

*Ochils Mountain Rescue Team*



# Annual Report

# 2012

Founded 1971 - A Scottish Charity No. SC024517  
Affiliated to the Mountain Rescue Committee of Scotland

[www.omrt.org.uk](http://www.omrt.org.uk)

## **Team Leader**

I start this year's report after a very successful CSMRG Joint exercise where I saw the benefits of our training program in action, three MRTs all working closely and well together – a testament to good practise and hard work. In a time of uncertainty with Police and Fire Service Unification next year it struck me that our only certainty was change. The team has seen a number of significant changes in recent years and I am confident that we will adapt and improvise to any new challenges the coming months bring us.

This has been another busy year for the team with a huge time commitment by all of the volunteer members. We have been consolidating the progress of the last couple of years and have 'settled in' well to the new post and comms vehicle, which are providing the environment for very positive development of the team both in terms of capability but also team members personal development. We have been using the new climbing wall both in training and personally and there are more improvements planned.

The new comms van is now not new and has been proving its worth on many occasions, the majority of the team are now fully familiar with its operation and as if to prove how much part of the team it has become I can confirm it has been stuck in a ditch once and sports a couple of early battle scars.... The vehicle is an excellent resource for the team and will assist greatly in finding missing persons.

We have recognised the importance of new technology in MR and to that end have used resources to equip the base and comms van with Skype capability and although still in its infancy this will assist with comms and potentially allow the Team Leader to 'see' where a casualty is situated by mobile phone. We have also obtained a grant to purchase a map based GPS system which will 'talk' to each other and allow us safer searching in night conditions and also to download search areas from the hill back to base. My thanks to John Willis and Tom Lockie for heading this up – a job well done.

The training records are continuing to be monitored and team members are starting to fill them in to allow the training team to tailor the training to suit the team needs and to allow me to have 'traceability' of people's skills and when they last undertook training in a specific skill. This aspect is gaining more importance as we work with other agencies and the message is getting through to people slowly but surely.

We will next year operate under a single national Police force and this aspect of training recording is increasing in its importance.

Andy was tasked with creating a more formalised and open way to join the team and I am delighted to confirm that our recent new members have more than risen to the challenge and have performed very well in all aspect of membership of the team. I will be privileged to welcome Laura, Sam , David, Malcy and Smithy as full members of the team at the AGM, well done to all of them and thank you also to the training team and team members in general for their support and help in bringing on board our new members. Andy will be stepping down after 8 years as training officer and I would like to thank him for his stalwart efforts and consistent performance – team members will note that 'deciphering Andy's emails' will no

longer be on the auxiliary training program!!! I will re-iterate again the importance of regular training not just to keep skill levels current but also to ensure good team working.

Attendance figures are becoming more relevant and are closely monitored for team training purposes and Police insurance requirements.

The team has been financially supportive over the last few years of team members undertaking Mountain Leader training and the team will continue to assist any team member who wishes to undertake this type of training.

We continue to attend the CSMRG meetings and look forward to the annual joint exercise in October. We are represented at the MRCoS meetings and also at Resilience meetings throughout Central Scotland. We have also been active within the voluntary sector SCG meetings in Central Scotland and we are part of a ground breaking agreement to assist the Central SCG in a major incident.

We have had team members going to specialist training courses for equipment, technical rescue, and search management as usual and our Cas care course was held in Oct 2012. I would like to thank Mick McKenna for his efforts in sorting out all things medical and I thought the team performance at the cas care course was exceptional. Thanks to Graham Percival, the Team Docs and Malcy for their help in preparing and delivering the course. First Aid knowledge is a core skill and cannot be practised too much. I would like to see all team members achieving this level of first aid competence in the near future.

We have attended a number of events this year to assist with first aid cover and this not only provides 'hands on' practise but also a source of donations.

We have refurbished our Land Rover (11 years old) and we are also planning for a replacement Land Rover in the next few years, this will also entail a new garage and plans for this are already at an early stage.

We have continued to improve our equipment and my thanks go to Alec and Stu for sorting it all out and for team members who are starting to realise Alec and Stu don't put the stuff away after a shout / training!!

We have increased our mountain safety talks to groups and visits to our post are increasing as groups can come to us to see the work we do. Thanks to all the guys who assist with talks and post visits – again a vital part of our overall profile.

I would like to thank all the team members and their families for their continued commitment to the team, I as much as any of you know how much time away from partners and children team membership can bring and I appreciate everyone's efforts to keep the team one of the most respected in Scotland.

Special mention must go to Jenn Copeland who not only looks after the post but has also helped with catering for post events and I regularly hear the words 'is there no cake in the fridge?' followed by mutterings about the team leader having had at least five bits of cake ( it

was only four...). This kind of help is vital in keeping the post in good condition and it is much appreciated by all the team.

My thanks to all the office bearers who keep things running smoothly in the background and a special mention to Robert for getting to grips with the accounts and our charitable status requirements....my head is sore thinking about it.....

I would like to make mention of Tom Lockie who is stepping down as team secretary, this is Tom's second stint as secretary and has done an excellent job as usual, in addition to his 'normal' duties Tom looks after Search Management training for us and also for the MRCoS, this is a significant time constraint and we reap the benefits in having our own 'national trainer'. As you also know Tom looks after all this computer and is not nicknamed Lockie.com for nothing!! Tom had done a huge amount of work in the background and has been responsible for most of the 'systems' we have in place at the post. I sometimes tear my hair out but most of the time they work!! My personal thanks to him for all his efforts over many years and now he can get on with getting back up the hills!!!

I cannot complete this year's report without acknowledging my quiet (sometimes!), calm, and super competent deputy team leader of many years standing, the legend that is Gordon Bruce. Gordon is stepping down this year and finding someone to fill his shoes has been one of my biggest problems, a testimony to his experience and huge competency. I feel that Gordon and I worked well together and he was a vital 'sounding board' for me during many call outs. Gordon also got the job of calling the team out while I was speeding (33mph officer – honest!!) to the post. I would like to thank Gordon, personally, for all the experience he has shared and taught me and I wish him all the best as he transitions back into the 'ranks'. Cheers Mate.

It is with some sadness that I have to confirm two of our stalwart team members are leaving us this year. John MacDonald has been in the team for over 15 years and his experience, skills, sense of humour and organisation of the Christmas 'swally' will be sorely missed. John has been seen at the majority of our greatest triumphs from the Roybridge drinking marathons to leading routes on the Ben always with a smile and a quiet confidence that made him one of our most competent hill leaders and a hard man to replace. John was also one of our best ropework members being SPA trained, and these skills were often called upon by the training team.

What can I say about Jonesy that has not been said by any number of magistrates....Jon Jones was noted for his shy retiring manner and his gentle support of the team committee!!! Jon has again been in the team over 15 years and has held posts including equipment and training roles. He is well known for his expertise in equipment and having attended the Lyon course and looked after the stretchers, Jon was one of the main instigators in designing and creating the old comms van. In his role as a hill leader he showed the kind of competence and cool headedness that is difficult to replace, and was certainly one of my first choice personnel when a shout started. We have enjoyed many days out climbing and Jon was always well competent and fun, if not always appreciative of my choice of belays (Glencoe heather...).



It is also very likely we may be losing Gary Hunter to New Zealand – so lots of free accommodation when I go back to Mt Cook!! The timescale for Gary's departure is unknown at present but watch this space...

All of these guys will be sorely missed and I would like to thank them for their immense contribution to the team over many years and I would like to wish them all the best for the future and I sincerely hope they keep in contact with the team in the future.

To finish off echoing the start of the report – nothing is constant except change – the team will continue to evolve and progress and I would like to thank team members and their families for their continued role in our evolution.

Kev Mitchell  
Team Leader

## **Secretary's Report**

This is my last report to the Team as Secretary. I have intimated that I will be standing down and in the best traditions identified a suitable replacement who I will be proposing at the appropriate time during the proceedings tonight.

This is my second spell as Secretary with my first being for most of the 90's and into the 00's. I joined the Team in 1990 and within a year found myself in the position supporting many team leaders and chairpersons, depending on the era and constitution. In total I have calculated that I served 14 years as Secretary (1991 – 2001, then 2008 – 2012).

I took a break in the early part of 00's but was talked back into the role. You see I enjoy being part of mountain rescue and I hope to continue my involvement through the Search Management training and guidance.

### Membership

Our training officer has the responsibility of ensuring new members are suitably qualified and fit into our structure. Initial interests from applications are via the website and to the Secretary who in turn passes them on.

Membership fluctuates during the year with some taking sabbaticals. Currently we have 36 members, but already John McDonald has tendered his resignation with a few others in discussion about their continued memberships.

As well as the Friends of the Ochils MRT, I invite all of the former members that I can along to the Team meeting in the spring and the AGM in the autumn. I think it is good to keep them informed which I feel lets them still feel part of the OMRT family.

Attendance at training and incidents is recorded and like our Training Officer, would ask that you ensure you sign the signing on sheet at callouts. If anyone can help fill the gaps in the callout attendance list at the end of this report, I would be grateful. It's also an insurance requirement.

### Transition to Single Police Force

You will be aware that on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013 Central Scotland Police will transfer over to a single Force for Scotland. In terms of Mountain Rescue this shouldn't have any effect on us, but we might find that we cover incidents more in Fife and nearer Edinburgh or Glasgow.

### Callouts

Last year I commented on the busiest year on record, well this year we have surpassed that with 19 incidents recorded. The information on the incidents for this year is at the end of the Annual Report and I have also included details of those who have attended. Our team year runs from 1<sup>st</sup> September to 31<sup>st</sup> August and all figures represent this time scale.

### Friends of the Ochils Mountain Rescue Team

Mike Marriott is working hard to run the Friends organisation which will have the remit to assist the team in fund raising and public representation. Whilst it is early days, progress is being made and current team members are being encouraged to support the Friends and Mike in his work.

Finally

I've had time to reflect on my training attendance and incident attendance and can only apologise for my poor return. Work commitments through shift patterns and other influences have restricted my involvement to a level that I would not expect of others. However, in the background and on non training or incident dates I work away at ensuring we are a well oiled machine capable of dealing with anything thrown at us.

I don't see any significant change to my attendance level in the very near future, but I have a date in mind when my circumstances will change and if you bear with me, my attendance will improve significantly.

Tom Lockie  
Team Secretary

## Training Officer

This past year's training has been the most complex and involved over recent years. As well as our comprehensive team training programme, we ran;

- CSMRG with over 130 participants from seven organisations in 6x Scenarios, 1x 'unplanned' Incident and a catering wagon!
- A Trainee Programme and Assessment
- Two Induction Walks for prospective members
- Winter Adventure training based on the Corroul estate
- Involvement on National Digital Mapping, Rigging and Snow & Avalanche courses
- 3x months of pre-Casualty Care courses, including *Heartstart*
- and, a modest training blog continues to inform of our activities and these postings provide links to on-line photo-albums

With such a range of training, I have lost tally of just how many hours of additional training have been involved but by the end of March I was estimating over 1700 person-hours which included 26 hours of planning and meetings for CSMRG. ....and just for the heck of it: @ £30 per hour, which is very modest for hourly rates of professional work, that mid-year equivalent cost comes in at £51k – all done voluntarily! Please note this is based on 50% attendances and doesn't include the hours spent by me and others planning, site-visiting etc. any training event. We've been doing the *Big Society* for years.

Now that our superbly capable and motivated Probationers are Full Team members and fully involved in Team business, we welcome in November, another cohort of four Trainees who were certainly the cream of a very well experienced and motivated list of 26 applicants from the past 18 months.

We need to incorporate a simple, non-digital system for recording our Training as current records show only three Team members having trained between January and June. I'm done with sending folk individual notes of their attendances & then banging my head asking for training records so from December there will be a wall display which folk will be obliged to complete. This will be introduced to the Team at the end of the year. Quite simply, if you don't record your training it will be seen by anyone who passes the board!

Past reports have been very detailed; this year brevity is the tone, although if you'd seen me climbing the real *Brevity*, you'd be wondering whether I'd gone to sleep at the crux. Brief I was not.

I finish with news that has already been made public. That is, I am stepping off the Training Co-ordinator's role and will support the new TC until March by designing the training programme and setting-up training activities. Please accept that this is not a moving deadline: there are many capable folk in our midst and whilst John J. and I will be available to run specific sessions, our circumstances need to be accommodated, please.

Anyhow, you've had over 10 years of me delivering training and 8 as your TC, so you are due a well-earned break, too!

*Thank you very much for your support....and I'll let our Attendance Statistics speak for themselves.*

Andy Cloquet  
Training Officer

### **Equipment officers**

This has been another busy year, with numerous call outs and new members joining the team. We have continued the programme of updating and replacing team technical equipment and personal issue kit.

With the introduction of the new technical equipment we now have two identical anchor bags in the land rover. Each bag contains new slings, karabiners and a Petzl ID lowering device. We are currently looking at a replacement pulley system for raising stretchers.

Also under review are the current search lights (sam lights) with a view of replacing them with a more modern (lighter and more powerful) version.

The issue of misplaced personal items of PPE is still a problem. This equipment is expensive and it's loss can no longer be blamed on Dave Henderson. We understand that it is difficult to keep track of this equipment during training and callouts. So with this in mind please try to check your harness/rucksack after every event and return the kit which does not belong to you to its rightful owner or leave it in the post (equipment room).

Whilst it is the responsibility of the equipment team to purchase and look after the team equipment, it is all of our responsibilities to make sure that equipment is returned to its correct place in the post/vehicles. We have had a few instances recently of kit missing from its correct location in the vehicles when someone has been looking for it. Please try to ensure we maintain full operational readiness by putting things back where they belong so that we don't end up out on a callout without vital equipment.

We would like to welcome "BIG" Dave Smith as our new equipment assistant. We would like to point out that as the biggest team member if there are any equipment issues then big Dave will be round to sort them out.

Stuart McNeish & Alex Camley  
Equipment officers

## **Medical Officer**

Firstly a big thank you to all team members for their efforts and support this year. I must highlight Stuart Mcneish and Jon Jones as particular effort was given by them at the start of the year. Stu for his assistance in restocking our medical supplies and Jon for his assistance in fitting safes to walls etc, cheers lads.

Now to speak off purchases made. These were- a training defib to compliment the new defib which Paul Holmes secured from the sandpiper trust (great work Paul). This unit is available to all team members to train with once they have completed our defib training session.

To compliment this we purchased a new mannequin that we can use airway adjuncts on and with the aid of a couple of adhesive strips we can use as a defib training aid without the cost of thousands needed for a state of the art toy.

A new traction device that is small and compact to carry on hill.

Many smaller items too numerous to go through were also bought as part of the restocking of our medical packs but included dressings, airways etc.

## **COURSES**

18 OMRT members have sat and passed the BHF heart start course now.

By the time of the AGM a cohort of OMRT will have sat and hopefully passed the Scottish Casualty Care Certificate. A reminder to all team members they should inform the team medical officer if they are without a first aid qualification.

My thoughts are that there are team members capable of extending their skills to perhaps the level of BASP EMT this should be encouraged by the team and if possible funded in full.

## **MRC of S Medical news**

A new standard operating procedure (SOP) has been put in place by the Chief medical officer Brian Tregaskis. With all the work carried out earlier this year I can confirm that we at OMRT already complied with the new SOP. Malcolm Auchie has been put forward as "responsible servant" to work with Brian and MRC to see this continues. The new SOP will be on the wall next to safe.

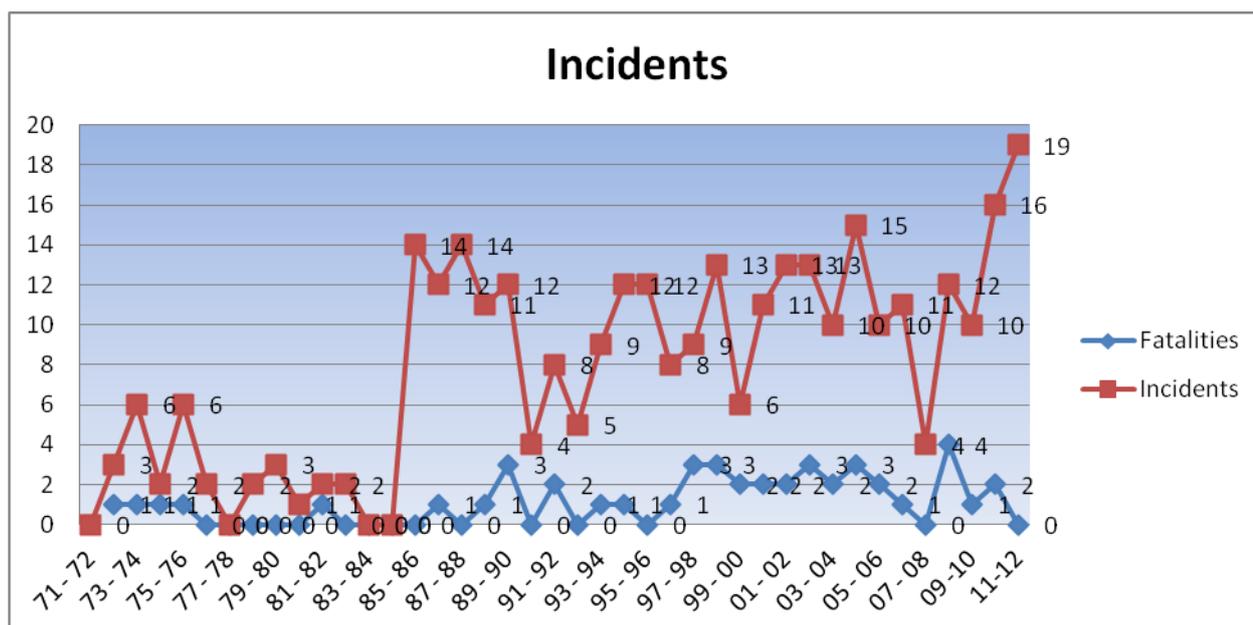
## **OMRT Medical officer role**

It is time for a new face. Due to home/work/uni commitments I feel unable to upkeep the level of involvement in team medical matters. It is vital to the running of the medical side of MRT that a level of enthusiasm has to be kept. As you see from what has went on over the last year there is a fair bit of work involved. We are very fortunate to have many healthcare professionals in our team so whichever of these guys takes the role over please give them your full support (as will I).

Mick Mckenna  
Medical Officer

## Incidents

Date	Location	Mountain Y/N	Nos	Fatal	Mhrs	GR	Remarks
13/09/2011	Lewis Hill Cambusbarron	N	1		30:00	NS761892	Despondent male
20/09/2011	Jerah Farm	Y	1		26:40	NS838991	Heart attack
11/10/2011	S'Muir to Dumyat Path	Y	1		12:40	NS821977	Heart attack
28/10/2011	The Law	Y	1		30:00	NS912982	Illness
05/11/2011	Cowdenbeath	N	1		82:30	NT162917	Despondent male
13/11/2011	Dollar Glen	Y	1		22:48	NS962992	Injury - elderly male
16/11/2011	Dumyat	Y			0:15	NS835976	Lights
30/11/2011	Police Headquarters	N			3:00		Provision of a Ferno Stretcher
10/12/2011	Witches Crag	Y	1		18:00		CSMRG Exercise
10/01/2012	Front of Dumyat	Y			2:00		Lights seen on front of hill
25/01/2012	Auchenhill Stud Farm	N	1		21:00		Search for missing female
	Auchenhill Stud Farm (day 2)	N			32:00		Search for missing female
04/02/2012	Glen Sherrup	Y	1		33:00	NN952030	Benighted walker
08/02/2012	Coalsnaughton	N	1		19:40		despondent male
28/02/2012	Skythorn Hill	Y	2		26:40	NN922012	Lost walkers
12/03/2012	Cambusbarron	N	1		38:30		Despondent search
10/06/2012	Maidens Well	Y	1		24:00	NS963997	Exhausted Female
17/06/2012	Abbey Craig	N	1		8:45	NS815952	Request to assist CSFB re cragfast walker
01/08/2012	North Third	Y	4		37:30		
25/08/2012	Carron Valley		1		112:00		
	Carron Valley (day 2)				110:00		
	Carron Valley (day 3)				110:00		
	Carron Valley (day 4)				66:00		
	Carron Valley (day 5)				11:00		
<b>Total</b>		<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>877:58</b>		



**Ochils Mountain Rescue Team**

**Callout Attendance Record**

**Year**

**2011/2012**

**Callout Details**

Date	Hrs	Finish	Start
13-Sep	30:00	16:00	13:00
20-Sep	26:40	16:30	13:10
11-Oct	12:40	17:10	15:35
28-Oct	30:00	14:45	11:45
05-Nov	82:30	16:30	09:00
13-Nov	22:48	17:10	14:38
16-Nov	0:15	17:10	16:55
30-Nov	3:00	12:00	09:00
10-Dec	18:00	13:30	12:00
10-Jan	2:00	20:10	19:10
25-Jan	21:00	17:30	14:30
26-Jan	32:00	12:00	08:00
04-Feb	33:00	19:00	16:15
08-Feb	19:40	14:45	09:50
28-Feb	26:40	22:00	19:20
12-Mar	38:30	22:30	17:00
10-Jun	24:00	13:30	12:00
17-Jun	8:45	17:15	16:00
01-Aug	37:30	03:15	00:45
25-Aug	112:00	03:30	19:30
26-Aug	110:00	19:00	08:00
27-Aug	110:00	19:00	08:00
28-Aug	66:00	19:00	08:00
29-Aug	11:00	19:00	08:00

**877:58**

Total Callouts

Team Nos

Team Nos	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	Total	%			
Aiston I	1			1												16						6	1	22	105%			
Alexander L													1	1						1	1				22	23%		
Auchie M																			1		1				22	9%		
Birch R												1													22	5%		
Brannan J					1			1									1		1						22	18%		
Bruce G					1				1		1	1					1	1	1	1					22	36%		
Camley A				1									1				1	1	1						22	23%		
Chroston J	1	1	1	1	1						1				1				1	1	1				22	45%		
Cloquet A																		1	1	1					22	14%		
Davidson R				1											1	1			1			1			22	23%		
Gillies B	1					1			1				1		1		1		1	1	1				22	41%		
Hamlet N									1													1			22	9%		
Henderson D		1				1				1															22	14%		
Holmes P			1		1	1					1		1						1			1			22	32%		
Hosking, A																			1		1	1			22	14%		
Howie B												1													22	5%		
Hunter G		1	1						1						1										22	18%		
Jackson J																			1	1					22	9%		
Jones J	1		1	1	1				1			1	1	1											22	36%		
Konkol D																			1						22	5%		
Law B		1			1								1							1	1				22	23%		
Leven D																							1		22	5%		
Lockie T	1					1					1	1	1		1	1									22	32%		
Martin P		1	1								1														22	14%		
Marrriott M												1	1		1				1	1	1				22	27%		
McDonald J																									22			
Mckenna M	1		1	1	1				1		1	1	1		1				1						22	45%		
McNeish S		1														1		1							22	14%		
Miller W	1		1	1		1				1			1	1		1	1			1	1				22	50%		
Mitchell K	1	1		1	1	1	1	1	1		1		1		1				1	1	1				22	64%		
Musk D				1	1						1				1										22	18%		
Percival G																									22			
Randfield S	1	1	1			1							1		1				1	1	1				22	41%		
Short, S																							1		22	5%		
Smith, D																				1					22	5%		
Willis J	1					1						1	1		1	1			1	1	1				22	41%		
<b>Others</b>									4																22	18%		
<b>Trainees</b>																												
Alexander L																										22		
Smith D						1																				22	5%	
Leven D																										22		
Auchie M																										22		
Short S				1	1	1																				22	14%	

<b>Total attended</b>	10	8	8	10	11	9	1	1	1	12	2	7	8	12	4	10	7	16	7	15	14	10	10	6	1	
<b>Available</b>	37	37	37	37	37	37	37	37	37	37	37	37	37	37	37	37	37	37	37	37	37	37	37	37	37	
<b>Probationers</b>																										
<b>Trainees</b>	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	
<b>% Attendance</b>	27	22	22	27	30	24	3	3	32	5	19	22	32	11	27	19	43	19	41	38	27			16		

## Attendances at Training

TEAM MEMBER	Evenings	Day	Average
Kevin Mitchell	82%	73%	77%
Gordon Bruce	82%	64%	73%
Alex Camley	27%	27%	27%
Ben Law	55%	45%	50%
Stuart McNeish	27%	36%	32%
Willie Miller	45%	45%	45%
Andy Cloquet	64%	82%	73%
Billy Gilles	91%	73%	82%
John Brannan	73%	55%	64%
John Jackson	55%	18%	36%
John Willis	82%	64%	73%
Mike Marriott	73%	91%	82%
Richard Birch	18%	45%	32%
Robert Davidson	82%	45%	64%
Tom Lockie	27%	18%	23%
David Musk	73%	64%	68%
Mick McKenna	45%	27%	36%
Neil Hamlet	73%	73%	73%
Paul Holmes	36%	55%	45%
Simon Randfield	64%	55%	59%
Paul Martin	18%	0%	9%
Dave Smith	91%	82%	86%
David Leven	73%	91%	82%
Laura Alexander	91%	91%	91%
Malcolm Auchie	64%	64%	64%
Sam Shortt	100%	91%	95%

<b>ANALYSIS</b>	
<b>Average Team Attendance - Evenings</b>	<b>61%</b>
<b>Average Team Attendance - Sundays / Wkd</b>	<b>55%</b>
<b>Average Individual Attendance Wed + Sun</b>	<b>58%</b>