

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

The W. H. Murray Literary Prize.

As a tribute to the late Bill Murray, whose mountain and environment writings have been an inspiration to many a budding mountaineer, the SMC have set up a modest writing prize, to be run through the pages of the Journal. The basic rules are set out below, and will be re-printed each year. The prize is run with a deadline, as is normal, of the end of January each year. So assuming you are reading this in early July, you have, for the next issue, six months in which to set the pencil, pen or word processor on fire.

The Rules:

1. There shall be a competition for the best entry on Scottish Mountaineering published in the *Scottish Mountaineering Club Journal*. The competition shall be called the 'W. H. Murray Literary Prize', hereafter called the 'Prize.'
2. The judging panel shall consist of, in the first instance, the following: The current Editor of the *SMC Journal*; The current President of the SMC; and two or three lay members, who may be drawn from the membership of the SMC. The lay members of the panel will sit for three years after which they will be replaced.
3. If, in the view of the panel, there is in any year no entries suitable for the Prize, then there shall be no award that year.
4. Entries shall be writing on the general theme of 'Scottish Mountaineering', and may be prose articles of up to approximately 5000 words in length, or shorter verse. Entries may be fictional.
5. Panel members may not enter for the competition during the period of their membership.
6. Entries must be of original, previously unpublished material. Entries should be submitted to the Editor of the *SMC Journal* before the end of January for consideration that year. Lengthy contributions are preferably word-processed and submitted either on 3.5" PC disk or sent via e-mail. (See Office Bearers page at end of this Journal for address etc.) Any contributor to the *SMC Journal* is entitled to exclude their material from consideration of the Prize and should so notify the Editor of this wish in advance.
7. The prize will be a cheque for the amount £250.
8. Contributors may make different submissions in different years.
9. The decision of the panel is final.
10. Any winning entry will be announced in the *SMC Journal* and will be published in the *SMC Journal* and on the SMC Web site. Thereafter, authors retain copyright.

The W. H. Murray Literary Prize (2000).

FOR the third year, the panel of four deliberated over the qualifying articles which appear in this year's issue. If anything, judging was even more difficult than last year – in part due to the varied nature of the articles, in part due to the personal interests of the judges. In the end, however, there were two clear front runners; *W. H. Murray Revisited* by Des Rubens, and *The Sea of Tranquillity* by Cliff Smith. As a newcomer to the Journal, Smith is to be commended for hitting the second spot with his first attempt, which only leaves us to congratulate Des Rubens as being the winner of this year's prize. (Interestingly, both are club members, making Des the first member to win the prize.)

Some comments on articles follow: *Murray Revisited*... 'not only puts two of Murray's climbs into a modern context, it also recounts the antics of a group of influential Scottish climbers in their formative Edinburgh University days.'

'I thought that *Murray Revisited* was written with honesty and modesty, two characteristics which go a long way towards forming good writing.'

'*The Sea of Tranquillity* is beautifully written...it is not easy to overcome the fact that a description of a perfect day is unlikely to be as exciting as a tale of disasters.'

'I very much enjoyed *The Sea of Tranquillity* and thought it rather charming in that it described some intensely rewarding Scottish mountaineering that would be accessible to many climbers.'

The two rotating judges have now served their three-year sentence and we thank Simon Richardson and Dave Hewitt for their hard work. The two remaining judges, the President and Editor, will in fact also be in a state of flux due to terms of office and resignation respectively.

KEV'S LAST CLIMB

THE WALK into Meagaidh was a real buzz, we kept stopping to wait for people, dogs and children, well that was our excuse. It was May and the weather was just fantastic, 29° (and no one was in a rush. We talked about the other times we had done this approach, mainly in winter as that was the main attraction for us, to climb the frozen weeps and icefalls that make Meagaidh such a fantastic playground for masochistic winter climbing.

On one occasion Kev and I after a SMC dinner and drinks seminar, toiled and tumbled our way as far as the descent to the burn. Here we had a discussion about going on, was it the after effects of the dinner, or the fact that the snow was waist deep in places that had us retrace our steps back to the car. Across on the other side of the burn two more organised members glided over the snow on cross-country skis.

Another time after climbing Pumpkin in semi-frozen conditions the four of us, Nick, his Lordship, myself and Kev played tag on the raised track of old sleepers as we ran down, or was it a game of see how hard we could knock each other over. Needless to say my knees have never recovered from this exercise in plastic boots.

We sat by the lochan in glorious sunshine, the dogs swimming in the clear waters, none of us brave enough to go further than paddling. After a while the parties split up, Kev's parents, a few friends and the children staying by the lochan before walking back to the cars.

The rest of us started up the track towards the Window. Passing under the cliffs of the Inner Coire of Meagaidh, we could now see that Easy Gully had snow most of the way to the top. We had come fully prepared for an ascent on snow, that is we were wearing bendy soft walking boots, shorts and tea shirts. The Yorkshire Mafia section of the SMC, comprising Nick Harper, John (his Lordship) McKenzie, myself and Kev, decided to make one last winter climb of the season. John qualified to be a kind of Yorkshireman, having resided long enough in York during his mission to show us heathens how to climb, albeit on crags no one else had looked at. Hence his name in native Yorkshireese, 'Lord John of the small crags'.

We had somehow located a state-of-the-art collapsible walking pole, John also found an 'Ice dagger' shaped piece of rock. This comprised our total climbing equipment, but so what, Easy Gully is only a snow plod! Whoever was in the lead now took control of the pole to help give balance as we tried to kick steps in the still frozen snow. We progressed upwards, passing the start of Centre Post which was the last climb I had done with Kev. I looked around for my Sticht-plate which I had dropped from near the top, but alas the Meagaidh magpies must have found it.

Upwards past the start of South Post, which Nick, Kev and I had climbed in the Eighties when there were proper winters. Then the first two pitches were up a fabulous column of blue water ice; I had climbed up Easy Gully to take photos of Kev and Nick on these pitches and then taken a top rope straight up to save time. Nick then decided to save even more time and continued on solo to the top.

We passed by the start of Last Post which Glen and I had tried to climb, the mountain was in first-class climbing condition, that is covered in deep loose snow. I had somehow burrowed up the first pitch and had taken a belay over on the left of the chimney. Glen came up disappearing from time to time as snow poured down the chimney from above. As he led off back right to the route I told him to see if he could find a decent runner as my belays were a bit suspect in the shattered rock where I was. He dug out a solid lump of rock which took a good blade peg, continuing onto the bottom of the chimney where he stood for a few minutes as snow poured down and over him.

'Up or down,' I shouted, about which time gravity took over and down it was; I went with him as the belays pulled out. We stopped and I looked up 25ft. to the runner Glen had placed, it held us both from a glissade down Easy Gully. Looking down I could see Glen's crampons as he was hanging upside down. I lowered him back to the start of the route.

I climbed up to the runner, thanked Mr Chouinard for his steel work, fixed an abseil and decided someone was trying to tell us something, such as time to retreat! At the same time, Nick and Kev were spat out of Raeburn's Gully on the top of a snow slide as they tried to get to Smith's. We decided then to continue

up Easy to the top where it was now a white-out. We looked around for signs of Kev and Nick having successfully topped out of their intended route, blissfully unaware that they had also had a message and that they had gone to the pub.

Returning to our summer snow plod, a bergschrund now appeared; the even slope of the snow was interrupted by a gap and a wall of ice with which we had no gear to climb. A diversion up rock on the left of the gully and we were past the problem, the nice, safe grass slopes up to the top now beckoned us. 'Back on the snow!' Was the command from his Lordship, and who were we mortals to argue with tradition and breeding. The snow was covered with leaves of grass, which had blown off the nice, safe slopes, and the surface of the snow was rough and granulated. A slide down this surface over the bergschrund and onto the rocks at the bottom of the snow slope dressed as we were in protective shorts and tea shirts, would have been interesting to say the least. We topped out, the snow finishing as a nice arête.

That was Kev's last climb, not by a long way his best or hardest but given the time of year and the ineptitude of his climbing partners on this occasion, we hoped he would be satisfied. The rest of the party now joined us at the top overlooking Pumpkin, having made it up via the Window. Behind us a small herd of deer glissaded down the snow, which lay beneath the true summit of Meagaidh. A ptarmigan ran between the boulders, dragging her wing to distract us from her brood of young, which lay motionless in the heather. It was virtually windless and the sky was cloud free. We had some lunch and a wee drink for friends gone but not forgotten.

We finally left Kev there at the top of Pumpkin where he can enjoy all the seasons, the fantastic sunsets and looking out over the mountains he so much cared for. So if you pass by this part of Meagaidh, stop and have the crack with him.

Postscript: Kevin Wilson had been climbing for many years including the Himalayas five times, and 10 or more trips to the Alps. He bought a house in Fort William so that we had a base to use after the drive up from York, and somewhere to recover after the walk back from the Jacobite Bar. Joining the SMC in 1986 and then somehow convincing the committee that they should allow two more Yorkshiremen, Nick and myself, to join. He was always the one who wanted to make the trip up north, never tiring of the long drive.

He had climbed Pumpkin with Richard Harrison, a climb that he had done before with Nick, John and myself in the Eighties. They had taken off the rope, sat and had some lunch and then set off up the final easy slopes. Two weeks before Kev and I had climbed Centre Post in perfect conditions, the snow then was rock hard and we had climbed the last pitches together. I guess it had snowed since that day, and as Kev and Richard were near the top, there was a snow slide. Both of them were caught in it, Richard hit a boulder and stopped, Kev was carried over the edge. The date was April 4, 1996.

It had been Kev's wish that his ashes be scattered on Meagaidh, he had completed his last climb with us, carried by Nick and supported by many of his friends.

Dick Lockie.

THE SCOTTISH MOUNTAINEERING TRUST - 1999-2000

TRUSTEES met on September 30, 1999 and February 24, 2000 (the meeting on February 11, 1999 was covered in last year's Journal).

During the course of these meetings support was given to the Jonathan Conville Memorial Trust Winter Course 1999-2000; the An Teallach Mountaineering Club – Strawberry Cottage renovations; the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds – Cairngorm Plateau Survey; John Muir Trust Schiehallion Appeal; the Scottish Mountaineering Club – Cataloguing of SMC Library; the Cairngorm Mountain Rescue Team for a new base and headquarters; Argyll and Bute Council for a new bridge at Clashgour, Blackmount; the Dundonnell Mountain Rescue Team for new team vehicles, and the Footpath Trust project – Ben Wyvis. Support is also being given to the National Trust for Scotland for footpath works on Ben Lawers and Glen Coe. The JMCS were given further support for the new gas installation at the Loch Coruisk hut.

Standing grants are made over to the Mountaineering Council of Scotland towards administration costs including the access officer.

The Trustees have sought advice this year on the technical aspects of a footpath project by the Footpath Trust in Coire an Laoigh, Beinn Eighe. Any feed back from Club members regarding any SMT-funded path work would be much appreciated.

The SMC benefits through annual royalty payments for the use of the Club's name in publications. A substantial portion of the production costs of small print Journal pages is met by the publications company. The Munro CD ROM project achieved excellent sales. The new version of the CD ROM is now on the market.

The Directors of the publications company during the period are T. B. Fleming (Chairman), D. J. Bennet, K. V. Crocket, C. D. Grant, A. Kassyk and T. Prentice (Publications Manager). D. C. Anderson attends Board meetings as Convenor of the Publications Sub-Committee.

The present Trustees are R. T. Richardson (Chairman), T. B. Fleming, D. C. Anderson, R. K. Bott, G. S. Nicoll, A. Kassyk, G. E. Irvine, P. W. F. Gribbon, S. M. Richardson and B. R. Shackleton. A. Kassyk and P. W. F. Gribbon are Trustee Directors and provide liaison between the publications company and the Trust. J. M. Shaw is the Trust Treasurer.

The following grants have been committed by the Trustees.

General Grant Fund

Jonathan Conville Winter Courses 99/20	£1015
An Teallach Mountaineering Club – Strawberry Cottage, (plus an interest-free loan of £4000 to be repaid over a period of four years).	£2000
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, Cairngorm Plateau Survey.	£500
SMC, Cataloguing of SMC Library.	£500
Cairngorm Mountain Rescue Team, Base and Headquarters.	£10,000
Argyll and Bute Council, Bridge at Clashgour, Blackmount.	£1000
Dundonnell Mountain Rescue Team – team vehicles	£3500
JMCS Coruisk Hut – further funding (gas installation)	£640
John Muir Trust – Schiehallion Appeal	£10,000

Footpath Fund

Footpath Trust – Ben Wyvis	£6000
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James D. Hotchkis,
Trust Secretary.

MUNRO MATTERS

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

The new additions to the List of Munroists and amendments follow. The columns used are Munroist's number, name, year of Munros, Tops and Furths. *SMC member. **LSCC member.

2067	Julie A. Brown	1999		2118	Vernon Miles	1999	1999
2068	M J. Haxton	1999		2119	Jan Murray	1999	
2069	Sarah J. Richards	1999		2120	Hugh Murray	1999	
2070	Ian A. Hunter	1999		2121	George S. Ellis	1999	1999 1999 1999
2071	Paul Baldwin	1999	1999 1999 1997	2122	Ron Hilditch	1999	
2072	John C. Craig	1999		2123	D. H. Barham	1999	
2073	Caroline J. Wood	1999		2124	Chris Freeman	1999	
2074	Iain Meldrum	1999	1999	2125	James Henderson	1999	
2075	Martin G. Hinnigan	1999		2126	Alexandra Lightfoot	1999	
2076	Alison Barclay	1999		2127	Thomas Wood	1999	
2077	Graham Heafford	1999		2128	J. L. W. Wright	1999	
2078	Marek Wilkojc	1999		2129	I. Hayden Arthursen	1999	
2079	Grant Wilson	1999		2130	George Mitchell	1999	
2080	Walter Baxter	1999		2131	Brian M. Clark	1999	
2081	Nick Anderson	1999		2132	Steven Bell	1999	
2082	Alexander Baird	1999		2133	Joanna M. Robson	1999	
2083	*John M. Dunn	1999		2134	Michael W. L. Robson	1999	
2084	Elspeth A. Smith	1999	1998	2135	Peter J. C. Wooley	1999	
2085	Clifford V. Smith	1997		2136	Kathleen M. Meechan	1999	
2086	Lesley Hawkins	1999		2137	Dougal M. Meechan	1999	
2087	Mike Hawkins	1999		2138	David Southern	1999	
2088	James McAllen	1999	1984	2139	Julie Catterall	1999	
2089	Oliver Overstall	1999		2140	Paul Simonite	1999	
2090	John A. Owen	1999	1998	2141	Sylvia T. Davie	1999	
2091	Roger Holme	1999		2142	Anne Partington	1999	
2092	Steve Tompkins	1999		2143	Andrew A. McMillan	1999	
2093	Michael C. Day	1999		2144	John Crowder	1999	
2094	Grant Bulloch	1999		2145	Ann Lyall	1999	
2095	Lance L. Haworth	1999		2146	John Lindsay	1999	
2096	Jerry Ubysz	1999		2147	Neville Cohen	1992	1992
2097	Alan Duval	1999	1988	2148	Robert Gilmour	1999	
2098	Matthew Shaw	1999		2149	Alastair Swanston	1999	1999
2099	Doreen Coupe	1999		2150	Rod Payne	1999	
2100	Michael Coupe	1999		2151	Bruce MacG. Reynolds	1999	
2101	David E. Bee	1999		2152	William S. Vannan	1999	
2102	Grace Kerr	1999		2153	Neil Piper	1995	1995 1999
2103	Rob Kerr	1999		2154	Simon J. Archer	1999	1999 1999 1997
2104	Martin Ridges	1999	1999 1999 1999	2155	Ronald N. C. Douglas	1999	
2105	John Shaw	1999		2156	Anthony Hart	1999	
2106	Bob Taylor	1999		2157	Graeme Leckie	1999	
2107	John O. Chalmers	1999		2158	Chris Phillips	1999	
2108	Douglas Gilchrist	1999		2159	George A. S. Wilson	1999	
2109	Glen S. Breden	1999		2160	Miss T. Y. Waddell	1999	
2110	Alexander J. L. Stalker	1999		2161	Donald Brown	1999	
2111	Jane Hodgson	1999		2162	Wilma J. Milton	1999	
2112	Martyn Hodgson	1999		2163	Keith Moir	1999	
2113	Bruce Cuthbertson	1999		2164	Jim Bell	1999	
2114	Thomas Bailey	1999		2165	Stanley Cartmell	1999	
2115	Grant Lowe	1999		2166	Graham M. Haines	1999	
2116	Brian Cotterill	1999		2167	Jill Adams	1999	
2117	Neil A. Fraser	1999		2168	J. Colin Andrews	1999	

2169	Peter Smith	1999	2227	Jane Clark	1999	
2170	Derek Barker	1999	2228	Bruce Henderson	1999	
2171	R. J. B. McGill	1999	2229	Mark Crane	1999	
2172	Ian Clark	1999	2230	Rod Crawford	1999	
2173	Alan Clark	1999	2231	David R. Anderson	1999	
2174	Graham Hood	1999	2232	Francis Cooke	1999	
2175	Marilyn Stronach	1999	2233	Angus J. F. Mitchell	1999	
2176	Fraser Stronach	1991	2234	Suzanne Dougall	1999	
2177	Daniel Black	1999	2235	Pete Younger	1999	
2178	Christopher A. Lawes	1999	2236	Margaret E. Thomas	1999	1999
2179	Brian J. Thomson	1999	2237	Maximilian S. Grant	1999	1999
2180	John A. Ganley	1995	2238	David Shipton	1999	
2181	Peter Ganley	1995	2239	Mike Jones	1999	
2182	Anne Morrison	1999	2240	E. Ann MacKinnon	1999	
2183	Murdo McEwan	1999	2241	Mary Abercrombie	1999	
2184	Peter N. Davidson	1999	2242	Colin Abercrombie	1999	
2185	Alan Grooby	1999	2243	Elaine Bonham	1999	
2186	Angus Kay	1999	2244	David W. Smith	1999	1999
2187	Tom Ward	1999 1999	2245	David Wymer	1999	
2188	Sandra McGrath	1999	2246	Jane R. Richmond	1999	
2189	Mike McGrath	1999	2247	Stephen Cogbill	1999	
2190	David G. Martin	1999	2248	Glynn M. Roberts	1999	
2191	Heather Morning	1999	2249	David F. Roberts	1998	
2192	David Galloway	1999	2250	Olive McCann	1999	
2193	Tom Nicol	1999	2251	Mark Dalman	1999	
2194	Lottie Gregory	1999	2252	Phillip L. Harris	1999	
2195	Russell G. Scott	1999	2253	Kenneth Gibson	1999	
2196	James A. Davidson	1989	2254	Andy Greig	1999	
2197	Bob Hardwick	1999	2255	Alison Loneskie	1999	
2198	J. F. Sime	1999	2256	Morris M. Hogg	1999	
2199	R. Keith Gault	1999	2257	Ginny Pollard	1999	
2200	W. Norman Shanks	1999	2258	Ken Craig	1999	
2201	Roger M. Lawton	1999	2259	James Anderson	1999	
2202	Alan J. Fielder	1999	2260	Peter D. Barlass	1999	
2203	John Anderson	1999	2261	Martin Cole	1993	
2204	Ian Ferguson	1999			1999	
2205	Anthony Duffy	1996	2262	David Bell	1999	
2206	James Williamson	1999	2263	Donald Leitch	1999	
2207	Lesley Armstrong	1999	2264	Robert Robertson	1999	
2208	George Bintley	1999	2265	Allan Stewart	1997	
2209	Anthony B. Cresswell	1999	2266	David S. Norrie	1999	
2210	Eric Mansfield	1999	2267	Norman Shand	1999	
2211	Evelyn A. Kenyon	1999	2268	Susan Henderson	1999	
2212	Geoffrey Kenyon	1999	2269	George Henderson	1999	
2213	David Monteith	1996	2270	Anthony Key	1999	
2214	Gordon Wyse	1999	2271	John Reed	1998	
2215	Martin J. Withey	1999	2272	John E. McPherson	1999	
2216	Patricia Buchanan	1999	2273	John Behan	1999	
2217	D. J. Allan	1999	2274	Andrew W. Christie	1999	
2218	Gordon Borland	1999	2275	Frank Low	1999	
2219	Sandy K. W. Johnston	1999	2276	Bill McDonald	1999	
2220	David Martindale	1999	2277	David Paton	1999	
2221	Kenneth Siddle	1999 1999	2278	James G. McLaughlin	1999	
2222	Robin Storie	1999	2279	John McFadzean	1999	
2223	Ruth Wolfe	1999	2280	Peter Dinnage	1999	1992
2224	Bobby Robb	1999	2281	James A. Thomson	1999	
2225	John Kirk	1999	2282	Adrian Deuling	1999	
2226	E. David S. Ellis	1999 1999 1996	2283	John Urquhart	1999	

2284	Mike McCaul	1999	2296	Mike Dunlop	1999
2285	John Keohane	1999	2297	Alex J. Taylor	1999 1999
2286	Bill McMahon	1998	2298	Christine Sneddon	1999
2287	John Pickersgill	1999	2299	Malcolm D. Hughes	1999
2288	Hugh Murray	1995 1995	2300	Bill Tring	1999
2289	Stuart Macfarlane	1999	2301	Alexander Birne	1999
2290	David Vallery	1999	2302	Alexander Watson	1999
2291	Neil Sandilands	1999	2303	David G. Linton	1999
2292	Graham Wright	1999	2304	Roger W. B. Gaff	1999
2293	Phill Warner	1999	2305	John Findlay	1999
2294	James J. McLaren	1999	2306	Pam Pulford	1999
2295	John Young	2000 1999	2307	Robin A. Pringle	2000

AMENDMENTS

Amendments give the addition of Munros, Tops and Furths, but only show the total number of rounds completed and the year of the latest round. The columns given are Munros, Tops and Furths.

203	David Foster	1999 1999	1221	John F. Wilson	1999 1997
		x2			x2
327	R. Stewart Logan	1999 1999 1987	1295	William Beattie	1999
		x10 x10 x3			x2
477	Mark Kirby	1986 1992 1987	1611	Alex Smith	1996 1999 1999
555	Robin Howie	1999 1992 1987	1722	John Newman	1997 1999
		x7 x3	1747	Anthony Halhead	1997 1999
840	Ian S. Robertson	1999 1990 1993	1779	David Judd	1997 1999
		x2	2025	Edward T. Meek	1998 1999
1045	Steve Fallon	1999 1993	2026	Colin D. G. Pennycook	1998 1999
		x7	2039	Geoff Mattock	1998 1998 1999
1061	Bill Fairmaner	1999 1995	2058	Alan Stewart	1998 1999
		x2			

AS IN the past, I have greatly enjoyed the letters that have accompanied the requests to be added to the List of Munroists and below I have tried to summarise the year with a few of the comments and tales. There are 241 new names added to the List, which is 100 more than in many of the recent years.

Almost all names are for completions in 1999, although there are always a few late notifications. Through no fault of his own Neville Cohen (2147) appears to have taken many years to actually contact me but this is not the case and he seems to have suffered with a real ‘lost in the post’ occurrence. Unfortunately, the first time he was aware that perhaps the letter never reached me, was when the new Tables came out and his name was nowhere to be found. Delaying the reporting of a completion can leave a potential Munroist in a dilemma if the list changes and they then find themselves missing a few new summits. For example, Grant Wilson (2078) completed the existing list in 1996 but didn’t get to register. Then in 1997 when some of the Tops were promoted he realised that this was an opportunity to have another Last One celebration and then finally get his Munroist’s certificate. Similarly, Mike Jones (2239) who originally completed in 1996 but only came to register when he found the SMC web site. Perhaps it was also a chance for Mike to write of a particularly wild weekend he had a few years ago when, while staying at Corrour – he climbed Braeriach in a severe white out. It was only when they walked out to the cars a day later, that they heard on the radio of the Chernobyl accident, and of the advice from the Government not to drink rain water in Scotland (and England and Wales).

This year I have received one notification of a double round. This is from Martin Cole (2261) who goes onto the List with two rounds and is optimistic of a third. He has recently married and his wife is expressing a keen interest to compleat herself. Alex Taylor (2297) must not have been so confident of his walking plans as he comments that his compleation was a bit rushed as he was about to get married. Last year was evidently an eventful year for Margaret Thomas (2236) and Max Grant (2237) who recorded their Munro compleation and then combined the celebration with their wedding a few weeks later. They say the event was in 'recognition of the twin challenges they have survived, and will continue to survive together'.

The compleation of the Munros as a couple is relatively common and you can see from the List the incidence of the same surname for successive numbers. However, this is not 100% foolproof as by a coincidence the only Roberts added to the List, Glynn (2248) and David (2249) are actually not related (or so I assume). Family links continue to tread through the List. In 1999 J. F. Sime (2198) son of George Sime (67) compleated after 61 years 3 months, which is almost a record for *M. longus*, Daniel Black (2177) is following his brother, Robert (1617), and Elaine Bonham (2243) is following her husband, David (1341). Elaine chose Sgorr Dearg to compleat on, as it had the significance of being David's last Munro, and the scene of him breaking his leg necessitating a helicopter lift to Fort William. One last family link could include Neil Foster (2117) who gave his first son the middle name of Munro. The family have still to decide whether the motive was the hills or that his partner's family name is Munro.

First Munros are often in the distant past and many will struggle to remember the actual dates. However, Peter Younger (2235) certainly chose a distinctive hill as his first, when he climbed the Inn Pinn. It seems that Peter was fooled into believing the climb was a straightforward scramble, because the mist was right in and he was unaware of the exposure. Anthony Duffy's (2205) first was Ben Nevis, which he climbed with his nephew. Unfortunately, the mist was a disadvantage to this pair, as the nephew chose to run ahead for the last few hundred yards and when Anthony arrived at the summit the youngster was nowhere to be seen. After searching the top, Anthony descended to call out the MRT only for them to find the missing nephew huddled in the summit shelter.

Moving on to last-Munro celebrations. John Pickergill (2287) had tried to climb Meall Garbh (Lawers) on three occasions and each time was beaten by the weather. This meant it became inevitable which hill was the last one unclimbed, and on this ascent the weather was only marginally better which helped to ensure that the champagne was well chilled. Kenneth Siddle (2221) had initially thought of arranging a sociable affair for his final tick on Beinn na Lap, but as the date got nearer he decided to opt for a solo day out with only his wife knowing of the plans. The day went well apart from the torrential rain at the top, and finished with a relaxing hot drink in Nevisport that afternoon.

Obviously, not all days involve getting wet, cold and not seeing a view, as Thomas Bailey (2114) could explain. He has spread his round over 20 years and reckons he has only visited nine misty summits, which suggests he was either very selective in his choice of days to start a walk, or very disciplined in turning back when the weather closed in.

In the 1995 SMCJ, I thanked John Owen (2090) for pointing out an error concerning an earlier Munroist, H. H. Mills who had been erroneously omitted. In my comments I mentioned that John was very near to being compleat himself.

Anyway, he is now officially on the List and he wonders if he has a claim to uniqueness, in that he is the first to have his compleation predicted in this section. There are a number of late starters and very long duration of rounds this years. John Shaw (2105) only started aged 65 years and duly reports his compleation eight years later, while David Morton (2190), Lottie Gregory (2194) and John Crowder (2144) all strung together rounds of 44 to 46 years. Even longer were Anne Morrison (2182) spreading the ticks over 55 years and John Dunn (2083) who in 53 years climbed all the Munros and Corbetts.

The Gaelic names of the hills are typically the only link many walkers have with the native language of the Highlands and Islands. Not so for Francis Cooke (2232) from Eire and he is very complimentary of the OS in Scotland, who he states have managed to avoid the meaningless gibberish of anglicised Irish names created for the Irish maps. He says he gets great pleasure from recognising and translating the beautiful Gaelic names of the Scottish hills. Travelling from Galway, Francis has obviously followed a very disciplined approach to the ticks, managing to compleat in only 23 separate trips to Scotland. Another Munroist now resident even farther away is John Findlay (2305) who works in the US, although the majority of hills were visited while in his home county of Lanarkshire. When in America, John delights in reminding the Yanks that their saviour of the National Parks was brought up 'just doon the road frae us'.

I have often heard of Munroists struggling to decide what was to be their preferred choice as the last Munro. However, Murdo McEwan (2183) concluded that the actual date of 9/9/99 was satisfactorily symmetrical and was more important than the hill. As events turned out he ended up having to work that day and only left the central belt for Ben Lui once that had been done. However, the top was still reached before midnight and so his aim was met. For something a bit different, David Davidson (2184) took a hill pony, equipped with a deer saddle, part of the way to his last summit. I noticed in a photo that the pony seemed to be carrying most of the packs, so hope that purists won't consider the use of a pony on a par with using a chairlift.

Throughout, the letters have been tales of nearly failing to compleat, minor accidents and brushes with bad weather. One is from Neil Sandilands (2291) who took 33 years from start to finish but with a gap of 13 years due to a back injury. However, after a car accident and the subsequent physiotherapy he took on a new lease of life and was able to get back in to the climbs again. Another is from Alexander Baird (2082) who managed to ascend and descend the South Glen Shiel ridge only to slip 20ft. down a stony bank leading onto the road. This resulted in a badly bruised eye which meant he looked more 'pirate than presbyter' when a few days later he had to address the Assembly of the Church of Scotland. A bad weather example is from James Thomson (2281) who managed to climb Meall Chuaich on a poorish day, with snow, only to find the real problem started back at the car. While away, the road had been closed and was littered with wrecks of cars. Fortunately, two policemen were not far away and helped to get him started and at least pointing in the right direction.

I could not possibly finish without noting that Stewart Logan (327) is now onto his 11th round of Munros and Tops having completed the 10th on the last day of the last century, while Steve Fallon (1045) and Robin Howie (555) are only into their eighth rounds. For variety Robin managed to ascend each hill in this round as a separate walk from the road, and then had a TV crew in tow for the Last Munro day. I don't think the crew ventured too far into the mist.

Centenary of the First Completion:

To mark the Centenary of the Rev. A. E. Robertson's completion in 1901, the SMC is planning to organise a celebration dinner. This should be held in a Highland venue on a Saturday evening during May 2001. Please write to me at the address below for further details enclosing a SAE. It is anticipated that the actual meal will be limited to Munroists on the List although this will be dependent on the number of responses.

A List of Corbetteers:

Since the first Munroist also went on to complete the Corbetts, this additional embellishment has been seen as the post-graduate course that required no further recognition or List. However, for a variety of reasons, notwithstanding the time and effort that Dave Hewitt and James Lamb have put in to establish an accurate historical record of who has actually ticked all the Corbetts, the SMC would like to begin more formally recognising a round of the Corbetts. The intention is that anyone writing in would go into the next edition of the Tables and also to offer a certificate to those who wish one. There is no intention to use a similar numbering system as used for Munros. If any readers feel they are entitled to a Certificate please write to me at the address below. Dave Hewitt has already published a List of those he knows to have completed the Corbetts and I would be pleased to hear from anyone who is not yet known. Equally, I am certain that there will also be those who will enjoy the personal pleasure of anonymity.

Those wishing to add their names to the List of Compleat Munroists should write to the Clerk at the address below. There is no formal registration form but I appreciate a letter from the prospective Munroist giving a few details of experiences, time take on the round, age, etc., etc. Once registered Munroists can purchase a tie and/or Brooch. A colour A4 certificate is available to mark the Completion so please enclose an A4 sae. All notification should be sent to Dr. C. M. Huntley, Old Medwyn, Spittal, Carnwath, Lanarkshire, ML11 8LY.

Finally, a reminder that the entire list is accessible on the Club's web site at www.smc.org.uk

A search facility has just been added to the site, making it easy to find any name. The SMC webmaster has the facilities for scanning prints, so that any compleater can also have this photographic record added to the web site, and linked to their name. Please send any such prints to the Clerk. Hopefully, we will soon be able to scan slides, while digital photographs are of course welcome.

CEATHREAMHNAN

Tell me not of Ceathreamhnán,
Of corrie, ridge or peak.
Guard me from revisionists,
Of Ceathreamhnán they speak.
Update, if sound in wind and limb!
How easy 'tis to preach.
I fear the tops of Ceathreamhnán
Are far beyond my reach.
I live but for the present now
It gives me plenty scope.
With back turned to the future I
Can face the past with hope.

Roy Murray.

SCOTTISH MOUNTAIN ACCIDENTS 1999

REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION

(Geographical Divisions are those used in SMC District Guidebooks)

REGION	CASUALTIES (of which fatalities are bracketed)				INCIDENTS							Animal Rescues	Non-Mountaineering Incidents
					Actual Rescues		Other Callouts						
	Injuries	Exhaustion/Exposure Hypothermia, Hyperthermia	Illness	Total Casualties	Incidents with Casualties	Cragfast or weatherbound	Separated	Lost	Overdue or Benighted	False Alarms or Hoaxes	Total Incidents		
Northern Highlands	9 (4)	3 (1)	2 –	14 (5)	13	–	1	2	5	–	21	–	1
Western Highlands	12 (2)	2 –	– –	14 (2)	12	–	–	2	4	1	19	1	1
Ben Nevis	28 (4)	6 –	5 –	39 (4)	34	3	–	–	4	3	44	–	–
Glen Coe (Inc Buachaille)	16 (1)	2 –	– –	18 (1)	18	15	1	1	1	–	36	–	–
Other Central Highlands	20 –	1 –	2 (1)	23 (1)	22	4	2	2	3	–	33	–	1
Cairngorms	23 (1)	9 (2)	3 (1)	35 (4)	31	5	–	11	16	2	65	–	7
Southern Highlands	28 (6)	3 (0)	2 (2)	33 (8)	32	3	1	4	9	3	52	1	12
Skye	12 (1)	1 –	1 –	14 (1)	14	4	–	–	1	2	21	–	1
Islands (other than Skye)	8 –	2 –	2 (1)	12 (1)	11	–	–	–	4	–	15	–	–
Southern Uplands	5 (2)	4 –	2 (1)	11 (3)	9	–	1	2	2	3	17	–	10
All Regions 1999	161 (21)	33 (3)	19 (6)	213 (30)	196	34	6	24	49	14	323	2	33
Previous year 1998	145 (22)	19 –	18 (5)	182 (27)	169	29	15	14	59	14	300	3	36

MOUNTAIN RESCUE COMMITTEE OF SCOTLAND

SCOTTISH MOUNTAIN ACCIDENTS 1999

Compiled by John Hinde

Three persons are still unaccounted for. See Western Highlands – August 26-29, 1999. Southern Highlands – November 21 to December 11, 1999. Southern Uplands – December 20-21, 1999.

If statistics do not seem to agree with last year's tables it may be because of late receipt of reports.

Figures for 'Separated' appear lower than usual because I have used different criteria for assessment; separation is still a considerable cause of incidents. Poor navigation and simple slips remain the major causes. Incidents are not categorised as 'Lost' except when uninjured people actually have to be found before rescue. Lost persons who manage to extricate themselves before being found are normally classed as 'Overdue'. Where injuries occur due to bad navigation the incident is classified as 'Incident with casualties'.

I am getting the general impression, which I have not fully researched, that more superbly equipped parties are getting into trouble through lack of experience. As usual, more incidents occur in, or following, good weather. As everybody knows there is a much more widespread use of mobile 'phones, even in my own parties.

Police have been mentioned in only a few of these precis, but they have been concerned in all of the incidents.

NORTHERN HIGHLANDS

JANUARY 11 – Party of four went to climb 1978 Face Route, Corrag Bhuidhe of An Teallach. They separated into two pairs, one group descending to leave the others climbing by head torchlight. Coming down next day they drove off not knowing they had been reported overdue. Dundonnell and Kinloss MRTs, RAF Sea King. 41.

JANUARY 17-18 – Carrying a flask of coffee but no food, after a long drive from Greenock, a pair climbed Gleann na Sguaib Face of Diollaid a'Mhill Bhric on NW Ridge, Beinn Dearg. At the top, one (28) got exhaustion exposure because of deep, wet snow. He was left in a bivvy bag. Found at 02.40 by Dundonnell MRT sweep search and stretchered down, hypothermic but discharged from hospital that day. 112.

APRIL 9-10 – Traversing Liathach E to W, walker (31) got lost in mist. He stayed put overnight then came down at dawn. Found descending by RAF helicopter. Torridon MRT and SARDA. Leuchars MRT turned back *en route*. 48.

MAY 5 – Am Fasarinen Pinnacles, Liathach. Descending rock when facing in, man (40) fell 22m down steep rocks, cutting his scalp and breaking a leg. His doctor companion gave first aid and went for help. Four rescuers were winched on to the ridge, putting casualty into Stokes Litter, awaiting RAF R137 return after refuelling. Winchman and patient were taken to Broadford hospital, then R137 came back to winch other three rescuers. Kinloss and Torridon MRTs. 75.

MAY 15 – Bad Step of Corrag Bhuidhe. (*See note at end of this section.*) Woman (35) was having difficulty seeing next foothold when descending. Man (33) deposited rucksack and went back up to help. Either she slipped and knocked him off, or he tried to grab her as she was falling. Both were killed falling about 200m

to the east into Constabulary Couloir. Wife of dead man somehow descended into the couloir and performed CPR for almost two hours till RAF Sea King arrived for recovery. Dundonnell MRT. 50.

MAY 24 – Casualty (48) assisting her husband across a small burn (Allt an Odhar) on a path on Fuar Tholl, Glen Carron, slipped injuring a lower leg. Stretchered by Torridon MRT. 5.

JUNE 17-20 – Leaving Achnashellach on 17th heading for Annat, woman (58) lost path near Bealach na Lice. Alarm was raised by B and B proprietor when she did not appear on 19th. Suffering mild hypothermia she was found that night by RAF Sea King. Kinloss and Torridon MRTs and SARDA. 210.

JUNE 30-July 1 – Novice solo walker (56) with no navigation knowledge got lost without compass in mist and rain on Ben More Assynt and Conival. He found a bothy by chance at Glencoul, spent the night and walked out to road next day, where he was found by the wife of a member of Assynt MRT driving to work. Assynt and Kinloss MRTs, SARDA, RAF Sea King helicopter. 323.

JULY 2-3 – Man with medical condition (39) walking path from Slattadale to Loch Tollaidh (moderate walk near south shore of Loch Maree) was overdue at rendezvous. He did not find his transport so retraced part of walk, but got lost when his medication began to wear off. Found by route search 3.2km from foot of Loch Maree. Dundonnell and Torridon MRTs and SARDA. 39.

JULY 3-23 – The above man (39) went missing again from his holiday home. A vain three-day search ensued by 10 SARDA dogs, Central Scotland Police Diving Team, Dundonnell and Torridon MRTs. His body was found on July 23 by an angler 10.5km from the foot of Loch Maree and recovered by boat. 615.

JULY 10-11 – Three scramblers at Bad Step of Corrag Bhuidhe, An Teallach in mist heard someone falling below them. They alerted rescuers on mobile phone. Dundonnell MRT and HMCg helicopter found body of woman (59). She had become separated from a companion, slipped and fell about 250m. Stretchered down to Loch na Sealga, where keeper took them by boat to vehicle access next morning. 432.

JULY 16-17 – Man (77) was overdue returning from Cona Mheall, Beinn Dearg. He returned to Aultguish Inn under his own steam and Dundonnell MRT was recalled. 37.

JULY 25-26 – Woman (23) left her rucksack with two companions to look for a lost camera when descending from South Coire of Ben More Assynt towards Inchnadamph at 21.20. Tired, but on correct route she decided she was lost and missing her companions returned to coire. Found by RAF Sea King next day returning via Ben More Assynt and Conival. Assynt and Kinloss MRTs and SARDA. 177.

AUGUST 20-21 – Ill-equipped solo student (19) tried to find her way from Assynt Field Centre to Eas a Chual Aluinn (waterfall) in good weather. She got hopelessly lost and benighted. Wearing Wellington boots she was 7km off course and separated from her objective by the whole range of Conival/Ben More Assynt. Found, tired but OK, next day by Assynt MRT. Leuchars team in R137 recalled when *en route* to assist. 110.

SEPTEMBER 5-6 – Descending SE just below Liathach summit man (36) slipped, falling 3m dislocating a shoulder. Groups of six whistle blasts were heard by another walker who used a phone to alert rescuers. Casualty's wife also went for help. Terrain and low cloud delayed reaching him till 0230. Dundonnell and Torridon MRTs cared for him till break in weather permitted winching by RAF R137. Kinloss MRT recalled. 506.

SEPTEMBER 6-17 – Body of a woman (49) inadequately clothed in hiking gear and poorly shod, was found by passer-by on 16th near her tent at the head of Cam Loch, about 4km west of A835 near Elphin. Death may have been due to fasting. Police and HMCg helicopter. 57.

SEPTEMBER 24-25 – Two men (47, 42) mobile phoned to inform landlady they were spending night out on Liathach because of benightment. Torridon and Kinloss MRTs called out. Search started at first light due to bad weather. Pair found and airlifted by HMCg. 145.

OCTOBER 2 – HMCg helicopter called out for fallen walker at Ardmore, Sutherland. 8.

OCTOBER 16 – Scrambling up Corrag Bhuidhe of An Teallach with three friends, male (48) slipped and fell, sustaining serious head injury with unconsciousness, and a broken arm. Mobile phone call summoned RAF Sea King airlift and Dundonnell MRT. 18.

OCTOBER 16 – Woman (37) and man (31) walked from Loch Broom to Badralloch on Little Loch Broom, then out to Scoraig. Not realising how far along the peninsula they had gone they took a 'short cut' back over the hill but got benighted on cliffs about 1km from their hotel. They lit a fire which was spotted. Airlifted out by HMCg helicopter. 10.

OCTOBER 25 – Becoming unwell at Waterfall Footbridge, Coire Mhic Nobuil, Torridon, walker (54) took medication for angina. His wife or daughter went for help. He walked off with Torridon MRT to surgery, then was airlifted to Raigmore by RAF Sea King. 27.

Note: Accident Black Spot, Corrag Bhuidhe of An Teallach. Dundonnell MRT are concerned at the frequency of accidents, which may be due to erosion of the Torridonian sandstone on the Corrag Bhuidhe Bad Step, which produces a gritty covering on an already tricky route.

In the same location the following have occurred. August 8, 1966 – One fatality. May 15, 1999 – Two fatalities. July 10, 1999 – One fatality. October 16, 1999 – Serious injury.

The team intend to publicise the risks as a cautionary note. As a scrambling route, ropes are rarely used, but a rope and helmets may be recommended, or alternatively taking the easier route to the south avoiding the Bad Step.

WESTERN HIGHLANDS

JANUARY 31 – Old lady (90) walked up Loch Hourn from Corran, Arnisdale. She slipped on seaweed and could not remember falling, perhaps a few minutes or hours before. A member of Glenelg MRT found her. She was stretchered and sent to hospital. Leg injury. 5.

MARCH 4 – Experienced walker (52) descending Sgurr Thuilm by stalkers' path was nearly down into the glen when she slipped, sustaining an ankle injury. Airlift to Belford Hospital by RAF R137 helicopter. Lochaber MRT. 41.

MARCH 7 – Man (52) stumbled and slid 30m down a snow chute about 400m NE of Gleouraich summit. He was winched into RAF Sea King suffering a scalp cut. Companion had raised alarm at 13.20. 11.

MAY 10-11 – Five adults (f52, f29, m54, m33, m26) and two male children (8, 2) walked in good weather (some mist) from Glencripesdale, Loch Sunart over rough, remote ground to Rahoy, Loch Teacuis. They were fairly experienced walkers with spare clothing and food but not equipped with adequate navigation gear or torches. They tried then to follow the coast (Caol Charna) round the headland formed by Monadh Rahuaidh. The shore got too difficult. They were

forced into dense woodland and got lost in darkness. At 23.00 they contacted police by mobile phone, and were found by RN Sea King at 0310. Three men were given a torch and directions to Glencripesdale. Two women and two children were airlifted. All were uninjured. Lochaber MRT. 33.

MAY 14 – Wife (34) fell 2.5m in Coire Mhullidh, Glen Strathfarrar (SE slopes of Sgurr a' Choire Ghlais) suffering bruising and slight head injury. Husband walked down to glen and raised alarm. Airlift in good weather by RAF Sea King. Dundonnell MRT stand-by. 8.

MAY 22-23 – Poorly equipped and shod party of four attempted a difficult walk in wind and rain. Only one carried navigation gear and was experienced. From Glenfinan they had tried to reach Glenaladale over the hills but a descent into the glen was too steep. They contoured round Beinn Mhic Cedidh and Beinn Odhar Beag to try and regain A830 but got stopped by Abhainn Shlatach. Woman (39) injured a knee trying to cross the spate burn, so three sheltered in a tent while the experienced leader crossed and went for help. Lochaber MRT stretchered the woman across the river and got her and two boys (15, 14) with cold trauma into Belford Hospital by 02.00. 44.

JUNE 3 – HMCG helicopter callout for missing person on Morvern Peninsula. 8.

JUNE 28 – Girl (15) in a party of five in good weather slipped on wet grass spraining an ankle. Coire Mhoragein of Bac an Eich. Reference NH203485. Airlift by RAF Sea King. 13.

AUGUST 21-22 – Search by Glenelg and Kintail MRTs, HMCG helicopter and SARDA for man (37) who separated from his companion. They walked from Falls of Glomach over Beinn Bhuidhe, but missing man went over Sgurr-an-Airgid and spent the night there. 123.

AUGUST 21-23 – One of two missing Labrador dogs returned home. The other was found stuck down a ravine of Borrodale Burn, Beasdale, Arisaig. Lochaber MRT called out, hoisted the dog to safety about midnight on the second day. 16.

AUGUST 26-29 – Despite extensive searches over three days a man (68) solo walking, last reported seen on Five Sisters of Kintail between Saileag and Sgurr nan Spainteach. He had an angina problem but intended to walk most of the ridge. Intensive searches were carried out by Glenelg, Kinloss, Kintail and Leuchars MRTs, five SARDA dogs, Police dogs, HMCG, RAF and RN helicopters. Still missing. 3000.

SEPTEMBER 25 – Man slipped when he was in NE Coire of Druim Shionnaich. He (35) fell breaking an ankle. One of his two companions used a mobile phone and he was airlifted to Raigmore by RAF Sea King. 25.

SEPTEMBER 26-28 – Lack of usual telephone calls to wife and son of a walker (48) on holiday in Glenelg had worried them so they reported him as missing. His car was found on A87 at the east start of the Five Sisters of Kintail walk. On 28th a local farmer reported seeing a pink object through his telescope, which turned out to be the body of the deceased. With the farmer and police on board RAF Sea King went to location on lower slopes of West Face Sgurr na Ciste Dhuibhe. No rucksack or upper body clothing were found. He had probably descended from Five Sisters before completion and fallen off a cliff through overhanging trees. Glenelg, Kinloss, Kintail MRTs, SARDA. 200.

OCTOBER 8-12 – Walker (32) did South Cluanie Ridge in two days. Descending NW Slopes of last peak (Creag nan Damh) on 8th he slipped on wet grass, fell 7m into a gully with leg injury and broken jaw. He also broke mobile phone which he had not used since day before. He got into sleeping and bivvy bags and was found by MRT search on 12th, not even hypothermic although wet. Lift by RAF Sea King. Glenelg, Kinloss, Kintail, Leuchars, SARDA. 695.

- OCTOBER 14-15 – After completing four Munros N of Loch Mullardoch, walker (60) was benighted by a river crossing 15 minutes from his vehicle. He turned up as Dundonnell MRT started searching next morning. 36.
- OCTOBER 30 – Shore walker (40) reported missing Loch Nevis. Lost, he was found by Mallaig Lifeboat at Ardnamurach and reunited with his group at Tarbet. Lochaber MRT, HMCG Mallaig, RAF Sea King. 49.
- NOVEMBER 22 - Man (37) was overdue from the NE slopes of Beinn Sgritheall. He had separated from two companions to return to base and they were concerned about his asthma. Glenelg MRT found him at 22.30. Kintail MRT called out. The problem had been a sprained ankle. RAF Rescue 138 had been *en route*. 84.
- DECEMBER 30 – Hillwalker (50) found by shepherd floating face down near the east shore of Loch Dughaill, Achnashellach. He had a large rucksack on his back. It seems he tried to cross River Carron at its inlet into L. Dughaill and fell into the water. Due to the weight of the rucksack he was unable to regain his footing. Body recovered using ATV. Drowning caused his death. N. Constabulary.

BEN NEVIS

- JANUARY 6 – Search by Lochaber MRT, RAF Sea King and SARDA after a rucksack of clothing, with rope and karabiners attached to grab handle, was found in Observatory Gully near avalanche debris. Above the sack items could be seen which had fallen out as the sack rolled down. Before search began the rucksack had been collected and no one was reported missing. 112.
- FEBRUARY 9 – Soloing Tower Ridge, a climber (28) was crossing Tower Gap when one of his axes pulled out causing a fall of 140m (the whole length of Glover's Chimney) into soft snow with ankle, pelvis and rib fractures, bruises and abrasions. Nearby climbers heard his shouts and raised alarm. Two RN Sea Kings, Lochaber MRT, JSMTTC. 88.
- FEBRUARY 16 – Climbing instructor (31) was belayed on Tower Scoop, with his leader, another instructor, climbing above him. Despite wearing a helmet he was killed when struck on the head by rocks or ice dislodged, probably by another party. Left by his companion and evacuated by Lochaber MRT and RN Sea King. 115.
- FEBRUARY 17 – Change of snow texture, from hard to soft, on steep ground 200m from CIC Hut, caused soldier (36) to stumble with slight shoulder injury. He was undergoing winter skills training. Aided by companions, then Lochaber team in area, he got airlifted by RN Sea King also in area. 6.
- FEBRUARY 20 – Police received radio message on CIC Hut frequency, 'We have a casualty. Can you assist?' Lochaber MRT flown by RN to hut. Nothing found. 55.
- MARCH 1-2 – Lochaber and Kinloss MRTs searched Observatory Gully for three well equipped Italian climbers who spent the night in the summit refuge after completing Zero Gully. This had been their expressed intention, but language difficulties caused hosts to expect them back to B and B the night before. RAF Sea King. 151.
- MARCH 3 – Two men (29, 26) descending Nevis in a white-out navigated into Surgeons' Gully where they were cragfast at 18.00 using mobile phone to alert Lochaber and RAF St. Athan MRTs. Located at 22.00 by teams, lowered some way, then airlifted by RAF Sea King to Belford. Some rewarming carried out. Dressings used. 250.
- MARCH 13 – Triggered avalanche. Gale, but it was not snowing at the time. Roped

pair nearing the top of Point Five Gully had difficulty finding a belay. Deceased (m23) belayed with two ice-axes. Leader (f23) about 10m above him was in very loose snow which slid so that both fell down Point Five into Observatory Gully, then rolled and slid to the foot of Observatory Ridge, a fall of about 400m. Nearby climbers found man dead. Woman had spinal, pelvic and facial injuries. Lochaber and Kinloss MRTs, RN Sea King. 257.

MARCH 20 Two men descending Nevis Track from summit went off course. Casualty (42) tried to go to his right on snow (no crampons or axe in freezing weather) but slipped, falling 150m in Upper Coire Eoghainn, fracturing a femur and causing facial abrasions. Companion descended Waterslide to Top Car Park and alerted climbers. Evacuated to Belford by HMS Gannet helicopter and Lochaber MRT. 135.

MARCH 20 – Comb Gully. Leader (20) had been preparing gear to start. He ‘unlocked’ his belay but his ice stance collapsed and both roped climbers fell 75m coming to a halt by ice-axe braking. Leader had a deep ice-axe gash in a thigh. Two members of Kinloss MRT on a nearby climb saw them fall and dressed the wound. They had a faulty radio but lowered casualty to CIC Hut and contacted Lochaber MRT. Airlift by RAF Sea King. 35.

MARCH 24 – Pair climbed Ben by Carn Mor Dearg Arête then attempted to descend Mountain Track to Achintee in 10m visibility with spindrift. From GR 164712 man (33) slipped and successfully braked with his axe. However, trying to stand up he fell again and slid feet first, face down about 300m (altitude) into Coire Eoghainn. Lochaber MRT found him at GR 165708 with limb injuries, cuts and bruises. Airlift by RAF Sea King. 100.

MARCH 27-28 Two boys with their father and uncle descended Nevis Track in strong wind, mist and rain after a night on summit. Three of the party had inadequate boots and none carried helmets, ice-axes or crampons. Boy (14) slid about 90m down snow in Red Burn Gully sustaining facial injuries, broken wrist and hypothermia. Going to help him, his uncle (31) slid 60m down snow sustaining skull fracture and hypothermia. All four were airlifted by RN Sea King. Lochaber MRT. 128.

APRIL 2 – Body (40) found at the foot of Number 5 Gully by a passing climber. Apparently he had fallen 450m when trying (solo) to top out at the left side of the cornice of the small coire at the top of the gully. Lochaber MRT, RAF Sea King. 38.

APRIL 14-15 – Cragfast at Tower Gap, Tower Ridge, because of weather and nightfall, two climbers, both men (50, 34) were rescued next day by Lochaber MRT and airlifted by RAF helicopter. 149.

APRIL 19-21 – Lochaber MRT and RAF Sea King rescued two hypothermic climbers (46, 36) from above Glen Nevis Waterslide, Coire Eoghainn. Despite gale warnings the two men had camped, climbed NE Buttress, crawled on all fours with ice axes and crampons around the coire rim and spent a further night in a snow hole. Leuchars and Kinloss MRTs recalled. Treated overnight at Belford Hospital. 208.

MAY 15 – Mobile phone call at 22.10 from two male climbers (36, 33) cragfast on Great Tower, Tower Ridge. Airlifted OK by RAF Sea King and Lochaber MRT by midnight. 27.

MAY 18 – A slip when trying to place a second running belay on Pandora’s Buttress, Polldubh Crag caused a leader fall of 6m. On dry rock he had been 18m up the climb with one runner in place. He stopped upside down hanging from the runner with his back severely bruised and abraded. His second used mobile phone to

alert Lochaber MRT. Stretchered to road and kept in Belford Hospital overnight. 18.

JUNE 25 – Descending Ben Track from summit, (m28) got cramped legs and companions helped him down. Another group called out Lochaber MRT and RN Sea King returning from a previous incident. Meantime casualty had got down uninjured with no help from team. 30.

JUNE 26 – Man (73) slipped on scree descending Ben Track from summit, breaking an ankle in two places. Passer-by used mobile phone to alert rescuers. Lochaber MRT and RAF helicopter. 26.

JULY 3 – Walker (30) used mobile phone when cragfast at the top of a gully on Carn Dearg NW of Ben Nevis. RN helicopter lifted four Lochaber MRT who helped subject abseil to foot of gully where he was airlifted OK. 35.

JULY 9-10 – Descending Mountain Track at 21.30 (m52) slipped on scree at 950m, breaking his wrist and cutting his face. Companion went for help. Casualty was escorted down by three members of Lochaber MRT. 17.

JULY 13 – At 09.30 six climbers abseiled into Douglas Gap from the top of Douglas Boulder prior to climbing Tower Ridge. The last pair, both wearing helmets, abseiled together because one of them was inexperienced. As they started to descend, the additional weight caused the belay to fail. They both fell about 30m striking the rock face several times. The novice (f24) suffered slight elbow injuries, but the experienced man (25) had serious head injuries. Rescued by RN Sea King and Lochaber MRT. 108.

JULY 17 – Schoolgirl (16) in a party of six on Nevis summit plateau strained ligaments in her hip and felt unable to continue. Rescued by Lochaber MRT and RN Sea King for treatment in Belford Hospital. Discharged later that day. 50.

JULY 18 – Fell running down from halfway point of Mountain Track (Half Ben Race) female (45) tripped when 200m above second aluminium bridge. She banged her head and later required five scalp stitches and overnight observation in Belford Hospital. Evacuation by Lochaber MRT and RAF Sea King. 35.

JULY 22 – Man (40) descending Mountain Track became hypoglycaemic. He contacted his wife by mobile phone. She contacted Lochaber MRT and he was aided to hospital. 12.

JULY 27 – Man (40) accompanied by his daughter, sprained a thigh descending Mountain Track near Halfway Lochan. Escorted by Lochaber MRT. No medical aid. 12.

JULY 29 – Man (31) met another walker on Mountain Track on a very hot, sunny day. They decided to do Carn Mor Dearg Arête together. At about the lowest point of the ridge, the man stopped to look at the view. He lost his footing and fell backwards for about 60m. Lochaber MRT called out (mobile phone). He had to be stretchered to a more accessible place for airlifts by RN Sea King to Belford Hospital, then to Glasgow Southern General because of serious head injuries. 117.

AUGUST 3 – Just above Halfway Lochan on Mountain Track, woman (35) suffered epileptic fit from which she did not regain full consciousness so her friends alerted Lochaber MRT and RAF Sea King. Airlifted to Belford and released after treatment. 34.

AUGUST 3 – Woman (51) slipped on Mountain Track on second zig-zag above Halfway House sustaining slight head injuries, cuts and bruises. Companions used mobile phone. Team and helo used which were already engaged on above rescue. 12.

AUGUST 18 – Wearing lightweight fashion boots at Steall Meadow, a woman (37)

- stepped back on flat grass breaking her ankle. She had been taking a photograph of Steall Waterfall. RAF Sea King helicopter. Lochaber MRT. 36.
- AUGUST 21 - Woman (42) accompanied by her husband stumbled descending Mountain Track just above Halfway Lochan. She sprained a knee. Airlift by RAF and Lochaber MRT notified by mobile phone. Released from Belford after treatment. 14.
- AUGUST 28 - Man (39) had chest pains descending Mountain Track. Airlifted, examined and soon released from hospital. RAF and Lochaber. 45.
- AUGUST 28 - Woman (30) slipped descending Mountain Track and had difficulty moving her legs. Airlifted and treated at hospital for groin strain. RAF and Lochaber. 14.
- AUGUST 30 - Descending Mountain Track just above Halfway Lochan, schoolgirl (15) slipped on loose stone, landed awkwardly and badly sprained an ankle. Mother contacted Lochaber MRT and RN Sea King. 48.
- SEPTEMBER 4 - Ben Race runner (m48) slipped descending near Halfway Lochan sustaining minor head injuries. Airlift by RAF Sea King, Lochaber MRT. 25.
- SEPTEMBER 4 - Ben Race co-ordinator (m41) suffered severe back pain (sciatica) near Halfway Lochan and was airlifted by RAF Sea King and Lochaber MRT. 25.
- SEPTEMBER 4 Ben Race runner (m71) suffered exhaustion descending at Halfway Lochan. Airlift by RAF Sea King, Lochaber MRT. 25.
- SEPTEMBER 4 - After ascending Tower Ridge with a companion, climber (54) got exhausted during descent. Ochils MRT staying at CIC Hut on exercise helped him down to just below Coire Leis Refuge for airlift by RAF Sea King to hospital. He was released after treatment. Lochaber MRT. 51.
- SEPTEMBER 5-6 - Three men (38, 37, 33) were found next day by Lochaber MRT descending the track from the summit after delays and benightment on Tower Ridge. They had deviated off route at one stage and overcome low cloud, rain and greasy rock. 41.
- SEPTEMBER 10 - Retired man (69) was persuaded by another group to alert teams when he had thigh cramps on Carn Mor Dearg Arête. Lochaber MRT and RAF Sea King scrambled. Later he was fit to continue, obtained a mobile phone and cancelled the emergency, descending unaided with his companion. 18.
- SEPTEMBER 18 - Participator (f24) in a charity walk suffered an epileptic fit at second zigzag above Red Burn on Mountain Track. Lochaber MRT member came across casualty and radioed for other team members and RAF Sea King. 23.
- SEPTEMBER 26-27 - Two from party of four about 100m below top of Observatory Ridge were reported as fatigued and unable to continue. One stayed with them while another raised alarm at 21.25. At 23.10 RAF Sea King spoke to three people near Halfway Lochan all uninjured and getting down OK. Lochaber MRT. 95.
- OCTOBER 9 - Pair climbing NE Buttress in mist and rain stopped for something to eat below Mantrap. One (26) climbed a chimney below Mantrap and waited for his friend. Friend (m29) wearing harness but unroped, slipped climbing the chimney and was killed by falling down the Orion Face. Lochaber MRT and RAF Sea King. 158.
- DECEMBER 19-20 - Students (f19, m21) went to climb Mega Route X but the ice had not formed completely and they climbed Point Five Gully instead. Change of plan and minor technical problems (belays) caused benightment, descending to CIC Hut to collect camp gear. Found by Lochaber MRT and RN helicopter near the hut, but they declined an airlift after midnight and walked down. 50.

GLEN COE

- JANUARY 5 – Descending Bidean Coire with subject of following incident, Student (20) fell 240m because snow had balled up in her crampons. She suffered fractures of neck and leg and abrasions. Glencoe MRT stretchered her 600m down coire to airlift by RAF Sea King. 60.
- JANUARY 5 – Student (m20) was descending with casualty of above incident. When she fell his shouts were heard by other climbers. He got cragfast at foot of Church Door Buttress. GMRT belayed him down then escorted him off the hill. 60.
- JANUARY 20 – Two ropes each of two men (33, 32) (17, 17) climbed to top of Curved Ridge separately. They met up. Darkness had fallen. They decided there was a severe avalanche danger if they crossed the bowl at the top of Curved Ridge, so they planned to stay overnight. Meantime, alarm had been raised. RAF Sea King was unable to airlift due to poor visibility. GMRT climbed up to them and rescued all four with a mixture of abseiling, belaying and leading them down. 175.
- FEBRUARY 6-7 – Three men (35, 33, 32) attempting climb in Crowberry Gully/Ridge area found it beyond their ability. Cragfast, they used light signals and were aided down by GMRT. 56.
- FEBRUARY 7-8 – Four descending Bidean nam Bian got as far as An t-Sron when it got dark. Because of this and tiredness, three men (29, 25, 24) stayed there. Other went for help. GMRT and RN Sea King got them down at 00.15. 79.
- FEBRUARY 10 – Instructor (31) descending steep snow in Coire nam Beith tripped over his crampons, fell 6m, tearing foot ligaments. Stretchered by GMRT to the ‘gates’ where he was airlifted by RAF. 30.
- FEBRUARY 10 – Man (36) descending snow on east side of Coire nan Lochan tripped over crampons. He ice-axe braked but a crampon caught in snow breaking that same lower leg. GMRT attended (already involved in nearby coire). Airlift by RAF. 30.
- FEBRUARY 13 – Roped pair (m50, m44) climbing Dinnertime Buttress, W. Face Aonach Dubh crossed right and got cragfast on upper rake above B Buttress. Strobe light was used by pair to initiate rescue. Low cloud at top of buttress prevented airlift, but pair were lead off the hill by GMRT before midnight. 100.
- FEBRUARY 13 – Darkness fell preventing four Aonach Eagach traversers (m32,30 f30,30) from seeing the Clachaig Gully path down Sgor nam Fiannaidh. RAF R137 was in the area attempting above rescue. They torch signalled the helicopter. All four winched on board. GMRT. 19.
- FEBRUARY 15 – Roped party of six men (57, 53, 32, 23, 22, 17) attempted Curved Ridge, Buachaille Etive Mor. Near top the difficulties outweighed ability. When dark fell they signalled help. GMRT lowered them from ridge for walk to road. 127.
- FEBRUARY 16 – Unroped pair descending steep snow of Coire na Tulaich from top of Buachaille Etive Mor. One (24) slipped, partially managing to arrest his fall of 300m, but hitting rocks at foot of slope broke an ankle. GMRT splinted and stretchered him. 63.
- FEBRUARY 21 – Three students (f22, 18, m19) were reported missing by their leader. She had been going in front down a steep snow slope SW of W Summit Bidean nam Bian. Triggering a small avalanche she had become separated from the group. Fearing they had been caught in the avalanche she went down to the road. GMRT found the three unhurt trying to get down. Kinloss MRT. 38.
- FEBRUARY 23 – Roped climber (47) injured a limb descending Bad Step, Am Bodach of Aonach Eagach when his handhold broke off, causing a fall of 2m. Airlift by RN helicopter and GMRT. 28.

- MAY 17 – Descending track (scree) very close to summit Sgor na h-Ulaidh walker (28) slipped, twisting his knee. Used mobile phone. GMRT and RAF Sea King airlift. 50.
- MAY 30-31 – Party of five plus dog overdue on Aonach Eagach turned up OK next day. Mild weather.
- JUNE 12 – Aonach Eagach traverser (21) descending gully direct from Sgor nam Fiannaidh to Loch Achtriochtan slipped on wet grass and scree. He fell 45m hurting an ankle and fracturing a wrist. Aided down by GMRT. RAF helicopter recalled when it was found he could walk down. 40.
- JUNE 18-19 – Solo walker (58) in Crowberry Basin of Buachaille Etive Mor had a fatal fall between 18th and 19th. His body was found by passers-by and stretchered down by GMRT. 31.
- JUNE 29-30 – Poorly equipped (only three had navigation gear) and without proper waterproofs or spare clothing, all wearing black leather military boots, seven female and five male students (average age 20) climbed Stob Coire Sgreamhach from Lairig Eilde. They had intended to do Beinn Fhada, but because of bad weather did Bidean nam Bian instead, intending to continue along the ridge to the road. Poor navigation in gale, rain and mist caused a descent into Summit Gully, Stob Coire nam Beith, where they got cragfast. GMRT alerted by mobile phone giving approximate location. Overnight they found group and led them to where they could be winched by RAF Sea King. One student (f20) was taken by ambulance to hospital with cold trauma. 245.
- JULY 1 – Descending from Lairig Eilde into Dalness, Glen Etive, woman (38) slipped on rough path injuring a limb. Stretchered to Air Ambulance by GMRT. 33.
- JULY 17 – Party of three (f39, m35, m8) stopped by Allt Coire Gabhail in spate in Lost Valley. They managed to get across before GMRT reached them. 13.
- JULY 18 – Male student (29) suffered arm and leg injuries in a 30m fall when roped climbing Central Buttress, Buachaille Etive Mor. A piece of rock slab had given way. Other climbers saw the fall. Airlift by RAF Sea King. GMRT. 75.
- JULY 19 – Party of three in Lost Valley walked higher, got lost in cloud, lost their map then called help on mobile phone. They (f23, m28, m22) were found on Stob Coire nan Lochan by GMRT, searching ridges and tops of Bidean nam Bian. 75.
- AUGUST 9 – Leader (55) near top of Drainpipe Corner, East Face Aonach Dubh, fell 8m on to a heather ledge, then rolled, when one of her footholds broke off. She sustained a broken leg, cuts and bruises. At that point a member of GMRT emerged having completed a climb of his own. He radioed his team who carried a stretcher up. Airlift by RAF Sea King. 50.
- AUGUST 9 – Descending Lost Valley path (f50) slipped on scree and vegetation breaking her ankle. Airlift to hospital by RAF R137 in area on Aonach Dubh rescue. GMRT. 13.
- AUGUST 21 – East to West Aonach Eagach traverser (m45) suffered leg cramps and exhaustion just east of Pinnacles of Stob Coire Leith. Nearby GMRT member radioed RAF airlift. 12.
- SEPTEMBER 4 – Climbing down Bad Step (Am Bodach, Aonach Eagach) facing in, man (50) lost a handhold on wet rock and scree. He fell 24m sustaining deep laceration to a forearm and slight injury to same hand. GMRT and RAF R137 airlift. 44.
- SEPTEMBER 15 – Inexperienced, badly-equipped men (51, 26) attempted to reach Pap of Glencoe from Invercoe but could not get down when dark fell. They flashed torches and were aided down OK by GMRT. 17.

- OCTOBER 5 – Couple (f35, m41) climbing Drainpipe Corner on Weeping Wall, East Face Aonach Dubh, got cragfast. Their rope snagged on a bush above the waterfall. Passers-by alerted GMRT who freed their rope and got them down. 44.
- OCTOBER 9 – Man (38) soloing Curved Ridge slipped on wet rock, fell 18m injuring his leg. Two (from party of five) went to summit where they used a mobile phone. RAF Sea King winched casualty and the other two. GMRT. 38.
- OCTOBER 16-17 – Descending west from Sgor na h-Ulaidh summit, solo walker (49) followed a fence line north into steep ground near Allt na Muidhe where he slipped and got cragfast. GMRT, alerted when he was overdue, spotted torch flashes and escorted him down. 76.
- NOVEMBER 6 – During E to W Aonach Eagach traverse woman (31) panicked just west of Meall Dearg. Mobile phone alerted GMRT and cragfast she was winched aboard RN helicopter. Three companions continued walk. 20.
- NOVEMBER 6 – Refer to above rescue. Solo (f52) doing the ridge in the other direction, stumbled injuring wrist. She applied first aid and continued, intending a self-rescue. Soon after she met above party and learned that Sea King was on its way, so she was airlifted to Belford Hospital. GMRT. 20.
- DECEMBER 19 – Novice (39) intended to climb Curved Ridge, Buachaille Etive Mor, in winter conditions, with no ice-axe, crampons or navigation gear. He strayed on to a harder route, D Gully Buttress, got cragfast and alerted GMRT and RN Sea King by mobile phone. Winched off. 55.
- DECEMBER 28 – Unable to complete E to W traverse of Aonach Eagach before dark, two men (37, 34) descending Sgorr nam Fiannaidh got cragfast in a gully. Escorted off by GMRT after using mobile phone. 37.
- DECEMBER 29 – A broken crampon caused three unroped climbers to retreat from 800m on Curved Ridge, Buachaille Etive Mor. The men (all aged 21) were delayed in their descent by the one wearing only one crampon, so they got benighted and cragfast at the Bad Step. Torch signals alerted Glencoe MRT who escorted them off uninjured. 60.

OTHER CENTRAL HIGHLANDS

- JANUARY 22 – Not carrying crampons, man (51) descending west slopes of Stob a' Ghlais Choire, Blackmount, slipped on snow/ice. Companion, some distance below, tried to break the fall but could not hold on. Casualty fell 300m suffering bruises and a severe head cut. Glencoe MRT stretchered him to a safe area. RAF Sea King airlift. 118.
- JANUARY 27-29 – Guide had spotted two male outdoor instructors (44, 22) climbing Raeburn's Gully, Creag Meaghaidh, on 28th. Their car was still parked at Aberarder on 29th when avalanche category was 3. Lochaber and Leuchars teams met them. They had intended to stay camped in Coire Ardair another night but decided to cut their visit short. RAF Sea King. 160.
- FEBRUARY 5-6 – Man (40) suffering slight hypothermia was found by Lochaber MRT on a broad terrace about 1.5km SE of Leum Uilleim summit. He had climbed the mountain from Corroir Station in a white-out the day before but got lost coming down, sheltering under a rock till daylight. Glencoe, Kinloss and Leuchars MRTs, RAF Sea King, SARDA. 404.
- FEBRUARY 7 – Alone on Meall an Doire Dharaich, 1.5km east of Kinlochleven, following a domestic incident, an ill-equipped schoolgirl (14) wearing trainers, slipped in freezing conditions injuring her back. She used mobile phone and was stretchered down. Glencoe MRT. 24.

- FEBRUARY 8-9 – Search by Glencoe MRT for missing walker (40) on Creise was called off at 00.30. Helicopter was unavailable due to weather. He was found by team at 09.00 and airlifted to hospital with chest and face injuries from crag SE of Creise on Cam Gleann Face. 60.
- FEBRUARY 11 – A roped pair had just decided to retreat from Peter Pan Direct, in Coire Daimh, Beinn Udlaidh, when a block of ice fell and struck the second (38) who was knocked unconscious. He was lowered to a ledge by the leader who then down climbed. With help, leader lowered casualty (head and arm injuries) to foot of climb for airlift by RN Sea King. Arrochar and Strathclyde MRTs. 60.
- FEBRUARY 14 – Man (28) in a party of five tripped over a crampon descending Aonach an Nid of Aonach Mor. Mobile phone alert. With broken leg splinted by a ski pole, evacuated by Nevis Range personnel in a piste machine then Gondola. Lochaber MRT. 9.
- FEBRUARY 14-15 – Five men (53,42,41,41,41) climbed Staghorn Gully, Creag Meagaidh, then got lost in a white-out. Benighted in bad weather they bivvied then walked out to Garvamore Farm, Upper Spey, where they were airlifted to Aberarder Farm by RAF Sea King. Kinloss and Lochaber MRTs. 167.
- MARCH 7 – Ice collapsing around his axes and crampons caused the leader of a roped pair to fall from Ramshead Gully, Coire Daimh of Beinn Udlaidh, pulling his second off his ice-screw belay. The two (both 19) sustained head injuries despite wearing helmets. The leader also had huge bruising and torn ankle ligaments. RN Sea King airlift. Arrochar, Leuchars and Strathclyde MRTs. 43.
- MARCH 10 – In a group of five going from Corrou Station to Staoinneag Bothy, man (58) died of a heart attack less than 1km from destination. RAF Sea King and Lochaber MRT. 52.
- MARCH 13 – Standing at the foot of the 2nd pitch of Left Twin, Aonach Mor with two companions, a climber was struck by a large lump of ice dislodged by another party higher up. He (32) was wearing a helmet but sustained facial bruising and bleeding. Helped down to foot while another radioed for help. Airlifted by RN Sea King on exercise. Declined medical help. 5.
- MARCH 21-22 – Missing solo walker (55) doing Sgor Gaibhre Horseshoe came off early ending up near Loch Erich dam. He spent the night in woodland and was found on a road by a keeper next day. Meantime, Tayside teams, Kinloss, SARDA and RAF Sea King searched. Leuchars recalled *en route*. 147.
- APRIL 5 – Lochaber MRT called out to rescue canoe instructor (31) who with two companions had tried to paddle R. Spean from Laggan Dam to Inverlair Falls. He had to eject from boat, tried to swim to bank but was swept down and was stuck on an small island above the falls. His companions had managed to get ashore but no safety line had been laid across the river prior to starting. It was arranged for the siphons at Laggan Dam to be turned off. Once the river level fell he was able to walk ashore. 13.
- APRIL 20 – Diabetic (59) got separated from his two companions in a white-out on the summit of Beinn Udlamain at 13.00. They walked out to Dalnaspidal. He phoned in safe from Kinloch Rannoch at 19.15. The shortest possible distance from B. Udlamain to L. Rannoch is 16km as the crow flies. Tayside and Cairngorm MRTs.
- MAY 2 – Descending NE from Stob Coire a' Chairn into Coire Gabhail, Mamores, a woman (52) slipped on wet grass breaking her ankle. Lochaber MRT and RAF Sea King. 23.
- MAY 17 – On path at lowest point of col between Stob Ban and Sgurr an Iubhair, Mamores, woman (66) slipped on scree and broke her ankle. RAF R137 Sea King airlift. 14.

- JUNE 16 – Award hike at headwaters of River Findhorn in Monadh Liath. Schoolgirl (15) in party of six experienced chest pains and breathing difficulties when 8.5km SW of Coignafearn Lodge (Amhainn Cro Clach). Air Ambulance lift to Raigmore. Found to be well. 6.
- JUNE 18 – Wife worried because her fit husband (60) had high blood pressure and was late. He turned up 4 hours late from Loch Dubh, Monadh Liath Mountains, just 10 minutes before Cairngorm MRT planned to start a search. 1.
- JUNE 25 – Woman (57) solo walking Mamore Lodge to An Gearanach and Glen Nevis lost the path near Steall Waterfall and was overdue. She turned up 5 hours late so RN Sea King *en route* and Lochaber MRT searchers were stood down. 40.
- JULY 14 – Cairngorm MRT stretcher requested, but not used, in rescue of a schoolgirl (13). She had fallen 12m down steep bank of R. Gynack at Kingussie. Minor injuries. 2.
- JULY 15 – Descending NE Ridge, Sgurr a' Mhaim after Ring of Steall with three companions in poor weather, man (53) twisted his ankle. Airlift by RAF Sea King. Lochaber MRT. 72.
- JULY 15 – Same helicopter (above rescue) lifted schoolboy (13) from bealach just west of Carn Liath, Creag Meagaidh Range. Descending, he had slipped and damaged foot ligaments. Lochaber MRT. 13.
- AUGUST 6-7 – At 22.30 walking with a companion on Sgurr a' Mhaim above Steall Waterfall, man (32) slipped on peat moss and fell 9m on to his head. Sometime later the companion attracted other walkers who alerted Lochaber MRT. Casualty aided down overnight and conveyed to Belford Hospital where he was detained for injuries. 16.
- AUGUST 8 – Man (52) attempted to solo Easy Gully, Creag Meagaidh. He crossed two waterfalls but was unable to cross a third. He got cragfast three-quarters the height of the gully and managed to alert rescuers by mobile phone. Winched off by RAF Sea King. Lochaber MRT. 19.
- AUGUST 22 – Student (20) tourist walking on Craigellachie Crag in National Nature Reserve, Aviemore, got cragfast at edge of cliff. He was spotted by a German tourist. Cairngorm MRT walked him off. 14.
- AUGUST 29 – Crossing a burn near the head of Glen Noe, Loch Etive (north of Ben Cruachan) student (18) on award hike slipped on wet rocks and fell heavily. He suffered bruising and was unable to go on. Airlift by RN Sea King. Strathclyde Police MRT. 22.
- SEPTEMBER 5 – Polish student (24) got cragfast on steep ground east of Steall Waterfall when trying to get a better view. His companion alerted Lochaber MRT. He was aided down. 22.
- SEPTEMBER 24-25 – Walking from Rannoch Forest to Ben Alder Cottage (bothy) man (64) slipped on wet grass. His foot went into a hole breaking a tibia. Friends assisted him to bothy and one went for help. Airlifted by RAF. Cairngorm MRT. 10.
- OCTOBER 14 – When he was a stalking guest, on Creag Dhubh, Newtonmore, a Danish national (56) got lost and separated. However he found a road and got a lift. Meantime his son and the gamekeeper reported him missing and Lochaber MRT was alerted. 10.
- DECEMBER 19 – Woman (52) broke her ankle stumbling near summit of Stob Coire na Gaibhre, Grey Corries. Lochaber MRT and airlift by RN helicopter from HMS Gannet. 13.
- DECEMBER 28 – Skiing off piste down 'The Long Ridge' Sron a' Ghoire, Creag Meagaidh, one of a pair (35) fell injuring his knee. Companion raised alarm at

Aberarder and he was airlifted by RAF Sea King. Discharged after treatment. Kinloss and Lochaber MRTs. 53.

DECEMBER 30 – Woman (39) in a party of five fell 70m with head injuries when a step cut in hard snow collapsed under her on the North Ridge of Stob Ban, Mamores. Weather was good at the time, but inclement weather precluded airlift by RN helicopter. A neck splint was fitted and she was stretchered right down to glen by Lochaber MRT. 192.

CAIRNGORMS

1998 late reports: JANUARY 31-FEBRUARY 1 – Aberdeen MRT stretchered a man (21) from Glas Allt Mor to Derry Lodge road. The day before, in a party of two, he had twisted a leg on last pitch of Corridor on Creagan Coire Etchachan. He had attempted self-evacuation using a sweeping brush as a crutch. The brush was returned to Hutchison Hut. 35.

DECEMBER 28 – Walker (40) injured his knee on Oxen Craig of Bennachie and was airlifted to Aberdeen by RAF Sea King. 2.

1999: JANUARY 8-9 – Climbing the crux of The Message on Mess of Pottage, Coire an-t' Sneachda, the leader (m23) lost footing and fell on top of the second man (22). Second was knocked unconscious for a time. One of leader's crampons had pierced second's helmet; the other crampon caused two deep neck lacerations missing the second's carotid artery by 6mm. Leader had slight injuries. Party did not feel safe to abseil, and were unsure how best to lower a casualty. Third climber (f21) blew whistle. Party was found in low cloud by Cairngorm MRT with two SARDA dogs and hoisted to plateau at 22.00. Second man had recovered and all walked off by 01.00. 171.

JANUARY 12 – Aberdeen MRT and Braemar MRTs reported casualties evacuated by RAF helicopter from the corrie of Lochagar. One man (51) had his leg broken in four places when knocked over by another climber when ascending a snow slope. 123.

JANUARY 12 – Casualty with ankle injury evacuated from Lochnagar Corrie. 123.

JANUARY 12 – Casualty with rib injuries evacuated from Lochnagar Corrie. 123.

JANUARY 14 to April 3 – Walker (49) left his car on A93 at foot of Gharbh-choire to make the round of Glas Maol, Cairn of Claise and Carn an Turc, with snow cover and intermittent snow showers. Searches for him, some in desperate weather were made on 15, 16, 17 and 30. Teams involved were: Aberdeen, Braemar, Kinloss, Leuchars, RAF helicopters, SARDA, Tayside. His body, with a skull fracture, was found by Aberdeen MRT on April 3 below a steep snow gully in the coire containing Loch Kander above Glen Callater. It is thought he may have walked through a cornice. Evacuation by RAF Sea King. 4806.

JANUARY 21 – Intending to walk from Cairn Lochan to Coire Cas three soldiers (30, 26, 26) signalled on mobile phone at 22.10. They had no idea of their location (Strath Nethy) but were asked to fire flares, which were spotted and RAF Sea King lifted them. Cairngorm MRT and SARDA had been assured the men would not get lost, so team had searched avalanche areas such as Twin Burns and Goat Track. 159.

JANUARY 23-24 – False alarm. Tayside teams searched Coire Fee because a car had been left in Glen Clova. A pair had been camping overnight unaware of any problem. 53.

FEBRUARY 6 – Overdue returning from Mess of Pottage, two men (26, 25) had wandered down to Loch Avon. It was fairly calm with 15m visibility. Found returning down 1141m Ridge at 21.45 by Cairngorm MRT member with search dog. 36.

- FEBRUARY 6-7 – Overdue from Coire an t-Sneachda, three male students (23, 21, 19) had climbed Aladdin's Mirror then Red Gully. Delayed on second route, they had then found soft snow in corrie floor. They only had one torch. They were found by dog low down in corrie still wearing ropes and climbing gear, having abandoned their rucksacks for the night. Cairngorm MRT. Snowstorms in Strath Nethy ruled out helicopter use. 36.
- FEBRUARY 7-8 – Two men (50, 27) climbed Aladdin's Couloir in Coire an t-Sneachda then got lost on plateau. They found Loch Avon at 15.00 thinking it was Loch Morlich. They thought Fords of Avon Bothy was Sinclair Hut (demolished), and that Faindouran Bothy was Rothiemurchus Lodge. Finally, admitting they were lost they bivvied (only one bag) at 01.45 then carried on down Glen Avon reaching Inchroary Lodge at 11.00. They phoned and were airlifted. Meantime, Braemar, Cairngorm, Kinloss, Leeming, RAF Sea King and SARDA searched for them. 324.
- FEBRUARY 7-8 – Man (21) and woman (22) inadvertently climbed Central Buttress, Lochnagar, trying to get out of the corrie and got stuck under the cornice. Braemar MRT lifted by RAF helicopter after lights were spotted on the climb. Aberdeen MRT. 70.
- FEBRUARY 13-14 – Parallel Gully A of Lochnagar. Leader (37) reached crux pitch in darkness and failed to lead it. Second (31) refused to abseil – there was a large amount of spindrift blowing into the gully. They phoned for help at 20.00 hours. Braemar MRT member was lowered 60m down to men and attached lines to them whereby they were assisted to the plateau. Aberdeen MRT brought stretchers which were not needed as cragfast pair walked down. RAF Sea King stayed in Ballater due to high wind and no casualties. 364.
- FEBRUARY 14-17 – Father (44) and son (16) spent three nights on Cairngorm Plateau: Sunday in a snow hole high on west slopes of Cairn Lochan; Monday and Tuesday in an inadequate shelter in the area of Gairbh Uisge Beag/Feith Buidhe of Ben Macdui. Son had lost gloves digging shelters; slopes were too iced for safe descents; wind gusts of 187km/hr were recorded on Cairngorm; both had become frostbitten and hypothermic. They left the shelter at 16.00 Wednesday abandoning stove, seven tins of food and three ice axes – the son could not hold an ice-axe. They had one pair of crampons. Conditions had improved a little. They moved towards the Goat Track covering only 1 to 2km in 3 hours. When on the east slopes of Cairn Lochan at 19.00 they saw the lights of several snow-holing parties in Coire Domhain below them. They shouted, were taken to the bivvies by London Mountaineering Club, succoured by them and at the igloos of a Glenmore Lodge party. After several approach routes had been abandoned, RAF Sea King evacuated them to Raigmore. 46.
- FEBRUARY 15-16 – Two men (39, 31) were reported overdue climbing Fiacail Couloir, Coire an t-Sneachda. Got lost at the top of the climb but managed to get out of the wind and dig a snow shelter near Cairn Lochan summit. Cairngorm MRT had done a midnight check of the foot of the climbs. Next morning the pair went south instead of north, going down Coire Domhain. Near the foot of Coire Raibeirt, Loch Avon they joined five who had spent the night in the Shelter Stone. They were all found by two members of Cairngorm MRT, who escorted them up the coire and off the hill, carrying the rucksacks of the missing pair. Deep snow and tiredness slowed the return of this party. Well equipped but without a survival bag. The finding of deep snow to dig a shelter was a major factor in their survival. Kinloss and SARDA also involved. 259.
- FEBRUARY 15-16 – Ten minutes after the previous incident, pair (f46, m39) were reported overdue climbing The Runnel, Coire an t-Sneachda. They completed

that climb (or Aladdin's Couloir). Got lost at the top of the climb (16.00) and stopped at dark and got into bivvy bags near the head of Coire Raibeirt. Cairngorm MRT had done a midnight check of the foot of the climbs. At 11.15 next day they heard the woman whistling and shouting from the bivvy site. Some metres away from the man she was in a Goretex bivvy bag and recovered quickly, being walked off the plateau. The man was severely hypothermic, poorly equipped in an orange plastic bag, frozen to the ground, his face a mask of ice. A group shelter was erected. Reinforcements brought a stretcher up from the car park but it took two hours as the conditions were bad. Met by doctor, but RAF Sea King could only get to the Hayfield. Airlift halted at Grantown by blizzards. Patient declared dead. Kinloss and Leuchars MRTs and SARDA. 296.

FEBRUARY 15-18 – Bothying group of three walked to Achlean, Corrour, Hutchison Hut, Fords of Avon, Glenmore over four days and were a day overdue from floundering in deep snow. Cairngorm MRT.

FEBRUARY 16-17 – Hypothermia victim (50) had left his car on A9 to cross two Munros east of Drumochter Pass summit. His body was found by Cairngorm MRT at 11.15 next day 1.8km SSW of Carn na Caim. He wore fleece, anorak with hood up, gloves and hat. He carried no spare clothes but had unused emergency blanket, and also unused torch. He had chocolate, fruit and a half-flask of tea. He had dug a snow trench 30cm deep on a gentle slope and got into it in an orange bivvy bag, around and over which the snow had drifted. He was moved away for helicopter lift. Also Tayside teams were involved, Kinloss, Leuchars and SARDA. 628.

FEBRUARY 16 – Party of six learning winter skills from a professional on back wall of Coire Cas reported overdue. They turned up OK at 1810, three hours late. Cairngorm MRT. 2.

FEBRUARY 20 – Two men reported overdue on Cairngorms (no route given) turned up at 23.30. 2.

FEBRUARY 20 – Two climbers reported overdue at 22.15 from climbing Red Guard, Carn Etchachan. No action taken by Cairngorm MRT. Because of distance of route from Coire Cas Car Park, depth of new snow on ground, probable fresh snow on route, it would be unrealistic to expect them back before midnight. They turned up OK at 23.30.

FEBRUARY 20 – One of a pair soloing in Central Gully fell to the bottom despite trying to ice-axe self-arrest. Male (31) sustained back injuries and fractured ulna. Keswick Rescue Team on winter skills course in the coire (Coire an t-Sneachda) had a doctor in their party and used the stretcher from the rescue box. Helicopter was diverted from another job by mobile phone. Patient was winched and flown to Raigmore Hospital within 70 min. of the fall. Cairngorm and Leuchars MRTs also contributed to the speedy exit. 24.

FEBRUARY 20 – Pair climbed Aladdin's Couloir, but descending the Goat Track, male (33) caught his crampon on a rock, falling more than 100m and breaking a tibia and fibula despite ice-axe braking all the way. He stopped before hitting the rocks of the coire floor. Cairngorm and Leuchars MRTs alerted by someone's mobile phone but batteries went flat. He was lowered down then stretchered to car park suffering cold. Helicopter had turned back to RAF Lossiemouth from Grantown. 323.

FEBRUARY 21 – During an Aberdeen MRT exercise, an unroped party of three were climbing the buttress to the left of Silver Chimney, Coire na Poite, on the East Face of Carn a'Mhaim. As the leader reached the top of the route two men were swept down 120m by a loose snow avalanche of which the leader was unaware, but which may have been triggered by him. One member (30) sustained an open

femur fracture, the other (31) facial cuts. Aberdeen and Braemar MRTs rescued the worst injured man by stretcher lower, and snow mobile evacuation. Helicopter from RAF Boulmer was used because Lossiemouth R137 was driven back by bad weather. 159.

FEBRUARY 21 – During the above exercise, two men (40, 24) were almost swept down by the same avalanche and were left cragfast by it. They were escorted to safe ground by Aberdeen and Braemar MRTs. 159.

FEBRUARY 23-24 – After crossing Lurchers and Cairn Lochan two men (41, 28) phoned from the Goat Track in calm weather with good visibility, then they 'vanished off the face of the earth'. They had got down to Loch Avon then wandered over the Saddle down Strath Nethy. They spent the night in the glacial spillwater channel south of Stac na h-lolairre from which there was no phone contact. Next day they got a signal from the crest of the ridge to the west and were escorted to Coire na ciste by Cairngorm MRT. SARDA. 40.

FEBRUARY 24 – Mountain guide (36) assessing two others was descending unroped below No. 4 Buttress, Cairn Lochan. He kicked hard into névé and hit a rock so breaking a fibula. He lost a crampon and fell 90m, being unable to ice-axe arrest, which caused slight head injuries, abrasions and bruising. Companions radioed RAF Sea King. Cairngorm MRT. 5.

MARCH 3-4 – Party of six TA got lost in blizzard and white-out returning from Macdui. They dug in near the top of Hell's Lum Crag. One (34) with a hamstring injury, recovering from a recent accident, not too fit to start with, exhausted and mildly hypothermic. They had used the Chairlift that morning. Fortunately, three climbers who had just done Deep Cut Chimney came across them. They took one along and left the other five with a group shelter. When they could get a signal out they raised the alarm on a mobile phone. Cairngorm and Kinloss MRTs stretchered the casualty out between midnight and 04.00 in blizzard conditions which ruled out helicopter use. 451.

MARCH 4-5 – Two very well equipped male climbers climbed Fiacail Coire an t-Sneachda (Fiacail Ridge). They could not navigate in mist on high plateau so dug in and mobile phoned for help, saying they were on east side of coire. Although weather cleared at 21.00 hours they stayed put and flashed distress signals, which were seen by Cairngorm MRT on west side of coire (Fiacail a'Choire Chais). Escorted off at 02.00. 132.

MARCH 6 – Two men overdue from climbing Deep Cut Chimney, Hell's Lum turned up at 23.10. Cairngorm MRT informed.

MARCH 8 – Climbing Vertigo Wall, Creag an Dubh Loch (m31) fell 10m, injuring his ankle, before the rope tightened. He and his companion abseiled off then walked off with four colleagues. All five went ahead at his request. They reached Spittal of Glen Muick, waited 4 hours then informed police. Due to his injury he had not gone much farther than where they left him, 1.4km above the head of Loch Muick. Braemar MRT stretchered him out. 42.

MARCH 12 – Climber (47) who fell from near the top to the bottom of The Runnel, Coire an t-Sneachda, was lying face down not breathing. Other climbers went to help and put him in recovery position; then his breathing recovered. Broken leg, chest injuries and bruising. Rescue box stretcher was used to convey him to RAF Sea King airlift. Cairngorm MRT. 8.

MARCH 13 – Airman suffering illness on overnight exercise airlifted from Devil's Point by RN Sea King on exercise. Leuchars MRT. 7.

MARCH 15 – Cairngorm MRT informed about six overdue in Saddle, Bynack, Strath Nethy area (very vague). They turned up at 23.30. 1.

MARCH 20 – Woman (29) fell 15m from the ridge of Fiacail Coire an t-Sneachda

- on the Coire an Lochain side. She sustained severe body bruising, fractured clavicle and facial lacerations. Her companion phoned from the site. Full Cairngorm MRT callout. Party of 12 Glenmore candidates were finishing their winter ML assessment on Cairn Lochan. RAF Sea King lowered stretcher and winchman, then casualty was lowered to coire floor for airlift to Raigmore. 70.
- MARCH 20-21 – Topping out on Shadow Buttress A, Lochnagar, in thin conditions at 20.00 two men (41, 37) tried to navigate off without using map and compass (which they carried) by following the coire rim. After two hours they bivouacked. At first light they took a bearing down Glas-allt and walked off. Aberdeen, Braemar and Kinloss MRTs. 92.
- MARCH 23 – Walking at The Ladder on the Lochnagar path, man (32) slipped and suffered a slight knee injury. Airlift by R137. Braemar MRT. 22.
- APRIL 2 – Roped climber (24) slipped on a rock, snow, ice climb in Coire an Lochan of Cairn Lochan (possibly Y Gully) suffering lower back puncture, abrasions and bruising. Airlift by RAF Sea King. 10.
- APRIL 6 – Grampian Police MRT called out for walker (68) continually falling behind his party when walking Lairig Ghru (Aviemore side to Braemar). He had also fallen near Pools of Dee causing a slight back injury. Airlifted by RAF Sea King from Corroir Bothy not requiring medical attention. Suffering slight exhaustion. 13.
- APRIL 12 – Three walkers (m26, f24, f24) were stranded on Fiacail a'Choire Chais in gale, mist and snow because they had become separated from their navigator, the only one who carried map and compass. He had fallen down into Coire Cas and escaped independently. They used a mobile phone to alert Cairngorm MRT and they were guided off by midnight. 130.
- APRIL 14-15 – A plan to cross Lairig Ghru and return by Lairig an Laoigh was defeated by chest deep snow. Two men (45, 37) elected to return to Aviemore by same route over Lairig Ghru from Corroir Bothy. They only got to site of demolished Sinclair Hut and snow trenced on second night. Spouses raised alarm and the pair were contacted on mobile phone. Airlifted by RAF Sea King. Braemar and Cairngorm MRTs. 48.
- APRIL 20 – Mountain biker (55) planned Tilt/Geldie/Feshie Traverse in 10 hours. He turned up in Kingussie 2 hours late delayed by snow on the tracks. Cairngorm MRT. 1.
- MAY 21 – Undertaking West-to-East challenge, male walker in mist phoned on mobile to say he was exhausted and lost. Later mist cleared and he thought he could see Loch Etchachan but scenic description he gave indicated he was at top of Northern Corries Goat Track. His GPS reading was 991024 (Coire Domhain). Mention of a helicopter to take him north decided him to walk south and he arrived at Braemar next day as planned. Cairngorm MRT. 2.
- JUNE 5 – Overdue group of six on Duke of Edinburgh practice hike. Walking north from Gaick they took a wrong turn ending at Baileguish where they camped in the wrong glen. Found by gamekeeper. Cairngorm MRT. 1.
- JUNE 10-11 – Cairngorm MRT standby for walker (40) planning to walk Pitlochry to Kingussie by unspecified route in a day. He turned up OK at 20.30 on second day. 1.
- JUNE 18 – Pair moving together roped with leader placing protection, on Afterthought Arête, Stag Rocks, Cairngorm. At 60m the leader, climbing instructor (21) put both hands on a block and pulled up. The rock dislodged, striking him, causing him to fall 3m till he was held by his gear. He sustained fractured pelvis and ribs and a small forehead cut despite wearing a helmet. Second secured him on stance, placed him in care of nearby climbing first-aiders, then went for help.

Stretcher lower and carry by four Glenmore MRT to RAF Sea King airlift. Cairngorm MRT standby. 100.

JULY 3-4 – Regular soldier (35) estimated time to walk Sugar Bowl, Lairig Ghru, Corrou Bothy, Derry Lodge, Macdui, Sron Riach, Luibeg, Corrou Bothy, Lairig Ghru, Norwegian Hut as 10 hours. He was overdue! Cairngorm MRT estimated he would be back next day having taken 23 hours. He turned up 10 minutes early. 2.

JULY 18-19 – Walker (60) on Beinn a' Bhuird become separated from her son on the 18th. She was found OK by RAF Sea King next day. Aberdeen, Braemar, Kinloss, Leuchars MRTs and SARDA. 81.

JULY 24 – Party of five on Creagan Gorm, Glenmore. Schoolgirl (16) could not continue to walk after second asthma attack. Treated with oxygen, steroids and nebulizer and stretchered off by Cairngorm and Glenmore MRTs. 61.

JULY 24 – Man (64) stumbled on west slopes of Cairngorm near Fiacail a' Choire Chais breaking an ankle. Stretchered down by Cairngorm MRT and Ranger Service. 56.

AUGUST 5-6 – Search by Braemar and Cairngorm MRTs and RAF Sea King for male walkers (52, 15) overdue on tops around Lairig Ghru. Well equipped they booked in OK by phone before they got back to their bikes. 22.

AUGUST 11-12 – After watching eclipse at Linn of Dee, two men (60, 41) set out to cross Lairig Ghru although they did not have map sheet 43. They set off past White Bridge to Falls of Tarf, then followed the Tarf upstream for about 10km. Realising they were wrong they went north for another 6km and spent the night in the bucket of a JCB about 3km west of the ruins of Geldie Lodge. Next day they went north to head of Eidart and down to Loch Einich where they contacted one of their wives by mobile phone. Cairngorm MRT was unaware that that the pair did not have two maps and were not on the map they carried till they got well up the Eidart. Kinloss and Leuchars MRTs on route were informed when pair put up a flare when RAF Sea King was deployed to their location. 100.

AUGUST 15 – Walker (25) injured leg on steep path on south side of Ben Vrackie, Pitlochry. Rescue by RN Sea King. Taypol S and R. Kinloss MRT. 40.

AUGUST 15 – Paramedic descending from above rescue twisted his knee and was aided down to a Land-Rover by Kinloss MRT.

AUGUST 17 – Cairngorm MRT alerted for mountain biker (14) overdue between Ryvoan and Glenmore, but he turned up 2 min. before team agreed to start search. 1.

SEPTEMBER 6 – Male walker (61) suffered fatal heart attack on path above Clova village, about 1km from Loch Brandy. Stretcher carry by Taypol S and R. 12.

SEPTEMBER 30-October 1 – Kilted walker (64) slipped on a wet log descending Coire Garbhlach, Glen Feshie, in near darkness when head-torch batteries failed. He lay all night with a broken leg and was found by deer stalkers next day who used a mobile phone. Cairngorm and Kinloss MRTs, RAF helicopter. 96.

OCTOBER 23-24 – Woman (56) left home in Glen Shee at 18.30 for a short walk. She got lost when mist and darkness fell. She was found by a passer-by next morning some miles away. Tayside MRT, Taypol teams and SARDA searched. 40.

NOVEMBER 5-6 – Two men attempting Cairngorm Four Thousanders Walk starting at Cairngorm only got as far as Cairn Lochan. Wind and snow prevented them erecting a tent which they left lying with their emergency gear inside it and started to walk back to Cairngorm. They had lots of very good, new equipment. After an hour, hopelessly lost, they used mobile phone but batteries were exhausted soon after midnight. Dialling 999 did not automatically mean their location would be found with immediate rescue. Searches by Aberdeen, Brae-





CHARLES WARREN



RONNIE MARSHALL

mar, Cairngorm, Kinloss and SARDA located them hypothermic and widely separated; one (20) in Coire Raibeirt at 09.45, his companion (27) near Loch Etchachan at 14.30. Both had to be stretchered to below cloud for airlift by RAF Sea King. Discharged next day. 646.

NOVEMBER 28 – Australian student (m16) suffered suspect fractured ankle, head cut and abrasion in a 2m fall, rock climbing at Logie Head, Cullen. RAF helicopter and local coastguards. 6.

DECEMBER 21-22 – Two superbly equipped men (19, 18) with food for eight days phoned that their tent had been trashed giving a Macdui reference. It was 22.00 in desperate weather. In fact, they were high on the East Ridge of Braeriach. Braemar MRT searched that night. Next afternoon they phoned correct reference. RAF Sea King airlifted teams on to Sron na Lairig. They were walked down uninjured to helicopter lift. Cairngorm, Kinloss, Leuchars MRTs, SARDA. 780.

DECEMBER 26-27 – Tayside MRT and SARU and RAF Sea King searched Driesch, Glen Clova when regular flashing lights were reported in good, winter weather. A hill party had come down at a similar time and it may have been their head torches which were seen.

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS

JANUARY 3 – Kinloss MRT helped Tayside Police and paramedics evacuate a male walker with back and head injuries in Loch Tummel area. Spinal board was used with 'Nec-Loc' splint for stretcher back-roping down steep ground to airlift by RAF Sea King. 25.

JANUARY 10 – Solo walker (m54) seen to slide/tumble fatally 300m down Central Gully of Ben More, Crianlarich. Others went to help and used mobile phone. No ice-axe found though presumably he had one. One crampon missing; remaining crampon made up of two heel sections riveted together. Remains stretchered off by Killin MRT. RAF Sea King rediverted. 76.

JANUARY 16 – Practising ice-axe braking on SE Ridge, Ben Ledi, man (31) landed awkwardly on névé and broke his ankle. Stretcher carry by Killin MRT. 46.

JANUARY 23 – Woman (51) slipped wearing wellies on wet grass on Fiarach, Tyndrum, breaking leg, only 150m from Auchroch. Stretcher carry by Killin MRT. 2.

JANUARY 23 – Separated from their group by a spate river that the others had managed to cross, two men (55, 50) got benighted and met further burns in spate. Aided by Killin MRT. 24.

FEBRUARY 7 – Descending ice on north slopes of Beinn Dubhchraig, man (49) turned to speak to a colleague and tripped on his crampons. He slid face down and head first for about 150m suffering chest injuries, cuts, bruises and fractured thumb. Killin MRT, RN Sea King. 44.

FEBRUARY 9 – Walker slipped crossing a burn on Ben Lomond with bad pelvis damage. He dragged himself out and alerted path workers by shouting. Stretchered by Lomond MRT. 68.

FEBRUARY 13 – Arrochar and Strathclyde MRTs and SARDA found walker (42) on Beinn Achaladair S. Top delayed by coming down in dark with no headtorch. 22.

FEBRUARY 17 – Woman (31) descending NE Ridge, Ben Lui, in crampons, lost her footing and fell 30m. Stretchered down by Killin MRT with head chest and arm bruises and abrasions. Detained for observation in Stirling RI because of knock on head. 112.

MARCH 7 – Descending 'Bad Step' NE Ridge Beinn an Lochain, having ascended by same route, walker (51) slipped from halfway down 3m snow step. His ice-axe pick pulled through. He fell on to sloping ribbon of snow, then fell over band

- of crags. He sustained fatal head and back injuries in a total fall of 80m. Stretchered by Arrochar and Strathclyde MRTs and airlifted by RN Sea King. 47.
- MARCH 21 – Male walker (49) slipped on wet path through forest between the Brack and Ben Donich, fracturing an ankle. Found and evacuated by police helicopter. Arrochar and Strathclyde Police MRTs. 20.
- MARCH 21 – Walker (59) slipped on Ben Venue south path. He slid into mud and fell forward while leg lodged, tearing knee ligaments. Evacuated by ambulance helicopter. Killin and Lomond MRTs. 40.
- MARCH 27 – Well equipped solo walker (39) got as far as West Shoulder of Ben Lui, about 60m from summit, when he ‘froze’ unable to move up or down. He used mobile phone to contact police and was winched off by RN Sea King. Killin MRT. 23.
- MARCH 28 – Man (47) slipped on East Ridge of Schiehallion injuring a leg. He used mobile phone. Both Tayside teams involved. RAF helicopter evacuation. 110.
- APRIL 4 – Walker (28) without map or compass, lost in mist in Gleann a’ Chroin, 6km north of Callander, mobile phoned and was able to describe his location. Found by Killin MRT and evacuated by Land-Rover. 48.
- APRIL 11-12 – Four girls (17,17,16,16) overdue on award hike on path over south shoulder, Ben Lomond in mist and rain. Pitched tent intending to walk out next day. Found by Lomond MRT at 03.30 hours and escorted down, with two younger girls suffering mild hypothermia. SARDA involved. 106.
- APRIL 19 – Accompanied by friend, walker (69) descending SSW from Ben Cleuch, was nearly down to Daiglen Burn when he slipped breaking a lower leg. Tried to walk out then winched by RN Sea King. Ochils MRT. 45.
- MAY 3 – Male solo walker (41) overdue after nightfall on Dumyat, Blairlogie, returned OK. Ochils MRT. 2.
- JUNE 19-20 – Group of four scouts arranged to meet award scheme instructor on Skythorn Hill, Broich Burn, Ochils, in heavy rain. Instructor (50s) failed to return to car and was found wet but OK by Ochils MRT and SARDA dog on The Law, 2.7km distant at 02.00. 48.
- JUNE 26-27 – Fell runner jogged over Bishop Hill, Lomond Hills, and spent the night in his summer cottage. He had been reported missing. Both Tayside MRTs and SARDA. 13.
- JULY 10 – Woman (47) slipped on rocky path in rain and mist near Cobbler summit, breaking her ankle. Reached by Arrochar MRT and double strop lifted by Rescue 137 (RAF).
- JULY 12 – Scouts playing in gorge of Inveruglas Burn, Loch Lomond, in sunny weather. Boy (13) jumped and landed badly fracturing an arm. Arrochar MRT used entonox and vacuum splint, stretchered him to ambulance. 8.
- JULY 26-27 – Killin MRT assembled to search for man (38) overdue walking from waterfall near Balquhiddy Church (Rob Roy’s Grave). He phoned in OK from St. Fillans. 27.
- JULY 28-29 – Killin MRT, 83 civilian volunteers, SARDA and RN helicopter searched R. Dochart and head of Loch Tay for a man (88) missing from an afternoon walk. Found dead in the river at 05.45 hours having fallen from a viaduct. Ochils MRT standby. 791.
- AUGUST 1 – Paraponting on south slopes of Dumyat, Blairlogie, man (30) fell from height on to rockface. Parachute caught on rocks preventing further fall. Ochils MRT on site. Casualty later died from rupture of a main abdominal artery, from which blood flow had been stemmed by him sitting in parachute straps. Once lowered to horizontal, blood flowed. Signs of internal bleeding not detected till after RAF Sea King airlift to hospital. 32.

- AUGUST 1 – Woman (55) slipped on path near burn west of Glas Bhealach, Beinn Ime. Self recovery despite head injuries. Arochar and Strathclyde Police MRTs. 4.
- AUGUST 1 – Rocky path on the Cobbler pipe track. Woman (36) slipped and injured an ankle. Stretcher carry by Arrochar and Strathclyde Police MRTs. 45.
- AUGUST 7 – Lomond MRT aided walker (43) down from 400m on Ben Lomond. In a party of six near top of Tourist Path she had taken a severe thigh cramp and her husband used mobile phone. Passing doctor advised her to keep moving slowly downhill. 8.
- AUGUST 9 – Couple (m53, f50) lost and blocked between cliffs and Loch Katrine's south shore returning from Ben Venue. They used mobile phone as they were too tired to continue. Found by Water Board boat search. Killin MRT. 21.
- AUGUST 22 – Party of six ascending Craggs Footpath, Callander Craig. Man (77) on an eroded section of rock, slipped and fell 3m injuring sternum and numbers 7 and 8 vertebrae. Killin MRT used necksplint and stretchered him to open ground for air ambulance airlift. 18.
- AUGUST 29 – Two male bikers (38, 36) assumed they could cycle round Loch Katrine but had difficulties when they reached Ben Venue crags on south shore. When it got dark they used mobile phone for help. Killin MRT, Water Board boat and police. 34.
- SEPTEMBER 5 – Ledard Burn Path SW of Ben Venue. Retired woman (62) slipped on wet and slippery path, resulting in triple fracture to ankle and lower leg. Killin MRT and RN Sea King. 44.
- SEPTEMBER 11 – Walking from Rowardennan to Aberfoyle, five schoolboys navigated to the wrong (S) side of Bruach Caorainn Burn (in spate). With no apparent way across without a long diversion they were spotted by a passer-by on correct side who alerted Police. Lomond MRT got them across by river crossing rescue to Land-Rovers. 23.
- SEPTEMBER 26 – Walking Meall Garbh of Tarmachan Ridge with her husband and dog, woman (64) stopped for a brief rest. The dog wandered off; she followed, slipping on steep rock and grass slope, sliding 80m causing head injury. She was detained overnight in hospital for observation after airlift by HMS Gannet Sea King. Killin MRT. 14.
- SEPTEMBER 28 – Descending Dumgoyne, Campsie Fells, with five others male (24) slipped on steep wet grass and fell 30m breaking an ankle. They had deviated from path. Casualty wore light sports shoes. Winched by RN Sea King and Lomond MRT. 19.
- SEPTEMBER 28-29 – Man (69) walking in Wellingtons near Kilmelford, descended a steep ravine at Loch Avich to cut hazel sticks. He slipped on wet terrain falling 9m with fatal head injuries. Recovered overnight by Strathclyde Police MRT helped by Auxiliary Coastguard. RN Sea King. 74.
- SEPTEMBER 30-November 15 – Body of a fell runner (43) who was missing from 30th was found by a shepherd on west upper slopes of Dumyat, Blairlogie on November 15 after the bracken had died back. He may have died of illness. Searches by Ochils MRT, RAF and RN Sea Kings, Kinloss, Leuchars, Lomond MRTs, SARDA. 1200.
- OCTOBER 2 – Ascending Ben Ledi footpath from Stank Glen with a companion, man (49) collapsed from heart attack. Resuscitation failed. Airlift by RN Sea King but he was dead on arrival at hospital. Killin MRT. 13.
- OCTOBER 10 – Descending Stank path of Ben Ledi in rain and strong wind, woman (48) slipped breaking her ankle. She was alone but passing doctor used mobile phone. Airlift to Stirling by RN Sea King. Killin MRT standby. 22.

- OCTOBER 22 – On Ben Glas (Beinn Chabhair) below Lochan a'Chaisteal, man (31) was descending boggy ground. A leg got stuck in deep mud. All his body weight went over and dislocated his patella, which then relocated itself. RN helicopter unable to land. Killin MRT recovered casualty using Argocat. 36.
- OCTOBER 24 – Descending wet ground on Ben More, woman (31) slipped and went over on an ankle, spraining it. Companions helped her down to a hill road for rescue by Land-Rover. She declined treatment. Killin MRT called out. 5.
- OCTOBER 30-31 – Four schoolboys (15) neglected to take tents on a cadet expedition in Glen Douglas and Glen Luss, missed a manned check point, and were overdue at finish. Parents were worried because of severe weather warnings so Arrochar MRT used borrowed thermal imaging cameras and SARDA. Group was found in secure bivouac for night near Glen Luss exit road. Team assisted walk out. 84
- OCTOBER 31 – Pair of walkers separated in good visibility on Beinn Lochain, Lochgoilhead. One got down to farm after getting lost in forest and reported male (41) missing. Second eventually used torch to descend, but torch failed in an area surrounded by burns. He sat to wait and was found by Arrochar MRT, Police and HM Coastguard about 10 minutes from roadhead. After food and drink he walked out. 57.
- NOVEMBER 4 – Four air cadets reported missing in Strathclyde area. Turned up cold, wet and tired as search was planned. SARDA handler attended; four stood down *en route*. Arrochar and Lomond MRTs.
- NOVEMBER 7 – Whistle heard on hills behind Craigleith Golf Club. Negative cursory search carried out by Ochils MRT.
- NOVEMBER 14 – Ochils MRT and SARDA on exercise in the Ochil Hills were asked to investigate reports of whistles heard. Nothing found.
- NOVEMBER 14 – Man and daughter overdue from walk near Fintry. Turned up OK shortly after callout was instigated. Lomond MRT and SARDA.
- NOVEMBER 14-18 – Arrochar MRT pair searched Ben Donich, particularly the deep rock fissures of the NNE Ridge, for a missing dog. They did not find the dog for which the owner had already searched for three days. 10.
- NOVEMBER 21-December 11 – Hired car was abandoned at car park on open moorland and rugged coast at Mull of Kintyre. Arrochar MRT, Strathclyde Police, HM Coastguard, SARDA and RN Sea King searched vainly for two days. Hirer was Wolfgang Peinal (36) from Germany. He was still missing on December 11 after extensive inquiries. 1324.
- NOVEMBER 28 – Four well equipped males overdue from Beinn Reithe (653m) on Ardgool Peninsula were overdue by 2 hours after dark. They turned up soon after Arrochar MRT callout. 10.
- NOVEMBER 29 – Pair of walkers (60,57) allowed 7 hours to walk from Loch Katrine Pier to Strathyre by a 29km route. Both men were overdue but were traced by Killin MRT 5 hours late due to navigation problems. 8.

SKYE

- APRIL 1 – Malicious hoax call by mobile phone to licensed premises stating companion had leg injury from fall on Trotternish Ridge. Caller hung up with no further communication. Vain area search by Police and Skye MRT. Similar to hoax of 31 July, 1997. 33.
- APRIL 1-2 – Woman (22) went for an evening shore walk at Ru Idrigill, Uig. She tried to climb sea cliffs but got cragfast where cliffs steepened. She was located by Skye MRT before 06.00 and she got down OK. 40.
- MAY 19 – Solo climber (45) on Pinnacle Ridge, Sgurr nan Gilleann slipped and badly bruised thumb. Nearby member of Skye MRT helped him off the mountain. 3.

- MAY 28-29 – Climbing Engineer's Slant on Sron na Ciche, deceased (48) began to abseil in bad weather, but he had failed to tie on the rope properly and fell. Companion had abseiled first and got himself down to the foot of the crag to raise alarm after the fall. Recovery by Skye and RAF MRTs, RAF Sea King. 132.
- JUNE 12 – Hillwalking accident on Sron na Ciche. Descending from a climb with his friend, man (35) slipped injuring an ankle. Airlift by HMCG. 24.
- JUNE 15-16 – Roped pair (m22, m21) got two-thirds up a climb on Sron na Ciche when it rained at 17.30. They abseiled till dark at 22.30 but weather was worse and they did not know exactly where they were. They bivvied in a small gully and completed abseils next day. Found by Skye MRT when walking off the hill. 42.
- JUNE 20 – In a guided party of five on Sgurr Alasdair, a woman (41) slipped and dislocated a shoulder. Party moved down to facilitate airlift by HMCG helicopter. 100.
- JUNE 21 – Walker (48) descending rocky path at Old Man of Storr slipped, fell and injured his ankle. Passer-by alerted Skye MRT. Airlift by HMCG helicopter. 34.
- JUNE 26 – Man (64) descending Coir' a' Mhadaidh slipped breaking an ankle when accompanied by member of Skye MRT. HMCG helicopter airlift. 22.
- JULY 6 – Male fell when descending a gully in Coir' a' Ghrunnda, accompanied by a female student. He fell 8m suffering pelvic injuries. Skye MRT used necksplint, stretcher and rewarming aids. Airlifted by HMCG helicopteer. 27.
- JULY 6 – Man went ahead of his two companions in Coir' a' Ghrunnda. He fell, sustaining arm and leg injuries. Skye MRT and RAF Sea King airlift. Analgesic and rewarming aids. 27.
- JULY 6 – Female student (22) attempting descent to rescue casualty in above accident, got cragfast. She blew her whistle and got help. Rescue by Skye MRT. HMCG helicopter. 27.
- JULY 16-17 – Boy (11) walking at 20.40 hours with his father and brother 500m north of Sligachan, went ahead alone. When he did not return to the campsite Skye, Kinloss and Leuchars MRTs, SARDA and RNLI searched for him. At 05.00 he was found 2km north of campsite, cold but uninjured by HMCG helicopter. 626.
- AUGUST 3 – Descending Coir' a' Ghrunnda with her husband, woman (46) slipped straining a knee. Skye MRT and HMCG helicopter. 16.
- AUGUST 4 – Man (49) descending slab in Coir' a' Ghrunnda with his wife, slipped and fell 3m injuring his pelvis. She went to Glenbrittle for help. Skye MRT and RAF Sea King. 50.
- AUGUST 8 – Three-quarters of the way up a gully on The Storr a man (26) got cragfast. Another walker heard his cries. Aided off by Skye MRT. 11.
- AUGUST 10 – Woman (23) slipped and knocked her head going to Bealach nan Lice from Am Basteir. After 2 minutes of unconsciousness she seemed fine, but on continuing felt sick and dizzy. Airlift by RAF R137 for overnight hospital observation. Skye MRT. 40.
- AUGUST 10 – RAF Sea King was alerted to search Glen Sligachan for woman (60) with irregular heartbeat, but she and another walked out unaided. Skye MRT. 23.
- AUGUST 11-12 – Skye MRT and HMCG helicopter called out to search for walker (37) overdue from Cuillin Ridge. He had got down 4 hours late the first night, but failing to find his wife and camper van bedded down for the night. 31.
- AUGUST 16 – Taking a boat from Elgol to Loch na Cuilce (L. Scavaig) two male Spanish students (25, 22) went into the Cuillin and got exhausted. They were airlifted by HMCG from ledge on Loch Coruisk slopes of Sgurr Dubh Beag. 7.
- OCTOBER 15 – Descending path from Old Man of Storr with a friend, casualty (64) stumbled and broke her leg. Passers-by used mobile phone to alert Skye MRT and HMCG airlift. 19.

ISLANDS OTHER THAN SKYE

1998 Late Reports: SEPTEMBER 8 – Walker (50) in party of 14 at Ceum na Caillich (Witch's Step) fell injuring her head and a leg. Crag lower and stretcher carry by Arran MRT. RN Sea King. 148.

SEPTEMBER 22 – Man (35) walking on Goat Fell overdue. Found uninjured by Arran MRT. 12.

1999: APRIL 23 – Man (65) injured leg walking Goat Fell Tourist Path. Arran MRT stretchered him for an airlift by RN Sea King. 84.

MAY 11 – Hillwalker (52) in Glen Sannox injured her arm. Stretcher carried by Arran MRT. 32.

MAY 30 – Walker (f60) 1km NE of Loch Urie, Monamore Glen, Arran, suffered leg injury. Arran MRT. 21.

JUNE 30 – A sweep search by Arran MRT located two hypothermic female students at Sloc Ruairidh, Loch Urie, Arran. They (both 25) wearing trainers, were lost in mist and required rewarming aids and evacuation to hospital. 33.

JULY 5-6 – Good weather search of forests of south end of Bute for woman (69) suffering senility. She was found physically fit and well. Arrochar and Strathclyde Police MRTs, SARDA, HM Coastguard, RN and police helicopters. 378.

JULY 8 – HMCG helicopter searched for missing walker at Loch Buie, Isle of Mull. 8.

JULY 15 – HMCG helicopter searched for missing hillwalker at Hushinish on west coast of Isle of North Harris. 8.

AUGUST 4 – One man of a pair of walkers on Cloughland Hills (Dun Fionn 3.5km SE of Brodick, Arran) fell and injured leg. Arran MRT used traction splint, entonox and stretcher carried him to airlift by RN Sea King. 23.

AUGUST 28 – HMCG helicopter callout for hillwalker with broken limb at Loch Skipport, S.Uist. 8.

SEPTEMBER 3-4 – Solo walker (39) staying at Dibidil Bothy, Rum, went out to take photographs about midday. He regained consciousness at 17.30 lying at the bottom of a gully with seawater lapping around. He managed to regain bothy with no recollection of events leading up to what had presumably been a fall. He had head, back, arm and leg injuries, abrasions and bruising. At 04.30 next day he signalled SOS to a fishing boat. Airlifted to Broadford by HMCG helicopter. 12.

SEPTEMBER 17 – Male walker (63) in a party of 14 died of a suspected heart attack on Goat Fell, Arran. Good weather. Arran MRT, RN helicopter. 34.

OCTOBER 16 – Scout group of seven set out too late and under-estimated difficulty of walk (Goatfell). They got benighted with only one torch. Aided down by Arran MRT. 1.

OCTOBER 16-17 – Walker (39) on Glen Rosa Path below Cir Mhor slipped in darkness, injuring his leg. Arran MRT used entonox and Loxley splint for carry out to ambulance by 02.00 hours. 28.

SOUTHERN UPLANDS

FEBRUARY 28 – Galloway MRT and SARDA searched for walker (23) doing circuit of Benyellary, Merrick, and Loch Enoch from L. Trool. Without a map and compass he had carried on in mist with snow on tops after his companion turned back. He walked out OK but finished up at Loch Doon.

APRIL 2-3 – Galloway MRT and SARDA found two lost women (43, 35) in the small hours of a clear night. In earlier mist, using a compass on The Merrick, they

- had gone NNW to Kirriereoch instead of SW to Benyellary and were found in Kirshinnoch Glen. Using a mobile phone they were able to give bearings on police car lights and team flares. 168.
- APRIL 11-12 – Two women and a man (all 30s) found by RN Sea King just before dark on second day. On misty Corserine they had gone west instead of east and wandered on forest roads sleeping in wet forest overnight and getting very cold and hungry. Did not go to Backhill of Bush Bothy despite seeing it. Galloway and Moffat MRTs. Leuchars stood down *en route*. 244.
- MAY 15 – Outdoor instructor walking down Criffel with a child on his shoulders slipped and fractured ankle. Moffat MRT stretcher carry to ambulance. 140.
- JUNE 14 – Missing walker found by RAF Boulmer helicopter on Southern Upland Way just as Moffat MRT assembled. 45.
- AUGUST 28 - Woman (64) on an organised walk, slipped or possibly fainted, on Moffat Grey Mare's Tail path, falling to her death. 60.
- September 1-2 - Man (68) camping 100m from rescue team base, failed to inform friends of his intentions. He had been walking with his dog in Galloway Forest Park near Black Loch. Galloway MRT and SARDA.
- SEPTEMBER 22-23 - Man (57) pitched his tent 50m from his car in locked car park (near Black Loch, Galloway Grey Mare's Tail), which should not have been used at night. Female walker reported driver missing. Galloway MRT, Police, SARDA and rangers were called out and he was awakened by noise. 85.
- SEPTEMBER 25 - Hypoglycaemic fell runner did not respond to treatment on the hill and was evacuated by Moffat MRT to hospital for drip treatment. 6.
- DECEMBER 11-12 - Hoaxing male called at Police Station offering to return and leave a route plan, which he did not. He left a vague false route at a guest house. This caused two days of searching of Moffat Hills in foul weather by Galloway, Moffat and Tweed Valley MRTs, SARDA and RN Sea King. Found in Carlisle on 13th. 1500.
- DECEMBER 20-21 – Search of foreshore and cliffs near Eyemouth for boy (12) believed to have been washed from rocks into heavy seas. Nothing found. SARDA, RAF Boulmer Sea King, Borders SRU, HM Coastguard, RNLI lifeboat.

NON-MOUNTAINEERING

- 1998 late reports:** SEPTEMBER 12 – Airlift by HMCG helicopter of male 'quadbike' driver (34) who fell off and fractured a clavicle at Loch Langavat, Lewis.
- NOVEMBER 22 – Arran MRT rescued an ewe by cliff lower on Torr Nead an Eoin, Lochranza.
- 1999:** JANUARY 2 – Galloway MRT and HMCG assembled to search coast for paedophile who had not reported to police. He reported just as search started. 14.
- JANUARY 3 – Glider caught by wind gust at top of Long Fell (383m) 8km NE of Dalbeattie, spun and nose-dived into soft ground. Pilot (47) sustained crushed lumbar vertebrae, cuts, bruises and cold. He used a mobile phone. Stretcher carry through trees by Galloway and Moffat MRTs and SARDA (found by search dog). 100.
- JANUARY 10 -12 – Leuchars MRT searched for Alzheimers patient (64) in Methil and Silverside Woods. He was found OK two days after the search. 112.
- JANUARY 16 – Cairngorm MRT helped police and snow plough crews on Grantown-Bridge of Brown and Nethybridge-Corriechullie roads for 18 people trapped in cars in snow drifts. 76.

FEBRUARY 10-11 – SARDA dog Ben found man (63) hanging from tree on second day of searching Mabie Forest near Dumfries. Overdue the previous day, he had regularly walked his dog but had recently shown signs of depression. Galloway and Moffat MRTs. RN helo. 395.

FEBRUARY 17 – Gamekeeper setting off flares to attempt to scare deer out of woodland on Bora Chnoc, Moyle, Glenelg, caused Glenelg MRT to be called out. 19.

FEBRUARY 20-21 – Extensively damaged motor car found on its roof below A897 Helmsdale to Melvich road at Caen. There was no trace of driver so police dogs, Assynt and Kinloss MRTs and RAF Sea King searched the area. Telephone message confirmed the driver was OK in Lancashire. 200.

FEBRUARY 22-23 – Search for and recovery of a dead man (28) from foot of cliffs known as The Pot, at Bullers of Buchan, Aberdeenshire. He had been a patient at Royal Cornhill Hospital. Grampian Police, RAF Sea King.

FEBRUARY 23 – Moffat MRT called out to Crichton Hospital. Missing patient from psychiatric hospital turned up as team assembled at 02.00. 20.

FEBRUARY 25-26 – Rescue by Strathclyde Police MRT of man (52) suffering hypothermia, alcohol and drugs overdose, and self-inflicted cuts to throat and wrists. Wearing a suit and city shoes he had been out overnight in open country and thick woods near Beith, Ayrshire. After cries for help had been heard by a dog walker, he was found just before midnight of second day. 35.

MARCH 5 – SARDA handler called for boy (15) missing in Dunblane. He turned up OK before team arrived.

MARCH 5 – Leuchars MRT called out to assist with Bulldog aircraft crash with two aircrew on RAF Leuchars airfield, Fife. 95.

MARCH 7 – Arrochar and Strathclyde Police MRTs and SARDA with police air support searched for schoolgirl (12) missing at Gartocharn. Traced to friend's house. 33.

MARCH 17 – Cycling with a companion along Loch Carron shore path just south of Plockton, man (37) clipped a rock with his bike, falling 2.5m down to the shore, with slight pelvic injuries and abrasions. Doctor and Ambulance requested Kintail MRT help stretchering him. 8.

MARCH 23 – Woman (78) in early stages of dementia, wandered from a residential home and caught herself in a barbed wire fence. Six hours later she was spotted in woods from a road. RN Sea King checked out the sighting and airlifted her back, cold and disoriented. Galloway MRT, HM Coastguard and SARDA. 51.

MARCH 31 – Male (29) evading police sought refuge up a large tree overhanging a gorge. Strathclyde Police MRT roped up and climbed, tied a rope on to subject and rescued him. He was taken to hospital suffering from cold. 5.

APRIL 1-2 – Strathclyde Police MRT searched hills and dense woods near Dolphington, Lanarkshire for a man who had abandoned his car. He was found by a passer-by 4km distant and was taken to mental hospital for treatment. 48.

APRIL 2 – Galloway MRT dealt with a road traffic accident they found *en route* to a Merrick Call Out. Motor-cyclist had fractured his lumbar spine in collision with a car on A75. 10.

APRIL 12 – RAF Leuchars MRT tasked to search for reported light aircraft missing at Blairgowrie, Perthshire. Nothing found or reported. 24.

APRIL 13 – Boy (14) sledging on Wood Hill, Tillicoultry, fell off, injuring a leg. Five companions did not miss him, but found him half-an-hour later. Stretched down by Ochils MRT. 43.

- APRIL 22-23 – Farm worker (m21) fell from AT Vehicle with back injuries near Kilfeddar Farm, New Luce, Wigtownshire. Galloway MRT requested RN Sea King as farm road was too rough for spinal transport. 38.
- MAY 1 – Paraglider (55) landed at about 300m on NW Slopes of An t-Sron, injuring a leg. He alerted GIMRT by radio and was stretchered down to road. 17.
- MAY 3 – Four SARDA searched banks of River Forth for elderly woman missing from home at Fallin. Central Scotland Police found her body next day outwith initial search area.
- MAY 3 – Motor cyclist (43) injured his back slightly at Tigh-na-Sleubhaich on General Wade's Old Military Road, Mamores. Ambulance alerted Glencoe MRT and RAF Sea King but ambulance managed to get to casualty before helicopter took off. 11.
- MAY 5-7 – A sheep got down to a difficult spot on Red Craig, Glen Clova. First rescuers found it too inaccessible. A larger Tayside MRT party needed a 150m runout of rope, but rescued a double amount as the ewe produced a lamb during her 'confinement'. 33.
- MAY 8 – Vulnerable male (40s) missing from psychiatric hospital at Larbert walked several miles to next town and turned up OK. Search by SARDA.
- MAY 13 – Moffat MRT searched banks of swollen River Esk. An elderly male was missing when looking for his dog on a quad bike. Team found the bike then his body in the river. 100.
- MAY 22 – Police in St. Andrews called RAF Leuchars to help in recovery of a dead man fallen on to a ledge in St. Andrews Castle. 8.
- MAY 31 – Fish farmer (24) injured his back on a barge in Loch Hourn. Rescued by Glenelg MRT by boat and stretcher. 3.
- MAY 31-June 1 – Gamekeeper (23) hunting fox fell 45m over Blue Craig on Stonefield Hill, Glen Almond sustaining fatal injuries. He was found by another keeper and recovered by Taypol S and R stretcher carry. 56.
- JUNE 13 – Tweed Valley MRT and SARDA searched Gordon Moss, 13km NW of Kelso, for a male (18) missing since May 19 primarily for police to rule out the area. 84.
- JULY 11 – Negative search by five SARDA handlers for man (53) reported missing walking on outskirts of Dalkeith. His body was later found outwith search area. 8.
- JULY 12 – Scouts playing in gorge of Inveruglas Burn, Loch Lomond, in sunny weather. Boy (13) jumped and landed badly fracturing an arm. Arrochar MRT used entonox and vacuum splint, stretchered him to ambulance. 8.
- JULY 18 – Woman (47) missing in Ellon, Aberdeenshire. Search by Aberdeen and Braemar MRTs and HM Coastguard, SARDA and RAF helicopter. Found OK by police 8km away. 52.
- JULY 21 – Cairngorm MRT on standby and RAF Sea King scrambled for four boys (15, 13, 12, 12) swept down fast-flowing River Spey in a dinghy without lifejackets. They had swim trunks, a yellow/blue dinghy and not a lot else. Starting at Feshiebridge thinking the Feshie flowed into Loch Insh, they had reached the Spey and were swept towards Aviemore. Found OK at Kinrara Estate by a canoe instructor. 21.
- JULY 25 – Man (39) from overturned boat in Loch Ericht swam 45 minutes and walked 13km to get help. Man (37) attached to boat by tangled fishing lines eventually got ashore and was found by RAF Sea King walking out. Man (48)

- still at boat died of hypothermia. All three wore lifejackets. Cairngorm MRT called out. 20.
- JULY 29 – Ten men set out to gather sheep on Ben Corodale (527m), South Uist. Some consumed alcohol. Man (45) fell 8m down a bank hurting his back. Rescued by HMCG helicopter.
- JULY 29 – Another man (38) missing during the above incident turned up as helicopter set off. 7.
- JULY 31 – Two dog handlers of SARDA searched for youth (16) missing near hospital in Melrose area. Nothing found. He later found his own way home. 8.
- AUGUST 5 – Tweed Valley MRT and SARDA searched for male (14) missing with drugs near Innerleithen. Found OK by police. 5.
- AUGUST 7 – Two SARDA handlers called out, then stood down en route, for car driver missing from crash scene in Central Police area.
- AUGUST 21 – Cairngorm MRT called out at 06.00 to search for girl (15) missing in Grantown. She turned up OK at 06.20.
- SEPTEMBER 22-23 - Two people deer stalking got separated in a storm on hills above Cairnryan. One reported man (54) missing. Galloway MRT and forest rangers called out. He was found OK. 26.
- SEPTEMBER 25 – Two SARDA handlers called out to search for female (18) near Falkirk. Stood down *en route* when she turned up OK
- OCTOBER 14 – When he was a stalking guest, on Creag Dhubh, Newtonmore, a Danish national (56) got lost and separated. However he found a road and got a lift. Meantime his son and the gamekeeper reported him missing and Lochaber MRT was alerted. 10.
- OCTOBER 20 – SARDA search of woods near Dunoon for missing male. Nothing found. 5.
- OCTOBER 24-25 – Moffat MRT and SARDA all night search of river banks at Dumfries for missing psychiatric patient (m17) who turned up safe at Lockerbie. 180.
- OCTOBER 27-28 – Three SARDA searched near Balmaha, Loch Lomond, for man (late 40s). Body found by estate worker 3km from search area. 14.
- OCTOBER 30 – Shore walker (40) reported missing Loch Nevis. Lost, he was found by Mallaig Lifeboat at Ardnamurach and reunited with his group at Tarbet. Lochaber MRT, HMCG Mallaig, RAF Sea King. 49.
- NOVEMBER 14 – Search of Arbroath sea cliffs by HM Coastguard and RAF helicopter for depressed man (25) who later returned home. 15.
- NOVEMBER 28– Coastal fisherman fell from rocks into the sea at Blowup Nose, 7km due south of Aberdeen Harbour. Wearing a dry suit he got back on to cliffs but he was then trapped under an overhang. Suffering some hypothermia he was winched to the clifftop by RAF R137 Sea King after dark. Rain and strong wind. 8.
- DECEMBER 3 – Search of coast paths/cliffs from St. Cyrus to Inverbervie in strong winds, sleet and snow by HM Coastguard and RAF Sea King helo. Male subject (55) turned up OK. 8.
- DECEMBER 6-7 – Search for depressed person (41) possessing valium ended when he was found OK at home, in Borve, secreted in a loft space. Kinloss and Skye MRTs. 308.
- DECEMBER 20 – Search in darkness by RAF Sea King for member (34) of special needs group walking to north of Bin of Cullen. Found by Grampian Police. He ran off into woods. 8.

IN MEMORIAM

CHARLES BUCHANAN MONCUR WARREN j. 1968

CHARLES WARREN, who died at Felsted, Essex, a few days short of his 93rd birthday, was the oldest surviving member of the pre-war Everest Expeditions. His father was a doctor in West London and Charles followed in the profession with distinction. After school at Eastbourne he read medicine at Cambridge and qualified at Barts Hospital in London. During the war he served as a GP and began to specialise in paediatrics. After the war, and by now married to Dorothy Lowick, a radiographer, they settled in Essex, where Charles became consultant paediatrician at the Chelmsford and Colchester hospitals. Here he was renowned for developing the technique of performing exchange blood transfusions on infants with neo-natal jaundice. In combination with colleagues he made great contributions to the treatment of jaundicial infants and conducted meticulous studies in the management of Wilson's disease. He was elected FRCP in 1967.

Charles started climbing while at Cambridge, visiting Scotland, North Wales and the Lake District with longer vacations in the Alps. Notable companions at that time included Lawrence Wager, Ted Hicks, Peter Lloyd and Ivan Waller. With his good record in the Alps he joined Marco Pallis, in 1933, on an expedition to the Gangotri Glacier when he climbed Bhagirathi III (as it is now called). This was a notable achievement for its time, involving severe rock climbing, led by Colin Kirkus, at 21,000ft. in an Alpine-style ascent during which they survived for six days mainly on pemmican and boiled sweets. This success led to his joining Eric Shipton's Reconnaissance Expedition to Everest in 1935 and the subsequent attempts in 1936 and 1938. These were unlucky years dogged by heavy snow, bad weather or early monsoon. In 1935 Charles found the body of the lone climber, Maurice Wilson, on the East Rongbuk Glacier; and following the retreat from the mountain, a glorious month spent climbing some 26 lesser peaks.

However, during these expeditions Charles climbed to over 24,000ft. and made noted contributions to the knowledge of high-altitude medicine and the effects of oxygen. He also brought back the first colour slides of Everest, and made friends, with his sherpa, Tenzing Norgay, who visited him in Essex in 1953.

After the war, Charles continued to climb whenever he could, usually with members of the Alpine Club and the SMC, especially with Iain Ogilvie who was his regular partner for more than 20 years. He particularly enjoyed the Alpine Club Centenary celebrations in 1957 at Zermatt when his party, including Graham McPhee, Iain Ogilvie and Willie Speirs succeeded in climbing the Dent d'Herens, despite the gloomy forebodings of the then President of the AC. (For a fuller account of this episode see Willie Speir's obituary in SMCJ No. 189 p. 734). He was on Mt. Kenya and Kilimanjaro with Douglas Scott and Willie Speirs and went to Mt. Kenya and the Ruwenzori with Iain Ogilvie.

When Charles joined the Club in 1968 he became a regular attender at the New Year and Easter Meets, occasions which gave him increasing pleasure after he ceased going to the Alps in the late 1970s. In 1977 he fulfilled a long-standing ambition to complete the traverse of the Cuillin Ridge. With his old friend, Ivan Waller, who had done the ridge only a fortnight before, they bivouacked, in perfect weather, high above Coire a'Ghrunnda after completing the southern end and reached their goal in fine style late the next afternoon. Not bad going for two men in their 70s.

Charles remained active well into the 1980s, renewing old friendships at the Easter Meets where he delighted in the company of Bertie Mills and walking with Iain Ogilvie, George Roger and Charlie Gorrie. Occasionally, he attempted something more adventurous. He had long wanted to do some fine, classic Scottish rock climbs, and at Easter Meet 1981 conditions were perfect. With Dick Allen and myself we climbed the Cioch Nose, Applecross and on the next day Ardverikie Wall, a total of more than 1000ft. of V. Diff./Severe rock with never a moment's hesitation or anxiety. He wore for this occasion a pair of boots, made for him by Lawrie which he had used on Everest in 1938.

Although no tiger on rock and ice Charles had great staying power and seldom showed signs of fatigue. He was the perfect companion, whether on the hill or driving across Europe to the Alps where his enthusiasm for a well-rounded holiday produced fascinating diversions to view old bridges, art galleries and churches. He had a fine collection of early English watercolours and a great love of the Romantic period in art and literature, both of which, together with a lively interest in the contemporary mountain scene, helped to keep him alert to the end.

But other things were more important to him. A few years ago we sent him a card from an Easter Meet. He was not well and could not be with us. In his reply let Charles have the last word:

'That card with the signatures of my old friends did me much good... Letters from grateful parents, for example, please me more than all things, including my mountaineering memories; and the old ticket collector at Chelmsford Station who once stopped the train for me because I had been kind to his child. No, there are things that matter; our human relationships. Not necessarily getting to the top of a high mountain. That is good fun but rather unimportant. But how glad I was to have had the opportunity to do something supremely unimportant, but of tremendous interest in life.'

Oliver Turnbull.

ARCHBOLD C. HANNAH j. 1979

ARCHIE HANNAH was a late developer in the hills, leaving it until his late 50s before making any ascents of the steepes. Throughout the Seventies, however, he ascended a considerable number of the classic routes, including Crowberry Gully and No. 6 Gully on Aonach Dubh at the age of 64, and when he applied for membership in 1979, the pages of his application were certainly well filled. I am told that the only objections were on account of his homespun equipment!

I met him only once. I recall a day in March at the CIC when conditions were not great – new snow and high wind. Everyone was paired off except Archie who had arrived on his own. He seemed a little out of place in dated hill gear amidst a sea of Goretex and plastic. Most of the teams were back in the hut before too long and Archie also – he had made three attempts to leave the hut before making it as far as the foot of the NE Buttress on his way up to the Arête. We left him in the hut on his own on the Sunday night. He was hoping still to get out the next day if the wind dropped. He was keen to talk about climbing and in the Saturday evening debates, I remember him becoming quite vociferous on the subject of the cleaning of holds: 'You should climb the rock the way you find it,' he kept saying.

The Club should always have a place for the like of Archie Hannah.

J. R. R. Fowler.

J. W. (HAMISH) DALLACHY j. 1931

HAMISH DALLACHY was born in Paisley in 1908. He was educated at Glasgow Academy and Glasgow University, became an apprentice Chartered Accountant and qualified in 1929. He became a partner in Craston Thomson and Allison in Glasgow in 1935 and continued to practise in that firm until his retirement in 1989.

He joined the Club in 1931, and at his death in November last year, he was our fourth most senior member. None of his early climbing companions have survived and we have no record of his most active climbing days, but he continued to walk in the hills of Easter Ross and Arran until about 1990.

Hamish had an admirable record of service to his many interests, and the groups of which he was president or treasurer or secretary included the Incorporation of Tailors, the Grand Antiquity Society, Scottish Cricket Union, Glasgow Academics Club and, not least, the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland, of which he was president in 1964/65. I knew Hamish as a very agreeable and good humoured ex-president. He was also a member of the Scottish Ski Club, the National Trust for Scotland, the RSAC, and both Kilmalcolm and Shiskine golf clubs.

T. B. Fleming.

RONALD C. MARSHALL 1934-1999

RONNIE died on the streets of Aberdeen from the colloquial 'massive heart attack' and according to the experts was to all intent, dead before he hit the pavement. Not a bad way to go, it might have been better out on the hills but the hassle of rescue or recovery would have affronted his self-effacing sensibility.

A skilful craftsman, he learned and exercised his trade as a shipwright, building fishing boats for a Granton company, till after 15 years' service, he was sacked for swearing at his foreman (so called industrial misconduct), patently a carve up, for foul language was the way of communication in the yard.

He took this as a profound betrayal by the company and eschewed regular employment thereafter, working freelance only when he needed money, and as his needs were modest, it meant he led quite a relaxed life.

His skills were much sought after in the repair of dosses etc., but tribute is due to the ice axes he reshafed (these were the days of ice axe belays) where he replaced the original shafts using hickory pickhandles, planed down to a flat, oval section and oiled to great strength.

My old axe head shows the metal dented from hammering into the snow ice but neither the shaft nor the rivets moved.

At one point during a prolonged stay in Glen Coe, he and a pal were making cromachs of alder and horn to augment their meagre living, till a trader, much impressed by the work asked them to produce a first order of 30 with expectations up to several hundred.

Their response was: 'F..k that, it's too much like work,' and they quickly abandoned their venture into merchandising.

During another tour of duty, he joined his Etive Club friends to work for the Forestry Commission, planting a large proportion of the commercial forests that mar Glen Etive today. They lived in a bunkhouse and on wild, wet mornings would engage in heated debate with the foreman seeking a day off for inclement weather, often with success, then to the confusion of the overseer would go out for the day walking the same hills.

Ronnie introduced the Currie lads to our group, a vital ingredient which nourished the wave of rock and ice exploration of the Sixties. He was capable of leading the new big climbs of the day and, of course, making his own, e.g. Rainmaker, where he and Elly went weekend after weekend all the way up to the climb, only to be rained on, so much so that the name was made before the climb.

One day, intent on upsetting Smith, we did the girdle of Aonach Dubh, but on reaching the Barrier Pitch I realised it was too much for us. However, Ronnie went with Smith the next day to help him across the pitch. He sat on the ledge for nigh on five hours, encouraging Wheech to success, but I often wondered where he would have been without the patience of my brother.

Ronnie enjoyed company but by nature was a true loner, perfectly content in his own company. In later life he loved wandering from bothy to bothy, occasionally happening upon old cronies to happily blether the night away, then like a will-o'-the-wisp would be gone before the others were out of their bags in the morning.

He was a credit to Scottish climbing and I salute his memory with his first winter ascent of Vanishing Gully when he hacked a way up the major ice pitches, only to be too knackered to cut the last few feet, yet managed to retrace his unprotected steps to the belay and encourage Tiso to finishing the climb – true grit.

J. R. Marshall.

WILLIAM ROXBURGH SHIPWAY 1926-2000

IT MUST be unusual for a non-member of the Club to find an obituary place in these pages. Bill Shipway, however, was an unusual man. He never sought membership because he was not a rock climber, but never had the Club a more faithful friend and propagandist. He must have numbered scores of SMCers among his acquaintance, he devoured the Journal with fervour and close attention, and he contributed to its pages – see Vol. XXXV, p 589 for a characteristic piece.

Bill had been a hillwalker all his days, but it was only after retirement as assistant chief accountant at Standard Life that he got seriously on the Munro trail. Once bitten, he pursued the objective with typical single-mindedness, completing in 1993 on Mullach Coire Mhic Fhearchair in the Letterewe Forest. Those who accompanied him during the run-up to completion can testify to the intensity – as well as the patience and good humour – of his passion to finish the job. One memory in particular lingers. Approaching Cluanie Inn *en route* for Beinn Sgritheall on a particularly foul day of wind and driving rain, Bill was heard to say: 'Ah, there's the Cluanie curtain – but once we're through it things will be OK.' And they were, if only just.

But Bill Shipway was not merely an enthusiast, he was also a perfectionist. His wife, Mary, was often heard to say that he climbed every hill three times – when he prepared, when he did the walk, and when he wrote it up afterwards. His preparation was meticulous, with notes from earlier climbs and guidebooks, estimates of distance and time, and compass bearings against the risk of meeting bad conditions. And his logs of walks accomplished are a mine of colourful and incisive observation.

It is one of the ironies of the hills that he should have met his end on a perfect winter's day on as innocent a ben as Vorlich of Loch Earn – the victim of a freakish patch of black ice for which no one could have reckoned. To Bill, a man of firm faith in the tradition of Naismith, Somervell and Hamish Brown, that would occasion no more than a wry smile.

Dr. Donald G. Mackay.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLUB

New members

The following were admitted and welcomed to the Club in 1999-2000.

- Donald J. Ballance (35), University Lecturer, Glasgow.
- Finlay J. Bennet (27), Area Officer – SNH, Strathcarron, Ross-shire.
- Robert J. F. Brown (65), Mechanical Engineer, Dingwall, Ross-shire.
- Ewan D. Clark (39), General Practitioner, Portlethen, Aberdeen.
- David Eaton (33), University Lecturer, Glasgow.
- Kevin Howett (43), National Officer – MC of S, Crieff, Perthshire.
- Andy Hyslop (41), Retailer, Ulverston, Cumbria.
- R. John Irvine (27) Doctor, Edinburgh.
- Nigel Kenworthy (38), Royal Air Force, Burchhead, Morayshire.
- Clifford D. Smith (37), Outdoor Centre Manager, Edinburgh.
- Jason M. Walker (31), Doctor, Glasgow.

The One-Hundreth-and-Tenth AGM and Dinner

THE 1999 AGM and Dinner brought us back to Strathpeffer where heavy snow on the Friday evening threatened to see the bulk of the travelling members stranded on the wrong side of Drumochter. However, the inviting price of bed and breakfast in the Ben Wyvis Hotel induced a few to make the Friday journey including Tom Weir, whose driver treated his celebrated passenger to a sample of his car control skills on the Strathpeffer road.

The first business on Saturday (hill activity was never considered) was the official opening of the Naismith Hut – a little premature perhaps but when were we ever again going to get so many members in the area at the one time. With the road to the West now passable and the skies clearing to reveal a magnificent snow covered landscape, some 40 or more members and guests listened to No. 1 speech from the President before getting acquainted with a certain Bailie Nicol Jarvie supplied by the Secretary. For most members it was their first visit to the hut at Elphin and no one had any doubts that this is going to be an excellent base. The Professor must have realised that at the impending AGM he had nae chance!

A return down the A835 brought us to one of the shortest AGMs on record. Members seemed strangely apathetic to the issues of the day, including the contentious proposal to alter the appearance of the Journal, which was approved virtually without comment. The curious motion to sell the building we had earlier opened melted away like the snow outside but did engender some useful discussion on Club fiscal policy. A seemingly innocuous question on the topic from Gerry Peet drew a bamboozling response from the Treasurer and no one dared interrogate further.

The Dinner was, for once, excellent, particularly if you had the duck of which double helpings seemed to be provided for everyone. Our guests from the JMCS, the Yorkshire Ramblers, the Climbers' Club, the Cairngorm Club and the Gram-pian Club seemed well pleased. Nos. 2 and 3 speeches from the President were followed by an eloquent reply from author, David Craig. The President's walk on Sunday is unreported.

J. R. R. Fowler.

SKI-MOUNTAINEERING MEET, 2000.

THE omens were good for this third consecutive visit to Strawberry Cottage, Athnamullach, Glen Affric on February 18-19, for the first SMC ski-mountaineering meet of the new millennium. The forecast promised clear weather and the week before had seen a reasonable fall of snow. The climbing forecast reported good ski-touring conditions on Creag Meagaidh, suggesting those on foot should only venture out if fully-equipped with a sense of humour.

Arriving at the end of the metalled road in Glen Affric at 9pm, they assembled in quiet anticipation. Their breath formed huge white clouds in the car headlights and they stamped impatiently in the snow like a herd of wild horses. Then they were off, up the snowy track and shortly arrived at the hut on a perfect, cold, clear, crisp night. The moon was out and they retired with the prospect of a fine day ahead.

Saturday dawned bright, cold and clear. There was no doubt over the objectives for the day. The two highest hills north of the Great Glen.

Unlike the orderly line produced when ski-touring in the Alps, the SMC team soon had the south-western flank of Mam Sodhail covered with an inter-weaving network of tracks as they all aimed for the summit in a 'deil tak the hindmaist' approach. They regrouped at point 1056m then skinned around the rim of Coire Coulavie in a more traditional style. They soon reached the ruins of the old survey hut and the large summit cairn, where the pristine blanket of snow was unceremoniously trampled underfoot.

The air was still and the view was clear, sharp and superb. West to Skye, Applecross, Torridon, and the Fannichs. South over Cluanie, Knoydart to the profile of the North-East Buttress on the Ben. North to Carn Eighe and Beinn Fionnlaidh and east along the Mullardoch and Affric hills. There was no sign of another living thing and the sun blazing down gave the day an Arctic feel.

A few stalwart members and guests descended to the intermediate bealach above Loch Uaine and then skinned up to the trig pillar on the summit of Carn Eighe. Sometimes you can feel very alone and isolated in Scotland. The day was passing too quickly and they reluctantly skied back under the summit of Mam Sodhail and back to Glen Affric with whatever style they could muster.

The evening was a splendid affair with champagne and cake to celebrate a birthday and more food and drink to celebrate the quality of the day.

Next morning a depleted team headed south from the hut up Gleann na Ciche to take a long approach via Coire na Geurdain to the east ridge of Mullach Froachchoire. The strong winds precluded a visit to the summit and the star of the day was Heather the spaniel, who marched along the knife edge ridge without axe and crampons, shaming her human companions with almost feline disdain. A somewhat hesitant ski descent through crusty snow on the south-east flank of the ridge brought them back to the floor of the glen all too quickly and they returned to the hut for afternoon tea before heading home. Tired, especially Heather, but happy.

Members present: I. Angell, J. Bickerdike, R. Chalmers, C. Jones, T. Pettifer, C. Ravey. Guests: Steve Deakin, A. MacDonald, Paul North, Heather the Spaniel.

C. M. Jones.

Leif and Andrea Anderson on board the 'Orion' while searching for the 'Rospico' in Greenland. Photo: Douglas Anderson.

Mt. Oroheno (7339ft.). Tahiti and the 'Blue Biscay' from Point Venus anchorage. Photo: Alan Hunt.





EASTER MEET – KINTAIL LODGE HOTEL

THIS well attended meet, which marked the return of the Club to Kintail after no less than 74 years, was chiefly remarkable for the presence of our senior member Colin Russell who had been present in 1926. On that occasion he had walked in from Glenfinnan.

This time he came by car, and at dinner on Saturday night met one of our guests, Ronald Turnbull, who had followed as far as possible the mountain route taken by Colin all those years ago. Scribes and photographer were present to mark this event and we await the result with interest.

The weather was very good and gave three excellent days of sunshine and high cloud enabling us to take advantage of the lengthening days of this late Easter. Some even ventured onto rock, with Richardson, Wallace and Slessor forming a past-presidential rope to climb the Cioch Nose in dry conditions.

Practically every hill of note around Kintail received a visit including the Five Sisters, Ciste Dubh, Beinn Fhada, A'Glas-Gheinn, the complete South Cluanie Ridge, The Saddle, Sgurr na Sgine, Sgurr an Aigrìd, Sgurr Mhic Bharraich and Garbh-Bheinn (Skye).

Those present included the President Bryan Fleming, Robin Campbell, Bob Richardson, Malcolm Slessor, Bill Wallace, Dick Allen, Paul Brian, Mike Fleming, John Fowler, John Hay, Peter Macdonald, John Mitchell, Bill Myles, Colin Russell, Nigel Suess, Oliver Turnbull, Noel Williams, Andrew Wightman. Guests: Mike Esten, Mike Gee, John Harvard, John Nicholson, Ronald Turnbull, Mary Wightman.

It is proposed that the Easter 2001 meet be at the Naismith Hut, Elphin.

Oliver Turnbull.



Suilven from the Naismith Hut, Elphin. Photo: Derek Pyper.

The Club's oldest member, the Rev. A. Colin Russell (1925), with President Bryan Fleming and Robin Campbell at the Kintail Easter Meet. Photo: John Fowler.

JMCS REPORTS

Edinburgh Section:—The Section has a healthy membership level of 90, including several Honorary Members. In addition, we currently have 15 Aspirants – rather impressive as we haven't had a recruitment drive for several years.

Over the past year members have been enjoying diverse mountaineering pursuits, including rock and ice-climbing, skiing (mountaineering, Nordic and downhill), mountain biking, Munro and Corbett ascending and sailing – this latter to reach particular peaks efficiently by four members on the Scottish Islands Peak Race. One of us even goes fishing.

The Herriott-Watt climbing wall continues to be our winter season midweek gathering place, but more recently, there has been an additional drift to Alien Rock on (increasingly crowded) Mondays. When will Ratho be ready?

Our Meets Secretary compiled a series of interesting summer Wednesday evening venues and weekend meets. The attendance at the latter varied with the weather; a recent meet at Blackrock Cottage was particularly memorable and thoroughly enjoyable, with a range of routes, in a variety of snow/ice conditions, being tackled.

During the year, various parties have climbed rock routes including Clean Sweep, Savage Slit, Vulcan Wall (Corrie Laggan), Kipling Groove in the Lakes, King Rat on Creag an Dubh Loch, among many others. Memorable winter days have been experienced on East Buttress of Beinn Eighe, Naismith's Route on the Buachaille, and Observatory Ridge. One party also climbed both Hidden Gully on Stob Coire nam Beith and SC Gully on the same day – pretty good in far-from-excellent conditions; full marks too for beating (almost) the queues to reach SC Gully. To avoid queuing in the more popular winter venues there has also been interest in other less-explored cliffs and corries, to repeat some new(ish) winter climbs.

Members continued to mountaineer farther afield in the quest of new experiences and challenges. Countries and areas visited by assorted parties included Ireland (brilliant weather and food); Wales (terribly dreich); Spain (sunny for some, wet and even snowy for others); Norway (popular for some years with several members, unfortunately, weeks of relentless drizzle were experienced in 1999); French and Swiss Alps (so-so, but skiing weather was good), and the Bernese Oberland (lots of precipitation in all its varieties). As a response to several recent poor winters for ice at home, a minority have enjoyed exhilarating visits to chip their way up frozen waterfalls in France and in the Banff region in Canada. Rock climbing activity has extended to exploring Mingulay and big peak bagging in Equador, where a party ascended Chimborazo and Cotopaxi, among others. In search of other fine weather rock venues members have also enjoyed new routes in the Bugaboos, Joshua Tree and Zion in North America, and in Thailand.

Just one member joined the ranks of the Munro compleators this year, and her mass ascent of Buachaille Etive Beag was joined by several members. The group enjoyed champsers, then descended in improving weather (everything looks better after consuming alcohol when a little dehydrated) to the Kingshouse for a fine buffet and artistically-decorated cake.

During the year, the Section revised its Constitution and produced notes on its Duty of Care. To ratify all this an EGM was held, attended by 18 members. There was some very worthwhile discussion.

Another departure from our usual activities was a winter skills training/revision weekend organised for 14 members by Stuart Buchanan. This was based at Jock's Spot and instruction costs were partly subsidised from club funds. A mixture of new and long-standing members participated. Hopefully, the event will contribute to greater safety awareness and reinforcement; at least some got to actually practising self-arrest etc. instead of merely being full of good intentions at the onset of every winter.

The huts continue to be popular, with both members and other clubs – although bookings at the Smiddy have declined. We think this is partly due to the Government hiking the cost of motoring to unreasonable levels, so folk are not prepared to travel so far for weekends. The kitchen area at the Smiddy has been refurbished, apart from a few final cosmetic details. This work was jointly funded by the Section and a generous grant from the Scottish Mountaineering Trust, which was much appreciated as without it the work could not have been tackled to such a standard. Fraser Fotheringham carried out the joinery work. Fraser, aided by his wife, Alex, has been our Smiddy Custodian for many years but this year relinquished this task to concentrate on other projects.

The club showed its appreciation to Fraser and Alex by presenting them with an inscribed quaiach and a bottle of malt at Easter.

The AGM and Annual Dinner were held at the Fife Arms Hotel, Braemar. This venue has not used by the Section for many years after some members were banned for outrageous behaviour at one memorable event. It would be entirely inappropriate to divulge the hair-raising details here. However, many of those responsible are now senior members of the club, much respected and all that sort of thing.

By the AGM we lacked anyone in the role of Secretary. Bruce – elected at the 1998 AGM, after several months of inspired and diligent service to the Section – had left us for pastures new south of the Border. Richard Wellor bridged the resulting gaping hole most manfully until the 1999 AGM, fitting many tasks into a whirlwind of a personal schedule. Euan Grieve has since been volunteered (without any resistance on his part) into the role.

The Annual Slide Night was held at Clan Buchanan's. Well attended (ie. crowded)), good slides, good company and refreshments.

The Section has also started contributing to the presentation of lectures at the Eastern Section monthly slide nights and our attendance at these has increased somewhat.

In January this year members were saddened by the death of Ian Simpson, a member of some years' standing who was vice-president in 1992. Ian and his partner fell while climbing Wavelength or Fluted Buttress Direct, Coire an t-Sneachda. Ian's funeral was attended by several members and our heartfelt sympathies are extended to his family, especially his wife, Marilyn.

Officials elected were: *Hon. President*, John Fowler; *Hon. Vice-President*, Alan Smith; *President*, Beryl Leatherland; *Vice-President*, Stuart Buchanan; *Treasurer*, Charles Stupart; *Secretary*, Euan Grieve, 10/8 Tay Street, Edinburgh. E.mail: euan@eh11.freemove.co.uk; *Membership Secretary*, Douglas Hall; *Meets Secretary*, Euan Scott; *Smiddy Custodians*, Simon Fox and Alex Dunn (Bookings), 4 King's Cramond, Edinburgh; *Jock's Spot Custodian*, Ali Borthwick, 2 Aytoun Grove, Dunfermline. *Committee member*: Patrick Winter.

Euan Grieve.

Perth Mountaineering Club (JMCS, Perth Section):-

The Club welcomed five new members and, allowing for two non-renewals, membership increased to 93. There was a full mix of hill activities appropriate to all seasons. Increased climbing interest was sustained. There were 22 scheduled meets, including weekend and day venues, plus numerous midweek evening meets at local crags and various indoor locations. Winter Club Nights were again held, when members' slides were shown, including Lorraine Nicholson's presentation of her visit to the Canadian Rockies. The Annual Joint Lecture with Perth Society of Natural Sciences was well attended as usual, and member, Jeff Banks, gave a slide talk about his trip to Greenland.

This year's annual 'Midsummer Madness' multi-route long weekend was through Fisherfield Forest. Sublime weather, maximum daylight and the bonus of moonlight camping ensured all parties and individuals attained lots of high points and delightful memories as they progressed through to emergence at Kinlochewe.

Two trips were made over the Border. A day raid to Northumberland's Kyloe Crags brought good, but brief, rewards before the monsoon arrived and a visit was made to Alien Rock in Leith on the way back. The other visit was to the Lakes where the handful attending again enjoyed the luxury of a weekend in Low House in Coniston. Sub-tropical weather attended both of the rewarding days on the hills and rocks, the first day being noteworthy for the incredible masses of flying ants on the tops.

Core activities in the homeland hills were widespread, including Skye and Jura in addition to the mainland. On Jura, Ron Payne rounded off his Corbetts and Ray Lee with a much larger retinue completed his Munros on Stob na Broige on the Buachaille, with balloons and other festive trappings.

Recent overseas forays ensured a plentiful supply of material for Club Nights. Chris Bond and Alan Vaughan went (were not sent) to Siberia. Chris was also in Nepal, before making yet another visit to his beloved Atlas Mountains in Morocco, while Alan added Arizona to his memories. Lorraine Nicholson travelled to Sikkim, and Dave Baker's vocational peregrinations included sailing in the South Pacific and climbing volcanoes.

We were deeply saddened by losses over the past couple of years. May Grant was newly retired when she became ill and left many grieving friends. Our last surviving Founder Member, Honorary Member Chris Rudie died at the age of 90 years. Veteran members Leonard Moss and William Shand were also taken from us, both also perhaps with consolation of advanced age. We also learned of the death of long-retired member, Jack Murray, whose son Peter is a current member.

Editor Ray Lee's greatly appreciated quarterly Newsletter continued to inform and entertain all members and keep faithful contact with those situated in Skye, London and other far away places. The Millennium was variously celebrated. A major project was the Club's publication of its Perth JMCS Millennium Journal in limited edition (for copies, at £12 plus postage, contact the Treasurer or Secretary). A Millennium Dinner was held in the Invercauld Arms, Braemar, with record attendance. The main speaker was Robin Campbell, who brought along as one of the Club guests his constant friend, Sir Hugh Munro, or rather his alter ego who sat there as a benign and reflective inspiration throughout. The following day a large contingent *en masse* and *en famille* made a celebratory climb of Morrone in weather for loitering long on the summit. On Millennium Day a large party climbed the Ochils' 'Millennium Hill' – Innerdownie (2000ft.), when members, families, friends and children, ages from nine weeks to 75 years, topped out with balloons and novelties and celebrated with beverages ranging between mother's milk and liebfraumilch.

Officials elected were: *Hon. President*, Robin Campbell; *Hon. Vice-President*, Iain Robertson; *Hon. Member*, Donald McIntyre; *President*, Pamela Dutton, Tel: 01738 583261; *Vice-President*, Alan Bailey; *Secretary*, Chris Bond, 5 Colenden Cottages, Stormontfield, Scone, Perth, PH 2 6BL, Tel: 01738 552640, E-mail Chrbon007@aol.com; *Treasurer*, Tom Rix – Tel. 01250 874306; *Meets Secretary*, Grahame Nicoll; *Newsletter Editor*, Ray Lee; *Committee*: Ron Payne, Dave Pritchard, Beverley Robertson and Phil Taylor. *Auditor*, John Rogers.

Chris Bond.

Glasgow Section:— 1999 was an eventful year for the Club. Four new members were admitted bringing the total to 96, with 23 life members. A total of 19 meets occurred within Scotland, the average attendance being fairly good. Meets took place in the Ling Hut, CIC Hut, Raeburn Hut, Lagangarbh, Glenbrittle Hut, Milehouse, Mill Cottage, Muir of Inverey, and Jock's Spot.

Winter climbing did not feature greatly in this years' calendar unfortunately. Some members found success on routes on Aonach Mor during early March. Dave Eaton and Scott Stewart ventured North West and climbed the likes of Fenian Gully on Beinn Dearg.

The spring-summer rock climbing was far more successful. Members explored climbing opportunities at Ardnamurchan during a glorious May bank holiday weekend. Various members made the most of the remaining better weather climbing in Glen Coe, Ben Nevis and the Cairngorms. Dave Eaton, Mark Evans and Scott Stewart extended their climbing expertise, heading south to the Lakes, Wales and Pembrokeshire.

Three members celebrated their last Munro this year. Ian Thomson enjoyed fair weather, a good turnout and a fine cairn lavished with many a bottle of malt whisky on Sgor Gaoith. Scott Stewart was not so lucky with the weather on Beinn Heasgarnich. However, a good turnout combined with the Killin Folk Festival took peoples' minds off the weather. Ann MacDonald and company ascended Spidean Coire nan Clach in sunshine. Three memorable weekends for one reason or another.

Renovations to the hut at Coruisk have given more space and light. March 2000 will see the new stove being fitted, giving heat all year round, making. Some members were active abroad. These included Davie MacDonald and Neil Marshall tackling Spanish bolt-clipping in Majorca; Donald Ballance in Arizona; Ann MacDonald and Colwyn Jones in Yosemite, and Dave Ritchie climbing in the Canadian Rockies, Nepal, Grand Teton and the Alps.

Officials elected: *Hon. President*, Sandy Donald; *Hon. Vice-President*, Andrew Sommerville; *Hon. Member*, Alan Thrippleton; *President*, Donald Ballance; *Vice-President*, Dave Eaton; *Secretary*, Vicky Stewart, 260 West Princes Street 2/R, Glasgow G4 9DP. Tel: 0141 334 6859; *Meets Secretary*, David Lawson; *Treasurer*, Andrew Sommerville; *Coruisk Bookings*, Sandy Donald, 15 Smeaton Avenue, Torrance, Stirlingshire, G64 4BG. Tel: 01360 622541; *Custodians Maintenance*, Alex Haddow, *Committee*: Alan Dunn, Mark Evans, John Fenemore, Claire Gilchrist, Ann MacDonald, Scott Stewart and Ian Thomson.

Due to the non-submittal of last year's report, these are the details of the officials that were elected at the AGM in 1998: *Hon. President*, Ian Thomson; *Hon. Member*, Alan Thrippleton; *President*, David Lawson; *Vice-President* and *Secretary*, Donald Ballance; *Treasurer*, Andrew Sommerville; *Coruisk Bookings*, Sandy Donald; *Custodians Maintenance*, Alex Haddow. *Committee*: Niel Craig, Mark Evans, Ann MacDonald, Vicky Stewart, Scott Stewart.

Vicky Stewart.

Lochaber Section: The Section enjoyed a successful and active year with more meets than in previous years and an increase in the membership which now stands at almost 60 members. As well as the traditional mountaineering pursuits, many members now take part in a wide range of outdoor activities. At past meets we have had mountain bikes; parachutes; the odd canoe, and some unconfirmed reports of golf clubs.

In the early part of the year there were meets to Braemar, Skye and Achnasheen. The Braemar meet, staying at the excellent Muir of Inverey cottage, was particularly well attended by 18 members.

In the summer months a lot of members dispersed themselves around the globe to various climbing and walking venues. Some travelled to the more traditional countries of France, Italy and Austria and a few farther afield to Iran and Chile. At the end of July several members got together and embarked on a successful trip to the Dolomites. Based in the Val Di Fassa, they had some great days on the Sella and Vajollet Towers and other mountains.

In the latter half of the year there were meets to Glen Affric and Ling. The Glen Affric meet, to Strawberry Cottage, was blessed with glorious weather and two great days were enjoyed on the hill.

At the end of October the section travelled to a new venue for the Annual Dinner – the Tomich Hotel, Cannich. The weekend was a great success with more than 30 members and guests enjoying some excellent hospitality and facilities.

The mainstay of the section's income is generated from Steall Cottage, Glen Nevis, which the section leases out to other clubs. Throughout the year, hut bookings were very steady and income was up on previous years. The club utilises the skills and labours within the section to maintain and improve the cottage and its facilities. Plans for the coming year include a complete re-vamp of the gas system and improvements to the heating.

Apart from the formal meets, locally-based members meet regularly on Thursday evenings in the Nevis Bank Hotel, Fort William. Sometimes these evenings will incorporate a slide show or talk.

Officials elected were: *Hon. President*, Billy Munro; *Hon. Members*, D. Scott, H. MacInnes; *President*, Davy Ford; *Vice-President*, Sam MacPherson; *Treasurer*, George Bruce; *Secretary*, Kenny Foggo, 4 Parkan Dubh, Inverlochy, Fort William; *Hut Custodian*, John Mathieson, 43 Drumfada Terrace, Corpach, Fort William, Tel. 01397 772599; *Committee Members*, Graham Livingston, Paul Brian, Ian Walker.

Ken Foggo.

London Section:– Membership is steady at around 50 with an additional 10 life members. The section now has mixed membership (beyond age only) and many continue to be active.

The section had a quiet year in terms of meets. However, three winter meets are scheduled for Scotland this coming winter.

The section owns a club cottage in North Wales which is open to other section members and their families, particularly in the summer months. Anglesey and the North Wales coast are both within 30-minutes drive. A major renovation programme is in the offing as a millennium present to all visitors.

The AGM and Dinner were held last November at the Giler Arms.

Officials elected were: *President*, Chris Bashforth; *Treasurer*, Dave Hughes; *Secretary*, Steve Gladstone, 36 Meadow Close, Solihull West Midlands, B94 6PG. *Hut Booking*, Rod Kleckham. Tel: 01252 721049.

Jahn Steele.

SMC AND JMCS ABROAD

Europe

SIMON RICHARDSON reports:—Doré Green and I spent two weeks climbing in the Alps last July. We started off by visiting an old haunt, the East Face of the Petites Jorasses above the Italian Val Ferret. Way back in July 1983, Roger Everett and I had climbed the face by the original route first climbed by Bonatti and Mazeaud in 1962. Roger and I made the third ascent of the face, and had the glacier to ourselves climbing perfect sunny granite which was more like Yosemite than the Alps. It was clear even then, that the face was ripe for development, and during the 1990s the ubiquitous Michel Piola established a series of modern bolt-protected climbs.

Doré and I set our sights on Piola's Pantagruel (ED2) which takes a line of grooves and walls to the right of the Bonatti-Mazeaud, and is the only route which tackles the imposing headwall at the top of the face. We arrived at the tiny Gervasutti Hut to find it full of Italian parties, including a friendly Italian couple who were also intent on climbing the route. The prospect of queuing on what previously was a neglected and almost unknown face was something of a shock, but due to a mix-up at the bergschrund we ended up in front. Ten varied pitches led to a terrace at two-thirds' height. The other parties all abseiled off from here, but our crux loomed above. The headwall was 7b territory – too hard for me to lead – so I gladly handed over the sharp end to Doré who polished off the next three pitches allowing me to climb the final easy few rope lengths to the summit ridge. The descent was a dream down bolt-equipped abseil points to the glacier.

While on the Italian side of the range we also visited the East Face of Monte Gruetta which I'd first climbed in 1996 with Chris Cartwright. I'm not in the habit of re-climbing alpine faces, but another modern classic called La Roue de la Fortune (ED2), looked too good to pass by. Unlike the Petites Jorasses this provided superb technical climbing in a remote cirque with no one else around.

HAVING sated our alpine sun-rock appetite we then went to the Switzerland to try our luck on the North-east Rib of the Finsteraarhorn (ED1). Despite its reputation for loose rock and stonefall, the remoteness of the fine feature had attracted both of us for many years. Rising nearly 1200m in a narrowing buttress to the summit of the highest peak in the range, I had often thought of it as the Walker Spur of the Oberland. The eight-hour approach to the remote Aar Bivouac hut set the tone, and we spent the next two days climbing the route in total solitude. As expected the rock was like digestive biscuits, but the cold weather kept the stonefall in check and the upper part of the face was severely snowed-up. Here I was able to balance Doré's rock climbing skill with some Scottish mixed experience, and we arrived at the Finsteraarhorn Hut late on the second day. A seven-hour trip back to Grimsel the following morning over two high alpine passes rounded off a very satisfying outing.

We were now all set for a final route on Mont Blanc, but the weather had other ideas, so we finished our holiday being severely humbled by the steep limestone cliffs of the Rochers de Presles in the Vercors.

BRYAN AND ANN FLEMING returned to their favourite resort, Obergurgl, in July for 10 days of high-level walking. They travelled from London to Otz by a succession of trains of diminishing size and comfort but, while this was more entertaining than flying, it was astronomically expensive and not to be recommended. This year they rented a self-catering apartment in the Familie Scheiber's Hotel Wiesental. This proved to be the best arrangement ever, providing a perfect combination of freedom and relaxation with the hotel's excellent restaurant available when wanted, not to mention a magnificent view of the Gurgler Glacier. Highly recommended to sybarites.

Greenland

In the Wake of the Sea Breeze

DOUGLAS ANDERSON reports on last season's aquatic frolics in Greenland:— It was 9pm and we were still a few pitches short of the summit. Just as the angle of the ridge relented so the rope drag increased dramatically and I had to battle for every inch to the ledge I had set my sights on. It turned out to be a wonderful place for a stop. Slotting in some big nuts I brought Andrea and Leif up as fast as my knackered arms could haul in the rope. It had been a hot afternoon, and after seven hours of continuous climbing we were tired and extremely thirsty. We squeezed the last drops of tepid water from our single SIG bottle, but it wasn't nearly enough and left us more parched than ever.

We haggled in that family kind of way – giving no quarter – over the division of the last bit of chocolate and then relaxed, gazing out over the sparkling fjord. It was Leif's turn to lead (he had been nagging me for hours) but first I needed to call Orea on the radio. 'Orion – Orion – Orion – do you read me?' After a moment or two she came on air. 'Aldebaran – Aldebaran – I read you!' Orea was back at camp as usual, resting with her nose in a book, but also on radio watch listening out, not just for us, but hoping for contact with our three friends then sailing the 38ft. yacht, *Rospico*, outward bound from Liverpool to join us in Greenland.

The crew of the *Rospico* comprised John, raconteur and bold mountaineer, father Dave the unflappable skipper, and son Robin, stoical and droll, capable of taking adversity in his stride but who unhinged completely when attacked by clouds of Greenland mosquito.

Some years previously John, while crossing the mouth of Sermalik fjord in the company of the Anderson family, had at my suggestion stopped for lunch on the small island of Erit. While we sat at leisure on the rocky skerry I recounted to John how in the late Sixties the famous mountain explorer and yachtsman, W. H. Tillman, had spent an anxious day or two on the same spot. Tillman's pilot cutter, *Sea Breeze* had, as a result of a number of miscalculations, been caught in the icy Sermalik without an engine. Things rapidly went from bad to worse when violent katabatic winds struck suddenly and drove ice down upon the vessel until it was crushed against the very rocks upon which we sat. Eventually, when the wind dropped the pressure of the ice eased, but the vessel, badly holed, slid back into the sea and disappeared beneath the waves while he and his stranded crew looked on helplessly.

So it came to pass one dismal winter night, when beer and boredom had emboldened spirits and clouded judgment, John persuaded Dave that it would be

a grand adventure to sail to Greenland in search of Tillmanite relics and to dive on the wreck of the *Sea Breeze*. So now Andrea, Leif and I sat on our ledge looking out over the distant pack, while they, we hoped, were sailing the last leg across the stormy Denmark Strait towards us.

Searching with my binoculars out to the horizon things did not look promising. The floes were very close packed and few open leads could be seen. As I scanned the impenetrable mass I recalled how a week earlier we had watched a huge Russian icebreaker struggle for hours to reach harbour in similar conditions. If things did not improve significantly, at best they were going to have a nerve-wracking time working the thin-hulled 38ft. glass fibre *Westerly* through the pack; at worst they might easily end up wrecked and cast ashore like the crew of the *Sea Breeze*.

I reported the conditions to Orea and observed that perhaps the pack was moving and hoped it might clear a bit over the next 24 hours. Orea had raised the *Rospico* and she relayed this to the crew. We learned in return that they were hove-to and drifting storm bound about 300 miles off the coast and for the time being they were having difficulty preventing themselves from being blown back to Iceland. Although we had planned it this way, I was still in awe of the fact that we could be sitting happily on this rocky ridge and be speaking live to our friends storm tossed hundreds of miles away to the east.

We gave the crew a good serving of moral support and then unsympathetically told them to stop messing about and to get a move on – the summer was passing. Then the battery in our radio failed and we were alone again on our mountain. Despite our bravado, I for one was exceedingly glad not to have the anxiety of a North Atlantic storm to deal with that night. We topped out around midnight and were back at camp by 3am, well pleased with our day on the hill and the success of our radio hook-up.

We moved north-east for the next few days and although we kept our radio schedule we failed to raise the *Rospico*. By the third day we were beginning to get concerned for their safety. Then in the fading seconds of our evening radio watch we faintly heard them calling. Struggling to hear over the static, we learned a huge wave had struck them broadside, slamming the *Rospico* through 100°. In an instant a heavy fuel bottle strapped to the guard rail stove in one of the cabin windows and as the *Rospico* lay on her side, water poured through the breach flooding the saloon. In the same moment, the momentum of the capsize threw John against the roof and smashed four of his ribs. He had lain strapped in his bunk for 24 hours as the storm tore at them before things calmed down sufficiently to get under way. Tired and shaken and in a bit of a mess below decks, they were now motoring and hoped to make land fall in about five hours. This was great news and a considerable relief.

We, however, were well out of position to be of any help to them, and despite their optimism, I had a suspicion their adventures were not over yet. It would take considerable determination to make progress through the coastal pack.

We tumbled round trying to strike camp as quickly as possible and soon we were loaded aboard and moving south. Orea and I led the way aboard *Aldebaran*, our trusty old inflatable, and a veteran of many Greenland adventures. Andrea and Leif followed in our wake aboard *Orion*, which I had recently purchased in order to reduce the scope for family arguments. Like many families with a high-teenage

content, strife was endemic, and I hoped that putting 100yds. of water between the warring factions might ensure a more relaxing atmosphere. Although a costly solution it had the upside of increasing our range and safety factor by a significant margin. Both boats were almost identical and could pace each other fairly closely.

It was a freezing cold and dead calm night, and we skimmed along carving slow sweeping turns between widely-spaced floes, at times slicing through new ice forming on the water. The midnight sun painted both sky and sea in changing tones of pink and purple as hour after hour we cut through the cold night air at a steady 15 knots. I stood searching for the most efficient line between floes and past isolated towering bergs that dotted the sea. Often I glanced back to check that the others were keeping pace. In the perfect calmness the boats adopted almost frozen attitudes as they planed across the water. The hours passed uneventfully until we entered a narrow fjord and floes began to pack in around us.

We made increasingly frequent turns, doubling back to dodge through some rapidly-closing gaps. Suddenly, we were in the thick of it, fighting to clear the passage before we became permanently trapped in the screw ice. We were trapped, then free, then trapped again. Eventually, we became embayed by a group of large floes moving rapidly with the current. This trap proved our salvation. The bay held its integrity, protecting us as it swept along. The pressure increased as the clump of pack squeezed and ground its way along underneath a high cliff and it looked as if our sanctuary might be crushed out of existence at any moment. We sat with engines on idle watching for a moment when the pressure might ease and a gap open on the far side.

After what seemed an age the solid bank of floes began to ease. We motored slowly forward towards a weakness, then a gap widened and we darted out. The ice field was in turmoil again, one gap closing, another opening, but we were through the worst. We soon had the boats back up on plane and headed on south.

Around 3am we had run our course and we moored to a granite rock sticking out from the sea. It was very steep-sided down into the water, and about 200ft. high. I thought it would make a fine bivouac spot and from the top we should be able to see the *Rospico* a long way off.

Looking out from the summit the prospects for the *Rospico* looked anything but promising. There was an open lead about 200yds wide near our rock but that seemed to be closing, while beyond impenetrable pack stretched in all directions to the horizon. I radioed the crew of the *Rospico*. They were in good heart but tired, having had to battle against a strong offshore wind for the past few hours. Things were now calm and they estimated to be about 12 miles off. However, the ice around them was noticeably thicker. I told them the inshore ice was very heavy and the probability of passage unlikely, but I gave them the best available course.

On the summit of the rock I sat down with my binoculars to try to see the *Rospico*. I had their exact position and was now able to focus my search. Eventually, I spotted a lonely mast moving slowly through the pack. The mast was far away, made doubly tall by ice inversion. For a long time I watched it zig-zag along but get no closer.

They were now struggling with impenetrable pack ice. Time and again they made forays into the tighter ice only to be rebuffed. I provided moral support but they

were too far off to give useful directions to easier ice, had there been any. John suggested we try to reach them but for the time being the idea held no charm. It was 6am and my team was sound asleep on the rocks below. We agreed on rest before any further adventure. The *Rospico* withdrew from the denser pack and anchored to a large floe to let the crew catnap for a few hours.

At 9am I became alarmed that floes would crush our boats, so I roused everyone and we bailed out in search of a place where there would be room to manoeuvre. At 10am, John came on the radio to say they were motoring. I could see no sign of them but when I plotted their new position I soon realised a large imposing cape to the south-west was in the way. We bundled into the boats again and it wasn't long before we were squeezing between ice and rock under the towering granite cliffs of the cape. Feelings of anticipation ran high and we expected to see them the instant we rounded the cape but it was not to be. Minutes dragged slowly by until clearing another point we picked up the mast top of the *Rospico* protruding beyond a thick band of pack. It was a very exciting moment to get so close and I felt that surely now luck would favour us.

We nosed into the ice, slowly shoving our way towards the *Rospico* until only 200yds. of close packed floes separated us. We could have completed the journey on foot. The pack was suddenly gripped by a strong current, a retreat was suddenly urgent, but within seconds there was no way either forward or back.

Despite our efforts to keep our two boats together we were soon forced in different directions by ice driving between us. With outboard at full throttle Orea and I thrust our boat out of the water onto a floe. Some distance away the others became embayed. I was anxious having the family divided, but there was nothing to do but sit quietly as the ice carried us eastwards. The *Rospico* shadowed our drift in the offing as best it could.

In due course Leif, with unusual modesty, wandered off across the floes to find a secluded place to obey the call of nature. He was comfortably established at his toilet when the ice suddenly began to separate again. Their boat was still held fast as Leif's floe began to depart, opening a widening lead in a matter of moments. Orea and I looked on anxiously as Leif sped along the floe's edge, toilet paper fluttering in one hand, pulling up his trousers with the other. Fortunately, the floe he was on turned and briefly bumped another and he dashed across. We soon made our escape, but the strain of having the family divided and independently dodging among the floes was becoming too much for my nerves. I asked Leif and Andrea to position themselves in the inshore lead as rescue boat while Orea and I made another attempt to reach the yacht. We worked our way back into the shifting pack often making progress by sliding the boat along on top of the ice with the engine poking through a narrow slot between floes. We eventually clawed our way to the far side of the ice field but there was no hope of getting the thin-hulled *Rospico* back the way we had come.

After only the briefest of hellos we reluctantly made our way back as the pack closed about us again. Over the radio Dave advised somewhat despairingly that they were reaching the end of their tether but they would make a last try farther west. I was sceptical about the chances of success in that direction but had no alternative to offer.

An hour later, having positioned myself on the top of a craggy islet, I could see the *Rospico* some miles off following a narrow lead into the heart of an impossible ice field. I called them on the radio and advised an immediate about turn. I advised that passage ahead was impossible but that I felt there was a viable option (the only one) five miles to the east. Dave was doubtful, but I told him to hurry because the weakness in the pack was small and could change at any time. It took agonising minutes to turn the yacht in the narrow lead and head back. At full bore the *Rospico* could manage seven knots but as I watched it seemed a snail-like pace as it crept back along the lead.

It was stressful watching her, thinking the weakness would fill at any moment. Eventually, I couldn't stand it and I went for a walk across the islet. When I came back Dave came on the radio urgently looking for instructions. His voice rang with the tension of the past 24 hours. I told him to hold his course for a few more minutes. Having studied the pack very intently I knew only by re-engaging at exactly the right point would success come within our grasp. '*Rospico*,' I said over the radio, 'When you round the next floe I want you to turn hard to port into the pack'

'Are you sure? It doesn't look good to me,' said Dave, scepticism audible in his voice.

'Trust me, this is going to work. Just turn to port exactly when I say.'

From my crag top I guided their manoeuvres over the radio and soon the *Rospico* was at last through into open water.

Once aboard, hands were warmly clasped and whisky poured and many toasts were drunk: To eternal friendship... To the joy of being free of the ice... To the benefits of package holidays...

We were all very pleased to be united at last and could relax and indulge in some plain sailing. For an hour we motored along in this state of unrestrained bliss, content to admire the scene and embroider our tales of adventure. Then over the bows of *Rospico*.... Oh for heavens sake... we could see a solid wall of pack closing rapidly from the east. It looked certain to catch us against the coast which now rose in sheer unbroken cliffs, blocking all passage north and west. Rapidly scanning the chart I noticed a group of dangerous rocks making escape to the south uncertain. It was equally clear that no matter the risks we had no other choice. Dave immediately put the helm hard over and lay course for the largest of the group, thinking that if we were to be crushed it would be best to have some place to jump for. For the time being I kept from the others the fact that written on the chart in small letters beside this largest rock, was the name, Erit!

Patagonia

SCOTTISH winter activist Alan Mullin and British expatriate climber, Kevin Thaw, climbed the Czechoslovakian Route on the West Face of Fitzroy in February 2000.

The 2700m high face was first climbed over two months using fixed ropes by a very strong Czech team in 1983. Mullin and Thaw made the third overall and first free ascent of the route over two days.

They continued up the Californian Route to a high point 250m below the summit when a fierce storm forced them to descend.

It was a remarkable performance and one of the finest achievements by British climbers in Patagonia in recent times.'

REVIEWS

Last Climb: The Legendary Everest Expeditions of George Mallory:— David Breashears and Audrey Salkeld (National Geographic Society, 1999, 240pp, hardback, colour plates and black-and-white photographs, £22.50, ISBN 0 7922 7538 1).

The story of Mallory and Irvine must be the most enduring mystery of mountaineering. This is the stuff of myth and legend – a quest into the unknown on the world's highest peak, enveloped in a mystery that seems to have grown with the passing years. It has to be said that it makes for an excellent story, and this National Geographic publication tells it very well indeed. From the first chapter, describing Mallory's background, and his formative years in the intellectually and aesthetically refined upper middle class circles of Edwardian England, there is a well-judged momentum that drives the story. The first two Everest expeditions, in 1921 and 1922, provide an important context for the events of 1924, and are fully described. There is a sense of mounting excitement, first as a feasible route onto the mountain is eventually discovered, and then as the second expedition makes remarkable progress, setting two new height records. This sets the scene for the fateful events of the third expedition. The pace does not slip as the authors carefully present and analyse the evidence of what might have happened high on the mountain that day, and finally draw their conclusions.

To the authors' credit, their analysis is well balanced, and they are not tempted into wild speculation based on inadequate evidence. Not surprisingly, there are differences of opinion with views expressed in other recent books on Mallory and Irvine, and some inconsistencies too, in matters of apparent 'fact'. But in the end this does not matter, because for Breashears and Salkeld the crux is not in the speculative detail. They choose to focus on the remarkable spirit of these individuals and their companions, who forged a path so far into the unknown, whether out of a sense of adventure, or from personal ambition, or through a concept of duty which now belongs to a bygone era.

They also lay to rest some of the ghosts of the past, the implication that somehow somebody was to blame, Irvine through his inexperience or Mallory through over-ambition. Much has been made of the remarkable achievements of these early pioneers, in the light of their inadequate equipment. This is acknowledged, but Breashears and Salkeld also highlight just how far out on a limb these early expeditions were. The achievements of 1922, for instance, are placed in the context of a series of near calamities – the fall by his three companions stopped by Mallory alone, Finch and Ingle struggling to find their camp in a maze of crevasses, late at night and exhausted – any of these could have easily turned into tragedy. It is difficult to escape the conclusion that the early Everest climbers were sticking their necks out a long, long way, and catastrophe was never far away. Certainly, when the weather deteriorated, as in the afternoon squall on the day of the tragic summit attempt, the climbers' clothing and equipment would have been little defence against the cold and the effects of increasing exhaustion. What is perhaps most remarkable, in the light of more recent experience on Everest, is that there were so few fatalities in the pre-war years.

Mallory was the one individual most closely bound up with the Everest adventure of the 1920s; he had a leading role in all three expeditions; he gained public recognition due to his fund-raising lecture tours and he was charming and

articulate. As a result he was well known, even a public figure. When tragedy struck him, rather than any of his lesser known companions, it is perhaps not surprising that it had such an impact on the public consciousness, then and ever since. Unfortunately, the discovery of his body last year has been treated by some authors and publishers in a rather ghoulish manner, more concerned with solving the mystery than with respect for the dead. This book, to its credit, deals with its subject using great dignity and respect. The most powerful element of this is perhaps the moving foreword by Mallory's son, John, who was only three when his father died. His personal loss, of the father he hardly knew, serves to balance the otherwise seductive notions of high ambition and heroism perpetuated by legend and reinforced by the passage of time.

The book is lavishly illustrated, especially with some superbly atmospheric black-and-white prints from the 1920s expeditions. The action shots taken high on the mountain are a poignant reminder of the loneliness of the high-altitude climber. On balance, this seems to me to be the best of all the recent books on Mallory and Irvine. And as for the question of whether they might have made it to the summit, you'll just have to read the book for yourself to find out. In fact, you'll probably need to read all the different books on the subject (I've seen at least five), and then draw your own conclusions!

Adam Kassyk.

Creagh Dhu Climber. The Life and Times of John Cunningham:—Jeff Connor. (Ernest Press 1999. 250pp., £14.50, ISBN 0948 153 54 7).

This book describes an interesting corner of Scottish mountaineering history and is well constructed and written. It is a biography of a remarkable man who was a key figure in the first ascents of a number of very hard rock climbs in Arrochar and Glen Coe in the late 1940s and 1950s, who explored and climbed in various other parts of the world, served as an instructor at Glenmore Lodge and continued to climb at a high standard into middle age, until his premature death by drowning off an Anglesey sea cliff in 1980.

John Cunningham's story is told in the context of the Creagh Dhu Mountaineering Club, one of several groups generated in the depression years of the 1930s from the Glasgow engineering and shipyard workers who sought an alternative to poverty and unemployment by roughing it in the wilder country within reach of Glasgow. They were among those who frequented the famous Craigallion campfire, which is said to have remained continuously alight for years. In post-war years the unemployment had gone but the traditions remained and the young Cunningham developed within the small and exclusive Creagh Dhu Club, noted for its hard climbing and its hardihood. It was a club which remained outside the Scottish mountaineering establishment, partly because most of its exploratory climbing was concentrated in Arrochar and Glen Coe and partly because of its own intensely private character. Numbers were limited to about 30 with membership by invitation only and refused if any existing members objected. In spite of these features the Creagh Dhu became well known in climbing circles on both sides of the Border on account of its rock climbing exploits and its occasionally riotous social gatherings.

In 1952 several Creagh Dhu went to New Zealand and Cunningham spent some time there before joining Hamish MacInnes on an ill-planned visit to the Himalaya. Everest was the objective but they lacked the material resources for the task. Bad luck and bad weather attended this venture as they were to do on two later Himalayan expeditions with which Cunningham was involved in 1956 and 1958.

In 1955 he went to South Georgia as a mountaineer with an expedition led by Duncan Carse who some may remember as *Dick Barton, Special Agent*. The party spent some weeks surveying parts of the unexplored mountainous interior and climbing some peaks. Violent blizzards led to several of the expedition spending a couple of unprotected days in a crevasse from which they escaped alive only with difficulty. In the early 1960s he spent several seasons with the British Antarctic Survey, surveying, dog sledding and also making the first ascent of Mount Andrew Jackson (11,700ft.), the highest peak in the Antarctic peninsula. That year there were several Creagh Dhu working there and Cunningham and three others climbed the peak in an exclusively CDMC venture, the remaining pair of the party having been persuaded to stay behind on account of bad weather and technical difficulty.

The snow and ice experience gained in the Antarctic was to be valuable in the years ahead as in 1965 Cunningham took a teacher training course at Jordanhill prior to joining the staff at Glenmore Lodge – Scotland's prestigious outdoor training establishment. It was while there he was to play a role in the development of the crampon front-pointing and double-axe technique that is the world-wide practice in ice climbing today. In the Cairngorms he made more hard first ascents on both rock and ice and his work at Glenmore gave him other climbing opportunities such as a visit to the big granite walls of Yosemite. He proved to be a very popular and successful climbing instructor and also had to teach skiing and canoeing (although never at home in the water). In 1973 he married and began a family and in 1976 moved to a post at the IM Marsh PE College in Liverpool. Although now in middle age his climbing standard remained consistently high from fitness training, frequent action and natural talent. He had obtained his British Mountain Guide's Certificate in 1973 and during vacations occasionally took Alpine climbing parties for a company called Mountain Ventures. This was an activity which promised well for the future but it was not to be and John Cunningham drowned at the age of 52 when he and three students were swept off the rocks after completing a coastal traverse at Anglesey.

John Cunningham left little in the way of writings and never sought publicity for his climbing achievements or for the Perry Medal and citations from the British Antarctic Survey for exploration, leadership, and occasional heroism. He was never a celebrity figure, even among the mountaineering public. However, he was a strong personality who had a marked and lasting impression on those who knew him, including many former students. This book has been published 20 years after he died and is written using information gathered by its author from those whose contacts with John are still vividly remembered. Many were and still are, Creagh Dhu, widely scattered, but still in contact with each other.

I never met John Cunningham but I recall climbing on Buachaille Etive Mor more than 50 years ago with a companion who had proudly told me he was 'an apprentice to the Creagh Dhu'. He pointed up to a figure climbing on the Rannoch Wall and said in an awed voice: 'Look, that's John Cunningham'. Later that day I felt a sense of awe myself when I craned up at another bigger and steeper rock face to trace the improbable line of a recently-achieved Cunningham new route. That former apprentice is in one of the more than 70 photographs of different sizes, half of them in colour, which illustrate this book. They illustrate not only the life of an unusual and impressive individual but also outline the character of a unique group called the Creagh Dhu Mountaineering Club. It still exists but the lifestyle which fostered it has changed and is unlikely to return.

Bill Brooker.

A High and Lonely Place:— Jim Crumley. (Whittles Publishing, 2000, £15.99, ISBN 1 870325 68 0).

This is an excellent book; well worth buying and keeping by your bedside. It is written by a thoughtful, sensitive man who, nevertheless, has his feet on the ground, the ground in this case being the Cairngorms.

There are three interwoven strands to this book. In the first there is the writer's obvious aesthetic delight in these mountains which he knows well and writes about with passion. He evokes their beauty at all seasons of the year and at all times of day and night. He knows about moonlight and starlight and storms and calms. He can commune with trees and wildlife. These are all attributes which endear him to this reviewer. The photographs are at first sight flat and subdued. At second sight they have a subtle dream-like quality that evokes the sense of mystery and haunting loneliness that is the jewel in the heart of the Cairngorms. I am sure this effect is intentional as they reflect the message in the prose. In the second strand he writes as a scientist and presents the ecological case as objectively as a worried man can. These strands are the really enjoyable part of the book. In the third strand he confronts the future and makes the usual plea to look on wilderness as an irreplaceable asset which can't be given a monetary value. Here he faces the dilemma we are all in – how to preserve high and lonely places as valuable parts of a civilised society. In modern, politically correct terms, however, the Cairngorms are a 'resource' that must 'earn its keep' or 'wash its face' by increasing throughput of visitors and providing employment in the tourist-support systems. And why not? Why shouldn't the general taxpayer be given easier access to his own. Why shouldn't more people earn a living in pleasant Aviemore rather than among the urban horrors of darkest England?

The mountains are not the private preserve of a high-falutin elite with an over-developed sense of aesthetics like you and me and Jim Crumley. He tries his best to answer this one. He convinces me, but I don't think his aristocratic reasoning will carry much weight with the movers and shakers of the leisure industry. The hard fact is that although I agree with everything Jim Crumley says, nevertheless, if I were young I would rather set up a sports shop in Aviemore than in Glasgow and, of course, I would want more customers and I would support expansion of the economic base of Strathspey. He advocates the positive decommercialising of the whole area so that developers cannot even put their plans forward. The money changers he believes should be swept out of the temple (and you ken fine what happened to the Man that tried that one).

I think one of the root problems is that most people find unsullied wilderness boring after a few minutes exposure so that if you want to make money out of it you must jazz it up in some way, hence the proliferation of hotels, shops, swimming pools, jacuzzis, theme parks, adventure playgrounds, lounge bars, bowling alleys, casinos, dodgem cars and all the other things that we aesthetes consider to be psychological bordellos. A fact of life is that Blackpool and Soho will always make more money per hectare than an Art Gallery.

Nevertheless, a compromise must be found. The Countryside Commission plan for the Cairngorms of many years ago did face up to reconciling these opposites. It recommended an outer economic zone where the main function was to facilitate the money flow and a sacrosanct inner zone of 'unsullied wilderness'. The idea was to

create the myth that the success of the economic zone depended on maintaining the 'unsullied wilderness' as the goose laying the golden egg. We had better get a move on implementing something like this. Time is running out. As we all know world population is increasing and the knock-on effect is already apparent in the increase in the number of refugees seeking demographic asylum in less-crowded parts of a Europe without frontiers. In the next 50 years desirable real estate like Scotland is going to be developed as never before. These are 'facts of life'. Realistically, we must think in terms of 'damage limitation'. Legislation we may succeed in introducing now will be impossible in a few decades when the population pressures are many times greater. The demand on the environment for recreation and profit in these not so far-off distant days will make today seem a golden age of space, uncluttered freedom, moderation and enlightenment.

Meanwhile, get Jim Crumley's book and start thinking of ways the future can be mitigated.

I. H. M. Smart.

Everest: The Man and the Mountain:— J. R. Smith. (Whittles Publishing, 1999; paperback, £37.50, 235mm x 175mm, 306 pp. ISBN 1 870325 72 9.)

This is not a mountaineering book — the author specifically directs readers interested in the climbing exploration of Mount Everest to look elsewhere. It is, nevertheless, a book with much to interest mountaineers. The chances are that you know Mount Everest was named after a Surveyor General of India, but have no idea why he is thus commemorated.

The author presents a detailed portrait of Sir George Everest and his work, together with a historical account of the discovery of the earth's highest point. In his introduction Smith justifies this as the first biography of Sir George Everest: 'Little if anything is known of the man unless the reader happens to be a geographer or surveyor. Yet surely if the highest known peak of the world bears someone's name, then the person behind the name must have been exceptional. Certainly, that is so, but not in a glamorous way.'

The picture that emerges is of a man of extraordinary persistence, dedicated to a task of Herculean magnitude. Born in 1790, he was educated at the Royal Military Academy at Woolwich. He joined the East India Co. as a Lieutenant and arrived in India on July 11, 1806, one week after his 16th birthday. Little is known of his early career except that from 1813 to 1816 he was in Java, where he spent some time surveying the harbours and rivers. On his return to India he was involved in surveys for semaphore telegraphs, intended to replace the use of runners for sending urgent messages. (Runners in relays could cover at best 70 miles a day.)

His deployment in survey work was recognition of his knowledge of mathematics and astronomy, largely self-taught beyond the elementary curriculum at Woolwich. In 1818 he was appointed as Chief Assistant to William Lambton, Superintendent of the Great Trigonometrical Survey (GTS), whom he succeeded in 1823. This post, together with that of Surveyor General of India to which he was appointed in 1829, occupied the rest of his working life until he retired in 1843.

The object of the Survey, begun by Lambton in 1799, was to provide a framework for the future detailed mapping of the whole of India. The GTS comprised a series

of longitudinal and meridian arcs forming a grid of triangulation chains covering the entire sub-continent, subsequently infilled by lower-order triangulation. Arc measurement also had scientific value. From a knowledge of the linear distance apart of two points of similar longitude and their angular separation from astronomical observations, it is possible to determine the size of the earth and, in combination with other arcs around the world, its shape.

The GTS included a meridian arc from Cape Comorin, the southern tip of India at 8°N, to the foothills of the Himalaya in Kashmir at 30°N, a distance of more than 1500 miles. This Great Arc was Everest's special passion. This book is a scholarly work that reflects the depth of research undertaken by the author in the National Archive of India and many other sources. (294 references are listed.) Much of the serious technical material has been taken to the book's five appendices. Even so, the author's thoroughness is such that the biographical narrative becomes heavy going at times.

Ultimately, however, the book provides a fascinating insight into the character of Everest the man: a mathematician, engineer, explorer, inventor, linguist and student of oriental religion and philosophy, but a man who did not suffer fools gladly in his pursuit of his goals. The many quotations from Everest's journals bring graphically to life both the challenging nature of the fieldwork, and the vision, resourcefulness and leadership needed to manage such an enterprise. Despite numerous periods of illness due to malaria and typhus his determination to see the job done and done right earned him the nickname, *Neverrest*.

In this era of digital terrain modelling and differential GPS with its sub-metre accuracy the task of obtaining sights over large distances and reducing the vast amounts of data by manual computation is almost unimaginable. For mountaineers the section dealing with Mount Everest's height and the issue of its name are of particular interest. Observations were made of many of the high peaks of the Himalaya from stations up to 150 miles away, and the peaks were only slowly identified. The first observations of Peak XV (as it was initially known) were made in 1847, but it was not until 1856 that a reliable value of 29,002ft. had been obtained and Everest's successor felt obliged to give the highest peak in the world a name.

His attempts to obtain permission for a survey party to enter Nepal were denied and he was therefore unable to apply Everest's own teaching that every geographical object should be assigned its true local name. The name was reluctantly accepted by the Royal Geographical Society, beginning a controversy that still rumbles on. Everest himself pointed out that his name could not be written in Persian or Hindi and was unpronounceable by a native of India. The book gives a detailed account of the source and relative merits of the numerous other names proposed then and subsequently, including the Tibetan name Chomolungma. Curiously, there is no commentary on the provenance of the modern Hindi name, Sagarmatha, other than to give its meaning. Closer survey possible after the opening of Nepal's borders in 1950 produced in 1954 the current official height of 29,028ft.*

The book gives a useful summary of the various subsequent measurements and, perhaps more importantly, of the sources of error and why an absolute determination of a mountain's height is impossible. The inspiration for the book's publication was the bicentenary of Sir George Everest's birth, but the timing is opportune given

the current level of interest in the mountain. It provides an absorbing counterweight to the plethora of books in the aftermath of the 1996 tragedy and will serve as an invaluable reference source. Surprisingly, there are no biographical notes on the author.

John Peden.

* It has now been popped up to 29,035ft., due to more accurate GPS readings from on high (*Ed.*).

Darkness and the Azure: Tales about the mountains, mountain people and mountaineers:— Anne Sauvy. (Bâton Wicks, 229x150mm, 192pp, £8.99, ISBN 1 898573 42 5).

This is the third collection of short stories by this Parisian lecturer and alpinist. I reviewed *The Game of Mountain and Chance* (1995) in the 1996 SMCI, and I can only say that her writing has, if anything, continued to grow in strength, character, impact and intelligence. We never doubted the last trait, but now it shines out of the pages like the Trident Buttresses on Nevis at sunrise. I'm not even going to single out any of the short stories for illustrative purposes. I could say that at least one of them should be obligatory reading for politicians before they start work every day.

Reading a story recalls the first time I heard the Brandenburg Concertos of Bach and revelled in their exuberant brilliance. Sauvy's stories are like entering a secret garden, where exotic plants flourish, fountains sparkle, birds sing. In that garden there may be dark wells, hidden caverns, but there is also warmth, sunlight and song. We are a happy, privileged tribe, and she is one of our greatest storytellers. I'm sure you must have this book already. You don't? Borrow mine. I insist. I'll bring it round. I'll drive up the road with it. Really.

The Andes. A Guide for Climbers:— John Biggar (2nd Edition, October 1999, 256pp, maps, sketches, photographs, BigR Publishing [Andes], £19, \$36.95, ISBN 0-9536087 0 0). Distributed in the UK by Cordee, and in the US by Alpen Books.

This is the only comprehensive guidebook to the peaks of the Andes, an area becoming more popular as increasing bureaucracy and costs in the Himalayas have forced some expeditions to look elsewhere. There are 100 peaks of 6000m, all of which are described, additionally to which 170 lower peaks have route descriptions. The guide, a paperback, has maps and sketches of the approaches and routes up the mountains, along with colour photographs. There are two new chapters on Patagonia, so that the guide includes a vast range of climbing; from easy high-altitude strolls in Argentina, to ED ice or rock peaks in Patagonia. The first section of the guide provides a good basic primer for travellers to this region of the world. You may not be able to do anything with the weather in Patagonia, but it won't be the fault of this invaluable guide!

Corbett Tops and Corbetteers:— Alan Dawson and Dave Hewitt. (TACit Press, 1999. £3.70, ISBN 0 9534376 1 2)

The latest booklet from the TACit Press stables and full of Corbett data and names of those ferreted out by the dynamic duo. There are 219 Corbetts, summits of between 2500ft. and 2999ft. with an all-round drop of 500ft. The booklet also includes the Corbett Tops, summits in the same height range but with between 30m and 152m of drop. Finally, included are the Scottish Council Tops – the highest points of all 32 local authorities in Scotland.

Ken Crocket.

Journal of Kindred Club

American Alpine Journal, Vol. 41, 1999.

If you desire a picture of the contemporary focus of the climbing world, read this journal. This year is no exception, with the combination of short articles on important climbs and a comprehensive summary of what has been done in South America and the Himalayas.

Interestingly, as the journal editor points out, there are very few articles about 8000m peaks. He points out that this is not because people are not climbing them, but because they are mostly climbed by well-established routes and often as part of commercial expeditions. The mix of articles demonstrates that the focus of the adventure climber is now on smaller peaks. Another explanation comes from one of the few articles about an 8000m peak, a follow up article on THE Everest tragedy, *After Thin Air*. It points out that Krakauer's book grossed \$50m, the IMAX movie about \$60m, and all the spin-off media together close to \$500m. As it says: 'That is why the media loves these tragedies so much!'

In contrast, is the article by Alex Huber on climbing Cho Oyu and El Nino. One an 8000m peak and the other an extreme free climb on El Capitan. Both proper modern climbing. His account of small teams and big challenges almost makes you feel like you could do the same. If any one theme does dominate the book it is big wall rock climbing. Sandstone walls soloed by the lovely Amanda Tarr, and a solo wall on Mt. Thor in Greenland by Jason Smith. Then the biggest rock wall in Mexico, halfway around the world to Patagonia and halfway around the world the other way to Shipton Spire in Pakistan. Down to the frozen bottom of the world for climbing and exploring Antarctica's mountains, north to the recently-discovered rock climbing in Madagascar and a final thawing-out on the rock of North Africa and the Middle East. But my personal favourite is Carlos Buhler's account of the new route on Changabang with a Russian team. The article itself is a bit dull, but it still brings back the images of the previous year's British teams and their epic climb. It represents the epitome of modern alpinism.

The journal has many 'trip inspiring' photos. In particular are the aerial shots of the unclimbed big walls on Baffin Island and the intriguing rock spires in Antarctica. These displace the traditional collection of route photos of Himalayan peaks. There is enough in this one issue to inspire a lifetime of new routes. But the photos are the only aspect of the journal which I was not happy with. Virtually all the photographs are in black and white. Although I can sympathise with the need to hold down production costs, page after page of black and white photos gets very dull. A book well worth having, not only for the record of climbs, but the stories of excellent adventures and photos of future ones.

Rob Milne.

Scottish Ski Club Journal. Edited by Mike and Kathryn Jardine.

All shiny and sparkly, just like the snow slopes. Includes race results, 'improvement' work on Cairn Gorm, and an interesting section on the story, and final demolition of the SSC Lawers Hut. This was second-hand and cost a princely £15. And who thought that skiers had all the lolly?

Oread Mountaineering Club: 50th Anniversary Journal. Editor Harry Pretty. ISBN 0 9535736 0 5.

This club was founded in 1949, by a happy bunch of outdoor enthusiasts who climbed grit. It was called the Burton-on-Trent (Anorak) MC for a while, until the word Oread was found in a crossword puzzle (to save your dictionary time it means mountain nymph). In this anniversary collection, mainly of clubbish recollections and stories of famous and infamous meets, there are *Forewords* by The Duke of Devonshire, Peter Harding, and our very own Grandee of Gartocharn, Tom Weir. This journal could at first glance be assumed to appeal only to members and ex-members of the Oread, but, like our own Journal, once you make the mistake of delving between its covers, you stand the risk of being lost for hours.

The most obvious, and happiest, trait which comes out of this volume, is the sense of humour of its members. The pages are filled with daft stories, one-liners, honed insults and much else in this vein. Harry Pretty appears throughout the club's history, and has carved his own stone with this fine volume. I can only best represent the atmosphere with the following extract: 'Conversation between two (male) Oreads:

A: 'You know, a fine thing about the Club is that there's not a man among them with whom I wouldn't gladly spend a weekend'.

B: 'And there's not a woman among them either, with whom...'

The Pinnacle Club Journal. No. 24, 1997-1999. Editor Jane Stedman.

From time to time, climbers are killed on the hill, but it was still a jar to open this Journal and dive straight into an account of the alpine death of one of the Pinnacle Club's members. At first I thought it was their obituary style, but later found these in their more normal positions, towards the back. At least I raised a smile there, on reading that the deceased, Louise Dickie, had been a 'long-standing yoga enthusiast.'

There are articles from many parts of the world, some familiar. I've also done 'The Great White Book' in Yosemite, and I agree with the amusing article which describes the 'hideous descent route'. A page listing both Births and Deaths sets this journal apart from most others.

The YRC Bulletin. Summer 1998, Issue 9.

Two Scottish articles include a 1952 traverse of the Cuillin Ridge (including walking back over the bealach from Sligachan to Glen Brittle), and a very wet Knoydart camp.

Ken Crocket.

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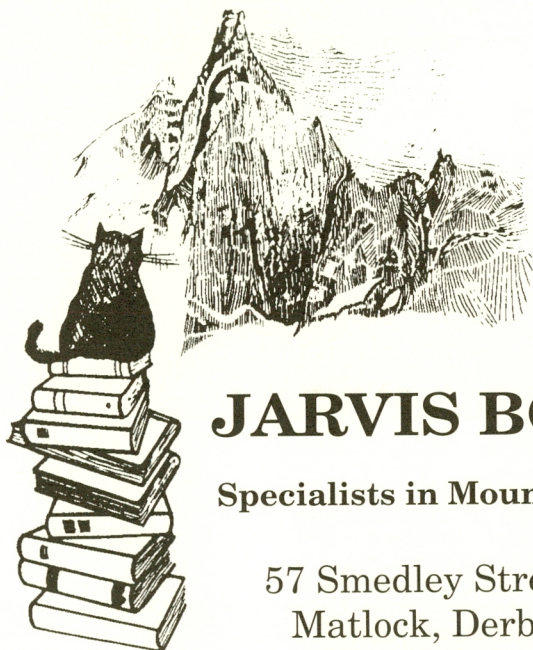
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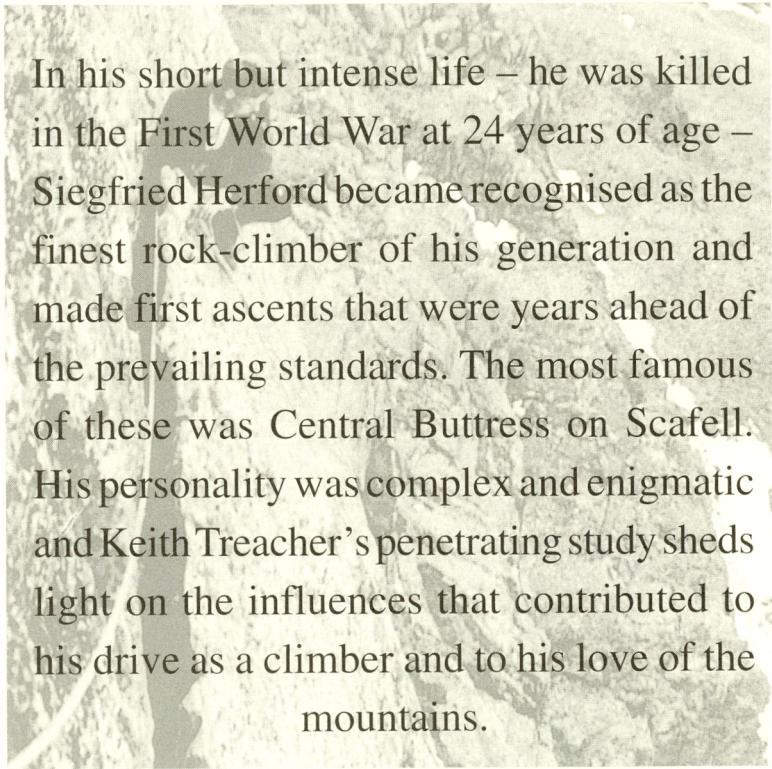


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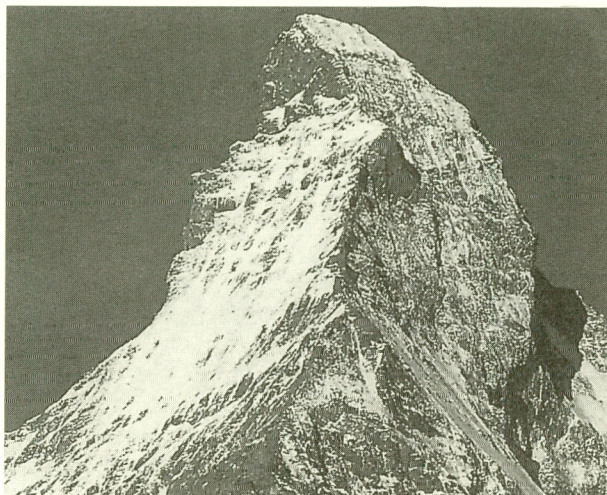
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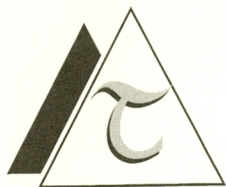


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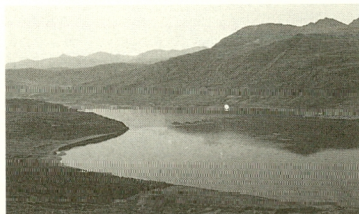
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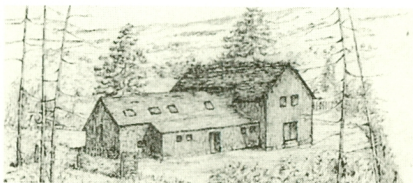
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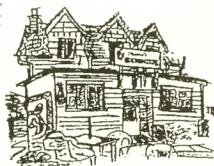
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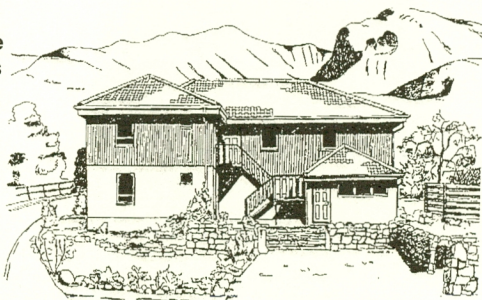
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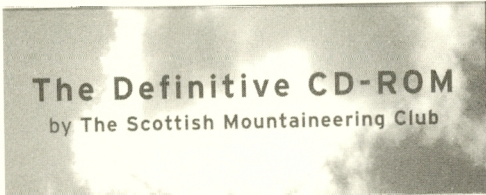

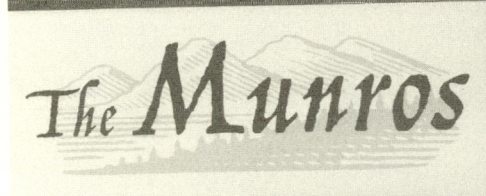



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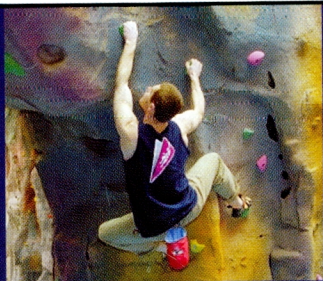
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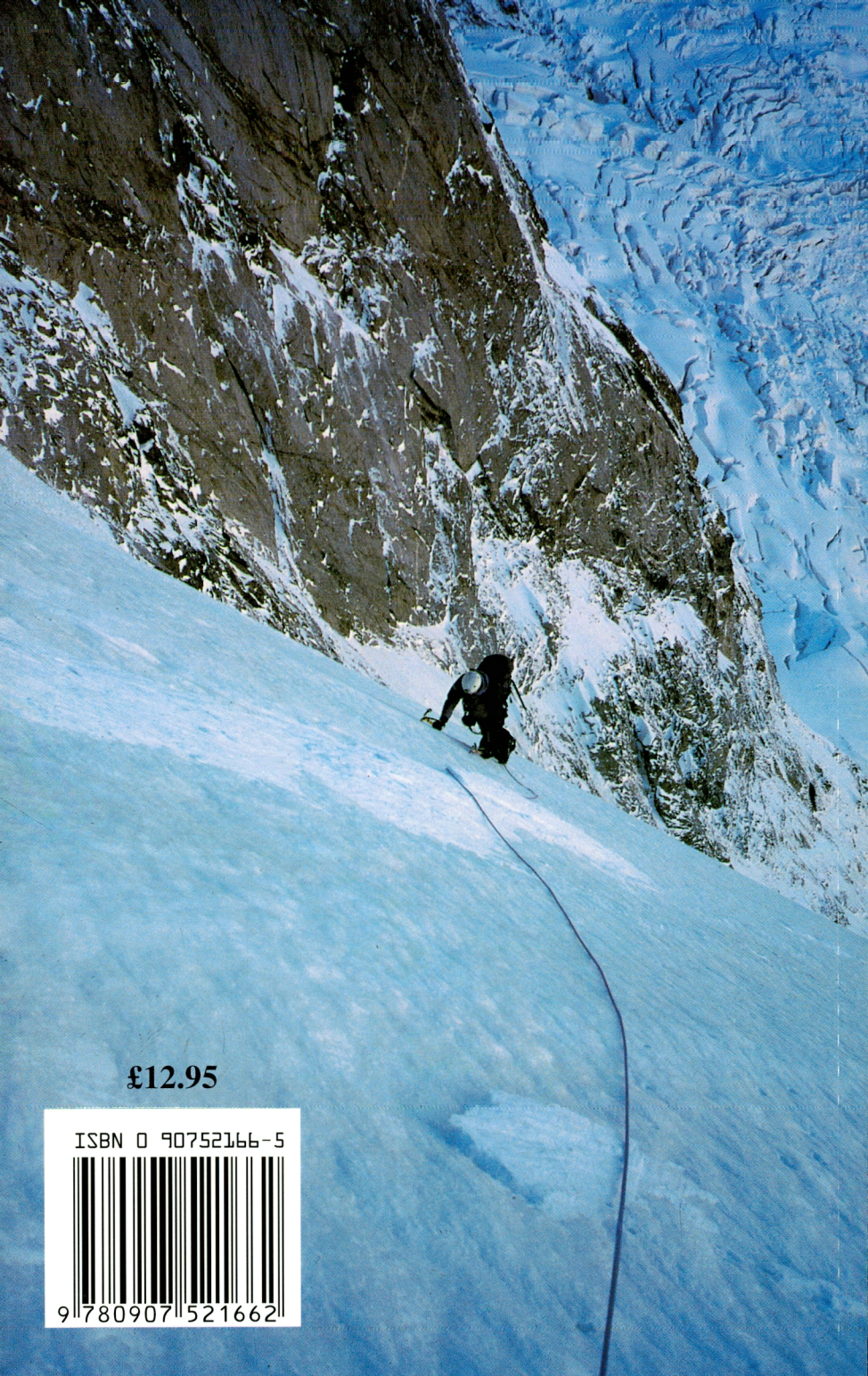
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