

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

CURRENT TRENDS IN SCOTTISH ROCK CLIMBING

Andy Tibbs reproduces below his seminar given before the SMC Annual Dinner.

Over the last 10 years rock climbing standards have rocketed and the quantity of people heading to the Scottish hills has soared. Climbing walls are springing up throughout Scotland and rock climbing is no longer for the keen fanatics – it is accepted as the norm.

So, with higher standards and more climbers, are we starting to run out of unclimbed rock in Scotland? Without trying to predict quite what the future holds we can analyse some trends over the last decade. Climbs certainly have been getting shorter and harder, and are likely to continue to do so – the graph 'New Routes (Rock) 1992' shows a dramatic peak of 76 new routes between 10m and 19m.

The second graph 'New Routes (Rock) 1992 vs 1983' compares route lengths in 1992 with 1983 when a large number of mountain new routes were climbed (the peak at 120m-139m is due to development of Creag an Dubh Loch, Lochnagar and the Shelterstone). Clearly, there is a sharp contrast between 1983 and 1992 with a definite trend towards shorter routes in 1992 – other years illustrate this same trend throughout the last decade.

Notes:-

1. All information is from the SMC Journals and does not include the many outcrop routes not recorded in the Journal.
2. Is it now more common to lead E5 than complete the Munros?
3. Thanks to A. Matthewson (SMC) for graphics.

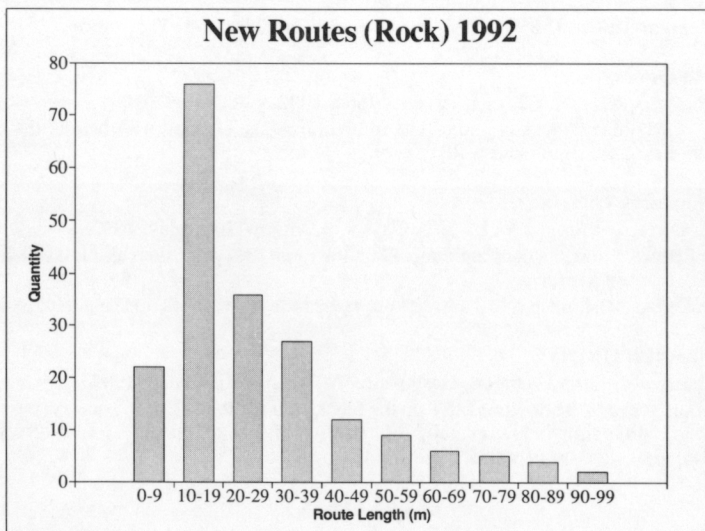


Fig. 1

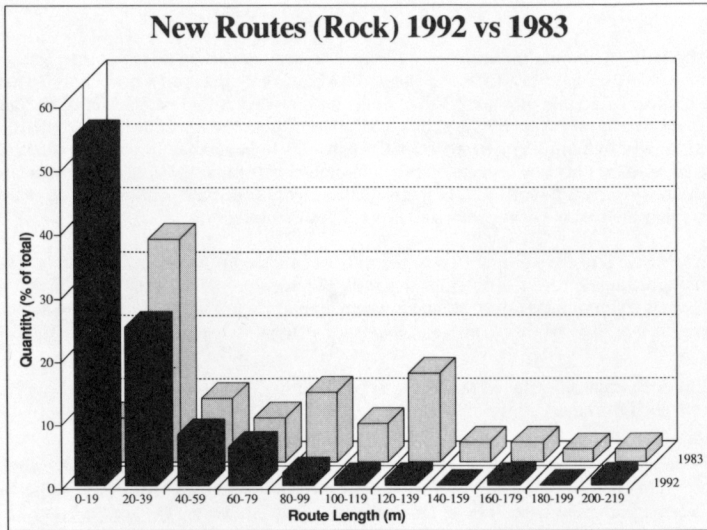


Fig. 2

CLUB ARCHIVES

The Club's known Archives are divided, somewhat arbitrarily, between the National Library of Scotland and the Club Library in Glasgow. I would appreciate hearing from you if you know of Club property elsewhere that might be considered part of our Archives,

The Club Archives include such items as Minute books, hut and hotel climbing books, texts of lectures, personal diaries, correspondence, and photographs taken on Meets. Material of this sort is often destroyed when it might have been kept for the interest of members in future years. Members wishing to entrust their climbing notes to the Club should remember that their value is much increased if they (The notes, not the member!) are clearly identified and dated.

Donald B. McIntyre.

MUNRO MATTERS

By W.D. Brooker (Clerk of the List)

Over the Hill?—This year there are only 123 new names, more than 40 fewer than last year, so that the peak may have been reached at last and Munro-bagging is now in decline. To judge by the number of people on the hills this seems unlikely but if there are fewer of the head-down, get to the top as fast as possible, tick the Table and on to the next one brigade, then most of us will not be unhappy. The letters from Compleaters indicate that the actual collection of Munro summits is only one aspect of a much more extensive interest in mountains and only a tiny minority see it as an end in itself. It is from these letters and their occasionally unguarded contents that the List is put together and these notes compiled.

AMENDMENTS to the existing List begin with 14 corrections to last year's entries. These were the unfortunate result of the Editor's sophisticated computer being too high-brow to accept simple communications from the low-grade (and cheap) word processor which is all that the Clerk of the List can afford. Apologies are offered to these victims of misrepresentation.

As usual three columns refer to Munros – Tops – Furths.

(354) Borland George	1984 1984	(451) Caldwell Craig	1984
	and 1989		and 1985

Should be as shown here, while (361) Kenneth Deas, (518) John Wyllie, (623) Maurice Watson, (634) Bill Miller, (662) John Barker, (663) Ruth Barker, (780) Eddie Sutherland, (781) Norma Sutherland, (857) Peter Hughill, (862) Tom Anderson, (876) Elsa Yates, (877) Robert Yates, (880) David Rhodes and (882) Irene Cook have all completed the Furths and not the Tops as shown in the last issue of the Journal.

Other AMENDMENTS are as follows; multiple rounds showing only latest year:-

(23) *Hutchison Miles	x2 1955 1970	(463) *Morrison William	x2 1986
	1992		1992
(76) Moulton Matthew	x5 1982 1982	(514) Purser David	x2 1987
	1982		1991
(260) Howie Geraldine	x5 x3 1987	(555) Howie Robin	x5 x3 1987
	1992 1992		1992 1992
(321) Sword Alister	1984 1988 1991	(791) Steele Bethan	1990 1990 1992
(327) Logan R Stewart	x6 x5 x3	(792) Steele David	1990 1990 1992
	1992 1990 1987	(833) Groves Jonathan	1990 1992
(337) Rae Margaret	x2	(847) Hansford John	x2 1991 1992
	1992		1992
(338) Rae Robert	x2	(867) Gott Alan	1989 1991 1992
	1992	(910) Drew FS	1991 1992
(364) Dick Brian	x2	(911) Snowdon Derek	1991 1992
	1992	(999) Robertson Robert	1988 1991 1993
(375) MacDonald Robert	x4		
	1992		

Discovery of a double entry has allowed the posthumous insertion of the late *H.H. Mills at (971) while (919) Michael Garey points out that his many world-wide admirers may be unable to identify him correctly as a Compleater since his name was mistakenly spelled Gairey!

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

1020 Wainwright Jane	1992	1026 Platts William	1992
1021 Thomson Haydn	1992	1027 Taylor Gordon	1992
1022 Taylor T Kenneth	1989	1028 Redford Barbara	1992
1023 Fortune W Alan	1992	1029 Naylor Andrew	1992
1024 Kydd Martin Douglas	1992	1030 Halkett James G	1992
1025 Buck Peter Douglas	1992	1031 *MacLeod Iain A	1992

1032 Ivison Eric	1992	1088 Dignall James	1992 1992
1033 Goodyear Fred	1992	1089 Barron Penny	1992
1034 Henderson Cyril	1986	1090 Morton Christina B	1992
1035 Child Paul M	1992	1091 Chappell John C	1992
1036 Biggin Mick	1992	1092 Fielding Alan	1992
1037 Morrison Elda	1992	1093 Barclay Terry	1992 1992
1038 Sim Alexander J	1992	1094 White Calum N	1992 1992
1039 Mitchell Iain K	1992	1095 Hamill Brendan J	1992
1040 Gordon James	1992	1096 Barnett Margaret	1992
1041 Park Dave	1992	1097 Barclay Christopher	1992
1042 Harrison Rod	1992 1992	1098 Angwin Christopher J	
1043 Douglas Mark	1992 1992		1992
1044 Bailey Peter	1992	1099 Thomson Nancy	1992
1045 Fallon Steve	1992	1100 Bantoft Christopher	1992
1046 Todd David	1992	1101 Harris David I	1992
1047 Watters G	1992 1992	1102 Wiles Richard	1992 1992
1048 Kelly John C B	1992 1992 1992	1103 Rigby Mark	1992
1049 Gatehouse Richard	1992	1104 Reynolds Peter	1992
1050 Mellor Frank A	1992 1992	1105 Hunter Duncan	1992
1051 Mellor Jennifer	1992 1992	1106 Clark Pamela L	1992
1052 Sievwright David C	1992	1107 Hall Margaret	1992
1053 Glover Matthew	1991	1108 Deas George S	1992
1054 Hoyle David	1992 1992	1109 Benny Graham	1992
1055 Coates Smith Roger	1992	1110 Butcher Christopher G	
1056 Bolam Simon	1992		1992
1057 McKenzie William A		1111 Ewing Brian	1992
	1992	1112 Pidgeon Denis A	1992
1058 Brooks A G	1991 1991	1113 Oliver Kenneth	1989 1991
1059 Taylor Alexander R B		1114 McNab Colin H	1992
	1992	1115 Shaw Raymond	1992
1060 Williamson Paul K	1985	1116 Geddes Nettie	1992
1061 Fairmaner Bill	1992	1117 Cunningham Jim	1992
1062 Miller Susan M	1992	1118 Riley Margaret	1992
1063 Jones John B	1992	1119 MacGregor Ronald H	1992
1064 Nuttal John	1992	1120 Murphy Andy	1992
1065 Gray Veronica	1992	1121 Smith W H	1992
1066 Peel John	1992	1122 Sword Callum	1992
1067 Malloy Frank	1992	1123 Langmuir Marjorie	1992
1068 Mitchell John B	1992	1124 Newlyn Geraldine	1992
1069 Montgomery Alistair J	1992	1125 Hendry John	1992
1070 *Dawson Dave	1992	1126 Hendry Margaret	1992
1071 Horsler Hedly	1992	1127 Clarke Herbert S	1992
1072 Horsler Valerie	1992	1128 Clarke Marion K W	1992
1073 Pyper Ian B	1992	1129 Hamer Betty	1992
1074 Poznanski M J	1992	1130 Hamer John	1992
1075 Wood Sandy	1992	1131 Howard Susan	1989
1076 Ridler A W	1992	1132 Howard Paul	1990
1077 Murray David	1992	1133 Ramage Wattie	1992
1078 Brodie Patricia A	1992	1134 Kernohan Allan	1992
1079 Temporal Patrick J	1992 1992	1135 Ashby James C	1992
1080 Stone Jeffrey C	1992	1136 Dickson Ian	1992
1081 Wright Jim	1992	1137 Weedon Mike	1989
1082 McKeown John B	1992	1138 O'Brien Terence M	1992 1992 1992
1083 Marshall James W	1992	1139 Bruce Gordon McI	1992
1084 **Marshall Meryl M	1992	1140 Hazelton Norman F	1992
1085 Evans C D	1992 1992	1141 Gibson Rory	1992
1086 Fenner James Anthony		1142 Johnston Andrew	1992
	1992	1143 Evans Stephen P	1993
1087 Pickles Tom	1992	1144 Dyos Christopher	1993

A Posthumous Completion.—R. N. Campbell, who in recent years has become a close companion of the late H. T. Munro, sends an account of how the Great Man's incomplete round of the Munros and Tops was finally finished.

'The shade of Sir Hugh Munro, in the form of a full sized effigy, compleated his round of the 538 Tops listed in the original Tables of 1891 with an ascent of the Inaccessible Pinnacle of Sgurr Dearg on 10th July, 1992. An attempt had been made on the 9th in the company of Robin Campbell, (300) Derek Pyper and Helen Ross but was frustrated by unexpected bad weather. The following day offered better conditions and in the early afternoon Campbell and Ross set off for the summit with Munro. A passing climber, Mr James Kenyon, of Accrington, was roped in for the final attack. Campbell, Munro and Kenyon reached the summit of the Pinnacle by its East Ridge, while Ross took photographs from below. After descending the party celebrated with champagne before returning to Glen Brittle.

Sir Hugh began his round with Ben Lawers in 1870 and at the time of his death in 1919, 535 Tops had been visited, and only three remained to be done. In the company of Campbell, Carn an Fhidleir and Carn Cloich-mhuilinn were ascended in 1991 leaving only The Inaccessible Pinnacle. This round has therefore occupied a period of 122 years and must surely rank as the Slowest Completion on record!

Largo.—Without being in the same class as the above, the most leisurely round remains with (646)*Iain Ogilvie who took 62 years but this year's list has two fine examples of *Munros longus* in (1038)Sandy Sim and (1119)Ronald MacGregor at 57 and 50 years respectively. (1057)William McKenzie also took his time with 46 years and most of the additional Compleaters listed above took 20 years or more to finish their rounds.

Allegro.—At the other extreme is the 52 days taken for a televised and media-reported run over the Munros by (1141)Rory Gibson and (1142)Andrew Johnston. This was done using bicycles for connecting travel and even with the support provided of food and other aspects it remains a remarkable achievement. At 14 days fewer than the 66 taken by (607)Mark Elsegood in 1988 it is the fastest round on record. Whether these speed records have anything to do with normal Munro-bagging, as an aspect of the hillwalking and mountaineering which we all love so well, is another matter. These are such individualistic activities that obviously people collect Munros for many different reasons. However, these are usually to do with personal fulfilment and rarely with competitive objectives or even charitable fund raising. There are no practical proofs of having Completed and names are accepted for inclusion on the List on the cognizance of those who submit them. These days nobody is impressed by someone being Compleat so in the unlikely event of a fraudulent Compleater it is a case of self-deception. Similarly, there are Compleat Munroists who are not on the List, and have no intention of registering, which is why (277) is reserved for The Unknown Munroist. Who knows what feats of extraordinary endurance or pace lurk out there unrecorded. Such is the Mystery and long may it remain.

'The Best Laid Plans.....'—However high minded or mundane the original intentions of some Munroists, they usually end up like the rest of us, doing them for the pleasure and satisfaction it gives. (1061)Bill Fairmaner admits that when he started 17 years ago it was to keep one up on his younger brothers but that ignoble motive was soon left behind. (1122)Callum Sword began by reaching the summit of Beinn Alligin sitting in a back-chair carried by his father, (321)Alister Sword. However, in spite of this unworthy paternal stimulus, he went on in later years with his feet firmly on the ground and ascended the same Beinn Alligin as his final Munro.

(1111)Brian Ewing began on a much higher plane in 1983 when he proposed to his girlfriend on Cairngorm, their first summit. Subsequently he and his wife went on collecting together, aiming for *M. maritalis* with the additional condition of *claravistitis* being required by the lady. Alas, after five years she chose to start a family instead and

he was left to get on with the hills on his own. In 1985 (1056) Simon Bolam thought it would be good for social and fitness reasons for his office staff to have a camping weekend with an ascent of Ben Nevis. Even though the weather was foul the venture was a great success so the following year he organised a repeat of the exercise and they climbed Ben Macdui. This time the weather was perfect. The next year they did Braeriach, Simon began climbing hills frequently on his own account, and this developed into him finishing all the Munros.

Many describe innocent beginnings which gradually developed into increasing addiction. (1129 and 1130) Betty and John Hamer, one of the six examples of *M. maritalis* this year found it so. Betty took to having the odd day out in the Lake District hills and these escapes from the kitchen sink were the start of the rot that was to come later. A couple of visits to the Highlands were to seal her fate. Although at first she had no intention of trying to do all the Munros, only the best ones – she ‘would never be found on some dreary hill above Drumochter!’ Husband John, who enthusiastically writes of ‘so many highlights it’s hard to know which to pick out’, was already well on his way and provided just the motive for his wife to do as well as he. Eventually, her weekends in the Highlands were extending from Thursdays to Tuesdays and they finished together on Bidean nam Bian.

‘I Did it My Way’.—Individual and even idiosyncratic themes abound. (514) David Purser is engaged on his third round and is not only attempting *M. incrementalis* by starting with Beinn Teallach and finishing with Nevis but he is also doing them one at a time to achieve that most distinctive form, *M. yoyoensis*.

The second round by (847) John Hansford, done in 60 hill days spread over 13 months, was an example of *M. soloensis* – not, he assures us, for misanthropic reasons but because he was often out midweek and favoured long days, so he found he was doing everything on his own. He further feels that he is now cured of *Munrositis* and is content with the odd Corbett. He has no intention of starting a third round – at least not until his son is old enough to carry the rucksack!

(1104) Peter Reynolds did all the hills in the current tables and included all those that Munro originally named. ‘The only merit in altering the Tables is to provide us with a subject for long, boring discussions in hut or bothy.’

(1049) Richard Gatehouse sensibly took 23 years to allow spells of rock climbing, snow and ice climbing, hill running, alpine trips, and other things. With his uncle he discovered a novel way of doing so called ‘boring Munros’. Immediately after New Year (which is probably significant), they would travel from home in Edinburgh entirely by public transport. Fionn Bheinn at Achnasheen was an all-night epic, including an early hours shuttle bus from Inverness when a rail bridge was down. Beinn na Lap of course, was a delightful easy day.

Poor (1112) Denis Pidgeon did it the hard way over 30 years, mostly with hangovers and two stone overweight. As a final act of self-destruction he went off to finish on Beinn Sgritheall, abandoning his wife on their 23rd wedding anniversary. His present condition is unknown.

Individuality can be carried to extremes and may well have overtones of misanthropy or even masochism. (375) Robert H MacDonald finished his fourth round on Beinn Fhionnlaigh. In the pursuit of some obscure principle he had used this mountain for his last summit before. He has now been alone on every Munro summit. On this particular occasion he was alone again, except for two dogs. It was Christmas Day but Robert did not indulge himself with a celebratory dram as he is a teetotaler. He must certainly be the first to have completed four Munro rounds entirely without the use of alcohol. It might be said that there are some records for which the price is too high!

That Final Occasion.—Fewer than usual chose Ben More in Mull this year. The Cairnwell was chosen by (1057) William A. McKenzie as the easiest to ascend, just in

case he was reduced to progressing on hands and knees after 46 years. (1088)James Dignall chose it for the same quality but this was so that his wife could be present, she being unused to walking except around places like Marks and Spencer. (1048)John Kelly selected Buachaille Etive Mor because it was the closest to the Kingshouse, once his favourite bar.

(1071 and 1072) Hedley and Valerie Horsler had a double celebration on Ben Lomond, the conclusion of their *M. maritalis* and also their Silver Wedding.

(1075)Sandy Wood had a final Munro gathering on Meall nan Tarmachan including his mother and his daughter. Three generations were thus present to celebrate the end of 28 years of neglect of his family responsibilities. (1031)*Iain MacLeod had a final Munro party with 70 people on Beinn Fhionnlaidh. It will be no surprise to those familiar with the highly individualistic navigation often practised in the SMC, to hear that 15 latecomers went up Sgurr na h-Ulaidh by mistake.

(1053)Matthew Glover is another who has climbed the wrong hill in his day, just as so many of us have done. However, after 10 years of assorted climbing he had contracted *Munrosis* and was to spend another 10 years coping with the condition. He succeeded in his aim of finishing by his 40th birthday and the Centenary of the Tables. Among his vivid memories were cloud inversions with resultant Glories seen variously on Ben Lui, Aonach Eagach and especially on Ben Attow where the phenomenon lasted for over half an hour. Perhaps the finest experience was in November 1991 when he was treated to a four-hour display of the Northern Lights followed the next morning by his final Munro summit – Ben Alder, with its snows pink in the sunrise flush, the appreciation of their colour enriched by a bottle of 30-year-old Strathisla.

The Aftermath.—(1094)Calum White apologises for sending me yet another letter from a Compleater but excuses it by explaining it as part of the ‘cold turkey’ he has to endure after six years of addiction. Just as his was a classic case of incubation and development – the equipment fetish fostered by visits to climbing shops, the slippery slope with a local hill walking club, SMC Guidebooks, the Munro chart, the lot. His attempts at withdrawal are also classic, with a healthier interest in things like photography, botany, ornithology, the Mountain Bothies Association, etc. At present he is trying to resist beginning another round by arousing memories of whiteouts, hurricanes and downpours but glorious spring days, soaring and wheeling peregrines and magnificent mountain views keep intruding.

After Completion, (1131 and 1132) Susan and Paul Howard had intended to go on to finish the Tops but with only a few remaining they have discovered a new life beyond the Munros in the form of sea kayaking. Paddling to remote camping spots from which new hills can be climbed offers new delights – and another kind of addiction?

International Corner.—Bill Shipway from Edinburgh was with (509)Alex Drummond in the Struy Inn, Strath Glass, when they noticed a paper flag with the letters DBMA. When asked what it stood for, the proprietor replied: ‘The Dutch Munro Bagger’s Association.’ Apparently a group of Dutch hill walkers visit the area every year and mean business. On the back of the flag was a cartoon with a couple of figures, one wearing a vest with the words: ‘Ben Nevis or Bust!’

Snippet.—(791)David Steele has worn his tie so often that he has had to buy a replacement!

Tailpiece.—The Clerk of the List receives so many reports of canine Munroing activity that he suggests The Kennel Club should be asked to start a special List for dogs.

POSSIBLE DEVELOPMENTS FOR THE FUTURE?

For health reasons The Clerk of the List will have to hand over this august section of the Journal (a promoted section since 1993 only) to his successor. Bill Brooker took over the editing of the Journal in 1976, by which time the list was a mere 120 or so. He, like the rest of us, could not predict the future epidemic of *Munro*sis, but luckily for his successor he continued to deal with its correspondence after passing on the Editorial chair. The section monitored the rise of the epidemic, helping to allay panic in countries unused to such frenzies of collection (a condition not solely, but certainly mostly British). Organisation of the annual list, computers, graphs, and biological standardisation of the many subsets of *Munro*sis followed apace, but always with both of his Aberdonian feet firmly on the ground. The hobby has never, we hope, been allowed to become too serious within these pages.

Over the last seven Journals, it has been my privilege to work closely with The Clerk of the List. Despite many tactless barbs from me, he has always been a paragon of patience, humour and, of course, has continually sought to minimise costs. Between us, we took the art of postage stamp steaming to rare heights, while the continual re-use of envelopes must have reduced envelope manufacturers to tears. We wish him well in his retirement and immediately follow with the announcement of his successor, a Compleater himself. Notice of Completions should be sent, enclosing a stamped, addressed envelope, to:— (993)*Dr Chris Huntley, Old Medwin, Carnworth, ML11 8LY.

An Association of Compleat Munroists?—Compleat Munroists are distributed widely over the country. Many are not members of any club and some would welcome more opportunity to contact fellow Compleaters. It is clear from correspondence that there is a number who regretted being unable to attend the Centenary Dinner last year and would welcome another get-together. A suggestion is that a fairly informal organisation, let us call it an 'Association of Compleat Munroists' might be established. There are probably about 900 Munroists still around who would be eligible but only a minority are likely to wish to join. It would require only a few honorary officials – a Secretary to issue a list of names and addresses to allow members to contact each other and a Treasurer to collect subscriptions to cover the small costs involved. A function of an Association would be to hold an annual meeting of members to appoint the officials, and provide the opportunity for a meet, dinner, or whatever form of occasion seemed appropriate.

The SMC sees The List and The Tables as part of its own remit within its Journal and Guidebook publishing activities. However, close liaison between the Club and an Association could be maintained by the Journal Editor, the Master of the Tables and the Clerk of the List.

If an Association of Compleat Munroists is to be formed this might be done at a meeting held at some place in Central Scotland such as Glasgow, Stirling or Perth on a date in the autumn – perhaps a Saturday in the middle of November. If you are interested keep your eye on the Mountaineering Council of Scotland Newsletter, Climber and Hillwalker, etc.

SCOTTISH MOUNTAIN ACCIDENTS

REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION

(Geographical Divisions are those used in SMC District Guidebooks)

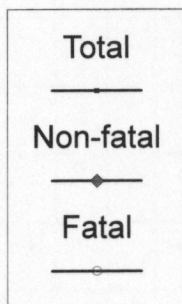
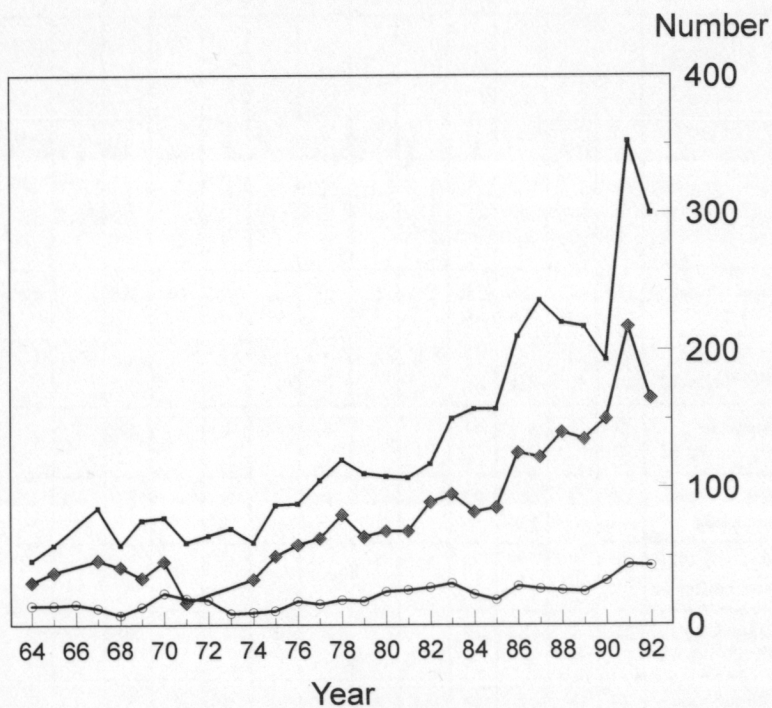
REGION	CASUALTIES (of which fatalities are bracketed)				INCIDENTS							Non- Mountain- eering	
					Actual Rescues		Other Callouts						
	Injuries	Exhaustion/Exposure Hypothermia, Hyperthermia	Illness	TOTAL CASUALTIES	Incidents with Casualties	Cragfast	Separated	Lost	Overdue or Benighted	False Alarms	TOTAL INCIDENTS	Animal Rescues	Incidents
All Regions 1990	132 (23)	36 (1)	13 (6)	181 (30)	161	20	15	16	56	23	191	—	20
Northern Highlands 91	13 (4)	1 (1)	1 (1)	15 (6)	15	1	1	3	4	—	24	—	—
Western Highlands 91	9 (1)	1 —	— —	10 (1)	9	1	1	4	6	2	23	—	—
Ben Nevis 91	24 (2)	4 —	4 (3)	32 (5)	30	—	1	—	2	1	34	—	—
Glen Coe (inc. Buachaille) 91	26 (2)	1 —	— —	27 (2)	24	4	—	—	8	—	36	—	—
Other Central Highlands 91	36 (10)	9 —	7 (3)	52 (13)	41	4	4	4	3	3	59	—	—
Cairngorms 91	43 (7)	3 —	2 —	48 (7)	44	7	1	8	11	1	72	—	—
Southern Highlands 91	26 (2)	— —	4 (2)	30 (4)	29	3	2	4	3	3	44	—	—
Skye 91	16 (5)	1 —	1 —	18 (5)	17	1	1	1	—	—	20	1	—
Islands (other than Skye) 91	12 —	1 —	— —	13 —	13	—	—	2	7	—	22	—	1
Southern Uplands 91	12 (1)	2 —	1 —	15 (1)	13	1	2	2	2	—	20	—	9
All Regions 1991	217 (34)	23 (1)	20 (9)	260 (44)	235	22	13	28	46	10	354	1	10

REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION

(Geographical Divisions are those used in SMC District Guidebooks)

REGION	CASUALTIES (of which fatalities are bracketed)				INCIDENTS							Non- Mountain- eering	
	Injuries	Exhaustion/Exposure Hypothermia, Hyperthermia	Illness	TOTAL CASUALTIES	Incidents with Casualties	Cragfast	Separated	Lost	Overdue or Benighted	False Alarms	TOTAL INCIDENTS	Animal Rescues	Incidents
All Regions 1991	217 (34)	23 (1)	20 (9)	260 (44)	235	22	13	28	46	10	354	1	10
Northern Highlands 92	16 (3)	1 —	1 (1)	18 (4)	18	4	1	2	10	3	38	3	—
Western Highlands 92	9 —	1 —	(1) (1)	11 (1)	11	—	2	—	4	—	17	—	—
Ben Nevis 92	18 (6)	3 —	1 (1)	22 (7)	20	—	1	2	3	—	26	—	—
Glen Coe (inc. Buachaille) 92	19 (2)	2 (1)	2 (1)	23 (4)	23	3	—	—	7	3	36	—	—
Other Central Highlands 92	16 —	2 —	1 —	19 —	19	3	2	3	2	1	30	—	2
Cairngorms 92	28 (8)	4 —	2 (2)	34 (10)	33	4	3	3	6	4	53	1	2
Southern Highlands 92	29 (6)	1 —	5 (4)	35 (10)	35	3	1	1	4	1	45	—	2
Skye 92	16 (2)	12 —	— —	28 (2)	21	—	—	—	3	1	25	—	—
Islands (other than Skye) 92	7 (2)	— —	1 (1)	8 (3)	6	1	1	—	5	—	13	—	1
Southern Uplands 92	6 (2)	— —	2 —	8 (2)	8	2	—	2	1	1	14	—	—
All Regions 1992	164 (31)	26 (1)	16 (11)	206 (43)	194	20	11	13	45	14	297	4	7

**TOTAL MOUNTAIN RESCUE CALL-OUTS,
EXCLUDING AIRCRAFT, MARITIME AND
ROAD INCIDENTS, AND ANIMAL RESCUES.**



MOUNTAIN RESCUE COMMITTEE OF SCOTLAND**CONTRIBUTORY CAUSES OF SOME INJURIES**

(fatalities bracketed)

SUMMER

	1991	1992
Slips.....	88 (2)	85 (7)
Illness.....	18 (6)	15 (10)
Sea cliffs.....	16 (7)	10 (5)
Exposure, heat trauma, exhaustion.....	11 (2)	22 (1)
Rockfall.....	3	5 (1)
All-terrain vehicle accidents.....	4 (2)	1
Blown over.....	2	2 (2)
Loose rock/heather, hand/foothold fail.....	7 (3)	2
Pulled muscles, cramps, strains.....	3	3
Abseil point failure/misuse abseil gear.....	2	2
Wire broke when climbing deer fence.....	1	0
Duckboarded path failed.....	1	0
Burn injury.....	1	0
Suicide.....	1 (1)	1 (1)
Not known.....	1	2 (2)
Swinging on tree, fell through loop.....	0	1 (1)
'Friends' pulled out – rock climbing.....	0	1
Stuck in brambles.....	0	1
Drunk. Lost, presumed dead.....	0	1 (1)
Paragliding. Insufficient take-off speed.....	0	1
River crossing.....	0	1 (1)
Stumbled and fired gun.....	0	1 (1)
Mountain motor cycling.....	0	1

WINTER

(Snow, ice, frozen ground underfoot)

Slips.....	41 (9)	33 (7)
Avalanche.....	14 (3)	2 (1)
Exposure, exhaustion.....	9	7 (2)
Illness.....	4 (2)	0
Ice tools pulled out.....	5 (1)	0
Glissading without crampons.....	3 (1)	1
Glissading. Trip over crampons.....	2 (1)	0
Skied over cornice.....	2 (1)	0
Ski slips.....	9 (1)	0
Blown over.....	2	1
Walk over cornice.....	1	2
Fall through thin ice.....	1 (1)	0
Fell in bog.....	0	1

NUMBERS OF INJURIES

(Excluding sea cliff incidents, ski-ing, illnesses, hypothermia, mountain biking, suicide, etc., but including injuries from slips, avalanche, rockfall, abseiling, loose rock, equipment failures, glissading and cornice incidents.)

	1991	1992
Summer Hill Walking – non-fatal	79	85
Summer Hill Walking – fatalities	1	8
Summer Climbing – non-fatal	22	10
Summer Climbing – fatalities	4	2
Winter Hill Walking – non-fatal	30	25
Winter Hill Walking – fatalities	7	4
Winter Climbing – non-fatal	24	7
Winter Climbing – fatalities	9	5
	1991	1992
Totals (fatalities bracketed)	176 (21)	146 (19)
	1991	1992
<i>Percentage of winter injuries</i>	40%	28%
	1991	1992
<i>Percentage climbing of total injuries</i>	27%	16%

SCOTTISH MOUNTAIN ACCIDENTS 1992

Compiled by John Hinde

Some 1991 incidents are included for some regions.

NORTHERN HIGHLANDS

1991, SEPTEMBER – The body of Sarah Bishop (29), thought to have died of hypothermia, was found on February 21st, 1992 in a tent on Meall an Fheadain, between Portnacoon, Loch Eriboll and Sarsgrum on the Kyle of Durness. She had been missing since September 1991.

1992, JANUARY 1st – False alarm, due to a misunderstanding, for a walker at Clachtoll, near Lochinver. Assynt MRT, HMCG Helicopter, Ullapool Coastguard, Lochinver RNLI lifeboat. 40 man hours.

JANUARY 10th – Ian Coles (18) fell 80m down sea cliffs at Sutors of Cromarty and was injured. Airlift by RAF Sea King. Cromarty CG and Police.

JANUARY 13th – Ian Coles's golden retriever pup, Gemma, was found after the above accident in a gully known as The Kitchen. She had been scared off by the helicopter during the rescue. An Inverness Coastguard used Gemma's mother to scent out the cragfast pup then rescued her.

JANUARY 18th – Search for a senior citizen in hills north of Dingwall by Police and HMCG Helicopter using FLIR. Man found safe next day in a different area. 20.

JANUARY 25th – Harvey MacDonald (57) hillwalking near his home in Scourie died of a heart attack.

FEBRUARY 15th – Gael Watson (24) fell 100ft down a gully/slope when descending Beinn Dearg (of Inverlael) in a white-out. Uninjured, she climbed back up but did not find her companion, Chris Lane (44), so she got help thinking he had also fallen. He was OK but spent rest of daylight searching for Gael. Dundonnell MRT, Police dogs. 108.

FEBRUARY 16th – Search north of Ullapool for a man (20) coastal walking to Achiltibuie and overdue. He walked in. Ullapool CG. HMCG Helo. 10.

FEBRUARY 21st to 22nd – Torridon MRT leader reported two male hillwalkers overdue from Liathach. Turned up safe 01.15. Delayed by weather.

APRIL 3rd – False alarm. Shouts between two pairs of separated hillwalkers on Suilven were mistaken by colleagues at Suileag Bothy as shouts for help. Assynt MRT. RAF Sea King. 63.

APRIL 9th – In a party of four traversing Ruadh Stac Mor of Beinn Eighe, Belinda Graham-Marr (26) fell 12m over an outcrop, injuring head, back and hips. HMCG Helo lifted Torridon MRT in bad weather. RAF Sea King lifted casualty in better weather later. RAF Kinloss MRT. 240.

APRIL 9th – One male cragfast during above rescue.

APRIL 22nd – After separating from her companion on Knockfarrel Ridge, Strathpeffer, Audrey Wells slipped and broke a tibia and fibula. Inverness Air Ambulance rescue.

APRIL 23rd – South shore of Loch Glencoul, 2 km from A894. Geologist Jane Randle (50) slipped on grass and injured her leg. Winched by HMCG Helicopter. Lochinver Coastguard. 5.

APRIL 25th – Paul Crotty (26) rock climbing at Sandwood Bay, 8 km N. of Kinlochbervie (possibly Am Buachaille Sea Stack) broke a leg. Stretcher carried by Kinlochbervie CG for lift by HMCG Helo. 16.

MAY 10th to 11th – Two walkers (both male 43 and 34) were delayed by snow and the pinnacles of A'Mhaighdean NW Ridge. They had used mountain bikes to get from Poolewe to beyond Kernsary and may have been further delayed because the wheels had been removed by a stalker since they had disobeyed signs against mountain bikes. Dundonnell and Kinloss MRTs, RAF Sea King. 58.

MAY 14th – Dundonnell MRT rescued a bullock from Achtercairn Gorge. The major problem was to keep it in slings. A strong woven bag was used under it as a litter to carry it 25m down the gorge, to a point from which a hoist was achieved, using a reversing vehicle for power. Fortunately the beast was docile. 15.

MAY 14th – Ms T. Galetzka (71) separated from her group on Spidean Coinich of Quinag and got cragfast looking for wild flowers. Found her own way down four hours overdue. Assynt MRT. 8.

MAY 16th – Couple descending 'Stone Shoot' (on Cadhar Gobhlach of An Teallach) above L. Toll an Lochain, reached the top of a rock bar. Going further down to investigate, Arthur Sime (56) fell to his death. His wife, Margaret Sime, was left cragfast on a rock ledge. Dundonnell MRT, HMCG Helicopter. 75. (See incident of 30.6.92)

MAY 24th – Dr. D Pearson (51) slipped on the path about 300m upstream of Falls of Kirkaig, injuring his back. Winched aboard HMCG helicopter. Lochinver Coastguard. Assynt MRT. 49.

MAY 24th to 25th – Searches of Cul Mor by Assynt, Dundonnell and RAF Leuchars MRTs, and RAF Sea King were caused by two walkers separating and misunderstanding their DAY of rendezvous. 125.

MAY 25th – Clayton Noble (27) separated from his party near Seana Braigh and was overdue returning via Rhidorrach to Ullapool. Police and Dundonnell MRT. 8.

JUNE 12th – Sheila Foley slipped on dry rock at 880m on Sgurr Fiona, An Teallach, sustaining a serious head injury with injuries to chest and arm. A passer-by raised the alarm. The other three ladies in the party were very switched on, providing good ground ident, markings and valuable assistance to the winchman of a RAF Wessex. Dundonnell MRT. 5.

JUNE 20th – Descending Coire Leith of Liathach at 450m Richard Hill (63) was exhausted and collapsed vomiting. Torridon MRT and Police, RAF Sea King. 43.

JUNE 30th to JULY 1st – Two brothers were overdue for a golf appointment. Dundonnell MRT searched An Teallach. In Toll an Lochain their shouts gained a response. Graham Walker (39) was cragfast on the side of Cadha Gobhlach about 120m above where Ian Walker lay dead. While descending a gully on the coire side Ian Walker had faced inwards and tried to lower himself down onto a heather patch on a rock. He couldn't get his footing and was hanging over the rock. His brother tried to help him and lowered his right leg to which Ian Walker held. Ian Walker then lowered himself so that his stomach was over the heather patch on the sloping rock. He couldn't get a firm handhold or foothold. He slid down the rock, and fell vertically 30m then tumbled down a rock gully. As the mist was rising an RAF Sea King was called for winch-out. 168. (See incident 16.5.92)

JULY 21st to 22nd – Martin Rodgers left a loch above Eas a'Chual Aluinn, Kylesku to walk 5 km. to the A894. He got lost in mist and was found next morning on the A837 having walked in circles all night. Assynt. 8.

AUGUST 6th – Christopher Deacon (35) slipped on wet vegetation 100m behind his holiday home, breaking a tibia and fibula. The person calling Torridon MRT had failed to find a doctor. 9.

AUGUST 17th to 18th – Kerstin Pane (20) slipped on wet rock on the path to Craig YH. damaging a knee cartilage. She went with a companion and spent the night in the hostel. Evacuated by fishing boat next morning. Torridon MRT and boat skipper. 12.

AUGUST 18th – Glen Ballard (23) slipped on steep grass near Whaligoe Steps, which lead up from the harbour at Whaligoe, Caithness to village of Ulbster. Back injuries and broken leg. RAF Sea King. 8.

AUGUST 20th to 21st – Descending Maol Chean-Dearg in mist, Peter Bibby (42) fell 12m, slipping on wet rock and grass. He broke an arm, dislocated a shoulder and cut his head so his wife went for help. RAF Sea King lifted Torridon MRT to 600m in poor weather. They found him at 01.00 and stretched him down till Sea King could airlift him when weather improved. Also Kinloss and Kintail MRTs. 286.

AUGUST 22nd – Problems of jammed ropes when abseiling caused benightment. Three climbers trapped on cliffs at the base of The Old Man of Stoer. Were found by HMCG Helicopter using infra-red camera. Helo. provided illumination for pick-up by Lochinver Lifeboat. 26.

SEPTEMBER 22nd – Injured Joan Goddard (76) walked out unaided after treatment by doctor on Achiltibuie/Blughasary footpath. Dundonnell MRT stood down. 2.

SEPTEMBER 26th – Three men slightly overdue on Stac Pollaidh. Assynt MRT alert. 2.

OCTOBER 16th – Man was overdue from stalking on Sgurr an Fhìdhleir because he failed to rendezvous with an 'Argo' but walked out. Assynt and Dundonnell MRTs. 15.

OCTOBER 16th – RAF Sea King with six Kinloss MRT members on board went to Lochcarron, but missing persons had turned up.

OCTOBER 26 – A couple with a young girl were late in bad weather, coast walking from Blughasary to Culnacraig, Coigach. They turned up safe. Assynt and Dundonnell MRTs. 11.

NOVEMBER 8th – Mature pine forest near Mount Eagle, Black Isle. John English (13) had been cycling to and from the other four of his family out for a Sunday walk but went north instead of south. Found OK by Police Landrover. Dundonnell MRT, Civil Volunteers, SARDA. 68.

- NOVEMBER 21st to 24th – Beinn Alligin, Torridon. After large scale searches in bad weather, the body of William Haworth (24) was found at 600m at the foot of steep ground north of Sgurr Mhor (985m) by Kinloss MRT on the fourth day. He was well equipped and wore crampons when he fell. He had been attempting a solo traverse of Beinn Alligin, B. Dearg and B. Eighe. Stretched down then airlifted by RAF Sea King. Leuchars, Dundonnell, Torridon MRTs, SARDA. Dundee University. 1512.
- DECEMBER 6th – Dundonnell MRT were able to herd out and lift over rocks three sheep stuck in a bay on South Headland of Little Loch Broom. 15.
- DECEMBER 28th – Wilma MacKay (53) broke her ankle on scree on Canisp in a party of four. Assynt MRT. Airlift by HMCg helicopter. 21.

WESTERN HIGHLANDS

- 1991, DECEMBER 31st – A number of independent reports of red flares being seen in Meall Bhanabhiie area near Corpach. Negative searches by Lochaber MRT and RAF Sea King. Kinloss and Leuchars teams alerted. It was early Hogmanay revellers on a boat in the Caledonian Canal. 100.
- 1992, FEBRUARY 16th – Ladhar Bheinn, Knoydart. Descending a snow traverse without crampons on Stob a' Chearcaill, Stuart McKeggie (19) slipped and fell 45m down a gully. With a companion he walked down to Barrisdale Bothy. Lifted by RAF Sea King with bruises and deep cuts. 16.
- MAY 3rd to 4th – Alone near the top of Sgurr a'Bealach Dheirg, not using crampons, Joseph Gormal (26) slipped on snow and fell a considerable distance with cuts and bruises. He lost his ice-axe in the fall and had a long detour to get into Gleann Lichd, but made his own way down. Kintail MRT. 2.
- MAY 17th to 18th – Helen Wilson (33) and Natasha Atkinson (24) left about lunchtime to climb Sgurr na Lapaich from L. Mullardoch but got benighted and bivouacked. Found by Kinloss MRT and made their own way down. Dundonnell MRT, RN Sea King. 94.
- JUNE 20th - Climbing (roped) the 2nd pitch of The Great Ridge, Garbh Bheinn of Ardgour, Hugh Munro (41) slipped and fell 30m with cuts, grazes and a compound ankle fracture. He was lowered and tended by his companion while a nearby climber went for aid. Winched off by RAF helicopter. Lochaber MRT on standby. 28.
- JULY 15th – Ardnish, Lochailort. After walking to Peanmeanach Bothy for lunch from Polnish, James Mathieson (60) died of coronary artery occlusion on the way back. Police and Air Ambulance. 18.
- AUGUST 10th to 11th – Wearing Wellingtons, poorly clad and equipped, Awnlot Koning (F34) went ahead of two companions descending from Sgurr na Sgine to Kinloch Hourn. She took the wrong route, got benighted and very cold. Kinloss, Kintail MRTs, SARDA. 143.
- AUGUST 15th – Galvy family of four underestimated time to walk Five Sisters of Kintail and turned back when daughter was sick. Kintail MRT. 3.
- AUGUST 20th – Frank Brauer (22) and Birgit Lang (21) overdue walking shore of Loch Morar beyond Bracorina. Rescue boat and Police. 5.
- AUGUST 31st to SEPTEMBER 3rd – Search of the head of Strathconon by RAF Sea King, Kinloss, Kintail and Torridon MRTs after Stanley Meachan (36) had been missing for three days. He was safe in Inverness, but had separated from his companion in bad weather and then walked off after a head injury from a fall.
- SEPTEMBER 10th – Tony Hallard (54) broke a leg slipping on grass on the Forcan Ridge, The Saddle. Strop-winchd by RAF Wessex. Kintail MRT. 20.
- SEPTEMBER 27th to 28th – Five Sisters of Kintail. John and Helen Scire (both 28) got lost and benighted on the tops in bad weather. Walked out as search was started by RAF Sea King, Kinloss and Kintail MRTs. 130.

- OCTOBER 11th – With two companions, Ross Gowans (40) was descending rock and grass very steeply from Carn nan Gobhar S. Ridge to Coire an t-Sith (Loch Mullardoch). Going down rock outcrops unmarked on map he slipped and fell 30m breaking an elbow and a kneecap. Dundonnell MRT and RAF Sea King. 11
- OCTOBER 14th – Walking from Glen Affric to Morvich (L. Shiel) Andreas Klein (19) separated from his companion and went back to Affric. Kintail MRT, SARDA, RAF Sea King on standby. 32.
- OCTOBER 18th – With others, James Macleod (16) was going down from the summit of Ben Hiant, Ardnamurchan Peninsula, when he slipped on grass and fell on to rocks, dislocating a shoulder. HM Coastguard and RN Sea King. Lochaber MRT on standby. 16.
- OCTOBER 22nd – Descending Garbh Bheinn of Ardgour, James Fielder (14) slipped on grass and fell forward into a burn, knocking himself unconscious and breaking his nose. Companions went to Glen Tarbert for help. With aid from Police and friends he managed to walk down but stayed in hospital for observation. 2.
- OCTOBER 31st – In a party retreating from Sgurr a'Bhealaich Dheirg to Saileag in deteriorating weather, Gennista May (18) sitting glissaded on wet grass, but she lost control of her speed. She tumbled 150m down a very steep slope sustaining abdominal and chest injuries with internal bleeding. Kintail MRT, SARDA, RAF Sea King. 50.
- NOVEMBER 26th – John Ferguson (59) collecting sheep near Morar, fell into a bog. Found by Lochaber MRT and crofters unconscious from cold. 40.

BEN NEVIS

- JANUARY 13th to 16th – Climbing Observatory Ridge/Point Five Gully, Brian Meers (34) and Patrick Gray (25) were both killed by a 300m fall when the leader fell and pulled off his second. They were fully equipped with helmets, ice-axes and crampons. Stretchered from Observatory Gully by Lochaber MRT and evacuated by RAF Wessex. Kinloss MRT recalled en route. 123.
- JANUARY 19th – Two climbers in Comb Gully were showered with dislodged ice when Dennis Barrett (44) who had been climbing solo, fell past them and was killed. One of the pair was struck on the leg by Barrett, but uninjured. They abseiled and found his body, which was recovered by Lochaber MRT and RAF Wessex. 80.
- FEBRUARY 9th – Twenty-eight pupils (average age 14) and two male teachers overdue from Ben Nevis. Poorly equipped, some without ice-axes, they were unable to find the way down from the summit till found by two climbers who guided them. They arrived back at Glen Nevis over a period of 30 minutes in twos and threes, some showing distress. They had left without leaving route details and with little food. Northern Constabulary.
- FEBRUARY 15th – Taking alternate leads near the top of Comb Gully Buttress, Michael Laidlaw (29) belayed 3m from the top when he was 30m above his second. Both wore crampons and helmets. His second started to climb, slipped and fell a short way but managed to brake with his ice-axe. The second, Jonathon Wakefield (28) then felt a tug at his waist which appears to have been Laidlaw starting to fall. Wakefield was pulled off and fell 90m to land uninjured in soft snow in Number 2 Gully. Laidlaw landed 5m away from him and broke a leg. Because the avalanche risk was high he was stretchered out by Lochaber MRT to a safer place, from which he was winched off by RAF Sea King. 27.
- FEBRUARY 25th – An instructor from a Welsh Outdoor Education Centre was descending from the summit of Ben Nevis to the top of the abseil posts in mist with two students on a Winter Mountaineering course. The bearing from the trig. point was 138° M. and the distance 400m. All three wore crampons but not helmets. The instructor moved ahead down the slope with Jaqueline Cawardine (30) directing her. About 250m from

the summit Cawardine tripped/stumbled dropping her ice-axe and compass. Her actual trip was not witnessed by the other two but they did see her sliding down towards Coire Leis. The instructor grabbed her but Jaqueline was wrenched from her grasp. She slipped 30m then went over the edge. The fall had been witnessed by other climbers. The instructor found the body 200m below in Coire Leis. At the fatal accident inquiry it was suggested that alcohol might have contributed to the incident; also the difficulty of using an ice-axe for self arrest at the same time as using a compass for navigating. Recovered by Lochaber MRT and RAF Wessex. 100.

FEBRUARY 28th to 29th – Leuchars and Lochaber MRTs and RAF Wessex searched for two climbers. Robert Oakey (25) and Anne Goudie (19) were found by Lochaber descending Tourist Path. After climbing Glover's Chimney they had been benighted at Tower Gap, completing Tower Ridge on 29th. 104.

FEBRUARY 29th to MARCH 1st – Mike Thomas (35) cramponed and helmeted, but unroped, was above two others ice climbing to the right of Number 2 Gully. A large cornice forced them left to try and top out to the left of Number 2 Gully. The soft snow gave way and Thomas was unable to self-arrest with his ice-axe, falling 200m and breaking an ankle. He crawled to Coire na Ciste. Companion alerted SMC party in hut who made Thomas comfortable. Leuchars and Lochaber MRTs stretchered him down at night as low cloud prevented RAF Sea King lift. 192.

MARCH 2nd to 3rd – Paul Bliss (39) was leading the Great Tower when he fell 20m seriously injuring both ankles. He and his companion awaited rescue on a ledge. CIC Radio Link was used at 19.40. Lochaber MRT lowered him 600m to the foot of Observatory Gully for airlift by RAF Sea King. 163.

APRIL 4th to 5th – Benighted on Hadrian's Wall, Anthony Howard (45) and Terence Trundle (43) were too cold and tired to complete the climb next day. Three other climbers (SMC members) at CIC Hut heard their calls for help and assisted them to the plateau. They were walked to Halfway Lochan by Lochaber MRT, and airlifted by RAF Sea King. 163.

MAY 11th to 12th – John Webster (23) became separated from his party of nine in a white-out on Nevis summit. He got down Coire Eoghainn alone and on to the path to the east of Glen Nevis Waterslide. Trying to cross the Waterslide he was killed by a fall on wet rock slabs. Leuchars and Lochaber MRTs. RAF Wessex. 222.

MAY 25th – Descending Nevis Tourist Track with two friends, Barbara Baker (57) got heat exhaustion. Rescue was by Lochaber MRT and RAF Wessex. 20.

JULY 8th – Going down Tourist Path with three others John McCormick (36) slightly strained his knee ligaments. Stretchered from second aluminium bridge by Lochaber MRT. 15.

JULY 9th – William James got thigh cramp at 1200m on Nevis Path. Other walkers helped him down and alerted Lochaber MRT. Team Leader assisted. 4.

JULY 31st – Descending Nevis Zig-Zags with her husband, Patricia Ottewell (49) fractured an ankle slipping on scree. Stretcher winched by RAF Wessex. Lochaber MRT. 16.

AUGUST 6th – Marie France (43) slipped on the tourist path injuring an ankle. Companion alerted occupants of the CIC Hut. Lochaber MRT stretchered her from 200m. 18.

AUGUST 16th – With 17 other people and six ponies on a sponsored ride up Ben Nevis, Leslie Bearcroft (60) was leading his Shetland pony at 1140m altitude when he collapsed and died of a heart condition. Lochaber MRT and RAF Sea King. 38.

AUGUST 18th – Sheila Keane (39) was descending the Ben Path with her husband and three children when she stepped on a loose, wet boulder and broke her (R) ankle. Lochaber MRT carried her down on a stretcher. 16.

SEPTEMBER 24th – Poorly equipped and wearing trainers, James Davis and Kevin Rozier (both 14) intended to walk only part way up the Ben Track. Yet they got close to Nevis summit and separated in mist, but both managed to get to Glen Nevis Road uninjured. Lochaber MRT. RAF helicopter scramble cancelled when they turned up. 10.

OCTOBER 6th – Running down a very rocky slope at 1140m on the West Face of Carn Dearg NW, Damien Smith (18) stumbled and rolled 6m sustaining cuts, bruises, broken arm and dislocated shoulder. Two of his four companions went for help. Flying overhead at the time, an air ambulance lowered a paramedic, but for operational reasons could not uplift him. Casualty and paramedic were uplifted by RAF Wessex. Lochaber MRT. 24.

OCTOBER 26th to 27th – Using avalanche transceivers, necessary in deep, new snow, Kinloss MRT were dropped by RAF Sea King in Five Finger Gully, helping Lochaber MRT in a search for a missing brother and sister. Found on S.side of the gully and winched out in cloudy conditions, cold but uninjured. John (30) and Karen Hughes (27). 338.

NOVEMBER 21th to 22nd – Bryan Burns (32) and Ian Bell (25) lost on Ben Nevis. RAF Wessex recalled due to weather. Turned up uninjured. Lochaber MRT. 113.

DECEMBER 5th – Leaving with four companions to climb Nevis by the tourist track, Toby Holland (20) got close to the top of Number 5 Gully of Carn Dearg NW in mist and fell through a cornice four hours after they had started. Repeat: Number 5 Gully. He fell 30m and was uninjured. He had crampons and ice-axe and took one or two further falls, then eventually walked out of the gully meeting Lochaber MRT on his descent. RAF Sea King. 60.

DECEMBER 5th – Nick Kikus (34) presumably unroped, was avalanched on Observatory Buttress, and fell 200m into Observatory Gully suffering internal injuries and bruising. His companion abseiled down to him and dragged him to CIC Hut, whence he was airlifted by RAF Sea King. It was a windslab avalanche occurring during snowfall in a strong wind. 12.

DECEMBER 21st – The body of Bruce Snodin (17) was found under one metre of snow in the Red Burn at 850m. In a party of three descending from summit of Ben Nevis. The front two had fallen (perhaps over a cornice). One fell 40m, was buried in the snow but dug himself out. Snodin fell 66m but started an avalanche in which he was buried. The third went for help. RAF Sea King airlifted one person but had to return to Lossiemouth with technical problems. Snodin was carried down by Lochaber and Leuchars MRTs. 163.

DECEMBER 25th – Training on Ben Nevis, Kinloss MRT helped a number of lost hillwalkers who were ill-equipped for the weather and snow conditions. John Kindness (51) without ice-axe or crampons, twisted knee and was helped to below cloud base, then airlifted by RAF Sea King helicopter. 35.

DECEMBER 29th – Walking from CIC Hut to Tourist Path without crampons, Martin Prestige (18) slipped on sheet ice near Halfway Lochan. He fell 8m, sprained an ankle and a knee and deeply cut a palm. Lochaber MRT and RAF Sea King. 14.

GLEN COE

(Including Buachaille Etive Mor)

JANUARY 21st to 22nd – Due to mist, Frank Spence (43) and Andrew Logie (23) spent a night out on Bidean nam Bian. Found by RAF Sea King walking down next morning. Glencoe MRT. 25.

FEBRUARY 28th to 29th – Another party, which got down at 22.00, raised the alarm for four university climbers benighted on Curved Ridge of Buachaille Etive Mor. Only two had crampons and there was bad weather overnight, but they retreated safely. Glencoe MRT. 40.

FEBRUARY 29th – Possibly Bidean, Glencoe. SAC Merrick, a member of an RAF Leuchars hill party fell 200ft. with head and leg injuries. Team responded to a Ben Nevis callout.

MARCH 1st to 2nd – Searches of the Bidean nam Bian massif by RN Sea King, SARDA, Glencoe, Kinloss, Leeming and Leuchars MRTs were in the wrong place because the pair of overdue climbers (M31, M25) were on the other side of Glencoe, traversing Aonach Eagach E to W. They got down safely in bad weather, although they had no helmets, crampons, ice-axes, spare clothing or adequate waterproofs. 354.

MARCH 8th to 11th – See also MAY 30th. Large scale searches of the Bidean nam Bian Range for Samuel Stuart Bryan (43) drew a complete blank despite widening the search area to 30 sq. km of precipitous mountains. He went missing in excellent, dry, clear weather; but the search was in heavy rain, gales, snowstorms and sunshine by Glencoe, Kinloss, Leuchars and Lochaber MRTs, 12, SARDA dogs, RAF and RN Sea Kings, RAF Wessex. 23 hours flying time. 2029.

MARCH 9th to 11th – During the above searches for S.S. Bryan, SAC Lavelle, descending over easy ground dislocated his kneecap and was airlifted.

MARCH 17th – While S.S. Bryan was still missing, it was reported that the thawing snow had revealed a large volume of blood below SC Gully of Stob Coire nan Lochan. A full call-out revealed that the 'blood' was red dye from a helicopter flare.

MARCH 31st – Two people descending NW from Stob Coire nan Lochan summit past the top of Broad Gully, were caught by a strong gust of wind. Alison Black (26) was blown down the gully, falling over 65m and injuring her ankle. A Glencoe MRT member happened to be in the gully and radioed. She was stretcher lowered to an easier spot for winching by RAF Wessex. The pilot had a 25-knot stable updraught for ideal hovering conditions. 64. How does this tie in with the 'blown over' report? Another report said she was climbing the gully with two axes.

APRIL 11th – Mary Kerr (9) with eight other children and three care officers set out from Pipers' Layby to walk in the hills. She stumbled and rolled head over heels down a boulder slope for 16m sustaining serious head injuries.

APRIL 16th to 17th – Robert Cox (26) and Ian Weaver (23) were benighted traversing Bidean nam Bian from Dalness, Glen Etive to Achnambeithach, but turned up safe at 01.15. Glencoe MRT on standby. 2.

MAY 23rd – Lee Bott (28) was killed when standing at the foot of the final pitch of Clachaig Gully (VD) belaying his leader. From 20m above the stance the leader accidentally dislodged a rock which struck the second. There were four in the party. The leader climbed out and went for help. The two uninjured left below the top pitch in the above incident were pulled out on one rope, using another rope as a handrail. Then Lee Bott's body was removed on a stretcher cableway and carried down to the A82. RAF Sea King involved but not for evacuation. 100.

MAY 30th – Joseph Drain (27) collapsed with heat trauma on the Coire na Tullaich Path, Buachaille Etive Mor. Kinloss MRT and RAF Sea King.

MAY 30th – See March 8th. The body of Samuel Stuart Bryan was found by two Corbett-baggers on the bealach between Bidean nam Bian and Beinn Maol Chaluim; just outside the line limiting the search area. There was no obvious damage to the body. His rucksack was not found. Glencoe and Leuchars MRTs, RAF Sea King. 68.

JUNE 6th – Searching of Stob Coire nan Lochan from Stob Coire nam Beith was sparked off because a woman did not tell her boyfriend that she was down from the hill. Glencoe MRT and RAF Sea King. 13.

JUNE 12th – After traversing Aonach Eagach, Eileen Calderbank (47) collapsed from heat exhaustion descending the Clachaig Gully Path. First aid and stretcher lower by Glencoe MRT. Airlift from 780m by RAF Wessex. 35.

JUNE 13th – When descending Sgor nam Fiannaidh with a companion, Joyce Mutch (29) was hit by a rock, dislodged by another party, which cut her head deeply. Airlift from 780m by RAF Wessex. Glencoe MRT. 36.

JUNE 13th – Midway along Aonach Eagach, Robert Gratton (23) slipped on wet rock, fell 1m and cut his lower leg deeply on very sharp rock. Stretcher lift in poor visibility by RAF Wessex. Glencoe MRT. 43.

JUNE 22nd – One of 20 students descending Lairig Eilde to Glen Etive, Natalie Cavar (18) slipped on dry rock/grass spraining her ankle. RAF Wessex and Glencoe MRT. 38.

JUNE 27th – On Meall Dearg of Aonach Eagach, Gilbert Herris (50) died of a heart attack. Winched off by RAF Wessex as mist came down. Glencoe MRT. 34.

JUNE 27th – On the south slopes of Sgor nam Fiannaidh at 600m a woman aged about 20 took fright and would not move. She was with a companion. She was strop-winched aboard an RAF Wessex and flown to the A82. She left before giving her name. Glencoe MRT. 16.

JULY 4th to 5th – Descending Stob na Broige (of Buachaille Etive Mor) Douglas Hartley (27) was walking with a friend towards the dangerous Dalness Chasm but they separated. Hartley got caught between Central Gully and Right Fork Gully. He fell 18m cutting his head. He realised he must go back up; he fell again (not far) and broke his arm. His friend climbed back up to look for him and even climbed into a gully – the wrong one – but could find no trace. With great difficulty Glencoe MRT found him and climbed to within 10m but dare go no closer in case they knocked rocks on to him. They waited 30 minutes till Rescue 137 (RAF Sea King) arrived, and in a super piece of flying Hartley was winched out. 80.

JULY 18 – Linel Freetz (M31) unroped, was descending Crowberry Ridge, Buachaille Etive Mor, with a friend when he slipped on wet rock and fell 55m into a deep, steep gully. He sustained bruised kidneys with blood in urine. Winched off by RAF Wessex which took Glencoe MRT member to site. 40.

AUGUST 4th – Descending from Sgor nam Fiannaidh after traversing Aonach Eagach, Charles Shearer (27) and Liz Brierley (30) went down the 'wrong side' of Clachaig Gully in mist. Dr. Shearer slipped on wet rock and vegetation and was killed by falling 50m into the gully. Dr Brierley became cragfast and suffered shock. Glencoe MRT stretcher carried the dead man and made the woman safe till both were winched off by RAF Leuchars Wessex helicopter using strop spacewalk and stretcher spacewalk. 50.

AUGUST 18th to 19th – After separation from his companion, Alan Harding (33) climbed Sgor nam Fiannaidh. Descending near Clachaig Gully West he slipped on wet rock, scree and vegetation and sustained minor cuts and bruises. He felt unable to continue. Glencoe, SARDA and RAF Kinloss MRTs carried out a large scale night search on dangerous ground. Winched out by RAF Sea King helicopter. 220.

AUGUST 26th – Claire Hancock (18) was in a group of six Scouts and two instructors. In thick mist they came down Sgor nam Fiannaidh on the 'wrong side' of Clachaig Gully. Miss Hancock tripped and fell into a small gully leading into Clachaig Gully. She smashed her brow onto a rock giving herself a depressed skull fracture. She was in a bad condition when Glencoe MRT arrived and administered oxygen at a high flow rate. RAF Wessex airlift to Belford Hospital; then by road to head injury consultant in Glasgow. 28.

SEPTEMBER 10th – James Bevan (42) got minor injuries to his heel/ankle by a slip on scree descending the south side of Sgor nam Fiannaidh. He walked part of the way down and was then stretchered by Glencoe MRT. 22.

SEPTEMBER 13th – John Stewart (21) broke an ankle descending the Clachaig Gully Path. Stretchered down by Glencoe MRT. 26.

SEPTEMBER 25th to 26th – James Johnson (37) and Pauline McKeown (25) set out late to traverse Aonach Eagach west to east. Near the Bad Step of Am Bodach mist came down which they decided to sit out and so got benighted. A motorist saw their flashing torch. Winched off by RAF Sea King. Glencoe MRT. 50.

SEPTEMBER 26th to 27th – Flashing light seen by reliable witnesses in Clachaig Gully area. Large scale searches by Glencoe and RAF Leuchars MRTs, SARDA and RAF Sea King. Nothing found. 240.

- OCTOBER 3rd – Douglas Philips (12) suffered a deep head wound when he slipped on steep, wet rock descending the 'bad step' of Beinn Fhada (Ref: 165 545) in a party of six scouts and two leaders. Stretchered by Glencoe MRT, then winched off by RN Sea King. 70.
- OCTOBER 24th to 25th – Three men were caught out and slowed down by the first heavy snowfall of the year when traversing Aonach Eagach E to W. Benighted but evacuated themselves. Glencoe MRT. 4.
- NOVEMBER 7th – Three incidents in effect in Lower Coire nam Beithe at 1845. Martin Latter (20) slipped and hurt his back. Five people going for help got cragfast; then one of them, Leanie Safer (F20) slipped and injured her hand. Glencoe MRT lowered the cragfast five to safety and Leanie was then able to walk down. Martin was stretchered off. 58.
- DECEMBER 28th to 29th – Climbing Crowberry Gully (Grade III-IV) of Buachaille Etive Mor, Christine Campbell (41), Ron Walker (37) and Duncan Merilees (32) were benighted on the last pitch. As none were sure of the climb they bivouacked till daybreak, then climbed to safety and walked out. Glencoe MRT assembling next afternoon. 8.

OTHER CENTRAL HIGHLANDS

- 1991, JULY 26th – RN Sea King took Oban Police MRT to cloud base at 300m below Belgian heart patient on Beinn Sgùlaird. Team confirmed a better landing area and helo. taxi/hovered up mountainside to uplift patient. Day/night rescue.
- OCTOBER 16th – Party of five walking Loch Rannoch to Prince Charlie's Cave, Loch Erich without waterproofs turned back in strong winds and sleet. Two went for aid. Lauren Matthews (F18), Shelley Masterton (F21) and Richard Houlton (M21) were rescued by local volunteers in 4WD vehicle. Treated for cold but not admitted. Tayside SARU. 3
- NOVEMBER 11th – A woman and her nephew were walking along a track in Glen Nevis when she slipped on gravel and broke an ankle. Stretcher carry by Lochaber MRT.
- 1992, FEBRUARY 3rd to 4th – Graham MacKay (39) got benighted and lost due to heavy snowfall walking from Strathossian to Torgulbin, Glen Spean. He made a shelter and bedded down. Traced by Police and returned to road.
- FEBRUARY 8th to 9th – Four men (32, 32, 25, 22) got benighted with only one torch between Ben Alder and Beinn Bheoil. Lost somewhere on B. Alder they walked out via Culra before the search started. Cairngorm MRT and RAF Sea King. 52.
- FEBRUARY 16th – Christina Junor (70) took a diversion over heather from the Glen Nevis Peat Track (Cow Hill), slipped and broke her ankle. Lochaber MRT. 6.
- FEBRUARY 23rd – Devil's Ridge, Mamores. Adrian Forde (30) fell on ice without crampons with major injuries to head, chest, arm, pelvis, femur, tibia and fibula. He had been moved by passers by. Neil Robertson stretcher winched (presumably only type available) by RAF Wessex. 1 Lochaber MRT on scene. 1 on ridge as linkman.
- APRIL 11th to 12th – Richard Matthews (28), William Millican (28) and Adrian Allan started late, and with only one rope, to climb Ardverikie Wall of Binnein Shuas. The leader got stuck on the crux with the others stranded in different locations below him. They were lowered down overnight by Cairngorm MRT. At any one time, one of the three was untied from the rope and hence in a precarious location. 121.
- APRIL 16th to 18th – Karina Andersen (15) and Helle Densen (14) were found by Glencoe MRT at the foot of Stob nan Losgann, Rannoch Moor, and rescued by RAF Sea King. From a party of 12 they had become separated on the second day of a three-day walk from Rannoch to Kinlochleven. Lost in mist they had pitched a tent. Teachers in charge did not go back to look for them. Two other missing girls, one with a sprained ankle, from the same group were found by a British Alcan worker. 82.

APRIL 17th to 18th – Attempting to walk from Corroul to Glen Nevis, James Robertson (38) failed to cross Allt Coire a'Bhinnein (in flood) near Tom an Eite. Without rucksack, tent or sleeping bag he stayed overnight in a tin shack near Luib Eilt. Found by RAF Wessex and Lochaber MRT at Loch Eilde Mor. 14.

MAY 2nd – Penelope Edwards (35) slipped in mud on Binnein Mor, Mamores hurting her ankle. Stretchered off by Glencoe MRT. 12.

MAY 2nd – Descending the Coire a'Mhusgain Path, Mamores, Kenneth Stevenson (44) slipped on mud/scree and broke an ankle. Stretcher carry by Lochaber MRT. 12.

MAY 2nd – Sylviana Bain (42) slipped off a wooden stile on the Peat Track between Cow Hill and Glen Nevis, breaking a leg. Stretcher carry by Lochaber MRT. 6.

MAY 4th – In a large party walking the forest track from Glen Duror to Ballachulish, Sandra McCue (46) slipped in mud and injured an ankle. She was stretchered out by Glencoe MRT. 27.

JUNE 6th to 7th – Fishing at Loch Ba, Rannoch Muir, William Knox (74) got heat exhaustion and became lost. Night search by Glencoe MRT. Found next day by RAF Sea King. Kinloss MRT and SARDA also used. 187.

JUNE 20th to 21st – Carol Morrison (28) suffered food poisoning on an overnight sponsored walk from Glen Nevis to Corroul. She managed to walk to the head of Loch Treig where she was lifted by RAF Wessex. 12.

JULY 1st to 3rd – Four girls (16, 16, 16, 15) got lost on an award hike from Corroul to Kinlochleven. Rescued by RAF Sea King. Lochaber and Glencoe. 32

JULY 31st – Family reported cragfast above Steall Falls rescued themselves. Lochaber MRT and RAF Wessex. 12.

AUGUST 4th – On an award scheme in Leanachan Forest, Spean Bridge, Nigel Davies (19) slipped on rough ground and sprained an ankle. Lochaber MRT. 3.

AUGUST 16th – Karen Wolfstrain (34) got separated from her companion in mist on Meall Tarsuinn, Glen Ceitlein (Gl. Etive). Descended alone unhurt. Glencoe MRT called out. 7.

SEPTEMBER – A ghillie stalking on Stob Coir' an Albannaich, Glen Etive, cut his hand badly with a sharp knife and so had to get down from the hill promptly. Descending he came across a woman hillwalker with a broken ankle. With various people helping he put the woman on to a stag pony and led the animal down to the road. (The Glencoe MRT accident recorder, Ronnie Roger, had not heard of other rescues by horse in the team's recent history. However, in early 1949, some if not most, of the 21 bodies from a USAF Super Fortress crash in the hills above Strachur, Loch Fyne, were carried down on ponies. JH)

SEPTEMBER 5th – Meall nan Gobhar of Beinn Fhionnlaidh, Glen Etive. Margaret Peebles (47) slipped on dry vegetation and injured her ankle. Winched aboard RAF Wessex. Glencoe MRT. 38.

SEPTEMBER 10 – Driving a 4WD All Terrain Vehicle directly up from Ballachulish Quarry to service a Police transmitter mast on Am Meall, Campbell Harper (52) rolled backwards on steep ground, breaking his leg in seven places. Stretchered by Glencoe MRT and winched by RAF Wessex. 28

SEPTEMBER 19 – William Donnelly (44) and John Gorham (42) got lost in mist at midday on Am Bodach (Mamores). After a night out they saw the way down to Kinlochleven when mist windows opened, but they were airlifted by RAF Sea King. Glencoe and Lochaber MRTs and SARDA. 47

OCTOBER 11th – After separating from two companions Lewis Clark (37) got cragfast on a large area of scree and rock not far from the summit of Sron na Creise, Black Mount. Roped down by Glencoe MRT members who escorted him from the mountain. 39.

OCTOBER 15th – Arthur Davis (53) slipped on snow in the Creag Dubh area, Newtonmore, spraining an ankle. RAF Wessex airlift. 9.

- NOVEMBER 2nd – Glen Fuar (SW of Loch Tulla, Rannoch Moor). Dutch soldier (about 25) had severe hypothermia. His heart arrested twice before uplift by RAF Wessex after dark. Treated with Flectalon, oxygen and heating he arrived at Vale of Leven Hospital semi-conscious but improving. Medic. in party.
- NOVEMBER 15th – Beverley Hay (20) strained one of her thigh muscles on An Gearanach, Mamores and had to be stretchered to Steall Car Park, Glen Nevis by Lochaber MRT. 65.
- NOVEMBER 21st – Fully equipped with crampons and helmet, Neil Stevenson (18) was climbing, roped, Grooved Arete, E. Face Aonach Mor. He slipped and fell 45m seriously injuring his back. Stretchered below cloud by Lochaber MRT, then stretcher winched by RAF Wessex which had to stop overnight at Crianlarich due to weather. 91.
- NOVEMBER 29th – Descending from the summit of Beinn a' Chaorainn, Glen Spean, and about 150m down, Douglas Philp (46) slipped and fell 50m on to a snowy ledge, suffering fractured ribs and bruising. Airlift by RAF Sea King. Lochaber MRT. 17.
- DECEMBER 27th – Wearing crampons in the NW Coire of Stob Ban (Mamores), Mark Granidos (24) tripped and injured a lower leg. Winched by RAF Sea King. Lochaber MRT.
- DECEMBER 27th – Two adults (M52, F38) and two cold children (F8, M7) were found by Glencoe MRT before midnight by following camera flashes. Rescuers lowered them down cliffs. With no torches the party was over 700m up on the SE Spur of Beinn Mhic Chasgaig, Glen Etive. The children wore rubber boots yet there was hard neve on the hill. They were rescued by RAF Sea King. A more cautious trio of the same party had turned back earlier, then realised that the other four were benighted without torches. Kinloss MRT also called out. 133.
- DECEMBER 28th – Traversing up a steep ice/snowslope on Meall Cian Dearg of Stob a' Choire Mheadhoin (L. Treig) Peter Hastie (46) slipped and lost his ice-axe trying to self-arrest, falling 30m to below the snowline, with head, chest and ankle injuries. His companion went for help, alerting Lochaber MRT and RAF Sea King. 30.

CAIRNGORMS

- 1991, APRIL 21st – Student (23) fell over cliff at Cove, Aberdeen. Stretchered down to lifeboat by CG cliff team.
- APRIL 28th – Child (2) stuck on cliff at Newtonhill. Recovered by CG on routine patrol.
- MAY 1st – Person (15) recovered from cliff at Aberdeen by CG team.
- MAY 15th – Diver stranded on cliff at Todhead (9 Km. S. of Stonehaven) recovered uninjured by CG cliff team.
- JUNE 1st – CG teams rescued woman who broke an ankle in a cliff fall at Collieston.
- AUGUST 8th – Helicopter recovered person cragfast at Stonehaven due to unstable rock face. CG teams in attendance.
- AUGUST 11th – Person over cliff N. of Arbroath with severe injuries. Helicopter winched from cliff base with CG assistance.
- SEPTEMBER 14th to 16th – Protracted search of cliffs for female by CG teams, lifeboat, CG and RAF helicopters, MRT and volunteers. Body located.
- DECEMBER 1st to 2nd – James McWilliam (30) with no map, compass, torch or whistle, walking Jock's Road (Glen Doll) got lost in dark. Though he saw rescuers' flares he could not signal back. Tayside SARU, RAF Wessex. 171.
- DECEMBER 22nd to 23rd – After crossing Mount Keen, David Mayes (46) fell into bogs getting lost in the dark on Hill of Cairney. He bedded down for the night but it got lighter by moonlight so he walked out. Tayside MRT and Police SARU. 20
- DECEMBER 27th – Sea cliffs just S. of Stonehaven. Man fell over. Paramedic attending also fell. Both airlifted by RAF Sea King. Coastguard Cliff Team.

- 1992, JANUARY 11th – Crossing Luibeg Burn from boulder to boulder in inadequate boots, Alan Barbour (23) fell back injuring the top of his foot. Aberdeen MRT.
- JANUARY 11th – About 250m south of Lochnagar summit Geoffrey Cumming (41) was descending snow-covered heather when his right leg went through the snow into a hole, tearing a calf muscle. Grampian Police. 2.
- JANUARY 11th – Aberdeen MRT searched Derry Cairngorm after a report of an orange smoke wisp, which could have been a flare. Nothing found. 83.
- JANUARY 15th – William Snow (21) and Michael Kew (20) started to climb Raeburn's Gully of Lochnagar at 14.00 and took longer than they estimated. Grampian Police MRT. 1.
- JANUARY 18th to 19th – Two men, Philippe Scott (55) and Andrew Scott (26) got lost in thick cloud between Cairn Bannoch and Broad Cairn. Overdue, they waited for a weather break and got themselves down to Glen Doll after midnight. Tayside SARU, Kinloss and Tayside MRTs, RAF Sea King. 110.
- JANUARY 30th – Body over sea cliffs 3 Km NE. of Arbroath recovered by CG Cliff Team.
- FEBRUARY 2nd to 3th – Having crossed Beinn a'Bhuird and Ben Avon from Invercauld, Simon Stewart (22) lost his compass in darkness. He walked out to the Crathie-Tomintoul road. Braemar MRT. 5.
- FEBRUARY 8th – An organised group of six (aged 17-29) got lost walking from Glen Shee to Glen Doll. They were keeping contact with CB radios at set times and reported themselves unable to descend a steep, dangerous waterfall in darkness (Ravine of the White Water). Guided down by Tayside MRT and SARU. 60.
- FEBRUARY 17th – A climber took a short fall in Coire an-t'Sneachda, Cairngorm and winded himself. His companion shouted for help, but the winded climber recovered and they finished the route unaware a rescue had been mounted.
- FEBRUARY 23rd – Kathleen Scanlon (40) and Maureen Robertson (40) got lost and overdue in the forest tracks of Glen Tanar, Deeside. Grampian Pol. MRT 4.
- FEBRUARY 24th – Police and firemen at Forres rescued three schoolboys stuck on an island below Findhorn Bridge for over six hours by rising water.
- MARCH 1st to 2nd – Kathleen Caird (40) was left by her husband near the top of the Land-Rover track on Beinn a'Bhuird while he carried on to the North Top. Returning, he could not find her so asked another party to inform police while he searched. A Grampian Police vehicle found him on the track. His wife had crossed the plateau in a bad blizzard, then, lost, spent the night descending the other (NW) side of the mountain with no map, compass, torch, whistle or extra gear. By sheer luck she reached Faindouran Lodge where she was found. Temperature dropped to minus 20°C during the night. Aberdeen, Braemar, Kinloss and Leuchars MRTs, RAF Sea King and Wessex searched. 1222.
- MARCH 8th to 9th – Man (50) separated from his friend descending the Corrie Fee Path into Glen Clova, and was found at 07.40 on 9th. descending Kilbo Path which is 2 km further east. It is thought that this same man was airlifted from CIC Hut on Ben Nevis in 1991. Tayside MRT and SARU, Leuchars MRT and RAF Wessex. 217.
- MARCH 15th – Double roped, and with a runner on each rope, Andrew Fanshawe (28) fell while leading Eagle Ridge of Lochnagar in winter condition. One of the runners was an in-place *piton and the other was a chock he placed himself. There was less than 10m of rope left when he fell and the two runners were not very far above his second's belay at the Sentry Box, so that although both ropes held he fell a considerable distance and sustained fatal head injuries. Conditions were freezing with a NNW gale. He was lowered off from 400ft up the climb. Braemar MRT and SARDA. 382. *See incident of August 16.
- APRIL 4th – Trevor Cousins (26) and Richard Hartshorn (30) were roped and climbing The Runnel, Coire an-t'Sneachda, Cairngorm. As Cousins climbed the cornice it gave way and both fell 160m on to a snow slope suffering minor injuries. They walked to the carpark and were lifted by RAF Sea King. 14.

- APRIL 14th – Francis Pearson (M55) fell from Bullers of Buchan into sea. Son went for help. A man (30) attempting rescue got cragfast. Second man was rescued by RAF Sea King which also recovered the body from the sea. Coastguard Cliff Team and Peterhead Lifeboat.
- APRIL 26th – Tired after walking over Beinn Bhrotain, Jill Geddes (25) walked into a bog near Luibeg Bridge, being immersed up to her neck and injuring a knee. Rescued by companions and evacuated by Grampian Police and Braemar MRT. 8.
- MAY 10th – A man injured in a fall on snow was rescued from Tap o'Noth, Rhynie by an RAF Wessex landing on. Weather at the time: Snowing with S. wind 20 knots.
- MAY 10th – Party of four tried to jump across fast flowing River Erich at Cargill's Leap, 500m upstream of Blairgowrie Bridge. John Towell (22) slipped on rock shelves, treacherous when wet, was washed downstream and disappeared in darkness. Police and RN divers.
- MAY 16th to 17th – After separating from a companion on Cairn Toul, John Cudlip (24) got cragfast descending into Garbh Choire. Found by Cairngorm MRT, who were winched out with him by RAF Sea King. Slight cold injuries. 48.
- MAY 27th – Two men (both 64) got separated from another (62) on Stac an Fharaidh, Cairngorm. Cairngorm MRT and RAF Sea King were involved because the group of two went to Loch Avon searching for the other, who had returned and said one of his friends had chest pains. 10.
- JUNE 16th – A 17-year-old girl collapsed 1 km west of Linn of Dee. The weather was very hot and she had not been drinking enough. Grampian Police drove her to Braemar where she was treated for dehydration. 4.
- JUNE 20th – Despite resuscitation for an hour by Kinloss MRT and others on scene, Maurice Marklove (44) died from a heart attack on Cairngorm summit. He was airlifted by RAF Wessex. 10.
- JUNE 20th – Landing at Pools of Dee, Lairig Ghru, an RAF Wessex crew gave first aid to a walker with a knee injury.
- JUNE 20th – Woman's body over cliffs at Stirling Hill was recovered to base of cliffs by CG Cliff Team and taken to Peterhead by lifeboat.
- JUNE 24th – Lucy Adie (19) slipped going down a hill track in Strath Nethy spraining her ankle. Rescue by RAF Sea King. 10.
- JUNE 28th – Running in Lairig Ghru Race, Gerald Box (47) slipped and cut his knee badly. Airlift by RAF Sea King. 6.
- JULY 10th – Man over sea cliffs at Boddam with broken leg was recovered to base of cliffs by CG Cliff Team and taken to Peterhead by lifeboat.
- JULY 12th – In a party of 14 descending Brae Riabhach on the third day of a journey, Victoria Burns (16) stumbled and sprained her ankle. she was carried by colleagues to old Sinclair Hut site where they met someone with a CB radio. Rescue by RAF Sea King. 11.
- JULY 14th to 15th – Johannes Kunke (M27) and Peggy Hoffman (21) were overdue in Lairig Ghru but made their own way back. Cairngorm MRT on standby.
- JULY 15th – Martin Rowell (19) slipped on wet grass near Fords of Avon Bothy, injuring his groin. Airlift by RAF Sea King. Braemar MRT. 8.
- JULY 18th – Near the summit of Carn na Caim, Drumochter Hills, Colin Cowman (73) died of a heart attack. His companion tried resuscitation then went to A9 for help. Evacuated by RAF Sea King. 10.
- JULY 27th – Young boy with facial injuries and broken ribs, over cliffs at Auchmithie was rescued by RAF Wessex to Dundee Hospital. CG Team.
- JULY 28th to AUGUST 1st – Four lads (all 18) on an award scheme in the Dee/Geldie/Feshie Glens made a navigation mistake and walked 'off their map' not having the adjoining Sheet 43. They were found by RAF Sea King at the Pony Hut at the Eidart/Feshie confluence. Cairngorm MRT. 16.

- JULY 30th – Man abseiling at Auchmithie got cragfast because his rope was too short. Coastguard Cliff Team got him down uninjured.
- AUGUST 15th to 16th – Stuart Burn (18) slipped and aggravated an old back injury 1 km S. of Angels Peak. Rescued by RAF Sea King. 8.
- AUGUST 16th – Body over cliffs at Whiting Ness recovered by CG Cliff Team.
- AUGUST 16th – Cairngorm MRT and RAF Sea King searched Loch Avon after a walker reported cries for help from Castlegates Gully. Nothing found. 14.
- AUGUST 16th – Sixth pitch of Eagle Ridge, Lochnagar. Leslie Bingham (61) was solo climbing using a back belay. He found *piton in place and used it as the anchor of the back-belay system. When about 10ft above the piton he fell off. His back belay and the rope both held firm; but the jerk on the piton caused by falling past it overstressed it and pulled it out of its lodgement. He fell 700ft and was killed. Two people at the top of Pitch 3 saw the fall, which was also seen by two men in the floor of the coire. Evacuation by RAF Wessex. Braemar MRT. 29. *See incident of March 15.
- OCTOBER 17th to 18th – Dennis Wesson (46) and John Jackson (42), experienced mountain bikers, were benighted on a journey from Linn of Dee to Tomintoul via Fords of Avon. They had to walk all night dragging their bikes though deep, wet snowdrifts. Grampian Police MRT. 4.
- OCTOBER 18th – Body over cliffs N. of Arbroath recovered by CG Cliff Team.
- OCTOBER 22nd – The Stuic of Lochnagar. Grampian Police and Braemar MRT. Two team members lowered themselves down the cliffs and were able to guide three cragfast Blackface sheep to safety.
- OCTOBER 25th – Forest of Birse, Kincardine. Descending Fungle Path northwards at the steep part, Gladys Falconer (65) slipped on frozen heather, breaking her ankle. Stretchered out by Braemar MRT. 16.
- OCTOBER 31st to NOVEMBER 1st – Two men (late 20s) attempted Hanging Garden, Grade IV on Creag an Dubh Loch. Overdue but walked out. Aberdeen MRT. 66.
- NOVEMBER 1st – Two men were overdue attempting Raeburn's Gully on Lochnagar in poor condition. Aberdeen MRT. 18.
- DECEMBER 6th – A party of 17 club members attempted a two-way walk from King's Deer Hunting Park, Fettercairn to Charr Bothy, Glen Dye, and back. One walker injured her knee, so a man of 57 went back towards Arnbarrow Farm to get a car to pick her up from an escape route to Glen Dye. This volunteer, who had a history of being a poor navigator and a history of getting lost, did just that again. The others got out OK, but he wandered on various hill tracks for hours with mild hypothermia. He would have died overnight but was found by local gamekeepers and estate workers organised by Grampian Police. 8.
- DECEMBER 19th to 20th – Having had problems the previous week navigating with a companion, a man (41) went alone to Carn an Tuirc to resolve his errors, but he got lost again in darkness and low cloud. Found unhurt just above the Caderg Path of Caenlochan Glen by RAF Sea King using night vision goggles. Aberdeen, Braemar, Grampian, Kinloss and Tayside MRTs and SARU. 167.
- DECEMBER 28th – Five walkers deviated from the Meikle Pap Path, Lochnagar, to make it more interesting. Yvette Kozielski (23) not wearing crampons, slipped on neve and broke her pelvis. Braemar and Grampian Police MRT, RAF Helicopter. 48.
- DECEMBER 29th – Glissading with no helmet down neve on N. Ridge Bynack More, Calum Fraser (31) sustained serious head injuries. Incident reported to Glenmore Lodge. Picked up by RAF Sea King. Cairngorm MRT on standby. 10.
- DECEMBER 29th – Attempting to descend east into Garbh Choire NNE of Glas Maol without crampons (though severe frost had turned snow and hillside rock solid) David Leonard (47) slid over 200m into rocks. He failed to brake with his ice-axe and injured his lumbar spine. His companions had to rely on the experience, equipment and torchlight of a passer-by to help them. Braemar and Grampian Police MRTs. RAF Sea King. 14.

DECEMBER 29th to 30th – False alarm said three walkers were in difficulty on Cairngorm. Vain searches by Leuchars MRT and RAF Wessex. 231.

DECEMBER 29th – Anthony Wheeler (36) and David Wheeler (34) got cragfast on Wee Devil, Hell's Lum Crag (Grade IV). One had a sprained ankle. Winched off by RAF Sea King at 21.00 using NVG (goggles). Cairngorm MRT. 81.

DECEMBER 30th – Path north of Sandy Hillock above Loch Muick. David Gardner (45) slipped on ice without crampons and broke an ankle. Grampian Police MRT, RAF Sea King. 10.

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS

1991, JANUARY 26th – Paul Douglas (15) slipped on wet grass at Bealach a'Mhaim, Beinn Ime, dislocating a patella. Stretchered by Strathclyde Police and Arrochar MRT. 44.

FEBRUARY 27th – Two men separated near Beinn Ime summit. One reported the other (40) lost but he turned up as search started. Strathclyde Police, Arrochar MRT, RN Sea King. 12.

APRIL 12th – Felling on Dubh Cnoc (288m), Glen Loin, another tree rolled on to Alan MacIndoe (19) jamming him on to the one he had just cut down. He was found by workmates unconscious with spine injuries. Stretchered by Strathclyde Police and Arrochar MRT. 30.

JUNE 15th – Helicopter lifted injured person from cliffs at St. Andrews.

JULY 13th – Lost with eight others between Ardgartan and Lochgoilhead on bealach of Coire Odhar, Margaret Monahan (50) slipped in wet forest injuring her knee. Stretchered by Police and Arrochar MRT. 32.

AUGUST 8th – Kenneth Duffus (14) recovered from the cliff at Kincaig, Elie, Fife by helicopter. CG Team in attendance.

AUGUST 17th – After watching Arrochar Alps Hill Race, Jan Bryan-Jones (46) broke her ankle going down the Narnain Pipe Track. Stretcher carried down by Strathclyde Police and Arrochar MRT. 23.

NOVEMBER 30th to DECEMBER 1st – Adrian Duncan (42) made two attempts to climb Ben Chonzie. His map did not cover the start of the route. He got lost in mist and benighted without a torch. Found own way down. Tayside SARU. 24.

1992, JANUARY 3rd to 5th – Search of fields, foothills and river banks for a woman (75). She was found dead on Jan. 9th. at Gulline Beach. Ochils MRT, SARDA, RAF helicopter. 323.

JANUARY 14th – Paragliding from the western end of Bishop Hill, Lomond Hills, Fife; Douglas Campbell (57) attempted to launch but did not gain enough speed, stalled and crashed on crags. He sustained broken ribs with a pneumothorax, fractured shoulder and wrist. Tayside Police SARU, RAF Wessex.

JANUARY 25th – Walking along the beach at Auchmithie, Arbroath, Scott Williams and Duncan Swankie (both 10) feared the tide flooding and tried to climb 45m cliffs. They got cragfast halfway up and were rescued by RAF Wessex, Coastguards, Police. Arbroath Lifeboat also involved.

JANUARY 25th to 28th – Leuchars MRT helped Stirling Police searching for a man (79) missing from January 25th. Intensive but inconclusive search of rough ground and forest north and south of River Forth. 423.

JANUARY 26th – RAF Wessex double-strop lifted a man (62) suffering a broken ankle, 2 km NW. of Ben Lui.

FEBRUARY 3rd – Ochils MRT called by Police to search the top of a 60m face in Tillicoultry Quarry after the body of a woman (34) was found at its foot. They found marks in the mud and stones where she had gone over. 4.

- FEBRUARY 12th – David Bilsland (63) died of a heart attack descending the South Ridge from the summit of Ben Ledi. Stretchered down by Killin MRT. RAF Wessex returned to base when doctor on scene declared him dead. 7.
- FEBRUARY 15th – Of two men climbing Beinn Ime, one slipped on steep neve and fell a short way. Both got stuck and alerted other walkers, but eventually they got their act together and walked off. Strathclyde Police and Arrochar MRT, RN Sea King. 25.
- FEBRUARY 16th – Maureen Shearer (51) slipped on Ben A'n Footpath, Trossachs, fracture dislocating her ankle. Winched from forest clearing by RAF Wessex. Killin MRT.
- FEBRUARY 19th – 'Faresaver' (VD) Auchinstarry Quarry, Kilsyth. A rock measuring 6ft by 2ft was displaced when Ali Brown (24) was leading the climb although four climbers had completed the route previously. He sustained a head wound below the rear helmet line, also chest and leg injuries. Winched by RAF Wessex. 112.
- FEBRUARY 19th to 20th – Without axes or crampons, Thomas Clancy (30) and William Harris (26) could not descend Ben More path because of neve and ice. They tried to get down East Ridge but got stuck on steep snow and sheltered for night behind rocks. RN Sea King saw a flashing light and winched them off. Killin and Leuchars MRTs, SARDA. 149.
- MARCH 16th – Dumbarton and Oban Police MRTs asked Leuchars and Rescue 177 to help in search for occupants of a car left at Cruachan Power Station for two days. Driver and companion turned up after camping on the mountain for an extra day due to tiredness. 136.
- MARCH 21st – RAF Wessex rescued woman (62) with fractured tibia and fibula from East Lomond, Fife.
- APRIL 1st – Chasing her dog, which had run off, Jean Allan (62) slipped on a footpath at Callander Craggs. She grabbed a tree to prevent a roll down 25m of steep, ground below her, and got cragfast. Killin MRT roped her to safe ground, uninjured. 2.
- APRIL 11th – Climbing Craigfootie Crag, Dairsie, Fife, Simon Lidwell (19) fell 10m with very serious injuries. Police, RAF Wessex.
- APRIL 11th – Emma Taylor (12) was swinging on a tree at Inchmagrannachan, Dunkeld, on a 9m length of black webbing. She accidentally fell through a loop in the swing, causing restriction around her middle and death from asphyxiation. Search by Police Dog, Tayside Police SARU and Tayside MRT. 75.
- APRIL 25th – During a sponsored walk on Ben A'n, Duncanina McColl (62) died of a heart attack. Killin MRT, Police and Ambulance Service. 5.
- MAY 2nd – RAF Wessex recovered the body of a man (60 plus) who died of a heart attack walking on West Lomond, Fife.
- MAY 6th – Six youths with learning difficulties and two instructors attempted a Bronze Award Expedition from Brig o' Turk to Ballimore, Balquhider. Gary Whitfield (23) got exhausted and had to be two-man carried-and-walked for 1 km to safety. Killin MRT called out. 8.
- JUNE 5th – A German student (24) got very drunk and was last seen at Ardgartan Camp Site, Arrochar, in the early hours of the morning staggering towards the beach. His friend reported him missing later that day. Despite extensive searching of Loch Long and shoreline by Strathclyde Police and Arrochar MRTs, SARDA and MOD Police launch his body has not been found. 90.
- JUNE 7th – With seven others descending a steep grass ridge of Meall Corranaich, Lawers Range, Ina Glasgow (73) slipped and sprained her ankle. Stretcher winched by RAF Wessex. Killin MRT. 18.
- JUNE 8th – Ian Pitcairn (17) was leading and cleaning holds on a new line right of 'Direct Direct' on The Cobbler. Two 'Friends' he was resting on pulled out so he fell 13m and hit the ground. He was not wearing a helmet and four stitches were required to close a head cut. He walked down to Narnain Boulder but was in such pain he was airlifted by RN Sea King. Strathclyde Police and Arrochar MRT. RN Sea King. 50.

JUNE 13th – Man (30) got separated from rest of party and suffered fatigue and minor leg injury near Black Wood of Crannach, Rannoch Moor, on gentle slopes of Beinn a'Chreachain. RAF Wessex landed on and took him to Bridge of Orchy.

JUNE 15th to 16th – Roderick Forsyth (34) was found dead at the foot of crags SE of the South Peak of The Cobbler. Arrochar, Leuchars and Strathclyde Police MRTs, RN Sea King. 205.

JUNE 28th – Twelve cadets with six instructors were contouring a steep, grassy slope below Stob Garbh of Ben Lui. David Pascal (18) slipped and slid 15m injuring his head on a large stone. Airlifted by RAF Wessex of 22 Sqdn. Killin MRT. 25.

JULY 15th – Heading from The Cobbler to Beinn Narnain in a group of six, a lad of 19 collapsed complaining of dizziness and head pains. Airlifted by RN Sea King but left hospital before examination. Strathclyde Police and Arrochar MRT. 24.

AUGUST 20th to 21st – Mark Rich (29) and Helen Rich (27) got lost on Ben Venue and reached the S. shore of Loch Katrine. Trying to get back to Achray Hotel they went up a steep crag near Goblin's Cave and got cragfast amongst deep bracken. Guided down by Killin MRT who found them by torch signal. 11.

AUGUST 23rd – Elizabeth McMillan (39) stumbled near the summit of Meall nan Tarmachan and broke her left fibula. Airlift by RAF Wessex. 4.

SEPTEMBER 1st to 3rd – After large area searches around the town of Kirkcaldy by Leuchars MRT and RAF Wessex, James Hepburn (82) was spotted on the third day by a very tall policeman with Leuchars team. He was stuck in a bramble thicket. Despite semi-lucidity he responded quickly to aid, needing only bed rest. 360.

SEPTEMBER 6th – Four boys aged 14 on an award expedition were overdue because of bad weather. They abandoned their camping gear near the top of Ben Cleuch and were found descending by Ochils MRT. 37.

SEPTEMBER 24th – Climbing waterfalls in a group wearing wet suits and trainers, Rosemary McKinlay (43) evaded a difficult section of Silver Glen Burn, Alva. On the easier route she slipped on wet grass and broke her ankle. Ochils MRT. 2.

SEPTEMBER 28th – Lucy Munro (22) tripped on rock near the summit of the N. Peak of The Cobbler and dislocated her knee cap. Winched out by RN Sea King. Strathclyde Police and Arrochar MRT. 18.

OCTOBER 1st – Walking with his wife in the forest below the E. side of Ben Venue, William Gibb (73) slipped on a steep and greasy part of the path and dislocated a shoulder. Stretchered by Killin MRT and Ambulance Service. 3.

OCTOBER 20th to 21st – Solo walker David Baird (54) probably slipped on ice or frozen ground on the SE Face of Beinn Challum (1022m). He was killed by a fall of 65m. He wore lightweight boots with recessed heels. Killin and Leuchars MRTs, SARDA, RAF Wessex. 272.

OCTOBER 25th – Searches of Beinn Chabhair were set up by Killin, Kinloss and Leuchars MRTs, SARDA and 202 Sqdn Sea King. A profoundly deaf woman (21) minimally equipped, had got separated from her companion near the summit. She was found and winched off by the helicopter crew who wore night vision goggles. 120.

OCTOBER 31st to NOVEMBER 1st – Descending north face of Ben More, Christopher Leggat (40) and John McGregor (40) were forced into coire by driving snow and got lost. Spent night in dense woods and were picked up by Police vehicle on road. Killin and Leuchars MRTs, SARDA, RAF Wessex. 154.

NOVEMBER 14th – Two men overdue on Ben Lui turned up safe. Oban Police MRT and helicopter alerted.

NOVEMBER 15th – South Spur of The Law, Tillicoultry. Edith Fleming slipped on wet grass and broke her ankle. Winched by RAF Wessex. Ochils MRT. 6.

NOVEMBER 22nd – Ann Lockhead (40) was one of three descending north side of Ben Venue. She slipped on wet bracken covered with patchy snow and fell 16m with cuts and bruises. Killin, Lomond and Ochils MRTs. 9.

- NOVEMBER 25th – Their torches failed when two people were descending from Beinn Each to Loch Lubnaig. On the Ardhullarie Path they separated and lost track. Daniel Williamson (76) fell 13m and could not move. Killin MRT found him with a searchlamp, then roped and rescued him, suffering from cuts and cold effects. 9.
- DECEMBER 5th – David Coles (56) slipped on wet grass between Glen Loin and Inveruglas Water, Arrochar, breaking a lower leg. Strathclyde Police and Arrochar MRT. 13.
- DECEMBER 6th – Abseiling down a greasy face in Bridge of Allan Quarry, John Duncan (40) slipped and fell 18m sustaining head and pelvic injuries. Ochills MRT on exercise saw the incident and so were able to treat and evacuate him immediately. Instead of clipping into the main harness he had clipped into a gear loop which failed when he slipped. 6.
- DECEMBER 12th – Michael MacLachlan (44) fell asleep on the path to Carn Maigr Bothy above Invervar. He woke in darkness and lost his bearings. Tayside Police SARU, Tayside MRT, SARDA. 55.
- DECEMBER 24th – Without crampons, but well-equipped, experienced and with two companions, Keith Endean (29) slipped when 50m from the summit ridge on the north side of Stuc a' Chroin. He lost his ice-axe trying to brake with it and fell 65m fracturing his pelvis and suffering cuts. Killin and RAF Valley MRTs. Evacuated by stretcher carry, Argocat and RAF Wessex helicopter. 54.
- DECEMBER 28th – Joseph Campbell (40) was descending the NW Ridge of Cruach Ardrain when he tripped on a crampon and fell 55m with arm and neck injuries (subluxed C3 on C4 vertebrae). Stretchered down by Killin and Kinloss/Stafford RAF MRTs. 282.
- DECEMBER 29th – Solo walking on Beinn an Lochain, Arrochar, Terrence Farrar (55) died of ischaemic heart disease. He had left a route-card in his caravanette in a lay-by. Body was found by RN Sea King. Strathclyde Police MRT and SARDA. 60.
- DECEMBER 30th – In a party of four descending West Ridge of Ben Lui, wearing crampons, Jack Crichton (34) fell 45m on hard neve sustaining head and leg injuries. Winched out by RN Sea King. Killin and Strathclyde Pol. MRTs. 125.

SKYE

- FEBRUARY 17th to 18th – Glendale, Skye. Man left house at midnight and was found dead in burn. Ground search not mountain. Sleepwalking? Skye MRT, CG and Police, Bristows (HMCG) Helicopter.
- FEBRUARY 25th to 26th – Abseiling on Sgurr nan Gilleann, Robin Mack (28) had upper limb injuries and frostbitten fingers. His rope had jammed leaving him suspended for 30 minutes then he cut the rope and landed on a ledge where he stayed overnight. Hugh McBryde (40) had been abseiling nearby and decided to bed down for the night where he could keep an eye on Mack. In the subsequent rescue McBryde had his skull cut by a loose rock dislodged by helicopter downdraught. Both left hospital after treatment same day. Skye MRT and HM Coastguard Helicopter. 29.
- MARCH 21st – Line Pabol (F21) overdue from a walk at Torvaig. Search by Skye MRT, Coastguard, RNLI Crew and RAF Sea King. She turned up OK.
- APRIL 11th – Scrambling up wet rock and scree, a party of four were navigating poorly in Coire a' Bhasteir of Sgurr nan Gilleann. Rhian Emmens (F39) was fatally injured by a fall into a gully. Stretchered down by Skye MRT and Police. HMCG Helicopter. RAF Wessex recalled due to weather. 96.
- APRIL 11th – HMCG Helicopter airlifted the husband of the dead woman in the above incident and also one hypothermic case (female).
- APRIL 12th – In Coire Dubh, north of Bla Bheinn, Gordon Roberts (23) slipped and fell 150m with spinal and pelvic injuries. Going to help him, Kevin Munson (25) slipped, fell 20m and was also injured (cuts and bruises). Airlift by HMCG. Skye MRT 22.

- APRIL 25th – In Coire Lagan, on the W. Buttress of Sron na Ciche, others in the party assumed that their two companions were cragfast, but delay was due to a snagged rope. Shouted communications were impossible due to wind noise. Somebody blew a whistle! Skye MRT and RAF Sea King were involved but the pair extricated themselves. 24.
- APRIL 30th – Jaqueline Sackville (20) lifted by RAF Sea King from Ben Suardal, Broadford, suffering over-exertion and mild hypothermia. 14.
- MAY 22nd – Ian Ritchie (41) fell 10m on to scree just west of Bealach Coire na Banachdich, injuring his leg. Skye MRT. RAF Sea King. 18.
- MAY 23rd – Descending scree in Coire a'Bhasteir, NE of Am Basteir, Richard Allsop (25) was struck by a boulder dislodged by another in his party of four, sustaining a 10cm cut to a calf. Skye MRT and Police. RAF Sea King. 14.
- MAY 24th – Crossing the Bad Step of Loch Scaraig, Karen Schmid (25) slipped and fell 3m to the shore, sustaining a cut above her left eye. Skye MRT and Police. RAF Sea King. 18.
- MAY 25th – Neist Point, Skye. Kay Jones (45) injured her leg on sea cliffs and was airlifted by HMCG Helicopter. 6.
- MAY 30th – Mark MacLennan injured a knee climbing Sgurr Dubh Mor. He was airlifted by Sea King helicopter.
- JUNE 30th to JULY 7th – Woman (26) had walked, camped and spent a week at the south end of Glen Sligachan. She walked out after searches by Kinloss and Skye MRTs, RAF Sea King and HMCG Helicopter unaware that she had caused alarm. She had failed to contact uncle as promised. 840.
- JULY 7th – Mackinnon was leading 'Shangri La' on Sron na Ciche with Bell as second. Nearing the top pitch he climbed a steep groove. As he climbed out of the groove he was pulling himself up with both hands when they gave way and a piece of rock as big as himself came away from the cliff. Mackinnon was holding on to the rock as it fell and he tried to manoeuvre it past him, but it caught his right ankle. He fell for about 6m and stopped just above Bell. Mackinnon was airlifted by RAF Sea King from the crag with a fracture dislocation of the ankle.
- AUGUST 9th to 10th – Vivien (F53) and Sarah Bateman (20) and Gareth Brooks (25) were benighted on a climb of Sgurr Alasdair. Safe and well.
- AUGUST 22nd – 23 Belgians in shorts and T-shirts walked from Glenbrittle around the coast to Coruisk Hut. Yacht 'Malish' radioed for help. One unconscious from hypothermia and six very cold were airlifted by HMCG Helicopter despite flying being restricted to below 100m because of poor weather. The other 16 were taken by Mallaig Lifeboat to Armadale. Skye and Kinloss MRTs called out. 200.
- SEPTEMBER 5th – Solo walker, Frederick Norris (50) slipped on wet rock injuring his leg near Loch an Fhir-bhallaich, Coire Lagan. Winched into HMCG Helicopter. Morphine used. Skye MRT. 12.
- SEPTEMBER 8th – In mist on The Quiraing, Lynn Moody (44) sprained an ankle when she slipped on wet scree north of Meall na Suirmach. Stretchered off by Skye MRT and Ambulance Service. 19.
- SEPTEMBER 25th – An exhausted mountain biker, with possible hypothermia was airlifted by HMCG Helicopter from Rubha Buidhe, a cape 4 km ESE of Kyleakin. Party was recovered by HMS Sandown's inflatable rescue boat. 6.
- OCTOBER 4th – One of a party of five, Lily Ames (54) broke her leg in three places when she stumbled in boggy ground, descending Coire a'Ghreadaidh. Stretcher carried by Skye MRT and Police. 16.
- OCTOBER 4th to 5th – After walking over Bruach na Frithe, Jaqueline Wilson (28) went down Lota Coire with her husband. She got exhausted and he went for help. Skye MRT and RAF Sea King. 225.

DECEMBER 29th to 30th – A party of five in mist was descending a snow/ice slope towards Coire a'Ghreadaidh. One slipped, knocking over Barbara Dunn (44) who fell 30m down snow on to rocks. She wore crampons at the time. She suffered various limb and rib fractures with a punctured lung. Stretchered by Skye and RAF Stafford MRTs and Police to HMCG Helicopter for airlift. 414.

ISLANDS

(Other Than Skye)

1991, AUGUST 20th – Extensive RN Sea King search for missing persons on Island of Oronsay assisting Oban Police. Nothing found. 16.

AUGUST 31st – Corrie Burn, Goat Fell, Arran. Fallen walker Stephen Eck (21) at bottom of gully with head, pelvic, ankle and wrist injuries. RN Sea King lowered medic, crewman and stretcher, then held off before lifting patient. 11.

SEPTEMBER 10th – Nicholas Green with suspected broken leg lifted from narrow coastal path, Isle of Arran, by RN Sea King. Found with two instructors.

SEPTEMBER 18th – A woman walker broke her ankle at Carsaig, Mull (Top of very high cliffs on S. Coast) by tripping on a path. Carried out by colleagues. HM Coastguard. 8.

SEPTEMBER 30th – RN Sea King airlifted Eleanor Ross, an injured walker, from near Lochranza, Arran.

1992, about JANUARY 1st – Isle of Unst, Shetland. Two well-equipped walkers were first footing the hut at 200m on top of Hermaness Hill. David Caseley (26) was blown away with the hut in a 150 knot hurricane. Mary Buyers (22) was blown over cliffs. Both fatal. HMCG Helicopter.

FEBRUARY 10th – A search by Orkney Coastguard and RAF Sea King found Michael Lees (28) safe. Overdue, he had extended his walk over Ward Hill, Hoy.

FEBRUARY 24th – HMCG Helo was diverted for a man stranded on a sandbank at mouth of R. Laxdale, Lewis, but he walked ashore as tide ebbed.

MARCH 27th – William Grant (45) who was working on a reservoir on the Island of Rona, got lost when exploring, and was four hours overdue for his transport. Kintail MRT, HMCG Helicopter. 20.

APRIL 1st – Arran MRT stretchered John Gavigan (46) from the track to Loch Urie, Lamalash. He slipped and injured a leg. 18.

JULY 17th to 18th – Birdwatching on Hallival, Rum, after his wife had returned to Kinloch, Christopher Vasey (43) got lost and went to SW of the island. With a faulty watch and no map or compass, he got back to Kinloch as a search by Lochaber MRT and RAF Wessex started. 38.

JULY 25 to 26 – John Vickers (27) separated from two companions on Goat Fell and spent the night in a derelict building in Brodick. He was reported missing. Arran MRT, SARDA, RN Sea King. 155.

JULY 28th – Coastguard helicopter R119 assisted by Scalpay CG Rescue Team airlifted Mrs M. Booth (53) (broken ankle) from a footpath near Eilean Glas Lighthouse, Scalpay, North Harris.

AUGUST 18th – Joyce Smith (62) slipped on the footpath SE of Ben Nuis and broke her ankle. Stretchered down by Arran MRT. 27.

OCTOBER 17th – Three women and a man, all in their 20s, got benighted when they underestimated the time needed to walk around the southern coast horseshoe of Rum from Kinloch. They had no compass and one torch which went flat. Found unhurt, but cold, five miles from home. Police, Mallaig Lifeboat, HMCG Helicopter. 20.

OCTOBER 20th – John MacAskilli, shepherd, died from asphyxia, found by air search and winched by HMCG helicopter from steep ground at 300m. and 1 km due west of the summit of Hecla (606m), S. Uist. 10.

OCTOBER 25th – Arran MRT and RN Sea King searched for a soldier missing from a search and evasion exercise. Leuchars Team were en route to Arran when he turned up. 38.

NOVEMBER 16th – Brian Drummond (25) and Darren Phillips (21) both slipped on wet scree and suffered torn knee ligaments on an Army exercise near Prince's Cave, Corodale Bay, E. Coast of South Uist. Winched out by HMCG Helicopter. 8.

SOUTHERN UPLANDS

1991, JULY 31st – Heads of Ayr. RN Sea King airlifted Mr. McGlauchlin from a cragfast position. A second climber got himself down. 4.

AUGUST 19th – CG teams transferred doctor and ambulance persons for three hours cliff face medical attention at Eyemouth prior to casualty airlift.

AUGUST 29th to 30th – Woman (46) who had committed suicide near Melrose was found by sweep search. Tweed Valley MRT and Borders SRU. 32.

SEPTEMBER 8th – A. Warren (69) with heat exhaustion airlifted by RN Sea King.

SEPTEMBER 25th – Helicopter airlift for person at base of Eyemouth cliff. CG teams.

OCTOBER 28th to 29th – RN Sea King night search in rapidly deteriorating weather for Miss G. Andrews missing in Carrick Forest W. of Loch Doon. Mission aborted. Casualty flown out with brother next day.

NOVEMBER 23rd – Two men (20s) looking for a bothy in forestry near Mossdale separated, one raising alarm for the other. Galloway MRT. 8.

NOVEMBER 30th to DECEMBER 1st – Southern Upland Way between Loch Trool and White Laggan Bothy. Searches for missing sponsored walkers by Moffat and Galloway MRTs, RN Sea King, and SARDA. They turned up safe. 77.

DECEMBER 10th – Descending Craigenallie Crags on Cairngarroch, Glen Dee, Ann Jessett (28) slipped and slid over rocks on to a ledge where she was too scared to move. Lowered by Galloway MRT, cold but uninjured. RN Sea King unable to land (night). 134.

1992, MARCH 1st – Unroped, William Buchanan (14) slipped climbing sea cliffs at Dunskey Castle, Portpatrick, injured head, pelvis, abdomen and arm. RN helicopter, Portpatrick and Drummole CG, Portpatrick RNLI. 37.

MAY 22nd to 23rd – Left at Craigenallie (77/503 780) to be collected next day, Mary Dunlop did not turn up. She was found by SARDA dog on slopes of Craiglee, around Loch Dee. Unhurt, she was just lost. Galloway MRT, Police, Forestry workers, RAF Helicopter. 40.

JUNE 7th – Grey Mare's Tail Waterfall at Moffat. Corina Philips (21) climbed in trainers and got stuck 20m from the foot. Lowered by Moffat HRT. Shocked, she did not seem to know she was at risk. 18.

JUNE 14th – Barry Eels (39) was the rearmost in a family group of four walking the 'short path' of The Grey Mare's Tail. He fell over 20m down a grassy, rocky gully into Tail Burn, sustaining shoulder and severe head injuries. Moffat HRT stretchered him to ambulance. It was learned that he suffered from epilepsy. 16.

JUNE 15th – Sea cliff climbing unroped at Dunskey Castle, Carl Dunn (29) was rescued by cliff ascent, uninjured. RN helicopter, Portpatrick and Drummole CG and Police. 50.

JUNE 23rd – Searches by Moffat HRT for an experienced male hillwalker (39) supposed to be spending summer solstice on Hart Fell (808m). He returned home on 24th from Rannoch Moor and Fort William! 132.

JUNE 30th to JULY 3rd – Searches of rough grazing, forest and lochs around Kirkalla Farm, Newton Stewart by Galloway, Leeming and Leuchars MRTs, Diving Team, SARDA, Forestry Commission, RN Sea King and local volunteers for Amanda Ross (21) later found drowned. 1000.

JULY 2nd – Charity walking over Criffel in trainer/boots Linda (23) slipped on wet grass breaking an ankle. Moffat HRT and Police. 34.

AUGUST 3rd to 4th – Galloway MRT searched farmland for Iain McMaster (18). Found dead by sweep search. He had stumbled with a loaded shotgun and shot himself accidentally. 5.

AUGUST 16th – Woman (about 35) who slipped on a steep path near Fast Castle, St. Abbs, injured her knee and ankle and was stretchered out by RAF Wessex helicopter.

AUGUST 18th to 19th – Keith Bell (44) left his car keys on top of Merrick (843m) He started back up at 20.00 got the keys, but went west instead of south. He turned up safe at 08.15. Galloway MRT and Police. 45.

SEPTEMBER 11th – Malcolm Parker (48) fishing River Minnoch, near Newton Stewart, was trapped on an island by rising river level. Roped off by Galloway MRT and Police. 6.

SEPTEMBER 13th – McNab Grant (M19) motor cycling the Pennine Way on The Cheviot in a group of seven. Separated from them and descending steeply in The Hen Hole he went over the handlebars and suffered concussion and leg injuries. After a suspected period of unconsciousness he walked to Auchope Hut where a backpacker helped him but was himself too tired to go on. Found by Borders SRU. 48.

DECEMBER 27th – Four lost teenage Scouts (13-14) fortunately came across Snarhead Bothy (two miles NW of Leadhills) in strong winds, sleet and snow. Found by Police. Galloway and Moffat MRTs called out. 97.

NON-MOUNTAINEERING

January 2nd – Andrew Gilbert, paddling the River Roy, was dragged out of his boat by a stopper. Lochaber MRT searched the banks near Achavady and found him exhausted but unhurt. 102.

MARCH 31st – RAF Leuchars MRT filled sandbags for five flooded areas near Cupar, and used team vehicles to evacuate several people from a house. 142.

APRIL 3rd to 4th – Several RAF Sea King and Wessex helicopters, Aberdeen, Grampian Police and Braemar, Kinloss, Leuchars, Tayside MRTs and SARDA were involved in searching 600 square km of mountains for a missing Grobe 112 two-seat aircraft with two people on board. An AWAC aircraft flying NE of Aberdeen gave last known position of the Grobe aircraft as 2 km NE of Lochnagar. MRTs searched Lochnagar and Glen Muick at night in high avalanche risk conditions. There was more aerial searching on the second day with MRTs on high points around Glen Muick and searching woods E. of Ballater. Police divers took over when wreckage was found on the shore of Loch Muick and aircraft documents in the water. c1000.

APRIL 7th - RAF Leuchars MRT was called out to search for a light aircraft missing between Carlisle and Teeside.

MAY 8th – Engine failure caused a civilian helicopter to crash (no injuries) 5 km S. of Brin Rock on the Nairn/Findhorn watershed. Found by RAF Sea King. Cairngorm and Kinloss MRTs and SARDA assembled. 74.

MAY 12th – Tucano crashed 1.7 km SSE of Mill of Tynet, Buckie, with ejection seats just 400m N. of aircraft wreck. Kinloss MRT mounted crash guard with RAF Sea King involved. No fatalities.

JULY 15th – Leuchars MRT and RAF Wessex involved after a Bulldog aircraft from University Air Sqdn. force landed without damage to aircraft or aircrew. 40.

AUGUST 22nd – Civilian light aircraft from Blackpool bound for Mull, crashed on Glas Bheinn, Craighouse, Jura, killing all four men on board. HMCG, RAF and RN Sea King type helicopters and RAF Nimrod were involved in the aftermath. Kinloss MRT located casualties, mapped area and mounted crash guard on 23rd to be relieved by Strathclyde Police MRT on 24th and 25th to clear remains with the help of a Police helicopter. Leuchars MRT diverted en route. 1038.

IN MEMORIAM

ROBERT D. WALTON j.1945

ROBERT D. WALTON joined the club in 1945 after having been in the JMCS since 1936. Childhood days in Arran had made him familiar with the moors and hills and had produced a lasting affection for Arran.

As a student he explored the west of Scotland with a bicycle and a tent, reaching Cape Wrath and climbing hills on the way. His first Munro was Ben More in Mull in 1930 and his last (then) with his son, was Luinne Bhein in 1968. Candid friends pointed out that the anglicised pronunciation of this last was just right for a Munro-bagger.

After his retirement, regrading of the Munros had produced some new claimants and he spent a happy few days at Shenevall clearing them off. Throughout he considered himself mainly a hill walker.

His first visits to the Alps were with Austrian students, first in Austria, then on to the Oberland where they climbed five of the 13,000ft peaks in 10 days, then a few of the easier Chamonix aiguilles and the Dauphiné peaks.

Although he attended a number of Club meets in the Fifties and Sixties, he enjoyed going alone on the hills and latterly he went with his wife and son on the Scottish hills, the English and Irish 'Munros' and some of the higher tops of the Jotenheim. Since his son went to California in 1973, he and his wife have alternated walking trips in the Alps with trips in the Sierra Nevada in the high wilderness areas associated with John Muir – and other areas.

In the Alps he devised circuits zig-zagging across the frontiers by unfrequented and unofficial routes – five crossings in one such circuit – sometimes with delightful surprises, like the siting of white '*Eritrichium naxum*', sometimes with unexpected difficulties when a heavy late snow fall involved the crossing, with walking sticks, of three 10,000ft passes and a precautionary nylon cord and deadman were brought into use.

He was educated at Allan Glen's School and Glasgow University where his record as Prizeman in astronomy led naturally to work as a navigation instructor in the RAF. He taught maths in Govan, Hillhead, Galashiels and finally as head of department in Dumfries Academy. There, as one of the Scottish Mathematics Group, he took part in writing the series of standard text-books in Scottish schools over the last 20 years.

Two of his articles appeared in recent issues of the Journal. The first, 'Navigator's Route, Sgurr nan Gilleann' was first sent to the then editor 30 years ago and was rejected as too flippant! '*Autres temps autres mœurs*'. A similarly flippant article about a test flight in a Horsa glider was published in the RAF magazine, 'Air Mail'.

Over the years various papers and articles on mathematics, education and psychology were published, as well as some on hill walking. His first photographic success was to sell, in the Thirties, a picture of the Falls of Glomach to the Glasgow 'Bulletin'.

After the war his photographs appeared in Blackwell's Alpine and Mountain calendars at the end of the black and white era. More recently, his colour plates have appeared in the Arran calendars.

He was glad to recall that while at Govan, Hillhead and Dumfries he introduced many pupils to the pleasures of hill walking. From Dumfries parties criss-crossed the Galloway wilderness in all directions. Until recently, he was Honorary President of the Galloway Mountaineering Club and recently along with another local resident, he succeeded in having reopened a blocked pathway, but only after taking costly action at the Sheriff Court.

Some 20 years ago he was asked to revise and extend a book of walks in Dumfries and Galloway and this has recently been again revised and issued with his colour plates. He also produced recently a book of colour plates of Arran to supplement his book of walks in Arran. This last was originally offered to the Arran Tourist Board and refused on the grounds that it would not sell – it is now in its seventh printing.

He always took the view that going on or among the hills was for enjoyment, that it was not necessary always to reach the summit, let alone to reach it by a new or difficult route. The ‘Cockerel on a Dunghill’ attitude is perhaps present even in claiming to have ‘done the Munros’ or even in claiming to be a member of the SMC!

*The gate to freedom may stand open wide,
But those who cannot see still stay inside.*

And vigilance and effort are needed to see that the gate stays open for everyone.

R.D. Walton.

BILL BENNET j.1946

EVERYTHING that Bill took up was carried through with quiet enthusiasm and considerable success. I met him first in the 1st Glasgow Scouts. He was already a Patrol Leader and everyone wanted to be in his patrol. He became a tower of strength for many years in ‘A’ Company, helping to turn out youngsters with a grounding in what is now known as conservation.

He joined the Club in 1946, like most of his generation by way of the JMCS and soon became known not only as a climber but a great worker for the common weal. Among the memorable times with Bill, two stand out. In March, 1936, with Rob Anderson, we did Crowberry Gully, from Danny’s Barn, the howff by Altnafeadh.

There had been a lot of snow that winter since November and the Buachaille was plastered. The ice pitches were delicate and masked by soft snow; much step-cutting and, of course, no crampons. The climb took about eight hours. At Easter the following year we carried out a long-planned expedition, crossing the Cairngorms from Blair Athol to Aviemore.

The first night we camped above the Tilt, hard frost, bright moonlit snow everywhere. Bill produced his Primus. ‘I’m using petrol, it’s much better.’ I expressed some dubiety, but such was my faith in his practical efficiency that – ‘Well if you say so’. Actually, the only unusual happening was a wee blue flame that shot out of the valve as he reduced pressure.

We crossed An Sgarsoch and over Beinn Bhrotain camping on the next col. Magnificently Arctic, Bill remarked that the only black ground was far down Deeside. Next day was long, over Monadh Mor and the splendid round of Cairntoul and Braeriach. The only slight regret, which came much later, was what it would have been

like on skis. There is a fine view taken by him that weekend in Bill Murray's book 'Mountaineering in Scotland'. He was a good photographer. Bill was the first person I saw on skis, home made, by himself. He could turn his hand to anything.

We had a happy first visit to the Alps just after the war. Tom McKinnon, already with Alpine experience, and a great leader, was there too. The best of several good climbs was the traverse of the Wellenkuppe and the Obergabelhorn by the Arbengrat. We were late on the summit, Tom suggested a night out would be preferable to descending the afternoon ice on Mt. Durand. He was right, everything was frozen hard by early morning.

Bill's great legacy to the Club must surely be the amount of hard work and practical skill he gave so unstintingly and cheerfully towards the huts, particularly Lagangarbh and the CIC. In recognition of all his work he was made Honorary Vice-President in 1986. A typical construction job was the weekend spent with a work party organising materials and the building of the first lavatory at the CIC, which lasted for many years.

Another great interest was sailing. His boat the 'Fairy' was well known and shared by many friends on cruises around the Western coasts and isles. During the war he was a member of the Clyde River Patrol, but overwork and effects of leadburning during his reserved occupation resulted in a period of ill health. He must have suffered much in his last long illness but he received the greatest support from Sandy and Katherine, his son and daughter. He will be missed by all who knew him well.

Douglas Scott.

GRAHAM TISO j.1959

GRAHAM TISO combined a passion for the mountains and the sea with being an outstandingly successful businessman. Tragically he was killed in an accident last June while working on his boat on St Lucia in the West Indies.

His love for Scotland went deep. At the age 16 he and a friend, Alan Wright, hitchhiked from Birmingham to the North-west Highlands. There and then he decided to live in Scotland and in his early twenties he persuaded his employer to move him to Edinburgh. He joined the JMCS and I first met him when he took this new schoolboy member under his wing.

We climbed the good standard routes in Glen Coe – Whortleberry, Hangman's, a streaming Clachaig Gully with sojourns to the Lakes, Ben Nevis, Carnmor and down into Glen Etive. This was in the fifties and sixties and Scottish climbing was going through a renaissance which Graham was part of.

It was the period of Marshall, Smith, Haston and Moriarty, gentlemen not known for their sensitivity and, as an Englishman, Graham took terrible abuse. He took this in good part and always remained his own man revelling, not only in the mountains, but in the company of the characters with whom he climbed.

His best climbing was done in winter, often with Jimmy Marshall, and his record includes some fine climbs – Crowberry Gully, Parallel Gully B, Smith's Gully and Vanishing Gully. The culmination of a long-held ambition, which gave him great pleasure, was the second ascent of the Cuillin Ridge in 1965.

Graham was not a natural climber but had the determination to acquire the skills and was brave and adventurous.

One of Graham's attributes was that he had transport – a motor bike and a car. He was as enthusiastic a driver as a climber. Etched in my memory is careering towards a

telegraph pole, trapped in the sidecar, watching Jimmy Marshall preparing to leap from the pillion and Graham wrestling with the bike. There was no stopping when we shaved by, just a belly laugh from Graham.

His car was usually crammed with passengers and kit and it would be raced down the Black Mount to shouted encouragement as he attempted to exceed the magic 40mph round the bends. Even Graham was silenced when it lost adhesion and skipped across the road – not for nothing was the car known as ‘the crab’. The same car was manhandled over drifts on the Dalwhinnie road to get the occupants to Creag Meaghaidh.

We used to complain about the need to buy our boots mail order but Graham saw the commercial opportunity. He opened for business in 1961 in the back shop owned by some friends, then the next year opened his first shop. Graham had an innate sense for business and for what the market needed. When Scottish bogs rotted boot stitching, the manufacturers were left in no doubt of what was required of them. He was a fanatic for quality and drove up standards and innovation across the whole trade not just for his own business.

His commitment was broad and, in the seventies, he was a member of the equipment sub-committee of the BMC working with Dr. Joe Griffin and John Armitage. One of the problems was the balance of strength of a rope and the ability to tie a knot in it. Technicians devised impractical formulae but Graham simply tied an overhand knot and if the tail could pass through the eye of the knot it failed the test. The Tiso test epitomised Graham's ability to simplify problems and think laterally.

In 1972, when Chris Bonington needed someone to organise the equipment for the Everest expedition at short notice, he turned to Graham. Graham went to 24,000ft and spent several nights alone there in poor conditions; he endured this in a way I saw him do on other occasions – he slept through it. His plan had been to return to Everest the next year with a party of ‘unknowns’. However, the decision was made to have another major expedition to the South-west Ridge and Graham declined to join it.

One of Graham's enduring monuments will be the contribution he made to the Club. He was a Committee Member in 1966-69, Guide Books General Editor 1971-72 and had an unbroken period from 1972-91 as Convenor of the Publications Sub-Committee. Graham saw the potential for an updated, broader range of publications but initially had to struggle against some conservative elements.

With his classic combination of business flair, cunning and bullying he got his way and must take the bulk of the credit for the financial strength of the Trust today.

His interests in Scotland and the outdoors extended beyond the SMC. He was an early Trustee and a driving force behind the John Muir Trust and became a governor of Rannoch School with its ethos of self-reliance through adventure.

When he damaged his ankle climbing at Traprain he turned to sailing. He bought Mysie, a Fifer ketch, exploring the Western Isles and beyond to Norway, the Faroes and Iceland. In 1984 he had a yacht, the Sea Eagle, built to his specification. She was built for single-handed sailing and, although it would be years before he took her there, she was designed for both equatorial and high latitude sailing. As he delegated the running of the business he extended his sailing to the Azores, Northern Spain and Spitzbergen, at times with his family but often making long passages alone. In sailing, as in climbing, he applied a self-sufficiency ethic.

When he stepped in to sponsor the Scottish Islands Peaks race he tried, typically, to keep it an adventure for amateurs. He limited the number of entrants and there were prizes for eccentricity and style as well as speed. The norms of conventional yacht racing and the protest committee were not for Graham. His sailing took him further afield and he crossed the Atlantic to the Caribbean and made it his base. From here he sailed up the American coast, anchoring off Manhattan, to Newfoundland and West Greenland and was preparing for a trans-Pacific trip when he was killed.

Graham was an enigma. He could be brusque to the point of rudeness. He had no tolerance for those he regarded as fools but was generous with time and money for people or causes he believed in. Small talk was not Graham's forte and he became something of a caricature of himself. He described with glee how his doctor, on diagnosing a hearing problem, told him: 'You are deaf in certain frequencies and won't enjoy cocktail parties any more since you won't be able to hear the women's voices.' He could be a difficult man to relax with but more than worth the effort.

Graham's objective was always to spend six months of every year in the outdoors. Like most things he tackled he exceeded this: Graham knew what he wanted and did it. A great character and a friend has been taken from us.

Andrew Wightman.

THEO NICHOLSON j.1948

AFTER 10 cruelly frustrating months following a severe stroke, Theo Nicholson lost a courageously-fought battle for recovery on October 28, 1992.

Sadly – looking back over his very long and full life – it has to be acknowledged that all too many of those who shared in the strenuous days he loved so well are no longer with us; those who *can* remember are grateful indeed for a particularly rich store of memories.

Thinking of his mountain days, one would surely best describe Theo as the complete all-rounder. The record – on foot and on ski – ranges over at least 10 countries, from Scotland and Norway to the western United States and the South Island of New Zealand.

Ski mountaineering began at Adelboden in 1928. This was to take him back to Switzerland as often as he could manage, to Austria and to Norway, where spring glacier-touring was his very special delight. It was to play a large part also in his war service – as a volunteer in the 5th Scots Guards (Finnish Ski Battalion) in 1940; as an instructor in Commando mountain warfare at Braemar and on the rocks of North Wales; later in the Canadian Rockies with the Lovat Scouts, training in the Columbia Icefields, Watchtower Valley and the Maligne Lake areas. Another war-time variation was serving on John Hunt's staff in Greece, where Mount Olympus was a big attraction on a number of occasions.

In addition to membership of the Alpine Ski Club, Theo was a member of the Alpine Club and an honorary life member of the Lake District Ski Club. His experience of the Scottish hills, dating from 1926, increased rapidly in the years after the war and brought him into the Club in 1948. He completed all the Munros in 1960 and the Tops the year after.

Theo was never more happily in his element than at one of the old-time hotel meets at New Year or Easter. (One thinks inevitably of the friendships he enjoyed so much with members of days gone by – Sandy Harrison, Fred Wylie, Robert Elton, Myles Morrison, Willie Carmichael to name but a few). Speaking personally, it is the details of more long days than a sketchy diary can recall which matter most: May heatwave on the Rum roundabout, doubtful weather to beat on a ski crossing of the winter Cairngorms, rain and sweat over A'Mhaighdean and its neighbours, North Wales, Austria, both nights back home and the misty last of his Tops.

Theo would have liked mention made of all these mountain days. Yet there is much more besides. From as far back as 1926, when he was a special constable during the General Strike, public service took up much of his time: assistant county commissioner for Scouts; honorary liaison officer for Duke of Edinburgh awards; after the war, characteristically, taking a sympathetic, practical part in ex-service benevolent work.

An expert in woodlands and timber, he found more than ordinary satisfaction in his lifelong business career with Southern, the timber merchants, with whom he was latterly chairman and joint managing director. Business aside, he took endless delight in walks in the Delamere Forest and more particularly in his own private woodland near his Kelsall, Cheshire, home.

Perhaps the observation of a close friend on and off the hills for exactly 50 years may be slightly biased. No matter. He would take issue with all and sundry that Theo was unfailingly the best of companions, always interested, always interesting, immensely good fun, never content with anything but the highest standards.

This year, 1993, would have seen his diamond wedding. To Thelma, unselfish sharer of those almost-60 years, to their children, Elizabeth, David and John, and to their grandchildren, words of sympathy, wholly sincere, wholly inadequate.

Campbell R. Steven.

DR. ANGUS McINNES j.1980

IN THE grief that has followed Angus's death, feelings and stories seem to be ever present in the minds of his friends. Days away with Angus were never ordinary. He was a mountaineer in the old sense of the word. He loved ice-climbing, cragging, walking, skiing, canoeing, good beer, blethering and companionship.

He liked to climb the more traditional routes on the mountains and was most comfortable on severe and grade 3 standard. I have one vivid memory of him climbing in Glen Coe. We were doing a 400ft severe which turned out to be about twenty, 50m rope lengths of vertical heather and mud with a grading of at least severe sustained throughout. The evening before his death I was ribbing him that he should publish a list of the 'McInnes's', i.e. a list of dirty, loose and enjoyable climbs of great character in fine locations. I think the idea appealed to him.

He was a man who excelled in the mountains in dirty, rough conditions, occasionally to the dismay of his companions. He once drove to the Cairngorm car park on a wet and very windy day. George Hamilton, who was with him, was dreading going out in these conditions and was very relieved to find that the wind was so strong he could not open the car door and expected a quick retreat to the pub. Angus rose to the challenge and simply turned the car around so George could get out, then turned it again so he could get out. He hated missing a day on the hill because of the weather and almost always found some safe alternative.

Angus was also known for his remarkable mountaineering equipment. To him it was all part of the game. He really felt that the climber mattered, not the gear. We were once on the Upper Couloir of Stob Ghabhar and he was leading up the ice pitch trying his best to ignore my moans about the fact that I needed two hands to open or close his karabiners. Once belayed he took up the slack to find that I had forgotten to tie on: he never said a word but laughed his head off. We continued the climb and as I led over the cornice he told me to look over my shoulder; a golden eagle soared from a ledge about five feet away from me. Pulling over the cornice we basked in a breathtaking sunset until it was quite dark. A great day.

Sometimes the minimal gear got a bit too much. On one hill I found that we were using an AA map for navigation. That was a long day.

However, some idea of his great competence and independence as a mountaineer was shown in an incident on Creagh Meaghaidh a few years ago.

He was on an ice pitch when a couple of climbers high on the cliff were hit by part of a falling cornice. The cornice knocked the two climbers off, injuring them, and their debris went on to give Angus a 40ft peel, severely breaking his ankle. The companion who held this fall let Angus know that there were injured climbers above. Realising that he would not be capable of getting up to the climbers to give medical assistance he asked to be left a rope and suggested that his companion attend to the climbers above. He then proceeded to abseil down the cliff and crawl down from Coire Ardair. The Chopper crew were busy that day and after they had lifted the two injured men from the face and dealt with another incident, they returned and landed beside Angus, who was by now only a few hundred yards from the road. The winchman came over to him, praised his efforts and suggested a lift the rest of the way.

There were many things which were very important to Angus; his family, the mountains, politics, the JMCS. There were also things which were unimportant to him: his appearance on the hill (despite his wife's many efforts), his status and the state of his car, which at times could resemble a busy bothy.

We were once away for a week in the North-west doing a few hills and a few classic climbs such as the Cioch Nose. It had been a hot week and the car had developed a certain atmosphere about it. Angus had his teeth on the dashboard (where else would you keep your teeth?) Travelling south we came across a serious accident where the police were already in attendance. Angus pulled over to offer his assistance telling the policeman that he was a doctor; the policeman took one disbelieving look at us and moved us on.

Over the years Angus's enormous enthusiasm for the hills took him through a staggering list of classic climbs both at home and abroad. He was a regular attendee at JMCS meets for 24 years and also tried to put something back into the hills by serving on the committee of the MC of S for many years. This enthusiasm gave him a remarkable propensity for hard walking. A weekend trip to Glen Licht in November turned into a real stamina-tester as we did a 28-mile day in deep snow. We ended the day about five hours after dark wearily trudging by the light of a single headtorch. The next day I was quite incapable of walking anywhere but Angus was up as usual for a quick walk up A' Glas Bheinn before driving home.

Angus died on Hell's Lum, killed instantly by a falling block of ice. With his death many climbers lost a great friend. The hills will never be quite the same for many of us as a sadness will always be present whenever we think of him, tramping the tops with one of his dogs, long looking to the next hill and the next route.

Dick Edie.

NORMAN SINCLAIR TENNENT

NORMAN was a legend in his own time. He was not an easy man to live with, whether as husband or companion. But he was a marvellous person. No climb, no situation, no person was ever the same when Norman was present. He endowed his immediate environment with superlatives. Where one merely saw a cascade of frozen water, to him it was like the golden wall of the Potala palace. He wrote about people, both companions and others, with the cryptic acerbity that characterised his conversation. Has there ever been such a character reference as evinced in 'Missing the Last Post', or such a clear revelation of the man himself.

We are lucky that he left us these pieces in the SMC Journal. Such a writer can never die. He explained himself and his own invincible ethos in those lines on page 29 of the 27th Volume: 'I don't care if we are old fashioned: we climb for the pleasure we seem to find in each other's company, despite everything, and whether we succeed or fail.' He believed, as Graham Brown remarked, that the 'climb is the hero, not the climber'.

Climbing for Norman, as for many of us, was the fulfilment of a need for adventure in an otherwise all too predictable world. He hated money, he detested clients, he could not suffer fools. He loved good food, and conversation, and was a snob when it came to wine and coffee. He resolutely refused to join the SMC. I once, and once only, took him as a guest to an SMC dinner, after which he remarked to me that as the room appeared to be full of old fogies and people in bath chairs, he felt he wasn't quite ready for that! The fact is that he refused to fill in the application form except in the most sketchy manner! Nonetheless, his name and his exploits are so closely linked to members of that club, that historians will assume he was, and indeed, he should have been. It gave him immense pleasure that the Lochaber JMCS made him an honorary member of their club. Maybe the SMC should retrospectively do the same. I can just hear what he would say. It may be our last laugh on him, and like so many of his, kindly meant.

Norman was the toughest man I ever met. He experienced more than his fair share of both physical and mental pain. Yet even his closest companions were never admitted into his inner thoughts, for he was an intensely private person. Only once in the 46 years of our friendship did he offer me a glimpse, when he remarked that the only time in his life when he had been truly happy and free from care, was when he had been a submarine commander moving to attack. And just occasionally, out of nowhere, he would exhale with the words: 'Oh God, that WAS good,' and you felt rather than knew he was talking about the outcome of some recent adventure, or experience. It might have been a book of poems, a climb, a play. Sometimes one never knew.

Norman was a man who flirted with death all his life. He was careless of his welfare and his safety. In 'Missing the Last Post' he makes wonderful fun of my anger at finding he had abandoned the rope that was supposed to be belaying me, while he took out his camera. I recall him saying: 'You're in the SMC, you're not supposed to fall off.'

Born in Glasgow in 1923, he attended Glasgow Academy, and was later commissioned in the RNVR, and volunteered for submarines and diving. Returning from the war he never settled to any activity for long, unable to accept the follies of mankind. His contribution is several first ascents – notably the South Post of Creag Meagaidh – some fine writing, and, in Arisaig, where he settled for the last 16 years of his life, rearing trees, where previously there were none.

I should like to end my tribute to this remarkable man with a slightly abbreviated version of a poem by Anna Achmatova, which for me speaks volumes about our departed friend.

*This poem comes to you instead of flowers.
You, who even in the final hours showed marvellous disdain.
You drank wine, you joked like no one else.
You yourself admitted the terrible guest and remained alone with her there.
It is unbelievable, to say the least, that I am fated to commemorate someone so strong
Bright and steady to the final breath
Was it yesterday we spoke? Has it been so long.
Good-bye.*

Malcolm Slessor.

Notice has also reached us of the deaths of Dan Livingston, R.G.A. Hemming, Charles S. Tilly, D. Campbell Allen, J. Stewart Maclean and R.W.B. Morris.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLUB

New Members

The following four new members were admitted and welcomed to the Club in the year 1992-93.

Graham G. Cullen (28) Forest Officer, Elgin.

Justin Finlay (26), Offshore Oil Worker, Lentrane, Inverness.

David E. Gaskell (27), Medical Doctor, Crieff.

Richard T. Prentice (35), Journalist, Glasgow.

The One-Hundredth-and-Fourth AGM and Dinner

Another Highland Dinner, this time at the Duke of Gordon Hotel, Kingussie, on December 5th. Breaking with recent routine, there is no formal report on this particular event; instead, a series of seminars which were presented to the assembled throng before the dinner are recorded for posterity in this issue as articles.

This year sees a sadly long list of members recently deceased. Some lived a long life, outlasting climbing contemporaries, so that the final ascent has had to remain undocumented. The Editor reminds members that self-written notices are welcome, and are filed away deeply and securely. We publish one such notice, by R.D. Walton, whose passing was ably covered by his son in the 1992 issue.

EASTER MEET: ELPHIN

The meet this year returned to Elphin where 17 members and one guest enjoyed the Strangs' bountiful hospitality as residents, campers or passers-by. Meals were gargantuan and the company struggled under the overwhelming burden of a self-service bar. Sutherland experienced the best of the cool Easter weather. Although the higher tops were almost continually mist-enshrouded and therefore avoided, a full programme was completed largely without rain and even with glimpses of the sun.

Affairs of the flesh dominated the extra-curricular activities. A past – but not past it – President was restrained, by a large bolt, from explaining the intricacies of the sauna to our lady guest. The sight of a prostrate and somnolent Slesser in the same locale inspired memories of Lewis Carroll:

*I dreamt I dwelt in marble halls
And each damp thing that creeps and crawls
Went wobble-wobble on the walls*

The discussions following the main meet dinner (excellent) have tended to recede into the mists engendered by the bar, but it would appear that a substantial majority favoured Arran as the next Easter venue. However, this is subject to confirmation as, in true SMC fashion, no one could subsequently be found to admit to having actually supported this proposal. The remainder of the discussion seemed to be about bus passes.

Although poor visibility restricted mountaineering activities to the lesser (but none-the-less worthy) summits, enjoyable ascents were made of Ben Stac, Ben More Coigach, Canisp, Stac Polly, Breabag, Glas Bheinn, and, on the return journey, A' Chailleach and Sgurr Breac in the Fannichs, with more senior members generally showing a clean pair of heels to the upstarts.

Rock climbing was done at Reif. The highpoint of the meet was probably one of the lowest. Tom Strang ferried eight of the company to the west end of Cam Loch whence the Suilven ridge was traversed (both ways) with clearing skies and expanding views, before returning to our indomitable boatman. A superb way to approach a magnificent mountain.

PRESENT: Douglas Lang (President), Bryan Fleming, Mike Fleming, John Fowler, Iain MacLeod, Russell Marshall, Malcolm Slessor, Iain Smart, Oliver Turnbull, Bill Wallace, Robin Chalmers, Sandy Cousins, Dan Piggott, Scott Johnstone, Geof Cohen, Des Rubens, Murray Hamilton, Mrs Hamilton (guest).

Mike Fleming.

CIC MEETS:

Seven weekend meets were held during the 1992/93 winter season. A total of 41 members and 16 guests attended. Climbing was possible on most occasions, but the March meets coincided with very poor conditions in contrast to January 30/31 when good ice and neve was the norm.

The most popular meet, the hut being full, was February 27/28. Conditions enticed three two-man teams on to the Orion Face Route, making what looked like a 'crocodile' ascent to observers.

Even on the 'poor' weekends the CIC is worth the effort as the quality of the company, discussions and banter is commendable.

D.F. Lang.

JMCS REPORTS

Glasgow Section:— In spite of another almost snowless winter and an even wetter summer than usual, members were not to be put off so easily and achieved their usual high level of mountaineering activities even if it was generally abroad.

Membership is still ticking over at around the 100 mark with the addition of just two new recruits. Members were provided with a diary of 15 Club meets held throughout the year. These were the usual selection of camping, SMC and other club huts, Presidents' Bothy and Annual Dinner meets held throughout the Highlands. Attendance at the meets was down on previous years. An explanation for this from a member reveals that the meets were unappealing.

Following a call for change by members at the 1991 Dinner, last year's Dinner was held in the Cairndow Hotel at Loch Fyne. Despite the change of venue attendance was poor with those who had rallied for a change being conspicuously absent. Those who were privileged to be there were entertained by SMC guest, Bill Young, who recalled his days with the JMCS in the Fifties. Alastair Dutton represented the Perth Section.

Several social events were held during the winter months, including four slideshows which received some interest from members. Numbers were significantly boosted by SMC Western District members. The slideshows were all held mid-week at the University of Strathclyde Staff Club. The Whole Club Annual Dinner was hosted by the London Section in the Royal Hotel, Dockray, Cumbria in March. Attended by only seven members from the Glasgow Section, a motion had been put forward to lift the restriction of the Club to males only. Dick Edie represented the Glasgow Section and

said the Section was resolutely opposed to change. While the outcome of this motion remained in favour of no constitutional change, the fact of the matter remains that 75% of recent membership applicants have been women and that the total membership during 1992 increased by just two.

The AGM was held in November and the following were elected: *Hon. Member*, W.H. Murray; *Hon. President*, Ian Cumming; *Hon. Vice-President*, Angus McInnes; *President*, Colwyn Jones; *Vice-President*, John Morrison; *Secretary*, Sandy Donald; *Treasurer*, Anderson Foster; *Coruisk Hut Custodian*, Sandy Donald; *Meets Convenor*, Andrew Sommerville; *Committee*, David Currie, John Park, Donald Ballance and Peter Cairns.

Edinburgh Section:— After concern over membership levels and the lack of 'new blood' in recent years, 1992 saw renewed interest providing 10 new members.

Membership is now 67 including three Honorary Members. The Section continues to be active mainly in climbing and mountaineering, but we do have an enthusiastic paraglider.

Meets were held throughout the year with 14 weekend, three day and 22 evening meets held in the summer including several successful forays over the Border. Nine weekend meets were held in the winter. These were generally well attended, although numbers tended to fluctuate with the weather.

While lean conditions persisted during the winter months, sporadic activity was noted mostly in the Northern Corries and Ben Nevis; torquing axes and mixed routes seemed the norm. Later in the season the most productive meets were those centred at the Lagangarbh and Manse Barn Huts. Routes were being done throughout Glen Coe, with some members investigating Aonach Mor. The Onich meet was particularly enjoyed by our Russian friends, Yuri and Alex, before they returned home to resume taking guided parties in the Caucasus.

Carnmor and the Shelterstone proved to be the year's most successful venues, with the good weather allowing climbing well into the summer evenings. This, unfortunately, could not be said about the Arran meet which by all account was 'a bit damp'. Unofficial meets produced trips to Skye and Beinn Eighe, and also two ascents of the Old Man of Stoer.

On the international front, members visited North America, Yosemite, and Tuolumne Meadows climbing the classic routes including Snake Dyke on Half Dome and Cathedral peak. Others climbed in Colorado and Wyoming. European venues were also popular with several parties visiting the Italian Alps and Spain – seeking winter sun and warm rock.

The AGM and Annual Dinner in November returned to the Kingshouse, Glen Coe, but the attendance was down slightly on previous years. No contentious issues were raised for once – possibly a consequence of several members still making their way down the hillside handicapped by dying torch batteries. New Year was welcomed in once again at the Smiddy, Dundonnell, with the regulars ever present, complemented by a strong contingent of new faces. A new member won the gallon of whisky in the hotel's Hogmanay raffle, much to the appreciation of those present. Despite ample distraction, mountain activities were not forgotten. One memorable nocturnal descent prompted even earlier starts, culminating with several routes on An Teallach.

The Section's two huts continue to be popular venues for ourselves and other clubs and are much-valued assets. Interest has already been shown for mid-1994 much to the credit and effort of their respective custodians.

In preparation for the summer, the Heriot Watt climbing wall is as popular as ever, although some members seem to be using the Dunfermline wall.

Office Bearers:— *President*, B. Leatherland; *Hon. President*, J. Fowler; *Vice-President*, B. Donaldson; *Hon. Vice-President*, M. Fleming; *Treasurer*, B. Finlayson; *Hon. Secretary*, R. Sinclair, 11B Fettes Row, Edinburgh, EH3 6SE; *Smiddy Custodian*, F. Fotheringham, Tigh na Sith, Braes, Ullapool; *Jock's Spot Custodian*, A. Borthwick, 2 Aytoun Grove, Dunfermline; *Committee*, D. Buchanan, A. Chow, R. Dalitz, J. Inglis, C. Stupart.

Perth Mountaineering Club (JMCS Perth Section). Overall membership of the club has declined marginally over the past year with 74 members, five honorary members and 11 introductory associates. There continues to be a high number of introductory associates many of whom may be expected to become members.

The major event of the past year has been the creation of Perth Mountaineering Club. This was set up with the sole purpose of allowing the admission of ladies to our ranks. The JMCS section has been retained and incorporated as a section of the new club. Unfortunately it remains the preserve of the gentlemen as the Whole Club, still stuck in a 1930's time warp, found itself unable to modify the Whole Club constitution at the AGM in the spring. There must now be a question mark over the long term future of the JMCS as a Whole Club.

There was another break with tradition during the year. To lessen the burden on the secretary the duties of meet secretary and newsletter editor were hived off and a new post created. In consequence the previous statistics on meets cannot be reliably replicated. There were 17 meets during the year, which is one up on last year, and the average attendance increased to 10. 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 are still very popular. The CIC winter meet only gave one day's climbing due to a rather wet Saturday. The Sunday was however worth the wait. There was one completion during the year with the novelty of a twosome completing the Donalds. Again we held a cross country skiing week-end however the snow was non-existent. The club hosted the Mountain Mind Quiz after winning the previous year. This was held in Perth for a change and was well organised.

The club was represented at the Edinburgh, London and Glasgow Section and Grampian Club dinners during the year. Our own Annual Dinner this year was held at the Kingshouse Hotel, Glencoe. A guest speaker, Donald McIntyre was invited and regaled us with tales of the early days. The remaining speech was by Alastair Dutton splendidly clad in a kilt. The Annual Joint Lecture with the Perthshire Society of Natural Science was given by Iain Robertson on his walking trip along the John Muir Trail in North America. There were two mid-week meets during the winter months which continue to be popular, one was a showing of members' slides and the other was Lou Kass and tales of Venezuela.

Ron Payne.

SMC AND JMCS ABROAD

Europe

RAYMOND SIMPSON reports, and the Editor apologises for the delay!

In April 1990 I enjoyed 10 days with family and friends ski-touring round Mjølfjell (west of Fiuse on the Bergen/Oslo railway). In a year when European resorts were scraping around for snow there was two-three metres at 2000ft and the local ski lift was buried.

The hills are steep-sided with a good 800m vertical interval. The valleys varied from Loch Avon-type amphitheatres with drooling water-ice cascades, to more open glens with birch scrub lochs. Use of the trains extended the touring potential and we stayed at the youth hostel which was cheap and palatial.

In August 1990, I led a group on a hut tour climbing 12 peaks in the Stubia and the Otztal. We had mainly good weather but retreated from the Wildspitz in a storm in which four East Germans died of hypothermia. We found the peaks in both areas very interesting.

In February 1991, I led another group ski-touring in the Eastern Pyrenees based at the Lac des Bouillouses in the Pic Carlit Reserve. This is a very pretty area of granite peaks and cirques with pine-clad valleys similar to the adjacent area of Andorra which I visited in Easter 1988.

Peaks are accessible from high cols and the granite ridges are scoured bare by the wind and sun. We were fortunate to see a wolf at around 2300m, otherwise the wildlife for which the reserve (an area of Spain leased to France) is noted was inconspicuous at this time of year.

At the end of March 1991, with Rob Ferguson I did the 'Rund Tour' of the Otztal on ski. We arrived at the end of a storm and left in another, enjoying eight days of good weather in between. We were fortunate in climbing seven peaks including the Weisstrugel and the Wildspitz experiencing a variety of snow conditions and some interesting climbing on the ridges.

The huts were warm and well stocked and had an interesting cosmopolitan atmosphere. We used Nordic skis for all the tours, but saw no other parties in France or Austria using this equipment for touring off piste.

South East Asia

NIALL RITCHIE writes:— My wife, Aileen, and I spent three weeks in Thailand starting the second half of July. We stayed with fellow Scots, Colin and Lynda Munro in Bangkok.

With the Munros we visited Khao Yai National Park which is about three hours' drive north-east of the capital. The area consists largely of tree-covered hills rising to 4000ft above the rice fields. Here we had our first rain forest experience — what with millions of insects, and the thought of tigers, elephants and cobras lurking at the next bend in the trail — we had mixed feelings about the trip.

We then flew to the country's second city, Chiang Mai, which is 450 miles north of Bangkok. This is the gateway to the trekking region of the Golden Triangle at the borders of Thailand, Laos and Burma, and here we made a trip to the Karen hill tribe village.

Our final highlight was a visit to the limestone sea cliffs on the Phi Phi Islands — a 90-minute boat trip from the Island of Phuket. There is an excellent French/English guide

book for the area which has climbs of all standards from Pumpui (The Whore) VS, to Boulevard of Broken Fingers at French 8b – whatever that is.

The routes we climbed were generously bolted and up to French 6a+. These included Trongpai, La Main de Buddha and Travels With My Aunt at the 250-metre Ton Sai Tower and neighbouring Aao Ling and Hin Taak Crags. A word of warning – don't monkey around with the monkeys and ensure your belongings are safe or they will be off with them quicker than you can say, 'Phuket'.

It is a perfect situation for climbing and gives the added bonus – after a hot day on the crags – of being able to abseil into the lovely clear water to cool off.

This area is a veritable paradise and gave us a great deal of enjoyment. If anyone intends visiting this part of the world I would be glad to provide information and put them in touch with Colin Munro – the Etchachan Club's liaison officer in South East Asia.

Morocco

HAMISH BROWN reports:– 1992 was a successful year for exploring remote areas, many previously unvisited by British parties. A summary of these is given and I would be happy to provide fuller information to anyone interested in visiting these areas, or others, in Morocco, a country with great climbing, ski-mountaineering and trekking possibilities – all year round.

Jbel Aklim: 2526m, highest of Anti-Atlas, climbed in February. Lies SE of Taroudant and most easily reached by Land-Rover. Bus to Igherm and extra three days' walk in/out possible. A cliff-bound plateau with two summits, set above delightful glens and villages.

Western Atlas: Two ways were taken up Moulay Ali, the rock spire, between the beautiful Medlawa Valley and Tigouga. Various peaks were climbed on the 'lost world' Tichka Plateau and from there the Nfis River was followed to Ijoukak (four days of afforested gorges) and several passes to reach Imlil and Jbel Toubkal 4167m – a wonder walk and one of the best in Morocco.

Middle Atlas: In May, Charles Knowles, Len Findlay, El Aouad and I made a south-north journey through the Middle Atlas, taking in the rarely-visited peaks of Jbel bou Naceur 3326m, Moussa ou Salah 3172m and Jbel bou Iblane 3103m, 3081m. Approach was made by Land-Rover via Midelt and the Oued Moulouya to Tineast and mules engaged later at Tinesmet. The ascents were made from bivouacs and the exit by the dramatic road from Taffert to Ribat el Kayher and Fes. In most villages no Europeans have visited for years and the feeling of wild remoteness, yet great hospitality among the friendly Berbers, makes this an attractive area compared to the over-popular Toubkal region. This exploratory trip was made possible by a grant from the Mountaineering Council of Scotland

Ayachi-Masker: The same party then visited the eastern extremity of the High Atlas and, despite unsettled weather, traversed the main summits of Jebel Ayachi 3686m, 3747m, and 3727m, using mules up the Oued n'Ikis from Tattiouine (Midelt) and then packing – very hard work. Driven by storms south (7000ft descent) to Taarhart a truck was taken to Tounfite from where Jbel Maskeræ's highest summit 3265m was done in a day. The Todra Gorge was visited on the south side of the Atlas: a 1000ft vertical cleft where, sadly, being French influenced, the best climbing routes have been bolted throughout.

Toubkal: An autumn party trekked several passes and traversed this, the highest peak in North Africa, and the one busy climbing/trekking area. Imlil, as a base, remains pleasant and, Toubkal apart, the area is not much visited.

BILL WALLACE reports:— Richard Bott, John Hay, Jane King, Malcolm Slessor, Iain Smart and I met at Glasgow Airport on May 9, en route for the Staunings Alps in East Greenland.

Our information and previous knowledge had indicated that the weather would be excellent (it was) and that temperatures would be consistently below freezing (they were).

It seemed likely, however, that conditions for climbing would be affected by large accumulations of soft snow. That gave us the excuse to leave behind most of our climbing gear and forego any specific objectives.

During the first two weeks we glacier toured and penetrated into the Central Staunings via the Bersærkebrae making several ski ascents, although only one summit was reached (Harlech, 1,900m). For the last week we abandoned the Staunings in favour of the Scottish-like hills to the east of the Skel where we reached four summits before returning to Mestersvig to rendezvous with John Peden's and Ian Angell's parties who shared the return Twin Otter flight to Akuryeri.

REVIEWS

Gaelic Mountain Names

Responding to my review of 'Scottish Hill and Mountain Names' (SMCJ 1992), Peter Drummond says I came to a 'cynical conclusion' on his book. I was critical, not cynical.

The 'positive approach' of four other reviewers does not invalidate my criticism; it means they were less critical! Authors are often defensive, but progress in any field is furthered by criticism. The best practitioners seek and welcome it.

PD disagrees with my comments on some of his derivations. Readers may like to see a summary of the evidence behind my comments:—

1. Lairig Ghru and Lairig an Laoigh, W.J. Watson's 'Celtic Place-names of Scotland' gave the Lairig Dhru as being named after its stream (Allt Dhru, and then the River Druie), as did A. MacBain's 'Badenoch: Its History, Clans and Place-names'. W.M. Alexander's 'Place-names of Aberdeenshire' gave Lairig Lui as the Lui Pass, as distinguished from the Druie Pass further west. All three used the methods necessary for reliable results, especially information from local folk, old maps, and other sources.

2. Carn Eige. PD knows of 'nowhere that it is spelt Eite, except in AW's review'. W.J. Watson's authoritative 'Place-names of Ross and Cromarty', based largely on local informants, gave Carn Eite unequivocally.

3. PD says I am 'certainly even more wrong about Slinnean Sneachdach' (Sneachdach Slinnean on OS maps, but reversed by PD because he says adjective does not precede noun). About my example of Geal Charn where it does precede, he claims this is 'one of the few adjective-before-noun exceptions confined to mor, and colours like geal'. Not so. Besides mor, and colours, many names begin with Garbh (e.g. Garbh-bheinn). Other cases abound, such as Fuar Tholl, Beag-ghleann, Seana Bhraigh, Ear-choire, Iar-choire, Gearr Aonach, A' Mhin Choiseachd, Crom-allt, Fliuch-airidh, Cam-leathad, Cruinn-choire, Caol Ghleann, Breac-leathad, Leth-chreag, Crion-bhad, Fionnar Choire, etc. In any case, A. MacBain (Badenoch study, above), who used local informants, gave Sneachdach Slinnean. It is unwise to counter work of such calibre without good evidence from local sources, using the necessary methods; PD's comments lack this.

A second edition could be better for readers, SMT and author, if valid criticism were considered objectively and not rejected defensively. I am willing to help.

Adam Watson.

(A response to Adam Watson's rejoinder).

In the April 1931 SMCJ two of the Club's Leviathans, James A. Parker and J. Gall Inglis, fought out a rather acrimonious war of words over the latter's assertion that Beinn nan Oighreag — 'a rather uninteresting grassy hill on the south side of Glen Lyon' (JAP) — was properly a Munro above 3000ft Six pages of closely-printed text echoed to their clashing.

Now I am certainly no Leviathan (nor even an SMC member), and tackling a figure of Adam Watson's stature is venturing on ground where many angels fear to tread. But

I was trying to avoid a six-page 'shoot-out' when I submitted a 'brief response' to his review last year. A longer response had earlier gone to the SMT, my publishers, and in it I dealt at more length with the 'Lairig question'. I quote from it now, after a brief health warning – namely that studying place-name meaning is fascinating and should not be confused with the apparent hair-splitting that follows!

1. 'If indeed Lairig an Laoigh should be Lairig Lui, fair enough ...' – I took the simple meaning from Adam Watson's earlier book with Nethersole-Thompson: '... but since Watson himself says in his Upper Deeside Place-names book that Lui means calf-one (from the river name) then surely my meaning 'pass of the calf' stands.' ... Lui after all is but an anglicisation of Laoigh....' (I might want to disagree with his connection of the pass with the River Lui since the pass is at the head of the Derry not the Lui).

The Lairig Ghru I bracket as gloomy pass, while his book says it is from Lairig Dhru, from the river name Allt Drùie, and that it is *probably* (my emphasis, his text) from dru meaning flow or dhruithaidh meaning oozing. His review seems to have overlooked his own cautionary 'probably'. I have also seen a plausible suggestion of Lairig Ruadh, red pass, apposite to the pink screes on the north side, and to the fact that it splits the Cairngorm massif, formally Am Monadh Ruadh. W.J. Watson also bases the pass name on that of the stream, though I see no reason why the stream name should not derive, in corrupted form, from the pass, as indeed neighbouring burns like Allt Creag an Leth-Choin are. However, I didn't cover this level of detail in the book since it's not a hill-name as such.' ... An earlier version of text contained some of this but was excised in a slimming exercise to concentrate on hill-names.'

2. Carn Eige original, longer, response I wrote 'I confess I know of no source...', a more humble phrase than the shorter 'I know of nowhere!' Point taken about the reference to this version of the name, although the book makes no reference to the widely-accepted Carn Eige, or indeed to the nearby Creag na h-Eige, which tends to support Eige against Eite for the Carn. Eite in Gaelic means an unhusked ear of corn, a part of a ploughshare, or – in corrupted form – extending. The middle of these might seem a plausible alternative to eige, file, but unfortunately it is a word from Perthshire Gaelic, not Glen Affric. As the hill is one of the 13 Munros which, at the time of writing, I've still to climb, I wait to see it! However, AW rather exaggerates when he says that WJW's book was 'based largely on local informants, and gives Carn Eite unequivocally.' For in the book the references to OS map occurrences are widespread, and under Carn Eite he does not mention local informants for this hill. As for its possible meaning he wrote, after outlining similar names elsewhere like Glen Etive (gleann eite), 'The connection in Carn Eite is not clear.'

3. Where on earth is Slinnean Sneachdach?... I hear some readers cry! Not named on Landranger maps, deleted even as a mere top from Munro's Tables, possessing little intrinsic interest and lying within the Monadh Liath, that Sargasso Sea of bog and rounded contours, it hardly fires up hill-fever. I gave it two four-line slots in my book on account of its euphonic and imaginative name, snowy shoulder. Now, like Adam Watson, I am not a native Gaelic speaker; and like him I began learning Gaelic upon embarking on place-name study. I have climbed only to the level of a good O-grade, but I was fortunate to have the advice of three Gaelic scholars on the book. Two of them – figuratively at my elbow – indicated that the OS's Seachdach Slinnean was almost certainly a cartographer's mistake. I agree with them, for the normal Gaelic pattern is noun-before-adjective, the exceptions – I wrote in the longer version – being 'largely confined to mor and colours ...'. The list Adam Watson gives of other 'exceptions' ends triumphantly with 'etc', hinting at a cast of thousands more. Let me deal with this.

Firstly as a proportion, the number of adjective-before-nouns is very small compared to the noun-before-adjectives. For instance, in the comprehensive index of Yeaman's 'Handbook of Scottish Hills' there are 140 Beinn Xs compared to about 20 X Bheinnns

(where X is an adjective), and 13 of these latter are grey or grey-green (i.e. – coloured) hills, Glas Bheinn. Moreover some of the examples Adam Watson cites are probably not adjective-nouns, but in fact, double or compound nouns, in the way that Ladhair Bheinn of Knoydart is 'hoof mountain'. Yes, the preceding noun acts adjectivally to qualify the subject noun, but it is still in noun form, in Gaelic as in English. Thus of his list the words *fuair*, *ear*, *iar*, *crom*, *fliuch*, *cam*, *caol*, *breac*, *leth* all exist in the noun form. *Fliuch-airidh* is equally likely to be wetness-shieling as wet shieling, for the rules of Gaelic grammar applying to dependent compounds fail to distinguish between noun-nouns and adjective-nouns. What is interesting is that most of the adjective-noun and the noun-noun hill-names are found in the West – e.g. 15 of the 20 X-Bheinnns – where Gaelic first developed, indicating relative antiquity in the naming process. Jura for example has a group (south of the Paps) with *Aona h-Bheinn*, *Dubh Bheinn*, *Glas Bheinn* and *Bratbheinn*, and nearby Islay has more. *Morven* (correctly *mor bheinn*) is a rare eastern exception on the edge of the Cairngorm area, and I'd be interested in any light Adam Watson can shine on it.

Having dealt with the three specific points, my overall objection to Adam Watson's original review is this. He is – as I say in my book – 'the contemporary expert on the (Cairngorms) area'. In my book in chapters 1, 4 and 8 there are altogether 16 pages or circa 650 lines of continuous blocks of text devoted to major hills within that area, dealing with often complicated evidence. (This in addition to many other shorter references in other chapters.) His review contains not a single word of criticism of these blocks: instead we have literally mountains made out of molehills, for the two *Lairigs Lui* and *Ghrù* (not actually hill-names) got respective mentions in my book of 2.5 lines + 4 words, and 2 (bracketed) words. From such *cnocan* of evidence his review went on to admonish 'too many derivations are highly uncertain...typical of much that has brought place-name study in Scotland into disrepute...' In all conscience I reject these charges. And whilst I agree that 'cynical' is too strong, I felt his review went beyond normal balanced criticism that my other six reviewers did make (e.g. – about my chapter structure, about the interpretation of a particular name, or about the space allocated to exposing incorrect meanings).

I would be delighted to see a second edition (as opposed to a reprint) in a few years. (I hear a groan from a Bearsden editor). Of course there are some mistakes to be corrected: some typographical (like the *knowes* being in south-eastern, not south-western, Scotland); some omissions (like the losing of the name *The Laird's Tablecloth* from the second paragraph of *Beinn a' Bhuird*, table mountain, page 12); and some errors like one that Adam Watson pointed out about *Coire Cadha nam Fionn*. But overwhelmingly the changes would be additional material illuminating or adding to the present interpretation, since place-name study never stops, and I've discovered a fair bit more over the last two years in maps, in books, from foreign hills and from studying Gaelic. Perhaps the SMCJ editor would allow me a couple of pages on this 'new' material – another groan from another editor, in *Menstrie*.

Let us return finally to *Beinn nan Oighreag*, that 'uninteresting grassy Corbett' where we left JAP and JGI growling. Perhaps AW and PD should be sent up there to continue their debate wielding copies of Dwelly's Gaelic dictionary! However, that mountain's name is much more interesting than its alleged height, or even its view, for it means mountain of the cloudberry. This delightful plant, with a fleshy pink fruit like a raspberry held up on a single stalk, I have seen from Tinto to Seana Braighe to the Jotunheim in Norway and no doubt this particular hill affords these delights too. Adam Watson mentions the cloudberry in his *Cairngorms* book, describing it growing in abundance over 1200-1500ft: no surprise to find in the north-east the Scots name of *Everon Hill* has the same meaning. This knowledge from hill-names, and not the hair-splitting, is what makes the subject so fascinating. I hope Adam Watson and I agree on that: and as a man

whose ecological and campaigning achievements in the Cairngorms I have long admired, I'd be delighted for any light he can shed on hill-names in that area. It gives me no pleasure to be seen as over-defensive or pugnacious in my response to his original review.

Peter Drummond.

Editor's Note: This matter is now closed.

Richard Gilbert's 200 Challenging Walks in Britain and Ireland:— (1992. Diadem Books, 224pp. maps, illus., £9.99. ISBN 0-906371-791).

This book is described by the author as a field guide based on the three longer format books by Richard Gilbert and Ken Wilson, namely 'Classic Walks' 'Wild Walks' and 'The Big Walks'. Most of the mountainous and moorland areas in Britain and Ireland are represented as well as interesting coastal areas and a number of Scottish Islands. Of the 200 walks, some 86 are located in Scotland. The final chapter describes the traverse of the Cuillin Ridge.

The walks are arranged in geographical areas with reference to the original chapters in the larger books. They are also listed at the back according to category.

For each walk, the relevant OS map number is given, a start and finish point, total distance and estimated time for the walk. There is also a brief note of grade, escape routes (if any), transport and accommodation in the area. The description of each walk is concise but includes a general account of the area and essential details of the route which are outlined on an accompanying map. A selection of excellent photographs is included.

I found this to be a well written comprehensive guide which was easy to read and gave a good overall impression of the areas described. It is necessarily, however, fairly superficial and competent use of map and compass would still be required. Although it claims to include excursions for all types of walker, most of the walks are fairly long and arduous and are not to be lightly undertaken by the less experienced. Escape routes and shorter alternatives are mentioned but not in any detail.

As a pocket guide I feel it is too weighty. In an attempt to provide a single volume summarising the three earlier very substantial books the author has perhaps not appreciated that most hillgoers would not wish their sacks to be burdened with a book containing 199 other routes.

However, this book does contain most favourite places and provides both a useful prompt for a new route and a pleasant well-illustrated recollection of days in wild areas. I am sure that walkers will find the challenge they are looking for in this guide which is practical and inspirational.

Janet M. Scott.

The State of the World's Mountains – a Global Report:— Peter Stone (Editor). Zed Books Ltd., 351pp., illus., ISBN 1-85649-116-1, £15.95 (paperback).

This is a book about mountains, not a book about mountaineering. Produced by Mountain Agenda—an ecological study and pressure group—it is a collection of articles on the ecology, climate and political geography of mountain areas around the globe.

It is also not a book to be read easily or casually being a combination of textbook and source book for ecological pressure groups. However, it contains much thought-provoking material and should be essential reading for anyone seriously involved in debate about mountain conservation.

It has the salutary effect of putting mountaineering activities firmly in their place. That is to say, trivial impact compared to other activities such as skiing, except in the

Himalayas. It also points out that the importance of mountains in controlling climate and their role as water reservoirs is on a par with the global climatic impact of the more fashionable rain forests.

Apart from an overview chapter (which I suggest the Hon. Editor investigates for re-printing in the Journal) the coverage is regional, although the regions vary in size from the Island of Grenada to the mountains of the former Soviet Union. National characteristics are evident in the style of the authors with the section on the Appalachians being particularly redolent of American academia.

National behavioural characteristics also show through in the chapter on Japan. It is a sobering thought that one small mountain area in Japan received 1.5 million visitors in 1989. The fate of Mount Tateyama is also sobering reading.

In summary, not a book for light or casual reading but a valuable source of information for those with a serious interest in mountains and their ecology.

Bob Richardson.

Buttermere and Eastern Craggs:— R. Graham, A. Davis and T. Price (FRCC, 365pp., ISBN 0-85028-036-2).

A potential eye-opener for all those Scots who dismiss the Lakes as overcrowded, overrated and over the Border.

Buttermere is one of the quietest areas in the Lakes and has some magnificent crags in wild and beautiful settings. The Eastern Craggs area includes major venues like Raven Crag and Castle Rock in Thirlmere as well as a host of worthwhile, but less well known climbing grounds.

This is an excellent new guide which follows hard on the heels of the previous edition (a gap of only five years). As with all current series of FRCC guides, the quality of colour photographs is excellent, although they could have chosen a more striking cover shot. The previous edition's cover showing a climber poised on the crux of Phoenix was rather more of an inducement to buy than the pastoral view on the cover of the new guide.

In general, grades seem to trending gently upwards. For example, few would argue with the bold and exposed Agony on Castle Rock being upgraded to E1. The only strange revision of grade was for Overhanging Bastion on Castle Rock, one of the Lakes' great classics. In the last edition, the authors bravely defied tradition and upgraded the route to HVS 5a. This group of authors seem to have bowed to the traditionalist backlash and regraded the route as VS 5a. They have, however, salvaged their collective conscience by putting the route at the top of the graded list for VS and adding a comment that the crux move is at the extreme limit of its grade (sounds familiar).

The layout is clear and uncluttered and the diagrams by Al Phizacklea are excellent. The usual star-ratings and detailed pitch grades are used.

For those who know these crags, this is another inspiring guide. For those who have not experienced them, buy the book, apply for your visa and go.

Stuart Murdoch.

Sea, Ice and Rock – Sailing and Climbing above the Arctic Circle:— Chris Bonington and Robin Knox-Johnston. (1992: Hodder & Stoughton, 143 pp., many illustrations in black and white and colour. £15.99, ISBN 0-340-57619-7).

This is an account of a voyage to the Kangerdlugssuak region of East Greenland in a 32-foot yacht by six seasoned adventurers.

The object of the enterprise was to climb Cathedral Peak, a far-from-easy 2600m

mountain requiring a four-day trek in. A crew of six in a 32-ft yacht enduring days of storm and headwind does not bear thinking about, yet they put up with the hardship and boredom with civilised good humour as was to be expected from a crew of this calibre. Sailing through the East Greenland pack ice is not for the faint hearted; they were competent as well as lucky getting through it both ways without mishap. The trek in to Cathedral Peak was arduous and the attempt on the difficult summit a worthy failure. Tilman would have been rightly proud of them. The book has three interesting appendices: a short general account of Greenland's maritime background, a history of climbing in the Kangerdlugssuak area and an account of a hydrographic survey of the remote cove in which their yacht sheltered during the attempt on Cathedral Peak. The book is well-produced, the type large and clear and the paragraphs not too long. The illustrations are excellent and the writing clear, unpretentious and thoroughly professional; it can be read and enjoyed in a couple of hours.

Are there any criticisms? No, not really. So I'll have to invent one. In an important sense the story never seems to leave England. The psychological ambience of the party is so overpoweringly regional that in spite of the heroic activity and surrounding grandeur you have the feeling at times that you are present at a Noel Coward play enacted against assorted backdrops from the Flying Dutchman and Peer Gynt, but then I'm presently re-reading Ejnar Mikkelsen's 'Two against the Ice' and this may be unfairly influencing my judgment.

Iain Smart.

The Climbers:— Chris Bonington (BBC Books, 1992, 288pp., £16.95, ISBN-0-563-20918-6)

The series has already been beamed into our living rooms making, if it were possible, Bonington even more of a household name. On his recent lecture tour he delivered an account of his 40 years' climbing. In contrast this book sets out to be a history of the sport (or way of life) from its origins. As well as the usual clutch of superb colour photos there are several pages of maps and numerous historical illustrations. The bulk of the book is, however, narrative text with a brief calendar and bibliography thrown in. Although less of a personal story than his lecture account, Bonington has plenty of interest to say and, has of course, been a major player himself in recent years.

A re-creation of Mummery's 1881 ascent of the Grépon acts as a scene-setter. Though his guide, Venetz, actually led the climb, Mummery is described as 'the father of modern climbing'. The reason why becomes clear. A description of early climbs of Mont Blanc is followed by that of the explosion of activity among well-to-do Victorians, perhaps trying to escape the rigid social conformity of the times, but never really avoiding it. Mummery was initially shunned by the climbing establishment; perhaps because his ambitious drive broke too many social constraints, and eventually led him to his death in a pioneering attempt at Nanga Parbat.

Bonington continues with the parallel tales of technical advances in the Alps and the new dimensions in high altitude climbing opening up in the Himalayas. His journey is illustrated with excerpts from contemporary writings and with colourful accounts of the personalities involved.

There are frequent and harrowing tales of epics and fatalities. Bonington also explores some of society's attitudes as reflected by climbers whether it be to guides or Sherpas (known to early British expeditions as coolies), or the mountain environment of today. His view is a historical one and, while he does not accuse mountaineers of re-inventing the wheel, it is interesting to note that approaches to route finding, light-weight

expeditions and the non-use of oxygen at high altitude were all pioneered well ahead of their time. The ethos of the sport develops with it and provides a thread running throughout the story, but he never attempts to pin it down too precisely.

Accounts of recent developments are given a quiet, extra authority by his own close involvement with the climbs or their protagonists. The last two chapters describe some very recent feats in the early 1990s and he touches on the problems substantiating solo ascents and controversies such as those surrounding competition climbing. Finally, he hints at the future with its extreme challenges for the solo face climbers and challenges for all of us in the form of the crisis facing the mountain environment.

This book gives a comprehensive and well-illustrated account of the story of mountaineering. While lacking the immediacy of most of Bonington's tales, it does give a glimpse of the characters behind the tales, and left me feeling I would like to read more first-hand accounts.

David Musk.

Encyclopaedia of Mountaineering:—Walt Unsworth (1992, Hodder & Stoughton, paperback, 384pp., illus., £16.99, ISBN 0-340-57744-4).

Following a reading of the 1977 edition, I sent Unsworth a letter containing a list of corrections and shortcomings connected with the entries on Scottish mountaineering; he replied politely and promised to bear the list in mind for a future edition. In the elapsed time, any such corrections seem to have gone the same way as my original list; in worship of the demi-god, Recycle. Several points to emphasise straight off: Unsworth is an Alpinist by inclination and the encyclopaedia perforce has many entries devoted to long forgotten and often obscure Alpine guides. My remarks are basically confined to Scottish entries.

On a purely arithmetical basis at first sight Scotland would not seem to do very well. Of the 374 pages of data entry, three are devoted to 'Scotland, climbing in.' Whether 0.8% of the world's climbing is a fair or even valid estimate of Scotland's contribution I leave for the reader to decide. To be fair however, other entries touch on areas and aspects only briefly mentioned in the main entry. To gain an overall picture of a country, therefore, one has to dance about the book like a hungry midge.

Down to details. The only Glen Coe route mentioned in the main entry is incorrectly named, being the first on the Buachaille – Collier's (sic) Climb. It's correctly spelled as Collie's in the short entry for the Buachaille. Even here, Unsworth has overlooked Ossian's Ladder on Aonach Dubh, climbed 26 years' earlier. Swallowing that the Etive Slabs are in the Southern Highlands, indigestion sets in when we are told that they are further east than the Cobbler – near Balquidder (sic). 'Long routes, VS and above, very popular in the 1960s. Skye receives a paltry three lines, half of which state that 'the Cuillin has a unique place in British climbing'. He does expand on this later though. Peculiarly enough, Arran on the other hand receives 18 lines, though this is let down by the bizarre statement that 'there are rock climbs on most of the peaks, though the rock is a peculiar form of granite'. In the list of guidebooks, Unsworth has the latest guidebook to the Southern Highlands and Arran, but also includes the older Wallace edition to Arran. There is, unfortunately, no mention of the developments over the last two and a half decades of the Southern Highlands as a winter climbing ground.

Small points. J.R. Marshall might be amused to read that John Barry made the first ascent of Smith's Gully on Creag Meaghaidh, while Green Gully on the Ben is still down as having been first climbed in 1938 (the J.H.B. Bell second ascent, Raeburn of course having made the first in 1908). And when last did breeches incorporate a hammer loop?

It is, of course, only too easy to be over-critical, especially by concentrating on one's own area. For all I know, the rest of the encyclopaedia may set a high standard of accuracy, though if the rest of the book is the same as the Scottish contents then I shudder.

In the absence of any major competitor, Unsworth probably has the field to himself. And, due to the sheer drudgery of writing such a book, that's the way it will probably remain.

Someone had to do this book, and I daresay that we should be grateful to Unsworth for being the masochist. That does not mean however, that complacency should rule. Near the beginning of the book he writes that corrections etc. will be gratefully accepted for future editions. As a fresh-cheeked but truth-seeking youth I did this last time round; I won't bother this time.

Ken Crocket.

Avalanche Safety for Skiers and Climbers:— Tony Daffern (1992, 2nd edn., Diadem, £11.99, ISBN 0-906371-26-0).

This is a comprehensive manual for the hillwalker who wishes to learn not only the techniques of recognising avalanche danger and of rescue, but also the very considerable amount of background material which now exists in this area.

Most of the author's examples are drawn from Canadian and U.S. experiences. There are also some references to Scottish incidents, and Hamish MacInnes is credited with assistance in the preparation of the book. The book is written using ski accidents as its main examples — indeed the exceptions to this are in the main, Scottish.

Many climbers may feel initially that they will not wish to read 180 pages on this single subject. However, Tony Daffern's book is amply illustrated with relevant photographs and line drawings.

Also, because of the very clear heading-up of subjects within each chapter, the reader is able to choose whether or not to read the detail of the background information.

This is a comprehensive book on an important subject. It is clearly presented and I would recommend it.

John Burns.

Mer de Glace:— Alison Fell (1991, *Serpent's Tail*, £7.99, ISBN 1- 85242-267-X).

This book was the winner of the 1991 Boardman Tasker Award for Mountain Literature, but unfortunately, was not a book I enjoyed.

Perhaps my reading tastes are like my appetite — anything will do so long as there is plenty of it.

Alison Fell seems to have created some literary nouvelle cuisine; very sophisticated style but without the content to satisfy. If this were a BBC2 play, it would be presented as a series of monologues delivered from a psychiatrist's couch, with occasional slides of a painful childhood, or of 'beautiful but threatening' mountains projected onto the ceiling.

Should you wish to know more about the eternal triangle relationship which is the theme of this book, borrow it from the SMC library; I won't be discarding any Shipton, Murray, Venables or Simpson to make shelf-space for 'Merde Glace'.

Hamish Irvine.

The Cairngorms:— Adam Watson (SMC, ISBN)-907521-39-8; £17.95).

Viewed from a distance the Cairngorms appear to have altered very little during the 18 years that have passed since the last edition of this guide. Closer acquaintance however, reveals a number of significant changes.

Further roads have been bulldozed, several bothies have been removed, the ski centres have expanded, some large tracts of land have changed ownership, the all-terrain bicycles are now widely used and most noticeably, there has been a huge increase in the number of recreational visitors.

The effects of all these and many other changes have been incorporated into the updating of this popular District Guide by Adam Watson.

The style of this sixth edition has been completely revamped. There are 82 colour and six black and white photographs, 15 new maps by Jim Rennie and an eye-catching royal blue (blue to differentiate the District Guides from the general mountaineering books which are black).

The general layout is pleasing and easy to use for referrals and, try as I may, I have been unable to find anything in the text that I could fault. It is good to see the phonetical spelling (in parenthesis) as an aid to the local pronunciation of place names has been continued.

The colour photographs have a major impact and I must admit to being very impressed with the standard of colour reproduction from what are in some cases, quite old slides. The choice of photographs (always difficult) is generally very good although I was disappointed with the winter shot of the North-east Coire of Lochnagar and surely we could find better examples of climbers in action than the headless figures on Djibangi and Kiwi Gully.

Bill Brooker's photograph of Squareface is outstanding. I would have preferred a full-page vertical format picture on the front cover (similar to the Munros) as it would have been less dominated by the bright blue background. Also I miss the historical photographs like those of Bob Scott and Tom Patey in the last edition.

The Guide's preface states: "The main aim is to give an introduction to the area's potential for serious hillwalkers, while at the same time giving readers a flavour of what is unique or unusual about the Cairngorms as compared with other hill districts of Scotland."

In my opinion the book succeeds on both counts and this, I am sure, is due in no small measure to the author's life-long association with, and comprehensive knowledge of, the Cairngorms. I recall at the time of the 1981 Lurcher's Gully Public Inquiry a bemused Chairlift Company manager talking about Adam Watson to a group of sympathisers: "You know what he is doing up there? He is actually counting the boulders!"

This excellent guide maintains the fine tradition set by Sir Henry Alexander and will be much appreciated by both occasional visitor and dedicated Cairngormer alike.

Greg Strange.

The Southern Uplands:— K.M. Andrew (SMC, 181 pp., illus., £16.95, ISBN 0-907521-38-X).

The new edition of the Southern Uplands by Ken Andrew is a welcome addition to the District Guide series, especially to those of us who live in the area. The book is a pleasure to handle and to read, not least because the choice of type faces and paper makes it a model of clarity.

The illustrations are as spectacularly good as one would expect from the author and the publisher, and the inclusion of a few black and white photographs provides an agreeable link with earlier editions.

Reading a guide book from cover to cover is not a task one would normally relish, even spread over several weeks, but the author's relaxed and good-humoured style, and many of the bits of hitherto unknown information scattered throughout the text, maintained this reader's interest. The geological survey was most welcome, but the addition of a map would add significantly to the layman's understanding and enjoyment.

The important question about a guide book is its usefulness in practice, so your reviewer and his wife betook themselves to the upper reaches of the Tweed, previously unexplored territory, and followed the text to climb Culter Fell and Broad Law.

Saturday on Culter Fell raised the question of projecting an image of a land of blue skies and brilliant colours, sadly at variance with the reality of curtains of mist and rain blasting across dreary wastes of dead grass, but Broad Law on Sunday restored our faith in the image, and in neither case could the guide book be faulted.

From a wider point of view Ken Andrew is to be complimented on having written a book which cannot fail to stimulate interest in a vast and under-rated area of Scotland, and he has a happy knack of finding the attractive features in some of our less prepossessing bits of hill country.

The publishers must also be complimented on the fact that the only thing that appears to have been missed in reading the proofs is the redundant word 'though' in the second last line on page 89.

Bryan Fleming.

Glen Coe: Rock and Ice Climbs—including Glen Etive and Ardgour:—K. V. Crockett, R. Anderson, D. Cuthbertson (SMC, 381pp., illus., £13.95, ISBN 0-907521-32-0).

When the first edition of the present Cairngorms guide was published in 1985 it was heralded as the new bench mark for SMC climbing guides. But many climbers in Scotland, familiar with the excellent productions from English clubs and the BMC, remained unimpressed.

Arran, Arrochar and The Southern Highlands published four years later added stars for quality, but retained 'run-on' rather than pitch by pitch route descriptions and ignored a market which increasingly expected graded lists, colour photographs, artistic diagrams and full first ascent details.

Furthermore, typefaces and style established by The Cairngorms were thrown to the wind, as Arran and Arrochar went back three guides to a style which hadn't been seen since Creag Dubh and Craig-a-Barns. To an outsider looking in, and I am neither familiar nor interested in the debate or politics behind the Arran and Arrochar guide, the only conclusion was that the SMC guidebook committee had lost its way. Action was needed, and it appears that action was taken.

The new Glen Coe guide was the SMC's next full production and, quite simply, it is the best rock and ice guide the SMC has produced. That shouldn't be taken as an excuse for laurel resting, for as excellent as it is, it isn't perfect; but then no publication ever is.

Firstly, the SMC now has a firm guidebook identity, although this was actually established with The Cairngorms 1990 reprint. An 'arty' typeface has been chosen for the title and the words on the cover simplified—authors go inside and superfluous words like 'A Comprehensive Guide' and 'Climber's Guide to...' have been dispensed with.

Bookshelf identity has at last been established with a repeat of the title on the spine followed by 'Rock and Ice Climbs', or presumably 'Rock Climbs' for some guides. The blue SMC logo which emerged briefly in the Central and Southern Scotland guide, has justifiably reappeared.

However, all of this may be unnecessary. I can identify all my recent SMC guides—their split spines have been stuck up with Elastoplast!

Internally, the sans serif typeface has been revived giving Glen Coe a clean, modern and authoritative look, sadly lacking in Arran and Arrochar. On top of that there are 16 colour photographs ranging from surprisingly boring to exciting and stimulating; a worthy stab at graded lists for summer and winter; pitch-by-pitch descriptions; a full (as possible) first ascents list; quality stars; generally superb diagrams and maps and an interesting explanation of the proposed new winter grading system. The front cover is very worthy but, alas, a little dull.

Authors Ken Crocket, Rab Anderson and Dave Cuthbertson, aided by Editor Roger Everett have combined to produce the most comprehensive guide yet to climbing in the Coe, Etive and Ardgour area. All the approaches and introductions to the crags have been revised and many of the routes up or down graded, and quality indicated with stars. The regradings seem fair enough, although judging from my experience some of the star ratings are a bit out, but then I realise not all routes can be checked.

Mistakes? Well, there are a few scattered here and there, but no howlers (that I could see) and that's really as much as you can hope for.

However, it would seem that not quite enough attention has been paid to conveying the information in the clearest way on the diagrams. On Creag a' Bhancair for example, The Risk Business disappears after the start and turns into The Railway Children. On the North Face of Central Buttress on the Buachaille, the absence of a finishing number for North Face Route makes it difficult to follow and The Gangway seems to appear from nowhere. On the North East Face of North Buttress there seems to be some confusion at the base of Bottleneck Chimney and Bluebell Grooves and at the top with the number 19 which marks the bottom of Guillotine. The diagram for Slime Wall is quite correct but a strain on the eyes to follow and it's a shame the likes of Hamburg and Performance (both starred routes) have been left off the Aonach Dubh E Buttress diagram.

In general, some of the diagrams with a concentrated number of routes are quite hard to follow and it might be interesting to see if alternate dashed and dotted lines could be used in future, or anything to make following routes as easy on the eye as possible.

But this shouldn't be allowed to mar what is essentially a very fine guide and hopefully the shape of things to come.

Tom Prentice.

The High Mountains of Britain and Ireland. Volume 1:— By Irvine Butterfield (Diadem Books, 320pp., illus., £13.95, ISBN 0-906371-30-9).

This is a revised and updated reprint of Butterfield's 1986 edition. It describes routes to all the 3000ft mountain in Britain and Ireland. There is information on transport and accommodation as well as the descriptions of day walks, some 133 in all. The volume incorporates colour photographs and diagrams indicating the hills and routes up them.

There is detailed information on each area, its hills, and a discussion of the different approaches to the tops.

The book inevitably comes head to head with the SMC Hillwalker's Guide 'The Munros', edited by Donald Bennet. The latter of course is concerned only with the Scottish Munros, whereas Butterfield's book covers all of Britain and Ireland. However, 'The High Mountains' (THM) is, by comparison, big in size and cost. It most definitely

does not fit into the corner of a rucksack as easily as 'The Munros' (TM) might. TM also has the advantage that one can usually find one Munro on one page, alongside the photograph and map. Simple but effective. This is probably why there is a 'Companion' Guide to THM, a slimmed down text version.

The production of THM is good, and it is perhaps an ideal book to plan trips with, but not, obviously, a book to cart up the hill, unless severely lacking in exercise. And Vol. 2? That should be head to head with another SMC book – The Corbetts, as it will cover 'other British and Irish peaks.'

Aysel Crocket.

Northern Highlands Volume 1, Rock and Ice Climbs:—Compiled by Geoff Cohen (SMC, 372pp., illus., £13.95, ISBN 0-907521-33-9).

Though long awaited this guide does not disappoint.

Its appearance results from an era of quiet but steady development of the area's climbing potential. For a handful of dedicated pioneers it has been a period of glorious freedom and wonderful climbing. Scarcity of information has added spice to this exploration. Rock climbs of the highest quality have been found on outcrop and mountain cliffs alike, and the area has been at the forefront of winter climbing development since the early 1980s. Throughout there has been a spirit of courtesy and mutual respect between the competing activists, although most secrets have been well kept.

However, there are doubtless those who fear that this guide might end the North-west's cosy seclusion. Its invitation to the route-ticking multitudes is plain, and they could unwittingly spoil the area's special sense of remote adventure. With greater competition at the leading edge future development could become clinical and eventually cynical.

Given the area's expanse, its remoteness, often vile weather and not least its fearsome midges the grounds for these fears are debatable. I also believe publication was inevitable and right. The SMC could not fairly build up a growing file of new route descriptions in the journal – without at some stage making the information available to the public.

Furthermore, the spirit and style in which the guide is written cannot be faulted. It is inspirational without overdoing the superlatives, and informative without eliminating the sense of adventure in tackling the climbs. Geoff Cohen has also written an important introductory note in which he resolves his personal doubts about its publication and extols the special quality of the climbing in the North-west.

Despite the enormous task of collating 20 years of disparate development the guide achieves a standard of layout and illustration comparable to other SMC productions.

There is also ample warning of the many overgrown, undergraded and rarely frozen routes which might ensnare the unwary visitor. In the absence of regular repetitions the guide has chosen to use the first ascent descriptions for most of the recent climbs. This leads to a variation in the format and detail of descriptions. However, the individuality of descriptions makes for attractive reading and adds a historic flavour to the text.

Nevertheless, I would have liked to have seen a little more space and enthusiasm devoted to the easier winter routes. The Torridonian gully clefts are unparalleled in this country for scenic splendour, yet the guide dispenses most of them with the perfunctory 'Grade I – straightforward snow-plod' tag. Similarly, the A' Chioch Ridge and Buttress on Beinn Bhan is one of the finest Grade II expeditions, but gets a paltry one line and no stars. There are also a few misgradings of these easier routes.

The failure to assign stars to the climbs on Alligin, Liathach and An Teallach is also inexplicable and detracts from the professionalism of the guide. Surely you either scrap starlings altogether or have them in full.

But these are relatively minor shortcomings. My only other criticism is the bulk and weight of the volume which is inevitable given the extent of its coverage. However, the SMC might have given further thought to slimline guides solely for the weight-conscious winter climber. I am sure that a winter compilation for the whole of the North-west Highlands plus Skye could happily co-exist with the comprehensive texts.

Perhaps the best thing of all about this guide is its implicit revelation of just how much pioneering there remains to be done. Despite the wanderings of Patey, the finger games of Howett and Dinwoodie, the deepest scourings of Nisbet and the predatory swoops of Fowler, there remain sufficient untapped reserves to last well into the next millennium.

Martin Moran.

Journals of Kindred Clubs

American Alpine Club Journal 1992.

All the superlatives have been used for this, the classic of journals.

I will skip the four articles on Himalayan peaks, and start with Mark Bebie's report on the Granitic Peaks of Kirgiza. Terms like Patagonia without the weather, or a Yosemite-scale Wind River Range are used to describe these 17,000ft-plus (sounds higher than in metric) mountains on the border with Tadzhikistan. They appear to have been discovered in 1982 by Soviet climbers from St Petersburg.

Once again I am excited by the Alaskan climbs of Huntington's Phantom Wall, Cobra Pillar, Mount Barrille, North-west Face of Denalli's West Buttress, Neacola, two face routes on Devil's Thumb, Mount Abbe and Mount Alberta's North Face and North-east Ridge.

Climbs and expeditions 1991 covering exploits in all regions of the climbing world takes up more than half of the journal.

The photographs are superb with pride of place having to be the shot of sunrise on the East Face of Keeler Needle – Sierra Nevada, California.

D.F. Lang.

BERG '93.

The German Alpine Club's year book has the quality of Diadem's classic series except that it is a large journal. As such a great variety of subjects are covered viz, in-depth reviews of activities in the Dachstein Region, Baffin Island, New Zealand Alps, the Pamirs, the Hindu Kush, international Alpine expedition reports, Alpine Convention Report, National Parks, hard rock, climbing competitions and finally, a technical review of old *in-situ* hardware dangers and new specification bolt designs.

Browse through this production for the photographs alone.

D.F. Lang.

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Distribution: D.F. Lang, Hillfoot Hey, 580 Perth Road, Dundee DD2 1PZ.

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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 should be good quality colour slides. All material should be sent to the Editor, address as above.

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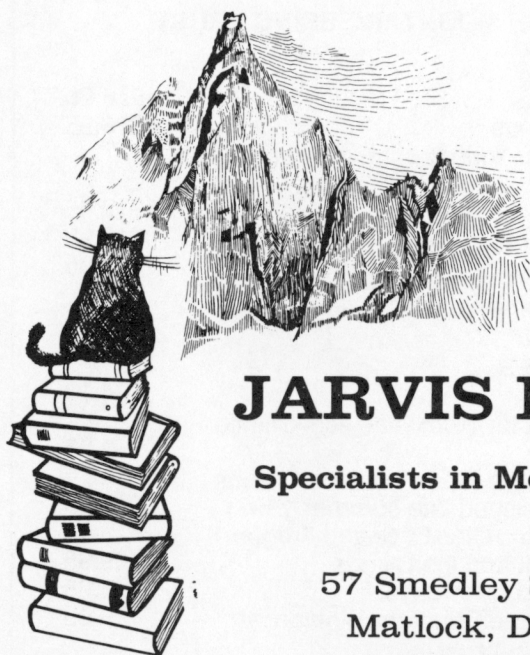
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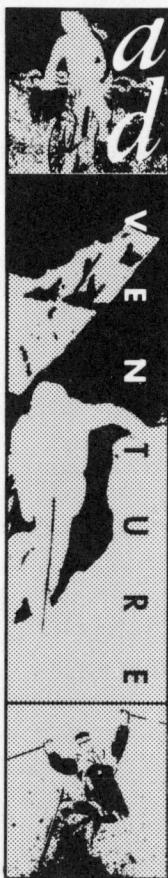
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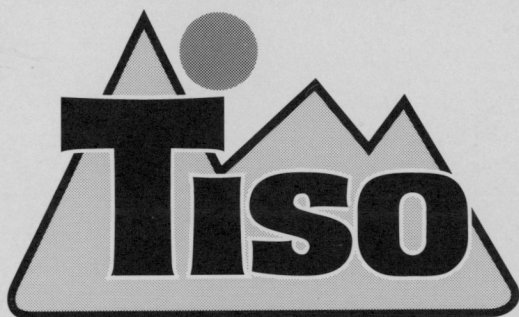
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