

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 Entries must be of original, previously unpublished material.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 2002

THE winner of the 2002 W. H. Murray Prize for his article, *Climbing In The Cold*, is Londoner and Honorary Scotsman – at least between the months of November and April – Mick Fowler. Mick's weekend raids on Scottish ice are now the stuff of legend, with apocryphal tales abounding of hardship and near-death experiences, mainly, it has to be said occurring on the M1 before reaching the ice-bound cliffs of Scotland, cliffs now peppered with Fowler routes of the highest order.

Climbing In The Cold, while detailing just what is necessary to sustain the drive – “I depended on the cheapest form of transport: in those days an Austin Mini Van. I got through 13 in all,” – and passion for exploratory winter climbing at this level, from a base 600 miles away from a target climb that may or may not be in condition, also covers the all important beginnings. “One of my earliest Scottish memories is of arriving in Glen Coe intent on spending a week front-pointing up crisply frozen classics. The rain poured incessantly and the water by the Clachaig Inn was ankle deep.”

Terry Gifford, Director of the International Festival of Mountaineering Literature rated the winning article highly - *Climbing in the Cold* is “Rich in recent history, pacy, witty, detailed but containing the complete learning curve – an important SMC document that's fun to read.”

There can be no arguing that Mick Fowler is passionate about what he does and deeply committed but his writing gives me the impression that, unlike some modern activists, enjoyment comes before competition. An impression perhaps borne out by Mick himself in his closing paragraph. “The memories bite deeply, the friendships are warm and the pleasures long lasting. These are the important things. I remain hooked.”

Mick was run close by M. G. Anderson's *Reincarnation On The Ben*. Ken Crocket remembers the accident that forms the focus of the story vividly: “*Reincarnation* is the story behind an accident on Ben Nevis I recall shuddering over some years ago. It also describes quite well the society encountered then, not just the mountaineers, but the landladies, rescuers, media monkeys and all the odds and sods which go to make up our fascinating lives.”

Other pieces which attracted the judges attention included Jamie Thin's *Moonlighting/The Grand Traverse*, “Lively voice, good ideas.” And Adam Kassyk's *Twenty-nine Hours On The Cuillin Ridge*, “an introspective, but positive, tale of a solo winter attempt on the Cuillin Ridge. There are good cameos of the landscape, mercifully not spoiled by over-described climbing details”.

Congratulations again to Mick Fowler, and for the rest and all the other budding authors out there, there's always next year. The winning article as well as appearing in this year's Journal can also be read in full on the SMC Website.

Charlie Orr

ON HILL RUNNING

By Jamie Thin

HILL-RUNNERS are often viewed with suspicion by mountaineers. The mountains are no place for a race, you may say. But if you have ever run down a steep hillside in your shorts and light-weight fell shoes, it is very hard to go back to your big boots and heavy gear.

The first recorded mountain ascent is often thought to date from 1590, when ‘Mad’ Colin Campbell of Glen Lyon climbed Stuchd an Lochain. But long before that, running across the hills was the only way to spread an urgent message.

Michael Brander¹ has traced the history,

"In the wild and mountainous highlands, where no roads existed, and peat bogs, boulders and scree were likely to slow down or cripple even the most sure-footed horse, by far the quickest means of communication was a man running across country. The 'Crann-tara' or fiery cross was the age-old method of raising the clansmen in time of need. It was made of two pieces of wood fastened together in the shape of a cross, traditionally with one end alight and the other end soaked in blood. Runners were despatched to all points of the compass and as they ran they shouted the war cry of the clan and the place and time to assemble."

The clan chieftains began to arrange races among the clansmen to find the fastest man to carry the Crann-tara. The story of the first Braemar gathering, is also the story of the first recorded hill-race in Scotland.

Malcolm Canmore (1057-1093) held the first gathering at Braemar. The race was from Braemar to the top of Craig Choinich and back. Honour was at stake, but also a prize of a purse of gold and a fine sword.

"All the challengers set off led by the favourites, the two elder Macgregor brothers, but at the last moment the third and youngest Macgregor brother joined the back of the field. The youngest brother caught his elder brothers at the top of the hill and asked: 'Will ye share the prize?'.

'Each man for himself,' came the reply. As they raced back down the hill he edged into second place and then dashed past his eldest brother. But as he passed, his eldest brother despairingly grabbed him by his kilt. But slipping out of his kilt, the younger brother still managed to win, if lacking his kilt."

Perhaps that is why kilts are no longer worn in today's hill races!

The Scottish hills are particularly suited for hill-running, the going is often soft under foot and light-weight shoes cut down on the amount of peat bog you have to carry around with you.

So now if I need a challenge, I turn to running on the hills.

By July 2001, I was needing a new challenge, a milestone to pass before I reached my 35th birthday and turned into a couch potato. Ten years before, I was feeling restless and cycled from Edinburgh to the Tatras in Poland and back through the Alps, but that took all winter and I ended up in Interlaken hospital with frostbite – after a three-day sojourn on the North face of the Grosshorn. Now I was looking for a family-friendly challenge I could compress into a few days.

Big 'rounds' have always been part and parcel of the Scottish mountain scene, from Naismith's walks of Victorian vigour to the rambles of Ronnie Burn. In April, 1921 Burn thought nothing of doing 32 peaks in 12 days (with Sunday as a rest day). Possibly the first big recorded Munro round.

A selective chronology of big rounds:

1892: Willie Naismith walks 41 miles over Ben Alder from Dalwhinnie to attend the SMC Easter meet at Bridge of Orchy.

1921: Ronnie Burn climbs 32 peaks in 12 days (with Sunday off).

1961: Philip Tranter runs 19 Munros in 24 hours (Lochaber).

1974: Hamish Brown walks all the Munros in 112 days.

1977: Blyth Wright runs 17 Munros in 23hr. (Kintail).

1978: Charlie Ramsay runs 24 Munros in 24hr. (Lochaber).

1986: Martin Stone runs the Scottish 4000ers in 21hr. 39min.

1988: Jon Broxap runs 28 (now 29 Munros) in 23hr. 20min. (Kintail).

1992: Andrew Johnston and Rory Gibson, run 277 Munros in 51 days in 1992 (277/51x 7, or approx. 38 Munros a week – including swimming across Loch Lomond).

2000: Charlie Campbell runs 284 Munros in 48 days and 12hr. (284/48 x7 or approx. 41 Munros a week/51 Munros in the first 11 days – including swimming to the Islands and across Loch Lomond!)

Running all the Munros in a oner was tempting, but that would mean cashing in my lifetime's baby-sitting credits. How many Munros in a day? Jon Broxap emphatically answered this question with 29 Munros in 24 hours in 1988, and no-one has found an adequate reply in 14 years. So how about asking a different question. How many Munros in a week? To my knowledge there was no formal record for the biggest round in a week.

This began to get intriguing – I pulled out a few maps – where to link the rounds? My little mind began to whirr excitedly. Seventy-two Munros summit-to-summit in seven days might be possible – 3 x 24hr. rounds back to back with some rest and cycling in between. The Holy Grail of linking all the hills in Kintail, Lochaber and the Cairngorms in a week was maybe not so far-fetched?

My wife was planning a trip back to Belfast with the kids to see her folks, so this was my window of opportunity. I had a seven-day pass.

A rough plan emerged and then changed again as I tried to sort out the logistics – should I start in the Cairngorms or in Kintail? Eventually, I picked Kintail – as the Cairngorms were too familiar. My feet were still sore from the Scottish 4000s duathlon the month before. An amazing day out and a weird feeling to be on the top of Ben Nevis and top of Ben Macdui in the same day having run and cycled between them. I was on my own, so I needed a food dump somewhere in the middle. Eventually, I picked Fersit on the basis that it was on the direct route from Kintail via Lochaber to the Cairngorms – though whether I would reach the Cairngorms was another matter.

I drove north on the Sunday evening and stayed at the bunkhouse at Tulloch Station. Next morning the logistics operation began, I drove to Fersit and left the car packed with food, then I transferred to the bike and cycled the 10 miles to Spean Bridge and on by bus to the start at Cluanie Inn. The bus trip gave me some time to gather my thoughts. My running sack was already packed, bulging with food for three days. The plan was to set off at noon, run the South Cluanie Ridge, east to west, drop down and then back along the Five Sisters and bivvy somewhere on the ridge. Then head north and bag the Affric hills before doubling back south to return to the Cluanie Inn. My optimistic estimate was anything from 36 hours to three days. But as I stared out at the low cloud and driving rain, I began to realise my route was all very well in fair weather, but what would it be like hour after hour in the mist and rain and cold on my own? Maybe there were parallels with my winter trip to Poland after all. But come off it, this was Scotland in mid-summer – sunny July! At least frostbite was unlikely.

My base at Cluanie was the Schoolhouse – a charming tumbledown cottage owned by some friends. I left my bike there and psyched myself up to head out into the mist and rain. Then I wondered if I had enough food. Just to make sure I raided the cupboards and ate a couple of extra tins of baked beans and Devonshire custard. No excuses now, I set off into the rain and mist, which turned into sheets of driven rain as I climbed higher.

In 1988, when Jon Broxap ran 29 Munros in 24 hours, he covered the nine Munros on the South Cluanie Ridge (including the Saddle) in an awesome 3 hours 20 minutes top to top. After about six hours, I was still battling along the ridge in my light-weight running kit. I was cold and my head was down. As dusk approached I hit the first steep descent and then Sgurr na Sgine reared its head above me. In the mist, I was confused. I was now faced with an awkward choice – straight up, left or right? I chose right as the ground that I could see in the half-light looked easier and I assumed I could then scramble up the back. I contoured up and right below a prow and cut up on to some steep compact slabs then chickened out and cut further round the back of a rough corrie then, frustrated at my lack of progress, I blindly climbed up the first shallow gully I found. It was loose under foot and a bit slabby but by now I was thinking ahead and on to planning the best route up the Saddle in the dark.

The ground was just beginning to steepen when my feet shot out below me and I was spat unceremoniously back down the gully. With my full-waterproofs on and the mountainside running with water it felt like being in a snow and ice gully with no ice axe. I ground to a halt just before the boulders of the scree feeling very lonely and sore. I would be missed after a week – but not before, so it was not the place to break a bone. Sgurr na Sgine would have to wait another day and I hobbled down to the road much chastened and limping on a bruised hip.

It was Day 1 of my big adventure and I already felt like packing it in. Seven Munros and I was knackered. My planned bivvy on the Five Sisters, changed to a hunt for a sheltered spot in the glen. I now regretted dumping my sleeping bag and spare clothes at Fersit in favour of some extra grub. I was soaked to the skin and as I approached the road, I tried to steel myself for an uncomfortable night bivvied in the woods in the rain.

As I stood by the side of the road in the dark considering my options a car slowed and stopped beside me. A couple of tourists on the way to Skye.

“Do you want a lift down the glen?”

The rain was bouncing up from the tarmac. Suddenly I thought of a hostel bed and a hot bath. I jumped in. They dropped me a couple of miles down the road at Shiel Bridge and I knocked up the nearest B&B. Ten minutes later I was soaking in a hot bath. I was still thinking of packing it in when I got up the next morning, but after a big cooked breakfast and with the weather brightening up, I set off again.

The detour to Shiel Bridge offered me a gentle approach to the Five Sisters, so I tested out my hip by walking down the road to Loch Duich and then round the corner and up the stalkers' path. I was stiff and sore and there was no chance of running. But now I was here and the day was fine I might as well press on and at least the wind was now on my back.

By the time I was over the first few summits, my legs had warmed up and I could mangle a downhill shuffle. My initial plan had been to return to the safe haven of the Cluanie Inn, but now that I could see north to the Affric hills, I changed my plan. I could always stop at Camban bothy at the head of Glen Affric.

Ronnie Burn had known Camban bothy well, back in 1921 it was still the summer residence of Paterson the local keeper. Now an MBA bothy, it had been coincidentally renovated by the Corriemulzie Mountaineering Club in memory of another proponent of the big round, Philip Tranter. (Philip and his pal were killed in a car accident on the way home from the mountains of Turkey in 1966).

From Ciste Dubh, I dropped down to the bothy in the glen below, before leaving my sack and heading up Beinn Fhada in the warm glow of evening. Camban was empty, as I had expected it would be on a Tuesday night, but 80 years before Ronnie Burn had been bitterly disappointed to miss the occupants.

"A great disappointment awaited me at Camban. I had specially saved myself for a good swig of milk here as Kirsty had promised it, and had specially kept from water to fully enjoy it. But the house was locked and not even a window to burgle. I heard later that Kirsty and Paterson (the keeper at Camban) were much disappointed to miss me. I got home (to Alltbeithe) between seven and eight , having done fifteen miles." (Ronnie Burn, *Burn on the Hill*)

I was on the top of the broad plateau of Beinn Fhada to watch the sunset, and happy to get back to the bothy before dark. With no stove or sleeping bag, the bothy felt pretty Spartan, but after a long day I fell into a fitful sleep.

The next morning, I was greeted with more heavy rain, so it was back on with the waterproofs and I modified my route again, this time to miss the outlier of A'Ghlas Bheinn. I met three walkers on the top of Sgurr nan Ceathreamhnan and was glad of their company as we picked our way down the steep ridge to the north and it gave me renewed confidence to strike back out into the mist on my own. By now the hills were flowing into a blur, but the odd rocky step or sudden opening in the clouds to show the glens below, sharpened my mind.

Back at the Schoolhouse in the evening, I was way behind schedule, only 20 Munros in two-and-a-half days, so I abandoned the schedule and set myself a new target of 50 Munros in a week.

I had a big feed in the Cluanie Inn and then jumped on the bike for the 50-mile cycle to Fersit. Cycling was a change, but no rest for the legs as there was still a steady pull over the hill between Loch Cluanie and Loch Garry.

I had a pit stop at Fersit and ate a few cans of fruit and re-stocked my running sack full of chocolate bars, butties and a new set of maps. Then I headed up the Easains and over to the Larig Leacach bothy. This time I made sure to take my sleeping bag in place of extra food. I was also crafty and packed a bag of noodles in the hope that I would find the bothy occupied and be able to scarf some hot water.

I was glad to reach the Larig Leacach bothy. Earlier I had half a mind to push on through the night but then the rain had returned and a friendly pair of walkers were in the bothy with spare gas so they cooked up my noodles and I had a wee feast.

I set off early the next morning into the mist up Stob Ban but, as I reached the Grey Corries' ridge proper, the wind had died down and the sun was trying to break through. So by the time I was climbing Aonach Beag I was stripped to my shorts and T-shirt and struggling to find enough water. The fine weather held to the summit of the Ben with clear views across the Aonachs and Mamores.

I was running out of my meagre rations by now so I had a slap-up meal at the Glen Nevis campsite bar and managed to fill my rucksack with the café's leftover scones. With a full stomach, I bivvied up high at the ancient ring fort on the approach to Mullach Nan Coirean. Bivvying on a historic monument always makes my imagination run riot. I began to wonder how many clansmen died fighting over this wee knoll and where their bones were buried. But I slept well and woke early to the sound of rain on my bivvy bag. At least I was relieved to find it was rain and not the midges.

The wind and rain had returned, but my luck held as the wind was again at my back and I was blown along eastwards over summit after summit. It was good to leave behind the rocks and screes of the last of the Mamores – Sgurr Eilde Mor – and reach softer ground around the head of Glen Nevis. My feet were suffering on all the sharp rocks. On Day Two, I realised my running shoes were missing their insoles and remembered that a playful puppy had chewed them to bits on my last visit to Tobermory. All in all, my kit was in a mess, my toes were now almost out of my shoes and my rucksack didn't even have a waist strap as I had pinched it to fix my daughter's bike seat a few weeks' before.

It was evening by the time I reached Luibeilt – which was ringed by campers. When Ronnie Burn came this way in 1917 he had been asked to carry the post to Staoineag and Luibeilt from Corroun and although he had found the keeper of Luibeilt up on the hill cutting peat, Ronnie had still managed to cadge a glass of milk.

Food was on my mind too, as I had only had stale scones for breakfast, lunch and tea, but there were no glasses of milk for me. Staoineag was tempting, but too soon, as I was determined to cover the easy ground to Ossian in the dark rather than waste precious hours in the morning. I was thinking of bivvying in the woods by the loch, but the lights were still on in the hostel as I passed the door at 10.30pm – so I thought I would poke my head in. It was booked for a private party by a group of friends from Edinburgh. They ignored my unwashed state, plied me with red wine and biscuits and found a bunk for me – spot on.

Forty Munros in five-and-a-half days. Ten more to hit my mark of 50. That left me with a long day out to Ben Alder and back to Fersit. I decided to knock off Beinn na Lap before breakfast and ran up it without my sack in under an hour-and-a-half. From there I nipped up a couple of hills and then dropped down to Ben Alder cottage – Ronnie had stayed there in 1917 too – and had even had the temerity to give the keeper a shout from the other side of Loch Erich and get ferried across the loch by “McCook and his daughter Bessie”. Not a service on offer today.

Beinn Bheoil and Ben Alder were a struggle, but by the time I was climbing Geal Charn it felt like I was on the home stretch and Aonach Beag and Beinn Eibhin were a breeze along an easy ridge. Now I was doubly glad that I had already been up Beinn na Lap otherwise it would have been a big loop out and back. Instead I had just two Munros left to do – Chno Dearg and Stob Coire Sgriodain. Chno Dearg was just about my undoing as I went from one map sheet to the next and managed to take the bearing on the wrong burn. It led me the long way round before I noticed my mistake, a sure sign I was getting tired. I was uneasy about finishing on Stob Coire Sgriodain in the dark. My friend Martin had died up there when he skied through the cornice in a white-out one winter – and it still felt like a menacing place – though an easy enough hill in summer. I upped the pace as I was keen to get to the top before darkness fell but it was after 10 and dark before I got there.

Fifty Munros summit-to-summit in six-and-a-half days. It felt brilliant to reach the last top but I knew I wouldn't relax until I got down and reached the first house at Fersit. I picked my way down by the light of my head torch and inevitably got lost trying to find the track through the forest, until at last I saw the glow of a light from the farm, and only had to climb one last deer fence to reach the road. My week's therapy was over, I was physically tired but mentally refreshed. Total

immersion in the hills. It was an artificial challenge but a simple one. Life was more complex, with both my daughters diagnosed with an incurable bone disease, this was my escape but also my path to understanding. After 200 miles and perhaps a 100,000ft. of ascent my anger was beginning to ebb away.

Brief summary: 50 Munros summit to summit by foot and bike.

Kintail – 20 Munros. Lochaber – 30 Munros. Started at summit of Creag a' Mhaim at 14:07 on Monday, July 23, 2001.

Finished on summit of Stob Coire Sgriodain at 22:19 Sunday, 29 2001.

Total Time – 152 hours and 22 minutes Approx. a Munro every three hours for six-and-a-half days.

Rough mileage – 150 miles on foot. 50 miles on the bike (plus a lift from some friendly tourists down to Shiel bridge).

References:

¹ *Essential Guide to Highland Games*, Michael Brander, Cannongate, 1992

² *Burn on the Hill*, Elizabeth Allan, Bidean Books, 1995 – Diaries of Rev. Ronnie Burn who was an eccentric hunchback churchman and scholar, and would have been a hillrunner today. One summer after climbing two Munros on his way from Loch Houra to Glen Shiel, the last mile-and-a-half to Cluanie Inn “was reeled off without the least strain at the rate of 6 miles per hour”. (SMC Journal Vol. 14, p.216).

INCIDENTS ON CIR MHOR IN 1902

By Robin Campbell

THE forbidding North-east Face of Cir Mhor held a fascination for climbers in our Golden Age. Some 13 routes were recorded there in the 1890s. According to the first guidebook editor, Harry MacRobert: “Here is to be found the finest rock-climbing in the island, gullies and ridges, caves and pinnacles, of all degrees of difficulty.”¹ But tastes change, and the face rapidly lost its allure. Indeed, by 1958 the editor of the first pocket guidebook, James M. Johnstone, was brave enough to claim that “It may be said at once that not one first-class route has been discovered on the entire face”. He added grudgingly that “The best combination is probably B₂C Rib – Bow Window Cave – Bell’s Groove”. This combination is pure 1890s, the first and last parts being assembled by John H. Bell in 1894-95 and the amusing intermediate Cave by the “twa Wullies” Naismith and Douglas earlier in 1894.²

Activity on the face continued into the new century for a few years and 1902 saw perhaps the most interesting spasms of the final fling of the pioneers on Cir Mhor. These events are little known, and are ignored or misdescribed in current sources. So in the year of their centenary, these second-class excursions perhaps deserve this brief memorial. On February 22, an Edinburgh party consisting of Harry G. S. Lawson, A. M. ‘Sandy’ Mackay and Harold Raeburn visited the island in thawing weather after a long frost.³ After an unsuccessful day on Beinn a’ Chliabhinn, the party retreated to Corrie Inn. On the 23rd, Gully A on the North-east Face was explored, but although it was well-iced, “down the ice-fall came rushing quite a well-grown river of snow-water, under which the step-cutter must





stand while at work". So they turned instead to the left-hand edge of the Gully (now April Arête). Although considerable progress was made, they turned back, discouraged by rain and "fingers paralysed by cold". Undaunted, the party turned to examine B1 and B2 gullies, but rejected these too, since "they were solid cataracts of ice from top to bottom, and if possible at all, would have taken hours of step-cutting". Raeburn then continues, in masterly understatement: "We then ascended by the 'B1C rib', the buttress between B and C. This was done by a party led by Bell on July 7, 1895. It is a capital climb of decidedly over average difficulty. The passage of the cave at the top was now rendered much easier by the large amount of snow which partly filled it up. As no-one appeared to long for the 'Bell's Groove' finish, we then ascended Cir Mhor by the easy way." So, remarkably enough, the first winter ascent of B-C Rib was made in 1902!⁴

The second interesting incident occurred at the end of the year. *Jeunesse dorée* in the form of Geoffrey W. Young and Sandy Mackay came to Corrie for a New Year holiday. Mackay was Young's current Alpine partner and probable fellow author of the notorious *Roof-Climber's Guide to Trinity*. Their initial goal was A Gully once again, but just as in February, its left-hand ridge was eventually preferred. Presumably, Mackay's experiences earlier in the year had persuaded him to make a fresh effort. Unfortunately, the pair ran out of daylight, food and ideas somewhere on this awkward arête. Doubtful of the descent, they elected to evacuate into A Gully. Mackay lowered Young into the gully (nice of him!), then jumped the 30ft. or so to join Young. Unfortunately, he found a slab extending into the snow-bed and broke a leg. In Young's account of this sorry incident and the subsequent rescue, he suggests that they were on B-C Rib, but examination of letters from Mackay to Young makes the location perfectly clear. Mackay's leg was badly set, and he needed several operations (six casts are mentioned) before the leg could be restored to approximate service.⁵ Although Mackay returned to climbing (notably on the famous Barrel Buttress climb of Easter 1907) and to tennis, Young lamented that 'our trusted Alpine partnership was ended, and I never again found his equal as a climbing colleague'.

Footnotes:

¹ SMCJ, 1908, X, 104.

² Later editors have been slightly more generous. In 1970 the second editor, William M. M. Wallace conceded that his predecessor's opinion was "largely justified", but expressed optimism for the present and future development of the face. Subsequent editors have expressed enthusiasm for its winter climbing possibilities.

³ Raeburn's account of the visit is given as a note in SMCJ, 1902, VII, 113-14. Sandy Mackay, who also figures in the second incident described here, was a young Aberdeen climber of enormous promise and a Scottish tennis champion. See my note about the Northern Pinnacles of Liathach elsewhere in this issue for more details about Mackay.

⁴ The winter ascent of B-C Rib is not recorded in any Arran guidebook. The failed attempt on April Arête was attributed to Lawson, Maclay and Raeburn by Johnstone, and this substitution of Maclay for Mackay was perpetuated by subsequent editors. The current guide adjusts the date of the "futuristic attempt" to 1892! One should not, however, think too ill of these editors: they have so much to do in coping with the New, that little time is left to worry about the Old.

⁵ Young's account is in *Mountains with a Difference* (Eyre & Spottiswoode, 1951), pp. 56-62. The relevant Mackay letters to Young (numbers 988, 989 and 990 in Young's letter-book) are in the Alpine Club Library Archives.

THE INFORMAL DUNDONELL MEET, EASTER 1893

In SMCJ, 1968, xxix, an illustration described as showing a 'Group of Members at the Dundonell Meet of 1910' appears opposite page 33. The caption identifies the figures as G. Thomson, A. W. Russell, H. T. Munro, J. Rennie and F. S. Goggs.

This is so much embarrassing nonsense.

In the first place, Munro's black beard and youthful appearance tell us that this is an early gathering: in 1910 Munro was in his 55th year. Then the figure on the right is by no means Goggs, but rather Wm. Wickham King. And between Thomson and Munro stands W. W. Naismith, not Russell, who didn't join the Club until 1897.

In fact, this is almost certainly the informal meet at Dundonell, Easter 1893, attended by – from left to right – Thomson, Naismith, Munro, Rennie and King and photographer Wm. Douglas. The informal meet is described by Thomson in *Some Early Informal Meets* SMCJ, 1927, XVIII, 1-9. The group traversed the An Teallach ridge in opposite directions on Saturday, April 1, Douglas and Rennie proceeding north and taking the outstanding photographs used to illustrate a subsequent article by King and Munro in SMCJ, 1894, III, 10-18, while King, Munro, Naismith and Thomson proceeded south.

One of the Editors in 1968 was a certain ... Robin N. Campbell.

Thoughts On Ageing

By Malcolm Slessor

WHEN elderly members of the club foregather there is always a tendency to ruminate upon the effects of age. One interesting variant on this recurring theme arose at the 2002 Easter meet. In the warmth of the Naismith Hut, reeking of whisky, the proposition was put forward that mountaineers as a class live to a ripper old age than the population as a whole. This hypothesis could, if sustained, have important repercussions. For example the Treasurer might wish to review the amount of the life subscription for new members or remove the benefits of reduced subs for those of us who free load on the club into our 90s.

The discussion then moved on to how to establish the facts. Average life expectancy for new members may be quite low, given the present standard of climbing and the penetration of Global Positioning Systems as an aid to navigation. If these were to be included then it might well be that the average life expectancy of the SMC member as a body might turn out to be less than the national average.

The statistical problem, then, is to separate the acolytes from the experienced, those who have escaped death by chance, skill or, as in my case, cowardice. Having attained the plateau of healthy bliss, is the elderly mountaineer, as a cohort of the mountaineering population, more likely to live on and on? That is the question.

Fortunately, in our midst was none other than Nigel Suess. Now Nigel has retired from banking, which though an abstract activity, is nonetheless quantitative. Moreover he has taken up mathematics. He is the sort of person for whom issues like the irregularities in co-linear partition are not only meaningful but also solvable!

Who better to examine the club's statistics and come up with an answer. I trust the Editor will prevail upon him and that his researches will be reported in the next journal.

The International Festival of Mountaineering Literature – 2001

AFTER all the trouble of getting a link set up with the International Festival of Mountaineering Literature and arranging a spot to read last year's W. H. Murray prize winning entry, your Hon. Ed. forgot to go! – Well not quite 'forgot' – In mitigation it has to be said that they were re-using last year's parking permits which meant that the date shown was a week later and I didn't read as far as the 2000 bit. The first intimation that I got that all was not well was on the Monday, an e-mail from organiser Terry Gifford which simply said: "WHERE WERE YOU?" Robin Campbell's polite query about my absence followed shortly thereafter. Needless to say I bowed and scraped at the time and here it is again – in print. It must have worked because Terry showed admirable forbearance when, presented with such a tempting escape hatch, he did the noble thing and agreed to continue as a W. H. Murray prize judge for another year – a shining example to us all.

This year's festival was as well attended as ever (apart from the obvious!). It has been suggested that the number of males attending may have been boosted by the Festival theme, 'How Long Can I Keep This Up'. But anyone arriving and expecting to find a Viagra sales promotion in the foyer instead of the usual signing in desk was, sadly, disappointed. The theme was, as the more cerebral of us always knew, that of continuing our passion for climbing at, and beyond, an age when any sensible person would have gladly opted for the pleasures of garden pottering, armchair dozing and perhaps even, horror of horrors 'the big slipper'.

One of the younger hot shots Niall Grimes reflected that: "Sometimes I think it would be nice to be old and just do the easy routes." Somehow I don't think he meant V. Diff! While some of the grand old men, including Sir Christian B pondered on the possibility that the tendency to more closely address one's own mortality as the years draw on may have a levelling effect on one's relationship with risk.

Our Dinner Guest Speaker of last year Jim Curran was there to read from his new book *The Middle-aged Mountaineer* (reviewed elsewhere in this Journal) which takes a wry look into a cycling trip from Shetland to Cornwall taking in old friends and classic climbs on the way. He promised his audience that he would only read boring bits from the book because if he read the best bits they'd assume the rest was less so and wouldn't buy it. The logic is in there somewhere. Jim also showed his versatility with an exhibition of drawings for the book and two oil paintings of K2. Looks like Jim is coping with middle age plus quite well.

The Boardman/Tasker Prize for 2001 went to Roger Hubank for his novel *Hazards*. Set in the English Lake District at the turn of the century (last century that is!) his fictional characters intermingle with recognisable climbing heroes (and one anti-hero) O. G. Jones, Norman Collie and Aleister Crowley. A small tip for all you budding writers out there who fancy winning the Boardman/Tasker, get club member Peter Hodgkiss and his company the Ernest Press to publish your work – It's his fifth!

What of 2002? Well, I think I can safely say that Terry Gifford is assured of a sell-out audience for this year's event as he has managed to tempt the legendary Walter Bonatti to Leeds. I am told by Derek Pyper, who heard Bonatti at the Kendal Festival some years ago, that he gives a wonderful presentation with the services of an interpreter. I'm sure tickets will go like the proverbial hot cakes so if you want to be there book early. For booking details see the Festival website www.terrygifford.co.uk I'll be there Terry – honest!

Charlie Orr.

SCOTTISH MOUNTAINEERING TRUST – 2001-2002

THE Trustees met on August 30, 2001 and May 2, 2002.

During the course of these meetings support was given to the Jonathan Conville Memorial Trust Winter Course 2001-2002; Scottish Mountain Forum, Project Officer for Scotland, for International Year of the Mountain 2002; the Scottish National Portrait Gallery for display of paintings and objects called *On Top of the World: Scottish Mountaineers at home and Abroad*; Scottish Heart of Asia Expedition 2002 visiting Tavanbogd Region of the Mongolian Altai Mountains; the Scottish Wildlife Trust for footpath known as the 'Postie Path', Ben More Coigach; and Oban Mountain Rescue Team.

After deliberation the Trustees resolved to give their support to the Publications Co. for the Corbetts CD Project.

The Trustees, after due notice, added appropriate clauses to the Objects/Constitution of the Trust to allow publication by digital or electronic process.

The present Directors of the publications company are T. B. Fleming (Chairman), R. K. Bott, K. V. Crocket, P. W. H. Gribbon and T. Prentice (Publications Manager).

The present Trustees are T. B. Fleming (Chairman), D. C. Anderson, R. K. Bott, K. V. Crocket, G. S. Nicoll, G. E. Irvine, P. W. H. Gribbon, C. J. Orr, W. C. Runciman and M. G. D. Shaw.

R. K. Bott and P. W. H. Gribbon are Trustee/Directors and provide liaison between the Publications Co. and the Trust. J. Morton Shaw is the Trust Treasurer. The Trustees wish to record their gratitude to S. M. Richardson and B. R. Shackleton for their services to the Trust as Trustees until recent retirement by rotation.

The following grants have been committed by the Trustees:

General Grant Fund

Jonathan Conville Winter Courses 2001/2002	£1015
Scottish Mountain Forum	£1000
Scottish National Portrait Gallery	£2000
Scottish Heart of Asia Expedition	£500
Scottish Wildlife Trust	£12000 over 3/4 years
Oban Mountain Rescue Team	£5000

James D. Hotchkis Trust Secretary.

MUNRO MATTERS

By David Kirk (Clerk of the List)

In the history of the List of Compleat Munroists, there have not been many changes in the Clerk of the List. Therefore it was with both pride and apprehension that I took on the job. I expected it to be interesting, and I've not been disappointed. Over the past 10 months, I've received letters that have moved me nearly to tears, had me in knots of laughter, and sent me reminiscing on my own best days on the same mountains described. This has been especially useful, as with two children under three, I'm currently not getting on the hill as much as I used to!

The change in the Clerk, and the associated advertisement and publicity of this, has meant that a number of people have written to me to tell of past rounds that were never previously recorded. I would like to thank them all, but I feel a special mention should be made of Mr James Davidson (2615), who compleated in 1971, at a time when just more than 100 people were listed.

Since Chris Huntley's report, published in last year's Journal, 173 new names have been added to the list. For the statos, the totals for the six previous years are as follows, counting backwards: 213, 241, 153, 208, 170, 146.

The first person listed this year has been given an earlier number as the person previously allotted that number informed me that she was already listed. This year's Compleatists follow. As before, columns are number, name, then Munro, Top and Furth Completion years.

2504	*Stan Pearson	1998	2549	Victor Aitken	2000
2521	Dave Sudell	1998	2550	Margaret Aitken	2000
2522	Tamara Cantlay	2001	2551	Carole A. A. Scott	2001
2523	Stuart Smith	2001	2552	Alan P. Scott	2001
2524	Albert McDade	2001	2553	Norman A. Macleod	2001
2525	Ann Beeching	2001	2554	Rona Macleod	2001
2526	Ina Morris	2001	2555	Alan D. Dick	2001
2527	John Morris	2001	2556	Dave Liddle	2001
2528	G. John Sutherberry	2001	2557	William Blaen	2001
2529	Raye Rickard	2001	2558	Iain Currie	2001
2530	Barry Hard	2001	2559	Phillip S. Edge	2001
2531	Katherine Heal	2000 2000	2560	Philip J. Vickers	2001
2532	Mathew Heal	2000 2000	2561	Andrew Hyams	2001
3533	Roger Jameson	2001	2562	Bill Hunter	2001
2534	Andrew J. Rook	2001	2563	Tom D. Yarwood	2001
2535	William H. Ramsden	2001	2564	Alice Galletly	1994
2536	John G. Burton	2001 2001 2002	2565	David F. Hamilton	2001
2537	Ethel Jessett	2001	2566	Mark Ingram	2001
2538	Paul Jessett	2001	2567	Graham Ingram	2001
2539	Patricia M. Crole	2000	2568	Carol Hawley	2001
2540	D. W. Horner	2001	2569	Keith Hawley	2001
2541	Susan Douglas	2001	2570	John Lagoe	2001
2542	Ann Gow	2001	2571	Sandy Willox	2001
2543	Tim Liles	2001	2572	Ian Gracie	1999
2544	David D. Campbell	2000	2573	Ginny Black	2001
2545	Andrew J. Copley	2001	2574	Paul Houghton	2001
2546	James A. Baillie	2000	2575	Ian McMillan	2001 2001
2547	Mary Paton	2001	2576	Alison Anderson	2001
2548	Christopher Langman	2001	2577	Jim Anderson	2001

2578	Antony Morris	1998	1998	2635	John Burns	2001
2579	Isabel M. G. Ord	2001		2636	Janet Burns	2001
2580	Anne Bridgen	2001		2637	Christopher J. Horton	2001 2001
2581	Ron Roweth	2001		2638	Alastair Gentleman	2001
2582	Colin Brook	2001		2639	James McMenemy	2001
2583	Bill McEwan	2001		2640	Nigel Barry	2001
2584	Drew Ewing	2001		2641	Alan G. Duncan	2001
2585	Keith Williams	2001		2642	Louisa Fraser	2001
2586	J. Ian Macnab	2001		2643	Ian Scobie	2001
2587	Gordon King	2001		2644	Douglas Robinson	2001
2588	Rachel Tennant	2001		2645	Hamish A. Campbell	2001
2589	George Cowan	2001		2646	Ron McGraw	2001
2590	Lilian James	2001		2647	Gordon Jarvie	2001
2591	Sam James	2001		2648	Mark A. Rawes	2001
2592	Bill Hughes	2001		2649	William S. Maxwell	2001 2001 2001
2593	William Christie	2001		2650	Tom Bryce	2001
2594	Colin S. Towers	2001		2651	Janet M. Mitchell	2001
2595	Douglas Kirkwood	2001		2652	Andrew D. Martin	2001
2596	Alan Wilson	2001		2653	Derek I'Anson	2001
2597	Richard Hardaker	2001	1999	2654	Mel Owen	1999 1999
2598	John Penniford	1995		2655	Elma Bomphray	2001
2599	Stephen Smith	2001		2656	Dick Lerski	2001
2600	Derrol P. Taylor	2001		2657	Michael G. E. Hill	2001
2601	Alex Guild	2001		2658	Julia Banks	2001
2602	Kenneth W. Collier	2001		2659	Daisy Stewart	2001
2603	Martin Scott	2001 2001		2660	Peter Bardsley	1997
2604	Gill Brooke-Taylor	2001		2661	Simon Harvey	1997
2605	Robert A. Donald	2001		2662	Chris Marden	1997
2606	Colin Crawford	2001	2001	2663	Fiona Marden	1997
2607	James Renfrew	2001		2664	Paul F. Murray	2001
2608	Phil Winnard	2001		2665	Tom Campbell	1997
2609	Gordon Neill	2001		2666	Andrew Ogston	1993
2610	Tony Smith	2001		2667	Kevin Broadbent	1999
2611	Ann Maltman	2001		2668	Simon Sutherland	1994
2612	Rick Ansell	2001 2001		2669	Brian Mucci	2001
2613	Andrew Philipson	2001		2670	Alison Claxton	2001
2614	Mark Saunders	2001		2671	Martin F. Sinclair	2001
2615	James Davidson	1971		2672	Alistair Little	2001
2616	Stephen A. Rice	2001		2673	Steve Smart	2001
2617	Edward Sutcliffe	2001		2674	Noelle Webster	2001
2618	Evelyn Main	2001		2675	D. Bruce	2001
2619	Jim Main	2001		2676	Ursula Stubbings	2000
2620	Gerald Davison	2001		2677	Ian Michael Lowit	1986
2621	John C. Williams	2001		2678	Lawrence Clark	2001
2622	Jon Moore	2001		2679	W. Watson	2001
2623	Ellis Rowe	2001		2680	Philip Roberts	2000
2624	**Lisa Silver	2001		2681	David Heddon	2000
2625	Alan Haworth	2001		2682	Chris Thorp	2000
2626	Geoffrey D. Edge	2001		2683	John Carpenter	2000
2627	Ian Pinkerton	2001		2684	John Roger Sutton	2002
2628	Rob Pearson	2001 2001		2685	Donald Kerr	2002
2629	Margaret Pearson	2001 2001		2686	Jack Kelly	2001
2630	Euan Ross	2000	2001	2687	Charlie Stephen	1999
2631	C. Fred Y. Lawson	2001		2688	Helen J. F. Rogers	2001
2632	Rhona G. Dykes	2001		2689	Katy Thompson	2002
2633	Mervyn French	2001		2690	John Gansler	2001
2634	Mike J. Wigney	1999 2000 2001		2691	Heather Alexander	2001
				2692	Donald Robert Talbot	2001 2001 2001

The last year was unusual for three reasons, each far more important than simply a change in the person receiving the letters. The first reason was, of course, the outbreak of Foot and Mouth disease. Now much has been printed about the rights and wrongs of the countryside ban that ensued, and this report is not the place to discuss such an item. The effect on people's plans for Munro Completion was however, undeniably disrupted, with many people having to postpone their proposed last Munro parties. This can be quite a heart-wrenching thing to have to do when it's something that has been planned for up to a year with, in some cases, people jetting in from overseas.

The other two unusual events in the last year have been of a happier nature. The first was the 100th anniversary of the first compleation. This took place on Meall Dearg (Aonach Eagach) on September 28. Several rounds were compleated on this day – more anon. There was also a Centenary Dinner to elebrate the first compleation. This was held in May 2001 and Chris Huntley has an article written on the event, which follows this report.

The third important event of the last year was the formation of The Munro Society. This organisation, set up and run by Munroists for Munroists, promises to be an important and useful organisation within the Scottish hill scene. Only Compleat Munroists are eligible to join. However, they need not be on the SMC List. The welcome mat is extended to the Unknown Munroist! For more information on the society, visit their website at www.munrosociety.org.uk, or write to the society at 5 Beechgrove Place, Perth PH1 1JB.

Another point worthy of mention at this time is the Munro Hall of Fame Summit Photo Library on the SMC website. Ken Crocket has done a terrific job in developing the Munroist List on the website and now the photo library is also an impressive feature. This is going to become an excellent historic document and I would urge anyone who has compleated in the past to visit the SMC website and take a look. Hopefully, you will feel like sending Ken or myself a final summit photograph. Ken prefers photos rather than disks or e-mails. Remember to include your number, the year and date, and the hill you are on. Photographs will be returned in due course. Anyone compleating in years to come can send their photograph along with their initial letter.

Now, what tales are there from this year's compleatists? Well make yourself comfortable...

Let's start with The Day, 100 years on from the first compleation. One very remarkable compleation was made that day by Tony Smith (2610) on a very wet Ben Vorlich. Tony married his bride Lorna in the morning in Callander. The wedding party then bagged Tony's hill in very dreich conditions, and in the evening they celebrated both events. Another less-than-usual compleation on The Day was by Alan Haworth (2625) (Secretary to the Parliamentary Labour Party), on Ben More, Mull. Ben More was also the 100th Munro that Alan and his wife, Maggie, had done together, and it was Maggie's 108th overall. As this was the total that the late John Smith reached, Maggie says she has now retired. Alan indeed did 13 of his summits with John. As for Meall Dearg, Gerald Davison (2620) compleated on it, on The Day. He had started planning for this three years earlier. Jon Moore (2622) and Ellis Rowe (2623) also did what I believe was the only joint compleation on The Day.

Two more people did commemorative compleations, which didn't actually finish on The Day. One was Andrew Hyams (2561). Wanting to pay suitable historic

respect to both Sir Hugh and the Rev. Robertson, he decided to finish 100 years after the first round. He compleated on Beinn Bhrotain before taking in Carn Cloich-mhuillin on the descent, thereby finishing over Sir Hugh's planned final summit. Andrew M. Fraser (73) put in a fifth round to celebrate the centenary. He finished on the same Munro and day as his first round (Schiehallion, June 9). He has promised himself and his wife that it will be his last (but watch this space). A further commemorative ascent was made of Meall Dearg on, for some reason, the day after The Day by a worthy team comprising in their number (allegedly) a Hillzine editor, an ex-SMC Clerk of the List and a writer of stories about bothies and hills. Perhaps they couldn't get the time off work on the Friday. They probably got better weather.

The most technical Munro, the Inaccessible Pinnacle is often mentioned in letters. It gets compleated last quite often, but it's not a place to have too much champagne on top. It was William Ramsden's (2535), then later Carole (2551) and Alan Scott (2552)'s last. Carole and Alan had thought initially that the Cuillin would be too daunting for them, however, participating in a John Muir Trust work-party on Blaven changed their minds. D. W. Horner (2540) from Darlington had both the finest and most embarrassing half-hour of his round on the Pinn. After the abseil descent (his finest), a jammed abseil rope resulted in "a period of pirouetting on a ledge eight feet up" in order to free it. This sounds a little like 'The Affaire Tiso' during the first winter traverse. This time, however, a large audience were watching. Norman and Rona Macleod (2553 and 2554) arrived at the Pinn towards the end of their round. The East Ridge was stowed out, and their guide, knowing they had no rock-climbing experience, gave them the option of the West Ridge or an early return home. Well with so few to go, they surprised him by going for it.

One thing I've re-discovered since taking over as Clerk, is that Munroists love statistics. Andrew Rook (2534) informed me of his compleation and also that of the Furths. He was also kind enough to detail his tally of seven other British hill lists, including Wainwrights and Nuttels. John Burton (2536) compleated his last Munro and Top as part of the same walk, on Cruachan. He promptly went off to Arran and Rum to gather Corbetts and Grahams. He sent a 'Compleat' list of the dates he'd done all his Munros and Tops. Ina and John Morris (2526 and 2527) completed in 12 years. They also worked out their total hill time during their round – 1210.5 hours; their total distance covered – 1559 miles; their total height climbed – 546,869ft. This then allowed them to offer data for average time, distance and height climbed per Munro and average number of hills per day. They needed a return trip to Beinn a' Choin due to the summit undergoing a "ridiculous change from a good peak to an insignificant bump on the ridge".

The first person to be registered compleat by this new Clerk was Tim Lines (2543) from Devon. John Sutherland (2528) also travelled up from south of the Border, from Chester. He required some 30 trips in all for his compleation. Keith Edward Williams (2585) clocked more than 100 trips from Shropshire before he finished on Beinn Narnain. Christopher Langman (2548) from Solihull reckoned that the M6 was far more of a problem than the hills. Douglas Robinson (2644) got clear conditions on 70% of his Munro summits. Given that all his summits were done on short trips from London and he went out regardless of weather, I'd say he was a very lucky man. Finally, on the subject of long-distance compleations,

John Gansler (2690) compleated while living on the Isle of Wight but did a lot of his summits while based in Brussels.

It is not common for baggers to endeavour from the outset to climb all Munros and Tops. Katherine and Mathew Heal (2531 and 2532) did just that. They also added all the deleted Tops. I've always thought that the deleted Tops form many a fine summit. Anyone who doubts this should just have a day out on the plateau of Beinn Avon. Mel Owen (2654) from Huntington also did all Munros and Tops, and indeed finished crossing both Beinn a' Bhuid and Ben Avon, plus all their associated Tops. This was in one long day from Invercauld Bridge – most people prefer a slightly shorter day to compleat. Rob and Margaret Pearson (2628 and 2629) also compleated Tops and Munros together, finishing on Ben Vorlich, 35 years to the day since they met.

In the year of the centenary of the first compleation, another very early compleation was definitely by Lisa Silver (2624). Confused? Well Lisa bivvied between two of the Munros of Beinn a' Ghlo, then got up in the wee small hours to wander up the last slope to the summit. There can't have been many top-outs earlier than that.

To compleat one's last Munro alone is not usual. Steve Smart (2673) failed to get his friends along for his last summit, but reckoned that being on his own was appropriate – he'd done all the others apart from the Inn Pinn on his own. There can't be many who have had such a similar solo experience on a first round.

The weather on the final summit can add a lot to the day. Christopher Horton (2637) from Aberlour set off in heavy cloud on his final Munro, Mullach na Dheirgain. He passed right through and got an excellent cloud inversion for his finale – I know, he sent me a photo. He was lucky to get to his final summit. On his penultimate summit, Beinn Cruachan, he took a 200ft. slide, finally breaking with his axe. Christopher went on to compleat the Tops only two weeks after his final Munro.

I found myself in the same situation as Prince Charles this summer – neither of us could make it to Mervyn French's (2633) last Munro party. Mervyn had bumped into, and found he was being accompanied part way up An Socach (his 200th Munro) by the Prince. Mervyn therefore invited him (plus myself) along to his final bash.

Patricia Crole (2539) from Selkirk felt her round to be a great personal achievement. In a moving letter, she told tales of her early Munros, following on to her final summit. This included babes in arms, a surprise set of bagpipes smuggled to the top, and parties at both the top and the Dunalistair Hotel. I was also touched by Stephen Smith's (2599) story. Stephen suffers from asthma and bad knees, and lives in the south of England. Due to his slow pace and inability to carry a heavy pack, he did his round practically alone, on single day trips. He achieved his final 100 in two-and-a-half months, raising money for the National Asthma Campaign. Jim Renfrew (2607) also had an uphill struggle as he battled against arthritis to compleat. He had to undergo a hip replacement with just 22 to do.

Compleat Munroists are always invited to detail any interesting anecdotes from their hill days, and most of these don't take place on the final summit. People tend to describe their *Worst*, *Best*, *Most amusing*, incidents etc. Many of these are definitely worth airing further.

Geoffrey Edge (2626) described his *Most amusing* (in retrospect) incident. He

used a bike from Fishnish to get to Ben More, Mull. As it was a beautiful day, he did the full circuit, which he hadn't planned. A headwind on the return cycle saw him within sight of the last ferry of the day as it left the pier. Chris Madden (2662) made me very envious as he described a couple of his best days as his moonlit winter traverse of Aonach Eagach, and the Forcan Ridge after a high-level snowhole. Dave Liddle (2556) explained that improving his geographical knowledge of Scotland was a good reason for him being a bagger. Realising that Glas Tulaichean and Beinn a' Ghlo were quite close came as a surprise when previously he'd always thought of them as being seperated by more than 100 miles of road. In three gulps, would describe Rick Ansell's (2612) round. In 1984, he did a solo continuous traverse of all the mainland Munros. In 1999, he did a single day traverse of the main Cuillin ridge. Finally, in 2001 he did Blaven and Ben More during a Western Isles cycling/walking trip.

It's always heart warming to see family compleations taking place, and also what my predecessors called *Munroist Longius* (I think its Latin or something for having taken a good few years to 'get a round in'). Mark (2566) and his father Graham Ingram (2567) climbed all summits together, compleating on Ladhar Bheinn. They took just eight years for their round, doing the Aonach Eagach when Mark was 10, and Skye and the Inn Pinn when he was 14. At the other end of the scale, Kenneth Collier (2602) climbed Ben Lawers in 1946 (he also remembered the date), and compleated on his 70th birthday last year on Buachaille Etive Beag.

Another excellent part of my new job is hearing from people whom I'd previously lost track of, or have some common friend with. Bill Hunter (2562) and John Lagoe (2570) were both colleagues of my father-in-law at Eskdale Outward Bound in the Fifties. They provided tales of his younger-day hill exploits, which I'd never heard before.

So, I finish with the list of those people who have amended their entry in the List in the past year. As described in previous *Munro Matters*, compleat Munroists can now amend their entry by adding their year of Corbett compleation if applicable. A certificate is available for this too.

AMENDMENTS

The following have added to their entries on the List. Each Munroist's record is shown in full. The columns refer to Number, Name, Munros, Tops, Furths and Corbetts.

1110	Christopher G. Butcher	1992	2001	1995
		2001		
2092	Steve Tompkins	1999	2001	
1133	Wattie Ramage	1992		
		2001		
2029	Greg Cox	1998	2000	2000
1924	C.W.V. Harris	1998		1998
73	Andrew M. Fraser	1967	1980	1977
		1980		
		1986		
		1996		
		2001		
121	Don Smithies	1973	2001	1998 Done

1729	Dennis R. Pickett	1997	2001	1998	
1730	Keith Anderson	1997	1997	1998	
1494	Judy Vallery	1995		2001	
1495	Tom Vallery	1995		2001	
944	John Starbuck	1991	1991		2001
1853	Anne J. Fletcher	1997		2000	
1854	Graham R. Bunn	1997		2000	
2075	Martin G Hinnigan	1999	2001		
2341	Ralph Henderson	2000		2001	
317	*Grahame Nicoll	1984	1993		2001
		1997			
1702	John Ferguson	1995			2000
2507	Andy McGowan	2000		2001	
685	Derek G. Sime	1989	1989	1990	1998
2345	Graham Phillips	2000	2000	2001	
860	Peter Sellers	1991	1991	1981	2001
861	Sylvia Sellers	1991	1991	1981	2001
1045	Steve Fallon	1992	1993		
		1994			
		1995			
		1996			
		1997			
		1998			
		1999			
		2000			
		2001			
808	John Barnard	1990	1991	1990	1994
		2001	2001		
2597	Richard Hardaker	2001		1999	
2448	Joyce McCraw	2000		2001	
1292	Julian P. Ridal	1994		1995	1999
234	Anne McGeachie	1980		1997	1996
235	George McGeachie	1980		1997	1996
345	John Burdin	1984		1993	
1239	Roger C. Henshaw	1993	2001		
550	Jim Montgomery	1987	1987	1994	
674	C. Andrew Scott	1988	2000	2000	2000
2536	John G. Burton	2001	2001	2002	
707	Robert F. Gibson	1989	1996		
393	Jennifer M. Irving	1985		1997	2002

People who wish to register a round and would like to receive a certificate (either for Munro or Corbett Completion) should send a letter with a second class s.a.e. (A4 size) to me at: Greenhowe Farmhouse, Banchory Devenick, Aberdeenshire, AB12 5YJ.

Letters informing of Amendments can be sent to the above too, however in a change to previous practise, anyone wishing to inform me of an Amendment (or of a Completion for which they don't wish a certificate), can now e-mail me. My address is: Dave.Kirk@Greenhowefarm.fsnet.co.uk.

Finally, as someone who did not record my own round for a good number of years, I can understand why some people do not wish to be on the List. I would be interested to hear from you however, from a purely statistical point of view – names would not be divulged unless permission was given.

Anyway, be sure to enjoy yourselves out there during your days on the hill – that's the most important thing. The List, Completions, Amendments etc., they're secondary. As the first Clerk of the List, Bill Brooker recently said to me: "Don't take things too seriously."

Centenary Dinner to Celebrate the First Completion of the Munros by the Rev. A. E. Robertson

Sometime late in the last Millennium, Robin Campbell kindly prompted me that we were close to 2001, and that the year had the special significance as the Centenary of the First Completion. As such this would be an ideal chance to hold another dinner for Munroists. Many readers will remember a Dinner in 1991 organised by Bill Brooker to mark the centenary of the publication of the Tables and about 200 diners had attended that. However, since then, another 1600 Munroists have added their names to the List, so I was puzzled as to how many would actually want to be at the Dinner. I made speculative inquiries among other Munroists and then sent letters to the outdoor Press requesting an indication of interest. The replies I got were favourable and by autumn 2000, a hotel and date had been set.

Therefore May 19, 2001 duly arrived with the Atholl Palace Hotel, Pitlochry, booked for 215 diners of which 144 were Munroists. My thanks to Robin Campbell for entertaining us with a tribute to Rev. A. E. Robertson in which he reminded us that although AER is remembered for the Round of Munros, he was also an all round mountaineer prepared to try all aspects of Scottish Mountaineering. This was followed by George Barry (2311) who was given to role of describing the life of a Munroist 100 years on and the entertainment finished with a music and slide show from Chris Chapman. Thanks also to Robin Campbell who brought a video copy of Rev A. E. Robertson performing the opening of the CIC hut on Ben Nevis.

During the preceding evenings before the Dinner, I began to make a note of the facts and figures of the attendees and these include: the earliest Munroist Nan Rae (39); the latest was Tamara Cantlay (2522) who was only listed a few days before the event. The span of ages was from Adam J. Turek (2321) aged 17 to Alan Thrippleton (59) who I believe was 91 years. The earliest compleat couple, Kathleen and John Watson (41,42) attended and the current record holder for the most polymunroic (with 10 rounds) Stewart Logan (327) was present.

Hopefully, before too long there will be another suitable anniversary for another Dinner!

Chris Huntley.

SCOTTISH MOUNTAIN ACCIDENTS 2001

REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION

(Geographical Divisions are those used in SMC District Guidebooks)

REGION	CASUALTIES (of which fatalities are bracketed)				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	Animal Rescues	Non-Mountaineering Incidents
Northern Highlands	22 (5)	1 –	2 (1)	25 (6)	22	1	4	2	10	1	40	2	3
Western Highlands	8 (1)	1 –	2 (1)	11 (2)	11	2	–	1	5	–	19	–	–
Ben Nevis	32 (3)	2 –	4 (1)	38 (4)	35	2	1	3	2	1	44	–	–
Glen Coe (Inc Buachaille)	23 (4)	1 –	1 –	25 (4)	24	6	–	2	4	–	36	–	–
Other Central Highlands	14 (1)	– –	1 –	15 (1)	15	3	–	2	2	5	27	1	1
Cairngorms	30 (4)	10 –	9 (2)	49 (6)	43	4	2	14	13	6	82	–	25
Southern Highlands	26 (3)	12 –	3 –	41 (3)	32	1	1	4	3	1	42	1	9
Skye	6 –	2 –	– –	8 –	7	3	2	3	5	–	20	–	–
Islands (other than Skye)	8 (1)	– –	1 –	9 (1)	9	–	–	–	2	–	11	–	–
Southern Uplands	4 (2)	– –	– –	4 (2)	4	–	–	3	4	–	11	2	27
All Regions Totals 2001	173 (24)	29 –	23 (5)	225 (29)	202	22	10	34	50	14	332	6	65
Previous year Totals 2000	178 (29)	37 (1)	29 (12)	244 (42)	222	21	6	28	50	20	347	2	34

MOUNTAIN RESCUE COMMITTEE OF SCOTLAND

SCOTTISH MOUNTAIN ACCIDENTS 2000

Compiled by John Hinde

Police have not been mentioned in all incidents, but they have been concerned in all because it is their responsibility.

One would assume, except for Southern Uplands, that incidents in Scotland would have been less affected by foot and mouth outbreaks than in England and Wales. This seems to have been the case.

One remark was that the ratio of fatalities to casualties was greater in Scotland than in the rest of the UK. I would expect this because of the greater severity and remoteness of the mountains.

In separating mountaineering from non-mountaineeing incidents I think my interpretation is more embracing than most. I do not normally exclude incidents because somebody has carried a parachute to the top of the Buachaille, or canoed a Highland river, or because they live and work in the mountains, e.g. stalkers or shepherds. I have included most off-road incidents in the mountains, moorlands or sea cliffs as mountaineering.

NORTHERN HIGHLANDS

JANUARY 18-19 – Starting Ben Wyvis ascent at 11.30 casualty (54) descended SW from somewhere near the summit trig. point. Before reaching the SW Top (An Caber) he went NW down a notorious corrie; taking short cut using ice-axe as brake he was thrown into the air, breaking a lower leg on landing (glissading wearing crampons) at 17.00. A torch would have ensured an earlier find at night with the use of night vision goggles; an orange bivvy bag would have ensured an earlier find by day. Found by ground search then airlifted by RAF at 12.05. Dundonnell and Kinloss MRTs, SARDA. 121.

JANUARY 29 – Search by BraemarMRT for missing pair of climbers on Lochnagar. The pair had problems on the cliff and bivvied overnight, but alarm was caused mainly because of language difficulties. 22.

JANUARY 30-31 – A man and two women, very well equipped with clothing and sleeping bags, but with no crampons and only one map and one ice-axe between them, started at 10.30 in good conditions. They had underestimated full winter conditions above 600m and moved very slowly near the summit of Ruadh Stac Mor, Beinn Eighe. One fell a metre or so and this caused them to go even slower so they got benighted. Next morning they failed to recognise their location, although probably in sight of the famous Triple Butresses. For 6 hours they traversed down and round the North Spur of Ruadh Stac Mor, very dangerous ground, and were then found by RAF Sea King and airlifted, cold but unhurt. Torridon and Kinloss MRTs. 240.

FEBRUARY 3-4 – Solo coastal walker (53) failed to return to Ling Hut, Torridon. He had fallen off a path on to a ledge not far from Araid Shielings, Loch Diabeg. He broke a leg, dislocated a shoulder and suffered facial injuries. Main tracks were searched at night. He was spotted waving at 08.30 by HMCG helicopter, which could not winch him direct because of turbulence. Stretcher lowered by Kinloss and Torridon MRTs down a cliff into a boat from which he was airlifted. SARDA also used in search. Weather was gales, blizzard, very cold. 248.

- FEBRUARY 10 – At the tail-end of a superb spell of Scottish winter climbing a group started in good weather, but it deteriorated in the afternoon, with higher temperatures. Two roped pairs descending Poachers Fall (180m V) Coireag Dubh Mor, Liathach, were retreating due to thaw causing poor ice conditions on the climb. An avalanche, not self-triggered, came from 200m above them. The higher pair were OK tucked into the steep face of the route as they descended. The lower pair had reached the foot of the climb and were swept a further 150m by the avalanche, one of them sustaining an ankle injury. Regrouping, one went for help. Casualty managed a slow descent till stretchered by Torridon MRT. RAFR137 forced to divert. 65 (NB) Cornice avalanched here on January 5, 1995 with two injuries, one of them fatal.
- FEBRUARY 15 – Assynt MRT, HMCG and helicopter assisted police search hills, coast and crags at remote Achmelvich on west coast of Sutherland. Person who abandoned car was wanted for questioning. Found safe in Inverness on 17th. 118.
- FEBRUARY 22-23 Man in 30s overdue from Liathach Ridge walk. Turned up OK. Torridon MRT. 4
- FEBRUARY 24-25 – East Face of Sgurr nan Clach Geala (MR 20 NH191717) crags not marked on OS map. A rope of three at the foot of Alpha Gully (240m II) was hit by an avalanche at 12.00. One man (59) suffered an ankle injury being swept 45m to the top of the next drop. Another (29) was swept 22m without injury. The worst injured was a man (54) with chest, facial and head trauma caused by being bounced around by the avalanche while belayed at the foot of Alpha Gully. Another pair (58, 29) were crossing Apron below Alpha and Beta Gullies. The younger suffered a back injury but managed to walk off. His companion was uninjured. Alarm was raised by two of the five who walked out to Loch a' Bhraoin on A832. Dundonnell MRT attended. Worst casualty was double-strop lifted by RAF Sea King which had to land at Loch Luichart due to gearbox failure, so he went on to Raigmore by ambulance. Hospital said he would not have survived the night on the hill. Team finished at 03.30 walking out through knee deep snow. 320.
- APRIL 18-20 – Experienced mountaineer (49) killed by fall on Liathach. Travelling light, although it is difficult to tell, he ran/walked solo from Coire Dubh carpark to just north of the peak of Mullach an Rathain. Wearing fell-running shoes on hard neve, he slipped and slid, receiving a fatal blow to the head on rock sticking through the snow. Searches on two days by Kinloss and Torridon MRTs, SARDA, HMCG and two RAF helicopters. The casualty, was found by MRT search. 351.
- APRIL 19 – Walker (62) stumbled on Beinn Eighe Mountain Trail, in good weather. Suffering an ankle injury he tried to hobble down with the help of friends, but once Scottish Natural Heritage workers were reached, Torridon and Kinloss MRTs were alerted. He was stretchered to the Loch Maree road and taken to Raigmore Hospital. 325.
- APRIL 20 – In a party of two a wheelchair-bound woman (72) fell 3m on seacliff at Scarfiskerry Point (15km ENE of Thurso, Caithness) She was pronounced dead by paramedics on scene. RAF Sea King, Duncansby, Dunnet and Scrabster Coastguard Rescue Teams were deployed. HMCG assisted police with recovery of body. Dry, calm weather. 31.
- MAY 8 – Walker who split from companions on Am Faochagach (Aultguish) found on road OK.
- MAY 11 – With two friends on the path climb of Ben Wyvis in good weather, male (60) had a fatal heart attack. Airlifted to Raigmore by RAF Sea King. 8.

MAY 18 – Two experienced males overdue from Fisherfield Munros. They walked out. 2

MAY 27 - Male (41) separated from four companions in mist on Beinn Ghobhlach (Little Loch Broom). Descending to the main track went wrong and walked to Scoraig. HMCG helicopter and Dundonnell MRT on standby. 2.

MAY 30 – Female (52) walking with friends in good weather at bealach south of Sail Gorm, Quinag, slipped and broke her ankle. Airlift to Stornoway by HMCG helicopter. Assynt MRT on stand-by. 8.

MAY 30 – Two men (55, 32) descending from Beinn Alligin by Coire Mhic Nobuil were overdue, having to make long detours in mist, heavy rain and darkness. A normal hill day turned into a nightmare as cloud and darkness confused navigation and burns rose in spite. They got themselves down by about midnight. The second bridge at 882597 is not shown on earlier maps, but knowing it allows all burns to be avoided. Mobile phone used. Torridon MRT search. 20.

JUNE 18 – In good weather, possibly on the rock path avoiding the main difficulties, wife was with her husband on Corrag Bhuidhe Pinnacles (An Teallach). Husband heard a cry and a noise, looked around and located his wife (51) who had fallen 90m. Unable to use his wife's mobile phone, husband spotted another party on Sail Liath about 2km distant. He ran for help and found an off-duty ambulance man who phoned Aberdeen Air Ambulance Control, who passed him on to ARCC Kinloss. RAF Sea King on exercise in the Cairngorms was tasked to attend. Casualty was double-strop winched. She 'arrested' when she arrived at Raigmore at 13.40. Dundonnell MRT not involved. 8.

JUNE 28-29 – Walker (69) had turned back from Ben Loyal on 28th because of foot-and-mouth disease notices and informed campsite owner he was going somewhere else. On same day he was seen with unleashed dog, still going up about 20 minutes from summit, by descending walkers near crags on Ben Klibreck. Cloud base was about 700m. Campsite owner recognised his car at Vagasty on 29th and reported it to police. His body was found in the afternoon by RAF Sea King and Kinloss MRT with the uninjured dog beside him. He seemed to have fallen about 150m. Assynt MRT assembled. 69.

JULY 16-17 – Torridon and Dundonnell MRTs worried about the welfare of a two-year-old, involved in a long, wild country expedition. Two Czech families planned to walk around either side of Meall Mheinnidh (720m) halfway along north side of Loch Maree near Fionn Loch. Separations followed a failure to rendezvous, but all got out OK so planned searches with a helicopter were abandoned. 3.

JULY 17 – Male (37) walking off Liathach by Coire Dubh Mor with two companions, sustained a deep gash in the back of his leg when struck by a falling rock. Airlift by RAF. 8.

JULY 20 – Two men overdue on Beinn Alligin. They had started off looking for bridge at 874583 which was taken away around 1994, but which was still shown in the guide they were using, reprinted 1999. When they were about to descend by 'The Horns' they decided it was too much even in the perfect conditions. They retreated to bealach between 'Tom' and 'Sgurr' and descended west by detour. Torridon MRT informed. 1.

AUGUST 8 – Two young women reported their parents both had knee problems and were overdue descending steep path in darkness. Dundonnell MRT attended, strapped up the knee of the mother; then aided both down Ardessie Burn, Sail Mhor of An Teallach. 2.





- AUGUST 16 – Pair (f30, m28) came some way down Sail Mhor of Beinn Eighe, got lost and phoned police. Not surprisingly, signals deteriorated as they descended. Cloud cleared sufficiently to allow them to continue. Torridon MRT member awaited their safe descent at control point. 3.
- AUGUST 21 – Daughter (15) separated from parents on Beinn Eighe Woodland Trail. She probably went up on to Mountain Trail. Parents went back to search in rain and strong wind. Torridon MRT informed but all returned safely within estimated time. 1.
- AUGUST 21 – Man (60) descending South Ridge of Sgurr Ban, Fisherfield Forest. He was blown over by the wind, falling 8m head over heels hitting his head on rocks. One of his two companions managed to raise the alarm in less than four hours. Dundonnell MRT and RAF Sea King winchman rendered First Aid and supported casualty down to the chopper. 32.
- AUGUST 21-22 – In storm force winds on Bidein Toll a' Mhuic (main ridge of Liathach) a female (54) bivouacked. Torridon MRT searched because her car was still parked and a passer-by said she told him she was unwell. She was found at 23.15 and consented to descend with the team. She was fine and well and had chosen to wait out till storm relented. She was well equipped she carried a mobile but felt no need to use it. 66.
- AUGUST 25 – female (56) slipped on SSW Ridge, Ben Hope, injuring her ankle. Husband went down, contacted services, then went back up. RAF Sea King attended, by which time casualty had got down. Airlift to Raigmore. 11.
- AUGUST 27 – Woman (50s) on geography field trip was walking on a glen path between caves in Gleann Dubh, Inchnadamph. She slipped and injured an ankle. Assynt MRT assisted her to walk off.
- AUGUST 28 – A wife reported two men (49, 37) overdue from Liathach in mist, rain and strong wind. Torridon MRT checked but they were soon down OK. 1
- AUGUST 31-September 23 – The body of a male (33) was found by MRT on September 23 in Coire a' Ghlas Thuill of An Teallach just east of the foot of Hayfork Gully. His injuries were consistent with him having fallen 280m from the ridge of Bidein a' Ghlas Thuill. He had not contacted anyone since August 31 when he had been 'on top of a hill in the Highlands'. His car was found on A832 at Corrie Hallie. Extensive searches over five days followed his failure to return to Derbyshire. Dundonnell MRT, SARDA, HMCG and RAF helicopters. Full details of search planning and execution are available in archives. 642.
- SEPTEMBER 5 – Assynt MRT searched Faraid Head for person presumed missing from an abandoned tent. Possible suicide. Nothing found. 140.
- SEPTEMBER 18-19 – Descending Beinn Dearg, Ullapool and missing path circling Beinn Enaiglair pair (m28, f25) came across a deep gorge in darkness. Confusion between cragfast and benighted and lost contact in mobile calls caused a full call-out of Dundonnell MRT. Evacuation was by Argocat. The man was undergoing an asthma attack and would not have been able to walk off unaided. 25.
- SEPTEMBER 22 – One of eight walkers (32) near the summit of Ruadh-stac Mor, Beinn Eighe, stumbled on a loose rock. He dislocated his shoulder trying to break his fall. It was too painful to walk. Mobile phone used. Rescue by RAF Sea King to Belford Hospital, diverted to another rescue on Ben Nevis *en route* to Raigmore. Torridon MRT in communication. 9.
- SEPTEMBER 30 – Man from Israel was thought to be overdue from a walk to Cape Wrath. Assynt MRT were unable to deploy because weather was too rough for the ferry to get them across Kyle of Durness. He turned up OK at ferry house. 128.
- OCTOBER 3-4 – Two men who had been drinking left Toscaig to reach Uags Bothy

Stob Coire an Lochain, Glen Coe. Climber Neil MacGougan. Photo: David Ritchie.

From the forthcoming Climbers Guide to Ben Nevis. Jonathan Preston on Kellet's Slab Route (VI7), South Trident Buttress. Photo: Andy Nisbet.

- in SW Applecross Peninsula. 1Km from roadend one (41) slipped between two boulders and broke a lower leg. Friend raised alarm. Despite nearness to road it is a remote place. Stretchered to ambulance by Torridon MRT. 77.
- OCTOBER 11-12 – Weather on Ben Wyvis worsened during the day to low cloud and 100km/hr gale. Two men (30, 24) the younger a novice and kidney transplant recipient, descended from the summit towards An Cabar but turned west too soon (a common error). Lost, they returned to the summit and tried again but got blown south-east, bivvying in an old stone shelter. Overnight search by Dundonnell MRT hampered by gale and mist, but night was clear earlier. Men had seen RAF helicopter but had no torch. Found by SARDA dog then the team at 11.00. Walked a bit, but younger, exhausted, was airlifted off. Kinloss MRT had searched SE Flanks. 284.
- OCTOBER 23 – Couple went low-level walking in Flowerdale Forest, east of Loch Gairloch. At Loch Airig a' Phuill woman (56) slipped on wet, rocky path injuring her ankle. Airlifted to Broadford, Skye, by HMCG helicopter. Dundonnell and Torridon MRTs. 21.
- OCTOBER 25-26 – Party of two on four-day backpacking trip in Fisherfield. The boots of one fell apart five miles from end. Friend walked out and returned with a spare pair but they did not regroup in darkness. Friend raised alarm. Man (39) found at 01.00 on Slioch and walked out by Torridon and Dundonnell MRTs. 66.
- NOVEMBER 15-16 – Dutch woman (30) and man (28) lost on Meall nan Ceapraichean (Bein Dearg) were found on a boulder slope by Dundonnell MRT. 170.

WESTERN HIGHLANDS 2001

- JANUARY 15 – Dundonnell MRT tactfully suggested a solo woman hill walker (21) should curtail her usual ambitious plan for a six-month extended stay in the mountains. With no crampons on icy paths she had travelled from Applecross to Loch an Squid, Glen Affric. Four walked out with her, as mother had suggested she wanted to come out (mobile phone conversation) but was unable to do so. Uninjured. 33.
- MAY 31-June 1 – Walker (59) in rain and mist had reached Lurg Mhor by Beinn Tharsuinn and Bidein a' Choire Sheasgaich. Deciding against Meall Mor (east peak of Lurg Mhor) he returned west down to 'Cheesecake Bealach'. He thought of descending to Loch Monar for a short cut but went south from the bealach instead of north, down to Loch Calavie. He decided to skirt west of 'Cheesecake' and hug B. Tharsuinn to Bealach Bhearnais. However, he must have hugged 'Cheesecake' too closely and went down to Loch Monar, where he overnights. Next day he made a quick retreat, collected his bike below Pollan Buidhe, and so out to Craig. He had carried compass, map and torch. Torridon MRT. RAF Sea King recalled *en route*. 31.
- JUNE 3 – At 12.30 man (56) in a party of four ascending Bidein a' Choire Sheasgaich from a camp at Loch Monar slipped, fell 5m and broke a leg. Companion walked towards habitation but could not get mobile reception till 15.30. Direct rescue by RAF Lossiemouth Sea King. Torridon MRT stood by in case helicopter could not get in due to weather. 25.
- JUNE 21 – Man (47) on Tom a' Choinich decided to take in Toll Creagach, but with no compass got lost and was overdue. Found walking to Cannich. Dundonnell MRT. 4.
- JULY 14-15 – Kinloss MRT called out from Ballater exercise to help Lochaber MRT, RAF Sea King and SARDA in search for overdue male (57) on Beinn

- Resipol. On arrival at Loch Sunart RV at 07.15 team informed he had been found safe having walked off the hill in the wrong direction. Too tired to climb back over the top he bivvied and walked off next morning. Turned up near Polloch, Loch Shiel. 498.
- AUGUST 4 – Female (29) on the Saddle slipped on wet rock (pulled by dog on lead) and broke her ankle. Companion alerted services. Kintail MRT, lifted to cloudbase by RAF Rescue 137, found casualty and stretchered her down below cloud for airlift to Broadford Hospital. 40.
- AUGUST 4 – Walking with her husband about 700m east of Falls of Glomach, wife (59) slipped and broke her ankle. Rescuers were alerted four hours later by a passer-by. Airlifted to Raigmore by RAF with Kintail MRT on stand-by. 11.
- AUGUST 11 – Search of Gleann Lichd by Kintail MRT for experienced walker (44) reported overdue by his wife. Found next day at hostel by RAF Sea King safe and well. 16.
- AUGUST 25-26 – Descending Creag nan Damh by Am Fas-allt (towards A 97) man (40) and woman (34) lost their way due to failing light. They could see traffic on the road but were unsure of descent route. Four members of Kintail MRT spotted their torch flashes. They were escorted off the hill by 01.30. 30.
- AUGUST 28 – Schoolboy (15) on award expedition was extracted from Glen Elchaig by a keeper before rescue services were mobilised. Two of the lad's companions had gone to Iron Lodge when he suffered weakness and dizziness. Taken out by 4x4 he was found to have low sugar level at Broadford Hospital. Kintail MRT and HMCG helicopter stood down. 3.
- SEPTEMBER 7 – Companion walker alerted emergency services to unknown German male (35) being washed away, presumed drowned, attempting to cross River Carnoch in spate 4km upstream from the outlet into Loch Nevis. Remains found and recovered by HMCG helicopter assisted by RAF Sea King, RNLI, HMCG Auxillary and Lochaber MRT. He was identified as a German national on holiday. 94.
- SEPTEMBER 18-19 – Farmer (41) set off from Loch Houran at 13.00 to gather sheep on Beinn nan Caorach 3km to NE of Arnisdale. He was last seen alive at about 550m altitude in Coire Dhruim nam Bo. Glenelg MRT, closely followed by Kintail MRT, searched when alarm was raised at 23.30. In good, but dark, weather he was found dead of a heart attack near the same place at 03.15. Airlift by Stornoway HMCG helicopter. 218.
- SEPTEMBER 26-27 – Having completed Sgurr na Ciste Duuibhe and Sgurr na Carnach (Five Sisters Ridge) walker (82) knew he had to go over Sgurr Fhuaran before he could safely descend. Benighted, his torch expired on reaching the bottom so he bivvied, walking out uninjured in daylight. Kintail and Kinloss MRTs, RAF and HMCG helos, SARDA. 234.
- SEPTEMBER 29 – Male (42), one of six walkers on Beinn Fhada (Ben Attow) got cragfast when ascending a steep gully of Meall a' Bhealaich, above Bealach an Sgairne. Alarm was raised by his companions. Kintail MRT assisted him to the top of the gully and then off the mountain. 50.
- OCTOBER 6 – One of a pair crossing River Shiel near Achnangart Farm (5km above Shiel Bridge) slipped or stumbled with slight injury. Kintail MRT. 4.
- OCTOBER 27 – Kintail MRT rescued one of a party of three from Allt Coire Amhutt (?). The person had slipped or stumbled suffering minor injury. 35.
- NOVEMBER 3-4 – Traversing NE down the ridge of Beinn Tharsuinn; when male (44) reached a bealach, and though it was Bealach Bhearnais, went right and descended to Loch Monar where he spent a cold and wet night. Found by

- Torriddon MRT with Kintail and SARDA on stand-by. Wearing 'golfing' waterproofs with no map, compass, torch or whistle he had got separated from two friends. Barely able to talk he was lifted by RAF Sea King to Raigmore. 78.
- NOVEMBER 9-10 – Separated and lost on Glenfinnan Horseshoe in mist, walker descended to Kinlochbeoraid instead of Glenfinnan. He spent a night at the bothy and was found and lifted by RAF Sea King. Search by Lochaber MRT. 80.
- DECEMBER 3 – Male suffered spinal injury when a tree blew down 1km west of Lewiston, Loch Ness. Dundonnell MRT involved in communications reference the location. RAF Sea King found casualty and airlifted him to Raigmore Hospital. 14.
- DECEMBER 6 - Lochaber MRT and ambulance carried out medical evacuation of one in a group of five at Invermallie Bothy, Loch Arkaig. 50.
- DECEMBER 13 – Slip at 01.46 near Kyle of Lochalsh caused slight injury. Evacuation by HMCG ground personnel and helicopter and Kintail MRT. 52.

BEN NEVIS

- JANUARY 4-5 – Father (42) and son (13) descending normal route strayed into Five Finger Gully. Son slipped, causing both to fall 100m. Father broke a lower leg then alerted police by phone. RN helicopter had engine problems in area. RAF helicopter replacement could not operate near accident due to poor weather. Lochaber MRT reached victims from normal route, stretching father to lower level for airlift, and helping son walk out by 02.00. 285.
- JANUARY 23 – Male (30) was belaying for another member of his party climbing in Coire na Ciste. The moving person caused a rock to fall, which struck his leg causing bruising. Another of the party of four rescuers, then party conveyed casualty to CIC Hut where he was airlifted by RAF Sea King. Lochaber MRT. 51.
- FEBRUARY 11 – Male hill walker, spectator at a canoe race in Glen Nevis, collapsed with a cerebrovascular illness. Stretchered 800m to ambulance at roadhead by Assynt MRT just completing a training exercise. 12.
- FEBRUARY 13 – With a companion descending line of Coire Leis Abseil Posts, male (45) wearing crampons, tried to turn around to go down facing in to the hill. Turning, he lost his footing and slipped 30m, hit an abseil post, then slid a farther 90m to 120m before stopping. He had arm injuries, bruising and abrasions. He was treated on site by RAF paramedic with cyilmorph, oxygen and splints and airlifted by R137. Lochaber, Kinloss and other RAF MRTS, RAF and RN helicopters. 185.
- FEBRUARY 15 – After completing Italian Climb and abseiling into Observatory Gully, man (46) with a companion continued walking down the gully in darkness. Casualty's crampon caught in snow causing him to roll 60m to the foot of Observatory Buttress. He was lifted with an ankle fracture from CIC Hut to Belford Hospital by RAF Sea King. 37.
- FEBRUARY 18 – Rope of two on Harrison's Climb Direct. At about one-third of the height, man (45) clipped into an existing old peg. When he put weight on it, the peg snapped which caused a fall of 14m. This fractured a scapula. He managed to evacuate himself, but was picked up by Lochaber MRT transport at head of track. 12.
- FEBRUARY 18 - Descending mountain track at 16.30, man (45) slipped on snow just above Halfway Lochan twisting and breaking a lower leg bone. He managed to get down part way then phoned. Lifted by Lochaber MRT and RN helicopter from HMS Gannet. 14.

- FEBRUARY 24 – Rope of two attempted Waterfall Gully. Student (20) climbed 20m when he decided to go no farther. He clipped into an *in situ* nut. When abseiling from the nut it came out and he fell breaking his back and severing his spine. Subject alerted emergency services by phone. Evacuation by Lochaber MRT stretcher carry and winch by RN Sea King. 120.
- FEBRUARY 24-25 – Having set out from Youth Hostel at 0645 in good weather and kitted up at 09.30 at CIC Hut, heading for Tower Ridge, two men (31, 29) were reported overdue at 21.30. Search by RN Sea King and Lochaber MRT was initiated at 09.00 on 25th. At 09.30 other climbers at base of Glover's Chimney phoned to say they had found the pair. The elder was dead. The younger survived despite very serious head and leg injuries and cold trauma. Evacuation by the helicopter from HMS Gannet. 42.
- FEBRUARY 27 – Clear weather but strong winds. Descending from Abseil Point, Coire Leis, male (45) tried to turn around to face in. Doing so he slipped on snow or rock, fell 30m striking another abseil post, then fell another 270m sustaining multiple injuries. Fall was witnessed by his companion and by Leuchars and Kinloss MRT members climbing in the corrie. Treated by RAF paramedic and by Belford Hospital doctor. Stretchered down to airlift by RAF Sea King. Lochaber MRT, RN Sea King and various RAF MRTs on Winter Course. 185.
- MARCH 24 – Male (39) in a party of three approaching the foot of Green Gully lost his footing and slid. He collided with a companion, then hit a passer-by. He and the passer-by fell together 75m coming to rest on snow. He suffered slight back and head injuries, cuts and bruises. The passer-by attended to the casualty and raised the alarm. Lochaber MRT and RAF Sea King airlifted party of 3. 51.
- MARCH 24 – With nine companions, woman (61) practised basic snowcraft just above CIC Hut. Walking on hard neve her crampon lost grip. Unable to stop her slide she collided with rocks after 10m causing bruising to head and chest. Lochaber MRT members attended (in the area responding to the previous incident). Airlift by RAF Rescue 137. 15.
- APRIL 13 – Party of two. Unroped man (54) climbing Garadh Gully. While climbing a step of wet snow it had broken clear of the rock face causing the fall and multiple rib fractures, facial lacerations, fractured wrist and ankle. A passing climber initiated rescue by using the CIC Hut radio link. RN Sea King and Lochaber MRT. 54.
- APRIL 16 – Two males had finished a climb in Number 2 Gully then walked along the plateau. While descending at the top of Number 3 Gully one of them (age 38) slipped, slid over the plateau edge and fell down the length of the gully. Airlift by RAF Sea King and Lochaber MRT to Belford Hospital and later that day airlifted to Glasgow Southern General where on April 22 he died from head injuries. 35.
- MAY 14 – Ascending track near Halfway Lochan man (74) could not continue due to dehydration and exhaustion. Passer-by phoned RAF Sea King and Lochaber MRT. Fluids were given and he was airlifted with his female companion. 28.
- MAY 14-15 – Man (19) with a companion set off up the track at 20.00 to find a place to camp. They became separated in darkness. Companion descended to road and reported friend missing at 22.37. Lochaber MRT took no action till 08.00 as subject was well equipped. Six team members traced him to near the South Knoll of Meall an-t Suidhe. He had been unable to come down at first light because he was lost. 28.
- MAY 19 – Attempting to climb Castle Ridge from CIC Hut with a companion, female (29) suffered pain in both eyes due to contaminated contact lenses. She

- was unable to continue or get down. Assisted down by Lochaber MRT for treatment to damaged corneas at Belford Hospital. 32.
- JUNE 9 - Attempting to walk via CIC Hut up Carn Mor Dearg Arête, male (40) got cragfast. His companion alerted police. With assistance of RN Sea King, Lochaber MRT aided him off the hill in good weather. 36.
- JUNE 10 - Male (38) descending track was pulled over by his dog, injuring his knee. Lifted to Belford by RAF Sea King and Lochaber MRT. 20.
- JUNE 23 - Leading Tower Ridge in good weather, male (41) belayed to a large rock and started climbing. When 5m up a handhold came away and he fell on to a ledge. The rope held him but the large rock belay dislodged and hit him on the way down. A mobile phone was used. Evacuation was by Lochaber MRT and RAF Sea King. Injuries to pelvis and arm were bruising, not fractures as suspected. 28.
- JUNE 30 - Female descending track from summit in sleet and snow in a party of six took cramp in her legs. Mobile phone was used. She was winched by RN Sea King to Belford Hospital and released after treatment. 12.
- JULY 20 - Setting out from the bottom at 07.45 walker (36) left two companions to descend the normal route from the summit while he went down Coire Eoghainn. Overdue he returned safe at 19.45. Lochaber MRT, RAF Sea King. 18.
- JULY 21 - Lochaber MRT alerted because three schoolboys (12, 10, 8) separated from their parental group descending the track. They were reunited before being found by the team. 10.
- JULY 24 - Walking with relations between Glen Nevis carpark and Steall Meadow, girl (6) slipped and fell 15m from the path, over a small cliff and down scree. She was stretchered to ambulance by Lochaber MRT. She was to be detained at Belford Hospital for two weeks having sustained fractures of pelvis and arm, together with head injury. 12.
- AUGUST 3-4 Female (47) and male student (21) contacted their family. Having reached the summit they were unable to find a way down. It was raining and getting dark. Lochaber MRT leader gave them telephone directions. They made their own way down without injury. 8.
- AUGUST 5 - Female (45) slipped on Mountain Track at about 900m altitude fracturing her ankle. Airlift in calm weather by RAF Sea King and Lochaber MRT. 37.
- AUGUST 12 - Reaching the summit by the normal route, a group of three (f30, f21, m22) descended by Carn Mor Dearg Arête and Coire Leis. At 14.09 hours they were unsure of their route down because of mist. Leader of Lochaber MRT was contacted by phone and was able to guide the group down without incident. 4.
- AUGUST 25 - Descending track with a companion, student (17) slipped and injured his ankle. He walked down a short way, but due to pain increase he stopped at about 800m and summoned assistance. Airlifted by RAF Rescue 137 and Lochaber MRT. Released from Belford Hospital after treatment. 22.
- SEPTEMBER 1 - Male (30) on a charity climb slipped at 650m aggravating an old knee injury. Lochaber MRT on track for another event came upon him and called RN Sea King already in the area. Casualty airlifted to Belford Hospital for treatment. 15.
- SEPTEMBER 1 - At 600m, just below Halfway Lochan, female (21) slipped badly spraining her ankle. She had separated from her group, but Lochaber MRT were on site as safety guides. RAF Rescue 138 on exercise in the area was called. She was airlifted to Belford Hospital for treatment and later discharged. 18.
- SEPTEMBER 4 - Man (68) got to the summit at 13.30 with his dog, but tired on

- descent, finding it difficult to see in failing light. At 20.00 (at about 110m) a couple also making their way down saw he was having problems. Man stayed with him. His partner went to Achintee and phoned police. One Lochaber MRT member went up and aided subject down. No injuries were sustained. 3.
- SEPTEMBER 8 – Male (43) in a party of 180 attempting Nevis for a cancer charity sustained a fatal heart attack. Lochaber MRT on site at Corner Five (1050m) attempted CPR and used suction apparatus. Airlift to Belford Hospital by RN. 16.
- SEPTEMBER 22 – Taking part in a sponsored event when descending, female (36) stopped for a rest. When she stood up something snapped in her leg and she could go no farther. Rescue 137 was contacted and she was airlifted along with her companion (see following incident). Kinloss MRT. 6.
- SEPTEMBER 22 – (See above incident) Due to an old injury the companion's knees gave way. Both these incidents happened at the same place, the first zig-zag above Halfway House at 750m altitude. Both women were lifted by RAF Sea King to Belford Hospital for treatment. Kinloss MRT. 6.
- SEPTEMBER 22 – See above two incidents. Organised charity walk involved 10 visually impaired walkers, five volunteers and 20 rescuers. Blind walker (49) had difficulty walking on the path. He had become exhausted. Lift by RAF helicopter at 19.20. 14.
- SEPTEMBER 23 – Party of three males were at the foot of Tower Ridge about to start the climb. An object seen tumbling from a ridge above them turned out to be a walker (m30) clearly dead. Airlift by RAF Sea King and Lochaber MRT. He had been walking alone and slipped or tripped. His route was not identified. 129.
- OCTOBER 4 – One of guided party broke her ankle on Ledge Route. Carried by group to CIC Hut then airlifted by RAF Sea King and Lochaber MRT. 11.
- OCTOBER 6 – Charity walker injured her back walking up Nevis. LMRT member on site called RAF Sea King for airlift. 20.
- OCTOBER 6 – Member of climbing club in party of 20 slipped on path and fell 10m into Steall Gorge sustaining a serious leg injury. Sixteen Lochaber MRT evacuated casualty to Fort William. 40.
- OCTOBER 13 – Slip at Windy Corner on track caused slight injury. Lochaber MRT. 51.
- OCTOBER 28 – Walker injured in a fall on track evacuated by RAF Sea King and Lochaber. 9.
- NOVEMBER 12 – Climber fell 70m down Garadh Gully sustaining multiple injuries. His companion raised the alarm and he was rescued by LMRT and RAF helicopter. 24.
- NOVEMBER 14 – Female walker failed to tell friends she was down from Nevis. Team search initiated but she was found in Fort William. 6.
- DECEMBER 28 – Two climbers became cragfast on Tower Ridge. Eleven of Lochaber MRT climbed Observatory Gully intending to traverse onto the ridge by the escape route from the Eastern Traverse. RAF helicopter, which had been snow-bound north of Lochaber, managed to get through a weather break, winching the climbers off, just before the team reached them. 60.
- DECEMBER 29-30 – Ten people in four separate parties made serious navigation errors descending from Nevis summit into Five Finger Gully. Thirty Lochaber MRT made their way up into the gully from Glen Nevis, found and escorted the parties. Soft snow probably prevented these incidents from becoming more serious. Few of the parties carried ice-axes or crampons. Three were slightly injured and seven OK. 165.

GLENCOE

- JANUARY 2 – Four (female 26, males 38, 22, 21) attempting Aonach Eagach E to W traverse got cragfast at MR 142581 when they fell through a mud basin on Sgorr nam Fiannaidh about 200m below the ridge. They phoned and were roped and escorted down by Glencoe MRT before midnight. 67.
- JANUARY 11 – Paraglider (39) affected by turbulence from earlier passing jets, was unable to control his canopy which upturned. He landed at foot of The Chasm of Buachaille Etive Mor injuring back and chest. Walked to rendezvous and conveyed by ambulance. 19.
- JANUARY 11 – Friend (43) of above casualty was able to make a safe landing near him. Friend removed his own canopy to go and help then slipped on frozen rock. He fell 4m and injured a foot. Glencoe MRT provided first aid. Evacuation by RAF Sea King. 19.
- JANUARY 21 – A member of Glencoe MRT witnessed a slab avalanche at the head of Coire na Tulaich, Buachaille Etive Mor. Conditions were below freezing with snow falling at the time. One of three men was climbing over a cornice which collapsed, carrying the two (46, 28) below him 90m down. They sustained limb injuries, cuts and bruises. GMRT rendered immediate help and alerted RN Sea King which lifted the two casualties. Man who triggered the avalanche was escorted down. Kinloss team also involved. 95
- FEBRUARY 11 – Climbing the gully between Bidean nam Bian and Stob Coire nan Lochan at the head of the Lost Valley three people were avalanched. The three (f55, m57, m54) were swept down various distances of 180m, 210m and 240m. One was buried with only a hand showing but was extricated by the other two; all three being uninjured. Making their own way down they were met by Glencoe MRT alerted by other climbers. 34.
- FEBRUARY 20 – Woman (36) and male (35) traversed Aonach Eagach east to west. Descending, they got cragfast on the east side of Clachaig Gully on wet rock in mist and darkness. A third party contacted them by phone and raised the alarm. Escorted down by Glencoe MRT by 23.00 hours. 28.
- MARCH 26 – Male (36) wearing crampons, descending Bidean nam Bian towards the Lost Valley, fell. Unable to ice-axe brake he slid 30m sustaining a compound tibia fibula fracture. Nearby climbers heard cries and alerted police by phone. Rescue by Glencoe MRT and RN Sea King winching. 32.
- MARCH 29-30 – Man (67) ascending Curved Ridge, Buachaille Etive Mor was fitting crampons. Pulling his ice-axe out of the snow, the snow beneath his feet gave way and he fell 120m, which caused chest injuries, abrasions and bruises. He climbed back up to within 100m of the summit and tried to get off the mountain by the easy route, but he could go no farther. Glencoe MRT was alerted at 23.00. He was found by using a flashing light, and by then had some cold trauma. Airlift by HMCG helicopter. Glencoe team finished at 08.00. 114.
- APRIL 2 – Female (57) broke her ankle in two places when she slipped, wearing crampons, descending from Bidean nam Bian to the Lost Valley. Carried from the hill by other members of her party of seven, she was stretchered a short distance to the road by Glencoe MRT. From Belford to be transferred to Raigmore Hospital. 23.
- APRIL 5-6 – Starting Innuendo at 15.00, two males (22, 20) had not returned from Stob Coire nan Lochan by 23.25 when Glencoe MRT was called out. The climb was successful, but slower than expected due to darkness. The pair abseiled and returned to accommodation so team was not required. 10.

- APRIL 11 – Man cragfast because he lost a crampon ascending Forked Gully, Stob Coire nan Lochan. Alerted other climbers. RN Sea King and Glencoe MRT. 36.
- APRIL 11 – Attempting E to W traverse of Aonach Eagach, male (41) fell 30m descending Am Bodach. Uninjured he self-rescued and continued to Meall Dearg. At 16.45 he was unable to continue. Cragfast he was lifted by RAF Sea King and Glencoe MRT. 27.
- APRIL 19 – Wearing crampons and with an ice-axe a male (43) was soloing Dorsal Arête. When he was 200m above the basin of Stob Coire nan Lochan he slipped and fell to the floor of the coire injuring a leg. A passer-by alerted Glencoe MRT by phone. Airlift to Belford Hospital by RN Sea King. 30.
- APRIL 24 - Male (25) and female (24) got cragfast ascending scree slopes from Dalness to Stob Dubh of Buachaille Etive Beag. They phoned and 14 members of Glencoe MRT were called out. Thereafter the pair rescued themselves. Uninjured, they were descending to the roadside when they were met by the team. They could not call off the rescuers because their phone battery had gone dead. 39.
- MAY 6 – Wearing crampons, but with no ice-axe or helmet, a solo climber (51) was seen falling from Summit Gully, Stob Coire nam Beith by a climber 800m distant, through binoculars. The observer phoned Glencoe MRT and RN Sea King attended. Casualty was treated with oxygen, neck splint and vacuum mattress having skull, spine, chest and leg injuries when found below Central Gully. Transferred from Belford Hospital to Glasgow for spine checks. 39.
- MAY 11 – At about 13.50 in good weather, a male (31) was seen falling from rock and scree on Gearr Aonach into Lost Valley. Emergency services were alerted and his body was found and recovered by RN Sea King helicopter and Glencoe MRT. 49.
- MAY 13-14 – Male (33) and female (25) got cragfast on east face of Buachaille Etive Mor in good weather. Glencoe MRT alerted at 21.18 roped them down and escorted them from the hill at 02.45. 77.
- MAY 21 – Banana Rock, Clachaig Gully, Sgor nam Fiannaidh. Leader fall of 3m caused chest injury. Equipment pulled out as she hung at rest from her protection. Casualty (22) was recovered from cliff on a stretcher by Glencoe MRT. 30.
- JUNE 2-3 – From a group of six, mostly under 30, traversing Aonach Eagach E to W in good weather one decided to go down at 21.15. Five continued but two got cragfast and frightened at Stob Coire Leith. Alarm was raised. 14 Glencoe MRT and RAF helicopter recovered the casualties, one of whom (f31) had slight leg injury. 43.
- JUNE 17 – Wearing trainers in good weather and watched by parents from A82 boy (10) and friends walked along lower slopes of Aonach Eagach. He slipped and tumbled over a drop of 10m. Stretchered to ambulance with head and spinal injuries by GMRT. 15.
- JUNE 30-July 1 – Attempting to traverse Bidean nam Bian then Stob Coire nam Beith and down to Achnambeithach from Lost Valley, a man (43) and two women (50, 39). At 20.30, due to a navigation error descending Stob Coire nam Beith in mist and rain, they got cragfast and cold. They were found by Glencoe MRT and escorted down, the older woman with slight hypothermia. RN Sea King could not operate in that weather due to onboard equipment not allowing sufficient lift. 108.
- JUNE 30-July 2 – Dead man (45) was found at 11.45 on July 2 having apparently fallen from the pinnacles of Aonach Eagach on the Glencoe side. Missing since June 30 it was not known if he had gone to A. Eagach or Bidean nam Bian. Two-

day search involved Glencoe, Kinloss, Leuchars, Lochaber and Oban MRTs, SARDA and RAF Sea King (12 hours flying). 1512.

JULY 30 – Climbing damp grass/earth lying on rock near Curved Ridge, Buachaille Etive Mor, a male (40) slipped, falling back 10m. His leg impacted and he was catapulted further backwards, stopping head down among rocks. He sustained serious back and leg injuries and moderate head injuries. Helmets were carried. His female doctor companion phoned and attended him. Airlift by service helicopter and Glencoe MRT to Belford later transferred to Raigmore for surgery. 30.

AUGUST 18 – Descending dry scree in Coire na Tulaich, Buachaille Etive Mor, male (57) tripped and fell 3m injuring the bridge of his nose. He continued down with his companion but felt unwell and unsteady. Another climber phoned. He was helped down by Glencoe MRT. 20.

AUGUST 18 – Three men (57, 48, 24) got lost on the Blue Route tourist footpath near Glencoe Lochan above Loch Leven at 22.12. It got dark quicker than they expected and their torch was defective. They contacted emergency services and were walked off by GMRT. 8.

AUGUST 25 – In good weather a man and a woman (30) were climbing unroped, with the man ahead, on the East Face of Aonach Dubh. The climb was Eastern Promise. The woman slipped on wet rock and fell on to a grassy ledge. Fall continued and she fell 22m with injuries to head, pelvic area, a limb and abrasions. She wore a helmet and rock boots. Alarm was raised and she was treated by Glencoe MRT, then airlifted to Belford Hospital by R137 RAF helicopter. 41.

AUGUST 31 – With a companion, a female (30) was descending Sgorr nam Fiannaigh after walking Aonach Eagach in good weather. She slipped on a rock abraded her knee and face. Police were alerted via another walker and staff at Clachaig Inn. Glencoe MRT applied dressings and escorted the pair off the mountain. 44.

SEPTEMBER 1-2 – Deceased (52) was leading three other hillwalkers along Poucher's Route on North Face of Aonach Dubh when he jumped from a rock ledge on to a steep grass slope. The weight of his rucksack pulled him backwards and he was killed by a fall of 90m. Night and day searches by Glencoe and Leuchars MRTs. Spotted by RN Sea King and cliff lowered by MRT. 236.

SEPTEMBER 4 – Girl (14) walked to Lost Valley Boulder with family and friends. Despite warnings she climbed 7m up the boulder and became cragfast. Shortly after she fell down and landed on her bottom. Glencoe MRT used neck splint and vacuum mattress. She was lifted by HMS Gannet Sea King to Belford where spine injuries were found. 36.

SEPTEMBER 9 – Starting Aonach Eagach, male (58) suffered exhaustion from a medical condition when part way up Sgorr nam Fiannaigh. Passers-by called police. RAF Sea King on exercise with Glencoe MRT was diverted and lifted him to Belford Hospital where he was detained for the medical condition. 5.

SEPTEMBER 16-17 – Three women walkers (30, 29, 29) left insufficient time to complete Lost Valley to Stob Coire nam Beith Horseshoe. In dark with no torches, they phoned police. Glencoe MRT found and rescued them by 01.00. 88.

SEPTEMBER 17-18 – Female (44) seen on summit of Aonach Dubh a' Ghlinne (NE peak of Sgurr na h-Ulaidh) heading towards the North Ridge to descend. Weather was good. Her car was still in the carpark at 22.00 hours. Glencoe MRT found her body about midnight. 68.

- OCTOBER 5 – Serious injury caused by slip/stumble on Bidean nam Bian. Glencoe and Oban MRTs and RAF helicopter involved. 454.
- OCTOBER 13 – Glencoe MRT involved when a person was overdue at 19.54 hours in Lost Valley. 7.
- OCTOBER 21 – Serious injury was caused when one in a party of three slipped crossing Allt Coire Gabhail (river in Lost Valley) about midday. Rescue by Glencoe MRT. 20.
- OCTOBER 28 – In an ascending party of four at Crowberry Tower Gap, Buachaille Etive Mor, a walker (55) was struck by a rock dislodged by a party above. He sustained an open fracture of an upper arm. He was helped to the summit by friends. Two Glencoe MRT and winchman were dropped to treat him (stretcher, fracture straps, cyclimorph and other drugs). Mist came down and he was stretchered down to Glen Etive where the RAF Sea King lifted him from near the road. 78.
- DECEMBER 8 – Rock climbing unroped in good weather three males finished climbing Pinnacle Face, Aonach Dubh. At top of B Buttress one of them ripped his Achilles/fib (an old or recurring injury) and 15 members of Glencoe MRT moved him for a strop lift by RN Sea King, then they descended Dinner Time Buttress in darkness. 95.
- DECEMBER 25 – Mobile call said man and woman had no torches and were in Coire nan Lochan. Torches were seen in Coire Beith and checked out. The pair were escorted down by two Glencoe MRT. 56.
- DECEMBER 30 – Male (35) and female (32) thought they were in Easy Gully, Buachaille Etive Mor. In fact they were in D Gully and they got cragfast at the junction of D Gully Buttress and Curved Ridge. In blizzard conditions and darkness Glencoe MRT aided them down at 21.45. 56.

OTHER CENTRAL HIGHLANDS

- JANUARY 18-19 – Climbing Centre Post, Creag Meagaidh at 16.30 climber (64) felt unable to carry on due to cold and darkness. He stayed in a cave and his companion raised alarm. Rescued by Lochaber MRT and RAF Sea King. Eight team members climbed up and lowered him to base in difficult conditions. Uninjured he was able to walk out by 07.30. 79.
- JANUARY 20 – Two companions of a seriously injured climber (33) raised the alarm on a mobile phone. Ascending South Pipe Direct, Creag Meagaidh; fairly high on the climb (at it's junction with Staghorn Gully) he had been hit on his helmet by a large piece of ice. This had possibly been dislodged by other climbers higher on the crag. His helmet had been broken and he had been knocked unconscious. Receiving serious skull injury he drifted in and out of consciousness. Lochaber MRT and helicopter R177 (HMS Gannet) extricated him to Belford Hospital. He was transferred to Glasgow Southern General where his condition remained stable. 82.
- JANUARY 30 – Kinloss MRT and RAF Sea King recalled *en route*. Winter hill walker in Coire Creagach of Sgairneach Mhor, Drumochter Hills had been found safe (self recovery). 4.
- FEBRUARY 7 – Precautionary search of a large avalanche on Fly Paper ski-run on Meall a' Bhuiridh. Ski area was closed at the time but there had been a report of two ski-board tracks leading into the debris. Happily, it had been a spontaneous

release with no-one about. Glencoe, Kinloss, Leuchars, Lochaber MRTs and SARDA involved. 156.

FEBRUARY 17 – Female (34) walking in snow and ice, with a companion, was killed by a fall of 150m on SW Ridge of Stob a' Choire Leith, Grey Corries. Another walker raised the alarm and provided grid reference. Recovered by RAF Sea King and Lochaber MRT. 22.

FEBRUARY 18 – A mobile phone call to police stated a winter hillwalker (40) had fallen through a snow cornice. He had been taken to Ben Alder Cottage, Loch Erich, where he was unable to walk. Airlifted to Raigmore by RAF Sea King helicopter. 9.

FEBRUARY 26-27 – Glencoe and Lochaber MRTs and RAF Sea King searched from Fort William, Spean Bridge and Kinlochleven to Corrour, Rannoch Moor for a pair (male and female) of hillwalkers (20s). They turned up in another area – Strathclyde Police area. 143.

MARCH 26 – Leader (22) on South Post, Creag Meagaidh fell 10m before rope stopped him, but his ankle had been injured. Two companions assisted him for 3km down Coire Ardair. He was lifted by RN Sea King and Lochaber MRT to Belford Hospital and released after treatment. 18.

APRIL 6 – With a companion descending from Carn Mor Dearg to CIC Hut. When 700m distant from hut, man (35) tripped wearing crampons, falling 22m first on snow then on rocks. He sustained a depressed skull fracture, broken ribs and ankle, cuts to head and extensive bruising. They had decided to return to CIC rather than go round the corrie rim to Ben Nevis because of low cloud and spindrift. Lochaber MRT and RAF R137 Sea King helicopter. 24.

APRIL 15 – One of three female walkers was stranded by the River Leven, 3km above the main road bridge in Kinlochleven, after she had leapt in to rescue her dog. Alarm was raised by mobile phone. Rescued by Glencoe MRT. 6.

MAY 13 – Paraglider (34) attempting a reverse take-off on Creag Dhubh (northern spur of Meall a' Bhuidh) lifted off momentarily. He came down awkwardly, dislocating a knee cap. Casualty has suffered from similar injury in the past. Found by a passer-by he was recovered by stretcher carry and ski area chairlift by Glencoe MRT.

JUNE 11 – On the north ridge of Sgorr Dhearg (Ballachulish Horseshoe) a male (24) who had fallen twice and bruised his knee felt he was in no condition to continue at 18.20. Glencoe MRT responded to the phone alert. Despite a wrong grid ref. by the injured man's nine companions he was found and stretchered to the road. 33.

JUNE 16 – Female (26) injured her leg in a 3m fall on Binnein Shuas, Loch Laggan, at 18.50 hours. Taken to Belford Hospital, Fort William.

JULY 10-11 – Two men (34, 25) got lost on Ben Alder. Cold and wet, they phoned when they reached shore of Loch Ericht 16km SW of Dalwhinnie. Airlifted by RAF. 10.

JULY 24 – At Ba Cottage (ruin) on West Highland Way a walker (23) was removing his boots to dry his feet when a rock fell on his toe, partially severing it. Airlift to Belford Hospital by Glencoe MRT and RAF Sea King. 8.

JULY 31 – Female (29) and male (28) were walking the stalkers' path on Beinn na Caillich (764m) 4km WNW of Kinlochleven. In good weather on steep, loose scree the woman became cragfast. Her companion phoned the police. Escorted uninjured to West Highland Way by Glencoe MRT. 23.

- AUGUST 11 – Mountain biker (15) descending mountain bike descent track at Nevis Range on Aonach Mor was thrown from his bike, landed on his chest and was unable to continue. Stretchered off by Lochaber MRT to Belford Hospital, he was found to have no bone injuries but bruising to chest. 16.
- SEPTEMBER 6 – One of 24 participants in a Duke of Edinburgh trip suffered severe abdominal pain on the West Highland Way above Kinlochleven. It was dark with rain and strong wind. She (17) was escorted to Mamore Loge (1.4km) by Glencoe MRT and taken to Belford Hospital, Fort William by ambulance. 10.
- SEPTEMBER 12 – Male (38) wrenched knee on Beinn a' Bhric, Corrour. He used radio to give his location. At 21.00 Lochaber MRT and RAF Sea King were alerted. He was airlifted to Belford Hospital from NE Ridge, Leum Uilleim. 65.
- SEPTEMBER 15 – Male (35) in a group of 12 was descending scree on Stob Ban (Mamores) North Ridge. It was raining. At approximate altitude of 600m he slipped and fell a short distance, breaking his leg. Stretchered of by Lochaber MRT using a leg splint and entonox. 32.
- SEPTEMBER 15-16 – Walker (47) set off to do Munro Horshoe in the Monadhliath, was overdue at midnight. Cairngorm MRT called out at 08.00 stood down when he turned up at 08.40. Without a torch he had got benighted descending Carn Dearg and restarted at first light. 20.
- SEPTEMBER 19 – Incorrect dates on a route card left on his car caused an air search by RAF Sea King and Lochaber MRT. Very apologetic man (37) found on steep west slopes of Aonach Beag said he was not two days overdue as the card stated. No airlift. 19.
- SEPTEMBER 19 – Air and ground searches by RAF Sea King and Lochaber MRT on Stob Ban (Mamores) revealed nothing. Cries for help had been reported on the mountain. Local inquiries established that a shepherd had been working there. It is most likely that the shepherd's calls had been misinterpreted. 95.
- SEPTEMBER 24 – Couple out walking reported that their dog had fallen over Grey Mare's Tail Waterfall, Kinlochleven and was lost from view. Glencoe MRT abseiled into the falls and recovered the dog which was bagged and roped and reunited with the owners. Apparently uninjured, the dog had fallen 6m and lodged in a cave above a further 60m drop. 23.
- SEPTEMBER 26-27 – Man (65) on Grey Corries, Stob Coire Clairigh headed for Stob Ban. He went down Coire Rath in mist, slipped and felt pain in ankle. Stayed out overnight. Walked down by Glen Nevis and was located in Belford Hospital. Lochaber and Kinloss MRTs, SARDA and RN Sea King from HMS Gannet spent all day searching. 425.
- OCTOBER 8 – Two people overdue from Mamores, They turned up, one with a slight injury. 0
- OCTOBER 14 – Climbing club and coach waited at Laggan for a member who was snug at home in Edinburgh. He had come off the hill and hitched a lift home.
- OCTOBER 17 – Glen Banchor. Setting out at noon to walk the three hour Wildcat Trail (a low level route at Newtonmore) a walker (67) had not returned at 19.30. He deviated deliberately and went into the Monadhliath hills. He got lost. It got dark. He dug in. He was found by chance by a gamekeeper out spotlighting. Cairngorm MRT searched the area as told by his wife. 42.
- NOVEMBER 7 – Staff member fell 1m from working platform at Nevis Range causing back injuries. Airlift to Fort William by RAF Sea King and Lochaber MRT. 10.

CAIRNGORMS

- 2000 Late reports:** SEPTEMBER 3 – Track in Glen Tanar successfully searched by Grampian Police MRT for boy (14) who had walked off from his group. 6.
- SEPTEMBER 10 – Man (74) took longer than he expected to bike to Derry Lodge and climb Angel's Peak. Walked off OK. Braemar MRT. 4.
- SEPTEMBER 10 – Male overdue. He had intended to do the round of Devil's Point, Cairn Toul and Angel's Peak but he was late back to his car. Braemar MRT. 4.
- NOVEMBER 15 – Walking along the south bank of the River Dee 1km east of Ballater, man (84) injured a leg climbing a stile. Ambulance Service dealt with him, but needed Grampian Police and Braemar MRTs to get him across rough ground and up a steep bank. 6.
- NOVEMBER 19 – Braemar, Kinloss, Kintail, Tayside and Torridon MRT members stretchered a member of HMCG off the Northern Cairngorms. Patient was on difficult terrain suffering an ankle injury. 15.
- DECEMBER 17 – Descending Glas Allt to Loch Muick a party of three Dutch walkers met slight snow conditions on the path. Male (37) slipped and sustained a spiral tibia and fibula fracture. Airlifted by RAF Sea King with Braemar and Grampian Police MRTs. 54.
- DECEMBER 23 – Overdue party of three males (47, 40, 40) delayed by a party ahead in Raeburn's Gully, Lochnagar got back to carpark OK and checked in. Braemar MRT. 9.
- DECEMBER 29 – Hydro Board workers reported red flares seen in Lairig Ghru. Inquiry stood down. 3.
- DECEMBER 31-January 1, 2001 – Pair of male walkers (31, 30) climbed Lochnagar in severe blizzard conditions forecast well in advance. Overdue from the hill they got stuck driving down Glen Muick. Grampian Police, Braemar and Kinloss MRTs were called out. RAF Sea King was unable to get to Ballater due to severe weather. Cars (see next report) dug out of 2m drifts by a council snowplough and digger and all stood down at 01.00. 109.
- DECEMBER 31-January 1, 2001 – Another party (f28, males 45, 35, 33) climbed Lochnagar the same day, meeting deep snow throughout and getting stuck in their car (as in above rescue). Both cars dug out.
- 2001 JANUARY-JUNE 4 – Body of male previously reported missing in January was found on the side of Bennachie at the foot of a waterfall. Braemar MRT recovered his body to the roadside on June 4. 36.
- JANUARY 7 – Canoeist with head injuries lifted from Randolph's Leap, River Findhorn by RAF Sea King. 8.
- JANUARY 9 – Male (36) collapsed in Coire an t-Sneachda 1.6km from ski car park. He lost balance and power of his legs. A call by mobile phone brought RAF Sea King airlift to Raigmore. Discharged later with no cause established. 12.
- JANUARY 14 – Two men (67, 39) and a woman (43) badly timed their climb of Raeburn's Gully, Lochnagar and were overdue. Grampian Police MRT. 9.
- JANUARY 14-15 – Walker (41) alone on Mayar, and unaccompanied except by two dogs, was unequipped with navigation equipment. He got lost and used his mobile phone. Information was completely erroneous leading to a lengthy search in mist and darkness by Tayciv and Taypol MRTs and SARDA. RAF Sea King attended but was unable to descend through cloud. He was found OK and aided down by 04.00. 160.
- JANUARY 18 – Man suffered knee injury when ice-axe braking with a training group at the Goat Track, Coire an-t Sneachda, Cairngorm. Stretcher from box used. Cairngorm MRT and RAF Sea King. 9.

- JANUARY 21 – First of two walkers on Glas Maol went through cornice falling 100m out of sight of his companion. Second male got lost in mist. Braemar MRT found them well. 53.
- JANUARY 21 – Braemar, Leuchars and Tayciv MRTs called out for two lost skiers, one with a slight hip injury. Found on Glas Maol, in closed piste area, sheltering in a hut. 62.
- JANUARY 21-22 – Winter Corrie of Driesh was searched till 03.30 on 22nd when two experienced climbers (38, 36) were overdue without having left route cards. Both Tayside teams, SARDA and Leuchars MRT widened search at first light. RAF helicopter was turned back by bad weather. Both men were found dead, one buried and one partly buried in avalanche debris at the foot of B Gully in Corrie Fee of Mayar. Both had sustained injuries which would have been instantly fatal. From body positions and gear it appeared they were descending when they fell, or were avalanched. They were roped together but the rope had broken. Both wore helmets and used full winter climbing gear. Stretchered down to a 4x4. 434.
- JANUARY 22 – Party of three got separated on Carn Aosda when male without map and compass went to retrieve a lost glove. A93 road and ski complex were being evacuated due to weather. Braemar MRT found him on edge of piste area lost and cold. 22.
- JANUARY 26 – Other climbers reported concern for two they met in Raeburn's Gully, Lochnagar, but Braemar MRT found them safe and well in their planned bothy. 5.
- FEBRUARY 3 – At 12.30 informant had seen party of six at Hutchison Hut, Coire Etchachan and reported them missing at 22.00 from Linn of Dee. They soon turned up. 2.
- FEBRUARY 3 – Ten walkers attempting Bynack More retreated early. With compass, but no map, they ended up in Nethy Bridge, not Glenmore, and took a taxi. Cairngorm MRT stood down before searching. 3.
- FEBRUARY 3 – Two men (33, 20) slightly injured and hypothermic from being cragfast in The Runnel in Coire an t-Sneachda. Rescue by Cairngorm MRT. 70.
- FEBRUARY 3-4 – All Deeside MRTs searched bothies and tracks of Glens Clunie and Callater. A car had been left in storm conditions, but pair had camped as planned in Coire Fionn. A93 was closed for three days by the snowfall. 180.
- FEBRUARY 10 – Two men and two women missed marked piste on Meall Odhar in strong winds and snow falling and used mobile phone. They were searched for by Braemar MRT member in a pister on the ridge to the north. Phoned instructions were given and they got down to A93 at foot of Coire Fionn. 3.
- FEBRUARY 10 – Braemar MRT member on ski-bike searched ridge south from Meall Odhar ski area for a party of three who had strayed from the piste in poor weather. With mobile phone instructions they got down to A93 1km south of the old Devil's Elbow. 5.
- FEBRUARY 10-11 – Man (35) and woman (20) completed Look C Gully in Corrie Fee of Mayar. Attempting to return to glen, without map or compass, they were unable to descend in mist, darkness and freezing conditions. They were found walking out next day having overnighted in a snow cave. Large avalanche did not contribute to incident. Tayside, Kinloss, Leuchars MRTs, Taypol SARU, SARDA, RAF Sea King. 271.
- FEBRUARY 17 – Coire an t-Sneachda, Cairngorm. Leading Broken Gully Direct on first pitch with two pieces of protection. Unable to get in third, in a precarious position, pick pulled turf off rock and leader (36) fell 12m fracturing both of his left ankle malleoli. He had been held by the last piece of protection (highest ?).

- He was lowered two rope lengths then met at bottom by Braemar, Cockermouth, Edale, Glenmore and Penrith MRTs. 43.
- FEBRUARY 18 – Rock climbing unroped on Knock of Balmyle, near Bridge of Cally, Glenshee, male (37) fell about 4m fracturing his ankle. Airlift by RAF Sea King and Tpol MRT. 10.
- FEBRUARY 22 – Man on a three-day snow-holing expedition with a companion on Braeriach, broke his leg. Braemar MRT used Kassbohrer to get into Lairig Ghru. Casualty (30) airlifted by R137 RAF Sea King. 142.
- FEBRUARY 23 – Having almost completed South East Gully, Creag an Dubh-Loch unroped man (21) collapsed the cornice (snow was falling at the time) which swept him down for 200m. Unable to stop with his ice-axe; on using his feet his crampons tripped him. Suffering bruised and swollen ankle and leg cuts he was able to walk down with the help of his two friends. Carried to Glas-Allt-Shiel then evacuated by police Land-Rover. 11.
- FEBRUARY 26 – Male (42) stumbled in Coire an t-Sneachda injuring his ankle. Carried off by his party of 10 and several Glenmore Lodge staff in the area. 32.
- FEBRUARY 26 – Man's map blew away on the summit of Geal Charn (Water of Caiplich/Ailnach). Given a bearing by Cairngorm MRT he self-evacuated in falling snow to Forest Lodge, Abernethy. 35.
- MARCH 4 – False alarm and search caused by car left by cross-country skier near Cairnwell. He had hitched a lift home. Braemar MRT. 15.
- MARCH 7 – Using a mobile phone, two men (31, 27) lost in Coire Raibeirt of Cairngorm were traced by Glenmore Lodge MRT. Braemar and Cairngorm MRTs involved. 128.
- APRIL 1-2 – Both Tayside teams and SARDA spent eight hours searching plantations etc. in Glen Clova for a man (51) who walked down the glen and had decided he wanted to die in the hills. He had been met by a number of people. Heavy rain before midnight flushed him out of hiding. RAF Sea King cancelled *en route*. He required mental assessment. 79.
- APRIL 4 – False alarm caused by car left at Glenshee Complex when skier had gone home. 3.
- APRIL 6 – Poor belay in Raeburn's Gully, Lochnagar contributed to a fall of 180m by a rope of two men (47, 43) one of whom suffered a broken femur, and the other serious head injuries. RAF MRT in the area called R137 which airlifted the casualties. Braemar and Grampian Police also called out. 20.
- APRIL 7-8 – Pair of men (37, 30) completed Shadow Buttress A, Lochnagar at 23.30. Braemar MRT was alerted by their friend. RAF Sea King found them descending Glas Allt near Loch Muick, not their intended route, and lifted them to Ballater. 16.
- APRIL 8 – Mobile call from girl (15) cragfast with ankle injury at Cullykhan Bay, Pennan. RAF Sea King scrambled with Banff and Gardenstown Coastguard. Police got on scene first and walked her off and sent her to hospital. 26.
- APRIL 8 – Unroped, with a companion, ascending a snow-covered ridge at Coire Dhondail from Gleann Einich, a female (32) slipped and slid 75m into small boulders. She sustained five fractures to lower right leg. Airlifted by RAF R137. Cairngorm MRT informed. 12.
- APRIL 8 – Solo climbing Raeburn's Gully, Lochnagar, man (48) was trying to get over the cornice. Part of it collapsed and he fell back a few metres. He phoned saying he was stuck just below cornice with no rope to get back down the ice pitch. RAF Sea King lifted Braemar MRT to plateau. A rope was lowered to him and he was hoisted by pulley system uninjured. 27.

- APRIL 10 – Man (49) with three sons (17, 15, 9) crossed Lairig Ghru from Whitewell to Corrour Bothy where they overnighted on 9th. Returning on 10th all four, especially the youngest, got wet and cold. A tent was pitched at Pools of Dee and father went for help. Group was airlifted to Glenmore Lodge by R137 RAF Sea King. 11.
- APRIL 17 – Two men (27, 25) climbed Goat Track Gully but were unable to descend the Goat Track due to severe weather and decided to go round to Coire Cas. They went adrift and reached Loch Avon. They walked out over Cairngorm and down Coire na Ciste. The two men were found by Cairngorm MRT on the Coire na Ciste Ski Road. SARDA involved. 42.
- MAY 12 – Descending Mounth Road from Mount Keen to Glen Tanar in hot weather, man (52) broke his ankle. Rescue was by RAF Puma helicopter with members of Braemar and Kinloss MRTs. 26.
- MAY 15-17 – Attempting solo Cairngorms crossing to Braemar, man (34) got lost (calm weather with sleet). Thinking he was in Lairig Ghru he phoned for location but said he could not walk off due to blisters. He was found by RAF Sea King on the SW slopes of Angel's Peak, 1km NNW of Loch nan Stuirteag and 4km off course, cold but uninjured. He was airlifted to Glenmore Lodge, where he decided no medical help was needed. Braemar and Kinloss MRTs. 50.
- MAY 16-18 – On a two-day walk through Lairig Ghru man (80) suffered a stroke during evening of 17th. He was lifted by Air Ambulance and Braemar MRT to Raigmore Hospital on 18th. 14.
- MAY 16-18 – Companion (male 82) of the above casualty walked out 6km from the location on the morning of 18th, to Robbers Copse where he met other walkers who alerted rescuers. Suffering from exhaustion and hypothermia, he in turn was airlifted, but to Braemar and attended by the local doctor. RAF and RN Sea Kings involved, Braemar and RAF St. Athan MRTs. 14.
- MAY 19 – Accompanied walker (56) ascending Meall Odhar and Glas Maol track from Cairnwell ski complex suffered an angina attack. Two MR members (Grampian Police and RAF St. Athan) recovered him to the roadside in a Land-Rover. 2.
- MAY 22 – Walking on cliffs at night with a friend, teenager (18) got separated. His body was found at foot of cliffs at Slough of Downie, Stonehaven, by Maritime Rescue International. HMCG and RAF Sea King involved.
- MAY 26-27 – Pair of walkers (f42, m37) descended into Glen Isla with snow falling and a strong wind. They were found at Dalhally by Aberdeen MRT next morning, trying to make their way back to Braemar. 90.
- MAY 26-27 – Descending Beinn Bhrotain walker (27) tripped and fractured an ankle. His companion helped him down into Glen Dee where they camped. His companion walked out next day. Braemar MRT rescued him by Land-Rover. 15.
- JUNE 9 – Man (41) leading a climb at Red Craig, Glen Clova in good weather was near the top of the climb at 12m. He had two runners placed. Leader fell after pulling a rock away from the crag. Top runner failed. He fell to the bottom of the cliff striking his belayer. The leader landed on his back and broke his neck – resulting in paralysis. The dislodged rock fell and resulted in the leader also suffering a severed hand. Taypol MRT and RAF Sea King. 25.
- JUNE 10 – Well overdue at 21.50 walker (68) had left Linn of Dee at 06.00 to cross the Lairig Ghru. Cairngorm MRT found him at the north end and walked him out slowly to Rothiemurchus Lodge by 00.30. Having been severely impeded by the boulder field he was OK, just tired. 75.

- JUNE 15 – Walker (64) stumbled descending Craigendarroch, Ballater, fracturing an ankle. Stretchered to road by Braemar MRT. 8.
- JUNE 17 – Man (66) stumbled descending path south near summit of Mither Tap, Bennachie, injuring his ankle. Companion used mobile phone. Airlift was cancelled because casualty made good progress down the mountain and was uplifted by Grampian Police MRT Land-Rover. 6.
- JUNE 22 – Descending Creag Choinnich (538m) at Braemar, woman (74) slipped on scree on the path, fracturing an ankle. Only five Braemar MRT rescued her on a double-wheeled MacInnes stretcher. 5.
- JUNE 23 – Female climber suffered injury to her left hand by rock fall when descending gully next to Afterthought Arete, Stag Rocks of Cairngorm, RAF MRT training in the area searched. Glenmore Lodge MRT in the area found casualty. Braemar MRT and helicopter involved. Casualty evacuated. 41.
- JUNE 28 – Accompanied by her husband on a walk in Glen Quoich, Braemar, wife (64) fell because of an old injury, fracturing a femur. Recovered by Braemar and Grampian Police MRTs assisting Ambulance Service. 6.
- JULY 3 – Gully walker (13) with organised group on Morrone suffered a twisted ankle. His party recovered him to the foot of the gully whence he was uplifted by Braemar MRT. 4.
- JULY 3 – Male walker with heat exhaustion near Derry Lodge recovered by Braemar MRT. 5.
- JULY 5-15 – Man working on path (53) camping at Hutchison Refuge, Glen Derry, failed to turn up for work. His tent and belongings were still there. Area was extensively searched by Aberdeen, Braemar, Cairngorm, Grampian Police, Kinloss, Leuchars MRTs, SARDA and RAF helicopter. Found at Corrour 10 days later, unaware of concern. 1350.
- JULY 10 – Three on an award expedition were unable to complete it. Suffering mild hypothermia, tired and wet they were uplifted by Braemar MRT from Derry Lodge. 6.
- JULY 16 – Intending to cross from Glen Clova to Glen Muick walker (46) must have taken Glen Doll instead of Upper Clova. Found on Jock's Road by helicopter. Aberdeen MRT.
- JULY 16-17 – Walking Lairig Ghru north to south, two were reported overdue. Braemar MRT found them at midnight on the White Bridge Track tired and wet. 2.
- JULY 21 – In a party of seven in Coire an Lochain of Cairn Lochan, schoolgirl (14) suffering asthma and dehydration was lifted by RAF Sea King to Raigmore Hospital and treated with oxygen *en route*. 8.
- JULY 30-31 – Two youths (15) reported overdue from walk over Bennachie. Found by Braemar MRT near to Rowantree Carpark at 04.00. 18.
- JULY 31 – Having completed the round from Lochnagar, woman (67) descending Broad Cairn took Ibuprofen Plus for slight back pain, unaware the tablets contained codeine. Suffering an acute allergic reaction she had to be helped down by her three companions, one of whom used a mobile phone. Met by Grampian Police MRT east of the Black Burn above Loch Muick she was conveyed to ambulance at Spittal. 2.
- AUGUST 12 – Near site of the former Sinclair Refuge in Lairig Ghru, male (40) member of a climbing club with 29 companions sustained a slight knee injury. RAF Sea King on exercise at Braemar lifted him to Glenmore Lodge, but medical attention was not needed. 10.

SEPTEMBER 2 – Cragfast man (22) was lowered from 50m cliffs at Auchmithie, Arbroath uninjured. HMCg, RNLI boats and fire service involved. RAF Boulmer Sea King standby.

SEPTEMBER 2 – Pair retreated early from Ben Macdui ascent and reported their three friends, whose descent from the summit had been delayed by mist, overdue. The three men turned up OK at Linn of Dee at 22.30. Braemar MRT. 9.

SEPTEMBER 10 – Party of four (all over 50) lost on Macdui plateau admitted by mobile phone to a husband that they were somewhat frightened. In rain and mist at Lochan Bhuidhe they found the path to Cairngorm and told police they were fine. They got to a large cairn on blocks (which was spot height 1141m) but their map was a pulpy mess and they did not know how to take a bearing. They were talked down by Glenmore Lodge and Cairngorm MRTs over nearly four hours. 10.

This rescue and recent similar ones raise worrying questions. Who is to blame if the party comes to grief? Rescuers can only offer help on the information given. The choice of decision will remain with the lost persons and this should be made clear.

SEPTEMBER 10 – Braemar MRT checked Land-Rover track for overdue walkers on Ben Macdui. They were found making their way off the hill. 1.

SEPTEMBER 19 – Man phoned Cairngorm MRT at 22.00 reporting his wife and others overdue. They had left Bruar with horses and were coming over the Minigaig Pass to Glen Feshie ETA 18.00. Team leader said he would give it some thought. They turned up at 22.25. Neigh bother! 1.

OCTOBER 6 – Walker fractured an ankle descending gully to rear of Corndavon Lodge. He was given Entonox and splinted, then stretchered to Land-Rover by Braemar MRT. 33.

OCTOBER 13 – Walking with friends, walker (male 51) died after collapsing on Mullach Clach a' Bhlair, Glenfeshie. Airlifted by RAF Sea King to Raigmore Hospital. 8.

OCTOBER 14 – Braemar MRT in a Land-Rover checked from Loch Muick to Gelder Shiel. Woman poorly equipped for heavy rain had been reported. Nothing found. 6.

OCTOBER 14 – Concern for object which may have been a person in Lairig Ghru seen from shoulder of Ben Macdui. Check of carparks and bothies revealed nothing unusual. Braemar. 9.

OCTOBER 17 – Braemar MRT found overdue walkers making their way off Ben Macdui. 2.

OCTOBER 25 – Female(18) descending Morrone path in rain towards Braemar had a slight disagreement with her friend and they separated. She got lost and phoned Grampian Police MRT on her mobile. She was quickly found and walked off. 6.

OCTOBER 27 – Well equipped walker (39) in rain, mist and darkness panicked and phoned. From conversation with Cairngorm MRT leader it was decided he was at spot height 1141m, Fiacaill a'Choire Chais (see incident of September 10). He was given a bearing to descend on and was met an hour later at Coire Cas zig-zags. 18.

OCTOBER 28-29 – Lost trying to descend Ben Macdui by Sron Riach (the route of ascent) man (41) and woman (33) found themselves looking down on Loch Morlich. They went east via Loch Avon. Having known about Fords of Avon Refuge they reached it at 21.00 and spent an uncomfortable night there. They walked out south by Lairig an Laoigh. Braemar MRT and RAF Rescue 137 helicopter had searched for them. 52.

- OCTOBER 30-31 – Three men working at Bynack Lodge were unable to return across a spate river they had crossed in the morning. Braemar MRT passed food and gear across for them to survive. They were extracted safe and well next morning.
- NOVEMBER 4 – Two men (38, 30) without compass, torch or whistle, lost in snow and mist on Ben Macdui, alerted Braemar and Cairngorm MRTs by mobile and search started as darkness fell. RAF Sea King had been diverted to Beinn an Dothaidh but was asked to look in Cairngorms when returning to Lossiemouth. Men had got down to Loch Avon and camera flash was spotted by the helicopter. Men advised to buy a compass. 86.
- DECEMBER 2 – Walker (59) had forgotten his crampons. At Ben Vrackie summit, descending, he slipped on ice and hurt his ankle. He declined help from passers-by, but someone let on and he was found by police 4x4 on lower slopes. Transported to his car he declined medical attention at the time. Later he went to his local hospital and was diagnosed with a fractured fibula.
- DECEMBER 13-14 – Solo walker (67) got lost on Tolmount from Glen Clova. He spent a long time trying to find return path. Followed river down to waterfall north of Craig Maud, Glen Doll; then climbed on to cliffs of Craig Maud. His torch was not working so he stayed put. Seeing rescuers overnight he had no whistle so was unable to signal. Next day he walked to near the bothy on Jock's Road where he was met rescuers. Braemar, Leuchars, Tayciv, Taypol MRTs. RAF Sea King turned back *en route*. 321.
- DECEMBER 17 – On Cairn of Barns, Glen Clova in good weather, in a party of five, man (71) collapsed after feeling unwell. He was airlifted to Ninewells, Dundee by RAF Sea King but was dead on arrival. Death thought to be due to a heart attack. Taypol MRT. 10.
- DECEMBER 25-26 – Party of four spent Christmas at Shelter Stone of Loch Avon. One man had sickness and diarrhoea for more than 12 hours. Two walked to the Saddle and phoned. Braemar and Cairngorm MRTs prepared for a long carry out, but eventually, Rescue 137 lifted him to Aviemore where he refused treatment. Helicopter had many problems returning to Lossiemouth due to adverse weather; landing at Kinveachy A95, refuel at Glenmore Lodge, Slochd summit A9, and Ballater A93. 177.
- DECEMBER 27-28 – Climbing Aladdin's Mirror Direct going up an unknown line higher up, in Coire an t-Sneachda, woman (32) was in the lead below the soft cornice when it gave way. She fell 30m pulling her husband (40) behind. They bounced and rolled another 150m before stopping in deep soft snow, sustaining leg and chest injuries, cuts and bruises. Snow was falling at the time. Nearby climbers helped and dug a snow shelter. Cairngorm MRT alerted at 17.30 by the woman's phone stretchered them out (snow giving considerable help for sledging stretchers) just after midnight. Kinloss MRT called out but turned back at Grantown. 286.
- DECEMBER 31-JANUARY 1, 2002 – Husband and wife cragfast 60m from top of Fiacail Couloir, Coire an t-Sneachda at 18.15 Hogmanay. CB radio message picked up by a camper. RAF helicopter used but could not transport Cairngorm MRT to plateau because of poor visibility. Couple were roped up to top of climb then walked off the hill at 03.15. Team celebrated New Year by firing a flare and singing *Hail Caledonia*. 108.
- DECEMBER 31 – Man and woman were reported overdue from Coire an Lochan, Cairn Lochan at 21.00 but they turned up OK.

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS

- Date? 2001 – Girl (2) missing from home had pushed her buggy into woodland at Callander Craig 750m from home. Killin MRT searched. She was found well by a passer-by on a path (Lower Wood Walk) in good weather at 12.40 hours. 4.
- JANUARY 2-3 – Without map or compass two men (36, 25) separated from nine colleagues (see following narrative) and were not seen by them again that day. They had sped off at start and climbed Ben Lomond. Descending, they had gone off east 8km into Loch Ard Forest. Cold and completely lost they met Water Authority personnel, (aware of the massive search) and were picked up by police at 10.00 having spent the night under trees. Lomond, Killin, Ochils MRTs, SARDA. 228.
- JANUARY 2-3 – Party of nine (see above incident), ill-equipped (some wearing trainers and jeans on snowy hillsides, wet underfoot) set out to climb Ben Lomond by the normal route. Group of six (the middle group) went to the summit, then got lost in mist on descent following footprints. Two of this middle group took the only map and compass and returned to Rowardennan to raise the alarm at 17.45 hours. The other four, plus two independent walkers who had followed the same footprints, were found by Lomond team, all suffering hypothermia, at Ref 385003 going down Moineach path east to Loch Ard Forest. They were evacuated by RN helicopter before midnight. Group of three (the last group) had not made it to the top. They had met the middle group, but rested and decided to turn back. They had strayed from the recognised route on descent but got back to Rowardennan about 19.00. Killin and Lomond MRTs and SARDA had searched; later calling in Ochils MRT. 200.
- JANUARY 2-3 – Rescuer (55) climbing Ben Lomond to act as radio link for search (previous incidents) fell through a snow bridge, causing hyper-extension of a knee. He agreed to delayed evacuation while his companion continued up to establish the link. He was evacuated by Rescue 177 (RN Sea King) after six missing persons had been airlifted. His injury required a cast for 10 weeks, a quad tendon having been detached from his patella. 6.
- JANUARY 20 – Woman (49) one of 15 walkers, slipped on icy, wet path on the east slopes of Dumyat injuring her ankle. Stretchered off by Ochils MRT. 17.
- JANUARY 24 – Lost in the Ochils, in rough and remote Fin Glen, man (63) and woman (50) were found by RN Sea King on the second afternoon, suffering from hypothermia. It is doubtful if they would have survived a second night out in gale, rain mist and sleet. Searches by Police, SARDA, Ochils and Leuchars MRTs. 258.
- JANUARY 26 – Male (30) tripped on steep, snow/ice slope descending Grey Heights of Cruach Ardrain sustaining a leg fracture. One of his party of five phoned. RN helicopter could not reach him due to storm/snow conditions. Stretcher lowered and carried to ambulance on forest road by Killin MRT. 165.
- FEBRUARY 9 – Wearing crampons, descending névé and ice on path of South Ridge, Ben Ledi, walker (67) slipped and broke his leg (tibia/fibula). Airlifted by RAF and Killin MRT. Needed surgery in hospital.
- FEBRUARY 10 – Abandoning an attempt to get to the top of Ben Lui a party of 11 was descending north. At Ciochan Beinn Laoigh three slipped on hard snow and fell 3m-5m which caused back and neck injuries, none serious. All were equipped with ice-axes and crampons. Casualties airlifted by RN Sea King and others escorted by Killin MRT. 132.

FEBRUARY 24 – A hillwalker (27) suffered leg and shoulder injuries, or fractures, and bruising when she fell in the area of Central Gully, Ben Lui. Position reported by companion on mobile phone. She was airlifted by RN Sea King. Killin MRT informed but engaged in another incident on Ben More.

FEBRUARY 24 – In freezing weather, with snow falling, and mist an engineer (40) tripped on his crampons on neve close to the summit of Ben More, Crianlarich. He managed to ice-axe brake but fractured an ankle. Rescue 177 helicopter from HMS Gannet attended but could not reach casualty who was stretchered down by Killin MRT. 210.

FEBRUARY 25 – In good, freezing weather, walker (29) stumbled and hurt his ankle at the col between Ben More and Stob Binnein. Casualty evacuated by RN Sea King and two companions escorted by Killin MRT. 43.

FEBRUARY 25-28 – Rescuers were alerted at 21.00 for a woman (30) who had failed to return. She had separated from her companion at Bealach a' Mhaim (between Beinn Ime and Beinn Narnain) intending to return SE over Beinn Narnain descending via Spearhead Arête and Cruach nam Miseag to car at Succoth by 18.30. Extensive searches, extending each day, were carried out on Beinn Narnain and the Cobbler from 25th to 28th by Arrochar, Kinloss, Leuchars, Lomond, Stafford and Strathpol MRTs, SARDA, RAF and RN helicopters. On 28th a glove was found on east side of A'Chrois by a hillwalker. The teams searched there and soon found her body NE of A' Chrois summit at altitude 600m. She was 3.3km ENE of Bealach a' Mhaim. She had an ice-axe but did not appear to have worn crampons. She must have slipped down gully on hard snow. She was evacuated by Strathclyde Police helicopter. 2,340.

APRIL 1 – Walker (27) developed back pain on Cobbler summit. He managed to walk down but with pain getting worse. Companion went down and called out Arrochar and Strathpol MRTs who met him west of Allt a' Bhalachain, about 20 minutes from road, and stretchered him down. 20.

APRIL 11 – Hillwalker (27) stumbled descending from the Steeple, Lochgoilhead, fracturing his ankle. Arrochar and Strathpol MRTs actioned. Airlift by police helicopter. 53.

APRIL 21 – Walker (68) slipped on the Ben A'n footpath suffering arm fracture and head cuts. She was shocked and required stretchering off by Killin MRT. 21.

MAY 15-16 – As Arrochar and Strathpol MRTs prepared to search for three overdue Dutch male hillwalkers they returned OK from a trip to The Cobbler/Beinn Narnain. 11.

JUNE 3 – Girl (9) got separated from her family on a walk up Conic Hill, Balmaha. Lomond MRT assembled for search as she turned up safe. 11.

JUNE 3-4 – Lomond MRT, five SARDA dogs and police searched low level land to north of Campsie Fells for boy who had run away from home. He was reported as having been walking in that area, but found in Glasgow Youth Hostel. 51.

JUNE 9 – Walker (29), one of eight, scrambling down South Peak of The Cobbler slipped and fell 30m. Reached by RN Sea King and RAF Leeming MRT on exercise. Dead on arrival at Glasgow SG Hospital. 20.

JUNE 9 – Four of the party of eight involved in the above incident got cragfast on South Face of Cobbler South Peak. They were rescued using their own gear in modified abseils, then, shocked, were airlifted to Arrochar. Arrochar, Leeming and Strathclyde Police MRTs.

JUNE 13 – In a party of 24 descending the Cobbler by Allt a' Bhalachain path, a schoolboy (15) jumped down a short distance aggravating an old leg injury. He

walked till pain worsened. Stretched down some way by Arrochar and Strathpol MRTs to a track, then evacuated to ambulance by Land-Rover. 18.

JUNE 16 – Walker (42) tripped descending the normal route on Ben Lomond in good weather. She sustained facial injuries and may have been unconscious for moments. Her female companion used a mobile phone. Stretchered to Land Rover by Lomond MRT. Discharged from hospital after treatment and X-rays. 37.

JUNE 25 – Deceased (m42) was walking with a friend on Beinn Ime. Short of time they decided to descend below Fan Gully to Coirriegrogan, the friend went in front. Reporter heard a noise and looked round to see deceased fall on to a ledge then roll on down the river bed. He covered him with a jacket then ran down the Hydro Road till he could get a phone signal. On returning he was not sure where the fall had happened. Strathclyde Police and Arrochar MRTs searched. Body was found by RN helicopter and airlifted to Vale of Leven Hospital. 33.

JULY 3-4 – Family picnicked at Ardleish Bay. Boat took all but two back to Ardlui at about 22.00. Boat returned but man (85) had wandered off. He was found by Strathclyde Police MRT in a bog and located by shouts, just off West Highland Way suffering exhaustion and hypothermia. He was stretchered to boat which had navigated about 2km up River Falloch from Loch Lomond. Team finished at 05.30. 65.

JULY 10 – Man (20) found by dog search distressed and suffering mild hypothermia at about 250m, crouching under whins on Myreton Hill, Menstrie. Stretchered off by Ochils MRT at 22.00 hours. He had left a suicide note and phone message of his intentions. Overflown by RN Sea King and attempting to attract helicopter crew, he had not been detected despite thermal imaging. 96.

JULY 14 – With a companion descending Ben'Donich in mist and rain, towards Rest and be Thankful, a woman (61) slipped and fell 150m sustaining very extensive injuries. Found and stabilised by Arrochar and Strathpol MRTs. Airlift by RN Sea King. 72.

JULY 16 – Walking couple on Overton Muir (287m) above Alexandria consumed a picnic which consisted of a bottle of whisky. An argument ensued and husband stormed off. He reported wife (41) missing after dark when she had not come home. Lost, she was found uninjured by Strathpol MRT and police dog. 18.

AUGUST 8 – Lone, male mountain biker on rocky Bealach nam Bo (near Goblin's Cave, Loch Katrine) got into difficulties and phoned. Lomond MRT alerted and Water Authority Rescue Boat was sent from east end of Katrine. He was talked down and rescued by boat, tired but uninjured.

AUGUST 9 – Woman (84) suffered a mild stroke when walking with family at Keltie Water, a beauty spot very close to Callander. Ambulance crew attended and requested Killin MRT assistance for evacuation.

AUGUST 9 – Lomond MRT, Luss rescue boat, police and ambulance were all involved when a walker (60) fell on rockiest part of West Highland Way, near Rob Roy's Cave, 1.5km north of Inversnaid. Lagging behind four younger people, he fell and sustained serious head injuries and a broken arm. They found him and used a mobile phone. Immediate rescue was by a fisherman who used his boat to transport casualty and three of party to Inversnaid. 29.

AUGUST 24 – Wearing flat-soled fashion shoes, with soles like deck shoes, a woman (45) fell and broke her ankle on grass, shortly after leaving the path at Bealach nam Bo, Ben Venue. In good weather she was stretchered off by Killin MRT. 23.

- AUGUST 26 – Woman (60) suffered probable leg fracture from a slip on the east side of Ben Venue. Evacuation by RN Sea King with Lomond MRT back-up. 26.
- SEPTEMBER 11-12 – Middle-aged Canadian phoned police twice as he walked West Highland Way in darkness. Lomond MRT searched because he had angina and was making little progress. He was found by Luss rescue boat using a powerful torch. 29.
- OCTOBER 7 – Descending Beinn a' Chreachain on the wrong side, two women (37, 30) were benighted too far up the Water of Tulla, and at one point stuck in a bog. They used mobile phone but could not keep in contact with Strathclyde Police MRT. Team saw their lights as they walked on the railway. Escorted to 4x4. 6.
- OCTOBER 21 – In a party of two, woman (40) slipped on Meall Ghaordie in mist and rain, fracturing an ankle. Mobile phone was used. Found by Killin MRT and stretchered to airlift by RN Sea King. 128.
- OCTOBER 21-22 – Benighted by faulty navigation in rainy weather over the Beinn Achalladair Munros, two women (45, 35) were found by MRT search on the SE slopes of Beinn a' Chreachain. They were walked out 6km to waiting vehicle at Gorton Bothy by 08.30. Mobile phone had been carried but there was no signal. Arrochar, Oban, Strathclyde Police MRTs and SARDA involved. 258.
- OCTOBER 27 – Walker (50s) in a party of two was reported 1.5km from where she was, having turned her ankle on steep ground due east of Glenmassan (hamlet?), Cowal. Benmore Adventure Centre was called out for first response, backed up by Arrochar and Strathclyde Police MRTs. Stretchered off. 42.
- OCTOBER 28 – With three companions in good weather a walker (57) fell near Ben Glas Burn on Beinn Chabhair, breaking his leg. Evacuation by RN helicopter and Killin MRT. 94.
- NOVEMBER 4 – Man (55) collapsed with chest pains in Coire an Dothaidh, Bridge of Orchy. Oban called Glencoe MRT who were taken up by keeper with Argocat. Defibrillator used to monitor patient with obvious cardiac rhythm problems due to anterior wall MI. Stretchered off. RAF Sea King on exercise airlifted him to Belford Hospital. 38.
- NOVEMBER 18 – In a large party, walker (65) suffering illness was stretchered off by Ochils MRT. He had been in hospital the previous day for a chest/heart check-up. 25.
- NOVEMBER 20 – Light reported at 17.30 flashing for over an hour on east face of Ben Ledi. Killin MRT found forest worker repairing machinery. False alarm with good intent. 12.

SKYE

- 2000 Late Reports:** JULY 22 – Three Kinloss MRT undertaking Main Ridge traverse came across a pair of climbers, one with a sprained ankle. Others were called and pair were lifted by HMCG helicopter in good weather. 24.
- DECEMBER 27 2000 – Search by Skye and Kinloss MRTs, HMCG and RAF helicopters for two missing fishermen. One had moored his boat 7km south of his intended harbour in S. Skye. Footprints were found 3km inland and he was found by SARDA handler 6km east from last known position. Second fisherman missing from same harbour was found by a passing boat hanging to the hull of his craft, then airlifted to Broadford with core temperature of 31 degrees. 450.
- 2001:** JANUARY 29 – Three walkers (f 20, f 19, m18) scrambled up to the base of the

- pinnacle, Old Man of Storr and got cragfast due to icy, slippery rock and strong wind gusts. Aided down by Skye MRT. 13.
- APRIL 15 – Her husband tried to catch her, but a woman (46) who slipped on wet rock at a narrow part of the Quiraing path, fell 24m down a steep, grass gully. Passers-by and Skye MRT in the area helped till paramedics arrived. She had a dislocated shoulder, general bruising and hypothermia. Although only 200m from road, due to steepness of the hill she was lifted by HMCG helicopter to Broadford Hospital. 18.
- MAY 5 – On Sgurr Thormaia a female (48) was struck on the leg by a falling rock dislodged by one of her five companions. Morphine and a leg splint were used to treat her fracture and she was winched by RAF Sea King, Kinloss and Skye MRTs. Good weather. 159.
- MAY 13-14 – Having taken longer than expected to complete the Dubhs Ridge, two men (70, 69) overnighted at Coruisk Hut, returning to Elgol at first light. Due to the pair's experience and the good weather, call-out was delayed till 10.00, and they got back soon after. 8.
- MAY 22 – Leading Wallwork's Route, Sron na Ciche male (20) went for a handhold which came away. The rock struck his head and face. He was slightly injured although wearing a helmet. Skye MRT on the hill at the time searched for him. Others walked him off the hill and he was airlifted to Broadford by HMCG. 48.
- MAY 28-29 – Starting at 09.00 on 28th, exhausted but uninjured man (40) and woman (39) walked out to Glenbrittle at 18.00 on 29th having been delayed by navigation in mist and gale and benighted somewhere near Coir a' Ghrunnda. Search by Skye MRT and RAF Sea King had started, but no route plan had been left. 77.
- MAY 29 – Four women and a man (all about 38) left Glenbrittle at 06.45 heading for Loch Coruisk. In mist and strong wind they got lost high in Coire Banachdich and used a mobile phone. Skye MRT member heard their whistle blasts and led them to safe site for airlift by RAF Sea King at 21.00. 103.
- MAY 31 – Skye MRT search for uninjured man (48) at An Dorus. Walked off hill. 86.
- JUNE 3-4 – Novice (37) climbing in a group of nine on Am Basteir in mist and strong wind got separated from the group and lost. Skye MRT heard his shouts when sweep searching for him and he was escorted down. 91.
- JUNE 7 – Woman (55) broke her ankle when 700m east of Torvaig, Portree. Walking on Sithean Bhealaich Chumhaing she slipped on wet rock after recent hail. Skye MRT, alerted by her companion, stretchered her off the hill. 25.
- JUNE 19 – At 10.00 woman (43) and man (75) crossed the bridge which is 400m SW of Sligachan Hotel and spans Allt Dearg Mor. After a walk in the Cuillin they returned and found the bridge impassable due to severe rainfall. After trying other routes they contacted emergency services and were led to safety by Skye MRT at 15.40. 4.
- JULY 7-8 – On the Coir a' Ghrunnda side of Sgurr Sgumain walker (36) separated in mist, got tired and bivvied down for the night. Meantime his companion reported him missing and he was met by Skye MRT making his own way down. HMCG helicopter. 32.
- JULY 19 – Boy (9) slipped descending south screes of Sgurr Dearg. He fell 1m. A dislodged rock caused ankle injury. A Skye MRT member came across father and son. Radio call brought HMCG helicopter for airlift. 20.
- AUGUST 13 – Person missing near Portree was uninjured. Skye MRT and HMCG helicopter. 10.

AUGUST 16-17 – Father (36) with his mother (61) and two sons (8, 6) attempted descent of West Ridge of Sgurr Dearg in rain and mist. Due to weather and poor visibility he went off course into Coire na Banachdich. He contacted his wife to alert emergency services at 19.00. Skye MRT located the group about midnight and led them off safe by 02.30. 43.

AUGUST 18-19 – Solo walker (53) when it got dark near the top of Sgurr nan Eag, decided it was safer to bivvy than negotiate slippery rocks. Overdue he walked off unaided next day. Skye MRT searched. Kinloss Rescue Co-ordination Centre alerted. 18.

AUGUST 22 – Belgian male (23) descending Coire Lagan footpath about 200m below Lochan Coire Lagan lost his footing, fell 6m and injured an ankle. Skye MRT advised an airlift. RAF Sea King. 10.

SEPTEMBER 23 – Experienced solo man (41) rock climbing unroped in Coire Uaigneich, Blaven, misread the map and ended up in a gully, cragfast. He called the police. Walked off the hill by Skye MRT without incident, uninjured. 28.

OCTOBER 15 – Two people overdue on Blaven were OK. Skye MRT. 17.

NOVEMBER 7 – Uninjured pair were overdue between Loch Coruisk and Sligachan. Skye MRT. 17.

ISLANDS

(Other than Skye)

February 4-5 – Three well-equipped walkers were overdue from Ainshval, Rum. Man (54) had slipped on summit, pulling a muscle in his back. This delayed them but they got down by 01.00. Call out of Lochaber MRT had been put off till daybreak. 2.

April 3 – Woman (30) found dead at foot of 50m cliff at Kildonnan, in south Arran. Dutch party had been camping at top of cliff.

May 4 – Successful search by Arran MRT for man overdue in Glen Rosa suffering chorea. 1.

May 6 – Walker fell in Glen Rosa injuring his ankle. Stretchered out by Arran MRT in good weather. 8.

July 16 – Walker (75) sustained ankle injury from a fall on Goat Fell when wearing lightweight footwear. She was stretchered to hospital in good weather by Arran MRT who used Entonox and vacuum splint. 26.

July 30 – Woman with ankle injury stretchered from Goat Fell to hospital by Arran MRT. Good weather.

August 11 – Man walking with a companion on Stach Ridge in mist and rain fell and injured his ankle and shoulder. Mobile phone call alerted Arran MRT. Airlift by RN Sea King. 40.

August 12 – Arran MRT assembled for walker (m40) one of a party of two in mist and rain on Goat Fell. Mobile phone was used. He turned up uninjured. 1.

August 18-19 – Two men (23, 21) left their car to walk up Ronas Hill (450m) and to Lang Ayre, a bay to the NW, on North Mainland of Shetland. Their car was left at the masts on Collafirth Hill. They got lost in calm, foggy weather but turned up uninjured at the car at 04.00. Police, HMCG, RNLI. 26.

August 24 – Person slipped on South Uist with minor injury. Airlift by HMCG helicopter. 8.

August – Male hill walker fell in Arran sustaining ankle injury. Airlift by RN helicopter. Arran MRT on standby. 8.

NON -MOUNTAINEERING

Late Reports: 1943-JULY 23, 2001 – Remains of wartime Manchester aircraft wreckage. Public had reported two live rounds, a loaded Verrey pistol and possible remnants of leg bones dug up from a small bog in a deep ravine in the centre of an extensive forest near Huntly. Checked by Kinloss MRT. Majority of wreckage and remains had been recovered at the time and recent finds were of little significance. 36.

2000: NOVEMBER 23 – Missing man suffering dementia wandering in freezing conditions and darkness was found well at a nearby farm. Aberdeen MRT and SARDA called but not used. 9.

NOVEMBER 23 – Woman (85) with dementia wandered from residential home near Ellon. Search by Braemar MRT and helicopter. Found OK by dog handler. 60.

DECEMBER 13, 2000-February 26, 2001 – The following organisations were involved in mountain searches for a Cessna 152 missing on a flight from Inverness to Benbecula with two businessmen (39, 37) on board: Cairngorm, Dundonnell, Glenelg, Kinloss, Kintail, Leuchars, Skye and Torridon MRTs, RAF and HMCG helicopters, SARDA, GR4 Tornados and Hercules aircraft using heat-seeking gear. Extensive searches continued in deteriorating weather for six days, then again on December 31.

FEBRUARY 23, 2001 – Hillwalker reported finding a liferaft in a gully of Liathach. Kinloss and Torridon MRTs probed the gully in 3m of fresh snow finding liferaft and wreckage on 24th. The same day a hillwalker reported crashed aircraft on Liathach Ridge. Teams and HMCG helo recovered bodies from west end of Am Fasarianan Pinnacles. 2125.

DECEMBER 31, 2000 – Kinloss MRT were asked by Grampian Police to help in a search at Tomnavoulin for a woman last seen visiting her husband's grave that afternoon. She walked home safe before the team deployed. 22.

2001: JANUARY 2 – SARDA search of woods and fields near Newport for female (21) missing from home. Nothing found.

JANUARY 4 – SARDA helped police search river and park in Dumfries and Galloway following the discovery of the body of an elderly man believed to be a murder victim. Nothing found.

JANUARY 4-8 – Ochils MRT searched rough ground around Falkirk and Polmont for missing woman (62). Ice on Union Canal had been broken and refrozen. Her body was recovered by police after initially being brought up by a dredger. 250.

JANUARY 6 – Successful search for distressed male (100) found safe at Cults by Braemar MRT. 76.

JANUARY 8 – Aberdeen MRT involved in search for female (32) whose body was recovered in woodland near Culter. suspected foul play. 189.

JANUARY 24-25 – SARDA searched Bo'ness for depressed male (50s) Nothing found. Last sighting Jan 19. He was found under a motorway bridge, alive but hypothermic on Jan 26.

JANUARY 25-26 – Four people (female 19; males 53, 38, 22) remarkably survived the impact without major injuries when a Cessna light aircraft crash landed on the snowfield just east of the north spur of Cairn of Claise at 980m. The aeroplane was on a private flight from Peterborough to Inverness. It was snowing at the time with a strong wind in daylight. The occupants, in whiteout conditions, managed to descend possibly 50m altitude, a distance of 400-500m to a position overlooking Corrie Kander. As a result of the impact beacon RCC scrambled two RAF

rescue helicopters from Boulmer and Lossiemouth. Triangulating the VHF/UHF beacon R137 located the four survivors in the top of the gully near Carn an Tuirc. Braemar, Kinloss, Cairngorm and Leuchars MRTs were alerted at around 15.10 hours. R137 dropped four Braemar MRT close to the casualties. The four casualties were flown by R131 to Aberdeen Royal Infirmary. They were treated for various serious, but non-life threatening, injuries. Twenty-two Braemar/Grampian Police MRT spent the second day in the area to locate the crashed aircraft. 413.

JANUARY 26 – Climbers in Raeburn's Gully reported a pair they met as being incompetent and inexperienced, and their car was still in the car park next day. The pair were found very well in a bothy. 5.

JANUARY 27 – Braemar MRT search of wood/farmland in Inch area for missing male (51). 54.

JANUARY 29 – False alarm. SARDA called but not deployed to search rough ground near Cairnryan, Stranraer after bivvy tent and sleeping bag were found. Owner safe with family.

FEBRUARY 10 – Braemar and Grampian Police MRTs recovered body from steep, snow covered embankment at Cairnie, apparently dead from shotgun wounds. 20.

FEBRUARY 11 – Two boys (13, 11) missing from care near Closeburn were found by police in Dumfries as Moffat MRT and SARDA arrived.

FEBRUARY 12 – False alarm. Moffat MRT searched farmland near Dumfries for two boys (14, 12) missing after dark. They were found OK in the town. 16.

FEBRUARY 13-15 – SARDA, Borders SARU and Tweed Valley MRT searched Pentland Hills for man (68) thought to be suicidal. His body surfaced from deep water near Castlelaw the following weekend. Rucksack had been weighted with rocks. 204.

FEBRUARY 15 – Borders SARU and SARDA, called for man (70s) missing near Yetholm, stood down *en route* as he was found by police.

FEBRUARY 24 – SARDA called for missing young woman, depressed, near Boiness. Stood down *en route* as police found her.

FEBRUARY 24 – Braemar MRT searched hill refuges in South Cairngorms in concern for a male who was later found sleeping rough in Aberdeen. 64.

FEBRUARY 24-25 – Three Kinloss MRT working in Torridon went to guard a rescue helicopter which had force landed near Garve.

FEBRUARY 25 – *En route* to the Cessna incident Leuchars MRT was diverted to an alternative rendezvous at Dalwhinnie to investigate another possible beacon transmission. This proved to be a spurious transmission and team returned to base. 75.

FEBRUARY 26 – Grampian Police MRT found a woman motorist safe. She had walked from her car when it got stuck in a snow drift in a storm at Ellon. 30.

FEBRUARY 27 – Galloway MRT members and vehicles stood by in case Dumfries Police needed help in managing heavy snow conditions in Langholm area. 8.

FEBRUARY 27 - March 3 – Tweed Valley MRT involved checking isolated properties, airlifting supplies, casualty pick-ups and a search due to heavy snows and power cuts. 470.

FEBRUARY 27-28 – Moffat MRT and Sea King from HMS Gannet lifted drivers from 11 vehicles stranded in snowdrifts between Langholm and Ewesless Farm (near summit of A7). Helicopter had to land when it could get no further due to extreme weather. As wind lessened during the night snowplough and MMRT Land-Rover got through. 221.

- FEBRUARY 28 – Moffat MRT lifted by Scottish Power helicopter to within 1km of isolated cottage 9km NW of Langholm. Walked in through snowdrifts and confirmed that occupant, a woman (70s) was dead. 6.
- FEBRUARY 28 – Moffat MRT found forest worker 5km NE of Eskdalemuir was OK. He had not checked in for 24 hours because snow had knocked out Vodafone network. 105.
- FEBRUARY 28 – Walking in from as far as Land-Rover could get, Moffat MRT checked lady (80+) was OK in cottage at Whamphray near Moffat. 60.
- MARCH 2 – Leuchars MRT and AAC Gazelle helicopter searched for missing patient from Springfield Hospital. Search aborted due to dense fog. Search teams hampered in farmlands due to Foot and Mouth scare. 10.
- MARCH 6 – Braemar MRT found woman (74) had died of natural causes in her cottage at Lumphanan. They had been called by police and ambulance when access was not possible due to new snowfall. Stretchered to road. 36.
- MARCH 16 – Braemar MRT searched for woman who abandoned her vehicle on a forest track near Ellon. Depressed she was found intoxicated having taken alcohol and tablets. 80.
- MARCH 26 – Search for 2 USAF F15 Eagle aircraft was abandoned on 26th due to severe weather. Braemar and RAF Leeming MRTs found first aircraft and dead pilot on 27th near summit of Ben Macdui. Aberdeen, Cairngorm, Kinloss, Leuchars and Stafford MRTs, Nimrod aircraft R51, Lossimouth and Boulmer Sea Kings, Chinook and Pave helicopters were all involved. Severe weather conditions lasted for four days and snow shoes were used to good effect. Second pilot was found on 30th. Anti pollution booms were sited in Loch Avon basin and Lairig Ghru to protect mountain environment. Aircraft debris was recovered. 9515.
- APRIL 3-4 – Car of missing woman (34) had been found on the old bridge in Doune. Killin MRT and SARDA searched River Teith with Ochils MRT on standby, which ended when her body was found by RN helicopter on a sandbar about 6km downstream of the bridge. 76.
- APRIL 7 – Search by Tweed Valley MRT for man (58) in Gorebridge area, Edinburgh. Body found later, well out of search area, at foot of sea cliffs. 110.
- APRIL 10-11 – Ochils MRT and SARDA carried out overnight search of banks of River Avon from Linlithgow to Lathallan, roads and railway for a missing man (31). Nothing found. His body was later recovered from Linlithgow Loch. 98.
- APRIL 22 – Braemar and a RAF MRT searched forest at Tillyfourie near Monymusk in case driver from a crashed car had been suicidal. He was found safe and well. 50.
- MAY 17 – Man (27) apparently suffering from depression, was witnessed jumping from the crags of Kinnoull Hill, Perth. A search by Taypol MRT found his body, in the same spot that all the others are found. 9.
- JUNE – Woman (80) missing on outskirts of Buckie. Search manager deployed with Grampian Police MRT on standby. She was found well. 4.
- JUNE 1 – Galloway MRT and SARDA called out for elderly man missing in Minigaff area, Newton Stewart. Dog team stood down on arrival.
- JUNE 6-7 – Braemar, Kinloss MRTs, SARDA and RAF Sea King searched Tomintoul to Lecht area for driver of an abandoned vehicle. He was found safe in Aberdeen. 216.
- JUNE 22 – SARDA called for female missing at Castle Douglas. Found well in Dumfries.
- JUNE 28 – Braemar and Grampian Police MRT found missing person 150m from his home. Suffering depression he had taken his own life. 30.

- JULY 15 – Casualty (m42) seen by passers-by trying to hang himself from a tree. Taypol MRT search found nothing. Another passer-by contacted police to say she had discovered casualty hanging from a tree (8km from original sighting). Area searched and male found dead at Tullybaccart, Sidlaw Hills. 27.
- JULY 16 – Man covered with blood was found by boy on rocks near Girdlestone Lighthouse, Aberdeen, winched by RAF Sea King using horizontal stretcher. AUGUST 4-5 – Girl (15) suffering depression was missing overnight near St. Fillans. She turned up next morning shortly after Tayside teams had been informed and were to start search.
- AUGUST 12 – Tweed Valley MRT and SARDA searched for a patient (51) from Huntlyburn Special Care Unit. She turned up safe, well out of the search area. 41.
- AUGUST 13 – Ochils MRT and SARDA searched vainly for a manic depressive at Falkirk. Another negative search was carried out on August 22. His body was later recovered from a small loch. 114.
- AUGUST 14 – Police were concerned for the safety of an escaped prisoner (23) wearing handcuffs. He had allegedly been showing them stolen goods. Moffat MRT and RNLI inshore boat helped search around River Kirtle, Gretna, but he was not found. Team had to be disinfected every time they went from one farm to the next (f and m precautions). Also see October 29. 112.
- AUGUST 21 – Aberdeen, Braemar, Leuchars MRTs, divers, RAF Sea King, HMCG, RNLI inshore boat, SARDA searched harbour, hills, cliffs and coastline around Stonehaven for local woman (71). She was not found at that time. 544.
- AUGUST 24 – Tweed Valley MRT mobilised for search of forest and River Tweed at Walkerburn for woman (44) who turned up safe. 3.
- AUGUST 28 – Search by Cairngorm MRT found man (35) in T-shirt and jeans, semi-conscious and smelling of alcohol, in woods near Tromie Bridge, Kingussie. Missing for 12 hours there had been concern that subject had done some self-harm. 36.
- SEPTEMBER 3 – Assynt MRT assembled to search near Thurso for boy (11) missing from home. He turned up well. 7.
- OCTOBER 7 – Search for the body of a male (21) on Gordon Moss Wildlife Reserve, 13km NW of Kelso, by Tweed Valley MRT. This area had been searched on June 13 1999. Nothing found. 119.
- OCTOBER 11 – Elderly lady wandered off from restaurant at Brig o' Turk and got lost. Found by staff so dog teams were stood down *en route*.
- OCTOBER 14 – Elderly patient was missing from Stracathro Hospital overnight, but turned up as Tayside teams and SARDA were deploying for search. 23.
- OCTOBER 18 – Braemar and Grampian Police MRTs searched foreshore and sea cliffs at Collieston for missing person. 40.
- OCTOBER 18-19 – SARDA vainly searched farmland after tent and gear had been found near Killearn.
- OCTOBER 26 – Braemar and Grampian Police MRTs searched at Urquhart, Elgin for female with learning difficulties missing overnight in wooded area. Found well the next morning by SARDA dog handler. 90.
- OCTOBER 29 – Dundonnell MRT requested by police to search for car driver (34) after a crash at 06.00. It was a dangerous area of slippery paths and drops into the river at Contin. She turned up OK at Strathpeffer. 6.
- OCTOBER 29 – Moffat MRT aided D and G Police search fields and woods in Gretna area for man (22) last seen running away wearing white boiler suit and handcuffs. He was not found and there was concern for his welfare. He has since turned up and returned to prison. See August 14.

- OCTOBER 30 – Grampian Police MRT searched for two retired women, both dementia sufferers, missing from a nursing home at Aboyne. They were found after two hours, huddled together, wet and cold, in the corner of a field about 100m from a Land-Rover track. It is thought they had walked about 1.4km. They were taken to hospital. 10.
- NOVEMBER 8 – Grampian Police MRT took three retired car occupants to safety. They were unable to extract the car from deep snow on B976 Crathie to Gairnshiel, Ballater road. There was so much snow the team was unable to check the road for further vehicles, so they used a tracked vehicle and checked the road. 16.
- NOVEMBER 8-9 – Car found abandoned near the foot of Auchterhouse Hill, Sidlaw Hills, 8km north of Dundee. Searches by Leuchars, Tayciv and Taypol MRT were carried out in freezing weather. Car owner (47) was found by one of four SARDA dogs which did well to find him in dense whins at night, 400m north of his vehicle. His body was face down. There had been snowfall at the time. Having swallowed a quantity of anti-depressant tablets he had succumbed to the cold overnight. 162.
- NOVEMBER 21-22 – Tweed Valley MRT and SARDA searched for a missing woman (35) near Livingston. Later in the week (November 23) after a tip off, her body was found in a shallow grave on the edge of the search area; now there is a murder inquiry. 100.
- DECEMBER 5-6 – Tweed Valley MRT and SARDA searched for woman (30s) who failed to return from a public house near Livingston. Body found by police searchers. Foul play suspected.
- DECEMBER 13 – Borders, Lothian and Tweed Valley teams and SARDA searched Haddington for a man (65+) missing from home in the early hours; depressed but not thought to be suicidal. He was found after seven hours OK, sheltering in outbuildings at a TV mast on top of Garleton Hills (181m) 2km north of the village. 38.
- December 27 – Search for woman (36) at Kincardine of Neil, Deeside. She was found dead by police before arrival of Braemar MRT and SARDA. 31.

SUMMIT

Perfection is unattainable but here
 I can go some time without fear
 Of self-betrayal. Here I can just 'be',
 Enjoy the rare proximation of being the *me*
 Of dreams, the *me* I haunt in the glass.
 Such moments are rare; even a saint will pass
 From glory hours to find the heavens brass.

Hamish M. Brown.

IN MEMORIAM

J. K. W. DUNN j. 1946

KENNETH DUNN, the eldest of four children, was educated at Fettes, where he received prizes in classics. In 1929 he joined the family law firm in Glasgow. He was a member of the Glasgow Highlanders in the Territorial Army, and during the War he rose to the rank of Major. Later, he settled with his first wife, Margaret, in Blanefield until a change of employment necessitated a move to East Linton.

He was intensely practical, servicing his own cars and personally enlarging his home to accommodate his family of five daughters. His career progressed, and eventually he became Solicitor for Scotland for the Inland Revenue. His professional skills were always available to the SMC, notably at the 1990 AGM when he lucidly explained the tax implications of the Club's relationship with the Scottish Mountaineering Trust.

He was the first Honorary Secretary of the Association of Scottish Climbing Clubs and the BMC. Scottish Committee, and he advised the SMC on *National Parks in Scotland* (SMC Journal 1947 and 1950).

He was a man of many talents, who enjoyed spirited, informed discussions on topics ranging from Ancient Greek history to mechanics; geology to poetry. Each time you spoke with him, you learned something, which was delivered in a considered and erudite fashion.

For the last 20 years, he and Ishbel, his second wife, lived happily in Perthshire, where he died on November 29, 2001. Ishbel worked tirelessly to care for him, and due to her, Kenneth was able to stay in his own home, and pass away peacefully there.

I met Kenneth Dunn when he presided at the first JMCS post-war New Year Meet (1945-46) at Kingshouse. Twelve JMCS members stayed at Kingshouse (I was one of three from Edinburgh). At the meet Bill Murray was elected Honorary President; Douglas Scot, Honorary Vice-President, and Bill Mackenzie became President.

Murray, Dunn, and Scott climbed the Crowberry Ridge (four hours). The Edinburgh trio also climbed the Crowberry Ridge, though by a different route (10 hours). The Journal records that under Dunn's Chairmanship both AGM and four-course dinner were outstandingly successful.

In October 1946, Dunn was elected to the SMC, proposed by Kenneth Hunter and Bill Mackenzie. His application begins with: "Most of the rock climbs on the Cobbler, usually leading." But surprisingly, he dated none of his long list of entries. Typical entries were: "Crowberry Ridge Direct (10 times)," "Crowberry Gully (3 times in winter)".

Bill Murray, who was Dunn's Best Man, recorded that in March 1936 he traversed the Aonach Eagach ridge "with J. K. W. Dunn, A. M. MacAlpine, and R. S. Higgins", and MacAlpine confirms the date. Dunn was one of the most active members of the JMCS Glasgow section during the years immediately preceding the War; e.g., Murray alone recorded 43 climbs with Dunn from March 1936 to December 1939 – an average of once a month – including classic climbs like the first ascent of Clachaig Gully. MacAlpine and Mackenzie were their most frequent

companions. In January 1939, at Inverarnan with Mackenzie and Dunn, Murray feared it "likely that we should miss a weekend's climbing for the first time in 18 months".

After the War, Dunn and Mackenzie – like most returning pre-war climbers – had to rebuild their careers and family lives. Unlike them, Murray made a career change and needed a climbing companion while he worked on his guide to Glencoe. This gave me the good fortune to climb with Murray and Dunn in the famous winter of 1947 – perhaps the last time these two friends climbed together. I also accompanied Dunn in Skye in connection with work on the Skye guide. Murray recounted that in 1946 he "assisted Kenneth Dunn in taking some youthful Glasgow gangsters on to the Glencoe and Arrochar hills."

Having been abroad for many years, I can say little about Kenneth Dunn's climbing in later days, other than that in 1949 he attended the Alpine Club meet at Meiringen with MacKellar and MacAlpine. Among other ascents they climbed the Finsteraarhorn – involving a 16-hour day. Each summer he took his daughters to Derry Lodge where, with varying degrees of enthusiasm, they explored the hills and glens.

I have often thought that Kenneth Dunn played the part of Dr. Watson to Bill Murray's Holmes. In his writings, Bill Murray brings his companions to life, but his portrait of Kenneth Dunn is the most complete of all. Here are some of Bill's 'brush strokes':

"... Dunn's broad shoulders ... his fair hair tumbled over his eyes ... Dunn grinned gleefully from ear to ear ..."

"... we discovered that once again Dunn had forgotten his boots. Dunn is one of the most hopelessly casual but yet friendly of men. You cannot damn and blast a man whose eye is sparkling with delight at meeting you. His infectious smile and naive geniality".

"From long and painful experience we knew that for calling upon Dunn at any agreed hour of the morning we must devote the better part of an hour to hounding him out of bed and to getting him dressed, fed, and properly turned out complete with climbing boots. The boots were important. They were sometimes apt to be left behind in the mad scramble of departure – irate friends clamouring in his bedroom. Mackenzie was equal to this difficulty. 'We'll tell him that the starting hour's three. He should just be ready when we call an hour later'.

"And so it was done. On arriving at his rooms at 4 a.m. we found Dunn actually out of bed and halfway through breakfast. There was something truly great in the audacity with which he at once accused us of lateness."

"One of the best second men in Scotland ... I was coached over the traverse in brilliant style by Dunn, who employed the effective, though inhuman, device of ruthlessly skewering his victim with the spike of an axe ... Dunn was obliged to stand for half-an-hour under a waterfall, whose volume increases with the years. But with such men as these failure can generally be made to show profits."

"Dunn was safe and solid as rock itself ... [Marskell] maintained a Dunn-like immovability."

"Dunn's exceptional strength ... Dunn was too skilful a mountaineer to climb anyhow but gracefully ... a triumph of mind over matter."

"Dunn's presence on the [Rannoch wall, as he climbed with studied ease above remote scree, appeared an incredible flouting of natural laws."

"Dunn, whose company is more pleasing than a first ascent."

Kenneth Dunn's name was the first to come into Bill Murray's mind when he wrote the last paragraph of the book he drafted in POW camp: "When I looked to the mountains of the future from behind barbed wire, I thought not only of ends but of the best ways of striving ... Bloodshed was forgotten awhile; once again I revelled in wholesome days, when the very air I breathed, in the company of Dunn, Mackenzie, and MacAlpine, of Bell and Donaldson, was that of rollicking adventure; when our mountaineering dreams were turbulent and our hearts high ... there lies the true joy of battle, in exhilarating contest with the elements, upon mountains that may be won, yet never conquered; shared by companions who may be defeated, yet whose spirit I have never seen shaken."

Kenneth Dunn is survived by his wife, Ishbel, three daughters, seven grandchildren and nine great grandchildren.

Donald McIntyre.

CHARLES LOGAN DONALDSON j. 1950

CHARLIE died on February 25 aged. I met up with him on the JMCS bus meets in the late 1940s. From that meeting we spent nearly every weekend for the next three years somewhere on the hills.

Neither of us was a brilliant rock climber but we managed most of the classic climbs in Glen Coe and on Ben Nevis, with the Cobbler and Narnain thrown in. Two winter climbs on Nevis are remembered, Gardyloo Gully and Naismith's 15-minute route on the North East Buttress, which took us some three hours to complete, and the descent of the ridge in the dark. We had two trips to France, where we managed a few snow climbs, including the Aiguille de Polset and La Grande Casse, plus some ridge traverses on fine rock. We also went to Austria but had foul weather and only traversed one ridge in rain and sleet.

Charlie moved to Banff after this, and the weekend pattern was broken. My last time on the hill with him was a weekend in June in the Sixties. It was a brilliant evening and we decided it would be a waste sleeping, so we traversed the Aonach Eagach – east to west.

Charlie got married in Banff and contact was lost until he moved to Galashiels. Latterly, our only contact was the odd phone call and exchange of Christmas cards.

Many memories of great days on the hill with Charlie.

Jimmy Russell.

As the other constituent indicates above, the Donaldson/Russell pair was an almost unavoidable accompaniment to the Edinburgh JMCS bus meets of the late 1940s and 1950s. Their partnership epitomised the post-war resurgence of popular Scottish climbing from Edinburgh. These bus meets resembled those of the various Glasgow based clubs but had their own ambience, best reproduced in a Letter to this *Journal* in 1961 (xxvii, 154-6).

I quote a few sentences simply to put Charlie (and our current selves) into perspective, in the times he possibly loved best and which proved the forcing ground of so many later SMC climbing achievements and, more importantly, club friendships. In true epic style it begins by describing the heroes waiting for the bus, *sitting on the kerb at Waterloo Place, rucksacks, axes and boots on the*

pavement and maybe a couple of groundsheets hung up where Cairns was changing his breeks and old Daily Mirrors lying about with pieces of Wally's piece in them... Then it salutes each as they climb on to the bus . . . including Russell, tightly packaged though the other half Donaldson wouldn't get on till his own house; he lived on the Monadhliath side of Saughtonhall and never seemed to be there anyway until it was too late, probably because he was sideways on and not easily seen; these two had a famous tent, the Slum, Slum I, it was eaten into and out of again by various animals in hard winters but served these two until well before they stopped climbing . . . Marshall was there, a wee laddie and polite; Haig, Hood, Rodgie, Scott, Millar, Tait, Bulbous and more, sundry musicians on mouthorgans, combs, jugs and alimentary tracts . . . and when all those were emptied on to a stricken landscape together they drained into the night at once, like swill down a gutter.

As the two-dimensional structure hinted at above suggested, Charlie at that time was tall, thin and multijointed, with a gingerish moustache and pale blue eyes that could roll in satisfaction, sparkle from enthusiasm or protrude alarmingly with conviction. A keen analytical brain which harboured no illusions about – but a great understanding – humanity (he was in the Civil Service, dispensing – or dispensing with – Benefits) enabled him to hold passionate argument, laced with ingenious humour, up the longest plod; or keep his hapless companions awake during an implacable game of chess in some Alpine hut before a 3am start . . .

He was good, kind company and much missed when he left Edinburgh. I shared many adventures with him. I think it was 1947 when I saw a curiously-attired rabble on the lower snows of Cruach Adrain – gas capes (surely the most infuriating garb for steep snow, let alone a narrow gully), ropes of dubious tenuity, goggles of military opacity . . . proto-Donaldson *et al.* Thus they were introduced to the JMCS.

Subsequently he was, like myself, on the hills virtually every weekend, but two occasions with him stand out. On the first, Charlie, though determinedly anti-poetic, was moved – like all romantics caught unawares – to ecstatic gibbering on Sgairneach Mor in 1951 as the summit snowfields rippled about us, in knee-high rainbow surgings of blown drift under a low sun; we waded our own ice-halos, Charlie particularly emblematic. The second was the first ascent of the *Upper Couloir Keyhole* on Stob Gabhar in March 1952 (SMCJ xxv, 98 and 164), involving a high wall, iced chimney and “100ft. of almost pure ice” to a series of jammed boulders and a final stretch of hard snow, after which we ignored an easy rock ridge and finished from the Upper Couloir itself. This route was “more interesting and difficult than the Upper Couloir”; we had descended that the week before. Charlie led throughout, a delight to watch. He also led Hood, MacIennan and myself most of the time on expeditions from Zinal in 1952, prehensile on ice and rock. Almost my last memory of him was at a wedding up Glen Shee in 1957. While others still feasted in the shack serving as a banqueting hall Charlie (not quite recovered from the previous night's celebrations with *individual* bottles of *Queen George* whisky), cigarette clamped in teeth, polished black shoes muddied, blue suit sodden, eyes glassily fixed ahead, was halfway up a neighbouring boulder on imaginary holds, a gentle drizzledampening his few locks. Great days indeed with Charlie.

G.J.F.D.

KENNETH M. ANDREW j 1972

KEN ANDREW was brought up in Monkton and educated at Ayr Academy. When I first knew him he worked for the National Coal Board but soon after gave this up and as he was already an experienced hill man and a competent photographer doing all his own black and white processing, he decided to try his hand at freelance writing and photography. However, progress along this line proved slow and difficult and after a few years he changed direction to undertake teacher training at Craigie College in Ayr while continuing with his writing and photography. He graduated from Craigie in 1972. After a short time at Dreghorn School, he transferred to Braehead School in Ayr where he taught until his early retiral in the mid nineties.

I first met Ken at a Club lecture at Rowans in Buchanan Street in 1961, both of us having recently joined the Glasgow JMCS. Soon after, we had our first trip together to the hills to do the round of Ben More and Stobinian and its tops, just the first of many outings over some forty years to all parts of Scotland from the Solway Firth to the north coast. Ken was most active during the 1960's before he took up teaching. He completed the Munros in October 1962 (on a dreadful day on Beinn Chalum) and then later, in 1969, he completed in the same year the Munro tops, the Corbetts and the Donalds. He later completed the Donalds for a second time becoming I believe the first to do so. He also took in the English and Welsh three thousanders.

Ken fortunately enjoyed long walks usually on his own. He did many of the classic cross-country routes such as Dalnacardoch - Kingussie by the Gaick, Blair Atholl - Aviemore, Dalwhinnie - Corrour, the Corrieyarrick and of course the West Highland and Southern Upland Ways as well as the unusual marathon of the round of Loch Morar in a day. On these outings he would make full use of buses and trains using as his base for sleeping and eating the Morris Traveller he had for many years. Ken was never an enthusiastic rock-climber but could climb to V Diff standard and as he would be out on the hills throughout the year, was fully competent on snow and ice.

Club members would know Ken best for his writing and his photography. He co-authored the first edition of the guide to the Southern Uplands with Alan Thrippleton in 1972 and was the sole author of the second edition in 1992. He wrote the first guide to the Southern Upland Way for the Countryside Commission in 1984 and published *Discovering Ayrshire* with Dr John Strawhorn in 1988. A co-authored book on Old Ayr was published in 2001 after Ken's death.

Ken's photographs illustrated not only his own books but many others such as several of the Trust publications including *The Munros* along with *Classic Walks*, *Wild Walks*, etc. In addition, his illustrated articles appeared in many publications including the *Scottish Field*, the old *Scotland's Magazine*, the *National Geographic* and particularly, the *Scots Magazine*. His articles covered not only the hills and mountains but a great variety of outdoor subjects such as bridges, canals, old railways, Ailsa Craig etc and quite recently the new Tiso 'Outdoor Experience' in Glasgow. His pictures were also to be seen on calendars, post-cards, on Caledonian Macbrayne brochures and of course in newspapers such as *The Herald* and *The Scotsman* as well as the local Ayrshire press including in the early days, action pictures taken at Ayr United home games at Somerset Park.

Ken was a popular lecturer to clubs and groups particularly in Ayrshire and the south-west for his knowledge of this area of Galloway was encyclopaedic. He had a huge collection of slides of superb quality with his filing system enabling him to find any slide within minutes and he spoke on all variety of subjects. He was a great supporter of the paddle steamer 'Waverley' and assisted with its publicity. He was able to be seen on board on its trips around the Clyde and on the Ailsa Craig cruise he would give commentary to the passengers over the loud-speaker system.

Ken's concern for the environment was demonstrated in the 1970's when over several years he was closely involved with the group opposing the suggested dumping of nuclear waste on Mullwharchar in the Galloway Hills. The mere possibility of this appalled him and he spoke in his usual forceful way at the Public Enquiry at Ayr in 1977 which ended successfully for the opposition with the whole concept being abandoned.

My last outing with Ken was in November 1998, a walk up Moorbroch Hill, a wee Donald behind Cairnsmore of Fleet. He seemed as fit as ever. Though a small man, he could cover the ground at an amazing rate and was possessed of immense stamina. However shortly after this he began to decline, his last outing being to Tinto in the year 2000. He continued writing and lecturing until shortly before his death in July 2001. Later that year, a small group of his friends gathered to scatter his ashes on the Merrick, which he had climbed 128 times, just to the south east of the summit looking across to Loch Enoch and Mullwharchar.

W. D. Nicol.

GODEFROY PERROUX (1957-2002)

The ice climbing world was stunned when news broke of the death of French guide Godefroy Perroux in January. He was climbing an icefall near the Bionnassay Glacier not far above his home in Les Houches near Chamonix, when it collapsed. He fell with several hundred tons of ice and died instantly. It was particularly shocking that Godefroy, the 'Father of French icefall climbing' as he was often called, could have had such a serious accident doing what he loved and knew so well.

His loss was felt deeply in Scotland. Although Godefroy was not an SMC member, he was well known to members of the Club. Every season for the past 20 years he spent two weeks staying at the CIC Hut on Ben Nevis guiding clients, and his warm open manner, Gallic charm and clear love of Scottish winter climbing, had earned him a special place in the hearts of many Scottish climbers.

On his first visit to the mountain, he climbed Observatory Ridge in terrible weather. He later described the experience in the Journal and wrote: "We had underestimated this mountain and its 1344m. This first experience showed us that Scotland is more than training. With the long approach march, bad weather and difficult descents, Scottish climbing is really taxing."

Rather than putting him off, the challenging nature of the Scottish winter added an extra element to Godefroy's climbing that he did not often find elsewhere.

In the early 1990s, at a time when few world-class overseas climbers had visited Scotland, his perspective was invaluable. He looked at the Ben through a fresh set of eyes and added 15 new routes and several important variations. In particular, he focused on steep ice pitches, and routes such as the Upper Cascade (V,5) and

Le Panthere Rose (VI,6) on Raeburn's Wall are typical Perroux routes – bold and steep. To my mind however, Godefroy's finest addition to the mountain was Gremlins (VI,6), the vertical ice smear to the right of Thompson's Route on No. 3 Gully Buttress. This compelling line rarely forms and is likely to be a highly sought-after route for decades to come.

The finest tribute he paid to Scotland however, was writing a French language selected guidebook to Ben Nevis. Beautifully illustrated with a superb series of photographs, it reads like a diary of Godefroy's 100 or so ascents on the mountain. It was published just before his death and will undoubtedly encourage many more Continental climbers to visit Scotland.

High on Ben Nevis, Godefroy's spirit will live on for many years to come.

Simon Richardson.

J. RUSSELL MARSHALL j. 1945

RUSSELL MARSHALL was one of our oldest members when he died last year at the age of 91. He trained as a quantity surveyor in Glasgow, entered the building industry and, later in life, took over a building business in Largs and settled there with his sister, Betty.

He took up climbing in his twenties, became an active member of the Glasgow JMCS and by the time he joined the SMC in 1945 had done a good number of what are now known as the classic routes, both winter and summer, as well as some climbs in North Wales. He attended the Alpine Meet in Kleine Scheidegg in 1948 and the JMCS meet in Val d'Isere in 1950. He was a regular attender at SMC meets and dinners for the rest of his life and made his contribution to running the Club as custodian of the CIC Hut from 1948 until 1952.

Russell was very deaf in later life but, although it was a severe handicap, he never allowed it to keep him away from the hills or stop him from enjoying the social side of mountaineering. I counted it a privilege to be his regular chauffeur to Easter meets and dinners and to enjoy his never failing good humour on these occasions.

He was also a member of the Scottish Rights of Way Society and the Largs Stravaigers. He took part in the Stravaigers' meets almost to the end of his life and several of the Stravaigers gave him tremendous help and support in his final years.

Bryan Fleming.

Notice has also reached us of the death of Oliver Turnbull.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLUB

The following new members were admitted and welcomed to the Club in the year 2001-2002.

Robert Aitken (53), Research Consultant, Edinburgh.
 Richard J. Bale, (30), Royal Air Force, Burghead, Morayshire.
 Peter J. Biggar, (52), Open University Tutor, North Kessock, Inverness.
 Michael F. Boyle, (44), General Practitioner, Linlithgow.
 Hannah Burrows-Smith, (27), Outdoor Instructor, Feshiebridge, Kingussie.
 George Denholm, (41), Police Office, Balerno, Midlothian.
 Thomas Denholm, (47), Police Officer, Port Seton.
 Robert W. Durran, (38), Teacher, Kinross, Fife.
 Steven A. Elliot, (31), General Practitioner, Perth.
 Rosie Goolden, (33), Freelance Instructor, Aviemore.
 Richard Harrison, (37), Computer Consultant, Dringhouses, York.
 Steven Hazlett, (43), Welder, Clydebank.
 Ross Hewitt, (26), Mechanical Engineer, Aberdeen.
 William Hood, (45), Teacher, Houston, Renfrewshire.
 Brian Hume, (36), Reprographics Operator, Dundee.
 Terence E. Kenny, (54), Medical Practitioner, Bickerstaffe, Lancashire.
 Bruce Kerr, (40), Teacher, Edinburgh.
 Andrew J. Lole, (24), Software Developer, Didsbury, Manchester.
 Fergus S. J. McCallum, (35), Rope-Access Technician, Taynuilt, Argyll.
 John R. McCallum, (54), Marine Engineer, Dunblane, Perthshire.
 David MacLeod, (23), Student, Bearsden, Glasgow.
 Heather Morning, (37), Bunkhouse Manager, Pitlochry.
 Mark Shaw, (36), Salmon Farmer, Oban.
 Christopher J. Upson, (38), Consultant Engineer, Glasgow.
 Euan I. Whittaker, (24), Outdoor Instructor, Edinburgh.
 Peter Wilson, (51), Chartered Engineer, Invergowrie, Dundee.

Easter Meet – Elphin

LAST year the Meet, which was to be held at Elphin, was cancelled due to the Foot and Mouth restrictions. In its place an informal meet was arranged by Robin Campbell at Altguish Inn where restrictions were less limiting. Robin Campbell, Dick Allen, Brian Fleming, Malcolm Slessor, Iain Smart, Oliver Turnbull, and Bill Wallace attended the meet.

In 1996, when Oliver Turnbull took on the role of Meets Secretary (this is possibly the first Easter Meet he has missed in more than 20 years) it was noted that the numbers attending increased and the weather improved. This year, on the way north under cloudless skies the forecast was for poor weather. This early promise of low cloud and showers was replaced by hazy almost dry days. There was very little snow and the ground was dry. The conditions improved every day and as usual the best day was the last – when we left for home.

The meet was well attended; the party being split between Tom Strang's and the Naismith hut. Tom was able to serve dinner on Saturday night for the whole group – a very pleasant evening. One of the notable achievements was Douglas and Audrey Scott's ascent of Stac Pollaidh. The President Ken Crocket and Peter Macdonald climbed Acheninver Pinnacle. Malcolm Slessor and Bill Wallace followed their example the next day.

Hills ascended included: Stac Pollaidh, Suilven, Cul Mor, Cul Beag, Sgurr an Fhithleir, Conival, Ben More Assynt, Ben Klibreck, Quinag and Canisp.

Those present included the President Ken Crocket, Robin Campbell, Brian Fleming, Malcolm Slessor, Iain Smart, Bill Wallace, Dick Allen, Mike Fleming, John Gillespie, Phil Gribbon, John Hay, Peter MacDonald, Peter Madden, Douglas Scott and Nigel Suess. The guests were Ian Cumming, Richard Madden and Audrey Scott. It is suggested that the Easter Meet in 2003 will be at Loch Maree. When we hope to be able to repeat the crossing to Letterewe.

Dick Allen.

The One-Hundreth-and-Twelfth AGM and Dinner

HAVING agreed that we really should go somewhere else in 2001, the Club's annual function limped meekly a mile up Fort William's North Road to the Milton, not perhaps the grandest of hostelries, but certainly more spacious in all respects than our old friend in The Parade.

It was so good to have the afternoon pictures in comfortable surroundings and being adjacent to the bar was just sublime. Rob Milne spoke on his new-routing trip to Karstenz Pyramid in Irianjaya and Chris Ravey reviewed the latest Club outing to the Staunings. One hopes that the clink of glasses will become a regular feature.

The AGM was, by recent standards, an entertaining affair with some rousing debates on the issues of the day. The Treasurer was closely questioned on his new presentation of the accounts and the long-awaited discussion on the future of the windmill on the Ben following the two-year trial melted like the snows of winter with many of the original objectors acknowledging that the only people who seemed bothered by the thing were members of the Club itself.

The usual discussion on the best vehicle for publication of new routes was again inconclusive but then we got on to the real issue. Should the recorders of new routes be permitted to award the stars? Arguments waxed and waned. Speakers rose and fell. One member malevolently suggested asterisks for new routes in the Journal to be replaced by stars in the guides only once a full quality assessment had taken place – and a lot of members agreed. It was all tremendous stuff and put the company in good humour as they headed off to dine – walking past a large display of champagne cocktails provided by the hotel for their consumption without their knowledge.

In the dining room, the Dinner Secretary, as you would expect of a civil engineer, had devised a seating plan so cunning that not only could you be guaranteed to sit with your friends but you could also shun your enemies on request. And there was more. Clever table positioning meant that even those at adjacent tables were guaranteed to be acceptable to you. Somewhat predictably however, this was all beyond the comprehension and skills of the hotel and only some desperate last-minute furniture shifting by himself achieved the approximate aim.

Your Secretary also had his moments. Having purchased the traditional dram for the piper, he was dismayed to discover that the incumbent was approximately half the legal age. But the meal when it came was excellent. The Campbell/Wallace combo struggled manfully with the Club song while Jim Curran was a jovial and entertaining principal guest. This year, let's forget Fort William. Re-set George and head for Pitlochry on November 30.

J. R. R. Fowler.

Ski-mountaineering Meet 2002

The lack of snow cover prevented the intended ski traverse from Cairngorm to Mar Lodge via Ben Macdui on the afternoon of Friday 15. Instead Jones and MacDonald drove over to Royal Deeside and ventured into the corrie of Lochnagar. The forecast was poor and so was the weather. The increasing north-easterly wind finally forced a retreat from the exposed second pitch of central buttress leaving the final outcome of the day as a very nice walk!

Gratefully retiring to 'The Base camp' they found a few SMC members and guests already in residence in the tastefully renovated stable block of Mar Lodge near Braemar. The quality of the accommodation was excellent and the remaining members and guests arrived as the evening progressed.

Next day Jones and MacDonald once again ventured into the corrie of Lochnagar, this time in the company of Bill Shaw. The weather was little better than the day before. After dire warnings from the avalanche forecast team digging a snow pit in the area and an audible avalanche coming down the Black Spout, they contoured the corrie, and the avalanche debris, finally reaching the summit via the north-east arête. Blizzard conditions on top dictated a descent down the Glas Allt, which might have allowed a pleasant ski descent, if they had elected to take their skis. However, the final outcome of the day was a very nice walk!

Angel, Ballance, Bickerdike, Forbes, Shackleton and Walmsley went skiing up Carn a'Gheoidh enjoying a cloudy day out and returning via the Glenshee ski slopes. Back at Mar Lodge, which is now open to the fee-paying public, a quick tour of the renovated building and furnishings was a fine end to the day. Equally impressive but far more disturbing is the ballroom which has a ceiling covered with red deer skulls and antlers. There can be few darker spectacles than this necrophilic shrine to such efficient slaughter and death.

A typical evening of culinary/victual delights and a review of recent SMC alpine ski mountaineering by slide show followed.

Sunday dawned bright and after a quick pilgrimage to pay homage to an ancient Scots Pine in the area we forced a mass ascent of Carn an Tuirc leaving the skis in the wagon. Despite, or perhaps because of, the warm windy day, we all enjoyed a very nice walk!

Members present: I. Angel, D. Ballance, J. Bickerdike, W. Forbes, C. Jones, A. MacDonald, C. Ravey, B. Shackleton and J. M. Taylor. Guests: S. Angell, W. Shaw and N. Walmsley.

C. M. Jones.

JMCS REPORTS

London Section: The section has had a strange year. We started with our usual round of drunken parties at Glanafon, a President's Meet at the same venue, and from then on the whole thing went seriously downhill, which is what we prefer anyway, going downhill that is. A meet was held in Glencoe, ill-attended because the weather forecast was bad and it's a long way from the South for a wet and windy weekend – and then it got worse.

Our week-long Winter Meet for the geriatrics was called off at 36 hours' notice because of Foot and Mouth and nasty rumours on the Net and so Jock's Spot had to do without us. The Lakes was shut, and although we could go to our cottage in

North Wales – since it is readily accessed from the main road – it was impossible to do anything but look at the hills, which in late winter/early spring were in great condition, and out of bounds. The youth chafed and went abroad, the elderly reminisced about the last out-break in the 1960s and spent their energies on good works at Glanafon, which now sports a new roof on the rear extension, newly-painted external walls and, after almost 40 years, a drying room. So good does come out of bad, sometimes.

There was a splendid meet at Black Rock in June, enlivened by the presence of two ladies from the LSCC who probably brought a little sanity to the normal proceedings. After that it was the Alps, and further, and details are sparse. Hard routes were done in the Ecrins and ex-President Jordan went to Nepal, again. This is one of the problems of a Section without a central meeting place. Midweek meets for chat are impossible and we must depend on our somewhat erratic circular. Steps have now been taken to produce this vital organ at least every two months and this seems to be happening. It is our intent to send the circular out by e-mail so if anyone outwith the London Section would like to participate please let us know. Our website will shortly be up and seriously running, and we shall post meets lists and circulars on it.

Our annual works meet fitted the normal biennial pattern. Either lots of people turn up, the weather is good, and most of them go on the hill – or, the weather is bad, few arrive, and they all get fed up and go to the pub. In either case little gets done because October is a silly month for fixing the hut. This will change. And so without a deal of effort we are back to the AGM, held once again at the Giler Arms. It was conducted in indecent haste and all over in 20 minutes. This has caused some comment so next year we must make an effort to allow the audience to speak! After an excellent dinner Andy Walker conducted an auction of mountaineering books donated by Ted Zenthon, one of our founding members, with such panache and enthusiasm that he persuaded more than £750 out of a group of members who are not known for parting with their hard-earned cash – thank you Andy. The hut fund flourishes as a result. A new year awaits – we trust it is better.

Web site – www.jmcs.freewire.co.uk

Officials elected: President, Roy Hibbert; Vice-President, Marcus Harvey; Secretary and Membership, Chris Bashforth; Treasurer, David Hughes, 9 St Anthony's Road, Leeds LS11 8DP; Hut Custodian, Rod Kleckham.

Glasgow section:– The club has continued with another active and successful year considering the many weeks curtailed by the outbreak of Foot and Mouth disease. We currently have 105 members of which 11 are female. There are 28 Life Members.

Club activity centred round weekend meets, weekly climbing wall visits and fortnightly pub meets. There were 17 outdoor meets, seven less than the previous year. Meets in the second half of the year to Elphin, Speyside, Rum, Braemar and Glencoe were very well attended; as was the AGM and Annual Dinner in the Kingshouse, Glencoe.

The JMCS meeting for the whole club took place on May 5. It was quorate with representatives from Lochaber, Glasgow and Perth. The overall feeling was that the traditions of the JMCS should not be lost even if it does not have any present

day function. The consensus was to avoid the organising of an AGM and replace it with an open meet to be set up in 2002 by the Glasgow Section. However, it was later discovered that according to the constitution, an AGM must still take place. One hopes that the end result of this debate is fresh incentive to participate in one joint meet every year.

Foreign trips included an Easter trip by Colwyn Jones, Ann MacDonald, Donald Ballance and John Bickerdike who were ski-mountaineering in the Pennine Alps in Switzerland. They climbed the Allalinhorn, Strahlhorn, Breithorn, Castor and Pollux. The onset of bad weather kept them from adding to their total. Colwyn Jones also led an expedition to the Staunings Alps in East Greenland where they climbed five new peaks and made a second ascent of Sussex. (For full reports see SMC/JMCS Abroad).

Spain tempted David MacDonald, Neil Marshall, Ann MacDonald and Colwyn Jones for some warm and dry rock-climbing.

Tim Pettifer, David Lawson and John Goldie were part of an expedition to Spitsbergen climbing five peaks in four separate areas of mainland Svalbard. Skiing was the main means of ascent although some stretches involved axe and crampon work.

At home the main notable climbing achievement was Donald and Colwyn's ascent of the Old Man of Hoy in less than ideal conditions. Despite a wet summer and a warm winter, many members have been active, climbing regularly in areas throughout Scotland.

Our club hut in Coruisk, Skye continues to be a popular destination and more so in the winter now that we have a new stove for heating. Structural changes and insulation within the hut have also added to the overall amenity.

Office elected: President, Dave Eaton; Vice-President, Alex Haddow; Honorary Vice-President, David Lawson; Honorary President, Andrew Sommerville; Treasurer, Andrew Sommerville; Secretary, Vicky Stewart; Meets Secretary, David Lawson; Coruisk Hut Bookings, Alan Dunn; Coruisk Hut Custodian, Alex Haddow.

Perth Mountaineering Club, (JMCS), Perth Section):— The Club continued to have a diverse active and social schedule in 2000/20001. The membership increased during the year, breaking the 100 barrier when Elaine Cameron joined on February 3.

There were 16 weekend meets during the year and seven day meets. With no meets planned south of the Border, the effects of the Foot and Mouth crisis were not too severe. However, a planned day meet to Balquidder in March was substituted with a local bike ride, and a weekend meet in April was relocated from Glen Trool in Galloway to Roy Bridge.

A good turnout of 19 enjoyed a weekend of fabulous winter weather in Glen Coe for the Blackrock Cottage meet. A full range of winter activities took place including a very sociable Burns Supper back at the cottage.

The year's good winter weather was enjoyed by many although heavy snow did lead to a day meet to Creag Meagaidh being cancelled, or at least reconvened in Birnam. The New Year's Day walk to Ben Vrackie was also affected by snow which kept the meet convener at home digging his car out and had two other members skid off the road *en route* – fortunately without injury.

The CIC meet was held later than usual in early April, but climbing conditions were good. Alex Runciman and guest completed Slav Route – Alex's 70th route on the mountain.

In a rare reversal of fortune, an August meet at the Glen Brittle Hut enjoyed good weather while the rest of Scotland suffered torrential rain. The Cuillin was eerily quiet and several members climbed the Inaccessible Pinnacle for the first time.

Wednesday evenings have continued to offer climbing opportunities – at Hadrian's Wall at Falkirk over the winter months and at various local crags over the summer.

In July, the Club held its inaugural family meet, based in Onich. Deemed a success, this is likely to become a regular fixture.

In September, Grahame Nicoll completed his Corbetts and later in the same month Rachel Tilling climbed her final Munro.

The Annual Dinner was held at the Moulin Hotel in Pitlochry in November.

Officials elected: President, Des Bassett; Vice-president, Phil Taylor; Secretary, Sue Adams – Seven Acres Cottage, Methven, Perth PH1 3SU. Tel: 01738 840980; Treasurer, Tom Rix; Newsletter Editor, Des Bassett; Meets Convener, Alan Bailey. Committee: Carolann Petrie, Mike Aldridge, Pam Dutton, Dave Prentice and Peter Hemmings.

Lochaber Section:– The section enjoyed a promising start to 2001 with a well-attended meet to Dundonell and with the mountains covered in snow and some settled weather, the section was looking forward to a decent winter season. Unfortunately, the grim spectre of Foot and Mouth made an appearance and like the rest of the country, the section's activities were drastically curtailed. Thankfully, the mountaineering fraternity in general acted responsibly and respected the landowners wishes to refrain from going to the hills and so by May, most areas around Lochaber and farther afield had the restrictions lifted.

During the summer months several members travelled to various climbing venues both home and abroad, and latterly, meets were held in Glen Clova, Braemar, and Elphin, which were all successful and well attended.

In November, the annual dinner was held at the Tomich Hotel near Cannich, where nearly 40 members and guests enjoyed an excellent weekend. This was the section's third visit to Tomich and once again the hospitality was excellent.

In 2002, in conjunction with the 'International Year of the Mountains', the section is helping out with the preparation for a visit to Scotland by a group of Iranian mountaineers. The visit is due to take place in late summer and a reciprocal trip is being organised soon after.

Steall Cottage in Glen Nevis continues to be the main source of income for the section and 2001 brought an increase in bookings compared to recent years.

Officials elected were: *President*, Sam MacPherson; *Vice-President*, George Archibald; *Treasurer*, George Bruce; *Secretary*, Kenny Foggo, 4 Parkan Dubh, Inverlochry, Fort William, PH33 6NH. Tel: 01397 706299. *Hut Custodian*, John Mathieson, 43 Drumfada Terrace, Corpach, Fort William, PH33 7JN. Tel: 01397 772599 *Honorary Members* – D. Scott and H. MacInnes.

Kenny Foggo.

SMC AND JMCS ABROAD

Europe

SMC/JMCS members Donald Ballance, John Bickerdike, Colwyn Jones and Ann MacDonald, assembled at a bustling Glasgow Airport on Saturday, April 7, 2001 for a flight to Geneva via the then popular airline hub, Brussels.

The Sabena flight was delayed and the subsequent train trip around Lake Geneva and up the Rhone Valley deposited us in Visp close to midnight. The guest house was a short walk from the station and we finally raised the old matron from her bed to open the door.

We enjoyed a comfortable night followed by a short bus trip up the Saastal to Saas Grund. The Hohsaas ski lifts soon got us up to 3098m where the heavy snowfall had closed some slopes owing to the avalanche risk. Consulting the local pisteurs produced little useful information, but we discovered that despite the piste being closed, it had been pisted. Therefore, we soon carved our way down to the Weissmeishutte and having earlier collected a key, we were soon established in the winterrahm. The snow continued overnight and the tentative party skinning up the Triftgletscher early next morning in thick mist found the going slow and worrying and therefore turned back at 3420m.

Lunch back at the hut resulted in a decision to abandon the peak, descend to the valley floor and ascend, via the lift system and the short traverse to the Britanniahutte. This excellent hut was the base for the next two days. The first day saw an attempt on the Alphubel via the Feegetscher which was again abandoned because of deep snow and deteriorating visibility. By now the Saastal was becoming increasing unpopular and in the pre-dawn of the next morning, using the eerie glow from LED headtorches, we followed quietly in the tracks of 14 aspirant guides up the Allalingsletscher. By now we had no delusions about our fitness and acclimatisation but were surprised to catch up with the big team ahead at 3630m. We creamed on ahead with 'Big Donald' leading the charge to the top of the Adlerpass. I must report we were overtaken before reaching the Col but we felt we had 'done our bit' and reached the summit of the Strahlhorn in short order behind the local professional team. Our first summit in good weather with excellent views as far as Mont Blanc and the Gran Paradiso.

The local team warned us that the descent to the Adlergletscher was steep and set off the way they had come, carving perfect 'esses' back down to the Britanniahutte. Our descent was initially steep and deep, but we enjoyed a superb ski down to the Findelgletscher, then on to Zermatt. The dependable Hotel Bahnhof had been booked, supposedly, but was out of rooms when we got there. We made do with the last dortoir accommodation and after a resplendent meal spent another comfortable night.

The queue to get up the Klein Matterhorn next morning was a severe test of patience and sanity. Later, we skied up the Breithorn and shared a near-death experience with a paraglider on the summit. However, third time lucky he finally launched himself up into the clear blue sky leaving the envious earthbound to gaze after him. The Ayas Hut on the Italian side of the ridge had just opened for the season and passing a huge serac fall *en route* we arrived late afternoon to enjoy the relaxed ambience of an Italian hut. The ambience was excellent but the

hut had only been dug out by the warden from the winter snows on his arrival that morning. Damp blankets and the defrosting process made for an uncomfortable night and it was with relief that we got up for frustock at 5am. Later that morning we ascended the South West route on Pollux and Castor was later climbed by the West face. Time waits for no man, and we decided to attempt the sheer Zwillingsjoch to get down to the Monte Rosa hut. One member skied, three went on foot and two fell into the bergschrund. One got out unassisted, the other had to be quickly but efficiently rescued. Just another typical day on a JMCS trip! After the 'fun' on the Zwillingsjoch the ski track across the crevassed Grenzgletscher was clearly crazy, but had to be done. Sitting in the sun we enjoyed the sunset and took the chance to dry off various bits of kit. Next minute a helicopter flew in delivering supplies so gloves, skins and other extraneous bits of clothing spun off down the glacier.

Frustock at 4.30am next morning saw a mass migration from the hut south to the summits of Nordend and Dufourspitze. We were close to the back of the pack on leaving the hut but soon scalped the rest of the summiteers and by late morning were in front. Shortly afterwards at 4480m, the wind was so strong it was impossible to stand and we reluctantly turned back to find, nothing, everyone else had already deserted the cause. Who could blame them. Just another typical day on a JMCS trip.

Back down at the hut we found the forecast uninspiring and next day, in worsening weather we skied down the long flat, but enjoyable, Gornergletscher. Easter weekend is no time to be in Zermatt so we caught the train back to Saas Grund as the snow continued to fall. The next day was spent piste skiing above Saas Fee in perfect spring powder as the avalanche risk had closed most of the off-piste areas.

On the final day we skinned up the Allalinhorn then skied the 2200m from the summit back to Saas Fee in perfect spring powder snow under an azure sky in bright sunshine. A fine way to end the trip – superb.

SIMON RICHARDSON reports: I made two visits to the Alps last year. In January the Groupe de Haute Montagne invited me to sit on the jury of the Piolet d'Or, an annual award given to the best mountaineering achievement in the world the previous year. The award is presented at the International Ice Climbing meet at Argentiere le Bessee in the Ecrins. The six short-listed nominations included British climbers Jules Cartwright and Ian Parnell's new route on the North Buttress of Mount Hunter in Alaska, and Valeri Babanov's solo first ascent of the North Face of Kantega in Nepal. The Golden Ice Axe (yes there really is one!) was awarded to Thomas Huber and Iwan Wolf for their ascent of Shiva's Line, the vertical north prow of Shivling in the Indian Himalaya. Although the Hunter ascent was thought to be a finer technical achievement (the judges were impressed when I explained what Scottish Grade VII mixed climbing involved), Huber and Wolf scooped the prize because they went to the summit. In an era when technical difficulty is king, it was heartening to see the award decided on traditional values.

The weather had been poor for ice climbing throughout the meet, but a sharp frost on the last night brought the higher crags into condition. I teamed up with US climber Christian Beckwith for a couple of routes at Cerviere. Christian led me up Aux Lames Citoyenes (WI5), a free-hanging ice pillar, and then it was my turn. I was keen to try a mixed route, but the bolt-protected M-routes looked too

contrived. Instead I left a Scottish calling card with the first ascent of a steep thinly-iced chimney left of the established climbs.

The second visit was two weeks in July with Dore Green. Conditions were snowy on the high peaks, so we drove around searching for good conditions. This resulted in ascents of the Younggrat (D) on the Breithorn, the South Pillar of the Barre des Ecrins (TD) and the West Pillar Direct of the Scheidegg Wetterhorn (ED1). The last route, which dominates the head of the Grindelwald valley, gave a particularly fine adventure up a steep 1000m. pillar of mountain limestone, with a long and difficult glacial descent to give it some alpine spice.

JOHN HIGHAM reports: In the last two weeks of July and first week of August, my son Richard, my wife Alison and I joined the LSCC meet in Saas Grund. As we arrived a couple of days ahead of the main party and the sun was shining Richard, Alison and I had an enjoyable training day climbing the Fletschhorn (NW Ridge PD). As we finished, and the rest of the party started arriving including Jon Hutchison and Chris Gilmore (both SMC), the rain and snow fell and I began to have nightmares that this was going to be a repeat of 2000. That year's holiday had started with a week of some of the worst weather I had seen in the Alps and ruined long-laid plans. This time was not as bad although a planned ascent soon after of the Grand Cornier with Chris and Richard degenerated into a deep snow slog terminated on the conveniently nearer and lower peak the Bouquetins as exhaustion took its toll. The weather stabilised soon after and Richard, Alison and I accompanied by Chris and Eve Gilmore and probably a hundred other people made an ascent of the Weismeiss via the SW ridge (PD) on a bitterly cold but crystal clear day.

High pressure had now settled itself over the Alps and I was keen to take as much advantage of it as possible and Richard and I started the campaign with a traverse of the Nordend and Dufourspitz via the North Flank (AD). Instead of being rock the latter was still plastered with snow and ice from the recent storms and provided an exciting ascent at about Scottish IV, it also meant no crowds. Chris had been unable to join us because of a persistent knee problem but joined us when Richard and I decided to do the Northern Nadelgrat (AD), Kate Ross and Mary Lothian of the LSCC made up a second team on the day. We traversed the Nadelgrat from the north starting at the Durrenhorn and gaining the ridge via the Durrenjoch couloir, a long day followed with no technical problems but considerable exposure and commitment.

As the two weeks of the LSCC meet came to an end, lots of peaks had been done and people began to slowly go home or move to a different area. Jon and Chris decided that it was time for some hot-rocking and headed for Locarno where they reported excellent rock and plenty of sun. Richard had time for one more route before he had to return separately to the UK so we headed for the Weisshorn a mountain I had wanted to do for a long time. I had tried it in the debacle of 2000 tempted during a short spell of good weather but turned back in the face of deep snow. The conditions were much better this time although there was more snow on the East ridge (AD) than normal and Richard and I had an uneventful and fast ascent but with no views as the cloud rolled in at midday.

The end of the holiday was fast approaching but the weather was still just holding and we had time for one more route before returning home and decided to move across to Chamonix for this. Alison had had enough of the big mountains and

went for a tour while I teamed up with Kate Ross to tackle the Jardin Ridge (D-) and continued to the Aiguille Verte over the Grand Rocheuse. A very early start ensured it was still dark when we reached the bergschrund and we stumbled around for quite a while looking for a way up the seemingly impassable wall of ice. We found the narrowest point and in the absence of any ice tools soon cut our way up the ice (some dim memories of the Sixties returned) and continued quickly up the gully above. A difficult chimney, loose and overhanging, led us onto the ridge proper. The ridge although narrow and intimidating was not too difficult and provided exciting positions on icy rock or corniced snow arêtes. We made good time to the Verte but the weather had deteriorated through the day and as the wind picked up we decided it was time to make our way down the Whymper couloir. The descent was slow and frightening as the abseiling on one rope took forever and occasional massive rockfalls down the opposite side of the couloir showed us this was not the best place to be in this warm weather. Unfortunately, the light ran out just above the seracs that run across the base of the couloir and we could not find a way through, as it stayed warm a relatively comfortable night was spent on some rocks at the edge of the couloir. Some free abseils over the seracs the next morning saw us safely down to join the others and to head back home.

Scottish Mountaineering Club East Greenland Expedition 2001

This expedition consisted of three SMC members, Colwyn Jones (Leader and Medical Officer), Chris Ravey and Brian Shackleton, plus three Lake District climbers, Jim Fairey, Colin Read and Nick Walmsley. They went to the Staunings Alps in the North-east Greenland National Park from 22nd July to 17th August 2001.

Scheduled flights from Glasgow to Keflavik, transferring to Reykjavik and onward to Akureyri in a Fokker 50 later the same day, were used to get to the North Coast of Iceland. At 09.30 on July 23 they flew in a small, chartered turboprop (Fairchild Metroliner 23) from Akureyri to Mestersvig, a gravel airstrip in Greenland (1hr. 55min. flight).

Later that afternoon after sorting gear and taking refuge from the mosquitoes, two members were flown by helicopter (Bell Jet Ranger) to base camp. However, as the helicopter pilot had exceeded his daily flying quota, the other four had to wait until next morning (July 24) for the final leg of the approach from Mestersvig to basecamp on the Great Cumbrae glacier (71° 57' 15.8" North 25 07' 04" West) This glacier had previously been explored and named on the 1998 SMC Greenland expedition.

The expedition objectives were a first ascent of the unclimbed South Face of Sussex (an impressive wall of golden granite), and first ascents of other peaks in the area.

The first morning was spent at base camp preparing the site, avalanche transceiver practice, rifle practice and familiarisation with the first aid kit and radio gear. Later, they all reconnoitred the South Face of Sussex confirming it was a huge wall with a problematic bergschrund.

On the 25th they explored the Great Cumbrae glacier on skis. Read and Jones tested the first pitch of a huge spur of granite provisionally entitled the Wa*ker Spur and found excellent quality rock. Next day on July 26 all six members made

Kenneth Dunn.

Charlie Donaldson.





a lemming-like first ascent of Keswicktinde by the north-west ridge. The route was graded AD and followed a Grade 2 couloir up to a col where a long exposed snow ridge led to the summit block. The barometric altitude recorded was 2430m.

After a rest day Read and Shackleton made the second recorded ascent of Sussex (2390m) on July 28 via a new route on the south-east face. It was 650m long and graded D and was used to look at a possible descent route if the south face was attempted. Sharing a couloir approach Ravey and Walmsley attempted a new route on the north-east ridge of the adjacent Sydney (2300m) and got to within a frustrating 60m of the summit, but reached an impasse of dangerous snow.

Fairey and Jones decided to attempt the huge ridge which dominated the south-east end of the glacier basin. This was the south-west spur of the western outlier of Sefstromsgipfel. The route was started at 0830 and they climbed continuously through the day and thankfully, mild night taking 28 hours to reach the summit. The route was 555m. long and graded ED with more than two-thirds of the route being Grade 6 rock-climbing and two of the 25 pitches requiring simple aid. Retreat was by multiple abseils into a long gully on the eastern flank of the spur, which took a further eight hours. As Fairey and Jones had been out of contact with base camp for more than 36 hours the other four team members had come out to look for them. While descending the gully, and in full view of the others, Fairey was caught when the deep 20cm granular surface layer avalanched and he was swept 300m down the gully and 20m into the bergschrund at the foot of the gully. The four at the foot of the gully started an immediate crevasse rescue and he was quickly hoisted out completely unhurt. Checks for a head injury during the following 24 hours revealed no (new) abnormalities.

The ridge, of excellent granite, was named the Jones-Fairey Spur (2570m) and the descent gully named Jim's Gully. Mild frostbite in one team member attributed to wearing only rock boots while climbing through the night was diagnosed.

Mild conditions between July 28 and August 8 had made snow slopes and couloirs unreliable and the avalanche may have heightened awareness of this objective danger! A number of ski tours were made up neighbouring glaciers, some previously unexplored, confirming the enormous climbing potential of the area.

By August 3 most rock ledges were now clear of snow and attention focused on the South Face of Sussex. The team first took the opportunity to ferry equipment to the foot of the face but by noon on the 4th mist had begun to form around the summits and in the afternoon there was a light snowfall. The following day was sunny and clear so an attempt was made on the intimidating face. After negotiating the awkward bergschrund, the technical difficulties were harder than expected and the team retreated after three short, hard-won pitches. They were estimated to be UK technical grade 5b/c and required a lot of cleaning. It was clear that this big wall would require big-wall tactics due to the difficulty of the climbing and the absence of water to drink on the face.

On August 6-7, Fairey and Jones attempted to climb Emmanuel by the unclimbed west ridge. After 12 pitches with technical climbing up to ED and A2, but less than halfway up the ridge, they reached a steep wall which barred their way. Early in the morning they retreated by abseil into an adjacent couloir which they then wisely pitched in descent.

Further days were spent ski touring and on August 10 Ravey, Read, Shackleton

and Walmsley made the first ascent of the southwest ridge of Mears Fjeld (2100m) graded PD. They first attempted an adjacent peak to Mears Fjeld but failed to achieve the summit due to dangerously unstable rock. Fairey and Jones made the first ascent of the delightful 200m south-west ridge of the pint sized Pap of Cumbrae (1885m) graded AD, a shapely minor peak at the junction of the Little Cumbrae and Cantebrae glaciers.

The following day a ski tour down on to the Sefstroms glacier proved to be very wet with deep melt streams impeding progress.

Over August 13/14, Fairey and Jones snatched the first ascent of Tandlaegetinde (tooth doctors or dentists peak) by the south face. The recorded barometric altitude was 2350m, the route took 13 hours to climb, was 500m long and graded TD. Descent took a further seven hours and was by multiple abseil back down the excellent granite face using every spare piece of tat.

August 15 was the scheduled day to return with a spare night in Mestersvig before flying out the following day. However, the weather on the 15th was poor with low cloud. The helicopter had attempted to reach base camp but been turned back by a snowstorm. The group packed for departure leaving the tents standing which was just as well as they would have to spend one more night on the glacier.

The following morning saw clear weather and the rude intrusion of the 20th century. The helicopter arrived early and flew them back to Mestersvig in two loads of three climbers, gear and all rubbish.

From Mestersvig they flew south late in the evening over the Staunings Alps giving magnificent views in the evening sun. Flying direct to Reykjavik they spent a very short night in a local hotel before leaving early for Keflavik on August 16 arriving in Glasgow by mid-morning at the end of a very successful trip.

The weather was excellent and stable during the expedition. With 23 days on the glacier, there were two days when there was light snowfall (less than a centimetre) and five other cloudy days when they went skiing. Because of the 24-hour daylight, only shadow and a clear sky ensured that snow softened by the sun would freeze to give safe conditions in couloirs and on snow slopes. The minimum recorded temperature was -8°C , but there were several occasions when no overnight freeze took place resulting in the snowpack remaining soft. A number of avalanches were observed in south and east-facing couloirs and a major powder avalanche was triggered by a serac collapse on a north-facing slope. This was in marked contrast to observations during the May 1998 expedition when there was minimum avalanche activity until a heavy snowfall at the end.

Daylight (and the need for sunglasses) was continuous throughout allowing uninterrupted climbing and obviating the need to carry bivouac gear. The Arctic sunrises and sunsets were stunning, especially when seen from a summit. The first sunset at 72°N is on the August 8.

The expedition wishes to acknowledge the financial support of the Mountaineering Council of Scotland; the Mount Everest Foundation; the Scott Polar Institute, and the technical support of Needlesports of Keswick.

REVIEWS

Dougal Haston: The Philosophy of Risk:— Jeff Connor (Canongate Books 2002, £16.99, ISBN 1-84195-215).

I met Dougal Haston on a good number of occasions, in huts, in pubs and on the hills; I climbed with him on two or three routes, always with Robin Smith — I didn't like him. He was arrogant, self-obsessed and ill-mannered. But I was in awe of him, the archetypal hard man with a hundred mile stare as though Herman Buhl had been cloned in Currie. A day spent bouldering with him and Robin on Salisbury Crags put paid to any illusions I had about my ability. I was definitely second rank beside these two. But, whereas Robin showed interest in me, encouraged me and later got in touch to climb, to Dougal, I didn't really exist. He wasn't nasty, he just didn't register my presence. And apart from a chosen few, that seems, from the evidence of Jeff Connor's interesting biography, to be how he went through his life.

Some man, but what a mountaineer! From his first rock climb in Glencoe in 1954 to his fatal ski run in Leysin in 1977, Haston immersed himself in the sport and turned it within himself into a way of life of extraordinary intensity and accomplishment. The title of Connor's book is apposite. An early devotee of Buhl — "Nanga Parbat Pilgrimage . . . was like a Bible to him" — Haston found in the risks of mountaineering a reason for living, but not one feels, for joy. When you place Haston alongside his contemporaries, Marshall, Patey, Smith, Stenhouse, Brooker, Nicol and MacInnes, for example, what set him apart was his aggressive single-minded approach, fuelled perhaps by his dabbings in Nietzsche. It wasn't just the Germanic influence — the Aberdeen group managed largely to sublimate that in good humour — it was his conviction that he was indeed 'ubermensch'.

One of the fascinating areas of Connor's book comes through his access to the diaries that Haston kept throughout his life, every entry of which is signed off with "Thus spake DH". Some of the entries are chilling. Here is Haston after the Eiger ascent and Harlin's death: "I am becoming more complete. A great hardness is setting in, and I am becoming increasingly able to treat the petty and mundane with utter contempt. I have a few friends in the true sense of the word, but no one will complete this path with me . . . One as an individual must think of self — I do not mean that one must hurt others — but the ones who get hurt are usually the purveyors of the petty . . . I will do many things for people I respect, and for fools nothing. They deserve to be trampled on."

Connor has been thorough in his gathering of the evidence of the life. He draws on many personal reminiscences, from Moriarty and Marshall on the earlier years, from Joy Heron his early girlfriend, and from many companions on expeditions — he creates a rich picture. None of them pull any punches and the picture which emerges is not flattering when it deals with his emotional and social life. However, towards the end of his life, Haston began to show traces of a maturity. Recognition as one of the top mountaineers of his generation following Everest, a Currie lad being piped into the Usher Hall, seemed to be bringing him at last a sense of peace. Maude Tiso recalls a visit shortly before his death and a changed Haston which she partly attributes to the influence of Ariane Giobellina his partner. She tells Connor: "He stopped seeming to be such a driven, troubled person, and you were able to actually enjoy his company." Perhaps his death robbed us of a more

likeable Haston as well as one of the most accomplished mountaineers of the century.

Connor has done a good job, though the book provides few answers to the question of why Haston developed the introverted cold personality that most knew. An index would have made revisiting the book easier and there is the odd inaccuracy which leaps out. He has Haston and Stenhouse battling their way up North East Buttress of the Buachaille, “finishing in a howling blizzard and then narrowly missing being avalanched out of NC Gully on Stob Coire nan Lochan on the way back down to Lagangarbh”. *The Philosophy of Risk* is not the last word on the Haston enigma – the quality of the writing doesn’t approach Robin Campbell’s obituary in the 1976 Journal – but it’s a very readable start.

Robin Shaw.

A Passage to Himalaya:– Edited by Harish Kapadia. (Oxford University Press/Himalayan Club, 2001. ISBN 01-95657-74-8)

The Himalayan Club celebrated the advent of the Third Millennium by assembling and publishing a collection of the best of the articles that have appeared in its journal during the 72 years of its existence. The editor of the current journal has collated pieces reflecting the wide spectrum of interests of its members, from high mountain climbing to exploration, geography and sociology.

A brief look down the list of contributors reveals the breadth of Himalayan experience reflected here, from Kenneth Mason and Francis Younghusband through Bill Murray and Wilfred Noyce to Voytek Kurtyka and Stephen Venables. The editor should be forgiven for starting this volume with a self-indulgent section on the founding of the club itself and the course of its history. The beautifully literate, but slightly archaic, prose of the Indian contributors is striking and already the book reeks of the sub-continent and its turbulent history. The founders possessed the strong military traditions of the imperial service and their successors appear to have retained the same penchant for the martial, having obtained a foreword from the current chief of the army staff and quoted Hemmingway on the frontispiece: “The world is a fine place and worth fighting for.”

There are pieces here which will really only interest those intricately acquainted with the remoter valleys of the Garhwal and Kumaun but they are liberally supplemented by well-known accounts of major expeditions by international authors. Among the classics are Diemberger’s last days with Buhl, Noyce with Whillans on Trivor, and Saunders’s witty recounting of Venables’s epic on Panch Chuli V.

Vivid glimpses of personalities come through in some of the book reviews and among the obituaries. Tilman’s piece on Shipton reveals more about the author than his subject: “It would need a readier pen than mine and someone with more discernment to assess his character.” All those bivouacs must have been very silent.

One of the finest articles is not by a mountaineer or about mountains. It is Maggie Body’s account of cajoling and persuading the literary luminaries of the climbing world to deliver against publisher’s deadlines. If you have ever fallen under the spell of the world’s greatest mountain range and the people who live there but the 55 volumes of the HJ are a little too inaccessible, buy the abridged version and sample.

Rick Allen.

K2 One Woman's quest for the summit:— Heidi Howkins, (National Geographic Adventure Press, 2000.)

Not really a book about climbing, although this does provide the backdrop to an honest, personal account of being a woman and a mother in a boys' world of commercial Himalayan climbing expeditions.

The autobiography moves, through a long drive over America in a snowstorm, from domestic abuse in a failing marriage, to adultery, violence and then divorce. The backdrop moves from K2 to Gasherbrum, to Kanchenjunga to Everest and back again to K2 and its elusive summit.

It expanded my knowledge of the techniques of modern expedition planning and the tensions caused by live media. I also learned more about the physiological changes that occur to the body at Himalayan altitude and the sheer hard work involved in merely surviving at such extremes. The fragility of life and ease of death at high altitude hit home at several points in the book where survival is seen as, "maintaining an acceptable level of risk".

I found the book very American in both phraseology and outlook. By quickly skipping over the few esoteric/spiritual experiences described, which weren't really my cup of tea, the book held my attention — it enabled a 10-hour flight delay when returning from holiday via Geneva airport to pass virtually unnoticed! I recommend reading it.

A book just of interest to women? I asked my partner to read it to get a male perspective — his view was: "A bit off the wall at times — produced for commercial reasons, but a good read."

Ann McDonald.

Touching My Father's Soul:— Jamling Tenzing Norgay (Ebury Press London, 2001, £16.99. ISBN 0712 605819).

The old saying goes: "Never judge a book by its cover," but the publishers are taking no chances with this one. Jamling Tenzing Norgay may not be a familiar name but dust-jacket endorsements from Reinhold Messner, Galen Rowell and David Breashears cannot fail to attract the curious browser.

Inside, His Holiness, the Dalai Lama contributes a foreword with a reminder that the author is no mere Sherpa. Subtitled: "In the Footsteps of Sherpa Tenzing," this is more than just the moving story of the insecure son of a famous father taking the opportunity to emulate his success.

When the producers of the IMAX film documentary of an Everest climb had the bright idea of including Sherpa Tenzing's son in their multinational team of stars, no one had an inkling of the dramatic events that were to unfold on the mountain in the spring of 1996, except possibly lama Chatral Rimpoche. Before Jamling's wife, a devout Buddhist, would agree to support the project, she insisted on a divination from a reputable lama. Although the omens did not look good, he went anyway, with a few sacred relics, a protective amulet and a few well-chosen mantras.

The tragedy that ensued attracted almost as much interest and attention as Tenzing and Hillary's first ascent in 1953. Jon Krakauer, a journalist whose climbing skills

saw him safely down from the summit on that fateful day, went on to write the definitive best-selling account *Into Thin Air* (reviewed in SM CJ 189). He now contributes an introduction and notes that this is the 17th book on the subject. After so many years and so many words in print, can there be anything more to add? The climb, of course, forms the central theme of the book, but what makes it particularly interesting is the complex character of the author. Jon Krakauer reminds us how little most people actually know about the Sherpas or indeed any of the indigenous Himalayan people who have played a vital role in helping us Westerners to explore, climb and appreciate these magnificent mountains. Thanks to his father's success, Jamling received a Western education, including some years at an American college. With a foot on each side of the cultural divide he is in a unique position to explain the Sherpa perspective, which is clearly very different on many issues. The book has a strong spiritual content, with the author describing how his own personal doubts and dilemmas concerning his Buddhist faith were finally dispelled by the tragic events on the mountain.

Enterprising and versatile, the Sherpa people quickly grasped the opportunities offered by visiting mountaineers. Such work has always been dangerous, and with disaster and death seldom far away, it is not surprising that they put great faith in routines and rituals which might be dismissed as primitive superstition. However, as the story unfolds, we come to marvel at the prospect of Kathmandu's Boudhanath Stupa illuminated by 25,000 butter lamps, to respect Miyolangsangma, the Everest goddess, and learn of an old prophesy that a Himalayan Buddhist would be the first person to climb the mountain. Immediately after the tragedy of May 10 there was time for reflection by the survivors, and difficult decisions for the IMAX team who had not yet made their summit attempt. Jamling describes his own thoughts and feelings and the satellite telephone discussions with his anxious wife, culminating in a more propitious divination from the family lama and finally success.

The other main thread of the story concerns Jamling's relationship with his famous father. Born 13 years after his historic ascent, the author clearly regrets the long absences from home that Tenzing's duties demanded and his own absence at the age of 20, studying in America, when his father died suddenly. The title page of the book acknowledges the help of co-writer Broughton Coburn who has made an excellent job of weaving a potted history of Everest into the story along with a lot of biographical information about Tenzing. Looking back almost 50 years, we can now appreciate that the challenges and difficulties he and Hillary overcame in climbing the mountain were in some ways easier to cope with than the pressures they faced on their return. It is a tribute to both men that they were able to handle their success so well, to the benefit of so many other people and not just themselves.

This book should appeal to a wide readership, even those with no background knowledge of mountaineering. Anyone with an interest in the 1996 tragedy in particular or Everest climbs in general will need no further encouragement and will appreciate the rare insight Jamling Tenzing Norgay gives into Sherpa culture and their unique way of life.

David Broadhead.

Killing Dragons:—Fergus Fleming. (Granta Publications 2000, 398 pp, 16 pages of black and white plates. £9.99, ISBN 1-86207-453-4).

During the 19th century, when Europeans were exploring every corner of the globe from the tropics to the poles, there was still a vast unexplored wilderness in the heart of Europe the 700-mile long chain of the Alps. This thesis forms the basis of Fergus Fleming's book, in which he chronicles the explorers who killed off the myth of dragons living among the high peaks. The chapters run through a roll call of the famous names of early alpinism – de Saussure, Paccard and Balmat, Agassiz, Forbes the Scottish geologist “whose topics ranged from the study of a single boulder in the Pentlands to the entire mountain chain of the Alps”, and the big names of the Golden Age. Interestingly, Fleming spends nearly as much time on the great popularisers, who rarely climbed the peaks or even the high passes, but instead spent their considerable energies bringing the mountains into the consciousness of a vast public audience – Bourrit, Albert Smith the Victorian showman who invented the mountaineering lecture tour, John Ruskin, and later, of course, the travel entrepreneurs Thomas Cook and Lunn.

Fleming observes and analyses in a wealth of detail not only the activities of these explorers, but more importantly their motivations, their social circumstances, their idiosyncrasies, and most often it seem their acrimonious disputes with their contemporaries. Many of the individuals portrayed come across as driven, arrogant, abrasive and dogmatic.

The book is a well-researched social history which draws on both primary and secondary sources. It is no coincidence that the Golden Age followed directly on the opening of the railway system, permitting travel from London to Chamonix in 24 hours. Nor were many of the early pioneers gentlemen, in the strict sense of the word, rather they were principally middle-class professionals, or those who aspired to this social position and who enjoyed a six-week summer holiday. Many of the principal traits of Victorian culture – national duty, physical exercise, self improvement, spiritual reward – found a ready outlet in mountain exploration. The enduring fascination with the Matterhorn disaster is explained in terms of the Victorian penchant for melodrama, a damn good story involving “competition, betrayal, hardship, defeat at the moment of victory, and . . . the death of a nobleman”. Apparently, it spawned a publishing phenomenon in a genre of ‘cut-rope penny dreadfuls’. The enduring impact of this is quite remarkable. Fully 30 years after the event 50,000 people attended a lecture tour given by Whymper. One can't imagine anything like this scale of attendance for any of our contemporary figures.

The linear development of mountaineering is well documented, from scientific discovery, through the search for beauty and spiritual experience, to the pursuit of technical difficulty for its own sake. However, Fleming's approach strongly emphasizes the second of these stages, through references going back as far as Conrad Gesner in the 15th century, and through Turner, Ruskin, Wordsworth, Alfred Wills and many others. These references will provide a source of inspiration for any follower of Bill Murray. Although much of the well-known ground at least – Mont Blanc, the Golden Age, the Matterhorn – has been extensively covered by other authors, there is more than enough less well explored territory here, together with an often novel slant on the old favourites.

Adam Kassyk

The Flame of Adventure:— Simon Yates. (Jonathan Cape, 220pp, £16.99, ISBN 0-224-06045-7).

If the excerpts on the rear dust-jacket of *The Flame of Adventure* are accurate reflections of the actual reviews, Simon Yates's first book *Against the Wall* was quite well received. "A welcome antidote to a cliché-ridden genre", said one. Your reviewer was cheered, as he has read (and to be fair, repeated) enough clichés to last him a lifetime. "Elegiac, intensely readable", said another. Well, that has to be better than intensely unreadable. "It is the best account I have ever read of the process of emotions ebbing and flowing" (etc. etc.), said a third, though granted this by Geoff Birtles and therefore perhaps not to be confused with something to be taken too seriously. All in all, though, the omens were good.

Unfortunately, from the opening words of the first paragraph hope floundered, sinking along with Yates's ski poles into the wet Khan Tengri snow, in a rather uninspired account of climbing and falling in Kazakhstan. Expectations thus lowered, what follows is not without interest, but suffers from a somewhat stilted writing style that in trying hard to be interesting frequently jars and intrudes upon the reading experience. On the positive side, it is usually the introductory paragraphs of a chapter or section that suffer the most and the rest of the book reads easily enough, though it may be rather dry for some tastes.

The book describes how Yates, disillusioned or unable to cope with a more conventional lifestyle, became a full-time mountaineer, and his experiences, from a first alpine season that included the North-east Spur of Les Droites and the Walker Spur, to objectives farther afield. Since Yates does not attempt to hide what he (or his companions) did wrong as he served his high mountain apprenticeship, those willing to learn may find information on how to avoid repeating his mistakes, which is not actually something that can be said of too many mountaineering books. Should it be necessary, they will also be reminded of the risks. When he has forgotten most of the rest of the book, this reviewer will remember Yates's account of how a following Japanese party on the Croz Spur crossed that fine and invisible line between challenge and disaster.

The book contains revealing insights into some well-known names, such as Sean Smith, Mark Miller and, of course, Joe Simpson. There is also a rather touching failed love affair that echoes those of many other obsessive mountaineers and which sheds a little light on the character traits that have contributed to Yates's mountaineering success, but may have been of less help in trying to cope with everyday life.

Yates comes across as uncomplicated, without obvious malice and with a somewhat ingenuous approach to life. He seems rather likeable, not perhaps much inclined to deep thought about his motivations and not obviously suffering greatly from inner conflict. As such, he has much to be envied. However, while it may be unfair to compare him with Joe Simpson, nonetheless their history makes it almost inevitable. Though *The Flame of Adventure* is not without merit, on its evidence many people may consider that Simon Yates's greatest contribution to climbing literature was when he cut the rope on Siula Grande.

Bob Duncan.

The Book of The Bivvy:— Ronald Turnbull (Cicerone Press 2001. 139pp. £9 ISBN 1 85284 342 X).

This, the author tells us, is a book “about misery that’s mixed in with pleasure, rather than taken straight: about self indulgence rather than mere survival” but, rightly, goes on to point out that modern bivibags also double as survival aids, it being a somewhat self-evident truism “that you can’t have much of either fun or suffering if you died the previous winter”.

Ronald Turnbull in this humorous pocket-size book deals with a subject which is obviously close to his heart, tracing the art of bivvyng, from the improvised cloak, plaid or sheepskin of old through the very questionable advantages of the Tiso Orange Poly Bag, up to the five-star Gore-Tex wonders of the present day.

This is not simply a ‘How To’ book, although there is plenty of that, it also includes travel, geography, history, and much laughter, with a handful of philosophy and existential ponderings thrown in for good measure.

I suspect that the climbing/walking fraternity are fairly solidly divided on this issue in much the same way as the general population is on the delights or otherwise of gardening. This is a book for both, an insight for the agins and an introduction for the curious, as well as a wonderful overnight companion for the committed.

Charlie Orr.

The Way to the Cold Mountain – a Scottish mountaineering anthology:—

Edited by Alex Finlay. Photographs by David Paterson. (Morning Star Publications, soft back Polygon, 2001, £7.99, 210pp, ISBN 0 7486 6288 X).

Except for its contents this is a little book. It consists of a series of prose contributions, some specially commissioned, interspersed with short poems and rather dramatic black and white photographs surprisingly effective in spite of the small format.

The contributions from about a dozen authors are all interesting with a trend towards the metaphysical. I particularly liked Andrew Greig’s sympathetic account of sharing a last few drams of Glenmorangie with Norman McCaig.

Also Dutton’s ‘anthology within an anthology’, a series of excerpts from what I would call the ‘genuine’ writers, chosen with Dutton’s usual care and sensitivity for the genuine. Worth buying for that alone.

Iain Smart.

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

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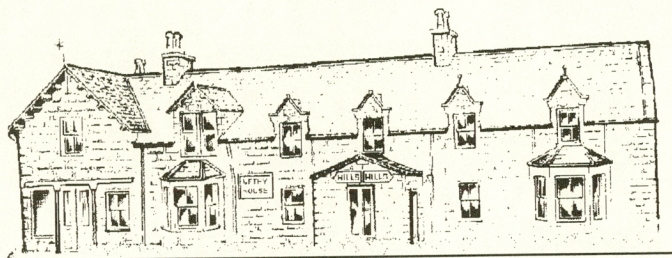
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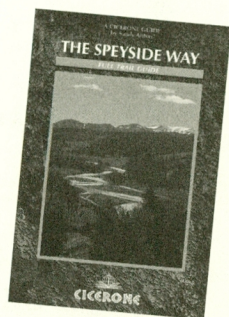


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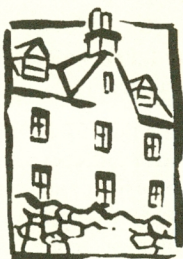
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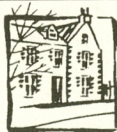
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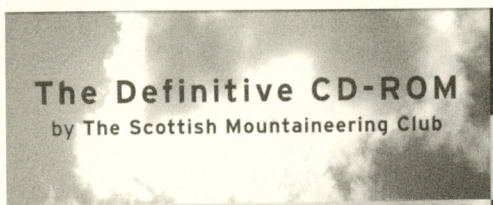

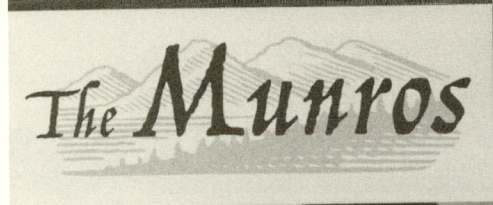



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Howse Peak (3290m), Rockies, Alberta, Canada. Photo: Alan Kerr.

Doré Green at the second bivouac on the first ascent of South Pillar, Mount Tiedemann, Coast Range, British Columbia. Photo: Simon Richardson.





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