongur, where the differing attitudes of Boardman, Tasker and Rouse are briefly discussed. However, the interest such sections generated didn't begin to compensate for the irritation much of the rest of the book caused me.

The truth is that Curran's writing, at least as it is displayed here, is rarely up to the mark. The dialogue is stilted and the descriptions, while laden with adjectives, unconvincing; rarely does he succeed in creating an atmosphere, or even successfully communicate what one assumes were very funny occasions. The more serious passages are hardly any better; even his feelings during a trip to St Kilda, the disaster of K2 less than a year behind him and still a deeply disturbing memory, are not conveyed as compellingly as one would have wished. Either Curran is unable to articulate them, or has not put in the effort to do so properly.

In the chapters on the trip to Kongur, Curran mentions Kashgar, and paraphrases H.W. Tilman, who described the locals as regarding it as 'exceedingly bad form so much as to cross the street on foot if it is possible to ride across on a horse'. I suppose Jim Curran could hardly help it, but the last mountain book I read was *The Ascent of Nanda Devi*, and I was reminded of my delight in Tilman's witty, gripping, yet understated prose. I know few authors stand comparison, but nonetheless with the mention of Tilman the shortcomings of Curran's book were thrown into stark relief. I'm afraid, in this reviewer's opinion at least, that in every department except perhaps the photographs this book simply doesn't make the grade.

Bob Duncan.

**The Climbing Guide to Scotland:**-T. Prentice. (Crowood Press, 205pp., illust., £13.99, ISBN 1-85223-527-6).

This is a useful little publication but is more of a gazetteer to crags than a traditional guide book. Largely the book meets its ambitious objective of covering the whole of Scotland, summer and winter. Each crag gets the equivalent of an introductory paragraph in a local guide book. Thus it describes the general character of the routes, the quality of the rock, and normally important routes to get a bearing on the crag. There are no route descriptions as such, just general comments such as 'the stunning R arete is taken by THE EDGE OF EXTINCTION E6 6B,' with route names always in bold type.

Research has been thorough and fairly comprehensive. Sketch maps give a good overview of where the climbing is while details include the altitude of crags, the appropriate map and grid reference number as well as relevant publications including specific SMC journals where climbs are documented. A sign of the times – or perhaps the comprehensive nature of the publication-climbing walls are included.

After a while the author's obvious enthusiasm for stone circles and prehistoric relics starts to irritate after being told yet again that this or that artifact from the past 'should not be missed.' Similarly the phrase 'You'd better believe it!' when describing ice on Arran or the Cobbler niggles. The photographs are all action shots in black and white but are not quite produced to the high standard we all now expect in any book. Crags are listed by mountain which sometimes is not the most common way to refer to the crag. However these are minor complaints of a well-researched book where the author's enthusiasm comes across while directing us towards new climbing areas. Many who have been active in Scotland for thirty years will no doubt claim there is nothing new in this publication but for those of us with a less comprehensive knowledge and a desire to go somewhere different this book offers a much more useful starting point than do the glossy coffee table books.

Stan Pearson.

**The Trekking Peaks of Nepal:**-Bill O'Connor (The Crowood Press, 1989 (paperback edition 1991), 224pp, £14.95, ISBN 1-85223-651-50).

There are eighteen mountains in the Nepal Himalaya which are described as 'trekking peaks', and as such are more readily accessible to visiting mountaineers than is the vast throng of Himalayan giants. The trekking peaks are mostly of modest height (by Himalayan standards), from 5500m to 6500m. However, the name given to them is misleading, for some of them (for example Hiunchuli and Kusum Kanguru) are hard climbs by any route and even the easy ones involve more than ordinary trekking. On a good day with firm snow conditions Mera may well turn out (if you are sufficiently well acclimatised) to be a fine high-level hillwalk, but if the wind is blowing, or the snow unconsolidated, or the crevasses gaping open it is a very different proposition.

One of the attractions of the trekking peaks is the relative absence of red-tape associated with them compared with an attempt on one of the really high peaks. There is no need for a liaison officer; a climbing permit, a modest peak fee and a sirdar to help to organise things are the three essentials, although many parties will engage the services of a trekking agency to deal with the many other matters of transport, provisioning and porters essential for a mini-expedition.

Bill O'Connor has a wealth of experience as a Himalayan climber and a leader of parties on the trekking peaks. His book is a mine of essential information for anyone planning a climb on one of them. For each one there is a description of the approach, stage by stage, and of the various routes on the mountain. Numerous maps and photographs illustrate the text. There are also useful short chapters on the organisation of lightweight expeditions, equipment, keeping healthy, climate, emergencies and rescue, and the inevitable rules and regulations governing a visit to one of these lower mountains of the Nepal Himalaya.

This book can be strongly recommended to anyone planning a first visit to one of the trekking peaks, particularly anyone planning a do-it-yourself expedition. There are not a few problems and pitfalls to be met. This book will help you to anticipate and solve them, and thereby help to ensure a troublefree, and hopefully successful, expedition.

**Mountains and Other Ghosts:**-Dermot Somers (Diadem Books, 1990, 224pp, £12.95, ISBN 0-906371-63-5, also in paperback at £7.95).

Dermot Somers' short stories have appeared in the last few years in climbing magazines and the Irish Press, and they are collected here for the first time. As the title suggests, mountains feature strongly in many of these stories, and the author's first-hand experience on several of the biggest and blackest walls in the Alps gives his stories authenticity.

However, Dermot Somers draws on his climbing experience not so much as a subject in itself, but as the framework for the observation of human characters operating under tension in situations of considerable stress. (That seems to be a fair description of climbing the Eiger Nordwand on the day of Armageddon).

Readers of this Journal will probably enjoy most those stories which have a climbing or a mountain setting. I certainly did. I have often looked at the vertical columns of Fair Head in County Antrim and wondered what those climbs would be like. Now, after reading Somers' first story, I know and am impressed. In 'Dark Mourne' he tells of three young cyclists from south of the Border who arrive late one black night at the climbers' hut in the Silent Valley to find that it seems to have undergone a mysterious change of use, and its occupants pose a more menacing threat to unsuspecting visitors than would the occupants of the CIC on the night of a club meet.

D. Bennet.

**Mountain Days and Bothy Nights:**-Dave Brown and Ian Mitchell (Luath Press, 1990, 182pp, £5.95, ISBN 0-946487-15-4).

This collection of stories, anecdotes, histories and lore has been reprinted three times since its original publication in 1987 which indicates that it must be a good read with a growing readership. The tales are homely in the very best sense of that word. They record the doings, sayings, incongruities and idiosyncrasies of the denizens of the bothy underworld, a level of Scottish life in which romance always triumphs over adversity and squalor. All this is described in an easy philosophical style. As well as being a good read the book is an authentic word picture of this part of the climbing scene in latter-day Scotland, which, like any good picture, will increase in charm over the years.

Iain Smart.

**Island at the Edge of the World:**-Stephen Venables (Hodder & Stoughton, 177pp, 33 colour photos, £16.99, ISBN 0340-556005).

Stephen Venables was singularly fortunate in enlisting the co-operation of the military garrison on South Georgia as, without it, mounting an expedition to this wind and blizzard swept island would be extremely difficult. The contrast between South Georgia at 54°S and the city of York at 54°N is quite remarkable.

Climbing mountains in an environment where the weather destroys tents in a very short time requires a particular kind of tenacity which Stephen appears to have in abundance. The ascent of Mount Carse, the main objective of the expedition, was achieved by spending three weeks waiting in a snow cave for a brief weather window and then risking that it would continue for the two days required for the ascent.

The story is well told with interesting historical diversions relating to the Falklands war and the mis-use of the island by the whalers and sealers. The latter have much to answer for. The photographs - a pity there are so few - are a poignant reminder of how the greed of man can despoil even the most remote locations. The climbing and mountain photographs, all taken in the intervals between storms, are excellent but, not surprisingly, give no idea of the foul conditions which prevail.

The masochists among us will enjoy reading this book while dreaming of ascending blizzard swept peaks. I certainly enjoyed it!

Bill Wallace.

**A View from the Ridge:** Dave Brown and Ian Mitchell (Ernest Press, 1991, 185pp, £6.50, ISBN 0-94815-311-3).

Whatever the reader may think of the authors' views on escaping the problems and tensions of the city, of the self-destructive tendencies of young Scots, of sex and the single bothy girl, they were categorically wrong in one opinion. On page 6 we read 'It'll no win the Tasker-Boardman Memorial Prize', but within three months of publication it became co-winner of the Award. It is a good read, and you may have to queue for it at your local library.

Neutral observers they are not - Dave Brown and Ian Mitchell are totally committed addicts who transmit their enthusiasm in a lively and humorous narrative, with keen observation of people and places. The fifteen divergent chapters encompass cycling, sailing, rail travel (all to the hills), bothying, ultramontane in Yosemite, fighting, drinking, a funeral, and most of the subjects normal amongst climbers. Evocative drawings by Maggie Ramage capture the atmosphere and enliven the presentation.

They helpfully announce their unifying thread early on: 'when on the hills you take with you the baggage of problems and tensions that drove you to seek their solace'. They sustain this theme consistently so that the reader is provoked to reflect on his own experience of the hills and to agree or disagree with their thesis, that Hell is not a city and there is no rural Utopia. The book also seeks to answer the question of motivation in an attempt to explain the addiction of the hills, but steers clear of metaphysics and philosophising.

They range widely in their quotations and in their travels through the Highlands; the setting of the one chapter written in the Doric tongue is Shenavall bothy and the north-west. Like their first book 'Mountain Days and Bothy Nights', this one is male-oriented and what shines through is their love of company. Not for them the solo excursion or the isolated campsite. Characters like Fishgut Mac, Postie, Stumpy and Mealy Puddin abound, and the later chapters return inevitably to the sociable themes of the proletarian revolution in climbing of the fifties and sixties - The Auld Crowd, Requiem for Willie, the Married Man's Bothy Weekend.

These are two good men, true lovers of the hills, and anyone of their generation could add another chapter to their book. Any additions would have to reflect their theme that what you run away to reflects all that you run away from. The deplorable practice of club secretaries arranging winter club meets at your favourite remote bothy would reinforce the theme. On the other hand the mind-blowing concentration of a long unprotected ice pitch displaces all other tensions. Then there is the disturbing argument that 'climbing demands so much egotistical, physical and mental energy that it is inevitably a narrowing and constraining activity'.

Thus have I fallen into the trap which irritated slightly on first reading, of presenting a balance and tolerance of opposing views. They denounce Munro-bagging as a 'neurotic, middle-aged impulse', yet end the chapter by quoting Robertson with approval: 'I look back upon the days I have spent pursuing this quest as among the best spent of my life'. The pioneers did not necessarily have a harder time of it without the motor car. At least they could rely on putting their bicycles in the guard's van, which has since disappeared or is denied to us.

Then, horrors, one of them goes to Colorado to work as an Outward Bound instructor. He manages to reconcile his own anarchic enjoyment of the hills with the organised adventure laid on for his novices, in the beautiful and remote surroundings of the San Juan Mountains. Maybe they do not want to cause offence by taking sides too strongly.

One strange omission which is hard to believe is that the only one who gets lost in all these tales is the married man's dog. We could have enjoyed some more tales of heroic misadventure. They make up for this by visiting Collie's and Mackenzie's graves at Struan, without which the climber's pilgrimage to the Cuillin is surely incomplete.

Yacht owners will enjoy reading of approaches in wild seas to the hills of Skye and Knoydart, and everyone will wish to study their exploration of reasons for the scarcity of women climbers in the sixties and seventies. Their activity is compared unfavourably with women of the Inglis Clark-Raeburn-Bell eras. The scene changed in the eighties and it would be interesting to read the authors' views on why we now see so many good women's teams on the summer crags, but never on winter climbs. Recent history of Club A.G.M.s suggest that most of us will be muttering our own thoughts under our breath, provoked once again into taking sides, by this splendid book.

Ron Hockey.



**In Monte Viso's Horizon:-** Will McLewin (The Ernest Press, 1991, 255pp, £16.95, ISBN 0-948153-09-1)

The perplexing title of this book is partly explained by the sub-title, 'Climbing all the Alpine 4000m Peaks', since many of them can be seen from distant Monte Viso in the southern Alps. From this it might be a guide book of alternative routes or a history of noteworthy ascents, but it is neither; instead, the book is a unique account of one man's experiences and achievement.

Will McLewin is a man of many parts: mathematician by profession, accomplished musician, recognised horticultural botanist and successful fell-runner. But for us he is a mountaineer who over the holidays of the 22 years up to 1988 succeeded in climbing the complete list of fourthousanders in the Alps. Karl Blodig was credited with the first completion in about 1900, then Eustace Thomas (of stretcher fame) was the first British mountaineer to equal that in 1930, even if neither fulfilled the modern listing. Although the author admits to the arbitrary nature of such a list and the discretion that has to be exercised over inclusion or exclusion (a dilemma well-known to members of this Club), he was the first British mountaineer and one of the very few to ascend all the now-recognised 53 main summits and 39 subsidiary points. Unfortunately it is the consequence of such a list that many notable or even more difficult mountains do not qualify, but all of the fourthousanders are worthy mountains by any standard. Thus in Will McLewin's success in climbing nearly one-third of them solo, we recognise not only his skill and determination but also more than a suggestion of his philosophy.

The fourthousanders are divided in the book into twelve sections which coincide closely with recognisable mountain groups. Each section starts with an introduction containing a general but not definitive survey, then the mountains follow in separate articles of a few paragraphs or pages, starting with an indication of the chosen route, the grade in the usual French alpine system, and the party. No dates are given, although the year can be found in an appendix, neither is there much information on times taken, but plenty on weather and conditions. The book is abundantly illustrated with photographs, diagrams and maps. The photographs, mostly by the author, are of a near-uniformly superb standard and shine from the pages. Some monotony of blue skies and perfect weather becomes apparent as a result of the prime purpose of most to illustrate the routes, so that the leavening with a few atmospheric scenes of great beauty is all the more welcome. A few photographs are too dark, perhaps because an ultra-violet filter was not used on the camera, and it is unfortunate that the Rochefort Ridge has been left with an obtrusive object in the foreground. All photographs illustrating routes are accompanied by a small outline diagram to help with the identification of summits and important features, though it would have made reference much easier if the keys had been listed in alphabetical order. The simplified maps in three colours showing huts, routes and summits are models of clear draughtmanship. An interesting feature of the book is the insertion of a discursive essay on a general topic of mountaineering interest at the end of each main section. The index is fully detailed, with a somewhat elaborate scheme of page references, but there are a few trivial entries that would have been much better omitted.

Will McLewin's style is direct and unpretentious, so that the narrative flows and the reader shares his experiences. The writing is mainly subjective and anecdotal, because his intention throughout is to use the experience of ascending all fourthousanders as a framework for personal exploration and self-discovery. A few errors and mis-spellings (such as a persistent Feechopf instead of Feekopf) were noted in reading for this review; nevertheless these and other criticisms are minor blemishes in an otherwise fine publication, and these reservations are of insignificant importance to the general enjoyment and understanding of the book.

It is clear that much care and thought has gone into its writing and publication, so that at once it looks and feels good; there can be no better stimulus to opening, reading and enjoying. For those who have climbed some of the fourthousanders, this book will recall past pleasures; for others it will suggest challenges to come, and might even entice a few into emulating das grosseres Munros. However, for all interested in a range that for 200 years has represented the very essence of mountain form and mountaineering endeavour, it is a highly recommended account of one man's achievement which must be unique in mountaineering literature.

Trevor Ransley.

## Journals of Kindred Clubs

### *The American Alpine Club Journal 1991.*

As usual this is a superb diary of events in the climbing world.

From Tomo Cesen's solo of Lhotse's South Face in 46 hours to 45 routes done in 100 days, all on 14000ers in the Sierra Nevada.

There are articles on Himalayan Expeditions, namely Makalu's West Pillar which was a first female ascent for Kitty Calhoun Grissom, new routes on Cho Oyu and Shisha Pangma, cragging in the Karakoram on vertical granite towers, not forgetting The Everest International Peace Climb, when 20 climbers, comprising of Americans, Soviets and Tibetans reached the summit over a three day period. They also removed two tons of rubbish from the mountain, which in these environmental times, really does deserve a pat on the back.

There are the usual exciting new routes in the Alaska range, namely False Dawn on Foraker's South East Face and a new variant on the Hummingbird Ridge on Mount Logan, which consisted of an eight day ascent, followed by four days of descent, three of which were without food or water, until the climbers discovered a cache of perfectly preserved food, left over from a 1953 expedition, 'Manna From Heaven', was how David Nettle summed it up.

Climbs and expedition reports from the United States, the Himalaya and just about everywhere else in between. The section on Nepal has been well reported by Elizabeth Hawley, a remarkable lady who keeps meticulous records of each and every expedition into Nepal.

To sum up, a sumptuous menu, something to get your teeth into.

Kevin Wilson.

This is The Section for Reviews We Had To Do, even though we were not sent a review copy. The first review is of a self-styled 'fanzine', definitely the Private Eye of Scottish Hillwalkers. It's produced in Glasgow, where else? Find it in mountaineering shops at a ridiculous price. The second is for a paperback book of climbing cartoons by a Canadian girl. As we were not sent it for review, through some gross cosmic oversight, your Hon. Editor actually bought it for himself, which is recommendation enough. We will not provide its ISBN of course, but will give the title and say that it is published by Cordee.

### *The Angry Corrie*

You go away for a weekend with some mates, climb a hill or two, get drizzled on, have transport troubles. You go down to the local pub, chat, and most importantly have a dammed good laugh.

Everyone in a group, old or young, tend to create humour with what they have; with the people, their clothes, equipment, cooking, whatever. A right good ribbing to bring people down to earth from potential lofty pretensions to being serious mountain dudes. It's part and parcel of the weekend experience, right? I think so, but if you disagree then don't buy the Angry Corrie. You might feel that too many sacred cows are being tickled to death before your eyes.

The Angry Corrie's aspirations may seem fuzzy, unless you saw Issue One's Editorial a year ago, where it was suggested that too much hillwalking writing was up in the clouds as far as the ordinary hillwalking punter was concerned. The Angry Corrie is trying to bring hillwalking down to earth through humour. It takes the mickey out of personalities, gear ('useless equipment reviewed' etc) and generally people's Munro-bagging obsessions.

It's still a fledgeling rag, only six issues old. Obviously put together on a bootlace budget, trying to find the right format, needing more punter contributions and with a propensity to try and squeeze a joke out of almost every sentence. It contains a mish-mash of articles, poems, a Vizesque cartoon, criticism, descriptions of hillwalks. With its drawings done by a tiny spider trying to shake the ink off its legs and the obligatory Letters to The Editor, most of which were probably drafted in the Clachaig (aren't all the best letters?) Therefore, it can be a bit hit or miss, but it's also distinctly different - it is the first hillwalkers' fanzine after all. It's cheap (50p for Munros' sake) and should give you at least a few laughs in its twenty or so pages.

I think it asks the reader to allow it to be silly in order to get some informative and serious points about the hill-scene across. I hope it can keep its sense of a humorous overview. There's always the danger of it creating its own niche and style of criticism and humour which could become stale. Also, writing that praises is virtually non-existent. At least the fanzine tries to create something that has information, criticism and humour in its pages. There are many untapped readers out there ready for talking that way about people and the hills.

Can the Angry Corrie survive, keep its balance and not become too daft? Like a good weekend away it always demands fresh input if it wants to stay funny and on the right track. Fingers crossed.

Malcolm Simmonds.

*Climbing Tales of Terror*, sub-titled *Wicked Lies & Malicious Slander*, is a book of climbing cartoons by a Mrs Tami Knight, a lady of obvious character who hangs out in a demented little corner of Canada's Coast Range. The book should come with a health warning, as one's viscera will be in grave danger of undergoing strangulation due to a severe case of the hysterics. An Italian Hitch of the small intestine is not to be sneezed at. This is the funniest collection of climbing cartoons I've come across, with a sustained and inventive line throughout. I've even found myself in the book (in the sketch entitled 'Identify the Climber most likely to Whine about a Bolt', I'm No.2, the 'Fossilized Guidebook Writer and member of the board of directors who hasn't climbed harder than 5.6 since 1975.'

The view from a female angle is of course examined, with a hilarious page on how to plan a climbing trip with a man (basically bring lots of toys for him and a really good set of ear plugs and a good bottle of malt for yourself). There is throughout the book a sustained attack on the microcephalic climbing subset who climb ice and who, it would seem, are not very high up in the evolutionary scale according to Mrs Knight (why Mrs, one asks, and not Ms? Because in Mrs Knight's house there are NO PIGS). Thus ice climbers are easily confused by handing them a jar of plastic flies with all the wings missing. Lycra comes in for much abuse, as do bolters, and whinemaster competition climbers. Then there's Roger's Disposable Avalanche Poodles. Buy or steal this book (either way she gets the royalties) and LIGHTEN UP WEENIES.

Ken Crocket.

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Articles for the Journal should be submitted before the end of January for publication in the following issue. Lengthy contributions are preferably typed, double-spaced, on one side only, and with ample margins (minimum 30mm). Articles may be accepted on floppy disk, IBM compatible (contact editor beforehand). The editor welcomes material from both members and non-members, with priority being given to articles of Scottish Mountaineering content. Photographs are also welcome, and may be black and white, unglazed glossy prints, preferably 250mm by 200mm, or colour slides. All material should be sent to the Editor, address as above.

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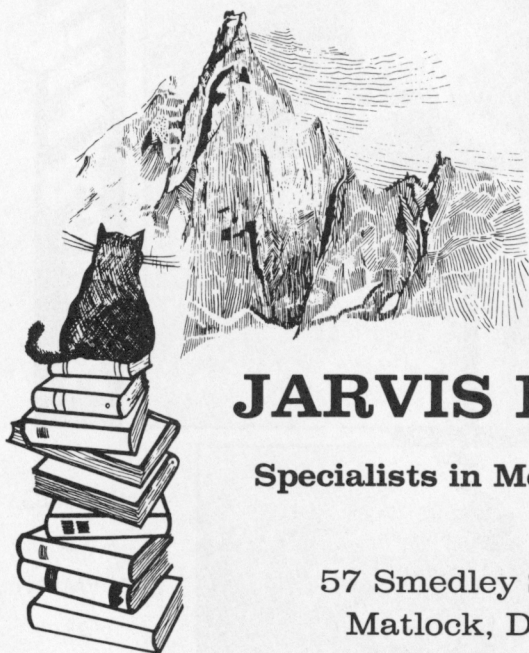
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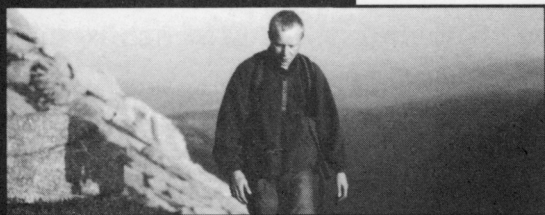
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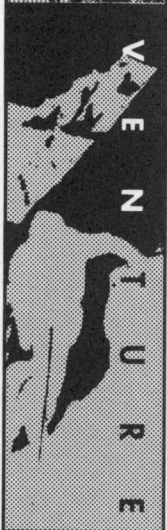


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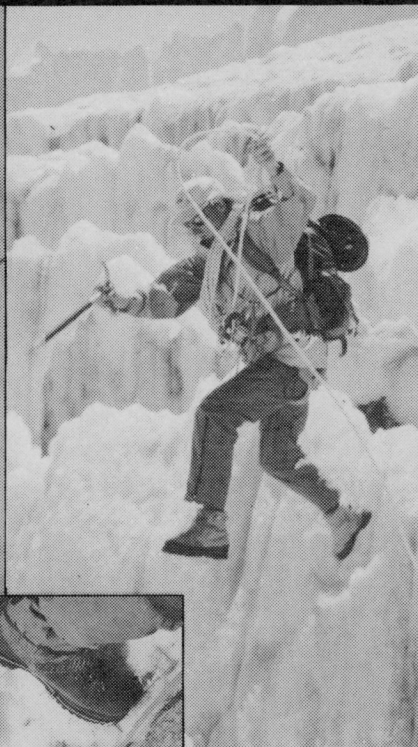
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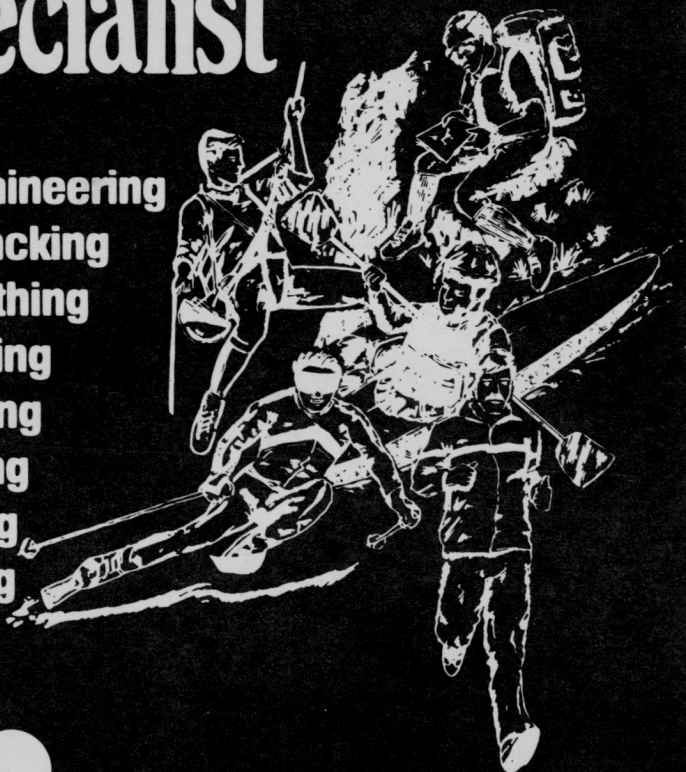
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