

Mintcake



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Reg. Charity No. 259539

October 2005

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Reminders

- The team's AGM will take place at Base on 2 November, starting on 7.30pm.
- Simon Thorn needs your order for the team dinner. Please see details below.

Editor's Comment

The year is flying by, half-term is almost upon us and the clocks go back in a week's time. Prepare for a few more callouts. But let's hope we're spared on 2 and 11 November when our AGM and Annual Dinner, respectively, take place. We hope to see as many people as possible— both hillgoing and non-hillgoing members – at both these events. Details elsewhere.

Les

100 Club

The winners of the July 100 Club Draw were:

1st	47	Ian Haig	£10
2nd	55	K. Keetley	£10
3rd	77	Liz Rothschild	£5

Liz Parkes

And so farewell...

... to old Mobile 2. Used car salesman Andy Dell reports: "Mobile 2 has now been sold. Sad to see it go - it has done us proud for 15 years - there are a good few folks still on the team who were involved in its acquisition and conversion all those years ago who look a lot more haggard round the edges now than the VW does!!!"

... temporarily at least, to Hamish Wilson who is returning to Australia for a while to study for an MBA. Let's hope that puts an end to the rumour that, like Prince William in the Braemar team, Hamish has had to be taken off callout duty because too many girls were pretending to be in trouble in the hope that he would be their rescuer.

Fundraising

There is to be a collection at Asda this Saturday, 22 October. This may be our last collection at Asda this year. Please contact Liz to volunteer your services.

Annual Dinner

Crooklands Hotel
11 November 2005 19:30 hrs

Cumberland Sausage & Black Pudding
On a toasted croute with an onion marmalade & Cumberland mustard jus
Chilled Melon & Mandarin Cocktail
Soaked with Midori liqueur
Cream of Country Vegetable Soup
Topped with chives & crispy herb croutons
Cocktail of Prawns & Pink Grapefruit
With a brandied Marie-Rose sauce

Baked Fillet of Scottish Salmon
Herb crusted & served on a pool of tomato hollandaise
Roast Topside of English Beef Rossini
Topped with a rich Madeira wine sauce enriched with pate
Traditional Cumbrian Roast Turkey
Served with all the trimmings
Cinnamon & Brown Sugar Roast Pork Tenderloin
With a tasty apple gravy
A Colourful Array of Grilled Seasonal Vegetables
With apricot spiced couscous

Westmorland Plum Pudding
With rum sauce
Black Cherry Pavlova
Crooklands Sherry Trifle
Selection of Farmhouse Cheeses

Coffee with Mint Crisps

Can I have your orders on paper please, deposited to either my pigeon hole at base (under T), or posted to my home address:-
24 Blackthorn Close
Kendal
LA9 6FD

The cost of the meal is £17.50 per person.
Please make cheques made payable to
'Kendal Mountain Search & rescue Team'

The closing date for orders is strictly 31 October.
On the 1 November I will be finalising numbers and orders to the hotel.

This will be a fantastic evening, book early to avoid disappointment!

I look forward to receiving your orders.
Cheers,
Simon

Shorts

- A reminder that any kit still unclaimed after the AGM will be donated to charity or otherwise disposed of.
- A number of old books and maps which are not relevant to the team's operations will be given away to members who would like them at the AGM.
- Any team member straying down the M5/M4 and in urgent need of new equipment can claim a 15% discount from Trekitt in Hereford, Bristol, Cardiff and Cheltenham on production of a membership card.

Training

Paul is in the process of organising driver training. This will involved some theory sessions on Wednesday evenings, open to anyone who wishes to attend and practical Saturday sessions for those who were not involved two years ago. Please contact Paul for further details.

Exercise Reports

Wednesday 14 September – Whitbarrow Scar

A pager-initiated simulated callout to look for two Japanese tourists who called from Whitbarrow Scar to report that they were lost and injured. Their location was sketchy, so the first job was to find them. That having been completed, their injuries had to be treated. The importance of ensuring that the casualty site is made as safe as possible and that team members don't contribute to the dangers by dislodging rocks was reinforced!

Meanwhile, the local farmer was being given a demonstration of new Mobile 2, including its extending aerial to assist with communications. With that done, aerial retracted and everyone in the vehicle ready to head back for base, it was discovered that the fail-safe device to prevent the vehicle from driving off with an extended aerial worked all too well. The outcome was an ignominious towed return to Kendal for new Mobile 2. All part of life's rich learning curve, so the cause of the problem was identified and rectified.



Sunday 25 September – Anyone for cricket? (Don't mention the Ashes)

First Test: Two good innings. In the first, we looked at "New Two" under the guidance of our illustrious vehicle officer, John Everett. Despite comparisons with an ice cream van or a drug dealer's ride with its blacked-out windows, it was felt that it will be a good vehicle for us. The stretcher loading and securing looked excellent. Kevin Knowles completed our tour with a demonstration of the extending mast. No one had previously realised how high he could get it or how long it takes to come down...and all of this without Viagra!

Second innings: Chris Marsden gave us a tabletop explanation of various search techniques – lines searches (like those round a cricket pitch), purposeful wandering (like those conducted drunk after losing a test match) and corridor searches (like looking for an opening through England's fielders).

A good result for the team. Series score: one-nil to the team.

Second Test: The main part of the exercise was a search for two missing Australian wildlife enthusiasts, Mr. and Mrs. Wilson, photographing deer on the Shap Fells. The team was ably organised in this task by team leader for the day, Pierre "Flintoff" Bétoin. Trust the Aussies...series score: one all.

Third Test: And so we searched...and searched...and searched. Up fell, down dale, through bog, through more bog, up for fell and down more dale. Chris Marsden, meanwhile, managed to teleport some kit about one kilometre...you had to be there. I'm claiming a draw on this one, we were still looking...

Fourth Test: And guess who was found in a bright yellow shelter (no colour sense, these antipodeans)? The two Petes made the find, closely followed by Bill Malone. Under no circumstances did any members of the team repeatedly mention the Ashes...nor did Pete Dodd ask Bill Malone (A&E consultant) if he had any medical experience prior to beginning first aid...nor did we mention the Ashes.

A definite team win, I think. Series score: two-one to the team.

Fifth Test: We stretchered Mr. Wilson towards the vehicles (without mentioning the Ashes, of course) but unfortunately had to kick him out and run off the hill to attend a couple of callouts. Did I mention the (unlocked) gate which several team members couldn't open?

Final test, a draw, so overall a two-one win for the team.

Many thanks for the day, both to those who organised the exercise and those who took part, and a special thank you to Hamish's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Wilson.

Did I mention the Ashes?

Pete "Botham" Munford

And in the interests of balance:

An interview with Mum and Dad, the lost Australian tourists

With the best interests of the team at heart, I decided to go undercover and interview my parents in the wake of their slightly

traumatic experience as ornithologists [*I expect deer have wings and lay eggs in Australia. Ed.*] lost on Shap Fells. The following has been transcribed verbatim:

"Do you always greet your mildly hypothermic, thoroughly lost and terribly distraught casualties with 'Whatever you do, don't mention the Ashes!??'"

I sighed and told them they were lucky not to actually be a member of the team!

"Did we do a good job of being dead?"

"Well," I replied. "I kinda think you gave the game away when you both started laughing when they made that lame crack about the cricket."

"Is it standard practice to bugger off when humping out all the kit on the pretext of an emergency, leaving your Father to carry out the stretcher and your Mother to assist poor old John who was nearly lost to the bogs?"

"Don't worry," I told them, "you weren't special - this was just the team's standard way of expressing their gratitude and the fact that they felt that, for a couple of old-timers, you were fitter than most of them!"

"Well, they all look terribly heroic," said Dad. "Just like the show on TV about Mountain Rescue. Is it true that many of them have sex in the locker room?"

I thought I'd let them down gently: "You'd be lucky to find anything alive in the same room as Dan's boots, let alone want to have sex in there!" Reality can be so cruel.

"Have they found the keys to the Volkswagen yet?" asked Mum.

"Heaven only knows," I responded, "But Pete has been sent to a distant Siberian salt mine as penance for his sins."

"Aaah shame," replied Mum, "He seemed such a nice chap."

"If only you knew the truth," I thought.

Hamish "Paxman" Wilson

Callouts

14 September

The team was asked to assist L&A in evacuating a fallen climber with a leg injury at Scout Crag in Langdale.



14 September

The police contact the leader group about an overdue elderly walker in the Kentmere area. Before the team could be called out, the man was found and escorted to safety by a group of walkers.

21 September

Another call from L&A to assist with an evacuation. 13 team members responded, but we were stood down en route when the incident turned out to be nearer the road than first thought.

25 September

As the Sunday training exercise was coming to an end, we were asked for assistance by L&A after shouts for help were reported from the Side Pike area. When it transpired that there were no casualties, the team was stood down. Meanwhile...

25 September

...most of the team was still heading back off the fell after a search exercise when a call was received from the police to search for a despondent person on Scout Scar. This involved 21 of our own team members, 5 SARDA search dog teams, two police dogs plus handlers and five members of Morecambe Bay Rescue. The person involved returned to her own home later in the evening, and the searchers were all stood down.

What's On

Saturday 22 October

Collection: ASDA

Wednesday 26 October

Equipment evening: 19.00h

Sunday 30 October

Training: Stretcher lower 9.00h

Wednesday 9 November

Training: Defib 19.00h

Friday 11 November

Team dinner, Crooklands Hotel: 19.30h

Saturday 26 November

Training: Helicopter/night nav – time to be announced

Wednesday 14 December

Training: Table-top search exercise 19.00h

Sunday 18 December

Training: First aid: 9.00h

Wednesday 21 December

Equipment evening: 19.00h

Base & Vehicles

Following the decorating of Base, Pierre & I have had a tidy-up / sort-out of various publications and documents, including the Team official and unofficial records.

It appears that some 'recent' paper-copies of documents are missing, so to enable us to ensure there is a full paper record of critical documents we would appreciate your help.

We have fully gone through the bookcase in the Briefing Room and the filing cabinet in the store room to no avail. It is possible that the master paper sets are somewhere else in Base, or at your home if you are / have been responsible for them, or that we now only have them electronically (in which case we need to think about how we archive for the future).

The missing documents are:

- AGM minutes post 1999
- Main Committee minutes post 2000
- Newsletter editions post 1998

We are not so concerned about the lack of minutes from Ops & M'ship Sub Committee, Equipment etc. WG and Fundraising WG - although it would be nice to have these.

Can you please let me know if you have some knowledge where the items may be.

PS: Official records and archive items are now stored under the seats against the back wall in the Briefing Room. Unsorted photographs are also there, while those in albums are on the bookcase. All old Newsletters are on the bookcase.

PPS: The old filing cabinet which attempted to slice your finger off at each use will be scrapped (and there is now more space in the Store Room).

PPPS: We will be disposing of old books and magazines that are not relevant to MR, medical issues, Kendal or Cumbria - this will initially be to team members at the AGM.

Keith Pittman

Driving logs are to be introduced in all vehicles. Drivers will be required to complete the log every time they use a team vehicle.

All three vehicles now have new charger systems. If you have any further ideas/requests with regard to equipment, please contact me.

John Everett, Vehicle Officer

General Assistant

A vacancy has arisen in Kendal Mountain Search and Rescue Team for an assistant non-hillgoing member.

Duties will include:

- Washing emergency vehicles
- Cleaning equipment
- Answering phones
- Collections

This position would suit a young person of independent means with a degree, preferably in geography, and an ability to communicate with his subjects the general public.

Applications in the first instance to the Membership Secretary. Please mark your envelope "HRH".

KMSRT is an equal opportunities employer. Applicants of royal blood can expect to be interviewed.

The KMSRT Agony Column

Dear Honor, I seem to be missing various items of personal kit which I left at base. Any thoughts on what might have happened to them? **Anon**

Dear Anon, It may come as a surprise to you to learn that there are one or two members of the team who are of a tidy disposition and object strongly to damp and/or smelly bits of personal clothing hanging around at base for weeks on end (particularly socks). You may have left them in the drying room, the locker room or, indeed, anywhere that you saw fit to abandon them. It's more than possible that the local Oxfam shop is a good place to start looking now or you could try going through the rubbish bin outside base if the items were particularly unpleasant. Another option would be to think very hard about who in the team might be of a tidy disposition and summon up the courage to enquire about the missing items. A really good plan is to ensure that all personal kit is put away in an appropriate place as quickly as possible. **Honor**

Dear Honor, I have been experiencing a severe pain in my lower abdominal region since the last callout. Have you any suggestions of how this came about? **Anon**

Dear Anon, You were obviously standing too close to one of the new vehicle charging plugs when the driver turned on the ignition. In order to stop the whole charging system being ripped out of the garage ceiling when the driver forgets to unplug the charger, switching on the ignition ejects the charging plug from the vehicle at about three times the speed of sound. This can cause severe damage to anyone unfortunate enough to be in its path. I suggest that you try an ice pack, but if the symptoms persist see your GP and moan at the Health & Safety Officer. **Honor**

Dear Honor, Do mermaids have pierced nipples? **Anon**

Dear Anon, This question was raised at the Kendal Torchlight Carnival on 9 September when a certain team member and accomplished Lily Savage impersonator, dressed as an extremely buxom mermaid. Having never actually met a mermaid, I'm afraid that I cannot answer your question, but I would guess that if they do indeed indulge in this form of decorative adornment they would not risk the same "deflation problems" that were faced by the team member in question. That said, I was a little disturbed to witness my Bertie's obvious fascination as he watched from the High Street. Personally I thought the air guitars were best, along with the antics of a certain Australian team member who seemed intent on abducting a number of attractive young ladies from the unsuspecting crowd. What a shame they lost the Ashes! I wonder if that was anything to do with the team being pelted with rocks on the exercise he organised on 14 September? ☺ **Honor** PS Congratulations to the team on winning the "Most Humorous Float Award".

Dear Honor, I am considering buying a French vehicle. Have you any advice for me? **Anon**

Dear Anon, As you will know from working with the team, all things French are just a little bit odd. You may have found that driving in France is quite a challenge and recent team experience has been that the French also have some very strange ideas about how you would like to use their vehicles. One can only surmise that they have some kind of fetish for the smell of burning brake linings as the new Mobile 2 decided, on a recent exercise at Whitbarrow Scar, that it would not allow the engine to run if you took the handbrake off. It was quite happy to run all night if you left the handbrake on, but if you took the handbrake off - zilch! This arrangement does not sit comfortably with the need to respond to callouts quickly but at least the resulting smoke screen further reduces the chance of anyone spotting a van full of strange people with their heads on one side (see September's column). **Honor**

Dear Honor, During a recent callout, I noticed several blokes clad in oilskins and wellies wandering purposely around Scout Scar. Was there a particularly high tide on Sunday 25 September? **Anon**

Dear Anon, I am sure that you must be referring to our good friends from the Morecambe Bay Rescue Team (Bay Hovercraft) who turned up to help us on the search. Presumably, the Police thought it would be a good wheeze to get them off the beach and give them an afternoon out on a hill. Their help was, of course, greatly appreciated, and one of our medics has advised that most of the symptoms of the altitude sickness should be gone within a week. **Honor**

Honor Corlowtt

Bookworm Corner

Back last century the team, along with others, assisted Larry Walters to ascend White Side. You may be thinking: 'ascend' not 'descend', 'White Side' – that's out of our area, 'others'? Larry was then (and is still) a retired chartered engineer. Born with cerebral palsy into a working class family in the 1930s, his future seemed very bleak. Many saw him as not only being severely physically handicapped, but also beyond education. Being obstinate and singled-minded, he was determined to overcome what he calls a 'series of local difficulties'. Married with one daughter and two grand-daughters, he somehow managed to combine his family life and professional career with a range of other challenging activities. He was also one of the first people to campaign for equal opportunities for disabled people. In 1986 he was awarded an MBE. Late in the 1990s Larry decided he wanted to get up a Lake District mountain – and he did. It took a lot of effort and determination on his part to get up White Side. He had support from many friends and colleagues, including Kendal MR; the team provided stretcher, cas bag and some labour to give a bit of support (but really only on the descent).

Larry has written a moving book on his triumph over severe disability; **To the Mountain Top** (ISBN 190452432-X) is published by Hayloft Publishing of Kirkby Stephen. The book was recently launched at a special event at Sandgate School in Kendal (where Larry is Chair of Governors), the team were asked to attend and put the display boards up. We got plenty of interest (and a fair few donations), but so did the video of Larry's day on White Side – every now and then a familiar face (I think I saw Hil, Rod, Bel and Sandy, but there may have been others) would appear in shot carefully supervising Larry's friends as they carried the team kit up the fell while Larry made his slow but very satisfied way up.

Hayloft Publishing also published **The Long Day Done** by Jeremy Rowan Robinson, the fictional (?) story of a rescue on Bowfell where Kendal MR possibly appears under the pseudonym of the South Lakeland Fell Rescue Team. A new, factual book entitled **Mountain Rescue** by Bob Sharp (TL, Lomond MRT) and Judy Whiteside (Rossendale and Pendle MRT, editor of *Mountain Rescue Magazine*) is to be launched in Kendal in November this year. See the flyer in base. There, a few ideas of books for you to read in the run-up to Christmas. (Is this the first mention of Christmas this year, Mr Editor? *No, Ed.*)

Keith Pittman

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