

# Mintcake



June 2003

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Registered Charity No 259539

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## Editor's Comments

Not a lot of hard-core rescuing stuff this month with quite a few Team members away and the rest out all night, fanning their barbeques. We have had some callouts however, which makes the job of the base cleaners that much more difficult. This Saturday is a chance to show what you're worth with a mop and bucket as it's Big Clean day



It's not really been a very busy year for us thus far which is a good thing as far as casualties go but not so good for those who have to keep the Team together and manned to the level it takes to do the job. A number of other Lakes MRT's are in a similar position. How-

ever, each year, we're still here when needed and new members soon realise there's not much glamour in MR. For that, you need to watch 'Rock Farce'.

Many thanks to Colin Price from Cheshire for his kind words about Mintcake after reading it on the website. It's not often we get any feedback at all but when we have, touch wood, it's been complimentary so far.

This issue sees the long awaited menu for the Team's 50th anniversary, annual dinner. Simon Social Sec has risen to the occasion and it's been agreed that we can bring our friends along. However, Si needs to know about it and you'll need to contact him. No ticket, no din-dins

Pie and chips, this will not be!

Regards to all, Rob



## Exercise Reports

The June Wednesday evening session was all about management of a call-out. It looked at both how the Control Room in Base functions and how the roles at a casualty site change as an incident progresses. Half the group had a 'guided tour' and discussion on the Control Room with Eddie Harrison, the other half had a 'brain storming' session on cas-site management with Keith Pittman. The groups then swapped over and the sessions were re-run. These sessions acted as both a reminder and a discussion forum for the more experienced Team member. Whilst for the newer members - they were presented with lots of, often new, information. But, very importantly, they were also able to suggest pragmatic alternatives to the status quo. The evening was rounded off with John Hall demonstrating the new traction splint. This is now with one of the splinting kits, when the second new splint is obtained the Sager and Hare splints will be removed from the vehicles.

The Wednesday evening session in July will be an opportunity to put the theory parts of the June session into action. Whilst the onus will be on the new(erish) Team members getting Control Room and casualty site management experience, it is essential that the more longer-in-the-tooth members are on hand to be both 'stretcher fodder' and to give the occasional pointer in the right direction. There are a couple of scenarios arranged, normal hill kit required as they do involve going outside (even if it is snowing!). Please make every effort to attend on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> July, it is a 19.00 hrs prompt start.

Keith Pittman, Kendal MRT

## Dates For The Diary

### Saturday 5th July

Base Cleanup Day! 09:00 until 12 noon

Everyone welcome.

The more who come, the quicker it's done



### Wednesday July 16th

Training - Base Ops / Cas control

### Saturday 26th July

Killington Services Collection Day

### Sunday July 30th

Training - Cautley

### Wednesday July 30<sup>th</sup>

Equipment and Medical

### Saturday 30th August

Westmorland Shopping Centre Collection

### Friday 29th August

The Team Annual Dinner.

Details will come from Simon ASAP

### Saturday 1st November

Morrison's Supermarket Collection

## Callouts



### 23/06/03

Called out to assist a 16 year old girl who had slipped on rocks over in the Sandside area. Initially reported minor injuries turned out to be a fractured ankle. The young lady was adequately equipped and her footwear was good, which blows that theory out of the water once again.

Ten Kendal MRT members attended and casualty was evacuated by NW Air ambulance baby budgie.



### 28/06/03

A female walker in the Great Rigg area complaining of abdo pain was eventually found by Langdale MRT, who we had been called in to assist, once they worked out that the informant's grid ref was about 2 kilometres off the mark.

No diagnosis was possible and evacuation was, again by helicopter, this time the big budgie from RAF Boulmer. As this was the evening of my 25th wedding anniversary bash, I was unable to attend, but I did so enjoy listening to all the heavy breathing on the radio.



### 29/06/03

This time, a mountain biker fell whilst descending Bowderdale bridleway. Very deep laceration to the left tib also necessitated evacuation by NW Air ambulance who were recalled to the scene having left, unable to locate the casualty. You can be just too quick sometimes.



## General Team News & Comment

That puzzle.

(Sent in by Nick V of L & A and to be found on the following web site)

<http://mr-31238.mr.valuehost.co.uk/assets/Flash/psychic.swf>

.....is currently almost neck and neck with the old Land-Rover for reader feedback. I feel that should be telling me something but I'm not sure what. Thanks to all those who sent in solutions. Two of which, I've included here;

Any number starting with 1 (e.g. 10, 11 etc) will give the same answer, which is 9. That's because, as you increase the unit digit the amount you subtract is also increased by one and things cancel out.

The same thing is true for 20 to 29 where the answer is always 18. For 30-39 it's 27 and so on. The list of possible answers is 9,18,27,36,45

..... see the pattern.

Now look at the website and you'll notice that for all these numbers the symbol is the same.

Sly eh.

### Dr Richard Jones, Patron

Richard got this answer back in under two hours!! It took me longer than that to work out the question.

And from Keith, who didn't take much longer;

Choose any number between 10 - 19, follow the instructions and you will

ALWAYS get the answer 9

Choose any number between 20 - 29, follow the instructions and you will

ALWAYS get the answer 18

Choose any number between 30 - 39, follow the instructions and you will

ALWAYS get the answer 27

Choose any number between 40 - 49, follow the instructions and you will

ALWAYS get the answer 36

etc giving answers 45, 54, 63, 72 & 81

An identical symbol appears against 9, 18, 27 etc each time the game is

played; but this symbol changes every few plays so the pattern is not

Obvious.

### Keith Pittman, Kendal MRT

So now you know! Ed

## Too Much Reality TV

I am sure that you are all following the adventures of Glentannock (isn't that the name of a tea-cake manufacturer?) MRT in that excellent BBC documentary *Rockface*. They are a very busy team and always seem to have at least two incidents running at the same time; which leads me to question why they did not base it around Low Fold – they are just as busy and you might have seen Kendal MS&RT on screen giving the occasional support. Having said that, the Glentannock team do appear to only need 4 people to do a multi-mile carry-off; I assume that the others must just be out of camera shot. Similarly it must be the distortion effect of the camera lens, but whenever cardiac compressions are carried out the rescuer involved does appear to have rather bendy arms. (Just a thought, this may be the current Scottish technique, does any reader have a St Andrew's Ambulance Association first aid book so I can check this?)

I did get a bit confused in one programme where Gordon (their team leader) said he was sending the searchers out in pairs, but the camera shot was firstly of fifteen in a line search then of 4 dogs and handlers working together – I can only assume that this is sloppy editing. (Mind you if the Scottish dogs and handlers are anything like their Lake District counterparts, once they get together you need buckets of water to separate them.) In the same call-out I was interested to see that the searchers were told before they started that they must achieve 100% Probability Of Detection; clearly Scotland has developed the English, Welsh, rest of the world method, of the searchers estimating their POD after the search of their area.

John Everett must have cried during one rescue when a new Land Rover Defender was written off, personally I think we should offer to recover the bits and do a re-build as the Mobile 2 replacement. (On a pedantic note the *Radio Times* described it as a 'truck'!) On the subject of transport, you may have noted that Glentannock have access to a Royal Navy Seaking helicopter. Nothing unusual in that but I did notice that they have a step to get in the side door, whereas the RAF ones we use do not. Has this something to do with kilts and bell-bottoms, or is there a rather boring technical reason?

The security videos in the MRT part of the Glentannock police station have picked up some rather personal and intermittent shots which have been used in the documentary; all a bit too much *Big Brother* for me I'm afraid. However this does lead me to wonder at Paul Astle's motives for including the costs of a CCTV system in next year's budget for the Busher Walk base.

Two things do worry me about *Rockface*, they both relate to the members of Glentannock MRT. Firstly, I suspect that they are all vegetarians, as they all seem to bleed a lot – often at the slightest contact with a bit of rock. (Mind you I do seem to remember that last year we had Les Telford, Simon Thorn and Pete Munford all having a limb in plaster at the same time.) Secondly, I find it rather unusual that an MR team would have so many members who are nurses, doctors, physiotherapists, outdoor equipment suppliers, runners, ... hang-on, having thought about it, maybe forget that last point.

So is the reality TV that is *Rockface* an improvement on the celluloid and magnetic tape attempts to demonstrate the spirit of MR that have appeared in the past? *The Eiger Sanction* (with Clint Eastwood) had Hamish MacInnes as technical advisor so it had great potential, but somehow it still felt like

fiction. There was that 1990 'Hillcraft' video series produced for the D of E award scheme which had Stuart Hulse et al attending to a broken ankle, but this was clearly pure fiction as there was no L & A co-ordinated team clothing to be seen anywhere. All of which means that, for real comparisons, we have to go back to some of the cine films mentioned in the 1972 edition of the MRC's handbook 'Mountain Rescue and Cave Rescue'. There is 'No. 424x, 16mm. in colour. This shows the standard equipment of a mountain rescue post, and tells the story of an imagined accident and shows how help is brought, first aid given and the rescue organised. There is a sound track. It can be projected by means of any good 16 mm. Projector with sound at 24 frames per sec. and runs for about 30 minutes.' Or 'No 422x, 8 mm. silent in colour "Mountain Rescue". Suitable for small audiences, it runs about 20 minutes.' Has any one out there in Mintcake readership land got a copy of these cine films? If so, we could hold a critical evenings viewing.

'Barbellate'

## Working Group News

### Equipment and Medical

#### Communications.....

After a meeting between LDSAMRA and Cumbria Police, we are now a little way forward in the problem of who funds our next communications system. The attitude of the police in all of this, is to be as positive and helpful as their current financial situation will allow. Their own forthcoming Tetra communications system being inordinately expensive leaving little in the pot, and, no, they don't have a bottomless pot just because they are a state-run organisation. They are as subject to the whims of the Bean-counters as everyone else is these days. Justify it, and you can have it.

As the police annual budget submissions are due in around October of this year, it's been agreed that we will meet with DCC, Mr Crompton and his team sometime in September for the final LDSAMRA request for inclusion into the police budget. In the interim, a number of technical meetings are to be held to further define the exact requirements of Lakes MRT's. It goes without saying that those same Bean-counters could still scupper us but at least the police will be there.

All of this is good news and means that some of the financial burden of migrating to a new communications system, has been removed from individual teams.

This news has had differing effects on different MRT's. We, in Kendal, can almost breathe a sigh of relief whereas Langdale could have done with the decision being reached sooner than September due to their new base needing it's radio fit a little quicker than that. Nick and his team have some serious decisions to take. An option under discussion, is that we accept a phased introduction of hardware, possibly over several years and beginning with the lowest functional level satisfactory to each team. Subsequent years would see hardware levels increased to something approaching those needed by mountain rescue in these modern times.

**Rob Brookes, Radio officer**

**Kendal Mountain Search & Rescue Team Annual Dinner**

Stonecross Manor Hotel

29<sup>th</sup> August 2003

Twenty pounds per person (Ticket entry only)

**Fan of Ogen Melon Presented on a Raspberry Coulis**

Garnished with a panache of seasonal fruits

\*\*\*\*\*

**Soup or Sorbet**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Topside of Scottish Beef**

Traditionally served with Yorkshire pudding, creamed horseradish & a rich pan  
gravy

or

**Traditional Norfolk Turkey**

Served with Chipolata sausage, bacon roll, seasoning & cranberry sauce

or

**Mediterranean Vegetable & Pasta Bake**

Mediterranean vegetables & pasta bound in a tomato & oregano sauce, baked &  
gratinated with cheese

**Selection of Fresh, Seasonal Vegetables**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Profiteroles**

And hot chocolate sauce

Or

**Raspberry Vacherin**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Freshly Brewed Coffee & Kendal Mint Cake!!**

\*\*\*\*\*

This years Annual Dinner, marks the 50<sup>th</sup> year of Kendal Mountain Search & Rescue Team. For this reason we have pushed the boat out a little further with regards to the venue. For the same reason this event will also be a 'shirt & tie' occasion. I know we can do it, even if it hurts a little!

As we have a bigger venue than in previous years, we have the luxury of being able to invite some friends along to share this evening with us. (within reason!) So if you have friends who you would like to invite, please ask them!

Please note that due to organisational reasons, this years Annual Dinner, will be a ticket entry event. If you do not pre-purchase your ticket, & pre-order your menu options by August 14<sup>th</sup> 2003, you will not be admitted to this event.

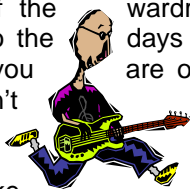
To book your ticket for this once a year, not-to-be-missed event,  
Call Simon on 01539 729033

Now we move on to Chris Marsden, our training officer, who is attempting to get us all to think ahead. Through no fault of his own, Chris seems to have acquired the permanent job of organising our Team entry into the Kendal Torch-Light Procession held in September of each year. As this year seems to be no exception it will doubtless once again see John Hall in drag and the rest of us in costumes carefully chosen so as not to outshine John. We will then spend an always enjoyable evening smiling through the fumes generated by exhausts and burning clutches.

This year's theme is **"Music & Musicals"** and as it's Kendal MRT's 50th birthday this year, our interpretation of this theme will be a 50's era musical.

To be precise, **'Grease'**.

So chaps, it's time to get your drapes, crepes and drain-pipes back out of the wardrobe and transport yourselves back to the days when both sexes had big hair. Ladies, you are on your own with this one as even I wasn't old enough to notice what girls were



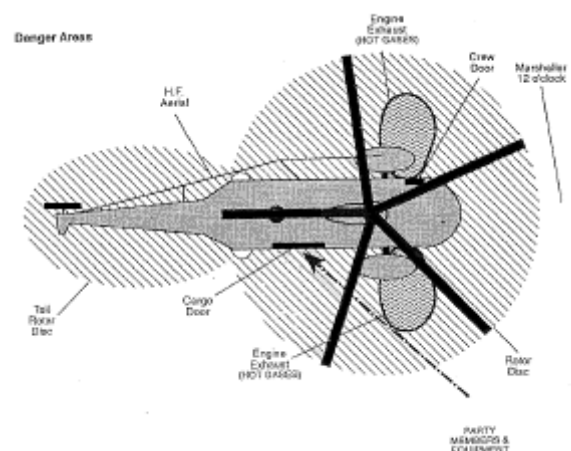
Chris would like some help constructing signs etc. He's sorted out the music for the night and there's even a possibility of a live band. A local company are supplying a curtain sided lorry so we'll be bigger and better than ever this year. I believe I'm down as marshall once again as it's my name that the Torch-Light organisers have got in the little black book, however, as they do take safety very seriously, and as we're using a big wagon for once, I will need a willing volunteer to man one end whilst I'm at the other. I'll attend the meetings unless you're that eager, you want to come along too. Names to Chris, if you want to volunteer your services. Let's have a good turn-out this year as it's always a good laugh.

An additional exercise report on the recent helicopter training held on 29/06/03

When it arrived, and even better, it stayed, everyone had heaps of flying time. The RAF went home happy, they had met all their training objectives which mainly involved exposing a trainee Winchman to working on steep ground. We were happy too, lots of Team members managed Stage 1 training and are now cleared to fly.

We also all managed to get in some good steep ground work with the aircraft.

In conclusion, an all round good day.



Dan Shiels, Kendal MRT



# **TEAM BARBECUE**

**TO BE HELD AT**

**PUNCHBOWL  
HOUSE, GRAYRIGG**

**On**

**SATURDAY, JULY  
5<sup>TH</sup> 2003**

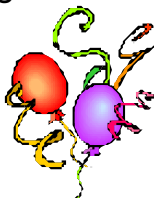
**From 19.30 onwards**

**Everybody welcome  
B.Y.O. Food & Drink**

***Our Masterchefs will  
be in attendance  
again to assist you  
with their  
culinary skills***

Limited floor space available  
(bring a sleeping bag)

Further details from Ian & Dagmar on  
01539-824345



## **Fund Raising**

The collecting day, held at Killington services on Saturday 28th June, raised **491.28** pounds, however, I regret to have to say that we were unable to bank this amount as twenty pounds went missing after the money had been counted. It is to be hoped, that between this issue of Mintcake and the next, it turns up and can be banked along with the other donations kindly made by the general public.

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**Next Issue : First week in August 2003**