

August 2002

Mintcake

*The Newsletter of
Kendal Mountain
Search & Rescue
Team*

Incorporating Ecake, the electronic Newsletter for Kendal Mountain Search & Rescue Team.

Editor's Comments

There's nothing more likely to remind you of how fast time flies than having to meet a monthly dead-line. A month should be a long time, but it's not. So once again, the newsletter is here.

This particular month sees an entertaining article from another stalwart of both the Team and this newsletter, Ray Green and whilst I did ask for this article, it seems that was interpreted in both meanings of the phrase. Nice one Ray.

This month also sees some warning tones sounded by our Equipment officer. It's looking very much like we're letting The Few do everything once again. I thought we'd grown out of that practice but obviously not.

A couple of interesting meetings have taken place over the past month and some equally interesting things have happened.

This month's issue has a number of hyper-links to various web sites embedded within the particular articles. They are not shown with their full URL address as these are of no use to anyone without an internet connection. Everyone else, just click the links in under-lined blue.

If you get a message saying that your computer "Cannot download the information you requested" It means you're working off-line. (I discovered!)

Rob

A Criteria-Meeting Article?



Through the smoke and alcoholic haze at the Team Barbecue, Rob-Acting-Temporary-Newsletter Editor was talking. Now Rob may not do up, snow, rain or midges, to name but a few, but by the cringe, he don't half do words! And the words he said, severe y reduced by me to fit this space), were:- that 'he doesn't do Newsletter editing but if I wrote the article I was alcoholically influenced to commit to writing, he would have enough material to take him up to the Team AGM when bingo, he retires, as I don't do Newsletter editing!'

Rob's words split rapidly through the smoke, roar and sizzle of my red-meat cooking. "The article has to meet two criteria only....."....I drifted off, the thick smoke from my well-marinated Chinese pork red-meat steaks hiding my loss in concentration, and started thinking.. "not like you Rob to expect only two criteria...for a new radio or computer gizmo to have any validity it must meet at least 20 RB criteria". (Sorry, Rob abbreviation! 'RB'=Rob Brookes)....."and the article must have a joke in it".. no, one only would do." he said.

I did think of the 'only one joke' being a one-line article, thus maybe committing Rob to at least another month in the black hell-hole of Newsletter Editorship. I really am tempted! "

".....and the second criteria is no 'Acronyms'"!..... Again I drifted off-.I thought. "Why should I or anybody in the Team, want to write an article about Greek temples on the Acropolis? ..or were 'Acronyms' those fiddly bits at the top of the Greek columns holding up the temple roof?. Best to defer to "Rob-Acting-Temporary-Newsletter-Editor's" superior editorial judgement. I said nothing to portray my embarrassing ignorance and tried to re-focus on Rob's flow of consciousness, I mean words, which he-do-do, or does-does well.

Rob had paused, as Les Telford was handing over his veggi burgers to him and Ed for very careful, slow cooking. This took some time, as Les was first faced with the moral dilemma of placing his spiritually pure fare on the red-hot fiery altar to red-meat decadence. Then he was faced with the second dilemma of placing the purity of his pale, wan-coloured veggi-burgers with their simple, tear-drop, virginal shape, next to my raw-red-meat, hacked-off-an-animal, well-marinated Chinese pork steaks. But even a vegetarian has to eat, so Les capitulated.

Soon my red-meat was roaring and spitting fiercely while the -veggis' lay there wanly doing ?.... nothing at all discernible. The assembled adherents to the two churches of purity and decadence looked for some, any, sign of life from the 'veggi-Bs; a change of shape or

colour or a sound even. My red-meat fare meanwhile rose-up almost phoenix-like from the flames and I tore into the powerful meat. Ten minutes later, Les said my veggv-Bs are done now" and we assumed Les must have some deep, almost psychic connection with his food as, apart from getting hot, the veggy-Bs had not altered one iota in appearance. Well, that's what purity does for you.

So, Rob, I hope by writing this little 'miss'-taking piece, I have met both your criteria and my obligation to you. I hope as well that, with others, we have saved you from the on-going hell of Acting-Temporary-Team-Newsletter-Editor, which along with many other things, you "Don't do"! But don't you 'not do it' well.

Ray Green

Mr Green, I thank you. Rob

Dates For The Diary

Wednesday 18th September

Training:- Casualty care SK

Wednesday 25th September
19:30 at base.

Equipment & Medical working group meeting.

Sunday 29th September

Training:- Farleton Knott Ropeway.
AD/SK

Wednesday 9th October 19:30
for a 20:00 Start.

Paul and Abby Astle invite you to a slide show on Trekking & Mountaineering in Chile & Bolivia

Wednesday 16th October,

Training:- Evacuation Scenario DS

Tuesday 22nd October 19:45 at base

Base & Vehicles Meeting

Sunday 27th October

Training:- 1st Aid Round-robin
JH/KP

Wednesday 30th October
19:30 at base

Equipment & Medical working group meeting.

Wednesday 20th November

Training:-

Defib, CPR, Life support SK

Sunday 24th November

Training:-

Search & Evacuation CM/PA

Wednesday 27th November

19:30 at base

Equipment & Medical working group meeting.

Wednesday 11th December

19:30 at base

Equipment & Medical working group meeting.

Wednesday 18th December

Training:-

Communications AD/RB

Sunday 29th December

Training:-

Navigation Exercise PA

Call-Outs

Sunday August 4th

Unfortunately, the team were once again called to assist a fallen climber at Farleton Knott. Injuries were severe and helicopter evacuation was required.

Whilst I will never go into great detail, regarding casualty and injuries, for this newsletter, a number of points were raised by this callout that are commented upon, elsewhere in this issue. ed

Monday 19th August

The Team were called out to a 15 year old horse rider near Tebay, who had survived a fall from her horse only to have it step back onto her leg. Langdale MRT also dispatched a vehicle to assist but we all were beaten to the scene by the Air-ambulance baby budgie and the casualty was whisked off to hospital with a suspected fracture.

Tuesday August 27th

Another fallen climber, this time at Hutton Roof. Fortunately two members of the Team live close by at Endmoor and the casualty was quickly receiving medical treatment as Abby is one of our Team Doctors. The injuries sustained were extremely painful for the casualty and he was stretcher'd off, down to a county ambulance, as evacuation in our vehicle was not thought to be in his best interests due to the terrain.

For some reason, it was a busy day even by the standards of the Lake District and we counted seven Team callsigns being used on the radio. As it was, we were asked by Langdale MRT, to all return to our base rather than go home as there was a possibility of a Langdale assist for a missing walker. Fortunately, he turned up before we had arrived back at base.

Prizes go to Trevor and John Everett who both managed to leave their pagers, bleeping away, out of reach, in their rucksacks during the return journey. Not usually a problem but Trev and John were both in opposite vehicles to their sacks.

The county ambulance turned out to be being driven by the paramedic son of one of our founder members. The wheel turns.....

General Team News & Comment

[Kendal Team Website](#)

Our website continues to take shape and a number of previously empty pages now have something to show. Even this humble document seems to have a place and you can down-loaded it from the site, or read from your browser. In my other capacity of Radio officer, I'm attempting to get my head around uploading our radio information sheets onto the same site and first results are good. It's not necessarily intended that everyone should be reading them from the web, but they are guaranteed to be there when you can't find one in the base and don't like to ask "**Just how do you switch off our handsets**".

This is just one of the questions I know someone is too shy to ask because someone leaves them all switched on!

The site is now taking an increasing number of 'hits' and we've already been contacted through the site, by the BBC with a request to provide candidates for 'The Weakest Link'.

Oh!! The jokes, the jokes

As a first stab at entering the 21st century, we have uploaded some of the Team information files onto the site. At present there are three in place, information regarding the PF85 handset, the Tait handset and the Explorer GPS receiver. They are currently available separately via their own hyper-links but by next issue, there should be more of 'em and an index. Please bear with us in this venture as we've (I've) not yet got it quite right, however, as far as I can tell, the links work. Anyone who has problems, please let me know and I'll try and rectify them. Rob

For anyone who wants the Explorer manual, try clicking on the link.

[Eagle Explorer GPS Manual](#)

Ops & Membership Meeting, 7th July 2002

Most of the meeting was fairly uneventful, however "Any other business" was worth watching.

Farleton Knott

As this particular lump of rock now seems to be becoming popular with the climbers again, Andy Dell expressed concern that it's a pig of a place to have to evacuate a casualty from. Due, in equal measure to the fact that it's overgrown with shrubbery, very steep to have to haul up and covered in dodgy scree on the route down. Whilst we should all be able to say that, from an individual point of view, this wouldn't necessarily present us with a problem, we must not lose sight of the fact that we are only there in the best interests of the casualty and any methods of extraction we use are not designed

for our comfort but for that of the injured party. We often hear said that 'Crag-lowering exercises are training for something we are seldom called upon to do'. In the case of Farleton, we were wrong. It has the potential to be a crag-lowering nightmare and to this end, Andy D. intends to set up some training that will be specific to this area.

UPDATE ON MOBILE - TWO REPLACEMENT PROJECT

At the July committee meeting Base and vehicles working group presented their recommendations regarding replacing the existing Mobile Two.

Copies of their paper have been circulated amongst Team members. They outlined that a direct replacement for the Volkswagen syncro is not available and suggested a number of options.

Preferred Option One was to try to source a right hand drive Toyota Hiace 4x4 minibus from New Zealand. This has not proved possible.

Option Two was to purchase an Austrian Pinzgauer 4x4 minibus at an estimated cost of £65,000.

No other options were available that would closely replicate the existing mobile 2.

In light of this the Committee agreed that a fund raising campaign could begin, but recognized that £65,000 was a huge amount of money. A decision on what vehicle to purchase would need to be made at a later date when the success of fundraising was clear. The Team could not commit to purchase of a vehicle it did not have funds for.

Since July various opinions about the vehicle replacement project have been expressed, both inside and outside the membership.

At the August Ops and Membership meeting the question was raised of whether that group had adequately assessed the actual vehicle requirement in giving a specification to the base and vehicles working group. It was felt that in being asked to look for as close a direct replacement as possible the recommendations may have been unnecessarily restricted.

Ops and membership suggested the Leader group should look at the whole issue of future development of the Team in terms of vehicles and equipment. The leader Group met on Wednesday 28th August to do this.

A wide ranging brain storming session took place the outcome of which is summarized below:

On all call outs from now on; the two Landrovers will be deployed before Mobile 2. In this way we can get 10 members mobile to an incident without waiting for a further 5 needed to fill the seats in the VW.

The VW will become a personnel carrier only. All but the most basic Team kit will be removed, leaving more room for member's own kit.

The VW will be treated as an on road vehicle ~ not being taken any further than Buckbarrow or Kentmere Reservoir. If necessary the Landrovers can be used to shuttle personnel beyond the roadhead.

Much more use will be made of County ambulance for patient transfers.

Equipment and Medical working group will review the need for duplicate sets of kit in mobiles 1&3. It is likely that more grab bags of specialized kit will be sited in the equipment room. We will move towards a take it if we need it policy.....not take everything all of the time as now.

Base and vehicles will be tasked by the next committee meeting to get an independent report into what it

would cost to extend the life of the existing mobile 2 for a further 2 to 5 years. If this is financially viable this will be the preferred choice of action.

Meanwhile fund raising for a new vehicle will continue, as the VW will still be the next vehicle the team has to replace.

A revised specification for a replacement vehicle has been passed to the Base and Vehicles working group. They will be making fresh recommendations in due course.

At the top of this specification is cost. A ceiling of between 30 and 40 thousand pounds has been identified. The consensus was that it was hard to justify spending more than this on any vehicle especially in the light of recent feedback from other Teams and members of the public.

The full list of recommendations of the Leader Group is as follows:

Report from Leader Group meeting 28/08/2002

Vehicle dispatch on call-outs:

Mobiles 1 & 3 to be dispatched first followed by Mobile 2

Landrovers to be sent out full if possible and to contain kit that we only keep one of e.g. defib, stretcher-lowering kit.

This to commence immediately.

Kit review:

Kit to be carried in vehicles to be reviewed with aim that Mobile 2 does not carry team kit, only personal kit. Mobiles 1 & 3 to be the kit carrying vehicles. Kit that we only have one off to be kept with radio bags and go in first vehicles away. Review of kit carried to be carried out by Equipment group. (meeting Thurs 5/9/2002)

Mobile 2 to carry manpower (10 plus their personal kit). Existing Mobile 2 could be used for stretcher transport but any replacement would not be fitted out carry stretcher.

Aim to extend working life of existing Mobile 2 by 2 – 5 years. B&V to get independent report on work required and costs involved to get at least another 2 years operational life. This would allow time for fund-raising and exploration of alternative vehicles that may become available. Cost of report on existing M2 to be regarded as acceptable extra to current B & V budget.

Mobile 2 to be driven within its capabilities i.e. not on torchlight or up to Wren Gill.

Requirements for replacement vehicle:

1. Troop carrier (10 people including driver plus personal kit)
2. No stretcher carrying needed
3. 4x4 desirable but not essential
4. Maximum cost £30,000-40,000
5. To be driver friendly
6. Size to fit garage space available .
7. Running costs and insurance costs to be reasonable.
8. Width restriction – not essential to go along track to Castley but desirable
9. Not require restricted licence conditions (Eddie to investigate the current position regarding newer driving licences and passenger numbers)
10. Option to consider 2 vehicles to replace existing 1 not excluded (but higher capital & insurance costs may be prohibitive [also requires 4th driver])

Any member of the Leader group would be happy to answer queries on the above.

I hope that the above gives us a focus for Team development in the near future and will enable us all to agree to “sing from the same song sheet”.

Andy Dell

31.08.2002

From Fund-Raising

The **collection at Killington** on Saturday 27th July raised **£352.20** and the Team put in a PR presence at a couple of shows and events.

Mobiles 1 and 3 and various members of the Team were in attendance at the **Scout Jamboree** on Thursday 1st August. A very wet evening but enjoyed by a number of Scouts from around the country and from abroad.

All Team members who turned out to show the scouts around our vehicles had their hands full keeping the little darlings off the woo-woos and blue lights. Sue managed to find herself alone on mobile three with a troop of Irish scouts and it took a few minutes checking all the switches before we dare fire up the engine at the end of the evening.

We also managed to pick the day it poured with rain for the **Lunesdale** show but one vehicle sheltered with the rest of us under Ian's market stall awning. A kind lady donated a pound because we let her use one of our chairs whilst she sheltered from the rain, but then, we're like that.

Sunday August 25th was an **open day** at the base and attracted a number of people, tourists and locals alike. We look like getting several new members as a result of the efforts of those acting as 'Guides'

New High Band Radios



Click the picture for web link to information file

For those who didn't get a chance to have a look at the new helicopter radios on the exercise held in the Howgills on Sunday 18th, this is what they look like. I would have to be honest and say that by comparison to our old **PF85's**, they are as complicated as they look. However, to some extent, this is softened by the fact that they can be programmed to operate in a simple fashion initially, until people get used to them. They are programmed with some frequencies that you really wouldn't want to be on unless it's an emergency.

At the moment, we have very few Team members who are involved with speaking to helicopters and these sets are only going to be used on one or two channels.

However, this is the radio that **LDSAMRA** is recommending to it's member Teams and the one we hope the police will help to fund. Even a conservative estimate puts the cost of the new equipment at £20,000 to £30,000 per Team, depending on how many handsets we get. This isn't just a few new radios but a complete hardware and infrastructure change that will affect every mountain rescue team in the UK. The cost is enormous and some teams, ourselves included, are purchasing a small number of the sets initially, to try them out.

By August of next year, the new MR radio frequencies will have

been passed by Parliament and there's nothing stopping us from changing over to the new bands. It's possible that this time next year, this is the radio you'll be using. Anyone who wants to have a look at them, speak to Rob. Please don't use them until you've had some training as they are capable of things that will have people knocking on our door if they're misused.

Currently, **CRO** have three sets identical to our own but the channel order and description will be different to ours for a while. Same goes for **Patterdale** who have one set. Again, programmed in a different way to ours. They are only likely to all begin to resemble each other, once the new frequencies have been allocated and the sets go into normal use. Langdale have a couple on loan from Lancs Police.

Notes from the Equipment Group:

HELICOPTER WINCH – CHANGE IN PROTOCOL

Never you mind what you hear from various sources, it is now official that **“The MR Teams are responsible for carrying their own strops for winching the stretchers”**

That means, in our terms, that we will shortly place a set of strops – complete with 3no. maillons and 4 no. steel krabs with **EACH** stretcher. These will be in their own **SMALL** bag, attached to the stretcher while in transport and capable of being carried on their own OR together with another item of kit – **WE DO NOT INTEND TO INCREASE THE WEIGHT OF EITHER HALF OF THE STRETCHER FOR CARRYING UP THE HILL.**

These strops will be subject to the same system of checking on regular (three-monthly) basis and will have their own index cards.

The existing set (currently in the stretcher lowering bag in Mobile 2) will be removed from at the same time and kept as a SPARE set for the duration of its prescribed life span.

SEVERAL INCIDENTS OF A SUBSTANDARD EQUIPMENT CHECK/REPLACEMENT HAVE BEEN REPORTED OR FOUND RECENTLY.

Read this carefully and take note **PLEASE.**

COMMUNICATIONS

- Radios being left switched ON (in one instance 3 radios in Mobile 2 bag)
- One radio left with the volume button broken
- One radio left with the lead from the mike to the radio body severed through – and left switched on as well

NONE OF THIS DAMAGE HAS BEEN REPORTED IN ANY WAY TO ANYBODY

REMEMBER: YOU MIGHT BE THE NEXT PERSON NEEDING IT – HOW WOULD YOU FEEL?

- Mobile phones are repeatedly put back on their chargers **SWITCHED ON** – it drains them faster than you think – **THINK AGAIN!**

OTHER KIT:

- A random check by your weary equipment officer revealed a **WET** dynamic rope in Mobile 1 in a sealed bag!!! The evidence of the damage – prevented only by chance – can be seen on the gloves pinned on the main board. If that bag did not get opened until the next scheduled check, we would have to write that rope off!

The use of this rope was not reported either...

- The damaged throw line was not reported in time

- The wrong coloured seal has been used when sorting out kit on several occasions.

(I did not realise how many colour-blind members we have got)

So for the benefit of the newer team members and of those who simply forgot:

WE DO HAVE A COLOUR-CODED SYSTEM IN PLACE WITH A TWO-WAY PURPOSE:

1. It clearly identifies to which vehicle the kit belongs
2. An unbroken seal means that the sack in question is COMPLETE and USABLE when taken out by the next team member

For those reasons we have got the following:

Mobile One = RED

Mobile Two = BLUE

Mobile Three = YELLOW

If you are a new team member and not very familiar with the system, please ask!

- Map bags have been found unsealed and incomplete AFTER the callout

We all can make mistakes, we all get cold and tired after the callout and want to go home BUT it is our kit and, more importantly, it is our safety next time (and it could be the same day or night) which is at stake. I appreciate that it has got a bit tiring after the last year of nothing much happening. However, we cannot afford this sort of complacency any longer. We have got an enormous amount of kit, for which we have to raise the money. It is there to be used and can get damaged but surely it does not take much to let us know – we are not going to start a witchhunt – just put it on the board!

Crag sacks, Stretcher lowering kit, slings bags:

Some comments have been made recently along the lines: “It does not matter where we put it, it will all get taken up the hill anyway”.

Well, it does matter actually. The kit was put where it is for a good reason, which was thought through by the best qualified team members, chiefly Andy Dell and Steve Kelley (and not at a whim of the equipment officer, or indeed any other member of the EMWG) **AND IT STAYS WHERE IT IS** – Until such time when a change is considered necessary! Is that clear?

Changes and improvements:

- The increase in the contents of some sacks justifies introduction of contents lists even in the rope bags – you will find them in the little pockets inside the sacks.
- Knives have been placed with ALL climbing harnesses (2 in each crag sack and 2 in the stretcher lowering kit).

Flares:

These are now kept on the shelf UNDER the DEFIB sack

- The big blue box contains up-to-date replacement flares.
- The old box is clearly marked “TRAINING” and contains our of-date- flares – guess what – to be used on training exercises ONLY.

CLOTHING:

We are unable to obtain any more of the existing type of the summer T-shirts. However, we have now secured more T-shirts from Keela and can offer hill-going members a second T-shirt (with the team logo printed) at a modest price of £7.00 – at present on first come first served basis. Anybody interested contact Dagmar on K. 824345 by September 15th.

There are also a few without the logo – at the same price.

Sizes (here we go again): Keela shirts come in two sizes Medium & Large BUT Keela M equals your existing Duoforce Large – so remember that when ordering your second shirt.

HOWEVER, I WOULD LIKE TO REMIND **ALL** TEAM MEMBERS

THAT ANY ITEM OF CLOTHING ISSUED BY THE TEAM IS TO BE WORN ON THE TEAM ACTIVITIES ONLY.

Dagmar

Dr Dick Jackson

I am sure all Team members were shocked to hear of the sudden death of Dick Jackson on Wednesday 28th August in Tromso.

Dick was a member and Team doctor for many years until the early 1990s. He was forward thinking in terms of medical training for members and only in recent years have some of the practices he advocated become widely accepted.

Hilary Fouweather tells a tale of how on her very first exercise with the Team she arrived at base to find all sorts of needles and canulas laid on the front table, but not an orange in sight! Dick was very much one of the if you are going to do, it do it for real school.

I remember one of my first exercises out at Wet Sleddale reservoir. Dick elected himself as casualty. Just before he was "found" he threw himself in the water and climbed back out again, forcing himself into hypothermia. The team members duly forgot the basics and started trying to re-warm him with the Little Dragon. In no uncertain terms Dick reminded them of the importance of getting the mildly hypothermic patient out of wet things and into some warm dry clothing!!!!!!!!!!

Apart from his medical contribution to the Team he was a great example and influence of a lot of us in encouraging us not to dream but to go out and have adventures of our own. Dick was a huge encouragement in my deciding to take off for Patagonia for 6 months in the late 1980's. Rob Brookes tells of how it was Dick that encouraged him to 22,000 ft on Mera Peak. I am sure there are other Team members past and present who could recount similar stories.

Although his retirement was a relatively short one he lived it to the full and his closing days were spent sailing to Spitzbergen, yet another of Dick's great adventures. I am sure this is how Dick would have wanted it to be.

Dick will be very fondly remembered by the great many people he touched during his life. We can be sad because he is gone, or look around at all that he has done, smile and go on.

Enjoy your next great adventure Dick

Our thoughts are with Gill and the rest of Dick's family.

Andy Dell

8/09/02

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or

on 01539 728684

or

Editor's pigeon hole in base

Next Issue : Hopefully, the end of September but I'm on holiday until 30th so please send in your articles etc. to my email address and I'll try and get a copy out in the first few days of October.