



# Ochils Mountain Rescue Team

## ANNUAL REPORT

2013

## *Team Leader*

I start this year's report having just returned from Sunday training, organised by two of our newer team members, and with another intake of trainees into the team. It is healthy that we have so much interest in joining the team and the standard of trainees / new members is most encouraging. Coupling this 'new' enthusiasm with the experience and competence of our established members makes for a very strong mix in the team at present.

It strikes me that after the unification of Police Scotland and the inevitable initial confusion that things are settling down for the new Police Scotland.

In contrast this is a time of development and change for Scottish MR – we are being expected to provide an increasingly 'professional' service with all the (mostly) administrative and recording issues this brings.

I am very confident that we are very well placed to be in the forefront of best practise in this area. We have made significant inroads in the areas of training recording, equipment logging, attendance and the setting up of SOPs and training checklists.

I would like to thank Laura, Calum, John Jac, John B, Billy, Stu and Smithy who are spending additional time ensuring that we have systems which are transferable and adaptable so we don't have to 'reinvent the wheel' every time we have a change of personnel.

This has been another busy year for the team with, to date, 26 call outs. This coupled with training equates to a huge time commitment by all of the volunteer members and their families.

We continue to recognise 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 being developed this will assist with comms and potentially allow the Team Leader to 'see' where a casualty is situated by mobile phone. We also have an airwave terminal in the comms van and access to airwave sets; we are hosting airwave training for other MR teams and also the VSSCG.

We have spent time training with our new map based GPS system which 'talks' to each other and allow us safer searching in night conditions and also to download search areas from the hill back to base. This system has been used on call outs with success and is developing all the time (as are the operators!!)

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. John B and Billy are co ordinating the training and having more team members involved in training delivery is proving to be beneficial for all.

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 aspects of membership of the team.

I will be privileged to welcome Mary, Calum and Craig 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. Colin continues to work well in the team and also assists Malcy with medical matters, however, due to shifts, he is not yet 'helicopter ready' and cannot be officially given his badge!!!

Andy continues to oversee the initial training of the new recruits and I suspect, after the latest recruits, we will be having a couple of year's gap before our next intake.

I will re-iterate again the importance of regular attendance at training not just to keep skill levels current but also to ensure good team working.

Attendance figures are becoming much more relevant and are closely monitored for team training purposes and Police insurance requirements. It will become a pre requisite to show fairly consistent attendance and maintenance of skills.

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. Congratulations to Dave Musk who has recently completed his ML.

We continue to attend the CSMRG meetings and look forward to the annual joint exercise at Killin in Feb. We are represented at the MRCoS meetings and also at Resilience meetings throughout Central Scotland. We have also been active within the voluntary sector Strategic Coordinating Group meetings in Central Scotland and we are part of a ground breaking agreement to assist the Central SCG in a major incident. I was asked to Chair the Forth Valley Voluntary Sector SCG which I agreed to do at present.

We have had team members going to specialist training courses for equipment, technical rescue, and search management. The feedback has been unanimously positive from all the National Courses and I really encourage folks who have not attended these courses to book up now.

2014 will see Scottish MR host the UK national Conference in Aviemore and we hope to have a good representation at this event, it will be based on sharing best practise and will mirror the Scottish conference format of last year.

We continue to place much importance in First Aid training and we continue to train to Cas Care standards. The exam process has been 'tweaked' and we are currently assessing how we organise our exam attendance. 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. Our training program has been organised to fit in medical training on a regular basis.

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. There is a huge call on our time and we have had to limit our attendance at these events or we would be out every weekend!!

We have fitted a roll cage to the Land Rover, this was in response to a number of incidents in MREW and the committee felt it was vital to react to this and provide the best specification of vehicle we can. We are still planning for a replacement Land Rover next year, this will also entail a new garage and plans for this are already at an early stage.

We have continued to improve our equipment management and my thanks go to Smithy, Alec and Stu for sorting it all out and for team members who are starting to realise Smithy, Alec and Stu don't put the stuff away after a shout / training!! Old hands and new will going through the Landy check list on training nights just to make sure we ALL know where things are. You will see me doing this too!!

I would respectfully mention that the team spends a significant amount of money on team member kit (check the accounts..) so look after it and do your bit when it comes to fundraising.....

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 and donation provision. If we can get a 'pool' of people to help with these talks that would be great.....

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 leaders lack of organisational ability!! 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 proposed SCIO charitable status requirements, this safeguards the team trustees and we propose to become a SCIO from 31<sup>st</sup> March next year.....my head is sore thinking about it.....

Sam Shortt continues to keep his head above water with the deluge of emails that come into the Team and keeps us entertained with his wry wit (no I said wit!)

John Willis continues to assist me in his role as deputy team leader and his experience is a godsend at times of high excitement!! For those I have forgotten please forgive me but you know I appreciate your efforts!!

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 us 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.



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 commitment to our evolution.

Kev Mitchell

Team Leader

## *Secretary*

I have just completed my first year in the Secretary's role and, being a relative MRT novice, have found this to have given me a useful insight to various aspects of the Team and Scottish Mountain Rescue. I attended the National AGM earlier in the year which further emphasised to me the essential role that MRTs play in the wider search and rescue picture.

I would highly recommend that all Team Members put their names down for Mountain Rescue – 2014 – The Gathering, Aviemore, 12<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> September 2014 (Laura is coordinating). This will be a once in a life time event so don't miss out. Details will emerge during the new year

### *Membership*

I continue to receive membership applications from those from a range of backgrounds. A significant number have little mountaineering experience however Committee is currently considering how these people might still fulfil a support or admin function for example under the Friends of the Ochils Mountain Rescue Team banner which has recently been "rebranded" as the Ochils Mountain Rescue Team Association to avoid confusion with other organisations.

### *Call Outs*

Last year Tom reported that we had a record 19 call outs. This year (2012 – 2013) we have had 26! The nature of call outs has been wide ranging as usual and sadly has also included a number of non-hill related fatalities. Recent stats produced by Scottish Mountain Rescue show that OMRT are one of the busier Teams despite the fact that we don't have "big mountains". I feel that this standing emphasises the need to maintain a highly professional service as already discussed by Kev Mitchell.

### *Community Support*

We are asked on a frequent basis by various community groups and organisations (church groups, primary and secondary schools, Round Tables, Rotary Clubs, etc.) to host visits and give talks on a regular basis. Many thanks to all those who have stepped forward and covered these events. I feel that this is a very valuable way to keep the Team's profile high with the community and indeed other partner organisations and I know that the community greatly appreciates our efforts.

Finally I would like to thank Tom and the rest of the Committee for keeping me heading on the right bearing as far as the Secretary's role is concerned. Also, thanks to all you "Crank and Chairings" for the support, companionship and craic during the year.

Sam Shortt

Secretary

## *Training Officer*

Since last year's AGM, there has been a lot happening in terms of training. Andy stood down as training officer and officially handed the role over to myself in April. Since my introduction to the role, I have made some changes with regards to training and these aren't necessarily changes that I have personally felt needed changed but only my different approach to the role.

I have introduced a system where I will meet twice a year with the team and hill leaders and other office bearers, to identify training needs and propose and agree the training diary.

On the medical side, our Medical Officer has devised a 12 point core competence training package which has been implemented into the training diary and every second Wednesday evening's training session is being run with a specific medical aim and objective. The 12 topics will be repeated on a rolling format to allow all team members to attend.

The team has seen changes in recent times to its rigging system and a proportion of training has had to concentrate on this to allow team members to familiarise themselves with the equipment in the rigging bags such as the ID and the pulleys and the various systems that they are used for. This will be on going.

Insurance has been a major topic this year. I have developed links with Police Scotland and have in place a system to inform them of our training in advance and also team member's attendance at training courses, external meetings and any other official business.

National courses remain popular, and have seen team members attend Avalanche Awareness, Winter Rigging, Rigging level 1 and also Rigging level 2 this year. Next year's courses are now being advertised on the MRCof S website and so far I have made bookings for the Avalanche Essentials course, Avalanche Rescue, Winter Rigging and even booked our Team Leader on the Search Management course. (Never too old to learn)

I am still relatively new in this role and would like to take this opportunity to thank all team members for their patience and support during this time. It is my belief that training isn't just about the team but also personal development. I would ask that if there is any matters regarding training, then team members can contact myself where I will do all I can to support individuals in their personal development.

John Brannan

Training Officer.

## *Equipment Officer*

It has been another busy year on the equipment front. Dave Smith , Alex Camley and I have put in a lot of time and effort to try and introduce better systems and documentation of personal and team equipment. Dave in particular has worked very hard to create a computer database and we've spent a large amount of time working out an inventory of all the teams kit.

### *Personal Equipment-*

We've created a definitive kit list for new team members so now we have an exact list of the kit that each team member will be issued with once they've completed their probation.

It has been mentioned that some team members have been using dyneema or nylon slings as cows tails on their harnesses. Slings are not designed for this and are not issued to be used as a cows tails so please don't use them for this purpose!

We also spent time deliberating over waterproofs and in particular waterproof jackets and I've taken the decision having looked at various different options to continue with the Keela mountain rescue package as I think it best suits our teams needs at the moment.

Another area we are trying to tighten up on is self issuing of kit. Several expensive items have gone missing from the equipment room recently, including an avalanche transceiver. Apart from anything else this has financial implications for the team, we can't afford new kit if we're having to spend time, money and effort replacing stuff that's gone missing.

***So please don't remove anything from the equipment room unless you have it cleared by a committee member and have signed for it.***

All that said, I realise that we are an emergency service and sometimes things are grabbed in a hurry so if this is the case please at least write a note on the white board (preferably with a white board marker Andy)!

This brings me nicely on to, missing/lost/broken or misplaced personal kit. Obviously kit will be damaged, lost or perhaps even borrowed from time to time (particularly at winter training for some reason). This is why we've decided to introduce an equipment request form. So if you need something replaced, see 'Big Dave the storeman' and he'll be happy to issue you with a form (not necessarily a new piece of kit).

### *Team Equipment-*

With the introduction of the rigging for rescue courses and several team members now having been on these courses we've had to look at the rigging equipment that we use and have now bought two

petzl ID's, rigging plates, pulleys and rescuenders.

We have also replaced the team rock gear and bought two 60m 11mm climbing ropes to replace the black ones. We've taken the decision to only replace two of the climbing ropes at the moment as the vast majority of what we do only uses pre-stretched ropes.

#### *Vehicles-*

One area we'd like to improve on is team members knowledge of exactly what equipment we have on the vehicles and where things are, so we are reintroducing the vehicle check sheets and we'd like to see people making an effort before team training to carry out the vehicle checks and fully familiarise themselves with the layout of the vehicles and where everything is kept.

In order to improve safety the land rover now has a full roll cage and a mesh guard to protect the occupants from the kit in the boot in the event of a sudden stop.

In general things are improving and becoming easier to manage on the equipment front all the time with the introduction of better systems and record keeping. I'm by no means an expert on all the different kit we are using and I'm always open to discussion on how we can improve our kit (personal or team) from the technical experts and outdoor professionals in the team. At the end of the day I'm using the same equipment as everyone else and I want it to be right and safe.

Lastly I'd like to thank Dave Smith and Alex Camley who've been an amazing help throughout the year.

Stuart McNeish  
Equipment office

October 2013

## *Medical Officer*

### *Introduction*

I took up the post of Medical Officer following the Team AGM in October last year after Michael Mckenna stood down. What an eventful year it has been! I would like to thank all team members for their support during this time while I have been finding my feet and introducing new equipment and procedures. The highlights of these changes are detailed below.

### *Drug Records*

A new set of drug recording sheets were produced and stored in a new ring binder next to the drug safe. This produced an up to date, organised and legible system for signing in and out drugs, as well as recording how much we keep in storage.

### *Core competencies*

In line with the new teaching manual to be introduced it was decided to produce a set of new competencies which would allow team members to work through during their medical training. These 12 competencies are taught in both theory and practical sessions over a rolling 3 year cycle which started in July this year.

### *New Scoop Stretcher*

In order to keep the team up to date with advancements within pre-hospital care it was decided to introduce the Ferno Scoop Stretcher for spinal immobilisation. A sample stretcher was obtained from SP Services and after having a trial run around the post it was decided to go ahead and purchase one. The stretcher is currently in the Landover ready for use.

### *New PRF*

A new Patient Report Form (PRF) was also produced, again to modernise the team's processes and bring us in line with pre-hospital procedures. After much debate over the content a suitable document was produced. This new PRF is in A4 format rather than the previous A5, and is printed on waterproof paper as opposed to the old laminated sheets. We are currently waiting on delivery of the paper for printing samples.

### *Personal First Aid Kit*

Every team member has/is to be issued with a personal first kit aid. After much research it was decided to issue an already made retail kit from Lifesystems. This proved to be more cost effective and resulted in a more compact and professional looking kit.

### *Ambulance Observing*

After discussions with the Scottish Ambulance Service management in Forth Valley they finally agreed to allow team members to observe for a shift on a front line ambulance. This program allows 2 team members to observe for one full 12 hour shift each month therefore allowing enough space for everyone to attend once per year. Reports from team members who have attended a shift have been very positive and it is planned for it to continue allowing team members to have this opportunity annually.

### *Cas Care*

The Cas Care qualification program has been radically changed over the past few years. Previously individual teams were permitted to train and assess their team members for this qualification as long as they had a qualified instructor/assessor. Now however team members must be trained at their respective posts and will be assessed at one of 3 national centres; namely Glenmore Lodge, Lochaber base and the Galloway base in the Borders. There are no dates yet announced for 2014.

Malcolm Auchie

## Incidents

<i>Ochils Mountain Rescue Team</i>				
<i>Team Year Sept 2012 - August 2013</i>				
<i>Call Out Summary</i>				
<i>Team Incident Number</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Team Man Hours</i>	<i>Category</i>	<i>Description</i>
1	02/09/2012	78.45	Lost Walking Group	Disorientated walking group subsequently located in Glen Anny
2	06/09/2012	73.3	Lost Walking Group	Lost party from St Columba's School Dunfermline. Located on The Law
3	10/09/2012	40	Lost Walker	Benighted walker on The Law
4	23/09/2012	35	Despondent	Continuation of search for Tom Rodd following new information
5	29/09/2012	42.3	Runaways	Search in and around Stirling Castle and Raploch areas
6	03/10/2012	0	False Alarm	Lights above Tillicoultry Quarry
7	07/10/2012	10.3	Missing Person	Assisted Lothian and Borders, Linlithgow area
8	18/11/2012	22.5	Lost Walkers	Ben More, assisted Killin MRT
9	27/11/2012	52	Gas Main Rupture	Distribution of electrical heating and cooking equipment, Alva, Tillicoultry, Dollar
10	28/11/2012	21.75	Ditto	Ditto
11	11/12/2012	0.5	False Alarm	Lights on Dumyat
12	20/12/2012	33	Despondent	Search Stirling University
13	21/12/2012	45	Despondent	Cont of 12. Abbey Craig, Wallace Minuement, Causewayhead
14	03/01/2013	27.5	Despondent	Search for missing person in the Tillcoutry and Dollar area. Not found.
15	05/01/2013	60	Despondent	Continuation of Incident 1. Search extended to various hill paths north of Dollar and Dollar Glen. Not Found.
16	21/01/2013	34	Missing Person	Search for missing student in the Stirling University area. Not Found.
17	27/01/2013	49	Missing Person	Continuation of Incident 16. Search area extended to Wallace Minument and Causewayhead areas. Not Found.
18	09/02/2013	18	Missing Persons	Called out by Fife Police to find two overdue hillrunners. Subsequently located.
19	25/02/2013	2	False Alarm	Report of injured walker on Dumyat. No incident had in fact occurred.
20	27/02/2013	84	Despondent	Search for missing person in the Tullibody and Cambus areas. Not Found
21	27/02/2013	6	Despondent	Search for missing person in the Craigleith area. Team assisted by RAF Boulmer. Person subsequently turned up.
22	03/03/2013	46	Despondent (Recovery of Body)	Linked to Incidents 14 and 15. Body recovered from Knockhill area.
23	19/04/2013	2	Body Recovery	Outcome of Incidents 16 and 17
24	06/05/2013	29.25	Injured Hillwalker	Broken ankle on Dumyat
25	02/06/2013	11.25	Body Recovery	Suicide Banknock
26	06/08/2013	66.5	Despondent	Successful find in Hermitage Woods, Stirling University
	<i>Total Hours</i>	889.6		

## *Training Attendance Statistics Oct 2012 – Sept 2013*

<b>WHO</b>	<b>Evening</b>	<b>Sundays</b>	<b>Both</b>
John Willis	83%	100%	92%
Gordon Bruce	92%	92%	92%
Mike Marriott	75%	83%	79%
Dave Smith	67%	92%	79%
Sam Shortt	83%	67%	75%
Laura Alexander	83%	58%	71%
John Brannan	83%	54%	69%
Malcolm Auchie	67%	54%	60%
Kevin Mitchell	33%	83%	58%
Neil Hamlet	67%	50%	58%
Willie Miller	58%	50%	54%
Andy Cloquet	67%	33%	50%
David Leven	42%	58%	50%
Simon Randfield	58%	42%	50%
Ben Law	50%	42%	46%
Donald Konkol	58%	33%	46%
John Jackson	67%	25%	46%
Robert Davidson	67%	25%	46%
David Musk	67%	21%	44%
Billy Gillies	58%	25%	42%
Alasdair Hoskings	50%	33%	42%
Paul Holmes	17%	67%	42%
Tom Lockie	25%	25%	25%
Alex Camley	33%	8%	21%
Stuart McNeish	17%	25%	21%
Paul Martin/Cairn	0%	8%	4%
Richard Birch	0%	0%	0%

<b>ANALYSIS</b>	
<b>Average Team Attendance - Evenings</b>	<b>54%</b>
<b>Average Team Attendance - Sundays / Wkd</b>	<b>46%</b>
<b>Average Individual Attendance Wed + Sun</b>	<b>50%</b>

**NOTES:**

1) These statistics only show Programmed Team Training - additional training and attendance at National or alternative events is not included.

2) Ochils Chroston has been working with SARDA

3) ochils Aiston, Percival, Matheson remain on the Team lists but do not feature in these attendance statistics

4) Trainees/probationers do not appear in these stats. Colin, Calum, Mary & Craig

5) Police Applicants / Liaison do not appear in these stats. Shonagh, Jamie

Call Out Attendance Record 2012 - 2013

	Date	02/09/2012	06/09/2012	10/09/2012	23/09/2012	29/09/2012	03/10/2012	07/10/2012	18/11/2012	27/11/2012	28/11/2012	11/12/2012	20/12/2012	21/12/2012	03/01/2013	05/01/2013	21/01/2013	26/01/2013	09/02/2013	25/02/2013	27/02/2013	27/02/2013	03/03/2013	19/04/2013	06/05/2013	02/06/2013	06/08/2013	Total Callouts	Total Hours	
																													26	889.6
																													Total Call Outs Attended	Percentage Attendance
Abercrombie C																												1	1	5%
Abercrombe M																												1	1	5%
Aiston I		1	1												1	1										1			5	25%
Alexander L					1											1						1							3	15%
Auchie M												1										1							2	10%
Brannan J		1				1						1						1									1	5	25%	
Bruce G		1				1		1				1						1	1			1		1					8	40%
Camley A		1										1			1							1					1	5	25%	
Carruthers C																										1	1		2	10%
Chroston J					1	1			1			1	1	1	1	1	1	1					1						10	50%
Cloquet A		1														1						1	1				1	5	25%	
Davidson R		1				1									1	1	1					1		1					7	35%
Gillies B		1				1						1	1	1	1		1					1							8	40%
Hamlet N					1								1	1	1							1							5	25%
Holmes P					1										1			1				1		1			1	6	30%	
Hosking A		1	1			1						1						1							1		1	7	35%	
Jackson J		1	1		1										1			1							1		1	7	35%	
Konkol D			1			1											1	1							1	1			6	30%
Law B		1																1				1							3	15%
Leven D		1	1			1									1		1	1							1	1	1	9	45%	
Lockie T					1																		1	1					3	15%
Martin P															1		1		1			1							4	20%
Marriot M		1				1							1		1								1				1	6	30%	
Mc Neish S						1						1																	2	10%
Miller W														1	1	1	1	1								1	1	7	35%	
Mitchell K		1			1	1						1	1	1	1	1	1		1					1			1	11	55%	
Musk D		1													1				1	1							1	5	25%	
Percival G																				1									1	5%
Pritchard C																										1	1	1	3	15%
Randfield S		1	1			1												1				1	1						7	35%
Shortt S					1	1			1			1	1	1	1	1	1	1				1		1			1	12	60%	
Smith D			1			1							1					1							1		1	8	40%	
Willis J		1	1		1	1			1			1	1	1	1	1	1	1				1		1	1	1	1	16	80%	
Total Attendees		16	8	0	8	16	0	0	4	0	0	0	11	9	11	16	9	15	6	2	15	2	8	2	9	5	18			
		Records Not Available																												
		New Team Members, not available for full year																												
		Percentage Attendance Relates to the 20 incidents for which records are available																												

