

## MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

### BLACK THOUGHTS

Scott Johnstone recollects. The articles in the 1993 Journal about the Black Shoot of Beinn Eunich (Stob Maol) bring back some remote memories.

Hamish Brown is in error when on p.195 he suggests that Robin Campbell's ascent in about 1971 was 'probably the only ascent since early days'. I led a GUM Club party up it on August 30, 1942 – Bill Garden and Billy Fraser. While this probably constitutes 'early days', I don't think that is what Hamish meant.

This took me back to Robin's article of Vol. XXX, when on p.22 he mentions a 'malodorous hemp sling'. This was present, and already malodorous and rotten in 1942. As I doubt whether it was an original Lester or Raeburn relic from 40-odd years earlier, it indicates some other party before mine.

Still, 30 years between 1942 and 1971 shows that elderly slings may be much older than they appear. How would nylon fare?

### SWINGING THE LEAD

The less aesthetically insensitive members will have noticed that the Journal has recently changed printers or, rather, that the Editor has done so. This is only the second change in our long history and, with his approval, I write a line or two about it.

When I took over as Editor in 1960 the Journal was still being printed by the Darien Press in Edinburgh. As recorded in the centenary number (SMCJ, xxxiv, 374, 1990) I changed to a clearer and less nostalgic typeface, and found the 'smoky and spirituous recesses of the Darien Press' surprisingly amenable to, and capable of, the transformation. There was still talent in Bristo Place and, as I suggested, they doubtless after 50-odd years liked to stretch a (little) bit. But they were soon absorbed within the miasmic cloud of Progress, taken over, engulfed by the larger and even less competent organisation, which in the process managed to lose our irreplaceable original copper plates.

So we had to switch for the 1967 issue. Editorial convenience and personal knowledge plumped for Culross of Coupar Angus, then under the imaginative guidance of R.J. Benzie, a weel-kent figure on these hills (even if insulated from them by club-foot boots and laminated plastic), sympathetic to our viewpoint; importantly, he was close at hand and could be visited and harangued almost daily on a commuter trip. So that, although we lost the beautiful typeface of the Darien Press we gained a reasonably clear print and most excellent co-operation (that at the Darien was agreeable but of a leisurely, glass-clinking, nature). Also, Culross could prepare photographic blocks and our previous – English – source of these appeared also to be succumbing to neoplastic Finance.

I would like to express more clearly now, what appeared as part of a niggardly footnote in 1990: my own – and the Club's – appreciation of the splendid personal help of Bob Benzie, whose keen eye and lively mind served this Journal so well when myself, Campbell and Brooker were editors, and of the ready assistance of his sons when he at length retired. Not only did he put up with continual editorial descents upon his office (despite keeping his car park defensively full), but he made a point – when commuting to the slopes – of returning these visits by popping, into



the grimy editorial post-box out in the Bush, galley proofs, page proofs and first copies. Monumental displays of mutual patience (followed by exemplary remedial action) always sorted out the inevitable production crises. It was a great co-operation all those years with Culross, and I am happy to engrave it here upon the timeless annals of the Club.

G.J.F. Dutton.

### MAKING OF A SERIES

If you were on Tower Ridge in mid-February and saw three figures in 1930s clothing and equipment making their way across Tower Gap it was not an hallucination brought on by the previous night's over indulgence in the bars of Fort William. As part of our series on history of Scottish climbing we are honouring the achievement of W.H. Murray. Such a celebration is not a moment too soon. A few days earlier we had recorded a moving interview with Bill where he spoke about writing *Mountaineering in Scotland* in POW camps; about the exploratory nature of Scottish climbing in the 1930s and about his friends from that period. Now we were recreating his ascent of Tower Ridge and our three climber/actors, Graham Moss, Alasdair Cain and Mark Diggins were discovering that the exposure of the Eastern Traverse is made more realistic by using the equipment of Murray's time.

In the same hectic three weeks of filming we had witnessed some impressive modern mixed climbing with Graeme Eittle and Rab Anderson on White Magic in the Northern Corries and Dave Cuthbertson showed us the merits of ice climbing by popping up Mega RouteX on Ben Nevis. Ken Crocket joined Andy Nisbet on Smith's Route, confirming that Robin Smith and Jimmy Marshall's achievement is not diminished by the absence of step cutting.

Farther north we sampled a winter classic gully with Paul Nunn and Clive Rowland on Beinn Dearg and were thankful for their patience in difficult conditions as modern technology tried to keep up with human endeavour.

Mick Fowler undertook a typical raid to put up a new route on Sgurr a' Ghaorachain, but by then we were all getting blasé about filming in the best winter conditions of recent years and Duncan McCallum had proved that he can take more steady footage hanging on a rope than some cameramen can take on the ground.

Most importantly, many new friendships were formed and old ones rekindled. Cubby pronounced White Magic 'a West Coast Grade II or possibly III'; Rab proved it was possible at 5.30a.m. to eat copious Rice Krispies and simultaneously argue the merits of the new regrading system, and Mr Nisbet wondered how the Aberdonian contribution could be fitted into just three hours of television. But the storm clouds truly arrived when we produced a magazine that placed Duncan as only the 41st best climber in the country – or was it 43rd?

At the time of writing we are embarking on the first of our spring shoots and hoping to find good rock in the North West and on Skye. The programmes will be shown throughout Britain on BBC2 in early autumn and we hope to show the important contribution that Scotland has made to world mountaineering. Even with the luxury of six films hard decisions have had to be made and I am sure we have not been able to please everyone. What I can promise is some excellent climbing footage and a celebration of many outstanding names, but if your favourite climber is omitted do not write to the BBC to complain – demand a second series!

Richard Else.

## THE SCOTTISH MOUNTAINEERING TRUST— A New Approach

Members will know that the Trust was formed in the early 1960s as the Club wished to become more seriously involved in guidebook production and required the tax-free status conferred by a charitable trust in order to sustain a viable publications programme. This situation continued reasonably happily until the mid-1980s with modest profits being shown for the Trust's efforts and consequently only small support being offered to the various requests for assistance.

The position, however, changed dramatically with the publication of *The Munros* which saw, for the first time, a situation where the Trust was faced with the disposal of a considerable income. The book is now on a seventh reprint and the money has continued to accrue. New powers conferred on the Inland Revenue to investigate the affairs of charitable trusts where the prime function is to do other than administer a capital fund (in our case run a publications company) meant establishing a subsidiary company, Scottish Mountaineering Trust (Publications) Ltd., which by covenanting its profits back to the Trust, enables the Trust to maintain its tax-free status and sustain its now considerable programme.

Trustees are, of course, all Club members and bring to the Trust a strong support for the interests of the Club, but members should realise that once appointed, Trustees act on behalf of the Trust which must act equitably towards all interests of Scottish mountaineering. Trustees are charged with a legal responsibility to administer the Trust's affairs in a business-like manner and this is particularly necessary in view of the scale of the Trust's operation and the amounts of money involved. I am pleased to say that Trustees have not flinched from this task and the work of the Trust has benefited enormously from the input of past, and present, Trustees. While recognising its responsibility to the wider mountaineering scene, the Trust has nevertheless managed to support Club projects in recent years – through the loan to finance the Raeburn Hut; the substantive funding towards the refurbishment of Lagangarbh; the relocation of the Library, and its annual support of the Journal.

Trustees, in the last few years, have become acutely conscious of the substantial funds at their disposal which have not always been matched by the number of applications received. Furthermore, footpath work which was a major beneficiary, has slowed down due, principally, to a seeming reluctance by Scottish Natural Heritage to renew commitments to projects at previous levels. At a specially-convened meeting last year it was therefore decided that the Trust should adopt a more pro-active policy towards the dispersal of its assets and much consideration has been given as to how this might be achieved.

Firstly, the Trust has now decided to advertise its existence more widely and it is hoped that this will attract more applications for financial support. Secondly, the Trust is considering an annual contribution to the winter skills course run at Glenmore Lodge which will provide benefit for many young mountaineers, and hopefully, improve their safety standards. Thirdly, and more radically, the Trust has created a separate land purchase fund which will be made available, possibly at very short notice, to bodies such as the John Muir Trust and the National Trust for Scotland to assist in the purchase of suitable mountain properties. These developments represent a radical change in Trust policy. The publications programme will continue as will grants for appropriate projects which benefit Scottish mountaineering, but through these new initiatives, the Trust can now be seen to be maximising the distribution of resources instead of the modest offerings of the past.

In the year since April 1, 1993, the following grants have so far been made. A full statement of these transactions will appear when the Trust accounts are made available at the AGM in 1994.

J.R.R. Fowler.

***General Grant Fund***

Grants paid	Scottish Rights of Way Society	£1000
	Dundee Film Festival	£350
	Kathmandu Environmental Project	£1500
	SMC Journal	£3380
Grants committed		£11,398

***Footpath Fund***

Grants paid	Stac Pollaidh	£2500
	Coire Lagan	£5000
	Blaven	£1320
	Ben Lomond	£1100
	Buachaille Etive Mor	£2165
	Glas Allt Shiel	£1500
	Wester Ross Survey	£1500
	Ben Nevis Footpath	£5000
Grants committed		£9250

***Snart Bequest***

Grants paid	British Mountain Guides	£1500
	MRCS Conference	£500
Grants committed		£1800

***Sang Award***

Grants paid	Cordillera Expedition	£750
	Charakusa Expedition	£500
Grants committed		£0

***Lagangarbh Project***

Expenditure this year		£1432
Phase 3 commitment		£18,000

# MUNRO MATTERS

By C.M. Huntley (Clerk of the List)

This year's List takes up where the 1993 Journal finished, starting with number 1145. The traditional sequence of numbers, name, followed by year of completion of Munros, Tops and Furths as appropriate. SMC and LSCC members are identified by \* and \*\* respectively.

1145	*Jones W H	1993	1993	1192	Unsworth David	1993	1994
1146	Dobrzynski G	1993	1981	1193	Aiken Linda	1993	
1147	Robertson Robert M	1993		1194	Aiken William	1993	
1148	Wilson Colin	1993		1195	Hepburn Mary	1993	
1149	Thatcher David	1993		1196	Holmes Alan H	1993	1993 1993
1150	Nixon David I	1993		1197	Morl George W	1993	1993 1993 1993
1151	Waterson David	1993		1198	Martin John	1993	
1152	Kerry R M	1993		1199	Williamson Roy D	1993	
1153	Keegan Alan	1993		1200	Brooker Margaret L	1993	
1154	Westmorland Mike J	1993		1201	Baker David	1993	1993 1993 1993
1155	Norrie Rita	1993		1202	Brown Kenneth	1993	
1156	MacLeod John T	1993		1203	Gayton Jean M	1993	1993
1157	Douglas David	1993		1204	Tait Robert J	1993	1993
1158	Knowles C	1993		1205	Baillie Carole	1993	
1159	Russell Margaret	1993		1206	Baillie Michael	1993	
1160	Collins Peter E	1993		1207	Jaap David	1993	
1161	Cook Eric	1993	1993	1208	Sinclair William	1993	1993
1162	Stead Sandra	1993		1209	Morris Carl	1993	
1163	Heckford Mike	1993		1210	Berryman Jack	1993	
1164	Panton Brian D	1993		1211	Sutherland Charlie	1993	
1165	Mackay Charles M	1993		1212	Haworth David	1993	
1166	Bowden Iona	1993		1213	Whitehead Andy	1992	
1167	Bowden Roy	1993		1214	Wilson Dorothy	1993	1988
1168	Crabbe Stephen	1992		1215	Twentyman Maurice E	1993	
1169	Fenton Garth B	1993		1216	Donnelly Ian	1993	
1170	Fenton Elaine S	1993		1217	Cosby Joyce	1993	
1171	Kirkwood Harry	1993		1218	Cosby Brian	1993	
1172	Barr Jeanette	1993		1219	Moffat Valerie	1993	1993 1993 1993
1173	Lapp Bernhard	1993		1220	Moffat Andrew	1993	1993 1993 1993
1174	Collie Ian	1993		1221	Wilson John F	1993	
1175	Shipway W R	1993		1222	Strang Gilmour	1992	1992
1176	Drummond Peter	1993		1223	Lee Chris	1993	
1177	McPhail Peter	1993	1993 1993	1224	MacDuffie Iain S	1993	
1178	Tulloch Christine E	1993		1225	Burgum Jeff J	1993	1993 1993 1993
1179	Hill David I	1993		1226	Maxwell W P	1993	
1180	*Peck Dave	1993		1227	Powell Martin C	1993	
1181	Cadoux Theodore	1993		1228	Ogorman Heather	1993	
1182	Upson Chris J	1993		1229	Holder John	1993	
1183	Fry Mike	1993		1230	King Iain	1993	
1184	Matthews John B	1993		1231	Convery James A D	1993	
1185	Johnson John	1993		1232	Bryn Levan	1992	
1186	Lincoln Peter	1993		1233	Ager Arthur W	1993	
1187	Bowers Bill J	1993	1993	1234	Stanford Dave	1993	
1188	Froebel Karin	1993		1235	Graham Winifred	1992	
1189	Burrows J S	1993		1236	Plumb Robert L	1993	
1190	Rich Donald	1993		1237	Coakes Heather	1993	
1191	Slater David	1993		1238	Anderson R J	1993	

1239 Henshaw Roger C	1993	1257 Cryle David A	1993	1993
1240 Atkins Michael	1993	1258 Hanlin Michael	1993	
1241 Carrie John G	1993	1259 Gray Ian	1993	
1242 Baxter James L W	1993	1260 Cowie Brian	1993	
1243 Griffiths Richard T	1993	1261 Hunter L	1993	
1244 Foster Duncan	1993	1262 *Boyd Tom W	1993	
1245 Carrington Norman	1993	1963 Donaldson Michael J	1993	
1246 Brogan Janey	1993	1264 McIntosh Iain B	1992	
1247 Brogan David	1993	1265 McLean Dorothy	1993	
1248 Singleton S G	1993	1266 Wilson Joan	1993	
1249 Wylie Morag	1993	1267 Kennedy Dave B	1993	
1250 Hopper Gordon	1993	1268 Welsh Brian	1993	
1251 Sutherland Innes	1993	1269 Sutton Aida	1992	
1252 Martin Frank	1993	1270 Sutton Alan	1992	
1253 May Christine M	1993	1271 Deall Tony M	1994	
1254 May Timothy J	1993	1272 Johncocks Bill R.	1994	
1255 Woods Una S	1993	1273 Ritchie G. Fraser	1993	
1256 Yates Keith	1993	1274 Swindells Peter	1994	

AMENDMENTS to the List. Multiple rounds only showing the last year.

112 Roberts Peter	x3	1975	624 Vaughan John	x2
	1993			1993
315 Paton Robert	x2	1983	859 Smith Ivan	1991 1991 1993
	1993		881 Carter Geoffrey D.	1991 1993
334 McCreath Garry	x2	1986	1045 Fallon Steven	1992 1993
	1992		1108 Deas George	1992 1994
336 Ramsden Stephen	x2	1989		
	1993			

In addition, there are the following corrections to the List in the SMCJ 1993. Tim Pickles (1087) was incorrectly listed as Tom, and Dave Park (1041) was not credited with completing the Tops. Sorry!

It would appear that the alarming exponential rise in completions of 1990 to 1992 is now over, and that Munro-bagging has perhaps reached its peak. Notwithstanding this, there are 127 new entries to the List, which is over 100 more than completed a decade ago. It certainly appears that the publication of *The Munros* guidebook may have prompted many who were well into their round to see out those last few summits.

Of course, Munros is almost a word of everyday usage and the whole activity has spurred a whole range of support paraphernalia. You can climb the hills, read the books, watch the videos of the Munro Show, watch the Golden Cagoule, and now the latest is the Munro Mania board game (not bored game) which 'will bring back memories of your walks', and with the help of a 'fitness dice you'll allow even the slowest to achieve Poetry in Motion'. In addition, for the really comprehensive record of your day on the hill you can get the PC Mountain Diary to ensure you have an accurate pictorial summary of your tally so far.

Behind every name and number there is a fund of tales on and off the hills and I have tried to condense a few of the details I receive in the letters of completions.



*M. matrimonialis* is as strong as ever with 10 more couples this year. The Bowdens (1166/67) talk of starting down the slippery slope/primrose path together and seem to have found searching out the hills very therapeutic from the pressures of Total Quality Management, although there is a mention of telling the fridge of their exploits, and even promising to take it on their second round. The Hill/Tullochs (1178/79) seem to have rattled round the hills in only five years which is pretty good going for an exiled Scot in Lancashire. At the other end of the scale the Aikens (1193/94), spread their ascents over 40 years, although 13 years ago they were almost compleat with only the Skye Ridge and Sgurr Fiona on An Teallach to do. The Tait/Gaytons (1203/04) recorded their compleation in a nine-verse poem to me which is really worth an item in the Journal. It takes the reader through the early days of finding the hills, giving up smoking to the inevitable 'Galloping Munroist' phase from where there is no return. The Moffats (1219/20) have gone for the full round of Munros, Tops and Furths and thought they'd better include Beinn an Lochain as an 'honorary' Munro. They've also supplied some observations on potential new tops based on altimeter readings – more work for the Master of the Tables to sort out! The Mays (1253/54) also went for *M. brevis* compleating on Ben More after 31 to 32 years and mention that the next round should be accompanied by Munro-lets. The Crosbys (1217/18) finished nearer the other end of the *M. longus* timetable, spreading their saga over 40 years, giving them a pleasant start to retirement and '277 prizes'. Finally, on family matters, Iain King (1230) follows his father, Graham (70), and mother, Heather (928).

Many of those compleating are not resident in Scotland and two are particularly distant. Bernhard Lapp (1173) resides in Bremen, Germany and began his round on Slioch in 1979. He compleated this year after 13 separate holidays and 106 days (not including eight aborted days) and expects to be closely followed by his brother who is only 70 hills behind. The second, Gordon Hopper (1250), had a head start by compleating 195 before emigrating to Canada. Also, while on issues from abroad, I should mention that there are opportunities of further 'furths' in Kenya. Sir John Johnson (1185) reports that while on colonial service in 1955 he was intrigued to find the country was full of mountains which had not been tabulated. He drew up an indicative list and presented it to the Mountain Club of Kenya around 1961, and this has been the basis of a guide to the mountains of Kenya republished in 1989.

The Celebration on the Last One figures highly in the reports I receive. Charles Mackay (1165) being a Highlander by birth and having shinty 'connections' was presented by his brother with a fine 'Munro' camman, and before the collected throng made to hit a ceremonial shinty ball from the summit. He reports: 'It is a number of years since I hit a shinty ball in earnest, and that, coupled with the champagne, ensured I didn't surprise anyone on the Rannoch Wall.' Moving 'upmarket', Jack Berryman (1210) and Chris Sutherland (1211) compleated together on Ben More Assynt to find, much to their surprise, that their companions had laid on champagne on a tray served by two friends dressed in white shirts and black bow ties. Bagpipes figure high in the priority of all Last One celebrations and Arthur Agar's (1233) was no exception. However, he also had a formal printed invitation to the party,

numerous kilted companions, a Saltire, guitar and a parapent which the owner used to glide from the summit (while also kilted). Brian Welsh (1268), although accompanied by a piper and pipe, had to content himself with strong winds and driving rain which caused a severe dose of frozen digits and damp reeds emanating not a note. Margaret Brooker (1200) had far better weather for her celebration which seemed to attract many more than the original party once they reached the top. From this year's reports it certainly seems that if you are ascending any of the popular final Munro choices on a Saturday in May and June there's a good chance of finding a celebration.

Some of the most enjoyable letters I've received have come after *M. longus* campaigns. No fewer than 11 in the list have spread their round over 40 years, with the longest being Tom Boyd (1262) who ascended his first hill, Ben Ime, in 1940 having just recovered from measles, and he recalls the highlight of the day was a 'solitary spitfire flying overhead, no doubt about to take part in the Battle of Britain which was approaching its climax'. Frank Martin (1252) and Innes Sutherland (1251) compleated together on Gulvain after 40 and 50 years respectively. This was particularly appropriate for Innes who nearly ascended the hill in 1943 while on Commando training. However, the exercise didn't include the summit and that had to wait until this year. Later, on training in the Cairngorms with an instructor called F.S. Smythe they regularly ticked the summits and camped in Coire Etchachan. The pair's ascent of the Inn Pinn in 1992 was in true 1940s style with 9mm hawser, two slings and two crabs. I note that the Inn Pinn is often kept until late in the round, and Winifred Graham (1235) is no exception. Having started in the 1950s it was not until recently in her 65th year that the necessary combination of weather and 'someone with a rope' combined. Another *M. longus* is Roy Williamson (1199) who started in 1950 but only really accelerated since his 50th birthday in 1986. This acceleration was halted after one day-trip from Perth to Beinn Sgritheall when he realised while lying in the bath back home that he had only visited the first top. Three days later the 'problem' was corrected. Donald Rich (1190) decided that his 45-year round should be compleated on Sgorr Dhonuill (Donald's Peak) and feels that he is now free to revisit those where he missed the views.

Our elder statesman of the year is Theodore Cadoux (1181), *M. venerabilis*, who compleated at the age of 76. Nudging Theodore fairly close is Bill Jones (1145) compleat at the age of 68, who was introduced to the hills by one of the finest approaches – Crowberry Ridge in 1950. It obviously made the right impression!

Almost NOT compleat tales abound in the letters. Peter Roberts (112) nearly ruined any future hill walking by rupturing his Achilles tendon when a snowbridge collapsed near the summit of Mullach Clach a' Bhlaire while on his third round. His descent back (after ticking the summit of course) sounded grim, but surgery and plaster seems to have sorted the leg out and he is duly onto his fourth round. Margaret Russell (1159) could have been defeated, not by weather, age or injury, but her ophidiophobia. This seems to have induced Margaret to only venture into the eastern hills in winter, but the reptiles had the last laugh when a snake surprised her on Suilven. W.R. Shipway (1175) feels he may have only just made it due to age, but imparts his advice to others

searching out the hills to 'first gather about you a number of staunch and steadfast friends'. Andy Whitehead (1213) could have failed at a very early age due to his inability to keep his breakfast down while travelling to the hills in his school teacher's car. This obviously made him a much less welcome companion in the car and he does mention often finding himself making his own transport arrangements. Michael Hanlin (1258) nearly didn't make it after a brush with wet snow on Slioch which prompted him to leave the hill for a 'better day'.

The medical state of *Chronic Munrosis* first published in the October 1984 edition of *Scottish Medicine* has now thoroughly ridden its author Iain B. McIntosh (1264) who is now compleat, although there was a delay of a year before he was prepared to acknowledge the fact and write to me. A further condition referred to is from John Martin (1198) who describes *M. lactiferculensis* (Munros by milk van). This seems to have involve his landlady's milk van being used unofficially to transport him to Ben Lawers for his first hills.

Finally, a report I have just received of a Round of the Extremities; Alec Keith and Derek Bearhop (259) report that they have completed a circuit of the four extreme Munros in a frenzy of motoring endurance. The round started and finished at Perth and took 23 hours and 25 minutes, ably driven by Pete Smith and Allan Amour who it is said observed all speed limits. Hopes of completion within 24 hours were nearly dashed when they had to stop to help a drunk try to remove his car from a bog near Achnasheen. The bog appears to have won leaving the team free to press on. However, in closing, Alec does comment that 'the expense and stamina required by this excursion renders its performance unjustifiable'. Well said!

For entry to the List: Notification of compleation should be sent to Dr. C.M. Huntley, Old Medwyn, Spittal, Carnwath, Lanarkshire, ML11 8LY, enclosing a SAE to ensure a reply. I leave the style of notification to the writer, but generally I like to know the names and dates of your first and last hills plus whatever anecdotal evidence you feel would be of interest. I note that the older writers often include their ages but remember I may use the information in the journal article. Also I know that the 'Unknown Munroist' position at 277 is getting very crowded and any who wish to 'come out' would be welcome to record the fact. Once registered in the List, Munroists can claim a tie and/or brooch. (Tie for £8.50, brooch/lapel badge for £8.50, all prices including p.&p. from the Keeper of the Regalia, Gordon M. McAndrew, Bishop's House, 4 Lansdowne Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 5EQ.)

**Footnote:** (All eight of them . . . ) Readers may recall the request in the 1992 Journal by Isobel Baldwin of the Royal Museum of Scotland, to collect spiders while hillwalking and send in specimens for research purposes. She writes that since the start of the project, some 869 adult spiders have been collected, 601 of them true montane specimens contained in 21 species. She thanks those who helped, and adds that more specimens are welcome. The Editor, in a continuing fit of scientific zeal, will publish an article on these montane arachnids next year, by Isobel Baldwin, complete, we hope, with maps, drawings, and even, perhaps, a close-up colour photograph of one of our most accomplished climbers, the spider. Send in any captured beasties to: Isobel Baldwin, Royal Museum of Scotland, Chambers Street, Edinburgh EH1 1JF.

## SCOTTISH MOUNTAIN ACCIDENTS

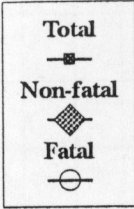
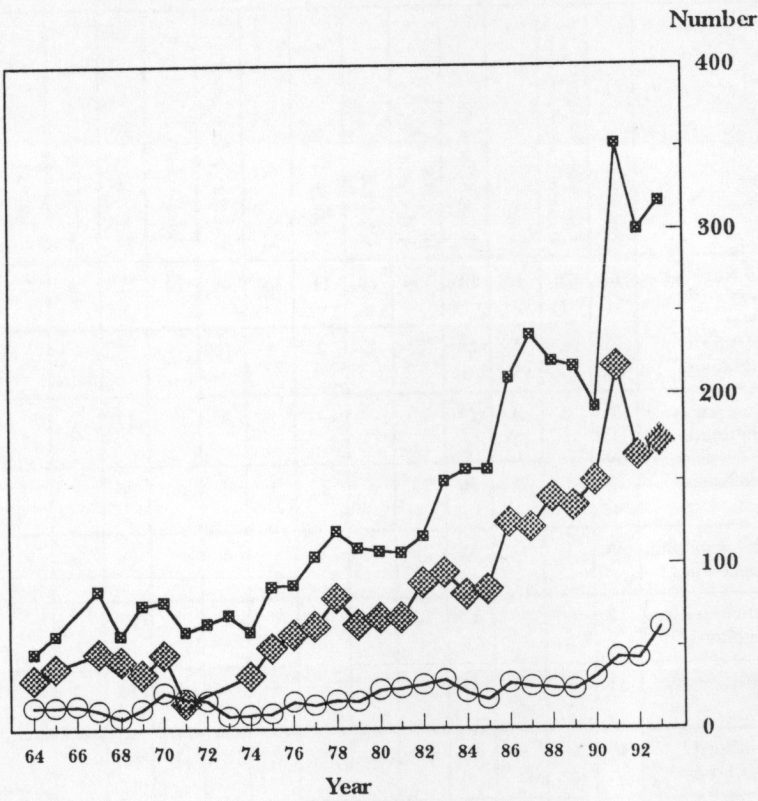
## REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION

*(Geographical Divisions are those used in SMC District Guidebooks)*

(See 'Medical 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 1992	164 (31)	26 (1)	16 (11)	206 (43)	194	20	11	13	46	14	298	4	7
Northern Highlands	17 (3)	2 —	5 (3)	24 (6)	22	2	2	2	10	1	39	—	1
Western Highlands	9 (1)	2 —	3 (3)	14 (4)	13	—	—	—	4	—	17	—	—
Ben Nevis	23 (4)	5 —	2 (1)	30 (5)	27	3	2	1	3	—	36	—	—
Glen Coe (inc. Buachaille)	30 (10)	1 —	— —	31 (10)	26	7	1	—	6	—	40	—	—
Other Central Highlands	12 (3)	— —	— —	12 (3)	12	—	1	1	—	1	15	—	—
Cairngorms	31 (6)	3 (3)	7 (2)	41 (11)	38	1	3	5	4	3	54	3	5
Southern Highlands	36 (9)	— —	5 —	41 (9)	38	2	5	2	8	1	56	1	4
Skye	14 (4)	— —	1 —	15 (4)	14	5	—	—	1	1	21	1	—
Islands (other than Skye)	7 (1)	1 —	— —	8 (1)	7	—	1	2	4	—	14	—	—
Southern Uplands	15 (8)	2 —	2 (1)	19 (9)	18	—	1	—	6	—	25	—	5
All Regions 1993	194 (49)	16 (3)	25 (10)	235 (62)	215	20	16	13	46	7	317	5	15

**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)

The mountain injury lists exclude casualties from the following causes, although they are included in the rescue narratives:

Not known.....	7 (6)
Sea cliffs (other than rock climbing).....	7 (2)
Suicide.....	4 (4)
Piste skiing.....	4 (1)
Drowned.....	2 (2)
Suicide attempts.....	2
Total.....	26 (15)

## SUMMER

Hillwalking summer slip/trip/stumble.....	41 (9)
Hillwalking slip etc.descending.....	33 (2)
Illness.....	18 (5)
Rock climbing roped.....	11 (1)
Rock climbing sea cliffs.....	3 (1)
Rock climbing unroped.....	3
Mountain biking.....	3 (1)
Foothold came away (Skye ridges).....	1 (1)
Exhaustion.....	8
Rockfall.....	3
Loose handhold (scrambling).....	2
Old injury causing trouble.....	2
Hypothermia.....	2
Loose rock dislodged by leader.....	1
Fell running slip on scree.....	1
River crossing instruction.....	1
Jolting on disabled hill climb.....	1
Rockfall during animal rescue.....	1
All terrain vehicle accident.....	1
Total.....	136 (20)

## WINTER

(Snow, ice, frozen turf underfoot)

Hillwalking slip/trip/stumble.....	14 (3)
Hillwalking descending.....	23 (8)
Mixed climbing/snow climbing unroped.....	6 (5)
Hypothermia.....	5 (3)
Blown over.....	5 (1)
Ice climbing roped.....	4 (1)
Illness.....	3 (2)
Ice or rockfall during mixed climbing roped.....	3 (2)
Avalanche.....	2 (2)
Ice-axe braking practice.....	2
Mixed climbing roped. Piton failure.....	1
Mixed climbing roped.....	1
Ice climbing unroped.....	1
Exhaustion.....	1
Polybagging.....	1
Cornice collapse during rescue.....	1
Total.....	73 (27)
Total mountain injuries.....	209 (47)
Full rescue total.....	235 (62)

Rescuers are generally named in, or just after, the narratives, with the number of rescue person/hours at the end of each incident. Police are not usually mentioned since it is well known they are always deeply involved – being ultimately responsible for all Scottish rescues. More than one-third of winter injuries have been fatal, whereas less than one-sixth of summer injuries have proved so.

I know that the list is far from complete, staggering as it is, because reports have not been received from all services. I hope to make more demands for information in 1994.

### Scottish Mountain Safety Seminar – Dunblane Hydro, 6th May, 1994.

The Editor was invited to attend this seminar at the last moment, and duly turned up, as distressed as the rest of us at the high numbers of recent fatal accidents. The meeting had been arranged before the 1993-94 winter, a timely coincidence, with 170 delegates from both sides of the Border. Many weel kent faces were there, from a broad spectrum of the interested. In part, it was a group soul search, a discussion on whether mountaineers should continue to accept the dangers that attend mountaineering. The best prepared speech was perhaps that by Bob Reid, outgoing President of the MC of S. He made the acute observation that while it is possible to go hillwalking in summer, in winter there is only mountaineering. Many accidents, it would seem, have as a contributory cause either incompetent navigation, or even a lack of navigation aids. Indeed, I was shocked at the prevalence of such ignorance. Ben Humble's 'simple slip' will always be with us, and will take its annual cull of the tired, unwary, or downright unlucky. The Government, unsure as how to catalogue hill-users, promised more funding for research into accident statistics (they seemed to be oblivious of the annual reporting in this journal for one). The analysis presented shed little light, excepting the navigational shortcomings. An in-depth interview of each and every survivor might help, though even this would be full of traps and pitfalls. At the end of the day we left the hotel breathing gratefully the balmy spring air. And perhaps some of us drove home more carefully than usual.

**SCOTTISH MOUNTAIN ACCIDENTS 1993****Compiled by John Hinde****NORTHERN HIGHLANDS**

- JANUARY 1st** – With inadequate lighting (one working head torch between all three) three males attempted Ben More Assynt. Two climbed a gully to meet the third on top, but they were slow and he alerted Assynt MRT. The two from the gully searched for the third before descending. 2.
- JANUARY 3rd** – Old Man of Stoer Original Route (MVS). Hillwalkers saw two climbers, P. Morgan (31) and M. Austin (21) abseiling. Their ropes got stuck. Assynt MRT and Lochinver Coastguard were alerted. The two climbed back to the top and eventually got themselves off in wind, rain and darkness. 10.
- JANUARY 20th** – An Staonach, NE of Beinn Bhan, Applecross. Peter Robb (30s) weight 23st or 146kg, driving a 4-wheel ATV to a remote fish farm on a high hill loch, struck a rock, fracturing a tibia and fibula. He was stretcher carried by Torridon MRT (Is this a weight record?) to an airlift by RAF Sea King. 36.
- JANUARY 29th** – Jon Beard (21) traversing Liathach, was seen by the rest of his party falling into the northern coire, when cramponing down névé west of Coire Dubh Beag. Trying to brake he lost his ice-axe. He struck a boulder and was thrown off the ridge into Coire Dubh Beag. Two went for help and one tried to find Jon, but could not do so. His body was found by SARDA dog. He had fallen 240m. Torridon and Kinloss MRTS, RAF Sea King. 160.
- FEBRUARY 11th-18th** – Mist came down after Christopher Nicholls (30) had reached the summit of Slioch. Running about to keep warm he fell and sprained his ankle. He found a stone shelter and bivouacked to await better weather. He had carried a bivvy bag and sleeping bag but he had not left a route plan. His food ran out on the third day and he sucked ice to prevent dehydration. On the seventh day the weather improved, so he decided to move from his bivvy, descended 900m (taking two days in his weak state) and was found by a local farmer on the eighth day stumbling around a field. Evacuated by Torridon MRT ambulance and slowly rewarmed for hypothermia. He suffered frostbite of both feet but did well to survive such a long bivouac. 12.
- FEBRUARY 20th-21st** – Two men, Geoffrey Main (29) and Ciaran Grogan (28) attempted the south route of An Teallach traverse, which avoids the ridge proper. The route was in harsh condition with snow, ice and verglas. Gales with snow forced them to retreat. They lost one torch and smashed another. They bivouacked at 058827 when their descent gully appeared to end in a drop. Found by HMCG helicopter at Shenavall on second check. The bothy had already been checked when the pair were bivouacking. Dundonnell MRT. 213.
- FEBRUARY 21st** – Meall a' Chrasgaidh, Fannichs. One of a party of two, Bernard Hynes (55) had a cardiac arrest near Loch a' Bhraoin and had to be left alone. He was dead when winched by HMCG helicopter. Dundonnell MRT. 14.
- MARCH 7th** – Body of John Oag (19) found at the foot of 35m cliffs below ruins of Old Wick Castle, Wick. No suspicious circumstances.
- MARCH 13th-14th** – Starting late to climb Cioch Nose (VD), Applecross, John MacIachlan (35), Gail Burton (27) and Gary Wroe (27) were benighted. Torridon MRT met them on the ridge above the climb and walked down with them. 30.
- APRIL 5th-6th** – Routed from Glencalvie Lodge to Eileanach Lodge, Glen Glass, 11 pupils from Elgin High School, aged 15-18, grouped into two parties of five and six on an award hike where overdue reaching their rendezvous in Kildermorie Forest, a wild area north of Ben Wyvis 'riddled with peat hags up to six-feet deep, filled with

water and snow'. There had been no midway check and some of the clothing was inadequate. One party was found at 425764 (Loch nan Amhaichean) by parties from Dundonnell and Kinloss MRTs, the other party at 449781 (Feur-lochan) by RAF Sea King. One teenager had hypothermia and another was in the early stages. RAF Nimrod aircraft involved, and Police SARDA dogs. 334.

APRIL 10th-11th – In a party of four, Mary Stoddart (32) sprained ankle on Beinn Liath Mhor, Fannaichs. She and a companion spent the night in a tent lent by a couple they met. She was stretchered out by Dundonnell MRT. 146.

APRIL 12th – On a coastal walk to Greenstone Point (headland west of Gruinard Bay) in a group, James Chapman (65) had a fatal heart attack. Bristow helicopter recovered him with his wife and took him to Alltbea Police. He was declared dead by doctor on board R119. 6.

APRIL 13th – Two men, Newton and Chapman, attempted to climb West Buttress, Stac Pollaidh, but leader, Newton, got arm cramps and they abseiled off. A late start, queueing for the route, and retreat delay caused benightment. They got lost and descended away from their car. Dundonnell MRT alerted.

MAY 25th – Mountain trail of Beinn Eighe Nature Reserve. Harsheta Patel (9) separated from a group of 24. She was seen to slip on scree and fall into a 50m gorge by other walkers. She was unable to say how she reached the bottom without serious injury. She suffered bruising and cold trauma. Wonched by RAF Sea King. Torridon MRT. 25.

JUNE 1st-2nd – Separating from three others on Meall nan Ceapraichean (Beinn Dearg group) David Andrews (39) went east instead of west and got to Glenbeg Bothy. In mist he tried to find the path over to Inverlael, but his compass seemed to have become demagnetised so he returned to Glenbeg Bothy. He was found there by Dundonnell MRT. Kinloss MRT and RAF Sea King called out. 208.

JUNE 8th – Ewan Mackay (21) soloing a south-facing gully on Liathach to the ridge (west of Stuc a' Choire Dhuibh Bhig), slipped on wet rock and fell 12m suffering extensive injuries. After first aid from Torridon MRT and RAF Sea King winchman, the helicopter managed to winch him on a 70m wire. 30.

JUNE 19th – Descending the path in Coire Dubh after a day on Beinn Eighe, Hugh MacKay (38) suffered severe chest pains. Torridon MRT provided first aid for a suspected heart attack. Airlift by RAF Sea King. 27.

JUNE 28th – J. MacInnes (18), suffering from an old knee injury, was evacuated from Shenavall Bothy, An Teallach by Bristow helicopter. Dundonnell MRT. 5.

JUNE 29th – Mapping Morefield Quarry, 1.8km north of Ullapool, geology student Helen Jarret (20) tripped on a rabbit burrow and hurt her ankle. Lifted by Inverness Air Ambulance.

JUNE 29th – Duncan Campbell (41) usually walked down from his work site at Farmheall (BT project) to base at Cualin Lodge, Rhiconich in 30 minutes. On this occasion, mist came down after five minutes and he had not been following Argocat tracks. He turned up safe after four hours. Assynt MRT alerted. RAF Sea King. 12.

JULY 5th – Hillwalkers lifted by helicopter when Derek Scott (51) broke an ankle on Ben Loyal.

JULY 16th – Coast walking Achiltibuie to Blughasary, Ivor Marriot (53) slipped into a gully banging his head. He returned to Achiltibuie unaided. Dundonnell MRT standby. 6.

JULY 20th-21st – Between A'Mhaighdean and Ruadh Stac Mor five walkers ran out of daylight attempting the Fisherfield Six. They bivouacked and two went for help at 0630. Jill Adams (60), Jennifer Thompson (50) and Fran Revell (40) were found walking out and lifted by RAF Sea King, as were the three Dundonnell MRT who were out looking for them. 48.

- JULY 31th-AUGUST 1st – Angus MacLean (40) became separated from his friend on a fishing/hillwalking trip near Dundonnell. Overdue, he turned up safe at 01.30. Dundonnell MRT alerted.
- AUGUST 4th – Ian Cox (29) got stuck on a ledge above Camusnagaul when descending the north side of An Teallach in mist. His whistle was heard by a fishing boat on Little Loch Broom. Winched off by Bristow helicopter. Dundonnell MRT. 5.
- AUGUST 14th – Man (21) fell on to rocks on Gairloch foreshore. Recovered semi-conscious by HM Coastguard and Ambulance Service.
- AUGUST 19th – Two tourists trapped by tide at Durness, got cragfast on cliffs at Sango Bay. Talked down by HM Coastguard.
- AUGUST 19th-20th – Without a torch, a 46-year-old man set out at 13.40 to walk from Corrie Hallie near Dundonnell to Poolewe via Carnmore, a distance of more than 20 miles, without bivouac gear. After dark he sheltered about six miles short of Poolewe. Dundonnell MRT passed him at 05.30 but he did not know if it was a vehicle or torches. 24.
- AUGUST 29th – Gordon Nuttall (48) slipped on a stone, rupturing Achilles tendon, descending Beinn Liath Mhor, Fannaichs, with two companions. By the time Bristow helicopter arrived he had hobbled to road with one friend. Dundonnell MRT. 13.
- AUGUST 29th-30th – Separating from three friends on summit of Cona Mheall, Beinn Dearg group, to go down Gleann na Sguaib, Duncan Kirkhope (29) went down Choire Ghranda before realisation and retracement of steps. Found by Bristow helicopter but walked out. Dundonnell MRT. 70.
- LATE AUGUST – Walker. Cliff path Thurso. Fatality.
- SEPTEMBER 5th – Sgurr a' Chaorachain, Applecross (probably on Summit Buttress). Bristow helicopter with a doctor aboard evacuated two casualties from a rock-climbing slip. A runner pulled. Brian Cross (38), leading, had head injuries and a dislocated shoulder. Richard Vernon (42) also suffered shoulder dislocation. Torridon MRT and Fairbridge Drake. 20.
- SEPTEMBER 20th-21st – People camping in a corrie of An Teallach reported red flares. Three members of Dundonnell MRT climbed an unnamed top of the main ridge, immediately north of the summit, finding nothing. HM Coastguard were out on the Moray Coast for flares reported about the same time near Inverness. 32.
- OCTOBER 2nd – Dundonnell MRT helped Mary Langridge (48) down to the road after she slipped descending path from An Teallach injuring an ankle. 27.
- OCTOBER 3rd – Dundonnell MRT member checked Shenavall Bothy as part of search for a German couple missing in Skye from September 7th and later found dead in Trotternish. 5.
- OCTOBER 10th – Five hours overdue on a low-level four-hour walk from Glasnock to Balgyby Loch Damh; Torridon MRT found Jane Farargue (55) and Hilary Gosling (55) and three dogs. They had under-estimated time and terrain and taken a wrong turning. 30.
- OCTOBER 23rd – Separated from a group of five, Adrian Moore (48) got benighted descending from west end of Liathach (Sgorr a' Chadail) direct to Torridon village. He flashed a light and was guided down, uninjured but grateful, by Torridon MRT. 30.
- OCTOBER 30th – Companion of Archibald Hannah (78) returned and said they split up at Eas Chual-aluinn (waterfall), Kylesku. Assynt MRT searched the track, then RAF helicopter and Police dog were summoned. Hannah had got lost and was found walking along the main road towards Inchnadamph about midnight. 40.
- NOVEMBER 24th – Searches for John Hendry (60) crofter, of Smerlie, Lybster. Found dead two miles from his home.



## WESTERN HIGHLANDS

- FEBRUARY 6th-7th – Two walkers overdue from Sgurr na Ciche took a wrong turn and spent night at Sourlies, Loch Nevis when they should have reached A'Chuil, Glen Dessarry. Sarah MacCumber (20) and Dylon Huws (18). 120.
- FEBRUARY 27th – Doreen Thomson-Watson (50) suffered a heart attack descending Sgurr nan Ceannaichean, Glen Carron, with a friend. Torridon MRT commenced CPR within an hour of callout, but she was dead on arrival at Raigmore Hospital by RAF Sea King. Leuchars MRT. Helicopter made its own white-out, so that the use of night vision goggles was very difficult. 109.
- MARCH 29th – Police searches for woman (64) later found dead in hills behind Corpach.
- APRIL 15th-17th – Helped by a stalker with ferries across Loch Quoich, Kinloss MRT eventually found three girls aged about 18 who had changed the route of their award hike due to poor weather and rivers in spate. Other searchers involved were Leuchars and Lochaber MRTs, SARDA and RAF Sea King. The ambitious intended route had been: Kinloch Hourn, Barrisdale, Bealach Unndalain, Loch Quoich south shore to Kingie Forest. They camped at Lochan nam Breac on their first night, then took a shortcut round the head of Loch Quoich to their second camp by the road 9km east of Kinloch Hourn where they were found on 17th. 631.
- MAY 16th – Coire Dubh (NW of Ardgour House). In a party of seven walkers, Barbara Vaughan (61) was descending a wet, grassy slope beside MacLean's Towel (waterfalls) when she slipped breaking an ankle. Evacuated to Raigmore by Air Ambulance. 10.
- MAY 23rd – William Kay (31) suffered head injuries and multiple fractures and cuts from a 30m fall on Great Ridge, Garbh Bheinn of Ardgour. Lowered by his companion Bernard Shaw (see incident below). Lochaber MRT, Lomond MRT, RAF helicopter. 54.
- MAY 23rd – Helping in above incident, Bernard Swan (41) Lomond MRT sustained a broken arm from a boulder dislodged by climbers above.
- MAY 25th – James Andrew Harkin (44) was walking the Loch Quoich Munros with two friends. Near the Gleouraich/Spidean Mialach bealach he collapsed with a heart attack. RAF helicopter from Plockton, with GP aboard, found him dead. 15.
- JUNE 3rd – Dennis Barker (63) slipped descending An Caorann Beag off Ciste Dhubh injuring an ankle. Stretchered down by Kintail MRT. 27.
- JUNE 5th – Solo hillwalker, Ian McNicol (48) slipped descending steep gully on SE Face of Druim na Maodalaich, Kingairloch, Ardgour. Body found by staff of Ardgour Outdoor Centre.
- MID JUNE – West Pier, Lochaline. Schoolgirl (14) got minor injuries from 10m cliff fall. Stretchered by HM Coastguard.
- JULY 7th – Helen Torbett (62) missing. It was she who, using her maiden name, compiled the list of 'Grahams' (Scottish hills between 2000ft and 3000ft). Car left at Inverinate, Loch Duich on July 7th. Searches of Beinn Fhionnlaidh and Carn Eighe, Loch Mullardoch, on December 4th, 1993 (snowline 650m) by Kinloss and Kintail MRTs. 360. Searches (with gear found) up to April 1994 at Inverinate.
- JULY 22nd-23rd – Kinloss and Kintail MRTs called out to search for a walker who had not returned to his tent at Glen Affric YH. He had been seen at Mullach na Dheiragain (978m.) heading NE on 22nd. RAF Sea King checked the hostel. He had just returned having spent the night on the hill. 36.
- AUGUST 7th – Totaig Broch, Glenelg. Wearing smooth shoes descending a wet path, Denise Stewart (44) slipped and broke her ankle. Stretchered down by Kintail MRT. 14.

AUGUST 8th-9th – Kinloss and Lochaber MRTs in an RAF Sea King searched for Monica Rottinger (45) and Christian Rottinger (45) overdue walking from Glenfinnan to Morar. They were spotted at Swordland having stayed at Oban Bothy, Loch Morar. 28.

**Note:** The delay was supposed to be caused by rivers in spate, but I do not think it rained heavily until after dark. However, the distance is considerable and the terrain rough, so they may have under-estimated their timing – J.H.

SEPTEMBER 16th – A couple got lost heading for Falls of Glomach without map and compass. Marlene Davis (56) slipped on a muddy path and broke her ankle near Bealach an Sgairne. Stretcher carry by Kintail MRT. 30.

OCTOBER 23rd – Walking near Kyle Rhea, Elizabeth MacFarlane (31) slipped on a path, falling 25m. Transferred to Broadford Hospital by HMCG helicopter where she regained consciousness and was treated for a fractured elbow. Glenelg MRT, RNLI. 16.

OCTOBER 28th – Walking NE of Beinn Sgritheall, David Waddington (63) and Lindsey Waddington (58) got fatigued and cold, walking in a circle with no idea of direction despite having a map. No compass, torch or food. A younger woman stayed with them and son went for help when it got dark. RAF Sea King and Glenelg MRT. 88.

### BEN NEVIS

JANUARY 3rd – After climbing South Castle Gully, James Stalker (30) was cramponing solo down No. 4 Gully when he was blown over by wind and fell 65m breaking an ankle and a thumb. Helped to CIC Hut by a Lochaber MRT member and another climber. Later double strop-lifted by RAF Wessex. 11.

FEBRUARY 1st – David Glover (33) fell running on screes of Carn Dearg NW tore leg muscles. Airlift from Halfway Lochan by RAF Sea King on another mission. 6.

FEBRUARY 2nd – Descending foot of Tower Ridge after doing Italian Climb, Jeremy Birtles (35) sprained ankle. Kinloss MRT saw torch signals, lowered him to CIC, and stretchered by Lochaber MRT. RAF Sea King unable to assist because of weather. 139.

FEBRUARY 13th – Richard Cuthbert (22) and Jess Woodridge on Raeburn's Easy Route, went off route in mist and spent night on a ridge at 1200m. Climbed to plateau at dawn. Found by Lochaber MRT going down the path. RAF Wessex. 50.

FEBRUARY 21st – Michel Dennis Bou (40) soloed up towards the start of Point Five behind a companion – who was waiting at the start of the climb, heard a rattling noise and turned to see Michel trying to ice-axe brake. He slid 50m then went over a buttress to land head first among rocks. He wore a helmet, crampons and was using two axes. Stretchered to CIC by other climbers, then lifted by RAF Wessex. Died in hospital from severe head injuries. Lochaber MRT. 26.

FEBRUARY 22nd or 23rd – Climber dislocated shoulder in Gardyloo Gully. Hoisted to plateau by Glenmore Lodge team

FEBRUARY 23rd – Search by Lochaber MRT and RAF Sea King had started when a pair overdue from climbing Tower Ridge turned up at Golf Club. Peter Loftus (47) and James Kenyon (41).

FEBRUARY 28th – Daniel Gibson (19) fell 38m when pitons failed, as he led a route between Point Five and Hadrian's Wall. He banged his face and shoulder, becoming unconscious for a time. Second had a good belay and lowered him off. Kinloss MRT monitored and lowered him to easier ground, then back-roped him, walking, to CIC for double-strop airlift by RAF Wessex. 28.

- MARCH 3rd-4th – John O'Brien, London (40) was not reported missing, but was believed to have been on Ben Nevis since 3rd-4th March 1993. He was found in Surgeon's Gully by Herbert and David Brooks on May 31st 1993, when they got lost coming down the path. Remains were left till June 3rd then winched by RAF Sea King and Lochaber MRT. No footwear was found and no technical equipment. He had sustained multiple injuries. 30.
- MARCH 4th – Caldwell Jones (35) and David Meigh (31) airlifted at night. Cragfast on Slalom, Little Brenva Face at 1200m. Shouts to other climbers raised the alarm. Lochaber MRT, RAF Sea King. 30.
- MARCH 9th-10th – From a tent at CIC, Paul Birchell (26) and Lucas Heathcote (23) climbed Hadrian's Wall. Paul was struck in the eye by falling ice, which affected vision and slowed them down, so they got benighted. On 10th, cragfast, they were helped to plateau by other climbers. Thought to be suffering exposure they were airlifted from top of No. 4 Gully to Belford Hospital by RAF Sea King, but did not require treatment. 11.
- APRIL 11th – Richard Collie (45) airlifted by RAF Sea King from Red Burn with head cut and fractured rib. He had left the path to descend a snowfield, slipped and slid 100m colliding with a boulder. Other walkers mobile-phoned police and nearby RAF. Stafford MRT members helped. 11.
- APRIL 18th – Nabaz Malaly (40), soloing Green Gully was seen to fall 65m from which he got severe head injuries. No helmet. Airlifted by RAF Sea King. Died on transfer between hospitals. Lochaber MRT. 20.
- APRIL 30th – Solo, descending soft snow near Coire Leis abseil posts, David Price (57) slipped and failed to ice-axe brake. He came to among rocks 30m below. Three people heard his cries. Winched by RAF Sea King with fractured arms, head and back injuries. Lochaber MRT. 26.
- MAY 1st – Climbing, roped, the last 6m to CMD Arete, Kyle Pearce (22) dislodged a boulder which struck his second, Ian Warren (18), breaking his right forearm. Ian was helped to the ridge, where they attracted the attention of a passing helicopter and were taken to Fort William. RAF Sea King. Lochaber MRT. 4.
- MAY 29th – Leader fall on Secretaries' Buttress, Poll Dubh, Glen Nevis. Colin Whitehead (26) slipped and fell 18m, hitting his second, Simon Cooke (25), then falling a farther 9m below Simon. Colin had spine, chest and abdominal injuries. Simon got bruising to his lower leg. Kinloss MRT exercising nearby summoned help. Lochaber MRT and RAF Sea King. 54.
- MAY 31st – Herbert Brooks (40) and son David (12) rescued from Surgeon's Gully, Glen Nevis, by RAF Sea King and Lochaber MRT. Reaching top of Nevis by CMD Arete they had lost contact with their companion in mist, and strayed into the gully from the Ben path. They got cragfast trying to descend. Cries for help were heard by walkers in Glen Nevis. 116. Remains of John O'Brien were found. See incident March 3rd-4th.
- JUNE 4th – Between Coire Leis and Nevis summit, Glen Mason (33) stumbled on wet scree and hurt an ankle, but he was able to continue over the top and down the Ben path with two companions till they met someone who went for help. Stretcher carry by Lochaber MRT. 19.
- JUNE 4th-5th – Soloing at Poll Dubh, Richard Bond fell 10m, fracturing a vertebra and sustaining cuts and bruises. Companions raised alarm. Stretcher carried to ambulance by Lochaber MRT. 14.
- JUNE 5th – Below the Red Burn, Michelle Shaw (16) stumbled on a large stone and tore leg ligaments. She walked down with help, till stretchered by Lochaber MRT. 16.
- JUNE 20th – Norman Harland (72). Fatal slip when using binoculars, falling 18m. He had been accompanying his wife on Nevis Gorge path. Body stretchered out by Lochaber MRT. 17.

- JULY 1st – Joan Powell (57) broke an ankle on opposite side of river from Glen Nevis road near caravan site. Airlifted by RAF Sea King. 17.
- JULY 19th – James Campbell (15) and Neil Murray (12) cragfast on the west-facing slopes of Carn Dearg NW. They shouted for help and could be seen from the Ben path. RAF Sea King lifted six Lochaber MRT on to the hill. Meanwhile, the mist level lowered and the boys extricated themselves safely. They had seen the helicopter so they phoned in. 32.
- JULY 29th – David Podd (42) severely disabled, with artificial legs, had tried to ascend Ben Nevis. ('93 Challenge). Doctor advised him to abandon the attempt as his spine was suffering from continual jolting. Helicoptered from West Flank Zig-Zags. Lochaber. 38.
- JULY 30th – Three disabled men helicoptered from Ben path. They became exhausted in bad weather during '93 Challenge. Neil Howard (26), Graeme Stewart (26) and David Donaldson (20).
- AUGUST 9th – Andrew MacFarlane (10) got separated from his father and three others just above Halfway Lochan on the Ben path. Three Lochaber MRT were alerted but Andrew got down safe aided by others. 1.
- AUGUST 13th – Just above Halfway Lochan on the Ben path, Natasha Groot (21) stumbled while descending injuring her knee. Nine Lochaber MRT members stretchered her to hospital where she was released after treatment. 39.
- AUGUST 21st – Christine Sanderson (40) slipped descending Ben path, near second aluminium bridge, with ankle injuries. Splinted and stretchered by Kinloss and Lochaber MRTs. 37. (KMRT used private Vodaphone in marginal Cellnet cover area).
- AUGUST 27th – Robert Atchison (75) exhausted on Ben path. Stretchered by Lochaber MRT. 20.
- AUGUST 28th – At the second zig-zag on the Ben path (300m) James Green (42) took ill. His sister contacted police from the Youth Hostel. Lochaber MRT stretchered him to hospital for treatment. 12.
- AUGUST 29th – Descending Ben path from the summit Muriel Tourneur (27) stumbled and fell on her knees, tearing two leg ligaments and bruising shoulder. Due to mist, Sea King could not reach incident (above West Flank Zig-Zags) so Lochaber MRT stretchered her down to winch point. 40.
- SEPTEMBER 2nd – The wife of James Kerr (63) got worried about his tiredness at second aluminium bridge, descending the Ben, so she got a passing walker to alert Lochaber MRT. However, they met him when they were less than 1km above Achintee, and he got down OK. 10.
- SEPTEMBER 22nd – Loretta Bailey (35) used mobile phone. Her party of four had missed the Ben path in the dark and were unable to find the way down. A Lochaber team member escorted them to Glen Nevis YH. 4.
- SEPTEMBER 26th – Leonard Cook (44) died of a heart attack only half-an-hour after starting to walk up Ben path with his daughter and niece. Lochaber team, Ambulance Service, RN Sea King. 56.
- OCTOBER 23rd-24th – Poorly equipped to climb Tower Ridge in icy conditions, and starting at midday, Robert Bennison (45), Brian Allman (29), Karl Price (26) and Andrew Slater (24) got cragfast at Tower Gap. Winched off by RAF Sea King at 07.00 on 24th. Lochaber MRT. 20.
- DECEMBER 30th – Climbing roped with three companions on Castle Ridge, John Tingay (21) lost balance and fell 15m, sustaining broken femur. Winched off by RAF Sea King. 22.



## GLENCOE

(Including Buachaille Etive Mor)

- JANUARY 5th – Three men climbed Boomerang Gully, Stob Coire nan Lochan, finishing near the summit. Two were hit by a massive gust of wind. Both were blown into Coire nam Beithe – a long fall down an ill-defined couloir. Ian Lancaster (25) had minor injuries and was airlifted by RAF Sea King. Ian Freegard (25) fatal, stretchered down by Glencoe and Lochaber MRTs. 274.
- JANUARY 24th-26th – Nicholas Simpson (32) was found 700m up Buachaille Etive Beag on an easy snow slope. Face injuries suggested he had fallen. He had a rucksack and was wearing crampons and holding an ice-axe; he probably died of hypothermia. Glencoe, Kinloss and Leuchars MRTs, SARDA, RAF Sea King and Wessex helicopters. 800.
- JANUARY 23rd-24th – Jonathan Shepherd (26) and Henrietta Shepherd (24) got benighted climbing Cleft Weave (II/III) on Stob Coire nam Beithe. They got moving at 08.00 after a night in bivvy bags. Found walking down Fionn Ghleann, cold, but uninjured. Glencoe, Lomond and Kinloss MRTs, SARDA, RAF Wessex. 155.
- JANUARY 30th-31st – Steven Roberts and Brian Munday (both 23) climbed Summit Gully, Stob Coire nam Beith, then went down into Glen Etive and bivouacked. Walked wrong way down the glen, passed a phone kiosk (not working) and walked back to Glencoe, passing houses, while a search was on. Glencoe and Leuchars MRTs, RAF Wessex. 113.
- JANUARY 31st – Elizabeth Taylor (31), Ian Brown (23) and Colin Wylie (26) were going up Stob Coire nan Lochan from the Lost Valley, wearing crampons (slope was hard névé). Wylie slipped and fell 25m, self-arresting with his ice-axe – minor injuries). Taylor slipped and fell 45m before going over a 5m waterfall, sustaining severe head injuries from which she died on February 7th. Going to help them, Brown slipped with minor injuries. Rescue and first aid by Glencoe and Leuchars MRTs was very difficult in the waterfall. RAF Wessex helicopter, essential for this rescue, winched all three aboard. 60.
- JANUARY 31st – Descending hard névé, at night, without crampons, from Stob Coire nan Lochan into Coire nan Lochan, James Jedrzejewski (43) slipped and broke an ankle. Glencoe MRT and RAF Sea King. 33.
- FEBRUARY 1st-2nd – Andrew Caren (32), Angela Murray (22) and Joseph Duffy (19) were overdue on Curved Ridge, but before full search started they were seen near top of Stob Dearg walking down Coire Cloiche Finne next morning. Glencoe MRT. 43.
- FEBRUARY 1st – Karen Paton (18), with friends, descending Coire nam Beithe, slipped on hard névé and slid 10m. Crampon caught and twisted her ankle. She walked part way and was then airlifted by RAF Sea King. Glencoe MRT. 40.
- FEBRUARY 2nd – Stob Coire nan Lochan. Elizabeth Jones (22) was trying to climb a very small ice face unroped when she slipped and fell 6m, catching a crampon in the ice and breaking an ankle. Walked down part way, then stretchered by Glencoe MRT, then winched by RAF Wessex. 40.
- FEBRUARY 6th – With four others, climbing Curved Ridge (II/III) roped, Vincent Mitchen (62) was hit by a rockfall not far up the climb. His arm was broken but, unable to descend for some reason, he completed the climb and walked down Lagangarbh Coire in darkness. Glencoe and Kinloss MRTs. 51.
- FEBRUARY 6th-7th – Robert Burdett (36) with two friends, found Aonach Eagach (rock and névé) was too hard for him. He got cragfast, refusing to move, so all bivouacked. One got down at 10.55 next day. Glencoe MRT brought Burdett down below full cloud base at 600m and he was winched by RAF Wessex. 28.



- FEBRUARY 13th – Descending Coire nam Beith without crampons, Lionel Fretz (31) stumbled and injured an ankle, but was still able to walk. He got painkillers and strapping from other walkers. GMRT helped him off the hill but he refused medical treatment in glen. RAF Wessex unable to reach Glencoe due to poor weather. 39.
- FEBRUARY 20th – Patrick Gray (45) Stob Coire nam Beith. Fatal. Gray was cramponing down Summit Gully (I/II) unroped, with a companion. They met two who were climbing up and traversed to allow free passage. At start of traverse Gray slipped and fell the length of the gully. Stretchered down by GMRT and Lochaber. RN Sea King went to Glencoe but was used on Black Mount rescue. 86.
- MARCH 6th-7th – Gerard Beard (52), Joanna Girvan (21), Stefano Cappaccio (21) and Ruth Sullivan (20) climbed Agag's Groove and then went to the summit of Stob Dearg. Attempting to get down the hard névé headwall of Coire na Tulaich they got cragfast and bivouacked because they had no ice-axes or crampons. Helped down next day by Glencoe MRT. 33.
- MARCH 13th – Buachaille Etive Mor, near Crowberry Ridge. Four started to walk up to their intended route, Easy Gully, but strayed up the wrong side of Crowberry Ridge. Noting the mistake, two tried to traverse left on steep snow with no ice-axe or crampons. Martin Smith (22) fell into a bergschrund; a waterfall broke his fall, but he was bruised, grazed and had slight hypothermia when double stroplifted by RAF Wessex. Glencoe MRT. 36.
- MARCH 20th-21st – Six females missing overnight on north slopes Stob Coire nam Beith. They turned up safe. RAF Wessex recalled.
- MARCH 22nd – Alison Pitts (30) sprained her ankle from a slip descending Coire na Tulaich, Buachaille Etive Mor, wearing crampons. Party of six. Stretchered down by GMRT because RAF Wessex could not hover safely due to strong wind. Heavy snow showers during rescue.
- MARCH 24th – SC Gully (Grade III), Stob Coire nan Lochan. Peter Andrew Law (45), despite wearing a helmet, died instantly from head injuries, and his friend, Mark Baxter (41) had cuts and bruises, when they fell roped to the foot of the climb. A belay had failed. Glencoe MRT, RAF Wessex. 37.
- MARCH 27th-28th – After traverse of Aonach Eagach (east to west) two men separated descending SE Face of Sgor nam Fiannaidh. Mike Smith (32) had been very ill sometime before and he was moving very slowly. Benighted, he had lost a crampon and had no torch. Companion alerted GMRT who roped him and escorted him off the hill. Glencoe MRT and SARDA. 56.
- APRIL 3rd – Patricia Chisholm (36) was glissading inside a polythene bag with no ice-axe for braking, high on Stob an Fhuarain (Sgor na h-Ulaidh). She sustained a crush fracture of 3L vertebrae with no lasting damage. GMRT walked up and used a vacuum stretcher for airlift by RAF Sea King. Air Ambulance on 4th to Glasgow. 57.
- APRIL 6th – Coire na Tulaich, Buachaille Etive Mor. Without helmet, crampons or ice-axe, Frederick Wright (38) scrambled on rocks above a long snow slope when heading for the top of the Buachaille. He slipped and fell 45m. on to the snow with broken elbow, cuts and teeth knocked out. Glencoe MRT put him on a stretcher and he was winched on to an RAF Sea King. 28.
- MAY 17th – One of a group descending below Ossian's Cave, Aonach Dubh, Anthony Graham (26) slipped (wearing Army boots) and fell 20m. grazing his legs and breaking a collar bone. His four friend slowed him down the the crag. Glencoe MRT took over and walked him down. A Sea King was recalled en route. 38.
- MAY 17th-18th – Solo walking on Buachaille Etive Beag, Paul Waghorn (30) strayed on to a loose, steep face (NE Face of Stob nan Cabar). He probably slipped on wet rock or scree and fell a long way, dying from head injuries. Found and winched off by RAF Sea King. Glencoe, Kinloss and Leuchars MRTs, SARDA. 65.

MAY 21st - Anthony McMahon (23), Gerard Frolongo (23) and Anthony Carroll (22) walking on Stob Coire nam Beith in thick mist, started climbing dangerous ground near The Pyramid and got cragfast in Summit Gully. One managed to go and raise the alarm. He had no clue where the others were. Glencoe MRT carried out a long search and a very technical cliff lower that lasted more than seven hours. RAF Sea King flew for three hours, but could not take part because of thick mist. One of the three had very slight injuries from a 10m fall. 132.

MAY 22nd – Fraser Leslie (29) got cragfast on wet rock after wandering from Pleasant Terrace into the Shadbolt Chimney area (above Ossian's Cave). One of his two companions raised alarm. RN Sea King flew three of Glencoe MRT to a point above him, then tried to winch him, but decided he might fall. GMRT hoisted him on a rope, hoisting a 'barrow boy' on another rope. All were winched off the top of Aonach Dubh. 45.

MAY 22nd – In a party of four climbing out of a gully west of Clachaig Gully West, Robert Fleming (37) had his upper arm speared by a sharp rock dislodged by a member of a separate hillwalking party. He also got a head injury, not serious. Winched by RN Sea King. Glencoe MRT. 21.

JUNE 8th – Descending Meall Mor, Elise Vandenberg (39) slipped on grass beside a stream, injuring her ankle. Companion went for help. Stretchered by Glencoe MRT to a good place for winching by RAF Sea King. 40.

JULY 23rd – Myra Reid (36) got separated from her brother in thick mist just below the top of Buachaille Etive Mor. He walked down Coire na Tulaich and raised alarm. She walked out safe to Glen Etive. Glencoe MRT. 49.

JULY 24th – Descending just below Bidean nam Bian summit eastwards, Louis Mullen (27) slipped on wet slabs, dislocating a shoulder. Assisted by three companions he got down to Bealach Dearg (head of Lost Valley) but then Glencoe MRT had to help. He was winched out by RN Sea King. 50.

AUGUST 2nd – Solo traversing Aonach Eagach west to east in mist, Susan Paton (31) descended too soon and fell on wet rock above Piper's lay-by with arm and leg injuries. Her calls for help were heard by people in the lay-by. Glencoe MRT climbed dangerous, loose ground and lowered her off. She then walked down but was detained in hospital overnight. 30.

AUGUST 23rd – Ines Hernandez (72) slipped on stones and damp grass near a stream and sprained her ankle. She had been descending the coire east of Am Bodach, Aonach Eagach. Stretcher carry by Glencoe MRT. 43.

AUGUST 25th – Stewart Wilson (60), who ran a hillwalking company, was guiding seven people traversing Aonach Eagach, with a fellow instructor. He was killed at the Pinnacles when he slipped on dry rock and fell 100m north into Coire Cam. A doctor went to him. Glencoe MRT guided the group down and also accompanied RAF Sea King for a difficult winch out. 56.

SEPTEMBER 18th-19th – In a party of two men and two women (aged 26-40) traversing Aonach Eagach east to west, one woman was very slow. Descending Clachaig Gully path they wandered off and got cragfast. They flashed torches for help and were roped down by Glencoe MRT, then walked off. 61.

OCTOBER 11th – Without torches and overdue from Aonach Eagach traverse, three Frenchwomen had only reached Meall Dearg when it got dark. Glencoe MRT called out, but they escaped unaided down the large scree gully south to Achtriochtan Farm. 9.

OCTOBER 16th – Traversing Aonach Eagach east to west, David Hudspeth (44) and Paul Watson (38) ran out of daylight, and also got cragfast on Sgornam Fiannaigh (Clachaig Gully West area). GMRT members climbed to them with difficulty and roped them to easier ground then escorted them to the road. 53.

- NOVEMBER 7th-8th – RAF Leuchars MRT and SARDA found three male hillwalkers benighted near the summit of Am Bodach, Aonach Eagach. Safe but wet, cold and embarrassed, they had been unsure of position and bivouacked. 346.
- NOVEMBER 20th – Mark Wilson (21) was leading a pitch on Plumbline (VS), Central Buttress, Buachaille Etive Mor, when he slipped. His runners ripped out, and he fell 18m and hit a rib of rock as he fell. Fatal with severe facial injuries. No helmet. His second went down to his rucksack and summoned help with a mobile phone. GMRT stretchered Wilson to a suitable winching point for RAF Sea King. 58.
- NOVEMBER 27th – Buachaille Etive Mor. There were freezing hard sheets of verglas on the mountain some 6m wide. Mike Dennison (41) and a companion went to climb Curved Ridge, but decided against it. Retreating to the traverse path across a slippery grass/rock slope from the base of the ridge they both wore crampons but no helmets. Mike slipped about 110m above the Waterslide. He fell about 80m into a shallow gully with very bad injuries: skull, spine, ribs, tibia and hypothermia. Unconscious, he was given advanced paramedic treatment by GMRT, put on a stretcher and winched off by RN Sea King. First to Belford Hospital, transferred to Glasgow, then Newcastle. 50.
- DECEMBER 2nd – Partial false alarm, partial rescue. Motorists on A82 reported slow moving lights in Coire na Tulaich, Buachaille Etive Mor. Two men had chosen a very bad day; rain low down, snow on tops, so they climbed North Buttress very slowly and came down in the dark, failing to find the bridge over the swollen River Coupall. GMRT escorted them last few hundred metres at 23.00. 4.
- DECEMBER 10th-15th – Two Paratroopers were killed in Summit Gully (Grade II) of Stob Coire nam Beith, perhaps by both falling roped together, or by being swept down by an avalanche. Paul Callaghan (26), David Read (24). They left Clachaig at 11.15 Friday 10th to climb at Stob Coire nam Beith and were reported missing by their friends, after their own searches, at 14.20 on Monday 13th. Searches commenced immediately. On Tuesday 14th rope, karabiners and ice-axe were found. Both bodies, roped, were found under 4.5m avalanche debris at the foot of Summit Gully at 13.20 on Wednesday 15th. Glencoe, Kinloss, Leuchars Lochaber, Strathclyde Police MRTs, SARDA, RAF Sea King. 2705.

## OTHER CENTRAL HIGHLANDS

- JANUARY 24th – On West Highland Way, 2km west of Kinlochleven, Heather Frame (30) was troubled by an old ankle injury. Delay and bad weather caused hypothermia. Rescued by Glencoe MRT vehicle and recovered. 5.
- FEBRUARY 12th – John McSorley (30), Matilda Mooney (30) and Clare Potter (26) were overdue on Geal Charn, Drumochter. Found by RAF Sea King 3km SW of the peak. Lost, they had descended wrong side and were spending night at Loch Ericht. Kinloss MRT. 36.
- FEBRUARY 20th – Roger Gemmell (46) slipped on a narrow snow band descending NW side of Sron na Creise, Black Mount. Unable to brake with axe he struck a boulder, sliding 45m on snow into scree causing serious head injury. Airlift RN Sea King. Glencoe and Lochaber MRTs. 34.
- MARCH 10th – Sean Campbell (12) Fatal. Skiing Snow Goose Gully, Aonach Mor.
- APRIL 3rd – Leiterchullin, Loch Duntelchaig, Inverness. Campbell got cragfast descending Stac na Cathaig. He was persuaded to climb up again, but lost his footing and fell 11m with serious spine, head and leg injuries. RAF Sea King, Police, Ambulance Service.

- APRIL 12th – Solo and wearing crampons, Peter Bate (39) got lost in mist and snow between Aonach Beag and Aonach Mor and descended a snowfield into Coire Giubhsachan. He slipped and tumbled 200m into rocks, breaking a foot, with cuts and bruises. After less than two hours he was lucky to be found by another walker. Winched by RAF Sea King. Lochaber MRT. 20.
- JUNE 22th – Catherine Laird (59) slipped descending NE Ridge, Mullach nan Coirean, Mamores. She was stretchered down with a broken ankle by Lochaber MRT. 27.
- JUNE 27th – Pilot of an American F16 jet fighter reported a man waving frantically on Meall na Duibhe, 4km east of Kinlochleven. It was a false alarm as Police found nothing. Glencoe MRT standby. 2.
- JULY 17th – Descending between Carn Mor Dearg and Aonach Mor, Adrienne Redhead (30) slipped and broke a tibia and fibula. Leuchars and Lochaber MRTs, RAF Sea King. 27.
- AUGUST 8th – With her husband, a teacher was descending steep, wet grass on the NE Face of Beinn Bhan. Just above Ballachulish village she slipped and twisted her ankle, breaking it. She was vacuum splinted and stretchered down by Glencoe MRT. 13.
- AUGUST 9th – Maria van Mergroot (51) was walking with a tour party from Glen Nevis to Corrour. She tripped on a stone near Tom an Eite and broke an ankle. Lochaber MRT stretcher carried her. 57.
- OCTOBER 31st – Descending Ben Starav, Glen Etive, but low down (less than 150m) Patricia Clay (60) stumbled on the rocky path, breaking an ankle. Stretchered down by Glencoe MRT. 57.
- NOVEMBER 28th – One of 17 walkers on Geal Charn, Drumochter, separated from the party despite group decision and attempts to call him back. Cairngorm MRT stood down when he walked out along shore of Loch Erich.
- NOVEMBER 28th – John Neave (57), an experienced hillwalker, was descending NNW Face of Creise, Black Mount, into Fionn Gleann with nine companions. Wearing crampons down névé interspersed with boulders, he slipped and fell 70m sustaining a severe head injury. He stood up, walked a few steps and fell again. This happened three times. Glencoe MRT paramedics tried to keep him alive to no avail. Resuscitation was also attempted in hospital after airlift by RAF Sea King. 82.
- NOVEMBER 28th-29th – Alexander Gordon Gow (40). Probably gully (NNW facing) between Stob Coire Easain and Stob a' Choire Mheadhoìn. Killed after slip or being blown over, or possibly walked through cornice. Found on iced scree/vegetation. Lochaber MRT. RAF Sea King. 124.

## CAIRNGORMS

- DECEMBER 26th, 1992 – Neil Culpan (28) and Andrew Brown (26) were overdue because of a broken crampon on the penultimate pitch of Polyphemus Gully, Lochnagar. Grampian Police MRT. 3.
- JANUARY 10th, 1993 – Male skier with major head and back injuries airlifted from Lecht by RAF Wessex.
- JANUARY 11th – Craigowl Hill, Sidlaws. Man who saw two people walking in poor weather and then found an empty tent alerted Tayside Police SRU. Tent had been abandoned by local youngsters because of bad weather. 24.
- JANUARY 12th – Searches by Aberdeen, Braemar and Grampian Police MRTs for man thought to be lost in drifts. Taxi refused to take him to cottage because of drifts so he spent night in Inverbervie. 84.



JANUARY 23rd-24th – Three skiers got lost and benighted from Glenshee Ski Complex.  
JANUARY 31st – Adrian Scott (24) fell 20m climbing The Vent, Coire an Lochain, Cairngorm, then fell 15m when colleagues lowered him (waist knot untied). Ankle injury, cuts and bruises. Cairngorm MRT happened to be in area and helped carry to winch point for RAF Wessex lift.

FEBRUARY 4th – Gregory Hall, mountain instructor (41) was instructing two others in winter climbing when he was struck on the head by a falling rock, receiving fatal injuries. Red Gully, Coire an-t'Sneachda, Cairngorm. Evacuated by RAF Sea King. 4.

FEBRUARY 5th – Kevin Brown (30) had been going to help another climber on Forty Thieves Gully, who had taken ill, when a cornice collapsed and he fell 180m. Serious arm, leg and facial injuries. Aladdin's Couloir, Coire an-t'Sneachda, Cairngorm.

FEBRUARY 6th – RAF Wessex lifted a skier from The Cairnwell, Glenshee with serious internal, pelvis and leg injuries. Male (25).

FEBRUARY 6th-7th – Grampian Police and Braemar MRTs were called out because Susanne Davies (37) was overdue walking between Loch Morlich and Braemar Youth Hostels. She was found at Derry Lodge, safe and well, just after midnight, having had to divert to avoid uncrossable meltwater burns in the Lairig Ghru. 4.

FEBRUARY 7th – Leading Coffin Corner at Craigie Barns, Dunkeld, Nicholas Dunne (32) was 18m up. He had one piece of protection which came out at a tricky stage. He fell when attempting to place another runner, landing on the path at the bottom, dislocating a shoulder and spraining an ankle. Tayside Police SRU and RAF Wessex.

FEBRUARY 9th – Burn o' Vat, Dinnet, Deeside. Frightened by the noise of rushing water at the Vat, an eight-month Border Collie bitch broke free of her lead and ran off. She was spotted on a ledge 5m down from the cliff edge. The teams were called out, and one member climbed down to the ledge. The dog became very aggressive and backed off towards the edge of the ledge. A few minutes later she had still not calmed down and suddenly leapt from the ledge 16m on to rocks below. She died from internal injuries 15 minutes before the vet arrived. Grampian Police and Braemar MRTs. 6.

FEBRUARY 11th or 12th – Woman (52) suicide. Crag of Kinnoull Hill, Perth. Recovered by Tayside Police SRU. 20.

FEBRUARY 14th – Anne Siobhan Shuker was practising ice-axe braking in Coire an-t'Sneachda. She lost control and twisted a leg which broke at an old injury. Evacuated by her own party of 17 Scout leaders using MR stretcher held at Coire Cas.

FEBRUARY 18th-21st – Dr Christopher Mayo (45), Michael Mayo (40), Matthew Mayo (15). Youth Hostel warden reported party of three, who had pre-paid accommodation, had failed to return on Thursday 18th. At 11.15 on Friday 19th, body of Dr Christopher Mayo (father 45) was found 75m from the foot of the Great Slab, Coire an Lochain. It was initially assumed he had fallen over the Coire rim. At 11.51 on Saturday 20th, body of Matthew Mayo (son 15) was found in a bivvy bag buried in snow, apart from the tip of one gloved hand, near the start of the route, Oesophagus, about 180m (height) above his father. This was the first firm evidence that the party had intended to climb Y Gully. At 10.58 on Sunday 21st, a 15cm square of red cagoule was spotted at 982033 and body of Michael Mayo (uncle 40) was uncovered. No route card was left. They started from Coire Cas at midday. The group was ascending Y Gully (Grade 2), without helmets, one axe each. Only one had crampons, the other two had bendy boots. They were unroped.

The following is a theory based on the evidence from John Allen:—It is thought the group intended to climb The Couloir (Grade 1) and went into Y Gully by mistake. The visibility was reasonable lower down and we are certain they did intend to be in Coire an Lochain. The mist level on the day of the incident was coming up and down over the crag tops. A climbing guide was found on the person of Christopher Mayo. We believe that somewhere just below the Grade 2 final pitch of the climb Michael fell.



He was injured but managed to carry on past the lochan where he died in the boulderfield. Christopher meanwhile dug a shelf in the gully. As he was wearing crampons he would be able to do this. He gave Michael his bivvy bag, left him in the little 'cave' and descended to try and find his brother. He then fell and was killed. Matthew, left uninjured in his high bivouac died later of hypothermia. Rescue groups involved were Aberdeen, Braemar/Grampian Police, Cairngorm, Glenmore Lodge, Kinloss, Leuchars, Mountain Guides of Ogwen Valley, RAF Wessex and Sea King helicopters, SARDA, Scottish Avalanche Project. Person hours: 2900 (figures of four groups only).

FEBRUARY 19th – Patricia Furneaux (54) was blown over on névé descending Braeriach East Ridge. Fell 30m cutting her head and breaking a wrist. She was with two men, one of whom attracted the attention of an RAF Wessex on the Mayo search. Kinloss MRT. 12.

FEBRUARY 23rd – In a party of nine, Ian Sanders (16) tripped over his crampons descending the Goat Track, Coire an-t'Sneachda. He slid 120m. Serious leg injury. RAF Sea King. 9.

FEBRUARY 28th – Male (35) suicide. Sea cliffs at Stonehaven. RAF Wessex. 8.

MARCH 11th – Three Grampian Police MRT were climbing Parallel Gully A (Grade III), Lochnagar. Two soloists climbed through them. One of the soloists, Anthony Cockram (40), got cragfast below a large cornice on the Grade IV/V direct exit of the climb. Top-roped out by the Grampian Police MRT. 5.

MARCH 13th – Party of four climbing Hell's Lum, Loch Avon. Dr Angus McInnes (47) consultant neurologist was hit on head by falling ice. No helmet. Resuscitation failed. Lowered to manual transfer point for RAF Sea King, Leuchars and Cairngorm MRTs. 110.

MARCH 14th – Bruin Cove, Aberdeen. Karen Darke (21) fell 8m with head and very serious back injuries, when rock climbing with four friends. HMCG, Aberdeen Lifeboat, Ambulance paramedics, Police, RAF Sea King.

MARCH 17th – Skier (20) fell on Carn an Tuirc, Glenshee, dislocating a hip. Airlifted by RAF Wessex.

MARCH 20th – Timothy Heales (37) had finished a rock climb with two friends at Logie Head, Cullen. He slipped descending to the foreshore at the east end of the promontory, falling more than 15m, sustaining serious back, head and wrist injuries.

MARCH 21st – Playing at Bruin Cove, Aberdeen, Steven Milne (15) lay conscious in cold weather for two hours after a cliff fall, with fractured limbs. His cousin, Jamie (11), alerted rescuers. Airlift by RAF Wessex. HMCG.

APRIL 3rd-4th – Arnoud Ten Haaf (28) slipped on snow between Cairngorm and Ben Macdui, breaking an ankle. He managed to crawl into Tailors' Burn (Allt Clach nan Tailllear) where he pitched a tent. At 17.30 next day he alerted three walkers in Lairig Ghru using a whistle. Winched out by RAF Sea King, Braemar/Grampian Police MRTs. 33.

APRIL 6th – James Sinclair (28) leader of a party of six Scouts aged between 10 and 15 further damaged an old ankle injury, which slowed down a walk from Auchallater to Glen Doll by Jock's Road. Found near Crow Craigies and airlifted by RAF Sea King. Kinloss, Leuchars and both Tayside teams. 407.

APRIL 11th – Elaine Onyike (45) slipped on the wet path descending Brown Cow Hill, Strathdon, breaking a leg. Carried to Land-Rover path. Grampian Police MRT. 1.

APRIL 12th-13th – Kenneth Webster (68), Michael Wilson (47), Andrew Wilson (20) and Matthew Wilson (15) got lost in mist and soft snow near Capel Mounth trying to find Loch Brandy, so they sheltered overnight. Found next day at Corrie of Bonhard making their way back to the road. Both Tayside teams and Leuchars. RAF Boulmer Rescue (131) unable to complete task due to weather. 685.

- APRIL 14th-16th – John Raymond Ellis, botanist (36) found dead from hypothermia 300m south of cairn of Fiacail a' Choire Chais, Cairngorm. Found on April 16th. He may have been studying alpine flora. It is unlikely he lay there long because it is a busy area. Recovery by Cairngorm and Glenmore Lodge MRTs transported by Chairlift Co. ATV to near Fiacail cairn. 29.
- APRIL 22th-23rd – Angus Aagaard (29) and Michael Holdsworth (27) suffered gastric infection and viral flu at Corrou Bothy. They walked out to Bob Scott's Bothy helped by other walkers. Grampian Police MRT. 2.
- MAY 1st – Alastair Wilkinson (41) fell off his bike descending track from Loch Callater, fracturing ribs. Grampian Police/Braemar MRTs. 4.
- JUNE 5th-6th – Returning from a rock-climbing camp on Beinn a' Bhuird with a companion, John Hare (36) slipped descending to a path, breaking an ankle. Hobbling to path took three hours so they camped and companion went for help on 6th. Rescue from Glen Quoich by Grampian Police/Braemar MRTs and RAF Sea King. 11.
- JUNE 6th – Party of three deliberately split on plateau leaving a woman (50) as she was tired and did not want to go to Ben Macdui summit. She was later found safe in Larig Ghru by RAF Sea King. Cairngorm MRT. 12. Rule broken: Do not split party leaving weakest alone.
- JULY 1st – Male (23) lifted by RAF Sea King after an epileptic fit at Loch Etchachan. 12
- JULY 4th – Walking from Linn of Dee to Corrou by White Bridge, Lynn Porter (36) twisted her knee. Grampian Police MRT, RAF Sea King. 7.
- JULY 10th – David Hollands (17) and Andrew Bunning (14) went for a 3km walk in Glen Tanar. They got lost in the forest and walked to Feughside Inn. A straight-line distance of 16km from their target. Grampian Police MRT. 4.
- JULY 14th-25th – James Walker (84) a keen hillwalker, but latterly with a short memory span, was last seen in grounds of Mealmore Nursing Home, Daviot, on 14th. Found dead during a sweep search by 75 people on 25th. Assynt, Cairngorm, Dundonnell, Kinloss, Kintail, Leuchars, Torridon MRTs, Police, RAF Sea King, SARDA. 1000-2000.
- JULY 24th-25th – Steven Best (18) crossed Ben Macdui then entered an area not covered by his map. Trying to get from Fords of Avon to Derry Lodge he walked via Faindouran Lodge, over high ground to Gairnshiel Lodge, to Crathie. Search by Grampian Police MRT. 18.
- JULY 27th – Climbing Clean Sweep at Hell's Lum Crag, Loch Avon, Simon Goring (26) slipped. A runner failed so he fell 8m, with arm and chest injuries. Airlift by RAF Sea King. 10.
- AUGUST 1st – Woman (42) developed severe migraine SE of Carn a' Mhaim summit. Picked up by Police near Derry Lodge. 2.
- AUGUST 6th-7th – Party of three on Angels Peak split in thick mist. Two crossed Great Moss to Glen Feshie and phoned Police. James Galbraith (19) reached Ruigh Aiteachain Bothy and stayed overnight till noon before going to find a phone. Found safe at 12.30. Aberdeen, Cairngorm and Kinloss MRTs, SARDA, RAF Sea King. 60.
- AUGUST 15th – Gary Smith (25) leapt 28m from a cliff arch into the sea at Bullers of Buchan. Chest and neck injuries. HMCG and Peterhead Lifeboat.
- AUGUST 29th – Walkers on Craig Coillich Hill, Ballater found four empty drug containers and a man (26) ill and crawling. Grampian Police/Braemar MRTs and dog handler found him in a tent and took him to hospital. 70.
- SEPTEMBER 3rd – With her husband, Alison Garfield (63) had walked Lairig Ghru from Rothiemurchus. She tripped over a boulder five miles north of Derry Lodge, bruising an arthritic hip. Managing to get to Derry Lodge she was rescued by Grampian Police MRT. 2.
- SEPTEMBER 4th – Searches in Angus, including search by RAF Sea King, for man (70). He was found dead in a field.

- SEPTEMBER 12th-13th – Wearing sandals and instructing eight students in river-crossing technique at the head of Loch Avon, an instructor (26) dislocated her toes. Next day, unable to get boots on due to swelling, she was airlifted by RAF Sea King. 12.
- SEPTEMBER 19th – Successful rescue of four cragfast sheep, near waterfall in Coire Kander, Glen Callater by lowering team member on to ledge. Grampian Police/Braemar MRTs. 8.
- SEPTEMBER 24th – Roy Henderson (26) stumbled and sprained an ankle at Loch Etchachan. Used mobile phone. RAF Sea King. 12.
- OCTOBER 3rd – Two sheep cragfast in main Coire Kander. On arrival of Braemar MRT one had fallen to its death. Second sheep removed from ledge by lowering team member on to ledge, but sheep lost its footing on ascent and also fell to death. 6.
- OCTOBER 16th – Euan Ferguson (15) fell off his bike on Culardoch track 4km north of Invercauld House, Braemar. Other Scouts alerted Police and Ambulance Service who rescued him. Treated for bruises and scalp cut stitched. 8.
- OCTOBER 18th-19th – Cairngorm MRT searching for overdue Terence Magee (45) heard an aid cry from above them at 01.00. After a hillwalk, Terence had bummed a ride down on Cairngorm chairlift. It was soon stopped by technicians as they were only testing it. He was trapped for 10 cold hours. Unfortunately, he had thrown down his rucksack, containing gear and waterproofs, to check the height involved. Rescued by special ladder. 117.
- OCTOBER 21st-22nd – Night searches by Cairngorm MRT and SARDA. Henry Begg (23) did well to survive. Wearing tourist clothes and boots he had reached Cairngorm summit in snow by walking from the top station. Lost in mist he followed Coire Raibert down to Loch Avon. Following the north shore of the loch to its head, he crossed Feith Buidhe, down the south shore, missing Fords of Avon Bothy, and crossed River Avon to get to Faindouran Lodge where he was succoured by three climbers. Evacuated by Land-Rover from Tomintoul. 189.
- NOVEMBER 27th – False alarm. Search in vain by Cairngorm MRT and RAF Sea King of Hells Lum Crag, Loch Avon. Six torch flashes, repeated three or four times had been reported as seen coming from the route, Escalator.
- DECEMBER 4th – Practising ice-axe braking on NW slopes of Carn an Tuirc, Gunnar Olason (28) got a foot caught under névé and broke an ankle. A companion stayed with him. Both lifted by RN Sea King. Grampian Police/Braemar MRTs. 34.
- DECEMBER 11th-12th – Timothy Larradd (33) and Leslie Beaumont (30), on skis, split from pair of walkers near Cairngorm summit, got lost in poor visibility, but reached Shelter Stone and spent the night there. It may be that they had intended to ski to Shelter Stone. They were found wading through deep snow in Coire Domhain next morning. Cairngorm MRT, RAF Sea King. Aberdeen MRT on standby. 48.
- DECEMBER 12th – Two of a party of six separated and were reported missing on Ben Macdui by the others. Found by Aberdeen MRT wandering down in darkness. Road lift to Linn of Dee. Conditions very poor, drifting snow. 4.
- DECEMBER 12th-13th – After completing Mess of Pottage, Coire an-t'Sneachda, Cairngorm, Jane Thomas (33) and companion went too far south on the plateau in desperate weather. He went for help, but she died of hypothermia. At 12.15 on 13th Jane's body found by SARDA dog in Coire Cas 300m from the tow. At 12.16 on 13th companion's knife and compass were found on the south side of Cairngorm at 005035. Cairngorm, Kinloss, Leuchars MRTs, SARDA, RAF Sea King. 900.
- DECEMBER 19th – William Sutherland (30), descending from Lochnagar to Glen Muick, was blown over at Meikle Pap col and injured a leg. Rescued by Grampian Police/Braemar MRTs with some help from a tracked vehicle. RAF Sea King unable to help due to severe weather. 80.

## SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS

- JANUARY 23rd – Descent of NE Ridge of Cruach Ardrain. James McAlpine (35) and Scott Williamson (24), unroped, both slipped on hard snow and ice, falling 120m, both were injured. Williamson's eye was struck by ice-axe adze causing cuts and bruises above and below the eye. Despite other injuries they got down to Crianlarich Police with the help of a companion.
- JANUARY 30th – Clive Mitchener (39) slipped descending névé on the NW Ridge, Ben Challum with two others. Resuscitation was attempted for a long time, but failed. Killin and Leuchars MRTs. RAF Sea King. 135.
- JANUARY 30th – Simon West (40) slipped descending névé on SW Ridge, Ben Lui and broke his leg. Leuchars, Killin and Strathclyde MRTs stretchered casualty below cloud for airlift by RAF Sea King. 155.
- JANUARY 31st – Party of six on Beinn Tulaichean without crampons. Elaine Seawright (37) fell 30m on icy névé slope then another 15m over buttress. Arm injury, cuts and bruises. Other five helped down by Killin MRT. RN Sea King, Leuchars MRT. 60.
- FEBRUARY 1st – James Heggie (49), Malcolm Ronaldson (47) both killed on West Ridge of Ben Lui. Descending with another they entered steep crags due to a navigation error. Two slipped 65m down hard ice/névé with fatal head injuries. Killin, Strathclyde and Tayside Police MRTs, RAF Wessex. 333.
- FEBRUARY 1st – Ardvorlich. Andrew Stacey (75) caused concern after he separated from his party and was overdue. Walked out to Glen Artney and contacted police. Tayside Police SRU, Central Scotland Police, RAF Wessex.
- FEBRUARY 6th – German student slipped on ice, Beinn Achaladair. Leg injuries.
- FEBRUARY 14th – In a party of five descending wet rock and grass on NE side Ben Oss, Neil Cocker (53) slipped and slid 50m with head, neck, chest and ankle injuries. Stretchered out by Killin MRT as helicopter was unavailable due to adverse weather. 124.
- FEBRUARY 15th – Party of three on Beinn Achaladair. Ian Rose-Smith (43) died and David Stevenson (52) was injured from falls while descending.
- FEBRUARY 28th – German male walker on West Highland Way slipped with muscular injury to leg. Lomond MRT searched from Inversnaid and Inverarnan. Found and evacuated by Luss Rescue Boat. 73.
- FEBRUARY 28th – Further to the above incident, one man and two children, overdue going south from Inversnaid to Inverarnan were found and evacuated by Luss Rescue Boat. Lomond MRT.
- MARCH 1st – Joan Taylor (66) with her husband, Harry (70), had crossed Beinn a' Chreachain and Meall Buidhe. Going to Beinn Achaladair, Joan slipped and injured an eye socket falling on to her ice-axe. Oban and Dumbarton MRTs found them walking down slowly.
- MARCH 6th – Oban and Dumbarton MRTs on standby for two men (aged 31 and 32) who turned up safe from being overdue on Beinn Achaladair.
- MARCH 23rd – Leuchars team called to assist Arrochar, Dumbarton Police and SARDA in a search for a missing German walker in the Arrochar area, but he turned up safe. 54.
- MARCH 26th-28th – Vain searches by Arrochar, Leuchars, Kinloss and Oban Police MRTs, RN Sea King, SARDA and HMCG for Andrew Campbell (43) missing from a camp 4km SW of Portsonachan, Loch Awe. He had gone for a walk and disappeared. Found on June 12th. Post mortem stated he had been drowned. 574.
- APRIL 4th – Christine Davidson (48) descending Ben Ledi tourist path slipped on wet grass and broke an ankle. Killin MRT stretcher carry. 27.
- APRIL 10th – Sarah Crompton (44) slipped descending Ben A'an path and fractured radius and ulna. Killin MRT helped Ambulance Service. 20.



- APRIL 10th – Betty Brazier (52) slipped on grass on The Law, Ochil Hills, injuring a leg. Police and Ambulance. 2.
- APRIL 11th-12th – Samuel McClements (53) slipped descending steep snow and rock face on north side Stuc a' Chroin with a companion. Fatal. Disappeared in mist. Killin MRT had no success searching in 5m visibility. Found by SARDA. Lomond MRT called in. 176.
- APRIL 15th – Paul Inns (16) was killed mountain biking on a steep hill track north of Loch Katrine.
- APRIL 18th – Lomond MRT and SARDA alerted from exercise for Ian Trotter (56) overdue from a forest walk around visitor centre. He had got lost and turned up in Aberfoyle village. 12.
- APRIL 21st – Janet Menzies (55) collapsed with a viral infection descending King's Seat Hill, Ochil Hills. Police and Ambulance. 2.
- MAY 1st – One of 147 competitors in Stuc a' Chroin Hill Race, Ronald McIntosh (43) became ill and collapsed on Ben Each ridge. Treated with glucose and airlifted to Stirling. Killin MRT, RN Sea King. 20.
- MAY 3rd – Climbing Coriander on Ben A'an, Andrew Faulk (27) fell. Piton failed to hold fall. Fell 3m with serious back injury. Airlift by RN Sea King. Killin MRT. 8.
- MAY 21st – Graeme Brady (28) recovering sheep was swept away in River Dochart, Killin. Fatal.
- MAY 16th – False alarm. Walker on summit of Ben Lomond heard cries for help in cloud and strong wind. Searches in bad conditions by two RAF Sea Kings, Lomond MRT and SARDA. 190.
- MAY 21st – Frederick Flecken (34) weight 18st (114kg) slipped on dry rock descending Conic Hill, Balmaha, fracturing ankle bones. Stretchered by Lomond MRT, Police and Ambulance Service. 32.
- MAY 21st-22nd – Very poorly equipped, Rober Chumley (50) went on after his wife turned back, in an attempt to walk up Schiehallion. Spotted by Tayside Police SRU next morning making his way down. Night and first light searches failed. RN Sea King, Leuchars and Tayside MRTs. 163.
- JUNE 5th – Rita Bachli (51) slipped 100m from summit of Ben Venue descending a steep path, spraining an ankle. Killin MRT, RN Sea King. 26.
- JUNE 27th – Mrs van Daalen (54) sustained leg injuries, hillwalking at Gallanach, 4km SW of Oban. To Western Infirmary, Glasgow.
- JUNE 28th – A Lomond MRT and SARDA assembly was sparked by a separation. A man with no navigation aids or equipment separated from his friend on Beinn Uird, Rowardennan, Loch Lomond. He got down himself.
- JULY 12th – Illness cause a male to collapse on Ben Lomond path. Evacuated by RN Sea King to hospital. Lomond MRT.
- JULY 12th – Lomond MRT made an exhaustive search of Devil's Pulpit, Finnich Glen, for a dog reported to have fallen into the gorge. Nothing found.
- JULY 12th – Losing his way down Ben Venue, James Campbell (44) got cragfast. A fisherman went for help. Killin MRT were taken by boat on Loch Katrine to rescue him. 27.
- JULY 19th – Donald Reid (26) separated from his friend when climbing the north side of Stob a' Choin, Inverlochlarig, Balquhitter. He was found dead in a steep, craggy gully 500m NE of the summit. Killin and Leuchars MRTs. RAF Sea King. 219.
- JULY 31st – One of a party of 13 ascending Ben Ledi, Edward McDonald (49) slipped and broke his ankle when 200m from summit. Sea King from HMS Gannet lifted him to ambulance. Killin MRT. 15.
- AUGUST 15th – Meall nan Tarmachan. Anke Klatte (21) was in a party of five trying to descend a precarious path down Allt na Ceardaich after they had lost their way in woods. She slipped and fell 25m into gorse sustaining a serious liver injury and a head wound. Winched 40m through gorse and trees by RN Sea King. Killin MRT. 30.



- AUGUST 20th – Landslip on Balnaguard Burn, near Ballinluig. The burn had eroded a landslip of clay and loose rock 36m high. Two girls tried to climb it and got cragfast at 24m where it was vertical. Marek Olersowicz (43) managed to reach the girls in failing light and got one to safety. He climbed back up to Marta Kaszubska(13), but by then it was dark, and having no torch, he also got cragfast. Tayside Police SRU escorted them safely down using a fixed rope and a harness. 16.
- SEPTEMBER 8th – Search by Ochils and Leuchars MRTs, SARDA, Police and RAF helicopter for woman (21) in hill forest north of Dollar. She had left a suicide note. She was found by the aircraft having taken tablets and alcohol and attempted to injure her wrists. 138.
- SEPTEMBER 18th – In a party of 14 and descending grass from the summit of Beinn Chabhair, Anthony Hamilton (13) stumbled and fell 12m, breaking a femur. Wearing summer boots. Killin MRT, HMS Gannet helicopter. 47.
- SEPTEMBER 22nd – Bracklinn Falls, Keltie Water, Callander. Taking part in a cableway exercise, Stephen Learmouth (36) unclipped from rope while standing on a rock ledge. He stepped back falling into a 6m gorge, breaking his nose and sustaining concussion. Treated with a neck splint and oxygen he was evacuated by back-roped stretcher. Killin MRT. 14.
- SEPTEMBER 22nd – Agnes Smith (53) broke a leg when walking down Schiehallion with a companion. She fell just 1m on path. Airlift by RAF Sea King. 8.
- SEPTEMBER 26th – Descending steep grass NE of Beinn Tulaichean in a party of four, Susan Isherwood (46) slipped and sustained a lower leg fracture. Stretchered out by Killin and Leuchars MRTs. 20.
- OCTOBER 3rd-4th – Doreen Paton (29) and Stephen Dillon (25) separated from two others at Meall Dhamh, going on to climb Cruach Ardrain in mist with no navigation aids. They walked all night through the wrong glens, reaching Loch Katrine. Leuchars, Killin, Ochils MRTs, SARDA, RN Sea King. 516.
- OCTOBER 3rd – A girl of 18, with Down's Syndrome, became distressed when benighted without a torch on Ben Ledi. From a group of 13 she had turned back with two co-workers before they reached the summit. The three were found on a path in the wet forest by Killin MRT and helped down. 42.
- OCTOBER 6th – On a school project, walking above Kendrum Burn, Lochearnhead, Ina Westwood (57) slipped on wet grass and injured her ankle. Granddaughter went for help. Stretcher carried by Killin MRT. 8.
- OCTOBER 12th – Search of Mill Glen, Tillicoultry for Neil Osborne (15). Ochils MRT, SARDA. 32.
- OCTOBER 16th – Killin MRT found Catriona Lorans (23) walking back to Inverararnan in darkness, after she had separated from her two companions on West Highland Way and walked past the destination. Lomond MRT called out. 12.
- OCTOBER 24th – Walking with a club party on Meall Ghaordie, a man (34) took an epileptic fit. Airlift by RN Sea King. Killin MRT. 22.
- OCTOBER 24th – Climbing near the summit of Ben Lui with two companions, Richard Davey (21) took hold of a large rock to pull himself up. He dislodged the rock and fell 3m with the rock landing on top of him. Airlift by RN Sea King to hospital where he had subluxation of cervical 5/6 vertebrae, fractured transverse process of lumbar 3/4 vertebra and cut leg. Killin MRT. 64.
- OCTOBER 24th – Luis Vidal (34) and Caroline Vidal (33) were overdue walking through Glen Quoy from Dollar to Glendevon. Ochils MRT. 5.
- NOVEMBER 20th-21st – In snowy weather David Stell (30) and Caroline Brown (24) became separated descending Schiehallion to Braes of Foss car park (NE side of mountain). David had the map, compass and torch, so Caroline was left without. Man descended to car park, found woman had not returned, so went back up to search for her. When it got dark, he got lost and descended to Glen Goulandie (SE side). Search continued for female who was found (on S side) cold, wet and weak. Tayside Police SRU, Leuchars and Tayside MRTs, RAF Boulmer Sea King. 238.

- NOVEMBER 27th-28th – Without ice-axe and crampons, Duncan McEwan (56) attempted Ben Lawers Horseshoe, but decided to descend from bealach NW of Lochan na Cat when he saw mist closing in and snow starting. On steep, snow-covered, grass with rocks protruding he slipped, fell 45m and was very seriously injured. He was lucky that he was found by two climbers only 10 minutes later. He told them he had broken both arms and they went for help. As well as two broken wrists, he had compression spinal fracture, four broken ribs, fracture of knee, and thigh damage. Stretcher lowered to west end of Lochan na Cat. Tayside Police SRU, Leuchars and Tayside MRTs. RAF Sea King attended, but could not be used because of mist. 348.
- NOVEMBER 27th – Lomond MRT called out for R. Ralston overdue in Queen Elizabeth Forest, Aberfoyle. He turned up safe. 5.
- NOVEMBER 27th – Lomond MRT called out for lights seen on south shore of Loch Katrine. Boat investigating found two students (male and female) safe but overdue from three-day expedition. 5.
- DECEMBER 5th – Ian MacGregor (63) ascending steep footpath (Stank Glen route to Ben Ledi) tripped over tree root on muddy section, fracturing a leg. Stretchered to ambulance by Killin MRT. 9.
- DECEMBER 12th – In a party of 24, in easterly gales and heavy snow, Catherine Wright (59) slipped descending Dumbreck, Campsie Fells. Stretchered down with leg injuries by Central Scotland Police and Scottish Ambulance Service. 3.

## SKYE

- MARCH 23rd-24th – Six male and two female students (20s) climbed Sgurr nan Gilleann by the Tourist Route. They had intended a traverse and descent of the West Ridge, but they belayed back down the Tourist Route. They then bivouacked. Snow and sleet were forecast. Found and winched off by RAF Sea King using night vision goggles at 02.30. Kinloss and Skye MRTs. 400.
- APRIL 12th – In a party of six descending Sgurr na Stri, Yai Hui Lak (20) stumbled and fell 50m then stopped by a member of his party ahead, sustaining serious head and pelvic injuries. Winched by HMCG helicopter. 10.
- APRIL 20th – Braes Peninsula, near Loch Sligachan. Woman walker (70s) airlifted by HMCG helicopter after breaking her leg in a fall.
- APRIL 21th-22nd – Although he managed to hobble to Coruisk Hut after a slip on a rock slab on Sgurr Coir an Lochain, Gwyn Davies (45) was winched by RN Sea King next day, with a fractured ankle. Skye MRT. 22.
- MAY 25th – Thearlaich Dubh Gap. Robert Healey (40) slipped and fell 10m. Serious spine, pelvic and chest injuries. Stretchered by Skye MRT to winch point by RAF Sea King. 14.
- MAY 29th – Bealach Mor (between B. Dearg and the Storr). Aisling Morris (29) climbed three-quarters of a scree slope and got cragfast. Helped down by Skye MRT. 8.
- JUNE 8th – Descending to Lochan Coire a' Ghrunnda near Caisteal a' Garbh Choire, with a companion, Philip Ramsbottom (44) was struck by a rock which fell and knocked him down 10m. RAF Sea King flew him to hospital on June 9th. Broken knee cap and 17 stitches for scalp cut. Skye MRT. 125.
- JULY 4th – Bristow helicopter winched Timothy Noble (21) who was in a party of six from Coire a' Ghrunnda suffering facial cuts from a slip on a muddy path. Skye MRT. 16.
- JULY 4th – Peter Sykes (47) suffered a heart attack in Coire a' Ghrunnda and was airlifted by RAF Sea King. Suffered mild hypothermia due to wet ground and anti-coagulant medication for a previous heart attack. Kinloss and Skye MRTs. 47.

- JULY 9th – Winched at about 200m from Coire Riabhach, Sgurr nan Gilleann by Bristow helicopter, William Shields (64) injured his leg by a slip on the path, accompanied by his wife. Skye MRT. 13.
- JULY 14th – Calls of shepherds gathering sheep on Cleat Hill, Staffin, were mistaken for cries for help. Skye MRT and Police alerted. 9.
- JULY 19th – Michelle Maunder (29) slipped in Coire Lagan when in a party of four walkers. She fell 5m, coming to rest on her back with arm injured underneath her. Winched from the head of Sgumain Stone Shoot by Bristow helicopter. Skye MRT and Police. 13.
- AUGUST 10th-11th – Sron na Ciche. Thinking that they were on Cioch Buttress, and adapting a guidebook description of a (VD) to fit the route they were actually climbing, three men and one woman, got cragfast and benighted about 140m up Median Route, Western Buttress. During the afternoon of the 11th there were shouts for help. They abseiled one pitch and were then helped down by a passing climber and the brother of the woman. Skye MRT. HMCG helicopter. 10.
- SEPTEMBER 8th – Bealach na Leacaich, Craig a' Lain, Trotternish. German couple, Linda Bohlen (25) and Stefan Mohr (24) were hillwalking. It is thought Linda fell up to 100m down a narrow gully, and Stefan died trying to save her. Information received on October 20th led to a search by Skye MRT and RAF Sea King on October 21st which found them in 20 minutes. The bodies were about 15m apart. Stretchered, winched and airlifted. 22.
- SEPTEMBER 10th – Two members of Leuchars MRT climbing on Sron na Ciche observed a rockfall strike David Cowell (25) on Cioch Grooves. He was lowered 20m to ground by other climbers. Walked down with arm in sling and was then taken to hospital by MRT suffering chest injuries. 5.
- SEPTEMBER 15th-16th – Descending Coire a' Ghreadaidh with a companion, from somewhere near Sgurr Thormaid (they were not sure of their position on the Main Ridge) H. Michael Curry slipped on wet rock falling more than 100m. His companion found him and attempted to provide shelter before going for help, but he died of chest and pelvic injuries before being found by RAF Sea King next morning, with Skye MRT on board. 208.
- SEPTEMBER 22nd – David Smith (20), Colin Evans (19) and Paul Marsland (19) got cragfast and benighted on Sgurr Alasdair due to poor navigation. Winched off at night by RAF Sea King. Skye MRT and Police. 39.
- SEPTEMBER 22nd – Oban CG and Portree Lifeboat searched Black Rock, Portree for a girl (15). Found safe at 21.00.
- SEPTEMBER 25th – 60m below the summit of Sgurr nan Gilleann on the Tourist Route, Steven Skelton (37) was fatally injured by a fall of 45m when rocks gave way beneath his feet. Party of nine. Skye MRT and RAF Sea King. 43.
- OCTOBER 14th – Michael Williams (24) and Angus Matheson (22) on coast walk, trapped by tide on beach below The Old Gun Point, Duntulm. Found by HMCG helicopter which could not lift them because of poor weather, so they were rescued by Auxiliary Coastguard.
- OCTOBER 28th – Skye MRT called out for a crofter, Donald Graham (21), cragfast attempting to rescue a sheepdog from the Old Man of Storr. He got down safely before the team arrived. 17.
- OCTOBER 28th – Skye MRT carried out a night recovery of the cragfast sheepdog (above incident). Bill Logan of Skye MRT received minor head cut. 17.
- NOVEMBER 20th – Eastern Gully, Sron na Ciche. Scrambling up a small rock face, Aaron Schuer (20) gripped a loose hold and fell 5m landing on rocks, causing facial cuts and limb bruising. Winched by RAF Sea King. Skye MRT. 53.

## ISLANDS

(Other than Skye)

- MARCH 4th – Two nurses (30s) got lost in mist on south end of Iona. When mist cleared they got back in darkness. HMCg.
- MARCH 16th-17th – Trying to get to Carsaig from Lochbuie, Mull, William Docherty (51) spent a cold night wandering lost in low cloud on hills north-west of Loch Buie. Kinloss MRT, Oban Coastguard and Lifeboat. 648.
- APRIL 12th – Woman (27) got separated from a friend in mist in Coire nan Larach, Mullach Buidhe (above Corrie village), Arran. Arran MRT. 13.
- APRIL 12th – Kinloss MRT treated a male walker suffering from exhaustion and dehydration at The Saddle, Glen Rosa, Arran. 8.
- MAY 8th – A'Chir, Arran. Mark McGuigan (21) slipped on scree and badly sprained an ankle. Arran MRT. 12.
- MAY 13th – Search for man (29) who had wandered off on Isle of Coll. Police helicopter and air-sea rescue helicopter.
- JUNE 1st – Gleann Easain Biorach, Loch na Davie, Arran. In a party of 20, Christopher Holmes (12) suffered a groin strain from a slip and was evacuated by RN Sea King. David Clegg (11) had neckstrain and fatigue but walked down the hill. Arran MRT. 28.
- JUNE 9th-10th – Karl Kay (37). Fatal 20m fall. Night stroll on path around Tobermory Harbour, Mull. Fell over cliffs in dark.
- JULY 9th – Two walkers turned up safe from Isle of Vallay, North Uist. Full scale alert when they were overdue.
- JULY 26th-27th – Jane Liston (37) left her car on Ross Road to walk to Loch Urie, near Lamlash, Arran. She was benighted in mist and rain. Found by Police before Arran MRT and SARDA searched. 8.
- JULY 27th – Woman suffered ankle injury from fall on Isle of Scalpay, near Harris, when walking with her husband. HMCg helicopter.
- AUGUST 1st – Hillwalking at Kame of Hoy, Orkney, Armin Gojan (34) fell. Minor leg injuries. HMCg.
- AUGUST 15th – Walking in a party of three on Ben Mhor, South Uist. T. Minelly (15) slipped on rock, suffering cuts and chest injuries. The accident was on the north side of the east ridge above Glen Hellisdale. Winched off by Bristow helicopter. 7.
- AUGUST 17th – David Barclay (37) and boy (16) fishing a hill lochan, descended the wrong side of Cruach Scarba (conical peak which forms the Isle of Scarba). Benighted, but well clad they spent the night in a cave and were able to cook some fish. Found and rescued by Oban Lifeboat. RN Sea King ferried HMCg searchers.

## SOUTHERN UPLANDS

- JANUARY 17th – Andrew Lithgow (58) suffered chest pains and cold trauma on Lowther Hill, Wanlockhead. Stretchered by Moffat MRT down to Enterkin Burn, then airlifted by RN Sea King of 819 Sqdn. flying through mountains at night in heavy snow showers, guided by Police car from Carronbridge.
- JANUARY 31st – Search by Galloway MRT of wooded area near New Galloway for a forestry worker (40) who had committed suicide. 32.
- MARCH 10th – D.E. Hastings (69) rescued by Drummorie Auxiliary Cliff Team, HMCg. He suffered leg and arm injuries from a fall. RN Sea King. 14.
- MARCH 17th – Thomas MacKay (21) was killed by a 45m fall from a cliff at Pease Bay, Cockburnspath, Berwickshire, when climbing with a friend. He was only 3m from top of cliff when he fell.



- APRIL 11th – Tweed Valley MRT called out to search for a missing female walker at Pow Burn, Northumberland. She turned up safe.
- APRIL 11th-12th – Michael Henderson (19) and Paul Henderson (16) were benighted and spent night out near Hopes Water, Lammermuirs and Tweed Valley MRTs. 115.
- APRIL 14th – Victor Pitcher overdue on Cairnsmore of Fleet. Galloway MRT. 115.
- MAY 10th – Margaret Liddle (84). Fatal. Slipped and fell into River Tweed. It may have been the result of a heart attack. Tweed Valley MRT and SARDA. 54.
- MAY 15th – Five schoolgirls on award hike overdue in Yair Forest, Selkirk. Found safe by forest ranger. Tweed Valley MRT. 12.
- JUNE 3rd – Simon Vallantyne (38) overdue crossing Rhinns of Kells to Loch Trool. Turned up safe. Galloway and Moffat teams alerted.
- JUNE 22nd – German tourists, male (65) and female (35) separated from a guided group on the Southern Uplands Way 4km south of Innerleithen. Police suspected heart attack, but found them safe. Tweed Valley MRT and SARDA. 20.
- JULY 20th – Southern Uplands Way. Path on Hare Law, NW of Broadmeadows Youth Hostel. Paul Wiggan (16) slipped when on an award hike, breaking a leg and sustaining mild hypothermia. Tweed Valley MRT, SARDA. 30.
- JULY 27th-28th – Two parties of German Scouts left Loch Doon for Loch Dee, Galloway Hills. Four exhausted lads were left at Dry Loch, near Dungeon Hill while two went for help, but only one messenger arrived. Galloway MRT were called out and SARDA dog found exhausted boys 2km north of where they had been left, one 10-year-old very cold. The other party of nine Scouts was found on road to Forrest Lodge. 120.
- AUGUST 6th-7th – Alastair Ratcliffe (18) not equipped for a bivouac, was found by Tweed Valley MRT on a damp, misty night on the Southern Upland Way west of Galashiels. 86.
- AUGUST 20th-SEPTEMBER 4th – Searches of forest by Tweed Valley MRT, Lothian and Borders Police and SARDA for a hospital patient found with his wrists slashed in suicide attempts. 55.
- SEPTEMBER 17th – Mario Namburg (20), wearing shoes, broke his leg when scrambling down a very steep, wet slope of forest, rock and scree, exploring Scott's View, River Tweed after dark. Also wearing shoes, Holger Bartschat (21) went down to help his companion. He fell 60m farther and was more seriously injured (skull, spine, leg and fractured arm with hypothermia and blood loss). Tweed Valley MRT, Border SARU, Police, Fire, Ambulance, RAF helicopter. 280.
- SEPTEMBER 24th – Search by Tweed Valley MRT and RAF helicopter for patient suffering depression near Penicuik. Found with hypothermia by Police. 15.
- SEPTEMBER 27th – Paraglider, Eiki Mittelbach (31) found conditions unsuitable at Loch Skeen, so headed back to Moffat on foot. Caught out by darkness he waited for moonrise, but wife reported him missing. Found by Moffat HRT on route search. 21.
- OCTOBER 8th-14th – Large scale searches by Borders SAR, Tweed Valley MRT, SARDA, and RAF helicopters for Bill Thomson (78) walking at Galashiels. Suffering Parkinson's Disease, he had slipped on a path in wet forest and fallen into the River Tweed leaving a shoe in river at assumed point of entry. His body was found on the 14th, 25 miles downstream with severe fractures. 967.
- OCTOBER 28th – Tail Burn below Loch Skeen. Barbara Johnson (63) slipped on scree breaking her ankle. Found by Moffat HRT. Winched by RN Sea King. Air Ambulance attended.
- NOVEMBER 1st – Tweed Valley MRT called out to search for a missing man later found dead by Police. Kelso area. 3.
- NOVEMBER 17th-19th – Moffat HRT sweep-searched Stell Knowe, a wooded hill in Eskdalemuir Forest and found a woman (30) who had hanged herself. A suicide note had been left in an abandoned car. 38.



- NOVEMBER 20th – Anne Crozier (30). Fatal. Hills in area of Eskdalemuir. Moffat HRT.
- NOVEMBER 20th – Geology student (20) fell on rocks at Cove Bay, Cockburnspath. He was stretchered out with ruptured knee ligaments. RAF Boulmer Sea King, HMCG, St. Abbs Lifeboat, Ambulance Service.
- DECEMBER 12th – Hart Fell, Moffat. John McCulloch (60) in a party of 17 died of a heart attack in a white-out. Trained first aiders were unable to revive him. Body was left on hill for safety reasons and stretchered out next day by Moffat HRT. Bivvy bag in tatters with the wind. 175.
- DECEMBER 19th – Tweed Valley MRT called out to find 14-year-old boy who was later found dead by Police in Penicuik area. 8.

## NON-MOUNTAINEERING

- JANUARY 11th-13th – Leuchars MRT, Tayside MRT and RAF Wessex assisted many people, stranded in cars by blizzards in Fife, Angus and Tayside. Assistance continued for three days with aid to elderly folk trapped at home. Maternity case airlifted to hospital. Food flown to snowbound babies. 650.
- JANUARY 13th – Leuchars MRT (with Stafford and Leeming) searched for missing Banderante light aircraft. Recalled when crash found near Sellafield. 165.
- JANUARY 17th – Leuchars and Tayside MRTs and RAF Wessex rescued householders during floods (from Perth to Pitlochry). Helicopter rescued 24 people. Teams assisted farmers rescuing sheep. 160.
- MARCH 18th – FFA AS Bravo crashed 10km south of Ayr. RAF Sea King directed services.
- APRIL 18th – Visiting roadside Achray viewpoint, Aberfoyle, Florence Dischler (14) slipped on wet grass, dislocating knee cap (recurrent injury). Lomond MRT on exercise alerted ambulance and police. 9.
- MAY 18th – Well-intentioned false alarm that a Hercules aircraft had crashed in Ballater area. Leuchars MRT.
- MAY 27th-29th – RAF Hercules aircraft crashed at Glen Loch, Blair Athol. RN and RAF Sea Kings, Leuchars, Kinloss and Tayside Police MRTs and local Fire Service, carried out recovery, crash guard, and photography duties, and prior-impact searches. There were no survivors from crew of nine. 1500.
- JULY 17th-18th – Leffnoll Point, Loch Ryan, Stranraer. Galloway MRT searched for a murder weapon and discarded clothing at Police request. From a family of four camped on July 9th father had been killed, mother and two children badly wounded. 77.
- AUGUST 27th – Fallen cyclist (21) at David Marshall Lodge, Aberfoyle. Lomond MRT rendered first aid. 3.
- SEPTEMBER 15th – R177 helicopter found crashed Piper Warwick light aircraft with dead pilot near Sanquhar. Leuchars MRT carried out crash guard and casualty evacuation. 498.
- SEPTEMBER 16th-17th – Daylight and darkness searches in the Newton Stewart area for missing man (56) later found in South England. Galloway MRT. Police dog, RNLI boat, RAF Sea King, HMCG. 136.
- OCTOBER 12th – Glider from Glen Feshie force-landed in Glen Einich. Spotted by motor glider. Subjects made their own way back to Glen Feshie. RAF Sea King and Police called out. Cairngorm MRT informed.
- NOVEMBER 19th – Tweed Valley MRT and SARDA called out to search for a missing driver (47) involved in a road traffic accident. She was found by police in a village church with head injuries, bruising and hypothermia. 69.
- NOVEMBER 27th – Nairn Police asked Cairngorm MRT to search a steep, narrow ravine in Cawdor Woods. Suicide note found on bridge. No one found but Police were able to close file. 50.
- NOVEMBER 28th-29th – Torridon MRT called out 08.00 on 29th to search for Michael Dolan (41) missing since 16.00 on 28th. Body found washed up on the seashore. 32.

## IN MEMORIAM

## GEORGE LYNN GIBSON j.1976

IN MARCH 1982, I received a Youngers Tartan beer mat through the post. It had a Fijian stamp and had survived the long air journey from the South Pacific unscathed. On the back, under the logo of the white-bearded old man was printed a sketch of a climber and a short eulogy of Ben Nevis – 'A five-mile path leads to the summit, but for the true mountaineer there are still many challenges.' Around the side of the mat George had written: 'Am I still a true mountaineer or just a waster, I ask myself as I gaze into the amber liquid?'

The mode of communication was typical George. However sorely he missed his beloved Bens, while following his strenuous career as a tropical forester, his wit and personal warmth raised the spirit. He was a true character, a man imbued with the traditions of Scottish climbing, who gave to his many friends a companionship they will never forget.

Born in Hawick and brought up in Annan, George was proud of his Borders' roots. He started climbing with the Carlisle Mountaineering Club and before leaving school had already accomplished White Slab on Cloggy and most of the harder climbs on Castle Rock of Thirlmere. Coming to Edinburgh University in 1971 he very soon acquired a reputation. Arran was a favourite stamping ground, including early ascents or attempts on Bogle, Brobdingnag and Blinder. His fascination with the Forth bridges was legendary too. Perhaps not many now remember that the road bridge was put up for sale in 1973! Under George's inspiration the party had climbed two 'remarkably similar' summits, and abseiling down to a suitably-exposed level had strung a Student Charities banner across. More frequently, the rail bridge was traversed, this being an initiation test for most of his girlfriends. At the last count he had made 16 ascents, each time leaving offerings of brown ale for the Bridge police on the summits.

Weekends with George were always memorable because his energy, humour and bubbling enthusiasm for life attracted the unusual. He had a rare capacity to relate quickly to people from all walks of life and invariably got himself and his companions into unlikely encounters which later became the basis for the endless tales stored in his prodigious memory. Once in a pub in Arran he got himself into an arm-wrestling contest with a flame-haired Orcadian linesman and (to the surprise of them both) George won. As the locals queued up to take on the newcomer it seemed wiser to flee to Glen Rosa. Another time, finishing Observatory Ridge after dark with Sheila Kirkwood, they found themselves sharing the summit shelter with a retired Professor of Divinity and his apprentice, who provided amber liquid comfort in addition to the spiritual variety. On a New Year bothy trip with David Geddes and another unfortunate girlfriend, a first-footing of the station master at Corroul and the demolishing of an inordinate quantity of whisky resulted in another fund of stories about Victorian signalling equipment and the reincarnation of the Ben Alder Cottage ghost.

On our trips in the mid-1970s vile rock was frequently the goal, in perverse defiance of modern rock-climbing trends. A long-sought ascent of Beinn Nuis Chimney, surely one of the vilest, was at least partially successful, although Silo and an even viler unclimbed line to its left on the North East Face of Cir Mhor easily

repulsed us. Between these writhings in slimy chimneys and grovellings up crumbling granite we would usually fit in a romp up South Ridge, while dips in the Glen Rosa pools and endless quotes from the incomparable Cir Mhor chapter of *Mountaineering in Scotland* were *de rigeur*.

George's interest in, and respect for mountaineering tradition, led him to a broader vision of mountaineering focusing not on 'gymnastic problems' but on the great classics and 'the pursuit of distant white domes'. He was a powerful influence in extending the horizons of his contemporaries at university. It was through him that many got to know W.H. Murray's *Mountaineering in Scotland*, for every foray into the hills, indeed almost every conversation about climbing was peppered with apposite quotes from 'the works'. The cult was such that he always signed himself 'Bill' and usually addressed me as 'Bill' too, though I was never sure which of us was supposed to be Murray and which McKenzie. Successive girlfriends were known as Mrs McAlpine and Mrs Malloch – the only two female characters in the book. Other favourites for quotation were J.H.B. Bell and B.H. Humble, with whom he struck up a close friendship.

In 1975, George accompanied Des Rubens, Dave Broadhead, Dave Page and myself on an expedition to the Hindu Raj in Pakistan. His mechanical skills were of great service in keeping our ailing vehicle together on the long overland journey, and the initiation into the stark contrasts of life in the Third World clearly captured his imagination, as did our stay with Buster Goodwin in Rawalpindi, a last survivor of the British Raj. Although our mountaineering achievements were modest we did reach the summit of an unclimbed 6400m peak, where it was George (naturally) who celebrated with a can of Guinness.

After a further year in Edinburgh (as EUMC President) in which he contrived some good climbs as well as a good degree, George went to Ecuador on a posting from the Overseas Development Administration, with a brief to conserve tropical forest species in the remote Oriente Province. With his natural talent for languages he was soon fluent in Spanish, and threw his phenomenal energies into work that was often frustrating. Asked to work in a 100,000-hectare reserve of virgin jungle he found that the Government had parcelled it into 50-hectare lots in which colonists were crazily cutting down everything in sight. His letters home gave vivid descriptions of life both in the jungle and on the mountains. Lago Agrio, the nearest town:

'No light in the evenings, no tap water – all rain in 40-gallon-drum stuff – no sewage. Turds float around everywhere, the smell is unbearable in the hot tropical night, drunks fall into the ditches screaming obscenities. The hotel is 50p (most expensive), with clean? sheets, mosquito nets and whore, if you want, thrown in. At night the entire town falls into a state of mosquito and God Knows What Else ridden anarchy.'

However later in the same letter:

'Tomorrow its off to the hills to a little snow peak of 5300m a little to the south of Quito. There is one really good route on it but I have a bit of a problem finding suitably adventurous persons to climb with, so will be trying an easier route. The climbing company has a tendency to be a bit punterish here – one of the keenest, M, an ex-Forestry Commission chap is who I'm going with. A friend of a friend met him in Quito and described him as a 'bit of a Bertie Wooster type'. He is certainly not a champion of 'exuberance and unconventionality'. The smallest and most boring 'adventure' seems to require space blankets, bivvy sacs, glucose sweets,

toilet paper, torches, spare batteries, bulbs, Kendal Mint Cake, compass, spare compass, whistle, spare whistle. Sometimes this really bores me when I think of days of grovelling up many a slimy gully with the lads. This, in fact, inspired me to solo a hill of 5100m called Tungurahua the other week. Starting at Baños, at 6000ft, I waddled up through orchids and weird trees to the refugio at the tree line, Mas o Menos at 12,000ft. Now being a fiesta (Easter) this rather sordid hut was full of Eccies, up to Subir the volcano. So the dour Scot lurks in a corner, while young boys surreptitiously cuddle their chicas. Reading through the log book, I find such entries as Jim Fisher, Glasgow, Dec. 21 – ‘Ah’m gaun hame fur ma Hogmanay’. So George schemes to leave at 2a.m. and sets the alarm for 1.30a.m. The Eccies play a transistor till 11.30p.m. but sweet is the revenge at 1.30a.m. as the alarm splits the silence of the night. Dropping a pan or two on the floor completes the revenge, and its out into the cold night at 2.30a.m. with two young Eccies. The moon shines fitfully through ragged brown clouds and 3000ft of vertical ash (Not being M, I had neither clinometer, nor spare clinometer) led to some iron hard snow. Here, with beard white with ice, just before dawn, it was on with the crampons, 0° 30" south of the Equator, in five minutes. Now the Eccies had home made seven-league crampons and firstly had to wrap cloth and poly bags round their boots to make them big enough for the crampons. The minutes ticked by, my cold and impatience increased. Remembering what Patey did on Coire Ardair Girdle I gave the buggers my torch, and with a triumphant cry of: ‘Nos vemos a la cima,’ set off into the cloudy 45° slope, on iron snow. 750ft or so led to the crater lip, and in the dawn light I could see holes with smoke coming out of them – there is very little snow within the crater – it erupts every 40 years or so! Then up the curling rim of the crater, the clouds died pink with the sunrise. Still in dense cloud, and with a terrific wind blowing. I stormed up. About 10m below the summit (5150m) I burst out into intermittent sunshine as the cloud alternately was swept clear and came back. The crater was full of cloud and every blink of sun gave birth to a Brocken Spectre in the crater, with the bulk of Chimborazo behind (6100m). An amazing 40 minutes was spent on the summit, admiring the cloud sea and peaks sticking out, and trying to thaw the camera out. Then there was the 10,000ft descent to Baños, and I walked into my friend’s hotel, precisely 30 hours after leaving. This time, nothing, not even a Humble mystery tour could drag me out of a quiet pipe and that eiderdown sleeping bag.’

While in South America George was deeply saddened by the death of Ben Humble and promised himself to do a memorial climb on his return to Scotland. Aaaaagh!

So it came about that a group of 10 gathered in Lagangarbh on a dreich Sunday in October, 1978. George dressed for the hill in baggy plus-fours, white socks and puttees, dress shirt with cuff-links and chain, waistcoat, cravat, tweed jacket and feathered black hat. For the purposes of ascending Crypt Route George and I shared his nailed boots – he the right and I the left, with the other feet being shod in ‘modern’ rubber soles. Raymond Simpson, in the lead, disappeared into the mountain as though some invisible monster had put out its maw and pulled him in. Then George followed, tricounis scraping on the greasy rock, stout tweed adhering well to the slimy walls, jaunty hat and Alpine guide’s sack completing the picture.

After his stint in Ecuador, in which time he climbed a number of noteworthy Andean summits, George moved to the Oxford Forestry Institute. His first job there involved travelling to 35 tropical countries in an international collaborative



research project on the tree, *Pinus Caribea*. He became an expert traveller on airlines great and small, enjoying the gin and tonics in long haul 'Club Class' as much as the uncertain excitements of smaller local airlines. Family and friends were always remembered with hilarious phone calls in the dead of night or postcards (usually of the Royal Family) from far-flung corners of the world. He revelled in anywhere with the flavour of the former Empire: cricket at the Selangor Club in Kuala Lumpur, or chauffeur-driven tours with the 'Chief Conservator of Forests' in Orissa, India. The work was stressful, lonely and at times repetitive, with no settled existence, but his sense of humour always got him through. From a letter from the heart of the Congo in 1981:

'This trip has really been hard going, and sometimes as I swayed from side to side trying to assess trees in 95°F, I began to think that tussling with turgid regressions in boring Britain was not so bad after all. Did a lot of drinking in Ivory Coast so I suppose that aggravated the swaying quite a bit. Had some laughs though in the markets with a camera and done a bit of rock climbing on some 20ft-high sea cliffs I discovered. Found a jug handle just like the one at the top of the S Crack and if I closed my eyes I could see that spindly wee bauchle, whatever he was called, on the first ascent.'

Throughout the 1980s George continued to develop his forestry career. Deeply involved in the genetics of tree breeding he became an expert in the practicalities of seed collection, conservation of genetic resources and improvement of native tree species. With his intensely practical intelligence he clearly saw the multitude of constraints on rural development in the Third World but he never became cynical. An understanding of the importance of multi-purpose tree species and a keen awareness of the need to obtain the full-hearted support of local populations for forestry development, together with his ever-widening experience made him in great demand as an adviser in projects all over the world. In the late 1980s he spent more than three years in Honduras setting up a project to conserve and cultivate species which were fast disappearing from their natural habitat. With his wife, Lucy – a highly-talented musician – and young son, Hamish, (and later Anna), he continued to live life to the full, combining the forestry with ever-ready hospitality to colleagues and friends who made their way to Central America.

In 1991, George finally returned to his beloved Scotland and after a year in the private sector joined the staff of Edinburgh University. He was an extremely conscientious and popular lecturer who always took pains to smooth the path of overseas students and visitors. While still involved in projects in China, India, Nepal, Cuba, Mexico and Latin America, he somehow found the time to do radical home improvements, and was also a convivial host and had begun to go to the hills again more frequently.

He had long cherished an ambition to do the Orion Face Direct, although he harboured some doubts about his ability to climb it. On our first attempt, the Ben shrugged us off disdainfully with winds – worse than anything we had experienced in 30 years of climbing, – that completely flattened us before we even reached Coire Leis. Our second attempt, a few weeks later, found good conditions and a safe, if slow, ascent was made, the last few pitches by torchlight. Unfortunately, there was an uncommonly violent storm on the plateau and a welter of hypotheses about George's tragic fall into Five Finger Gully come down in the end to Humble's 'simple slip'. Had fate not taken George so prematurely he would undoubtedly have made a grand old man of the SMC. With his love of tradition and wry



deprecation of all things modern, his inexhaustible fund of stories and quotes, and most of all, the twinkle in his eye and the warmth of his company, he was absolutely cut out for the role. Difficult though it may be for many to find comfort in it, a consolation is that if there is a hereafter he will really be enjoying it now – in the company of Collie, Raeburn, Stott, Goggs, Bell and the rest. For those who are left there is an aching loss but a sense of gratitude for having known such a funny, gifted and warm-hearted friend.

Geoff Cohen.

### J.K. ANNAND j.1947

I FIRST met Jim Annand in 1933, when, as a first-year student at Edinburgh University, I joined the JMCS which, at that time, used to meet regularly in the SMC rooms in Castle Terrace. In an assortment of old clapped-out motor-bikes and beat-up cars, a group of us, including Jim, used to travel to the hills most weekends – or so it seems in retrospect. From that time, until 1939, when most of us became embroiled in one or other of His Majesty's forces, we were wont to leave Edinburgh at around lunchtime on Saturday with tents and the crudest of equipment, have some sort of expedition in the hills on Sunday, and travel back, arriving home, tired but happy, usually well after dark. I very soon found that Jim – one of natures gentlemen – was a most rewarding companion to be on the hills with.

His interests were very wide-ranging. No mean scholar and linguist, he had become an articulate poet, and it is from these poems that one can get a clear idea of the considerable variety of his interests, and in his life in general. His particular interest in mountainous country, at a variety of locations in his beloved Scotland, comes through quite clearly in his little books, *Poems and Translations*, and *Two Voices*. In these, he recalls days shared with his many friends, in every part of Scotland, from the Borders to the North, including Arran, Skye and other islands. His love of nature and folklore shines out in every mention he makes of particular areas. I recall expeditions we made together on the closer Munros around Callander and Tyndrum, which we used to reach, there and back in a day, at weekends. I remember one outstanding day in particular, when the JMCS had booked the Killin Hotel for a New Year Meet. On December 31, 1935, as a meet, we made a mass assault on Meall nan Tarmachan in marvellous weather. The snow was down to Loch Tay, and was very hard. I recall the subsequent dinner in the hotel, which took us right through to 1936, with much reel dancing.

Sadly, these expeditions were cut short by the war, when Jim joined the Navy and served, as I recall in a variety of craft. Hence the title of his book of poems *Two Voices* – 'Two voices are there, one is of the sea, one of the mountains, each a mighty voice'.

I next met Jim when I moved to Dolphinton in 1954, and contacted the Edinburgh Section of the SMC. Again, a group of us, now sadly reduced in capability, but not in enthusiasm began to have expeditions, albeit somewhat less ambitious. Many of the same people took part in these latter-day hillwalking trips, including Jim Annand. I found that his enthusiasm for the Scottish hills had not diminished, and that he was just as rewarding a companion to be with as on the previous period. Those of us who remember Jim will miss his good fellowship and pawky wit.

C.C. Gorrie.

I ONLY knew Jimmie Annand in his later years and recognised him as that rare thing in Scotland – an unsuborned intellectual. Like MacLennan (SMCJ, xxix, 1968, 89-91) and Dick Brown (SMCJ, xxxiv, 1989, 328-329) his culture was embedded in the traditions of Scotland and Europe with none of the obligatory obeisance in other directions. In the mountains he was a competent Salvationist. He had no need of more as he was part of them, particularly among the Border hills where he could converse with shepherds, keepers and laves in his, and their, native doric.

He would have been a good companion for Hogg and might have straightened him out socially and politically. Indeed, I can see him as a worthy member of the colourful embassy that went through the Border hills to seek an audience of Michael Scot, the wizard of Aikwood, as told in Hogg's *Three Perils of Man*.

He did not use the mountains to exorcise some demon within him but as a source of inspiration for his poetry and prose which ranged from war poems and bairnsangs to translations from other European tongues. A particularly successful example of the last was a translation of Ronsard's *Elegy for Mary Stuart* of which I have an unpublished copy by me as I write.

His loss adds another verse to Dunbar's eternal poem *Lament of the Makars*, but his will be a cheerful one about a journey well made and cheerfully undertaken.

I.H.M. Smart.

## DAN LIVINGSTON j. 1985

DAN LIVINGSTON died peacefully at home in Alligin on February 11, 1992. He was 82 and had been a mountain man all his life. He knew the Scottish hills better than most and, over the years, extended his climbing to the Austrian Alps, the Pyrenees, the Swiss Alps, Corsica and Nepal. In between he made walking trips to Greece, Crete, France and Southern Spain.

His great love was the Pyrenees. He first went there in 1957 with John Lowe and returned on no less than 12 occasions over the next 30 years.

Dan took great pleasure in introducing others to the hills, and throughout his long teaching career brought many of his pupils and friends to share his own joy in the mountains.

He graduated in 1931 from Glasgow University with an Honours Degree in Maths and Astronomy. He taught at only two schools – Airdrie Academy (1931-1946), and Rutherglen Academy (1946-1969), where he was principal teacher of maths and latterly depute rector. At Rutherglen he ran the school camp in Arran and the Cairngorms, where many a youngster had their first taste of the mountains. He was an instructor at Glenmore Lodge for a short time.

Dan's other main interest was in astronomy. For many years he was curator of Airdrie Observatory, where he spent much of his time instructing and encouraging youngsters. He was a founder member and former president of the Astronomical Society of Glasgow, and a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society.

On retirement Dan built his dream house, Creag Bhan, in Alligin, commanding a stunning view over Loch Torridon. This became a convivial venue at all times for his many friends. He quickly became involved in local activities and was the first secretary of the newly-formed Community Association – playing a key role in

successfully obtaining for the area one of the first Post-Bus services in the Highlands, and also in inspiring the community to renovate its Village Hall and greatly expand the range of social and recreational activities based upon it.

He maintained his links with Rutherglen Academy after settling in Alligin, and masterminded their acquisition of the empty village school there for an outdoor pursuits centre. For many years he assisted and encouraged the enthusiastic school staff who voluntarily ran the many courses and activities based there.

He was a founder member of the Torridon and Kinlochewe Mountain Rescue Team, and unfailingly turned out under all conditions for many years – latterly assisting by manning the base wireless vehicle, often through long, cold nights.

Dan Livingston was a man of boundless enthusiasm, wit, good humour and curiosity. He had a talent for making friends, to whom he was unswervingly loyal and generous.

John Craig, Charlie Rose.

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**Notice has also reached us of the death of A.L. Cram.**

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## PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLUB

### New Members

The following eight new members were admitted and welcomed to the Club in the year 1993-94.

Gillian E. Irvine (33), Doctor of Medicine, Aviemore.

Alexander Keith (29), Solicitor, Edinburgh.

Iain M.G. Peter (33), Mountain Guide, Penmachno, Gwynedd.

James R. Blyth (27), Sales Assistant, Ayr.

Bruce Goodlad (22), Student, Prestwick.

Nicholas H. Harper (39), Company Director, York.

Mark Litterick (29), Electronics Engineer, Glasgow.

Graham A. Penny (33), Fire Fighter, Blairgowrie.

### The One-Hundredth-and-Fifth AGM and Dinner 1993

And so we went to Fort William, as mandated by the dissatisfied customers of 1992. The Club has associations with the Alexandra Hotel going back for years, and while the hotel appeared at first glance to have changed little from the days of Ling and Glover, it now revealed an acceptable modern interior which more than suited our purposes.

Those seeking a comfortable seat for the AGM were quickly disillusioned on discovering that the meeting was in another place – no Parliamentary splendour, but rather the assembly hall of Fort William Junior School, where no doubt the austerity coupled with the absence of suitable refreshment led to one of the shortest annual meetings on record. The business proceeded initially with little incident. It was thought best to let the Ayscough bequest accrue meantime. The reports were accepted, and the Committee, despite their best efforts, were re-elected and the appointment of trustees meekly agreed. Thoughts were turning to salmon and venison when Curly Ross, abetted by Malcolm Slessor, fanned the flames of that burning ember – abandonment of the Loyal Toast. The small flame rapidly became a forest fire as argument raged and President Lang eventually tackled the blaze by calling for a vote. Never a Club for royalists, the outcome was nevertheless a close-run thing and poor Queenie was forced to abdicate in favour of the Bens and Glens.

The dining room looked too small but somehow everyone was accommodated with apparently more comfort than last year. The food was fine and the service reasonable. More tradition was abandoned by the absence of a top table which made the Dinner Secretary's job easier and the President less lonely. Splendid piping was provided by Iain McLeod, one hopes a regular feature, but the Club song in spite of an excellent delivery by Curly, found a somewhat restrained choir.

The President rambled on and long asking the company to remember those who had fallen into the last deep crevasse from which there is no escape. The Club's attitude to the increasingly competitive nature of our sport was questioned but met with apparent indifference – probably much to do with earlier excess of choux pastry. In addition to the insult of being placed with their backs to the speakers' table, our guests were mercilessly slaughtered by Colin Grant. No one escaped,

with the Cairngorm Club – who like the poor are always with us – bearing the brunt. An eloquent and well-prepared reply was put up by Professor Bill Donaldson who, being unattached to any particular club, had escaped the worst of Dr Grant's bedside manner. A fine rendering of *Dark Lochnagar* sent the company to the bar.

In spite of pre-circulated recommendations to climb on Stob Ban, the weather on the Sunday was less than fair and the President took his party on his first walk in the Mamores. The writer cannot recall anyone formally thanking Robin Campbell for making the arrangements but this was an excellent Dinner and he may well have the job for some time.

John R.R. Fowler.

### SMC Dinner Symposium 1993

The symposium held before the 1993 Annual Dinner in Kingussie was only alluded to in last year's Journal: so here is a summary of the four presentations given. The speakers were asked to talk about aspects of mountaineering of interest to fellow practitioners rather than give popular accounts of derring-do.

Rab Anderson presented the case for bolt climbing which he wrote up for last year's Journal. The article should be the definitive statement on the ethics and aesthetics of the Art. The talk was illustrated by some sensitive colour slides which showed that the speaker was far from indifferent to the crag environment. The sites of the battles between himself and gravity were presented in the context of the larger landscape. A distant crag viewed over a field of pastel lavender in a sunny afternoon somewhere in the warm South counterpointed the subsequent description of the moves required to ascend it.

Des Rubens gave an account of difficult decisions made on the expedition to Nanga Parbat. Specifically, he described the dilemma of whether to abandon the ascent or to allow an injured Geoff Cohen to descend alone, and of his own dilemma on whether his own incipient cerebral oedema was just temporary anoxia or a signal to turn back. He addressed the problem of whether the ascent is worth the life of yourself or your friends. It is to be hoped that the Journal will get another article from his pen one day.

Andy Tibbs presented some comments on the contemporary climbing scene at home, particularly the trend to shorter, harder new routes as the supply of longer easier ones get used up. His observations were printed in last year's Journal.

John Peden gave an account of the ski traverse of the Stauning Alps made by a combined Scottish and French party in May 1992. The former used nordic skis, the latter Alpine. Both parties believed they had made the right choice. Alpine are better downhill, Nordic better up. He also described how they got themselves and equipment up a steep col by means of a complex system of pulleys made from slings and karabiners. The illustrative slides portrayed something that looked like a spilled plate of colourful spaghetti. The account of this expedition is still being written up for the Journal.

Barely a handful of members were present for the start, but 50 or so had condescended to arrive by the end. Those who did attend had the privilege of hearing experts addressing their peers on subjects of mutual interest. We would like to record our thanks to the speakers and apologise for the absence of those members who were too busy, too preoccupied or too thrawn to attend.

I.H.M. Smart.



### CIC MEETS

During the 1993-94 winter season seven weekend meets were held. Waiting lists were in force, but in reality, the hut was never full. The largest attendance was 16 on February 12-13. The most successful team was the two Als (Scott and Shand) with ascents of Mega X and Psychedelic Wall.

The mountain had the best climbing conditions for years, but the overhead conditions were abysmal on most occasions which curtailed many exploits to the lower-level routes. Climbing was rarely possible on both days on any of the meets. The best weather was on Saturday, March 26, when the mountain was assaulted on all flanks.

There were no blue skies, just piles of snow, and most infuriating, constant gale-force winds to contend with.

Inside the hut it was very gloomy indeed, as film-makers tried to recreate a 1930s atmosphere by painting half the hut a dowdy brown.

However, Colin Stead and myself cannot complain too much as we put the new Ben Nevis guide out of date before it was published by climbing four new routes.

D.F. Lang.

### THE SLINGSBY SYMPOSIUM, NORWAY 1993

Early in 1993 I received an invitation via Derek Smithson of the Yorkshire Ramblers, in his capacity as vice-chairman of The Slingsby Institute, to attend and participate in the inaugural symposium of the Institute. The final details and programme were confirmed by Jan Schwarzott, chairman of the Institute.

The date was to be September 10-12, at the Klingenberg Hotel in Ardalstangen, and sponsored by the Ardal Kommune.

Bob Allen (Climbers Club) and I arrived in the black of night in Ardal after our five-and-a-half hours' trip in our jetfoil ferry from Bergen to the head of the Sognefjord. In the hotel, which fortunately was only two minutes' walk from the jetty, we were introduced to Jan. The hour was small when this fascinating little man allowed us to get to bed, having supplied us with food and drink.

Thursday, September 9, was a glorious cloudless day, the sun shone from morning till night. Bob and I had a delightful walk up Munkenosi, to an altitude higher than Ben Nevis according to Bob's altimeter. The views to the Jostedalbreen and the Jotunheimen were magnificent, as were the reflections in the placid waters of the Sognefjord.

With transportation provided by Rune, this young Norwegian took Derek Smithson, Ron Kenyon (FRCC) and myself on a six-hour trek via Hjelledalen, Morkaskardet, Vettismorki, Vettisfossen (the highest free fall waterfall in Norway), then finally back to the car at Hjelle. Meanwhile, Bob had set up the projection equipment, ensuring that the Symposium started on time on Friday evening.

We listened intently to Jan Schwarzott giving us a history lesson on William Cecil Slingsby, his life as a climber and naturalist and the affection the Norwegians have for this man who made more than 20 expeditions to Norway beginning in 1872. Jan's book on Slingsby is due to be published this year.

The celebrated Norwegian professor and climber, Arne Naess, whom at the age of 83 was strutting about in a body clamp with the aid of crutches due to a tobogganning accident, lectured for nearly an hour-and-a-half on his theory of Deep Ecology. The evening ended with a meal, followed by social intercourse.

The sun shone all day on Saturday, but we had full programme, having started with breakfast at 08.00 and ending at 23.00 after a splendid banquet. Many speakers were involved during the sessions and the British were humbled by the fact that we spoke virtually no Norse, but the English of our hosts was excellent.

I managed to talk for 40 minutes on my given subject, 'The Privilege of Being Alone, Paradox of Scottish Wasteland Blessings'. Judging by the response it appeared to be well received.

After Tony Streather's, 'What Next?' contemplations, the Symposium ended on Sunday afternoon with the participants seated in a circle eyeing a vase of flowers in the centre. This rounding-off session, chaired by Nils Faarland, contemplated whether we were inside or outside Nature, or was there Free Nature?

After the parting farewells, Ron Kenyon and I had our gear ready to head into the Hurrungane area of the Jotunheimen National Park. I had gleaned some information from an old guide book kindly lent to me by Scott Johnstone. Store Skagastolstind or Storen, at 2405m and Norway's answer to the Matterhorn, looked a good target. The fact that Slingsby had made the first ascent solo in July, 1876 was equally fitting.

Scott's map did not show a road from Ovre Ardal to Turtagro, but now there is a road of sorts and our new-found friend, Charula, dropped us off at our requested stop. At Tutagro Hotel I collected a present of a Norwegian Alpine Club Journal for our Club from the Norse Tindeklub, along with keys to their hut which we were invited to use en route to Storen. Seemingly, this hut is as exclusive as the CIC, except that we do not have pewter candlesticks, 10-foot-long oak tables, a library or an oil lamp chandelier!

Typically, on Monday – the only real climbing day – it was windy, cloudy, cold and snowing. Having left some excess baggage at the Bandet Hut, Ron and I set off into the cloud draping the mighty Storen. Unlike the easy route most people encounter, we had an enthralling climb. Very few signs of previous passage were visible on this trade route due to snow cover. The cloud cover did not help route finding either, as the head wall reared up.

The summer crux, Heftyes Chimney, bulged with ice and gave a fine pitch of grade III-IV. The summit was reached at 17.30, the final pitch being good neve.

The descent involved six 50m abseils, the abseil points having to be located from under the snow. Thereafter a long descent in snow runnels, in the dark, led back to the Bandet Hut at 21.30 to the relief of ourselves and four ladies from Oslo who thought we were spending the night on the mountain.

The morning mists lifted to reveal Storen in all its glory. Indeed it did look like a Matterhorn. All around the gabbro rock walls looked spectacular in the sunlight.

The glorious weather ensured we did not flag on our nine-hour walk out to Ovre Ardal, from where we managed to get a lift to the hotel in Ardal. Before we could get a bath, Jan ushered us to his apartment where his friends Peter and Nils joined in the celebratory drinks that Jan had ordered. We eventually got away for that welcome bath.

Jan's hospitality continued when we had an excellent meal with him in the Slingsby Room where we were further embarrassed when he produced carrier bags

of cheese and cured meats for us to take home. We had previously been presented with a tee-shirt and a signed copy of Jan's book, *Under Støren – Portrait of Utladalen and Vettisfossen*. Having arranged an alarm call for 05.00 we finally headed for bed well after midnight.

Our farewells to Jan were drowned by the noise of the ferry as it departed for Bergen at 06.10 on yet another fine day.

This was a Presidential duty I would gladly repeat.

D.F. Lang.

## JMCS REPORTS

**London Section:** – The Club committee met rarely, but always drunkenly. Most of the committee failed to attend most of the meetings but got drunk in absentia anyway. Special thanks to Pete Whitechurch for arranging enough hut income to pay for the repair of the co-ordinated damage done to it by Nigel Charlesworth plc, at the work meet. Pete is still ensuring a regular flow of income and vomit from a range of sordidly profitable University Club block bookings. Gordon Dalgarno has religiously embezzled away all year and wished to thank Dave Edmunds for auditing away any 'accounting idiosyncrasies'.

Following repeated purges on the inactive non-paying flab in the club by Fuhrer Bashforth, the membership now looks a lot smaller and tighter, particularly Tony Buj. Inactive paying flab is, of course, as welcome and prevalent as ever. Exporting unsavoury arses to foreign countries has also considerably improved the atmosphere at Glenafon slide show nights. Will the sofa never again rebound beneath the buttocks of the Brunei-bound John Steele? The British Society for the Dyslexic shares our sadness that Peter Tibbetts is no longer producing this circuler.

As usual, climbing standards peaked in January (at the Foundry . . .) and declined rapidly through the year to a low point of garden centre visits, sailing, fish buying, fell running, canoeing and motor-cycling, in time for the unbroken spell of fine summer weather between 3.45p.m. and 5.30p.m. on Saturday, August 28.

The meets were the usual catalogue of car crashes, roadside motor-cycle mechanics, licence endorsements, burbling bikes, huge hut fires, and horrible post pub food passing games. I am sure that it is just a coincidence that this marked decline in general behaviour coincides with letting females in.

Meets: Snowdonia (4). Pembroke (1). mid-Wales (1). Scotland (3). Peak (2). Dales (1). Lakes (2).

Locations and approximate numbers attending: New Year – Glenafon, Wales (20+). January – Glenafon, Wales (30+). February – Raeburn Hut, Newtonmore (15+). March – Helwith Bridge, Dales (18+). Easter – Bosherton, Pembroke (20+). May Bank Holiday – Low Hall Garth, Lakes (12+). Whitsun – Shelter Stone, Cairngorms (4!). June – Three Stags Head. Peak – (24+) July – Alps (20+). August – Dinas Mawdwy, Wales (12+?). September – Wasdale, Lakes (9+). October – Glenafon, Wales (7). November – Bull and Thorns, Peak (50). December – Cairngorms (8). New Year – Glenafon, North Wales (30+).

The meets provided many good climbs and laughs – including bagpipes for breakfast drunks; the great Shelter Stone port disaster; cannoging in Coire Cas; the great Ryvoan fire-eating contest (additional fuel supplied by the Treasurer's down pit . . .); the 'lively' Glenafon plate dance night; the Gelder Shiel spindrift avalanche etc.

At least 20 members were in the Alps this summer, encountering perfect motor-cycling ... err, oops, sorry climbing conditions. This included ascents of the South Pillar of the Ecrins, the North Face of the Ailfroide, the American Direct and the West Face of the Dru, and the North Face of the Pic Sans Nom. Two teams travelled East to Nepal and the Garwal Himalaya. Two visits were made to the Verdun Gorge and others to Fontainebleau, Costa Boltkit in Spain and the 'nouveau Suisse' resorts. Over-enthusiasm has resulted in many impulsive gatherings, including three trips to the Cairngorms in four weekends, and many mid-week Peak District escapades.

The club has experienced significant geographic emphasis away from London, with the most active trouble-makers now earning much less but climbing much more – Sheffield, Nottingham, Leeds and Manchester are the unfortunate Magistrates Courts ...

Officials: *President*, Hugh Jordan. *Secretary*, Andrew Walker, 1 Hancock Court, Main Road, Bamford, Derbyshire 0433 651707. *Hut Custodian* (Glenafon, Snowdonia), Peter Whitechurch, 1 Dale Cottages, Tangier Lane, Frant, Tunbridge 0892 523531. *Treasurer*, Gordon Dalgarno.

Andrew Walker.

**Perth Mountaineering Club (JMCS Perth Section):** – *The Saga continues.* Following the creation of Perth Mountaineering Club as a cloak for the Perth Section of the JMCS, we have flourished, membership continues to grow, and meets are well attended.

Members of the club have had an active year, mainly walking, but with growing interest in climbing – many thanks to the patient leaders who have helped out there. Ski-touring, both Alpine and Nordic, has been on the agenda this year, though strong winds have made any overweight tendencies a distinct advantage.

A recent 'How It Was' evening meet was arranged and members were encouraged to bring slides from previous club events. Apart from the development of light-weight camping, one major point of interest was the growth in the presence of C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub>OH at Completions, from a bottle of Babycham to the (temporary) cairn of bottles that forced the assisted descent of a previous Section Secretary from Ben More, Mull.

The Club hasn't managed a meet abroad this year, but various members ventured to Spain, Puy des Anges, and Mount Elbrus.

Antony Lole.

**Glasgow Section:** – Club attendances have once more remained variable, possibly the result of numerous weather-watchers, making some meets popular and others less so.

Over the year, 21 meets were held at various venues – Torridon, Skye and Rum and Arrochar. Of the more notable meets, the President's weekend remained a firm favourite even if he did arrive late with damp squibs (bought at discount?). Likewise, a wet and windy Christmas meet at Lagangarbh saw the year's slides analysed in depth while the New Year meet at the Raeburn Hut made amends with some excellent weather and much snow. Another popular meet was our long

overdue return to Milehouse. Sadly, this turned out to be a black day for the Club when our stalwart member of 24 years, Dr Angus McInnes, was killed while climbing on Hell's Lum Crag – a fate we still find difficult to believe.

Beyond Scottish shores, Club activities were quieter than usual but a number kept the flag flying and ventured to colder, warmer or drier climes. In the Swiss Alps John Park, Stuart Fish and Jeremy Evans made ascents on the North Face of Mont Blanc du Tacul, Cosmique Arete, Chapelle de la Gliere and other Tacul routes. David Ritchie – also in the Alps – climbed on the Croux and the Petite Clocher. Later in the year Neil Marshall flew west to winter climb in Talluride, US – Bridalveil Falls and Ames. Carl Schaschke visited Norway and Sandy Donald went to Morocco.

The Cairndow Hotel hosted the Whole Club Dinner, while our own Section Dinner was held at the Kingshouse where our guest speaker, Sandy Cousins, jogged the memories and enlightened the younger members on those many graduated JMCS characters before rounding off with a showing of 'Climbing on the Cobbler'. The occasion was marked by a rare stay at Black Rock Cottage.

The Coruisk Hut enjoyed a successful year with hut maintenance carried out in traditional style. Those present worked conscientiously – they tell me – to earn that customary rest day on the Cuillin, while evening festivities were free from those 'other' moments.

Our Club membership, when finally updated, highlighted a few shock names in default – so stands about 80, including lifers. Over the year only four members were admitted to the ranks.

Looking ahead to a good winter and with a number of new venues arranged together with some old faithfuls the rather lean spell will hopefully fade into the horizon in 1994.

The AGM was held in November and the following officials were elected: *Hon. Member*, W.H. Murray; *Hon. President*, Ian Cumming; *Hon. Vice-President*, Benny Swan; *President*, Sandy Donald; *Secretary*, Donald Ballance, 1/2 11 Airlie Street, Hyndland, Glasgow G12 9RJ. (Tel. 041 357 3073); *Coruisk Hut Custodian*, Sandy Donald, 15 Smeaton Avenue, Torrance G64 4 BG. (Tel: 0360 622541).

**Edinburgh Section:**– This year numbers have remained steady at just under 70, while those active showed a promising increase to about half the current membership. New members were comparatively thin on the ground with only two new additions – general interest in the section, however is still buoyant.

Although the weather was on occasion none too generous, enthusiasm and activity continued unabated with many members active throughout the winter months. The number of miles accumulated by members in pursuit of the elusive summer sun was beginning to be alarming. Most notably this occurred over the Skye weekend meet which saw members initially meeting at the Cluanie Inn and then on to Jock's Spot – via an Inverness takeaway. Some climbing was eventually achieved in Northumberland. Club meets included trips to the traditional venues – CIC, Black Rock and our own two huts. Yorkshire gritstone and the Lakes were also visited. There were 14 summer, and 10 winter weekend meets held during 1993.

In many small groups the members were climbing in four continents during the year, although by the end of which the Seven Summits concept remained an elusive



endeavour. Several made the annual pilgrimage to the Alps where the more notable successes included the Mittellegi Ridge, traverse of the Monch and Jungfrau; while in Chamonix, the East Face of the Dent du Requin was completed. One member, abandoning the rain that had earlier thwarted attempts in Chamonix, visited California and climbed routes in Yosemite and Tuolumne Meadows. Asia was visited by several, with two making separate trips to Thailand. A three-month walk-about in Australasia was undertaken by one member with an ascent in the Southern New Zealand Alps. Further ski-touring excursions were made on the North Island volcanoes of Mt. Ruapehu and Mt. Ngauruhoe. While in Australia, he scaled Mt. Kosciusko, while another did her bit for the club's Seven Summits bid by climbing Mt. Elbrus in the Caucasus.

The Section was represented at the annual dinners of the Perth Section and of the Whole Club during the year. There was a good attendance at the AGM and Dinner, held at our 'local' – Newtonmore Hotel. This was possibly due to the attraction of the mountain bike meet which ran concurrently with the date and location of the AGM. Other social events in the calendar included the annual slide night and the Water of Leith Pub Crawl – both proved successful.

Office Bearers: *President*, B. Donaldson; *Hon. President*, J. Fowler; *Vice-President*, C. Stupart; *Hon. Vice-president*, M. Fleming; *Treasurer*, B. Finlayson; *Secretary*, R. Sinclair, 11b Fettes Row, Edinburgh, EH3 6SE; *Smiddy Custodian*, F. Fotheringham, Tighna Sith, Braes, Ullapool; *Jock's Spot Custodian*, A. Borthwick, 2 Aytoun Grove, Dunfermline; *Committee*, D. Buchanan, K. Dry, S. Holden, J. Inglis, B. Leatherhead.

**Lochaber Section:** – Membership of the section remained much the same as 1992 – around 55 members, 30 based in Lochaber, the rest scattered around the country.

The Club held several meets during the year, the most popular venues being the Ling Hut, Glen Etive and Skye. Hillwalking and climbing are still the mainstays of the Club's activities although some members have branched out into other fields such as parapenting, mountain biking and canoeing.

The Club continues to meet socially every Thursday evening in the Nevis Bank Hotel, Fort William. During the winter months these evening sometimes incorporate a slide show or lecture.

During the summer, in addition to activity at home, several members travelled abroad, most to Chamonix and one to Alaska.

In September, the President welcomed, on behalf of the Club, Douglas Scott to the section as an Honorary Member.

In November, the Annual Dinner was held at Achnasheen where around 40 members and guests enjoyed an excellent meal and hospitality.

During the year a lot of work has been done to the Steall Hut in Glen Nevis, with more planned for the coming year. Bookings have been very steady with several dates already filled more than a year in advance.

The AGM was held in December and the following officials were elected: *Hon. Members* – Bert Bissell and Douglas Scott. *Hon. President*, Donald Watt; *President*, Willie Anderson; *Vice-President*, Ian Donaldson; *Treasurer*, Ian Walker; *Secretary*, Kenny Foggo, 19 Abrach Road, Inverlochy, Fort William. (Tel: 70 6299). *Steall Hut Custodian*, John Mathieson, 43 Drumfada Terrace, Corpach, Fort William. (Tel. 772 599).

K. Foggo.

## SMC AND JMCS ABROAD

### Europe

MARTIN MORAN reports:— Between June 23 and August 13, 1993, Simon Jenkins and I made what is believed to be the first continuous traverse of all 75 Alpine 4000m peaks. We climbed every peak or top with a height separation of 35m or more from its nearest neighbour. This gives as good a criterion for defining '4000ers' as any of the published lists.

Our time of 52 days was achieved with the help of high-level support teams, valley back-up from our wives, and the use of radios to co-ordinate the operation. The journey was entirely self-propelled. We used bicycles to move between the massifs, and thus made a continuous, unbroken route from the Piz Bernina in the east to the Barre des Ecrins in the west. Short touring skis were used on the Piz Bernina and in the Bernese Oberland.

The summer was the most unsettled in the last seven years, with an abnormally cold and snowy July. This gave winter conditions and absolute solitude on all the peaks of the Pennine Alps. Hot and thundery conditions developed in early August, which necessitated a good deal of night climbing on the Mont Blanc massif. The climax of the trip was a non-stop, 33-hour traverse of Mont Blanc and its 11 satellite summits on August 6 and 7.

We have so far raised £16,000 from the journey for Blythswood Relief Aid to Eastern Europe.

ROB MILNE writes:— Who says business and pleasure don't mix? During 1993 I was very successful at combining business trips with short climbing excursions. All it takes is a few business meetings in the right part of the world at the right time of year, and a climbing partner based in France with a car and the climbing gear. (All but the trip to Colorado were with Dr Louise Travé-Massuyès from Toulouse, France). The following is a short summary of my exploits.

February 20-21: After a meeting in Toulouse, we had a weekend of ice climbing near the Cirque de Garvanie in the French Pyrenees. Climbed a 1000ft Grade 4 snow gully system to the summit of Tallon, and had an afternoon of front pointing up waterfalls near there in the Cirque de Troumousse. The weather was near perfect with blue skies.

March 1-14: After a meeting in Bilbao, Spain, I took the train to Tarbes in the Central Pyrenees. I managed my first French limestone of the year at Penne Haute. The next day we did a 500ft E1 (French 6a A1) route on the Pic du Gar. This is a fine collection of rock towers in a rarely-visited area. It has enormous climbing potential and very few visitors. The weather was again, lovely warm sunshine.

April 1: A day of cross-country skiing in the high mountains of Colorado. Perfect sunshine and blue skies. We skied to a high mountain cirque above treeline at 12,000ft, and tried not to get sunburned. The descent through the trees on cross-country skis was 'interesting'.

April 4: Another day of rock climbing on French limestone near Toulouse. I was suffering from jet lag after being in Colorado, but the security of the bolts compensated. We spent most of the time practising for Half Dome, making hanging belays every three bolts.

May 22-29: After a business trip to a resort island near Seattle, we went to Yosemite for 10 days. We warmed up on the Central Pillar of Frenzie (5.9) and then climbed the North-west Face (VI 5.10 A2) of Half Dome. (see article p ???)

June 19-20: After a meeting in Barcelona, we spent the weekend climbing at Montserrat nearby. An amazing area of conglomerate rock domes and steep walls. We concentrated on 6+ pitch French 6a routes. Clear skies and warm sunshine again. Then to London for three days.

June 26-27: Back to Toulouse for another meeting and a weekend of climbing. Climbed the Spigolo Route on the Aiguille de Ansabere. An eight-pitch E2 (French 6a A2). Superb weather and great limestone climbing on the backbone of the Pyrenees.

August 26-27: Three days in Chamonix before a conference in nearby Chambéry. The weather became stormy and in spite of a night at a hut, we didn't climb anything.

September 2-3: After a week of perfect weather, we left the conference early and went back to Chamonix. The weather was still good, but getting windy. We arrived in Chamonix and took the telepherique two hours later. That night and the next day, we climbed Route Major (TD) on the Italian side of Mont Blanc. We really felt the lack of acclimatisation near the summit. Breakable crust, wind slab and high winds are okay in the Cairngorms, but the lack of acclimatisation was a real killer. The next day we left, having spent three days in Chamonix.

October 9-10: Another weekend of rock climbing near Toulouse. On Saturday, we did many short limestone climbs to French 6b at an area called Le Pubis. (It looks like it sounds). On Sunday, we did a six-pitch 6b A2 route in Les Gorges de la Frau. Superb climbing with blue skies and warm sunshine on a rarely-visited crag.

By November, mixed climbing was again possible in Scotland, so I stayed home to climb, and the weather was rotten.

## Morocco

HAMISH BROWN was in Morocco from February to June, 1993, with various friends and was able to visit many areas, to which he would be glad to give detailed information. SMC/JMCS members involved included Drew Sommerville, Dave Dawson and Sandy Donald.

February skiing was largely impossible as there was no base for the heavy snow falls of that month, but days at the Oukaïmeden resort gave excellent piste skiing and acclimatising. An Eagle Ski Club group then went up to the hills above Taroudant on the southern slopes of the Western Atlas, the pick-up being snow-stopped an hour below Tigouga.

A party had a marathon climb up Moulay Ali in deep snow, and rockier sport on the Mqqorn peaks south and north of the Tizi n' Ouguersiwid before leaving the

Medlawa Valley. The major objective of peak-bagging on ski in the Central High Atlas floundered, but an enjoyable trek was made through this area, far more attractive in spring blossom and snow than when most trek it in scorching summer.

A Land-Rover delivered the party (just) to Imi-n-Ouaqqa and Jbel Rhat saw an attempt from Tarbat n' Tirsal before heading over the Tizi n' Tirghiyst (superb rock carvings) to work along the Bou Willi and Bou Goumez valleys. Exit was made over the Tizi n' Ait Ourit to Sremt and Ait Mohammed, a magnificent pass, a fine village and a recommended way into/out of the region. A planned raid on Toubkal was wiped out by a storm at the Toubkal (Neltner) Hut, where the mice took delight in filling ski boots with spaghetti stalks. This hut is becoming impossibly overcrowded both in ski season and later with trekkers and Toubkal-baggers.

Ramadan (March) was spent exploring a-wheel, in the south-west – Iggherm, Tata, Amtoudi, Sidi Ifni, Sidi Rbat, Immouzzar de Id Outane, before going up to Taфраoute from Tiznet to explore in the Ameln Valley and among the rock pitons an 'Blue Rocks'. Twin-topped Adrar Mkorn was climbed from Al Mouda. It gave good scrambling and huge vistas, and there was even a pilgrim route up to a shrine. The team then shifted to the Tizi n' Tichka pass and in to Telouet and Animiter, possibly the finest architectural survival of old kasbahs in Morocco. The ascent by the Oued Ounily was stopped well below Tamda Lake by a blizzard that rendered Anhromher (3609m) impossible but one pair climbed Zarzamt (3113m) before returning to base. More bad weather followed.

April however, saw excellent weather, but was mostly spent a-wheel including a visit to southern Spain, but some useful recces were made to Arghbala and the neglected country between the main chain and the middle Atlas.

May saw real summer conditions with the snow largely stripped off the peaks. An exciting Land-Rover trip deposited the party at Zawat Ahancal in the Moroccan Dolomites, an area of magnificent rock climbing strangely ignored by the British. (All its descriptions are in *La Montagne*). Taghia and the start of the gorges were visited and Jbel Timghazine (3382m) climbed from a bivouac, before returning to Zawat and Tizi Yllaz under Azourki. Walking to Agouti off-piste was a delight but the traverse over via Arous to the upper Tessaout plateau was hit by cloud and snow that almost led to an unplanned bivvy, the mules fighting through just before dark. Ighil M'Goun (4008m) and Tarkeddid (3585m) were done in various combinations and Jbel Ouqs (Jbel Tifdaniwine) (3462m) was added returning to Arous, then Ait Imi and a Land-Rover out to Ait Mohammed for shared taxis to Marrakesh. Most of the party then climbed Toubkal.

June gave very hot conditions, often over 100°F, but delighted a group partly there to see the Alpine flowers. Bus, mules and scooter brought the three parts together on the Tizi n' Test pass whence they descended to Souk Sebt and Zrit, a village in a valley west of Igdat and offering further ploys. The Tizi n' Aghbar (2648m)/Tizi n' Tiddi (2751m) led into the upper Ougdem Valley and from a bivvy above Arg Jbel Igdat (3616m) and Idoudan (3316m) were climbed.

Camp was then shifted to the next valley north and from the Tizi n' Tighfist a good traverse made over the ridges and peaks linking Jbel Erdouz (3579m) and Jbel Gourza (3280m). The east ridge Erdouz gave Cuillin-type work and from Jbel Tameksaout (3344m) the party dropped to bivvy in the Asif Tislit (c2600m) valley. Adrar-n-Takawcht (3012m) saw the ridge resumed and Jbel Imilit (3245m) gave the toughest stretch before Gourza was done, unladen, from the col before it, Tizi n'

Imiri (2855m), whence a descent was made southwards to bivvy at the first water. (Gourza is taken as the peak climbed by Hooker and Ball a century ago and has strange shrines on top).

The walk out took in historic Tinmal Mosque, now restored, and watching the weird antics of the goat-skin clad figure seeing off the Sheep festival at Ijoukak. The party then went up to Imlil and from there or the Tazarhart (Lepiney) or Toubkal Huts made ascents to Toubkal, Tibherine, Afekoï, Ras and Timesguida Ouanoukrim and Tazarhart which are well enough known. Flowers, rather than the peaks, led to the Tizi n' Tichka and Oukaïmeden. On the way back Hamish went up into the hills from Taza and into the Gouffre Friouata, an impressive pot and tunnels.

### Notes:

Several parties used Land-Rovers to enter or leave areas which, while expensive, is easy and saves precious days. Where ever possible mules were hired to carry gear which meant good food, tents and gas cylinders for cooking can be carried. Mules also ensures the cheery company of the Berber helpers and, invariably, one or two of their guides or aspirants whose expertise can often avoid many problems the Brits-only gangs face. The Hotel Ali in Marrakech is the city base for guides and much used by British parties. (Excellent local food). Hamish can give details on the many practical matters or English-speaking helpers. Motoring out proved an expensive luxury and is not worthwhile.

### Asia

GRAHAM LITTLE reports:— In 1992, I made two trips to the Indian Himalaya, one pre-monsoon to the Kumaon, one post-monsoon to the Garwhal.

The former was a joint Indian-British expedition, and partnering Chris Bonington I made the first ascent of Sahdev East 5750m, and the first British ascent of Panch Chuli II 6904m, via the first ascent of the West Spur (see SMCJ 1993).

The latter expedition, with fellow SMC members, Dave Saddler, Matt Shaw and Gareth Yardley, was an attempt on the formidable South-east Ridge of Nilkanth 6596m. We reached an altitude of around 5600m at a snow col between the third and fourth pinnacles, but abandoned the route due to the worrying amount of loose rock and the committing nature of the ridge (see Himalayan Journal, Vol. 49).

In June-July, 1993, I enjoyed some excellent climbing in the Lemon Mountains of East Greenland with Chris Bonington, Jim Lowther and Rob Ferguson. Flying into a base on the Chisel Glacier, we made the first ascents of five peaks, all by technical routes (see Alpine Journal, Vol. 99). The last peak climbed (Bonington-Little) was the stunning rock monolith of Needle 1945m. This gave a 22-pitch big wall route with 10 pitches of 5a or above, and involved 24 hours of continuous climbing (see Climber & Hillwalker, October, 1993). A four-day journey out to the coast, mostly on skis, allowed a rendezvous with the pick-up plane, bringing to an end a very sociable and successful expedition.

DES RUBENS reports:— The Scottish Nanga Parbat Expedition 1992 was organised by Pete Long of Edinburgh. Other members were Ali Kellas, Geoff Cohen, Barry Owen and myself. Our plan was to attempt the first British ascent of the mountain, if possible by the still unclimbed Mummery Rib on the Diamir Face.

However, in 1991, Roger Mear and Dave Walsh made a fine ascent by the Kinshofer Route on the same face. We decided to still attempt the face in Alpine



style, following in the footsteps of Collie, Mummery and Hastings whose attempt in 1895 was a courageous first attempt to climb a high mountain in the Himalaya.

After a short, but spectacular and beautiful walk in, we arrived at the base camp meadow at 13,000ft on June 11 1992. We were flanked by the great peaks of the Mazeno Ridge, culminating in the 12,000ft Diamir Face of Nanga Parbat itself.

Many avalanches were in evidence, one of which cascaded over the entire Mummery Rib just as we arrived. We therefore decide to attempt the Kinshofer Route, already under siege by several Korean and European teams. It was the only unthreatened route in the entire cirque.

We were still concerned with style and determined not to attempt the mountain until we had acclimatised on surrounding peaks.

Over the next two weeks we enjoyed some fine Alpine climbing on the Mazeno and Galano peaks. Although no major peaks were ascended, we had some superb excursions in remote serious settings with wonderful views of Nanga Parbat.

Barry unfortunately, never acclimatised well and, despite our attempts to dissuade him decided to leave the expedition. The four of us then set off with 20kg sacks on July 4 to attempt the Kinshofer Route. This route takes a steep line up a spur projecting from the face. The spur then merges into an icefield. At about 23,000ft the route traverses near the top of the icefield to the Baszhin Basin where a traverse of easy-angled snowfields lead to the foot of the final steep slopes of the mountain.

During the second day of our attempt, Geoff took a long time to reach our stopping point (known as Camp 2) at about 20,000ft, probably due to not having shaken off completely a recent infection. The next day, Pete decided to descend the fixed ropes with Geoff, thus giving up his chance of the summit.

This decision was taken after much heart-searching, as Pete was obviously fit and well acclimatised, and Geoff insisted that he was quite capable of descending safely on his own. However, as leader Pete felt a degree of responsibility for the rest of us which extended to seeing Geoff safely down.

Over the next two days, Ali and I made good progress to below the final Trapezoid at a camp at about 24,000ft. The weather was good and we were going so well we were daring to think of success. However, just before reaching our camp I began to feel uninterested and lethargic. The next morning, although feeling no particular discomfort, I knew I had to descend. Ali, though he must have been disappointed, was anxious to see me down to lower altitudes. (Discussion of symptoms later indicated the possible onset of a serious high altitude illness). In two days, in very bad weather which might have robbed us of the summit anyway, we returned to base.

Attempting Nanga Parbat was a great experience. I am sure that if we had sieged the mountain, we would have stood more chance of success, particularly as we would have acclimatised at higher altitude. But then, I think, we would all have been less satisfied. On a short trip one really only gets one shot at the summit and therefore to get everything right – weather, fitness, acclimatisation etc. – there is a certain degree of luck.

We acknowledge the generous assistance of the Scottish Mountaineering Trust, the mount Everest Foundation and the BMC as well as other suppliers listed in our report.

## REVIEWS

**The First Munroist – The Reverend A.E. Robertson; his Life, Munros and Photographs:-** Peter Drummond and Ian Mitchell. (The Ernest Press, £13.95, ISBN 0-948153-19-9).

One of the consequences of the growth of interest in mountaineering has been that there are now enough climbers to support the steady production of books about our recreation, even – as this book demonstrates – biographical works about climbers of modest historical significance such as Robertson. When I heard that the Ernest Press were to publish an account of Robertson's climbing life, based on his personal diaries and collection of photographs, I hoped that those few of us who have tried to describe the early history of Scottish mountaineering would have several things to be pleased about: that Drummond and Mitchell would be two new recruits to the historical enterprise; that their book would provide a firm basis on the Salvationist side (in addition to Crocket's *Ben Nevis* and Humble's *Cuillin of Skye*) for future historical research, and that the publication of Robertson's diaries and photographs together with other contemporary material uncovered by research would provide us with fresh insights and new raw material. After all, the authors had been given every conceivable access by the Club to Robertson materials (see their Acknowledgements) as well as a gift of a set of Journals by J.D.B. Wilson's widow. These hopes have all been in vain.

In the first place, Drummond and Mitchell are worthless as historians. Errors of fact and opinion abound on every page and the sourcing of their 'facts' is capricious, unsystematic and neither collected as a bibliography, nor secured by adequate footnotes. It is, of course, particularly aggravating that neither Crocket, Humble nor I receive any acknowledgement for our painstaking efforts to get the historical record straight. It would be tedious to enumerate their errors. I will mention only a few of the grosser sort. Robertson did not 'take up rock-climbing after his Munro completion' (p.3) but was an enthusiastic climber from the moment that he joined the Club; the person charged with the murder of Edwin Rose in 1889 was called Laurie (not 'Lawrie', p.7); the alleged method of murder was bludgeoning to death with a boulder, not 'murder by pushing' and the place was Coire na Fhuaran in Glen Sannox, not 'Goatfell'; there was no 'summit cafe' on Ben Nevis in 1890 (p.7); 'Unna's... grants' did not 'enable the (National) Trust to buy Glencoe' (p.67) nor was 'Buachaille soon to be acquired by the National Trust – due mainly to the legacy of Percy Unna' (p.119); the first ascent of the Pinnacle Ridge of Sgurr nan Gilleann was not made by Robertson and the Clarks in 1898 (p.91, generous inference) nor was it (stricter inference) a 'plum of the ridge (which) had only recently been done' – it was climbed in the early 1880s; the Saddle (p.110) is not 'the only Munro with an English name' but one of many, such as Broad Cairn, Mount Keen, Cairnwell, etc.; Garbh Chioch Mhor did not 'only achieve Munro status in 1974', but in 1981 at the time of the infamous Donaldson-Brown revisions. These give a flavour only. Almost any fact which the reader takes the trouble to check will turn out to be false or misreported in some more subtle way. The errors regarding Unna are particularly reprehensible, since his 1937 letter is well-known and widely reproduced. This letter states clearly that Dalness Forest was acquired by subscriptions raised by the SMC from its own members and from the members of all other mountaineering clubs in Great Britain, and that the estate was handed

over to NTS together with a surplus to be used as an endowment fund. How anyone who had read this letter could have come up with the fantasies quoted above is beyond me.

So, Drummond and Mitchell do not provide any sort of basis for future historical research. On the contrary, their egregious and ubiquitous errors will work to contaminate most future accounts, particularly those which will be written by busy journalists. Perhaps worse even than the factual errors and absence of scholarly apparatus are the errors of opinion. Much of the book, particularly the second part (due to Mitchell) is little more than a parade of the authors' socialist prejudices regarding wealth, occupational categories, social position, etc. We learn little from this about Robertson or his times, but only about a particular, mostly false, late 20th century view of them.

I will give only two examples. On p.32 Drummond gives his prejudiced views of the early SMC and of Robertson full rein. The club, he says, 'spanned all social classes from landowners to lawyers, doctors to divines, merchants to ministers, and professors to publishers . . . but little else'. While there is grain of truth in this sarcastic description, the failure to observe that the early Club also included a modicum of solicitors' clerks, insurance clerks, representatives and students is plainly deliberate, as is the highlighting of landowners, when only a handful of these were members. On p.93 there is a fascinating photograph of Naismith and McKenzie (I think) in Fionn Coire of Bruach na Frithe, together with two ladies, having tea in front of a tent. This is taken as an opportunity for a racy caption including unsubstantiated remarks about camping, picnics, the need for ladies to wear breeches while climbing with prurient men and some chauvinist comment about women climbers. Instead, Drummond and Mitchell might have made an effort to understand the photograph, by identifying the personnel (the ladies were, I think, the Prothero sisters, nieces of Colin Phillip who had climbed several peaks that summer, some with Hugh Munro) and seeking a better explanation for the use of the tent (Phillip used tents when painting in Skye, for shelter and to store equipment and sketchbooks). The Sligachan Hotel Climbs Book (in the National Library) would perhaps have assisted identification, since Robertson was staying there.

My final disappointment concerns the reproduction of historical materials. Robertson's Log of his traverse of the Munros is not reproduced and it might well have been (perhaps with some abbreviation) since it would have taken up only 15 pages or so. Nor is his published Journal account of the traverse included. In fact, only his Journal article on 'Old tracks, cross-country routes and coffin-roads in the North West Highlands' is reproduced. Although we are told (p.83) about Robertson's 'collection of thousands of slides' held 'on behalf of the Club' by the late Graham Tiso, there is no catalogue, only 95 of them are reproduced, and there is little effort made to identify them (particularly the people in them) properly. Besides the example discussed above from p.93, I noted that Gibbs is misidentified in the 1906 Meet picture (p.12), that Glover is misidentified on p.47, and that no one is identified in the wonderful Affric Hotel picture (p.13) except Unna and Robertson (both look dubious).

If Robertson left a description of it, this last photograph could be a valuable key to interpreting others of the period, but the reader is left only to speculate. Given this catalogue of errors and disappointments, is there anything that might be salvaged from *The First Munroist*? I enjoyed Chapter 7 – 'Transports of Delight'

– in which Mitchell makes the point that access and accommodation in the Highlands were in some ways superior to the facilities we enjoy today. This is a valid opinion, I am sure, and Mitchell makes the case reasonably well. However, the case is largely made on the basis of Robertson's own Log (so why not publish it?) and it contains the usual burden of error and overstatement. For instance, the SMC Camp (p.47) at the head of Loch Coruisk was a one-off effort (which could be repeated today with less difficulty) which did not involve a 'village of timber huts' (only three) and was not an official meet of the Club but the personal effort of a few members. Mitchell's other chapters are of little interest or value.

Those dealing with Gaelic Society in the 19th century and Access to the Hills amount to a mere two and three pages respectively! His review of Robertson's mountaineering presents a false picture of Robertson as a climber of modest competence and enthusiasm and leaves out completely his most interesting climbs (those with Raeburn on Ben Nevis in 1903 – see SMCJ viii, 86 – including the 18-minute ascent of the 18 Minute Route, the left variation of the Staircase Climb and a four-hour first descent of the Observatory Ridge in a deluge; and those with Newbigging and others on Ben Nevis in 1904 – see SMCJ viii, 220-1 – Tower Ridge by the Douglas Boulder and Recess Route, Pinnacle Arete of the Trident, Staircase Climb by the original line, another descent of Observatory Ridge.) No one reading these Journal accounts could possibly doubt Robertson's competence. It would be a pleasure to present Mitchell and Drummond with a copy of this chapter to eat (apiece) following their descent of Observatory Ridge in a deluge! However, I doubt whether their jaws would be capable of independent movement, and if they were, then saliva would be in very short supply!

Robin N. Campbell.

**K2 – The 1939 Tragedy:**—A.J. Kaufman and W. Putman. (1993, Diadem Books, illus., £14.99, ISBN 0-906371-69-4).

This book is the most recent, and presumably, most accurate version of the ill-fated 1939 American K2 expedition.

The account of events leading to the tragic outcome of the expedition makes a fascinating read, whether or not the reader has any mountaineering knowledge. The combination of conflicting personalities and the unfortunate accidents which beset the party from the outset would seem to have made the outcome almost inevitable.

The reader is left with the task of deciding who, if anyone, was to blame for the disaster, while the book continues with an analysis of the unanswered questions surrounding the expedition, and the blame laid on various members of the party following their return.

I found this chapter rather repetitive, and would have preferred to have been allowed to decide for myself.

After this is a chapter on a lay person's description of medical problems encountered at high altitude. The climbers' ignorance of these seemed in my opinion to have been the prime reason for the failure of the expedition.

I felt that the official reports and analysis at the end of the book merely repeated information presented earlier. Overall, however, I found the book to be an extremely interesting read which sheds light on previously unanswered questions surrounding the tragedy.

Joan Clark.



**Northern Highlands – Rock & Ice Climbs – Vol. 2 Strathfarrar to Shetland:–**  
 Roger Everett (SMC, £14.95, ISBN 0-907521-40-1).

This guide, the second Northern Highlands volume, covers perhaps the wildest and most adventurous climbing in the British Isles. It is primarily a rock climber's guide, with sandstone predominating, whether it is the Torridonian series of Stac Pollaidh, Reiff and Ardmair, or the Old Red sediments which feature in the magnificent cover photo of climbing at Rora Head, Orkney.

No guide which includes the daunting cliffs of Clo Mor and St John's Head could fail to excite the imaginative climber. Since most of the big sea-cliff routes and stacks are unrepeatable, we can enjoy the unedited descriptions of the pioneers, including Mick Fowler's enigmatic gradings. In some places the vagueness of the available information itself adds to the aura of the routes. Just to know that Gog on Ben Loyal is one of Martin Boysen's 'desert island routes', is incentive enough to go and look at it, despite the absence of any concrete details on grade and line.

In contrast, the wealth of high-quality outcrop climbing in the region is documented in meticulous detail, with technical gradings and a star system to help those visitors who like to know all the numbers before launching out. The section on the outcrops of Easter Ross will be of particular service to climbers based in the Inverness district.

As series editor Roger Everett explains in his introduction, the guide does not seek to destroy the mystique of climbing in the North-west, but merely pulls together existing information which is already available in a diverse assortment of journals, magazines and other guides. There is no attempt to standardise or crudely advertise the area's climbs, and I am glad that the individuality of different cliffs and pioneers is respected.

However, the deft touch of expertise is evident in the way the guide is structured, in the detailed historical notes, and in the excellent diagrams. By assigning the writing of each section to an acknowledged 'local expert', Everett has achieved a production of remarkable quality, coupled with a distinctive personality.

The guide is a worthy tribute to the climbing in the Northern Highlands, and one of which the SMC may be proud.

Martin Moran.

**On the Edge of Europe, Mountaineering in the Caucasus:–** Audrey Salkeld and Jose Luis Bermudez (1993, Hodder & Stoughton, 260pp., illus., biblio., £18.99, ISBN 0-340-58547-1).

This anthology, as the authors admit, resulted from a symposium on the Caucasus organised by the Alpine Club in November 1991. It is a selection of reports from various mountaineering journals chosen to educate, inform and excite the reader, as the complimentary course selection of a gourmet meal delights the palate. This it does admirably, leaving one, as the meal should, wanting more, but with the realisation that only the mountains themselves can host the promised banquet.

Owing to 'transliterating' from the locally-used Cyrillic alphabet, basic early cartography, random name mutations and various non-English translations, the towering confusion over nomenclature of these early reports has been successfully scaled, while the addition of invaluable link passages between individual reports has allowed the authors some original input to the book, thus sidestepping claims of plagiarising the works of past generations of climbers. They accomplish their



modestly stated goal of 'not adding to the confusion that already exists over nomenclature'.

The chosen passages start in 1868 with an Ultramontane Alpine Club member, D. W. Freshfield of Eton and Oxford. Privileged and rich as were all climbers of his day, they acknowledge the able Chamonix Guides who assisted them in their first ascents. Freshfield's was a M'sieur Devouassoud, poetically labeled thus: 'Knight-errant of the glacier-cleaving blade.'

Names like Dent, Donkin, Cockin, Tucker, Mummery and Raeburn delight, almost as much as the reports of their exploits do. The early exploration of these fine mountains, often compared to the Alps, though on an acknowledged grander scale, was not without incident. The deaths of Donkin, Fox and their guides subdue the reader. No doubt the Victorian newspaper reports of the day did likewise. These pioneers were bold men who travelled and climbed in these remote mountains carrying side arms as accessories. One cannot but marvel at their self-assured posture in those wild lands.

In 1913, Raeburn and Ling successfully visited the area and an extract from Raeburn's diary, first published in the SMCJ in 1955, is reproduced. The other 1962 SMCJ reprint is G. J. Ritchie's account of an epic 12-day traverse of the main ridge of Schkelda, Alpine style, followed by a large contingent of the Red Army. The insight into the Communist system of the day speaks volumes and the final piece is of Mick Fowler's ascent of Ushba in 1986, which also sadly hints at the commercialisation of these majestic peaks.

Appendix Two documents the controversy over the first ascent of Elbrus – Europe's highest mountain. The dismissive editorial comment from the Alpine Club Journal, and associated correspondence, reeks of class snobbery of the worst kind, which coincidentally established a club member as the first ascensionist.

This publication is, without doubt, essential reading for aspirants wishing to ascend the highest peaks in Europe. It is also an inspiring collection and after reading them, no mountaineer, with pulse quickening, could deny the desire to visit the Caucasus Mountains.

Colwyn M. Jones.

**Mountaineering:— Catalogue of the Graham Brown and Lloyd Collections in the National Library of Scotland.** (National Library of Scotland, 1994, 453pp., £15.00, Microfiche Supplement, ISBN 0-902220-98-5.)

I still quake slightly when I remember one of the guardians in the NLS; grey, cropped hair, gold-rimmed glasses, *ÖberGruppenführer* of the Books as he ensured I did have a pencil, my hands were clean, and that I was not hell-bent on literary pyromania or defacement. I presume they eventually bought the book I was writing at the time so perhaps all is forgiven. (In fact, they would have had no choice, as due to legal deposit, the NLS receives copies of all current British publications). This worthy bibliography, of the collections of T. Graham Brown and Robert Wylie Lloyd – 20,000 items, and 1659 volumes respectively – will certainly make it easier to browse. The NLS prides itself in its collection of materials relating to Alpinism and mountaineering, which of course includes a few SMC-derived materials.

While the Brown name and collection is fairly well known, that of Lloyd may not be. This book, which of necessity has kept the introductory text to a minimum, does have a short note on both. We read with amusement that Lloyd, who seems to have been an obsessive collector rather than an enthusiastic reader, was energetic in

raising money for the 1953 Everest Expedition (he was treasurer of the Mount Everest Committee), but that it was said that 'his assiduity in raising funds for Everest was only matched by his extreme reluctance to part with them'. Many of his books were never opened, and indeed he often collected multiple copies of the same book.

The Lloyd collection is particularly rich in Swiss material, while Brown's material is often field-worn, as he actually used the guidebooks etc. There is a microfiche copy in the end case, which can be supplemented as more cataloguing is published. The books are listed alphabetically, and the two collections are intermingled.

T. Graham Brown was astute enough, and well-heeled enough, not only to donate his collection to the NLS, but also to provide a trust fund which allows the collection to grow. This book was published using that fund, and is a publication of which the NLS and its staff should be rightly pleased.

Ken Crocket.

**The High Mountains of the Alps:**— Helmut Dumler and Willi P. Burkhardt (1993, Diadem Books, 223pp., £30, ISBN 0-89886-378-3)

This large format, profusely illustrated in colour, coffee-table book is a translation from the German language edition which was published about five years ago. That book was in turn descended from the classic *Die Viertausender der Alpen* by Karl Blodig, who claimed to be the first person to climb all the Alpine 4000ers when he completed the list of qualifying peaks that existed in 1911. The German language edition has been substantially re-designed by Ken Wilson, who has added a lot of new historical material, and a large number of new illustrations have been included, the major contributor being John Allen, so these two can be considered to have made almost as great a contribution to the English language edition as have Dumler and Burkhardt.

The result is a superbly illustrated celebration of the highest mountains of the Alps, for which much credit must go to Ken Wilson for his meticulous attention to quality.

Each of the mountains (or mountain groups) is described with details of the principal routes and the history of the early ascents of these routes. Ken Wilson's main contribution to the text has been to amplify the German original by adding information from English language sources about British ascents that were overlooked by the German author. The text does suffer from being a mixture of translation and original English, with some of the translated passages being rather quaint and uneven. The route descriptions add little to those already available in guidebooks such as Goedeke's recent publication, but the historical sections will be of interest to those not familiar with Alpine history.

It is the illustrations, however, that are the principal feature of this book. Many of them are reproduced in large format, and very impressive they are. The majority are the work of Willi Burkhardt using a large format camera (and often an aeroplane or helicopter). The only criticism that one can make of his illustrations concerns the tones and colour balance of some of them. The combination of chocolate-brown mountains and slate-blue skies produces some unnatural results, possibly the result of using early film stock or filters. However, where the colour balance is right, the results are superb and this must be the finest selection of Alpine photographs

assembled in one book. The contributions of John Allen, Bill O'Connor and other British alpine photographers add greatly to the overall photographic coverage and quality.

There is not, as far as this reviewer knows, a generally accepted list of Alpine 4000m mountains. Many would say that this is a good thing. However, the inclusion of the Balmenhorn and Punta Giordani (two minor bumps on the southern flank of Monte Rosa) in a book entitled *The High Mountains of the Alps* seems hard to justify. Sir Hugh T. Munro would not have rated them, and the only justification for their inclusion may be the ease with which they can be ticked off. The Aiguilles du Diable and the subsidiary tops of the Grandes Jorasses and Grand Combin have more right to be included.

Please do not, on the strength of this review, rush out to buy this book within a week or two of receiving your copy of the Journal. It is out of print already. Ken Wilson's publisher, unimpressed by his optimism and enthusiasm for this book, printed only 4000 copies which sold out within a few weeks of publication last November. However, it is their intention to publish another few thousand for Christmas, so keep your eyes open for it. It is worth waiting for.

D. Bennet.

**Sea, Ice and Rock – Sailing and Climbing above the Arctic Circle.:-** Chris Bonington and Robin Knox-Johnston. (1993, Coronet Books, 192 pp., many illustrations in black and white and colour. £9.99, ISBN 0-340-58877-2).

This is the paperback version of the book reviewed in last year's SMCIJ by our inestimable Iain Smart. The price, for a paperback, is a bit cheeky, and no doubt the reservations expressed last year remain.

Ken Crocket.

**Beyond Risk – Conversations with climbers.:-** Nicholas O'Connell. (Diadem Books, £15.99, ISBN 0-906371-99-6).

This book is readable, possibly more to dip into rather than to read from cover to cover. The author has interviewed 17 of the world's top climbers; a group who, he suggests, have significantly shaped the history of climbing. He explores their motivation, and inspiration; why do they do it? He regards climbing as a metaphor for life and sets out with the lofty aim of exploring this larger dimension. Despite this, I was left with another impression – the personal stories of the climbers themselves.

Interviews with Reinhold Messner, Riccardo Cassin, Sir Edmund Hillary, Kurt Diemberger, Walter Bonatti, Royal Robbins, Warren Harding, Chris Bonington, Doug Scott, Voytek Kurtyka, Jean-Claude Droyer, Jeff Lowe, Wolfgang Gullich, Catherine Destivelle, Lynn Hill, Peter Croft and Tomo Cesen are reported. They were chosen as representatives of a particular style or period of climbing – Himalayan mountaineers to sport climbers, pioneering alpinists to big wall climbers. Each chapter gives a short biography and then an account of the interview. This genre can be deadly boring but I did not find it so here as it is well written. The personality of the climber came across more strongly in some interviews than in others where the questioning seemed to focus on more technical aspects.

Questions followed broadly the same themes throughout: How did you start climbing? Why? How did you survive? Relationships with climbing partners and

family, ethics, risks, dangers and personal philosophy. One notable similarity between all those interviewed was that they are all still alive (with the exception of Wolfgang Gullich who died in a car accident) and I found their clear-thinking views about their capacities and reasons for survival of interest. I also enjoyed the impression of personal interactions, for example, the different viewpoints on the ethics of big wall climbing of Royal Robbins and Warren Harding.

Reasons to climb varied but tended to be nebulous: "There is no reason, If I asked you 'Why are you living?' what would you say? For me there is no difference." – Reinhold Messner.

"I just like to be in the mountains, the scenery is very impressive, it's like being in a movie, and I like the adventure; it's a very emotional game." – Catherine Destivelle.

More satisfying than these vague notions are the stories, the insights into personal emotions at the limits of human endurance and the relationships between climbing partners. The photographs are in black and white and disappointing because there are too few and of variable quality.

This is a book about people and their passion. It is a good idea well presented and would be worth adding to your collection if you like this sort of thing.

Jane Naismith.

**My Vertical World:**– Jerzy Kukuczka – translated by Andrew Wielochowski. (Hodder & Stoughton; 189pp., £16.99, ISBN 0-340-53485-0).

If the Himalayan climbing scene can be said to go through 10-year cycles when one nationality appears to dominate, then the 1980s was the decade of the Poles. Of these, Jerzy Kukuczka, was in many ways, the greatest. The second man to climb the 8000m peaks, he climbed all 14 but Lhotse, either by new routes, or by first winter ascents. This book is the story of the eight breathtaking years he spent realising his ambition.

The characteristics which enabled Kukuczka to achieve his record performance come across early in the book and thereafter frequently. His single-minded determination and obstinacy made him the one always arguing for carrying on upwards when others were having second thoughts. Not until the 1985 attempt on Lhotse South Face does Kukuczka finally not only willingly agree to retreat, but actually propose it. However, this was while attempting his fourth 8000m peak of the year, just after his companion has been killed and with winter rapidly approaching, so this uncharacteristic behaviour may be seen in context. (Interestingly, it was this very face from which Kukuczka was to fall to his death in 1989, from a point only a few hundred metres from the top).

This psychological toughness was particularly strong in Kukuczka, but it was complemented by tremendous physical stamina, a staggering appetite for sheer hard work and, it must be said, a fair share of luck. However, it is his drive which dominates everything, including this book. While the Polish bureaucracy managed to frustrate his plans for a while (after an illegal ascent of Broad Peak, clyped on by Messner), it really was only a matter of time before it crumpled in the face of such tremendous determination.

The details of the climbing get relatively little attention, but the enormous effort involved in Himalayan climbing is made painfully clear. Additionally Kukuczka, uninterested in creating an 'image', does not flinch from exposing his less attractive

character traits, such as more than a hint of ruthlessness (but not callousness), although there is little evidence of introspection of any sort. All the while the pace never relents as ascent follows ascent until, reeling, the reader is compelled to put the book down while the pulse returns to normal and the eyes cease to bulge.

Of necessity, given the scale of the enterprise chronicled in this book, much is left out. What remains may not be the greatest mountain literature, but in its own way it creates a compelling and convincing picture of a mountaineer obsessed with climbing on the world's highest mountains. No explanation for this obsession is attempted because none was required – it simply was, contradictions and all. Where it was leading does not appear to be a question Kukuczka bothered himself with, but, while it is easy to be clever with hindsight, to the reader it seems only too obvious.

Bob Duncan.

**The Undiscovered Country:**—Phil Bartlett (The Ernest Press, 1993, 183pp., illus., £15.95, ISBN 0-948153-24-5).

It may be either a brave man, or a fool, who attempts to answer the old question of why we climb. I feel that Mr Bartlett is not the latter, which points to the former. Information on the dust cover telling us that he teaches confirms this suspicion. The author enjoys philosophical argument, and this shows in his writing, when he sometimes chases his own tail making a point. But this is a sneaky sideswipe at what is an interesting book on the mental processes pushing, pulling and impinging on our otherwise blithely conscious climbing days.

An immense amount of reading has gone into the genesis of the book. There is (of necessity the author claims), a curtailed bibliography, and a section of notes at the end of the book, which in itself often answers in various ways, the posed question. Some good quotes may be found here by the great names in mountaineering.

The book is multipart. The broad aim is the philosophy of – why? Interspersed are brief biographies of who. It finishes with an intelligent summary. Mountains and mountaineering may be on a doomed course, destined to be overwhelmed with more and more people enjoying the increasingly rare blessing that is the quiet day in the hills. This is a depressing conclusion so easy to fall into with. Sellers of attractive photographs and alluring guidebooks are some of the guilty, organisers of tours and treks are others. We are cursed with holding the beautiful jewel we wish to share. Should we be more selfish and less greedy? Technology has pushed its glittering snout into the game. Witness, or remember, young climbers and their fascination with new gear, with shiny, expensive protection. Spot an older climber with a carefully built-up collection of crummy tat, disdainfully avoiding buying gear until well past sell dates. This may be an unspoken awareness that things should be kept simple. We climb because we are, or should be, naked against the mountain. When we have reduced a climb to a mute submission against overwhelming technology then its has been bastardised. It is this facet that makes some of us wary of sport climbing surely.

The Scottish Highlands we like because of their undeveloped state. When the likes of the Rannoch Moor is networked with Astroturf paths then we can all stay at home. When we can read in a guidebook the precise details enabling us to climb a route with nothing but the glycogen levels in our muscle tissue left to chance, why bother? We are rightly suspicious of overdetailed guidebooks, bureaucratic organi-



sations, Olympic wall scratchings, outdoor schools, the whole shebang. 'What we have to fear,' concludes Bartlett, 'is that our passion will be . . . reduced to its lowest common denominator, that mountaineering will be turned into an Olympic sport, competition, glory, money.'

Bartlett quotes the astronomer Fred Hoyle to good effect: 'The danger of technology lies not so much in the production of devices and gadgets as in trapping us into offering aims, purposes and reasons for everything we do. And so technology traps us into things that are evanescent and of no lasting satisfaction.'

A thoughtful book that will start you thinking, and one can ask for little more from any book. No solution to the problems raised, so I can only suggest step one – add this book to your library.

Ken Crocket.

**Hands of a Climber – A Life of Colin Kirkus:**– Steve Dean. (1993, The Ernest Press, 278pp., £15.95. ISBN 0-948153-21-0).

As an intrepid armchair climber – who has spent more than half a lifetime on first ascents in the Himalayas, in the Alps, the Andes and all over Britain – I thought I was familiar with the names of all the 'greats' in the history of mountaineering and rock climbing.

How was it then, that on being given this biography of Colin Kirkus, I had to say: 'Who?' – and I mean it? Despite being familiar with some of the names of his illustrious companions, such as Wilfred Noyce (introduced to climbing as a raw 16-year-old by his cousin, Kirkus), Frank Smythe, Jack Longland and so on, the name of this undoubtedly great pioneering rock climber of the late 1920s and 1930s had somehow escaped me.

The matter has now been completely righted as a result of reading Steve Dean's detailed and carefully-researched biography. It is a work of love and tremendous effort, having involved the author in interviews with a wide circle of Colin Kirkus's remaining climbing companions, many of them not too active after the passage of nearly 60 years. Even more time-consuming and trying must have been the task of consulting hundreds of past records from climbing club notes, journals and diaries. Collating these into a coherent and sequential whole, while constructing a believable and lifelike character from this information, has been achieved to a very high standard by the author. He must have come to feel that he knows Colin Kirkus as well, if not better, than the latter's surviving brother, despite not having been born until Kirkus's life had come to its untimely end.

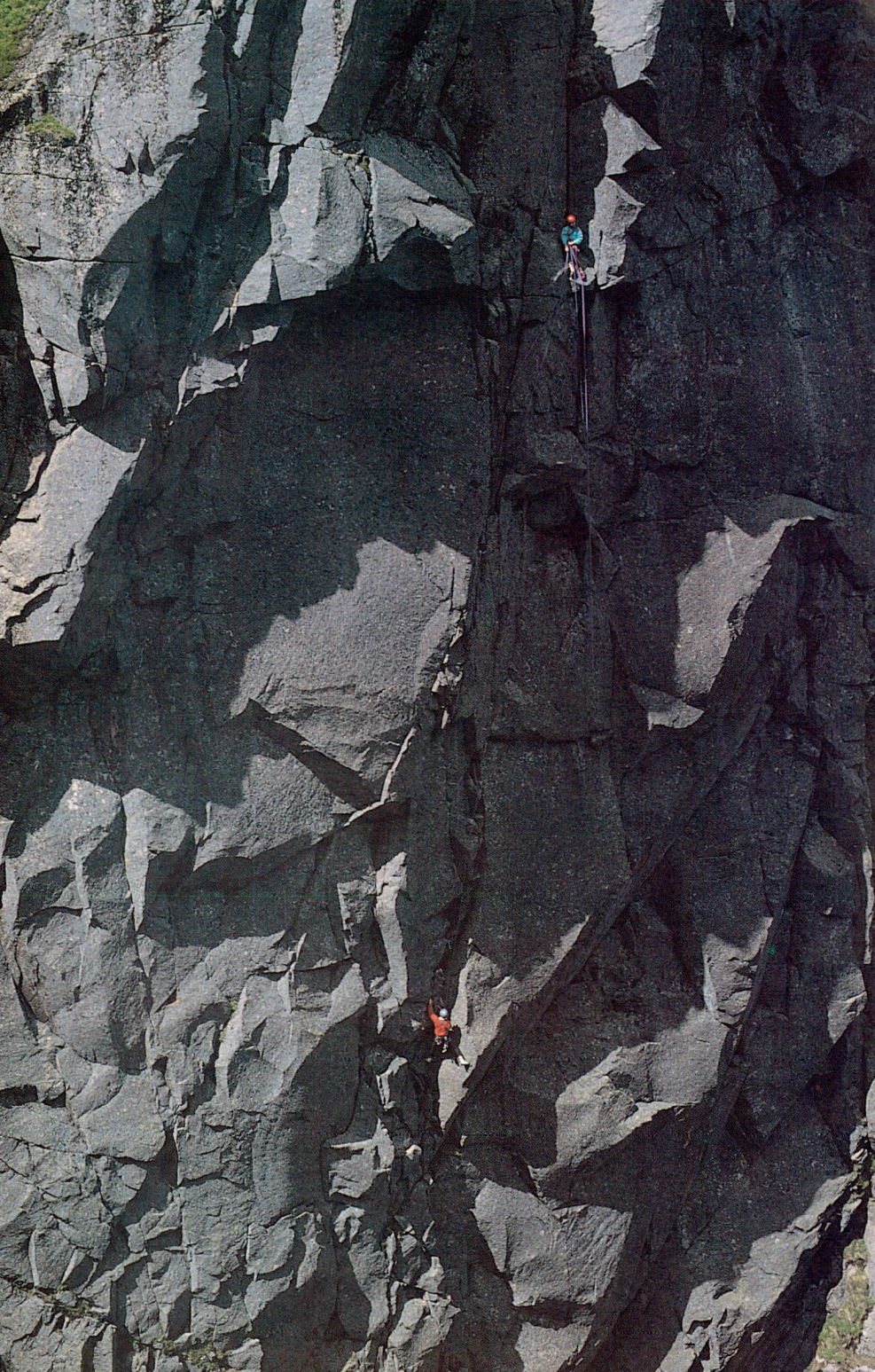
Britain's plunge into the 1939-45 war and Kirkus's death in the RAF in 1942 obviously robbed the climbing fraternity of an acknowledged pioneer and leader. It also seems highly probable that, based on his one published book, we were robbed of many enjoyable and well-written books too, which would have described with considerable modesty and humour, the shared delights of this man's many climbing adventures in Britain and overseas.

Perhaps because of expertise on rock and his limited experience on snow and ice – considered a necessity in the 1930s for big expeditions such as Everest – Colin Kirkus's abilities were passed over and he failed to achieve the niche in the halls of fame achieved by some of his contemporaries. However, the analysis offered in this book of his performance on the 1933 expedition to Gangotri suggests that he would have climbed at altitude, equally as successfully as many of the top climbers who did achieve selection for these expeditions.



EILEAN NA HERRADH  
*Isle of Harris*





Kirkus left a tremendous legacy of inaugural routes of a high standard, of striking solo routes and was instrumental in laying the pre-war foundations for the rapid development of techniques that characterised the post-war period.

Personally, I am very grateful for the extension of my knowledge of the British climbing scene in this period, gained from Steve Dean's book, and I am sure that many others, more closely involved with climbing, will find themselves echoing these sentiments.

David H. Jones.

**Northeast Outcrops:**— Edited by Neil Morrison. (SMC, 342pp., illus., £13.95, ISBN 0-907521-41-X).

In an area of Scotland where the climate has recently been described as 'nine months winter and three months *coarse* weather' you might be excused for thinking you had picked up a guide to Bosigran or even Les Calanques. But no; that superb cover photograph of Neil Morrison on the immaculate granite of Hole in the Wall was definitely taken on the Buchan sea cliffs. And believe it or not, good rock climbing conditions like that are not uncommon throughout the year as the coastal fringe is largely within a rain-shadow area, protected from prevailing winds by high ground to the west and south.

Since the publication of Dougie Dinwoodie's long-out-of-print 1984 edition the guide has lost the semi-subterranean, but natural, Huntly's Cave near Grantown and gained the man-made Angus quarries of Legaston, Balmashanner and Ley, plus a few crags and quarries on Upper Deeside.

The inclusion of the Angus quarries sets a precedent for SMC guides in that it is the first time that French grades have been used for wholly bolt-protected sport climbs. The reasons for, and the ethics behind treating sport and traditional climbs differently, is explained in the notes section and follows Mountaineering Council of Scotland guidelines.

Other additions to this guide include an important well-researched historical section documenting for the first time the development of climbing over the whole area, some of which dates back to the turn of the century. Also the introduction gives good hints and advice to visitors unfamiliar with the vagaries of the sea cliffs.

With more than 300 pages packed with climbs ranging in difficulty from easy to E7 6c and F8b+ this new edition has something to offer even the most jaded crag rat. A highly-commendable guide by Morrison and his band of authors and photographers.

Greg Strange.

**Nothing so Simple as Climbing:**— G.J.F. Dutton. (Diadem, 160pp., £12.99 hardback — also available in paperback, ISBN 0-906371-12-0).

The Doctor and his unfortunate companions, the Apprentice and the anonymous Narrator, will need no introduction to readers of the Journal, as their exploits have periodically graced these pages for many more years than I for one have been a member. This is the second collection of their stories, the first, *The Ridiculous Mountains*, having been published by Diadem in 1984 to some critical acclaim — if the review extracts on the rear of the dust-jacket are anything to go by. This collection comprises 21 stories, of which seven have appeared elsewhere, including five from the SMCJ.



One does not readily criticise work which has obviously brought great pleasure to many, especially that produced by a distinguished ex-editor of the Journal, yet I confess that there is something about these stories which irritates me. Perhaps it is the Doctor's pomposity, although that exists only to be made fun of; maybe it is his companions' continued, almost insufferable restraint in the face of severe provocation; more likely, though, it is the strained extremes reached in almost every situation in which the trio find themselves. After a few stories I began to find this more than a little tedious. While faintly mocking asides or some other well-pointed barbs brought regular smiles, as the situations themselves, the centrepieces of the stories, became increasingly unlikely, so did I find them less and less funny.

Dutton's style is a slightly idiosyncratic mix of short, staccato, often single-word sentences and more complex constructions featuring an extensive, occasionally obscure vocabulary. In small quantities it reads easily and generates the intended immediacy, but in larger doses it has a contrived and slightly laboured feel, as if the author tried just a little too hard.

However, I am on dangerous ground and indeed may have already over-extended my, at most, merely modest abilities in literary criticism. Maybe, in truth, I am just not overfond of climbing fiction, especially of the humorous variety, or perhaps I have a slightly less sophisticated palate than Dutton's fare is intended for. No sexual allusions, no thinly disguised victim mercilessly lampooned? But so what if it was not completely to this reader's taste. If you are in any doubt yourself you need only look at a few back numbers of the SMCJ. Should you find that you disagree with me you will be in good and plentiful company.

Bob Duncan.

**Ben Nevis – Rock and Ice Climbs:**— Simon Richardson, Alastair Walker, Robin Clothier (SMC, 1994, 339pp., Illus., £13.95, ISBN 0-907521-42-8).

Well, it seems there are some advantages of NOT being in the SMC, one of them being that Donald Bennet sends you an SMC book from time to time for an impartial review!

So what's the new Ben Nevis area Rock and Ice guidebook really like? First thing to note is that it covers much more than Ben Nevis. The new winter playgrounds of Aonach Mor and Aonach Beag are right up to date, and at last, Creag Meaghaidh, so long in the wilderness, has found a home in a guidebook, though surprisingly for such a major area, there's no mention of it on the front cover.

Other areas have come of guidebook age, the wonderfully-remote routes on Meall Garbh, at Loch Treig and the rarely-visited Wee Team Gully in the Monadh Liath for instance. It seems traditional when reviewing a guidebook to try and render it out of date as soon as possible – so let's do it, and while it may be a bit unfair, an otherwise well-researched book may have been more complete had the authors taken a wee look at the most accessible gullies in the whole area – those in Glen Nevis.

Despite the spinal shiver it induces, Five Finger Gully provides wonderful sport in winter up its various digits, likewise its near neighbour, Antler Gully.

Christmas Gully continues at a steady Grade II almost to the summit of Carn Dearg SW: Surgeon's Gully is probably one of the best two-day winter routes in Scotland! All of these less than an hour from the road.



What's in the book is good though. Andrew Clarke's fine picture (p.212) of John Main on Gemini is perhaps the best of several colour pictures. The blodge of the Great Tower (facing p.116) is, if not, the worst picture, probably the least useful.

Given the time scale Donald gave me for the review, I have not had time for a word-by-word read, but what I have seen looks good and exciting. Comments I have heard, from the few others who have seen the book, vary from the sublime to the ridiculous as usual. Is Comb Gully really a IV? Did your granny actually ski the Curtain? Are the Post routes on Meaghaidh really that good? And, is Minus One Direct in summer really so brilliant, or perhaps like the Long Climb – dark, dreepy and bloody frightening? And the main question of them all – will the new winter grading system really catch on? 'Daft idea,' or 'Essential for the modern punter.' Only time will tell.

I like the book, though to be honest I have not had time to give it a thorough going over. I am worried that it will fall to pieces pretty soon, but I do love the wonderful wee quotes that are dotted about the list of first ascents. I'll leave you with these:–

MacPhee, Williams and Henderson on Glover's Chimney – 'The entire Chimney was sheeted with ice and there was no place where the leader could take a proper rest, much less to which he could bring me up. It was a thrilling experience for the second and third, straining their eyes in the darkness watching their leader's figure dimly silhouetted against the sky as he got nearer to the Tower Gap.'

Bell on Hesperides Ledge – 'It is a steeply inclined, curving shelf and is a perfect garden of mossy and lush vegetation . . . there are several exceedingly delicate corners to negotiate with a most precipitous drop on the right. The vegetation is loosely anchored, the rocks are rather loose, and there are practically no positive holds . . .'

Whillans on Patey on Crab Crawl – "A bold solo of a new route. Two weeks' earlier Patey had failed to interest Whillans in an attempt. 'Look mate,' he interrupted, 'do you know what you want to do? You want to team up with a crab. It's got claws, walks sideways and it's got a thick 'ead. This isn't a climb, it's a bloody crab-crawl!'"

Mick Tighe.

**The Fife Coast:–** Hamish Brown. (Mainstream Publishing, 1994, 226pp., illus., £12.99, ISBN 1-85158-608-3.)

This is a pleasant walking guide to the Fife coastline, from the Forth Bridges to Leuchars via the Castles Coast and the East Neuk. Brown divides the walk into 11 days, totalling some 131km. Amusingly enough, and we know only because Brown is honest enough to tell us, this book was accidental. On being asked for some photographs of local scenes, and despite living in Fife, the author discovered he was lacking in knowledge of his own backyard (a common enough phenomenon, I daresay). Collecting photographs, he further discovered just how interesting the ancient kingdom was, and away he went, slowly, on a voyage culminating in this book.

'It taks a lang spoon tae sup wi a Fifer,' runs a traditional saying, and true to form Brown collected firewood as he explored the coast, finding enough to heat his house over two winters. I admit to finding Fife a cold place, but then I have very little insulation.

Each suggested day is packed with descriptions of what you can see, there is a hand-drawn map, lists of where to stay including telephone numbers, and of course,

photographs of what you might see en route. Brown gets in lots of bashes against the Huns and Vandals as usual, both private and Organisational, so that local councils etc. might well read the book with an eye to improving their local environment. It is interesting to see a guide to a lowland area, one steeped in history. Doocot fanciers would do well here for example. The author, in his chatty style, has avoided a dull guide. He also gives good advice as how to use it, carefully going over the relevant map the night before. The good landladies of the Fife Coast had better freshen up their paintwork; Brown's guide in hand, there should be more visitors this summer!

Ken Crocket.

**Whensoever – 50 years of the RAF Mountain Rescue Service 1943-1993:** – Frank Card. (The Ernest Press, 1993, 342pp, illus., £17.95, ISBN 0-948153-23-7).

With a good sense of timing, given the politics of the moment, this readable book tells the history of the mountain rescue service of the Royal Air Force – manned by volunteers, men and women, of all ranks, who very often risked their lives in appalling conditions in the mountains.

Going through the index I was struck by the number of climbers' names that I knew. The RAF Mountain Rescue has obviously been a haven for a large number of climbing layabouts! One of the names cropping up in the book is that of Jack Baines – who is one half of the Ernest Press. This may in part account for the obvious affection and care with which the book has been treated. There are fine drawings – paintings and cartoons rather – by Pat Donovan, along with maps drawn by Tony Jones.

It is a book to be savoured, with many human stories. A sense of humour abounds, as might be expected in an activity as potentially gruelling as mountain rescue. Reading the book, I was struck again and again by the difference in approach from Unsworth's book (see above). If only . . .

This book is dedicated to the memory of the late George Graham, a climbing medical doctor who was responsible for the setting up of the first team. To give you a picture of just how much this was needed during the war, military crashes had accounted for 571 aircrew deaths on the mountains of Britain in 1943 alone. As mentioned above, a sense of humour is evident, just as well in a book which could have been merely a catalogue of grisly accident reports. The cartoons help too.

Next time you see a big yellow bird flying over Glen Coe, remember that it is only part of the organisation which has evolved a long way from its origins. That all-important human touch has always been present as well, as highlighted by an American veteran who remembered his own bitter experiences of returning from the Vietnam war. He was met by photographers, banged on a flight home, then left to hike on the freeways. No wonder so many minds were damaged. By contrast, during and after something as horrific as the Lockerbie Jumbo crash, counselling was quickly made available to the teams who had to go out into the fields and find the sad human remains, often collected up against a fence as though caught in a net, sometimes still strapped into a seat. The care shown by the RAF teams has often extended into local communities beyond direct involvement in rescue work. To the visiting climber the only sign of this might be a few squadron plaques on the bar wall, but it often goes deeper.

A lovingly-researched book.

Ken Crocket.

**Menlove:—** Jim Perrin (The Ernest Press, 1993, 290pp., illus., £9.95. ISBN 0-948153-28-8).

This is a very sympathetic view of the life of an amazing, intelligent, and fit man, John Menlove Edwards, pieced together excellently by Jim Perrin.

As a non-participant in the sport, I was surprised by my interest in this pre-war pioneer of rock climbing (not mountaineering, as Menlove stresses, this is too loose a word). His antics, mostly in Wales and Skye, along with those of his partners are quite amazing, to say the least.

Coming from a strict, church following family, and being sent to board at Fettes in Edinburgh, contributed to Menlove's strong views and loneliness, visible in countless poems featured throughout the book.

Menlove achieved some impressive feats in his short life, a prime example of which was his canoe journey to the Isle of Man in a very basic craft, in addition to his many dangerous solo ascents.

The final sadness of his repression by society over his immoral behaviour (homosexuality), is captured perfectly in the final chapter. John Menlove Edwards certainly was a man trapped in the wrong decade, and was tortured by this thought until his predictable suicide. He should be admired and remembered for his achievements in so many different aspects of life, nonetheless.

Jennifer A. Jones.

**Hold The Heights:—** Walt Unsworth. (Hodder & Stoughton, 1993, 432pp., illus., £19.99, ISBN 0-340-33913-6).

This book is subtitled *The Foundations of Mountaineering*, but it is really about Unsworth's speciality, the early Alpine guides and their clients. There is the usual token mention of Collie and Tower Ridge, which is about all that Scottish mountaineering gets in this book (he said wearily, not with a chip or a grudge, but strong in the knowledge of our contributions to mountaineering.) Smith, Marshall, Patey, Lovat – none of them here. Raeburn receives a couple of lines for his Caucasus expedition, but otherwise we are on the old sepia trail again. Once more, we are presented with the *Walt Disney History of Mountaineering*.

The last two pages, summing up mountaineering since the ascent of Everest, are embarrassing. Better not to try at all, than scrape over the cracks with watered-down emulsion. The last paragraph in the book provides a handle on the style. 'Mountaineering in all its forms is more popular today than it has ever been. The challenge remains the same, of man versus mountain. It is a battle that man can never win. The best he can ever hope for is an honourable draw.' Give us a break, Walt. I could be really cruel and quote Unsworth's comment on Collie's obituary of Kellas, which is likened to building bricks without straw.

Most of the book is like the old Alpine Journal (among many other sources), dull, safe, brave batsman on a firm wicket with warm, flat beer in the club hut stuff. Like his Encyclopaedia, it must have been a long, grinding glacier plod. At least glaciers occasionally throw up something interesting in the dead guide line. Perhaps the answer might be for Unsworth to write in association with a fellow author up to speed with personalities and modern doings. Unless that happens, however, I fear we may be in for more of the same.

Ken Crocket.

### Journals of Kindred Clubs

*The Alpine Journal* 1993 Vol. 98 No. 342:— (The Ernest Press, 363pp., £18.50).

As might be expected this edition devotes much of its space to the 40th anniversary of the first ascent of Everest. A series of reminiscences and diaries offer fresh insights into the personalities of the 1953 team, and the effect of its success on their subsequent lives. However, there is a feast of reading besides, with articles attractively batched under section titles such as New Directions and Looking Back. It is indicative of the scope of the Journal that within the same volume one can learn of the history of the Alps in Roman times and find out why committed parapenters can suddenly decide to quit the sport.

The editor, Johanna Merz, is clearly trying to break out of the reporting format that makes many journals hard to digest, and in part succeeds. However, the format of many of the expedition articles still tends towards that of the factual account rather than the gripping narrative. One might guess that some authors have already published their accounts with greater length, drama and remuneration elsewhere. Personal and lively styles of writing are needed for a journal to entertain as well as inform. In this respect, contributors to the Alpine Journal have something to learn from the SMCI.

Martin Moran.

*The Himalayan Journal*, Vol. 49, 1991-92.

As ever, the Himalayan Journal is full of variety and information. This volume has also some very good writing. For historians there is an excellent article on the Americans, Hunter and Fanny Bullock Workman (who explored the Karakoram in the early years of this century), and a lengthy resume of the fascinating contents of HJ Vol. II (1930), reminding us of the atmosphere of the British Empire still in its heyday, and the formidable achievements of scholarship and exploration that it produced. For explorers of the mind there are essays on the psychological utility of mountaineering (proposing over compensation against fear as the driving force) and on the 'paranormal' experience of imaginary companions, as so often reported by solo climbers at high altitudes.

Inevitably, Everest makes its appearance several times, including an account of a solo attempt by Johnathon Pratt in 1991 (he succeeded the following year). Well known British climbers feature prominently, both in climbing and in accidents, with the touch-and-go escapes of Stephen Venables from Panch Chuli and Lindsay Griffin from Huiten in Mongolia being gripping stories well told.

The Panch Chuli expedition, which has a special resonance for the SMC since the 1950 attempt by Bill Murray and his companions, was a highly successful achievement in which our own member, Graham Little, put up a fine route on the highest peak of the group (see SMCI 1993). The Panch Chuli also features in an attractive watercolour reproduced on the Journal cover, a nice change from more conventional photographic covers.

Two articles had a special personal interest for me: the tense story of a solo ascent of Dorje Lalpa by American, Carlos Buhler, which brought back memories of my ascent of this peak with Dave Broadhead and Dick Isherwood; and a note of a happy Indian girls' training trek to Sahastra Tal, near Uttarkashi, where 14 years ago Dave and I had an epic struggle through thick jungle in the Pilgun Gad. What was



refreshing was the sense that these places remained little visited and 'unspoilt', although the article darkly mentions plans for a ski resort.

Harish Kapadia, the immensely well-travelled and scholarly editor of the HJ makes, as usual, notable contributions of photographs and articles, including a nice note on treks in the Kedarnath region of Garhwal. We must thank him yet again for producing an excellent journal which is a pleasure to read.

Geoff Cohen.

### BERG '94.

The Alpenverein's year book, is a remarkable achievement, especially when considered as part of an annual series. It is published by the German and Austrian clubs, along with those of South Tyrol, Munich, Innsbruck and Bolzano, and many hands have contributed to a wide-ranging and beautifully-illustrated production. Accounts of expeditions and climbs, far and near, are expanded and illuminated by social comment and description of local customs and ways of life. Several articles touch on the history of mountaineering, attitudes to climbing, and there are interesting sidelights on, for instance, the mountaineering activities of the English occult writer, Aleister Crowley.

It begins close to home with three articles on the Lechtal which, appropriately for this book, runs through the Tyrol close to the German Border. The joys of climbing and walking in the area are well described and illustrated, with warning of the difficulty of some of the terrain. Environmental problems are brought to crisis point in the area, both by industry and by the pressures of modern tourism. And not only the landscape and its flora and fauna are at risk: tourism also threatens local customs and dialects. Ancestors of the modern 'Walser' made intrepid journeys in the Middle Ages over high passes from the Wallis in southern Switzerland (without the help of modern climbing aids) and efforts are now being made to preserve their traditions in the face of the creeping global village.

The greatest leap, geographically, is to Alaska, with a description of an expedition to Mt. McKinley – and how to survive it. Climbing world-wide stretches from Jamaica, with an amusing account of a day on Blue Mountain Peak, to a transasia expedition in 1992. Long straight roads there – measured 'not in kilometres, but in days') are contrasted, photographically, with the snow chaos nearer home of a lorry cavalcade on the Brenner Pass. There are further contrasts in skiing in the midnight sun in Spitzbergen, as against walking through the rain forest and other rich vegetation on the way to the heights of the Ruwenzori.

Women play a considerable role in this book: they describe climbing far and wide, in Jamaica and the Ruwenzori, as noted above, arranging expeditions in the Himalayas, or mountain biking in Corsica. Notes from the diary of a 'Bergführerin' range equally widely, remarking *en passant* on the necessity for the guide on long trips to be doctor, nurse, psychologist, tour guide, and so on. Two articles take a close look at women in climbing. One outlines in some detail the strengths and weakness of women and men in the mountains, and also gives a brief history of climbing from a female angle. The conclusion is that women's lesser participation in climbing is due less to physical factors than to psychological ones, themselves most probably springing from society's attitudes. This is just a taste of the 288 pages of this impressive book. Is it too much to hope that there might one day be an English translation, for sale world-wide? Or why not learn German? Useful for next Alpine tour.

Iseabail Macleod.



*American Alpine Journal 1993.*

The AAJ is regarded by many as the flagship of journals, both in terms of the comprehensive nature of its expedition reports, and in the literary merit of its articles. So how well does it live up to its reputation?

II. Adams Carter, the Journal's long time editor, has over the years, established an effective network of international contacts, ensuring that activities in the greater ranges are fully reported and also avoiding a bias towards reporting only the exploits of American activists. In fact, the reports constitute almost 50% of the Journal's total content, and include some useful maps and topos.

The articles also have an international flavour, with contributions from a number of 'big names', including Bonington, Rowell and Ridgeway. They are largely well written, gripping, and describe big mountain experiences ranging from Himalayan and Patagonian epics to the esoteric delights of Venezuelan jungle bashing.

I suspect that many people collect mountaineering journals but never actually read their contents. The contents of the AAJ are well worth dipping into, whether to enjoy some vicarious thrills, to research a forthcoming expedition, or to develop a wider awareness of world mountaineering. The AAJ has its competitors, but still hangs in there as a well illustrated, near-definitive record of international mountaineering and as a source of inspirational mountain writing.

Graham Little.

*La Revista del Club Alpino Italiano.*

It is not always appreciated that there are more mountains in Italy than in the whole of the Alps. For the mountaineer seeking new pastures, the Revista has much to offer.

Being able to read Italian is not important, for this bi-annual publication is lavishly filled with photographs, sketch maps and diagrams of the routes. Of course, there are all the usual expedition accounts – CAI seems to have a lot of money to support expeditions but plenty about Italian mountains from Sicily to Monte Rosa.

Some issues carry the telephone numbers of all the Italian huts, and most of the other alpine huts, as well as the regional weather and avalanche warning numbers, which incidentally, you can phone from here for less money than it costs to find out the Scottish prospects! Good browsing for a wet Sunday, when you're are planning your next sortie.

Malcolm Slessor.

*The Climbers' Club Journal 1992.*

This production has many short articles recording various exploits from a variety of global locations, along with some good photographs. All in all, a worthwhile read.

D.F. Lang.

Also received: La Montagne, Appalachian Mountain Club, Deutscher Alpenverein, Journal of the Mountain Club of South Africa, Appalachia, Climbers' Club Journal.

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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 and sent to the Editor of Photographs, Niall Ritchie – address as above. Other material should be sent to the Editor – address as above.

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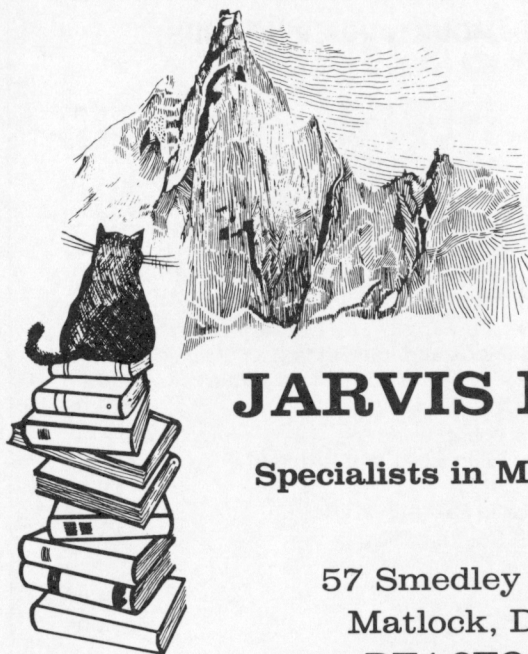
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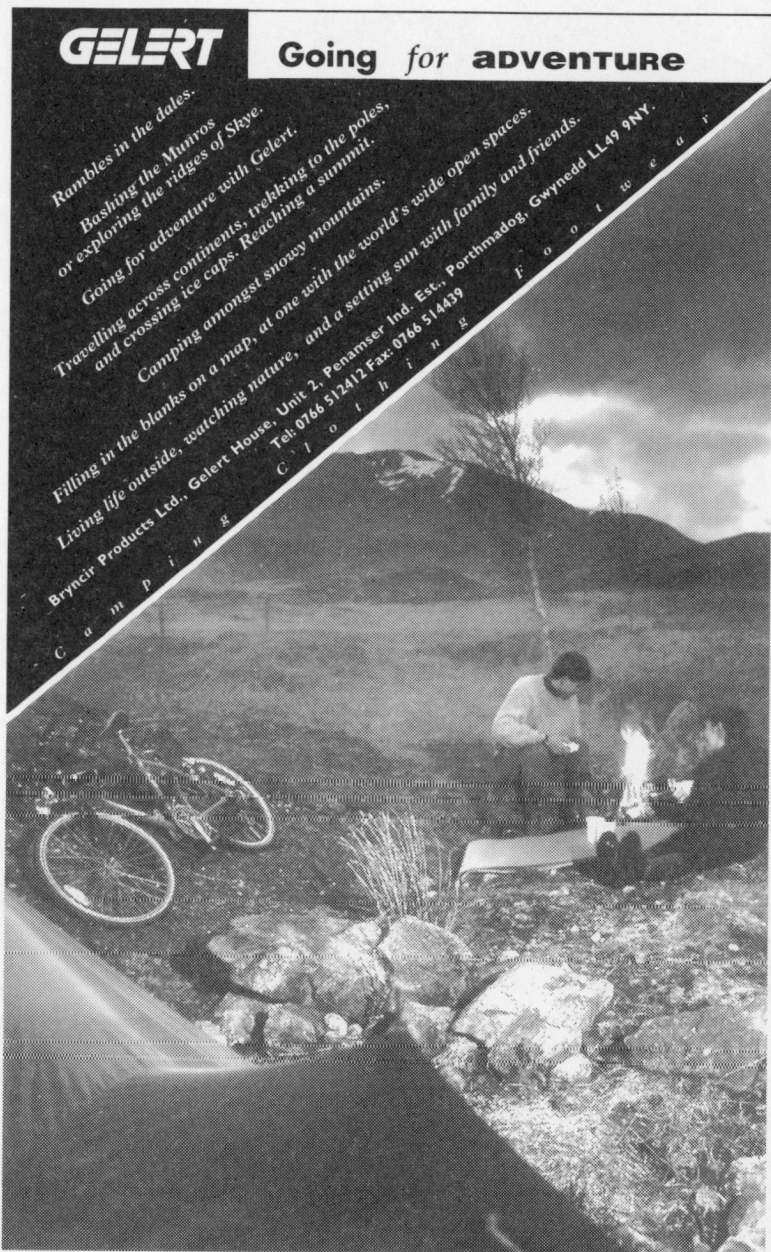
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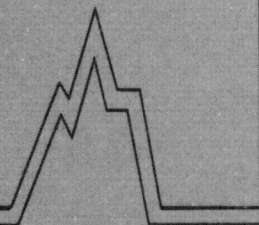
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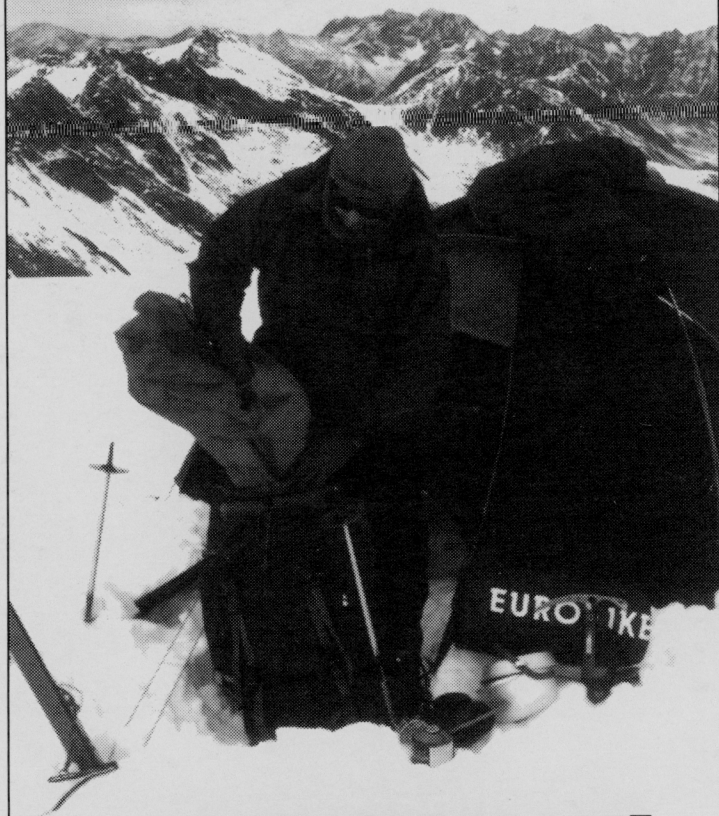


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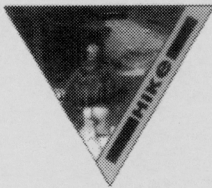
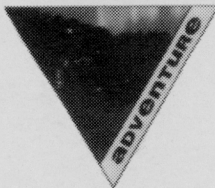
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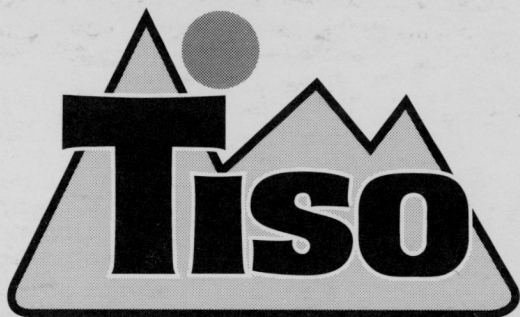
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