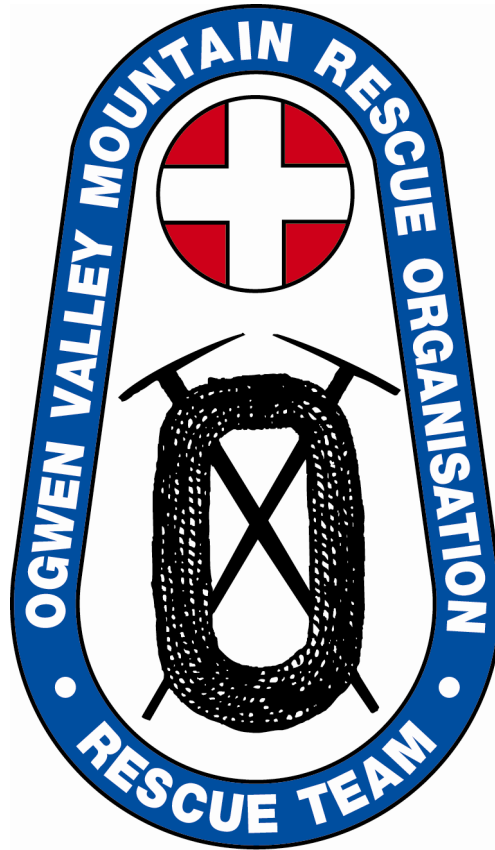


THE OGWEN VALLEY MOUNTAIN RESCUE ORGANISATION



NEWSLETTER

Winter 2015/16

Please note that the articles contained in the Newsletter express the views of the individuals and are not necessarily the views of the Team.

Chairman's Introduction

It's always a challenge writing an introduction to a newsletter at this time because we are at the end of the team year and I will be writing an introduction for the annual report shortly.

In the annual report I will be writing about the team's 50th anniversary celebrations, Bristow Helicopters taking over from the RAF and highlighting some specific rescues that have taken place throughout the year.

I don't want to repeat myself in the annual report so I'm going to use this space to write about commitment.

Between 1st January and 24th October 2015 our members have:

Attended 112 incidents

Responded 1233 times (1012 on the hill or at base)

Completed 1375 hours of training

Carried out base duties each weekend

If an average incident lasts 5 hours then we are looking at about 8000 hours spent on these activities during the year!

Now, let's consider Committee meetings held about 10 times per year and lasting about 3 hours, attended by 10 people. That's an additional 300 hours.

I think that as Chairman I spend an average of an hour per day doing team related activities outside rescues and training. This may not sound like a lot of time, but on some days it is nothing and on others it is three hours. It's one of those things that would be extremely difficult to do if you were employed, as an employer doesn't accept their staff spending an hour doing team business at the start of the working day. We also have a team treasurer and secretary who work extremely hard. Let's assume they spend a similar amount of time on team activities to me. That would be an additional 1000 hours.

We also have an equipment officer, training officer, casualty care officer, IT officer, water officer, house officer, committee members, and more. There are about 23 roles that people fill within the team. Some of these are more demanding than others, but let's guess that the average officer spends two hours per week on team activities (please don't shout at me

– I know I am going to be significantly underestimating the work some of you do, coming up with an average figure). That would be an additional 2400 hours.

We also have the 333 support group. Of course this does not run itself. It has a chairman, secretary, membership secretary and committee members. We could easily estimate they spend 300 hours a year fulfilling their roles.

The day of the Oggie 8 had about 10 checkpoints manned by 2 people each for about 5 hours each (plus about three hours walking there and back). A number of people spent over 12 hours at base during the day. Another 200 hours.



Then there is of course fund raising, an essential activity to keep the team running. We do about 1 base tour each month, using three people for a couple of hours. There's fundraising events that 333 members attend and we take vehicles to. Let's assume 6 a year, attended by 3 people at a time lasting 7 hours. This gives us another 200 hours.

I am sure I will have forgotten some of the many activities that go in to running our team, but even so I have a total of 12,400 hours!

When people sign up for a mountain rescue team, they can reasonably expect to be going out on callouts during all hours of the day and night (or when their understanding employers and long suffering families are able to spare them). They also expect to be attending training to ensure they can carry out these rescues safely and efficiently.

What these numbers show however is that this is only two thirds of the job. The rest of the work, all carried out by volunteers, is to provide the support needed to keep the team running. I am extremely grateful for all of the support given by our members and the 333 support group.

At a living wage of £7.20 per hour this commitment comes to an annual cost of £89,280.

It costs about £65,000 per year to run the team and if we consider the time spent too we give a realistic benefit to the community of nearly £155,000 per year! That's just from one team too. Llanberis MRT have more incidents than us in the year and there are the smaller teams in North Wales of Aberglaslyn, NEWSAR, South Snowdonia and Aberdyfi.

My thanks to everyone who makes this huge benefit to the community possible – including but not limited to our members, their families and friends, employers, our 333 support group and local business and landowners who support us in many ways.

It is only fitting that at our Grand Dinner in Venue Cymru during March, to celebrate 50 years of OVMRO, the Joe Hero award was present to “families and friends”.

Andy Harbach
Chairman

Receipts and Payments information in the Annual Report

Some of you may have noticed that the information contained in the Annual Report was not correct. Please find below the amended information. Many apologies for the mistake.

	2014	2013
Receipts		
<i>Recurring items</i>		
333 Support Group	21,923	23,159
Donations	34,321	17,443
Oggie 8 Event	6,597	8,449
Collecting Boxes	5,123	5,398
Investment income	1,242	1,511
Other recurring income	9,096	12,228
Total receipts (recurring)	<u>78,302</u>	<u>68,129</u>
<i>Non recurring items</i>		
In Memory, bequests and legacies	61,685	166,717
Gift Aid recovery	431	8,576
Sale of vehicle	-	9,500
Total receipts (non-recurring)	<u>62,116</u>	<u>184,793</u>
Total Receipts	140,418	252,922
Payments		
Base expenses	14,889	23,135
Communications	10,923	1,911
Equipment	29,777	13,437
Transport	3,895	15,142
Payment towards new vehicle	-	20,262
Training and conferences	3,441	5,911
Team kit allowance	359	5,254
Other charitable expenses	36,943	15,644
Governance costs	2,240	2,258
Net receipts (payments)	<u>102,467</u>	<u>102,954</u>

INCIDENT REPORT

January

17th 1 hour 15 mins Aber Falls

A lady slipped on the steps leading to the footbridge and injured her back. Welsh Ambulance Service (WAST) deployed a paramedic in an Rapid Response Vehicle (RRV) but asked for MRT back-up as they were unsure how far from vehicle access she was. Luckily a warden was able to unlock the gate for the paramedic so he was on scene and had walked the lady to his vehicle before the first MRT vehicle arrived. The team were stood down.

10 Team members involved

26th 55mins Conwy Mountain

A female walker, in a large group, slipped on the steep hillside and injured her leg. An ambulance crew was sent to the scene and they requested MRT back-up. As team members were making their way to the incident site a stand-down message was given as the air ambulance had landed close to the casualty. Subsequently, the air ambulance was unable to assist and 22 Squadron were then tasked, winched her aboard and flew her to Ysbyty Gwynedd for treatment.

6 Team members involved

February

3rd 1 hour 15 mins Y Garn East Ridge

Nothing found

A walker reported hearing screams and shouts apparently coming from the East Ridge of Y Garn and was concerned that someone may need help. A Team Leader questioned other walkers in the area and no-one else had heard screams but reported that there were lots of noisy children close to the lake. A small hill party deployed to Cwm Idwal but nothing could be heard so the team were stood down.

11 Team members involved

5th 3 hours 50 mins Carnedd Llewelyn

Two males with two dogs reported themselves stuck in the snow on the Carneddau whilst attempting to walk from Ogwen to Dulyn Bothy. They had lots of equipment but a sprained ankle had slowed their progress. As they were close to the summit of Foel Fras they were persuaded to follow the wall towards Drum and 2 team vehicles were deployed to meet them. They actually made very good progress and were picked up by the vehicles on the Drum track. The hungry and thirsty dogs were very glad of the ride off the hill in the landrovers.

9 Team members involved

6th 1 hour 45 mins Cwm Bochlwyd

A solo winter climber fell a considerable distance down Glyder Fach Main Face and sustained injuries to his ankle and chest. He managed to crawl downhill towards Llyn Bochlwyd for half an hour before being able to shout to some walkers close by. Because of the potentially serious chest injury the Ogwen TL immediately requested the help of 22 Squadron and RAF Valley MRT whilst team members made their way to base. Luckily flying conditions were good and the casualty was evacuated to hospital within the hour.

14 Team members involved

7th 50 mins Penrhyn Quarry

The Team Leaders were contacted twice this evening, once with the report of a red flare sighted above the quarry and then later reports of a flashing torch in approximately the same area. As the quarry operates at night and is private property, NWP were asked to send an officer to the area to investigate and to contact the team again if there was further concern. Nothing found.

3 Team members involved

8th 2 hours North Ridge Tryfan

A couple set off to climb the North Ridge of Tryfan, however they had little equipment or experience and the mountain was under full winter conditions. At some point on the ridge they decided they could go no further and tried to descend the way they had come but unfortunately strayed on to the West Face. When they rang for help they were unsure of their location but stated they may be able to get back up to the ridge but would need guidance on the correct way down. One team member already on the North Ridge tried to locate them whilst other team members gathered at Base. The pair managed to get back to the ridge and met up with some other walkers who guided them back off the mountain.

16 Team members involved

8th 2 hours 10 mins Cwm Glas bach, Carnedd Dafydd

A party of 4 walked up Afon Llafar from Gerlan. On reaching the Crib Lem area they saw a snowy gully and decided to ascend it. They then reached a hanging cwm and became stuck on the steep back wall of the cwm. Mobile phone comms with the cas party were poor. Whilst planning to deploy 1 group on foot from Ffynnon Llugwy and another party available on LZ to assist R122, the casualty party managed to contact passing climbers on the ridge above who heard the shouts and dropped a rope and extracted the cas party. No further action was required by the team.

16 Team members involved

14th 1 hour 10mins Carneddau

A man reported his partner missing on the Carneddau after they became separated somewhere near Carnedd Llewelyn earlier in the afternoon. He had reached the Ogwen Valley but his partner was uncontactable. As the team were preparing for a search the partner called to say she was walking out of Cwm Eigiau towards Tal y Bont. He was happy to collect her so no action was needed by Team members.

11 Team members involved

15th 5 hours 55 mins Gribin Ridge

This very experienced and very well equipped couple had completed Tower Gully climb and started to descend the Gribin Ridge as darkness fell. Despite having walked this route before on numerous occasions they went astray on the 'Football Pitch' and failed to find the path down the ridge. They only had one torch and the female was becoming exhausted after a long strenuous day. Two hill parties set out to find them and they were located still high on the ridge. They were given extra clothing and hot drinks but it took a further 3 hours to slowly walk them off the mountain through increasingly wet and windy weather

15 Team members involved

21st 1 hour 45 mins Aber Falls area

Two male mountain bikers were reported as overdue and possibly lost on the Carneddau. The information about their start point and intended route was extremely limited and the informant last had contact with them about 7pm when they thought they were heading for the Roman Road above Aber. The decision was made to send 2 team vehicles to drive the tracks in that area to try to locate them. Luckily as the first vehicle was on route the pair arrived at Aber safe and well so the team was stood down.

7 Team members involved

26th 1 hour 30 min Aber Falls

A member of a well organised Mountain Training group slipped on grass sustaining an ankle injury. Given the location and nature of the injury together with very limited contact with the Group in a known communications black-spot, it was decided to request the support of R122. During this time, 2 x Team Leaders went to the area to provide communications and support the operation whilst a MR response was built up at Base. The injured person was evacuated by R122 to Bangor for treatment

10 Team members involved

28th 3 hours 10 mins Pen macho MTB trail

A male mountain biker slipped off the final section of single track on the Penmachno track and fell into a small ravine, badly injuring his ankle . An ambulance crew were deployed to the scene who requested back-up from the team when they saw the location of the casualty. The Team doctor treated the injury and then the casualty made an admirable effort to help with his extraction by climbing a ladder to the top of the ravine. He was then stretchered to the ambulance by team members and several bikers who had stopped to help.

12 Team members involved

March

6th 5 hours 10 mins North Ridge Tryfan

A party of 6 friends decided to climb Tryfan in high winds even though they were poorly equipped and had no knowledge of the mountain. High up on the North Ridge the party split up with one female making it to the top and the rest deciding that they could no longer move due to the wind. Both parties asked for help and were unwilling to help themselves. Team members went to both parties and escorted them back to the road. Poor judgement and inexperience were the cause of this event.

14 Team members involved

7th 2 hours 35 mins Cowlyd Reservoir

Three young male walkers had decided on a route from from Aber to Ogwen but the strong winds on Carnedd Llewelyn caused them to descend in to Cwm Eigiau to find shelter. They managed to get to Llyn Cowlyd and attempted to walk along its East shore, however it was now dark so they retreated to the dam and rang for help. Several NEWSAR team members were staying at Oggie Base so they deployed by vehicle, located the lost walkers and returned them to Oggie Base.

4 Team members involved

12th 2 hours 25 mins Great Orme

A vulnerable female was reported as missing from home and probably in the Great Orme area. One Team Leader organised possible search areas whilst 22 Squadron did the first search of the Orme. Luckily she was located quickly and flown to hospital. 3 Team members involved

13th 3 hours 10 mins Afon Conwy, south of Betws y Coed

A group of 3 kayakers were on the Afon Conwy south of Betws y Coed. The first male completed a rapid area successfully; however the second male to attempt it hit a rock with his shoulder causing significant injury. Initially his friends helped him to the edge of the river but they were then trapped in a steep sided ravine. 22 Sqn and the Team were both tasked and responded immediately to scene. The heli managed a difficult extraction of the casualty from the tree covered gorge and Team members assisted the other kayakers to retrieve all the boats. A co-ordinator from F&RS was also on scene to see if further assistance was needed. 12 Team members involved

21st 2 hours 5 mins East Ridge Y Garn

A party of 3 set off up East Ridge of Y Garn and one male became stuck on a small sloping ledge. He was trying to reverse from a steep bit of the ridge having experienced some difficulties in following his son. He was unable to move from the ledge and felt it was very precarious so a 999 call was made for assistance. OVMRO responded and collected team members at Oggi Base, 22 Sqn was also requested to attend given the potential risk. They flew direct to the site and winched the casualty into the aircraft and returned him to Oggi Base, his son and friend continued to make their way down from the crag independently and were reunited with the casualty at Oggi Base after a couple of hours. 7 Team members involved

26th 6 hours Y Garn

Two male walkers had set off the day before to walk through the Devils' Kitchen, over Glyder Fawr and Glyder Fach and then down to their campsite. A late start and a change in weather resulted in them becoming totally disorientated and lost as darkness fell. When they finally managed to get a phone signal at 06:30 one of them was semi-conscious and the other was also suffering from hypothermia. It was extremely difficult to extract a location from them due to the high winds and slurred speech, but Y Garn seemed the probable search area. Ogwen team members and RAF Valley MRT members jointly searched the southern slopes of Y Garn with 22 Squadron assisting when possible as the cloud occasionally cleared. They were located on the north side of the summit of Y Garn having spent the night there trying to shelter from the weather. They were both hypothermic and unable to walk. They were rewarmed as much as possible then stretchered down to a small flat area where 22 Sqn were able to winch them aboard and fly them to hospital. All team members then returned to base. Llanberis MRT had also been on standby to assist in case the heli could not extract. 11 Team members involved

April

1st 2 hours Idwal Path

A female walker slipped on a muddy path descending from Cwm Idwal and sustained a painful ankle injury. A small stretcher party was deployed and the lady was evacuated to an ambulance at the roadside.

15 Team members involved

2nd 4 hours Eastern Traverse, Tryfan

A family of four requested assistance after straying on to the Eastern Traverse after attempting to climb the North Ridge of Tryfan. They were not confident to continue or to retrace their steps. A hill party located them, roped them down a steep section and then walked them back down to the road.

17 Team members involved

4th 2 hours 50 mins North Ridge Tryfan

A group of 4 friends were scrambling on the lower section of the North Ridge of Tryfan when one of the party took a tumbling fall of about 30ft sustaining multiple injuries. Her fall was stopped by one of her friends who then also fell a distance and knocked over his wife, both sustaining minor injuries. Luckily, a Keswick MRT leader was on scene within minutes and was able to assess the scene and secure the casualties. Team members already on the hill were diverted to the scene and 22 Sqn were tasked. A back-up stretcher party was also deployed. The 2 casualties with minor injuries were flown directly to hospital whilst the third casualty was treated, splinted and prepared for a winch. She was then flown to hospital and the remaining member of the party walked down to the road with the rescue team. Thanks should be given to several members of the public who provided assistance during the rescue.

16 Team members involved

4th 1 hour Pen yr Ole Wen

Several people reported hearing a dog barking above Llyn Ogwen for more than an hour so a team member went to investigate. He could clearly see the dog stood on a rocky ledge about 100m above the lake. However, when a small hill party went to investigate the dog had disappeared, and no barking could be heard. Hopefully its owner had found it.

5 Team members involved

4th 2 hours 15 mins North Ridge Tryfan

A couple were retreating from the North Ridge as they had decided it was too challenging for the female. They strayed on to a steep heather covered slope and unluckily the female slipped and dislocated her shoulder. Team members and 22 squadron attended the scene and she was flown to hospital for treatment.

12 Team members involved

4th 2 hours 35 mins Bochlwyd path

A female walker stepped in a hole close to the outflow of Bochlwyd and injured her ankle. The first report to the Team was several people calling in that a female screaming could be heard a distance above them. A small party was deployed into that area and the casualty was found on the Idwal path being assisted by her partner to move slowly downhill. It was decided that an aircraft was the best option as she

was cold and in a lot of pain. 22 squadron evacuated her from the location to hospital for treatment. This was their 10,000 rescue! Congratulations to all at C flight, 22 squadron!

11 Team members involved

4th 55 mins Glyderau

The team had a call from the Idwal YHA warden to say a man was reporting his friend as missing/overdue from a walk on the Glyderau. They had last seen him at Castell Y Gwynt when two of them took the direct route over the Castell whilst the missing man decided to find his way below it. They had continued to the road without seeing him again so were now concerned for his welfare. Luckily, as team members were deploying for the 5th incident of the day, the missing man was found just arriving at his car. No further action needed.

8 Team members involved

8th 1 hour 20 mins Tryfan

A lady was reported missing after a group of 3 people became separated soon after leaving the summit of Tryfan. The trio had limited awareness of the area and minimal equipment. Following the 999 call, some initial investigation was done by MRT visiting the campsite to obtain more information. Following a number of messages, some contradictory possibly due to delays and mis-understandings, the group were eventually re-united and no further action was needed by MRT.

4 Team members involved

9th 1 hour 20 mins Devil's Kitchen

A climber on the Idwal Slabs reported hearing a male voice shouting for help, which he thought came from the Devil's Kitchen area. A team leader went to Llyn Idwal to investigate but no-one else had heard the shouts. There was no obvious person in distress to be seen and goats were seen in the approximate area. No further action taken.

12 Team members involved

13th 3 hours 50 mins Glyder Fawr

A party of ten friends were traversing the Glyders when they became disorientated on the route between Glyder Fawr and Fach. They spent an hour trying to work out their location. Being aware of the dangerous cliffs in the area they called for assistance. After some discussion, advice and monitoring they were able to use their own map and compass to get themselves off the hill. Team vehicles were dispatched to bring them back to their cars.

4 Team members involved

14th 2 hours 35 mins Bochlwyd path

A female walker slipped on the Bochlwyd path and tumbled about 5m resulting in head and facial injuries. A hasty team on scene before the Heli, did a primary survey, establishing cas was stable. The Heli unable to position overhead, so the winchman and stretcher were off loaded 100m below the cas site. TM's assisted the winchman to site. The cas was loaded onto a Stokes stretcher but the aircraft was still unable to hold in the overhead and landed on below again. The Stokes stretcher was carried down to waiting heli and evacuated to Hospital

18 Team members involved

15th 2 hours 50 mins Moel Siabod

A couple went for a walk in the Moel Siabod area with no gear and no knowledge of their route. Not surprisingly they became lost in the dense hill mist that had been forecast. After 6 hours of wandering they called for assistance. They had absolutely no idea of their location but fortunately the team were able to get a Sarloc fix on them thereby saving a large search. A small party was dispatched to their location and they were walked off the hill.

11 Team members involved

21st 3 hours 40 mins Llanfairfechan

The team was asked to search for a vulnerable female in the Llanfairfechan area. SARDA were also asked to assist. As both teams were assembling at the RV point the stand down message came from NWP. The missing lady had been found safe and transferred to hospital for assessment.

16 Team members involved

25th 5 hours 20 mins Glyder Fach summit

A well experienced and well equipped party of three males was on a day walk from the Pen y Gwryd across the Glyderau. Unfortunately one man slipped on wet rock just below the Cantilever, put his hand out to stop the fall and dislocated his shoulder. Due to cloud cover on the summits 22Sqn were unable to get to the scene but deployed 12 MRT high up on the mountain. After pain relief and splinting the casualty was prepared to walk down as far as he felt able. He made an amazing effort and walked down to Cwm Tryfan before finally needing the stretcher. 22 Sqn were waiting for a break in the weather to return and evacuate the cas which did not arise until the lip of Cwm Tryfan, but it was gratefully received after a very long and wet stretcher carry. Thanks to Valley MRT who were also in the area and sent members to help with the carry.

21 Team members involved

25th 30 mins Carneddau

There was a report of an overdue party of 10 males who had been traversing the Carneddau from Aber to Ogwen as a practice run for the Welsh 1000m race. Contact was made with the party leader but he was unable to give his location. SARLOC was used to locate them about 400m above Oggie Base. No need for action by the team.

5 Team members involved

May

2nd 2 hours 20 mins Llyn Diwaunydd

Two male friends had been camping by the side of the lake and had set off uphill to traverse over to Nant Gwynant. One of the men had a pre-existing heart condition and began to have chest pains so sensibly they called for help. The ambulance service, 22 Squadron and Ogwen MRO were all tasked at the same time so all went to scene. 22 Squadron were able to reach the scene despite difficult weather conditions and airlifted the casualty to hospital whilst his friend was brought off the mountain by MRT members.

19 Team members involved

2nd 2 hours 5 mins Moel Faban

A group of walkers found a party of 7 Duke of Edinburgh Expedition females cold and wet on the side of Moel Faban. They had no idea where they were and two of them seemed to be suffering the effects of exposure. The walkers kindly put up their tent and got the two worst girls into sleeping bags and then rang for help. Team vehicles managed to get close to scene and team members were with the girls soon after. Although cold the girls were then able to walk back to the vehicles and were taken back to their minibus.

19 Team members involved

2nd 3 hours 45 mins Pen yr Ole Wen

A party of 9 friends was descending from the top of Pen yr Ole Wen to Ogwen Cottage but the weather slowly deteriorated into blizzard conditions causing them to lose their way. They strayed onto the Braich Ty Du face and one of them started to feel the effects of exposure and was unable to continue down the very steep ground. Three of his friends continued to the road and alerted the attention of the MR vehicle returning from the previous incident. Several hill parties made their way to the scene and 22 Squadron were asked to assist due to the dangerous nature of the terrain for a stretcher carry. Expert flying in challenging weather allowed the winchman to snatch the casualty without coming off the wire. The remainder of the group was walked down to the road by the MRT members.

21 Team members involved

4th 3 hours 15 mins Llyn y Foel, Moel Siabod

The couple was descending Moel Siabod close to Llyn y Foel when the male slipped on a rock and twisted his knee. There was immediate swelling and he was unable to walk. Team members were deployed to the scene to treat the casualty and assess his mobility. Although he tried to walk when his leg had been splinted it soon became obvious that a stretcher carry or helicopter was needed. Luckily 22 Squadron was already close by so were diverted to this incident and recovered the casualty for a short flight to hospital. Team members walked down with his partner.

19 Team members involved

8th 1 hour 50 mins North ridge Tryfan

Two walkers lost their way on the descent of the North Ridge due to the cloudy conditions. They were very low down on the mountain so a small hill party walked up to meet them and found them already making their own way down. Team members walked back to the road with them.

12 Team members involved

9th 2 hours Marin Trail

A male mountain biker was reported as having head and shoulder injuries after falling off his bike on the Marin MTB Trail. The ambulance service were asking for assistance with getting to him, however as team members arrived on scene he was already walking down to the ambulance with the crew. Team members were stood down.

16 Team members involved

10th 3 hours 45 mins Llyn Cowlyd

A female walker slipped on wet rock and suffered a leg injury close to Llyn Cowlyd. Because no contact could be made with the casualty party the team sent parties in from both ends of the reservoir to locate her. After treating her injury the team members were preparing for a stretcher carry, but a short break in the poor weather conditions allowed 22Sqn to fly in and winch her aboard for a short flight to hospital.

15 Team members involved

10th 4 hours 30 min North Ridge Tryfan

Two people lost the path on their descent of the North Ridge of Tryfan. As so many people do, they strayed on to the broken ground of the West Face and felt unable to continue down or go back up. Team members from Oggie and NEWSAR were deployed to locate them. They were found by a NEWSAR party and walked down to the road.

19 Team members involved

14th 5 hours Foel Grach

Two foreign walkers left the train station at Llanfairfechan to walk to Idwal YHA over the Carneddau. They were not experienced in British hills and expected that footpaths on OS map indicated well marked trails. They followed a Landrover track to Drum and a stone wall towards Foel fras and then got lost in low cloud and found the refuge on Foel Grach. They called NWP on his Belgium mobile to ask for advice, stating they were at a refuge, soaking wet and cold in low cloud. Communications were not possible with the cas party as the foreign mobile number was not contactable. A small hill party was sent in a 4x4 to the summit of Drum, with a plan to walk to Foel Grach. The Cas party contacted NWP again and were put through to MRT. Agreed they would stay in the refuge. The hill party located the lost party and escorted them down and they were taken to the YHA.

12 Team members involved

16th 2 hours Afon Anafon

A walker returning to the top carpark at Aber after a long day on the hill reported flashing lights, a shout for help and 3 whistle blasts from across the river at the edge of the forest. He tried to make contact with the person but got no response so reported it to NWP. Two team members went to the location to investigate but could find no evidence of anyone needing help. False alarm with good intent.

3 Team members involved

16th 1 hour 45 mins South Ridge Tryfan

A male walker in an organised group pulled a major muscle in his upper leg on the descent of the South Ridge of Tryfan. He tried to continue but was in considerable pain so the group asked for assistance. Team members at base were preparing to deploy but luckily 22 Squadron were able to locate and evacuate the man back to Oggie Base for onward transport to hospital.

20 Team members involved

17th 1 hour 25 mins Gwydyr Forest

The man was reported missing / overdue back at the Nant BH Car Park. The pair were cycling in the Forest main tracks and he decided to try a more direct route back to Nant BH. However after he was more than 1 hour overdue, his partner called 999.

Team Leaders met with the informant and the main tracks were driven to try to quickly locate the man. During this time he arrived back at Nant BH safe and well. Unfortunately he had got lost soon after leaving her and then found himself in Betws-y-Coed and decided to go back into the Forestry to find Nant BH. However during this return, he got lost again further delaying his return.

12 Team members involved

24th 3 hours 30 mins Cwm Cneifion

A local climbing instructor reported hearing repeated blasts on a whistle for over 5 minutes whilst he was climbing on the Idwal Slabs. He finished the route and responded with his whistle but no further blasts were heard. He thought they had come from the Nameless Cwm area. A party of two were deployed onto the hill to investigate but nothing was found. However, other walkers had also heard the same whistles.

10 Team members involved

27th 3 hours 40 mins North Ridge Tryfan

Two walkers were descending the North Ridge of Tryfan having decided to retreat from the North Tower area. At some point both walkers fell some distance and suffered serious injuries. The man managed to walk down to the road to raise the alarm despite his injuries, but the lady had sadly passed away when the rescue team members located her. She was brought down off the mountain by stretcher and the family members were cared for at Oggie Base.

19 Team members involved

29th 1 hour 15 mins Sinister Gully, Bristly Ridge

A solo male walker was attempting to ascend Bristly Ridge by way of Sinister Gulley but he lost the route and became cragfast. Fortunately as a hill party was being deployed, the team was contacted by another climber who had assisted the stuck walker and was reporting him safe at the top of Bristly ridge. So the Hill party returned to base.

10 Team members involved

30th 50 mins Ogwen

The team was called out this morning to a male who had sustained a leg injury. The only information that was passed was that he was 'About half a mile from Llyn Ogwen and required a stretcher evacuation'. The RAF Leaming MRT was in the area so got deployed into high probability areas while our members attended base. A short time after, we received notification that the male had made his way off and was on his way to hospital.

8 Team members involved

June

1st 1 hour 25 mins Bryn Pedw

Two girls were out walking locally when one slipped and fell on a path injuring her ankle. Paramedics were called but were unable to extricate, so they asked for assistance from MR. By the time the team arrived the Coastguard team was on site with sufficient numbers to extract the girl.

13 Team members involved

6th 2 hours Bochlwyd path

A lady slipped and hurt her ankle. She continued to move down slowly herself. A passing team member came across her and called for a stretcher evac. The Cas refused analgesia but was treated, loaded onto the stretcher and evacuated to the road. She was transferred to her daughters' car, who took her to hospital.

19 Team members involved

7th 3 hours 30 mins Llanberis Waterfall

Several male swimmers were reported as having problems in a waterfall area near Llanberis. Ogwen team members were asked to assist the other Emergency Services in the rescue. One swimmer was rescued but sadly the other two could not be saved.

8 Team members involved

8th 1 hour 10 mins Idwal Falls

The person was walking from the road around the Ogwen Falls and tripped injuring his ankle. The incident was reported to the Ambulance who dispatched a crew to the scene. Once the location was clear, the crew requested MRT support for the short raise and carry to the A5

19 Team members involved

12th 1 hour 20 mins Llyn Parc

A male sustained a hand injury whilst chopping wood for a wild camp in the forest above Betws. The team were requested to assist WAST as the location was a remote house in the forestry. The Team deployed a Landrover with cas carers, which arrived on-scene just after the ambulance which was guided by a local community first responder. Team stood down.

10 Team members involved

21st 1 hour 45 mins Bryn Hall

A male walker sustained an ankle injury whilst walking on Moel Lefn above Bethesda. A team Landrover was able to drive up to his location with a small hill party. He was treated for the injury and then returned to his car in Bethesda to be taken to hospital by his family.

16 Team members involved

27th 1 hour Bangor

A vulnerable lady was reported missing from home with possible indications for self harm. She was found whilst the Team Leaders were meeting with NWP to obtain more information.

2 Team members involved

July

1st 2 hours 5 mins Cwm Idwal

An 18 yr old female sustained an ankle injury descending from the Devil's Kitchen into Cwm Idwal. Her friends tried to carry her but had to give up when they reached the 'Bad Step' over Idwal stream. Several hill parties were sent to the scene and the Coastguard helicopter was requested. A joint effort meant that the casualty was quickly treated and winched aboard for a short flight to hospital.

21 Team members involved

3rd 50 mins Llyn Cowlyd

A party of 7 D of E students was camping near to Cowlyd dam and became concerned about the lightning storm in the mountains. Two of them were having panic attacks. They had been unable to contact their assessor so called 999 for advice. By the time the Team Leader could contact the group the storm had passed through and they were feeling better. It was agreed that no MR involvement was needed.

1 Team members involved

4th 1 hour 5 mins Tryfan

A member of the public in a carpark at Llyn Ogwen reported hearing shouts for help from the lower slopes of Tryfan. These shouts stopped after about 15 minutes. A Team Leader met up with the informant and they agreed that the most likely cause was a flock of goats. There were climbers and walkers still on the hill and no sign of anyone in distress.

2 Team members involved

4th 1 hour Tryfan

A large party of climbers spent the day on the East Face of Tryfan, however concerns were raised when 3 males had failed to return to the campsite by 11pm. Torch lights could be seen on the summit and East Face. Whilst a Team Leader was investigating, the missing climbers turned up so the team stood down.

2 Team members involved

4th 1 hour 35 mins Cwm Eigiau

A female member of a D of E party camping near the dam in Cwm Eigiau start suffering from repeated fainting attacks. The assessor with the party asked for help as the girl had a pre-existing condition for fainting. A team drove to their location and evacuated the girl plus one of the group to an ambulance at the road head.

3 Team members involved

5th 6 hours 47 mins Carneddau

Two male walkers attempting the 14 Peaks were overdue at Aber by several hours. A family member had concern for their welfare as they were lightly clad and had minimal equipment. The Team Leader advised waiting until daybreak (only a couple of hours) as there was nothing to suggest that they were in trouble, and also there was no definite search area. The walkers turned up shortly afterwards.

2 Team members involved

9th 1 hour Geirionydd gorge

A well organised party of about 12 people, from the local Field Centre at Betws, was scrambling up the Gorge when a male slipped a short distance injuring his left hand. The Group leaders were initially unable to move him but eventually they were able to extricate the casualty and he was walked back to the minibus just as the first MRT person arrived on scene. No further action by MRT was required as the Group agreed to take the injured person to hospital for treatment.

9 Team members involved

12th 5 hours 20 mins Foel Grach refuge

A party of 5 walkers attempting the 15 Peaks challenge arrived at the refuge and took shelter from the weather. After several hours there they were cold and unsure of how

to proceed so called for help. A small hill party walked in from Melynlllyn and escorted them back down to the road.

7 Team members involved

17th 2 hours Clogwyn Cyriau, Betws y Coed

The MRT were requested to assist WAST in the evacuation of a male who had fallen approx 30 feet to land at the base of a cliff sustaining rib and leg injuries. The area is difficult and steep woodland. The casualty was evacuated by MRT stretcher about 200m to the where the ambulance was waiting at the forest track. The casualty was transported to Glan Clwyd Hospital for treatment.

9 Team members involved

19th 1 hour Afon Conwy

The informant reported that he had seen an empty canoe in the area of the falls heading downstream. As a precautionary measure, MRT attended to check if there were any canoeists in trouble etc. An MRT hasty party subsequently encountered 2 canoeists who had lost their boat and were in the process of recovering equipment from the Fairy Glen. The reported canoe was linked with these canoeists and the incident was closed.

12 Team members involved

22nd 3 hours 45 mins East Face Tryfan

A group of 3 climbers started up Grooved Arte in the early afternoon. After the first pitch one of them was not happy to continue so abseiled back to the start and made his own way up to the summit to wait for his friends. Five hours later he called for the team because his friends had contacted him to say they were stuck near the top of the route. Team members at base could see them through binos and sent directions via text message and they continued to climb very slowly. A small party walked to the summit to collect the individual as none of the group had torches and it was now dark. Another small party went up to the Eastern Terrace to locate the climbers who had decided to descend Green Gully and got stuck again. They climbed back up to the rescue party and everyone walked off down the North Ridge.

17 Team members involved

22nd 40 mins North Ridge of Tryfan

A walker on the A5 at Llyn Ogwen reported hearing whistle blasts and shouts coming from the lower part of the North Ridge. A Team member went to investigate but no further whistles could be heard, and climbers descending from the Milestone Buttress had heard nothing. There was a group of goats close by which could have caused the noise. No further action by MRT.

6 Team members involved

23rd 3 hours 30 mins Y Garn

A walker in Cwm Idwal reported hearing a rockfall followed by apparent shouts for help. Because of the potentially serious nature of this incident the Coastguard helicopter was tasked and team members gathered at Oggie Base. The helicopter carried out an extensive search of the probable area and then flew 5 team members to the summit of Y Garn to carry out a further search. Nothing was found but other walkers heard the same rockfall and believe they saw people scree running

11 Team members involved

23rd 20 mins North Ridge of Tryfan

Two walkers with little hill experience tried to ascend the Heather Terrace but ended up on the North Ridge. At this point the female walker decided it was too steep and they called for help. As the team were gathering information and assembling at base some other walkers turned up and offered to escort them down the mountain. No further MRT action was necessary.

5 Team members involved

24th 2 hours 5 mins West Face Tryfan

A family group of three adults, visiting North Wales, were attempting a previously known route. They left the A5 at 1100hrs from bottom of the North Ridge of Tryfan to go via Heather Terrace. The party of three lost the path in the Little gully / Piccadilly circus area and strayed on to the steep ground at the top of the Milestone buttress area on the West flank of Tryfan. One member of the party was not happy on the steep ground and called for MRT assistance. MRT made contact with the cas party, and a spotter on A5 confirmed their location. The cas party found a better path and were happy to head back towards the North Ridge where they were met and safely escorted back down to Oggie base for a debrief. No injuries.

15 Team members involved

25th 6 hours 5 mins Llandudno

A 17 year old female fell into a disused quarry, banged her head and was witnessed having a fit. Due to the difficult access for the WAST crew and the serious nature of her condition, both the Team and the Coastguard helicopter were tasked. A joint effort between the WAST crew, team members and the Coastguard helicopter enabled her to be winched out of the quarry and flown to hospital.

13 Team members involved

28th 2 hours 20 mins Amlwch

A teenage girl was reported missing from home overnight so the team were asked to assist with a search of the local area. After more information was obtained from NWP it was decided that SARDA were the best resource, so the incident was passed to them and the team was stood down. The girl was later found by NWP.

8 Team members involved

29th 2 hours 10 mins Glyder Fach

A male walker aggravated an old knee injury on the summit plateau of Glyder Fach. A hill party set out with a stretcher to evacuate him but was stood down as the Coastguard helicopter was able to reach him and fly him to hospital.

17 Team members involved

August

2nd 3 hours 15 mins Moel Siabod

A Dutch couple had set off to climb Moel Siabod from Capel Curig, however after passing Llyn y Foel they decided to walk around the mountain rather than go to the summit. At this point they became lost in the steep broken ground and called for help. When spoken to by the Team Leader they could clearly see Dolwyddelan but were reluctant to move. A small hill party located them and walked them down to the road.

15 Team members involved

3rd 7 hours Foel Grach

A party of 3 set off from Dolgarrog on a multiday camping trip into the mountains. They were very poorly equipped and had minimal skills or experience to safely be in the mountains. When they made the 999 call at the onset of darkness, they had almost no idea where they were and a lot of effort was needed to locate and recover them in the dark and strong winds. MRT went to the summit of Drum using 4x4 vehicles and then moved along the Carneddau to locate the group between the Refuge Hut and the Dulyn Reservoir cliffs. Given the adverse weather and the poor state of the group, the MRT needed to evacuate the group down into the Mellynlyn track where they were picked up by a Team vehicle and returned to Dolgarrog. The location task was supported by some great flying in difficult conditions by R936 who were able to confirm the approximate location of the group however were not able to land-on or approach the site due to the adverse weather.

10 Team members involved

6th 1 hour 50 mins Llyn Ogwen

A female walker slipped on the path running along the north side of Llyn Ogwen. This aggravated a knee injury and she could not negotiate the rocky terrain back to the road. A small hill party splinted the leg and then she was able to walk slowly with assistance to the road. Her husband drove her to the local hospital for a checkup.

10 Team members involved

8th 1 hour 10 mins Devil's Kitchen

The marshals on the Oggie 8 descending from Llyn y Cwn came across a man who had sprained his ankle. He was given pain relief and strapping and was able to walk slowly down the hill with the marshals. He was advised to see his doctor.

6 Team members involved

14th 2 hour 5 mins Glyder Fawr

A solo male walker set off from the brew shack at 11.00 to walk Y Garn and the Glyderau. He walked the north east ridge of Y Garn then down to Llyn y Cwn. On up to Glyder Fawr and on past Castell y Gwynt. He was hoping to drop down to Bwlch Tryfan but couldn't find a path. He probably got to the top of Bristly Screes but didn't think the path went down that way. He had been in the area 20 years ago and remembers a proper path. He retraced his steps to top of Gribin and decided to call for help. In heavy mist he couldn't see a way down the screes. A small hill party located him and walked him off the hill.

17 Team members involved

16th 55 mins North Ridge Tryfan

A solo male walker slipped and sustained a knee injury high on the North Ridge of Tryfan. The team attended Oggie Base but as the Coastguard helicopter was already flying in the area they were asked to assess the situation. They winched the casualty aboard and flew him to hospital.

16 Team members involved

17th 1 hour 50 mins Tryfan

A Gold D of E group of six males from the college had failed to arrive at their camping site at Llyn Bochlywd. They were 2 hours late when the leader contacted MRT, the

weather conditions were clear dry and warm. Due to poor comms one of the leaders met MRT at Oggie base. The party turned up at their intended campsite tired but safe and well some 4 hours late.

1 Team members involved

22nd 4 hours 15 mins Moel Siabod

Two 18 yr olds with limited mountain climbing experience strayed on to the steep gully area on the south side of Moel Siabod. They felt unable to descend so asked for help. A small hill party located them and roped them down to safer ground where they could walk off the hill with team members.

13 Team members involved

24th 1 hour 50 mins Cwm Idwal

Female with leg injury in Cwm Idwal

5 Team members involved

26th 4 hours 30 mins Aberglaslyn

The team were asked to provide water trained members to assist with a search for a vulnerable female in the Aberglaslyn area. Whilst preparing to deploy the missing person was located and the team stood down.

3 Team members involved

29th 1 hour 15 mins Drum

Three male walkers, who had been attempting the 15 Peaks, rang in from Drum to say they were tired and required assistance. When contacted by a Team Leader they had already decided to keep on walking as daylight was approaching and they were on a good landrover track. They were contacted again after an hour, by which time they were on the Roman Road heading towards a taxi at the road head above Rowen. No MRT deployment needed.

2 Team members involved

29th 3 hours 15 mins Devil's Kitchen

A female walker slipped on the path coming down the Devil's Kitchen and suffered a very painful hip injury. A small hill party was dispatched and Rescue 936 were asked to assist. A joint effort enabled the casualty to be loaded into a stretcher and she was then flown to the local hospital.

15 Team members involved

30th 6 hours 20 mins Foel Grach

A party of 5 friends were doing the 14 peaks when the casualty tripped and twisted his knee on Carnedd Llewelyn. His companions helped him down to the summit of Foel Grach over a two hour period. They then felt they could do no more and asked for assistance. Due to the distance and time required for a MRT ground party to access the site and given that the weather was clear with little wind a Helicopter was requested to evacuate the casualty. In the meantime 3 of the party started to walk off to their car that was parked in the Rowen area. A small ground party was dispatched by road. When the Helicopter arrived the cas refused to allow the winchman to examine his injury. The cas and his friend were then dropped off at Oggie base where he continued to refuse examination or treatment. He was advised he should seek medical care as he was walking with visible difficulty. His three companions walked

slowly off the hill but failed to locate their car! The cas and his friend were dropped off at their car located at Pen y Pass and were last seen driving off to find their companions.

4 Team members involved

30th 1 hour Llyn Geirionydd

A couple was walking along the footpath on the west side of the Llyn when the lady slipped and injured her ankle. An ambulance was requested but access to her location was difficult so the team were also called. Luckily two team members were close by, asked the owner of a speed boat to assist, and they were taken to the far side of the lake by boat. After splinting the injury the lady was assisted in to the boat and taken back to the road. They were then going to make their way to the local hospital in their own car and the ambulance was stood down.

12 Team members involved

September

2nd 3 hours 5 mins Fairy Glen, Betws y Coed

The casualty was walking the Fairy Glen Gorge footpath when it appears that he went to the edge to take a photograph, whereupon he slipped and fell approximately 10 meters down into the gorge sustaining multiple injuries. Fortunately he was stopped from falling further into the gorge by a small tree on the ledge. A team member and a WAST Paramedic were lowered down to stabilize and secure the casualty. The Casualty was then extricated by the team and transported to an LZ and flown to YG by R936.

18 Team members involved

4th 1 hour 50 mins Tryfan

The team was asked to search for a man who had not returned home from a weekend of walking in North Wales. His car was found parked in the Ogwen valley near Tryfan. After considerable investigation it was felt that Tryfan was the best place to search and a ground and air search was begun. R936 flew with two MR spotters on board whilst several hill parties deployed. The casualty was quickly located by one of the MR spotters in the area of North Gully on the East Face of Tryfan. Due to the precarious position of the casualty he was quickly recovered by the winchman, however he had sadly passed away.

16 Team members involved

4th 5 hours 20 mins Idwal Slabs

A couple with limited multi pitch 'trad' climbing experience started climbing Ordinary route on Idwal Slabs at midday. They had been told by friends to avoid the normal descent route from the lunch time ledge as it is difficult to find. They continued up Holly Tree wall, went off-route on to Lazarus and then gained a ledge below Continuation Wall looking for a descent path. Mist and low cloud came down and they became crag fast on a narrow ledge. Insufficient skill and knowledge to use twin ropes to abseil off, they called for MRT assistance. A joint hill party of Ogwen and RAF MRT members located them and extracted them.

14 Team members involved

4th 3 hours 50 mins Tryfan

A couple had started climbing Tryfan during the late morning and had made contact with a family member at about 13.50 by text, stating that they would let him know by 20.00 that they had made it back to their hotel. However, they did not text so the alarm was raised with NWP at the same time that the previous incident was closing. Lights were seen on the North ridge of Tryfan so a small party was deployed to investigate and subsequently assist them off. Their mobile phone battery had failed and they had become stuck late in the day whilst descending. RAF Valley MRT provided support to the team and Rescue 936 attempted to support but low cloud with poor visibility stopped them entering the Valley.

16 Team members involved

5th 1 hour Glyder Fawr

A male walker was following a route description from a magazine but became disorientated in cloud when leaving the summit of Glyder Fawr to head for the top of the Y Gribin ridge. He started to descend the top section of Seniors Ridge and then went down steep ground on the west flank. The Team was called out and given the location and difficulty in accessing it, Rescue 936 was requested to attend. As the ground party was building, 2 team members deployed to spot and assist Rescue 936 in winching the casualty from steep ground. He was picked up and returned to Oggie Base

13 Team members involved

5th 2 hours 35 mins North Ridge Tryfan

A couple with limited equipment and mountain walking experience attempted to climb Tryfan by the North Ridge route. They turned around at the North Tower area and tried to reverse their route but strayed on to the West Face area above Waterfall Gully. At this point the female could not descend or go back up safely. They shouted for help which resulted in multiple reports to NWP. Five USAF men went to assist and provided useful directions to the MRT hill party about the exact location of the stuck woman. She was roped down the steep section of the gully and was then able to walk down to the road with team members.

15 Team members involved

7th 25 mins Y Garn

The callout message from NWP advised that a member of an organised party of 9 people was suffering a severe allergic reaction resulting in breathing difficulties at a location on Y Garn. Given the potential severity of the incident, the support of R936 was immediately requested. The informant was contacted and it became apparent that the incident was on the Nantle Ridge area and not the Y Garn in the Ogwen Valley. Given this new information, the incident was transferred to the Aberglaslyn MRT. The casualty was evacuated by R936 to YG.

2 Team members involved

9th 1 hour 45 mins Bochlwyd

The informant was walking off the hill with 5 other friends when they happened to come across the casualty. It appears that he had tripped and fallen and received a penetrating cut to his knee cap. The Informant and his group administered first aid and called for help. When contacted by MRT they stated that the wound was bleeding heavily. Due to the nature of the injury assistance was requested from R936 and they

arrived and whisked the casualty away to YG. No MR troops were deployed on the hill.

6 Team members involved

9th 1 hour 25 mins Capel Curig

The casualty managed to get lost descending from Crimpiau. He had no idea where he was even though he could see the road. With the aid of Sarloc he was given advice as to the best route down which he at first ignored but once he realised he had walked around in a circle, he gave in and followed instructions and arrived safely at the road all be it with very wet feet.

1 Team members involved

12th 5 hours PyG track, Snowdon

Team members were asked to assist LLMRT with a stretcher carry from the PyG track of a 38 yr old male with an ankle injury. Team deployed to Cas site and assisted with evacuation to land rovers and on to meet WAST at Pen Y Pass

5 Team members involved

20th 1 hour 35 mins Bochlwyd Buttress area

A female walker was finishing a guided scramble on Tryfan and down Western Gully when, in the area close to Bochlwyd Buttress she slipped and sustained a painful wrist injury. Initially she felt very faint so her guide asked for help. A small hill party was deployed and met her just starting to descend from the cas site. After having a splint applied and pain relief given, she was able to walk slowly with assistance back to the road and her guide arranged her transfer to hospital.

11 Team members involved

20th 2 hours 5 mins Moel Siabod

A couple called 999 as they were lost when descending Moel Siabod towards Capel Curig. They were not in danger, just lost and without a map etc. They had old mobile phones without data service and so could not be directly located. There was another operation underway which had priority and so MRT advised the pair to continue walking downhill into the forest and then onward to a track. After some time and several phone calls the pair managed to locate a minor road and made their own way back to their car at Plas-y-Brenin. No MRT were deployed.

7 Team members involved

20th 4 hours 20 mins Dolwyddelan

The team was asked to assist NWP with a local incident in the Dolwyddelan area.

11 Team members involved

22nd 1 hour Glyder Fach

A male walker set off from Ogwen to climb Glyder Fach. He got to Bwlch Tryfan, crossed the wall and ascended onto Bristly Ridge. He then moved up and right, leaving the ridge and getting onto Glyder Fach face. Because it was loose scree and he wasn't sure exactly where he was, he chose to enter a gully, whereupon he got stuck and phoned for help. Luckily a passing Ogwen Cottage group were able to lower a rope to him and extract him. He was then handed on to an instructor from HMS Indefatigable, who escorted him safely down to the road where they were met by the TL.

5 Team members involved

25th 3 hour 55 mins Milestone Buttress area

A father reported his 11 year old son stuck in a gully on the West Face of Tryfan. Due to the difficult location and age of the child, the Coastguard helicopter was immediately deployed. Two passing scramblers were able to get to the boy to secure him but did not have the confidence or equipment to extract him, so 4 MRT were flown to an area close to the site. They accessed the gully and lowered the boy to safer ground where he was met by other team members. The scramblers and remaining team member's abseiled the gully and walked off to the road.

11 Team members involved

29th 1 hour 20 mins Glyder Fach

The Casualty was walking the Gylderau with a friend when he tripped and fell on to rocks. He sustained facial injuries and some broken fingers. Due to the location and injuries assistance was requested from the Coastguard helicopter which was granted. They quickly arrived on scene and managed to land on and get the casualty and his friend on board. A Hill party was about to deploy and a party was available to be flown if required. No MR troops were deployed.

10 Team members involved

29th 1 hour 50 mins Bochlwyd path

Two male walkers were descending from Tryfan via the Bochlwyd path when one of them tripped and fell causing facial lacerations. They dressed the wounds and carried on slowly walking down but asked for MR assistance. A ground party was deployed immediately and Rescue 936 was also tasked due to the possible head injury. The casualty was winched on board the helicopter and flown to the local hospital for further treatment.

17 Team members involved

October

3rd 3 hours 25 mins Cwm Bochlwyd

A female walker sustained an ankle injury on her descent into Cwm Bochlwyd from Bwlch Tryfan. Ground MRT attended, treated the casualty and then carried her on a stretcher to a suitable place to load on to the Coastguard helicopter.

15 Team members involved

6th 5 hours 50 mins Y Garn

A young couple set off very late in the afternoon to climb Y Garn by the North East Ridge. They had limited equipment and were not dressed for the forecast very wet weather. They became lost in the dark and were unable to give a reliable description of their general location. They became increasingly cold and incoherent but finally managed to get a Grid reference from their I-phone. Hill parties had been deployed and the Coastguard helicopter tasked but the aircraft could not approach the location due to severe weather conditions. Back up from RAF Valley MRT was also deployed. They were located on the summit of Y Garn, re-warmed and then walked slowly off the mountain.

14 Team members involved

11th 2 hours 30 mins Anglesey

Police reported a 14 yr old female high risk missing person who had absconded from Brynsiencyn. Due to the nature of the information late on Saturday night it was decided to wait until Sunday morning to deploy a trailing dog and team members to search. Search Managers were called on Sunday morning and the team deployed search managers to begin the process. Support was also requested from SARDA for a trailing dog and RAF Valley for troops to assist with search. Mobile 3 was also deployed to act as a forward planning base. The Search team was just completing the planning phase when the misper returned. All resources were stood down.

14 Team members involved

14th 2 hours 25 mins Llyn y Foel, Moel Siabod

A student in an organised group tripped and hit her head on a rock. Initially she was happy to continue with the wild camping trip, but her instructor became concerned about her when she later felt dizzy and faint. The team was deployed and R936 tasked due to the possibility of a serious head injury. The student was evacuated to hospital by aircraft and team members met up with the rest of the group who were planning to stay overnight on the mountain.

18 Team members involved

18th 2 hours Cwm Idwal

A female walker slipped on the path close to the Idwal slabs and injured her ankle. An off duty doctor stopped to help her and called the team for assistance. Whilst the team was deploying to the scene, some other walkers helped carry her to the outflow of Idwal where she was met by the team and the RAF MRT who then stretchered her to the road. Her husband was then going to take her to Ysbyty Gwynedd for further treatment.

16 Team members involved

18th 8 hours 10 mins North Ridge Tryfan

Three male walkers set off to climb the North Ridge of Tryfan at 7pm. They were well equipped but were possibly over confident of their ability. They rang for assistance from high on the ridge just before midnight as they were surrounded by very steep terrain. As they were in a safe place and had survival bags they agreed to wait until daylight and re-assess their situation. The TL spoke to them at 8am and they had carried on to the summit and were happy to make their own way back off the mountain. A good learning experience.

2 Team members involved

25th 1 hour 45 mins North Ridge Tryfan

A male walker fell a short distance on the North Ridge of Tryfan and sustained a possible dislocated shoulder. No contact could be made with the informant so a hasty party was sent out from Oggie Base to locate and stabilise. However the casualty walked off by a different route, helped by his group and was met at the road by the second hill party who were about to deploy. An ambulance also arrived on scene so all team members returned to Base.

13 Team members involved

27th 2 hours Moel Siabod

A male walker reported he was lost in a forest above Capel Curig. Phone calls were limited and broken but the Team Leader established he was safe but lost. He was encouraged to walk down to a track and then follow it. He found his own way down to Roman Bridge and was then going to retrieve his car from Capel. No MRT deployment needed.

2 Team members involved

29th 2 hours 35 minutes West Face Tryfan

A well-equipped couple strayed onto the West Face on their descent of the North Ridge and became stuck on steep ground. The Team were able to spot them from the A5 and guide a small hill party to their location. Although the ground was easy terrain they had lost the confidence to continue alone but were able to follow team members back to the North Ridge and then to the road.

10 Team members involved

31st 1 hour 30 mins Llyn Crafnant

The Ambulance Service requested assistance to evacuate a lady with a suspected ankle injury from a woodland track above Llyn Crafnant. A small hill party assisted with the evacuation supported by further team members travelling from base with the team vehicle.

11 Team members involved



The end of an era

The annual reception held at RAF Valley has to be one of the highlights of the year. It is a glimpse into a different world, of pomp and ceremony, tradition and preservation of standards. It brings together communities in north Wales, who are involved one way or another with RAF Valley and all its varied activities. The invites go out to a number of organisations including Ogwen Valley MRO and Jo and I have been lucky enough to attend this event on a number of occasions.

This year however the invite had a bitter sweet edge to it. It came with an invite to a fond farewell at 22 Sqn to the magnificent Seaking helicopter. For years this distinctive yellow icon had been a fundamental part of all our rescue lives. You knew that sound and what it stood for, and now it was coming to the end of its service.

We were taken to 22 Sqn building for a presentation on the work of squadron and it was clear that this is a history which touches people deeply. Rob Hurcombe gave a talk which highlighted the achievements and milestones of this great service including the fact that 4th April 2015 was 22 Sqn 10,000th rescue. A momentous achievement and achieved just in the nick of time. He said that 22 Sqn was the busiest Search and Rescue squadron in the UK. It occurred to me that it was probably the busiest in the world.



The room was filled with scrapbooks and memorabilia from the inception of the squadron and showed the aircraft that had been the mainstay of rescues over the years. Whirlwind, Wessex and Seaking had each come and now the last one was about to go. Contained in these scrapbooks were elements of my own rescue story. I could see on the pages rescues I had been involved in.

Crew who had served on these aircraft for many years gave a final outline of the roles they had played and the rescues they had undertaken. The well practiced skills, the accumulated knowledge and that finely honed working relationship with other rescue services. Was it really all coming to an end? It was clear that emotions ran close to the surface.

Outside were 2 aircraft parked nose to nose. Closer inspection showed that life for these aircraft had been long and hard, showing their age but with the grace of a classic thoroughbred. Time for a well deserved rest. And one last chance to inspect the interior and look at the dated instrument cluster, practical furnishings and the streaks of exhaust on the yellow exterior.

The Seaking provided the finale to the Annual Reception with a fly past. Those who had been there waved a farewell. So what now?

We all knew it was coming, the transfer of search and rescue duties to a commercial organisation had been well documented and we had been told the dates and expectations well in advance. So the day finally arrived when the Coastguard helicopter, the distinctive S92 would become the only option and we had to adapt to a new way of working. Some mention must be made here of the transition process from Seaking to S92 and military to civilian.

A transition process had been drawn up with significant assistance from members of OVMRO, Llanberis and Cockermouth teams to facilitate the move from one helicopter to another. To say that this process was effortless doesn't credit the amount of very hard work that went into the programme. Without doubt the experience in north Wales was very well managed. All the necessary steps were taken and teams were trained and ready to go in a seamless well organised transition. One day the helicopters were yellow and the next day they were red and white. Along the way many of those faces we had come to know over the years at RAF Valley were now working for Bristow bringing that wealth of knowledge and skill.



On the very first day that the Coastguard took over, the S92 was involved in a rescue in Cwm Idwal. Since then it has flown on many missions and we are all learning together the capabilities of this new aircraft. It's been a good start for the new service and we all hope that this will also be the future.

Dave Worrall

International Commission for Alpine Rescue

Visit Report – Killarney 2015

For a long time, I've listened to Kevin de Silva and Roger Jones extolling the value of attending and participating in ICAR. This year, with the conference being hosted in Ireland, I decided that I should take the plunge and find out what really happens in ICAR. As one of my other roles, I am the MR national lead on the transition for SAR Helicopters to the civilianised service. With one of the streams in ICAR being the Air Commission which deals with aviation issues in SAR around the world, then this sounded an important conference to attend.

The journey began in the usual way with an RV with Roger at 0600 in a very dark and damp Bethesda. Two hours later after loading the car into the massive hull of the ship, we were in the ferry café awaiting the sailing to Dublin. On arrival at Dublin Port, we were met by the eternally happy Derek Keegan who led us to his house for the compulsory coffee and buns; it's always a pleasure to share time with Derek.

The 3 hour journey to Killarney was easy and we arrived just before darkness having had an unintentional deviation around the wrong side of town. The conference venue was a purpose-build centre with us housed in a very plush hotel. Roger and I were sharing a room and he politely warned me that he has been known to snore... I was soon to learn that was an epic understatement!

Whilst registering for the conference Roger was constantly warmly greeted by many of the arriving international delegates. He clearly has made a fantastically positive impression during previous conferences!

ICAR runs in a very structured and professional manner with 4 independent streams: - Terrestrial, Avalanche, Medical and Air Commissions. To maximise the opportunity to gain information, Al Read attended the Terrestrial Commission together with Roger whilst I attended the Air Commission. At various stages of the conference, the different streams met as a single entity for specific topics and presentations.

Mountain Rescue Ireland organised the conference and they did a predictably fantastic job in hosting everyone and setting up the demonstrations and a trade area. It proved impossible to see all the

people and events as there were so many high quality sessions and exhibitors.

The Air Commission was fascinating and was attended by 45 people from 20+ countries, mostly pilots and winchmen (HEMS, Police and SAR operators) with a small number of MR. The focus is on sharing operational experiences and endeavouring to influence relevant statutory bodies such as European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) and Federal Aviation Authority (FAA) etc, in the context of land SAR.

The meeting of the Air Commission was a very open environment which began with a candid review of worldwide SAR aviation incidents during the past year. Some of these presentations were really eye-opening and scary, often captured on smartphones etc. The number of helicopter wire-strikes was frightening; these tend to lead to total loss of the aircraft. In addition, mistakes by SAR personnel contributed to a number of helicopter serious events. In essence, I came away with a completely different view of the risks faced by SAR-H Crews when dealing with land SAR incidents.

The chair of the ICAR Air Commission is Pat Fauchère who is an exceptionally experienced helicopter pilot with Air Zermatt. The meeting provided many good opportunities to link with a wide range of crews from different countries including Ireland, Norway, Iceland, Germany, France, USA, Canada, Switzerland, Italy and the Balkan states, There were numerous great contacts made who are really interested in our migration to the S-92A.

There are proposed new standards governing aspects of helicopter operations that could affect us; ICAR are negotiating with EASA to try to obtain derogations to enable us to have the flexibility needed for SAR operations.

As part of sharing new ideas and skills, a set of general SAR workshops were held looking at issues such as Dyneema ropes, lowering and raising using twin tensioned lines, intermittent CPR, ground anchors and search dogs. These workshops provided some useful insights and I remain far from convinced about the benefits of Dyneema ropes in our environment given issues of jointing, low melting points etc. Amazingly, it was dry and not raining during these outdoor workshops

One of the joint sessions was a very poignant presentation by the Gendarmerie about the SAR response to the Germanwings A320 air

crash in the Massif des Trois-Évêchés. The aircraft was deliberately crashed at high speed into the mountains resulting in total loss. The SAR response was exceptionally swift with the first aircraft overhead within 25 minutes and the first rescuer winched to the scene within 35 minutes of the crash. The site was in a very challenging steep area with no road access and so helicopter transfer with winching was the primary means of accessing the area. Each day there were 30 MRT, 10 Police and 5 Firefighters at both the top and bottom sites of the crash. With such a large loss of life, there was an inevitable impact on the rescuers. To reduce the psychological impact, people were limited to 3 days onsite.

The French authorities had pre-planned for such events and were able to surge 17 helicopters to the recovery operation within 3 hours of the crash together with invoking national level emergency plans. The incident commanders all knew each other and were well practiced in joint operations. The pre-plans carefully separated the SAR personnel from the media and this decoupling allowed the operation to continue amidst worldwide press and government activity. Some of the statistics were staggering with more than 350 winch operations needed to transfer more than 500 people to the crash site.

I was full of admiration for the way that the Gendarmerie managed and resourced the response; I sincerely hope that we never have to experience that sort of event.



Mike Greene who is the Medical Officer for MREW presented an interesting paper looking at the potential treatment of severely hypothermic casualties coupled with the use of an Autopulse device. These Autopulses are in use by the Lake District Teams and form part of their response to hypothermia incidents where continuous manual CPR is not possible. A new protocol for dealing with severely hypothermic casualties is being issued by ICAR. Further field data is being sought to help with research.

As well as participating in the sessions, I found the conference a great opportunity to catch up with MR personnel from Scotland and Ireland to discuss projects, issues and challenges we have adapting to the new SAR environments.

My top tips from ICAR are:-

- Go and absorb the information being shared by world expert SAR people,
- Interact as much as possible, obtain and maintain contacts with these people,
- Do not underestimate the capabilities and skill bases we have in UK SAR,
- Volunteer to get involved in one of the specialist streams, if feasible,
- Never share a hotel room with Roger unless you have been heavily sedated with industrial quantities of tranquiliser together with SAR-H ear defenders or can snore louder than Roger...

In summary, despite a lack of sleep, I thoroughly enjoyed the conference and got a lot of value from the sessions and especially linking with experts from around the world. Next year, ICAR is being hosted by Bulgaria and I would like to be there to continue the learning process by linking and working with some exceptionally good SAR people.

John Hulse

MREW Day of Adventure

To be honest it wasn't really our turn. We had hosted the Princes Trust Charities Day in the past and it was meant to be shared around the MREW regions, each taking it in turn. However I had persuaded Mike France (MREW Chairman) and Keith Gillies (Chair of the Peak District association) that as it was Ogwen's 50th Anniversary year we would really like to hold the event as part of our celebrations. And so it came to be that North Wales Mountain Rescue Association held the Princes Trust Charities Day in the Ogwen Valley.

To say that the planning and logistics for the day required military precision would be an understatement. In order to make the day run as smoothly as possible months of planning took place with Andy H and Tim R taking the major role.

Before we go on to discuss the day, let's put a little bit of background to the story. Prince William, Prince Harry and the Duchess of Cambridge have a number of charities that they support. These are Wellchild, a charity working with severely ill children and their families, Centrepont, a charity for homeless children, Child Bereavement, a charity helping children get over bereavement, Place 2 B, a charity which specialises in supporting children with depression and mental health needs and of course Mountain Rescue. Now at some stage in the past it must have been thought a good idea to bring all the charities together to provide an exciting experience provided by Mountain Rescue. So the challenge for all those Mountain Rescue regions involved has been to provide an exciting, safe and entertaining day out for a very, very diverse group of children. Never one to turn down a challenge, North Wales decided that it was keen to run the event again.

The event was scheduled for the 26th and 27th June. Some of the charities were going to stay at the Towers Centre on the Friday 26th and others were going to arrive on the day, Saturday 27th. All in all, a very large number of people coming from Mountain Rescue England Wales, North Wales Mountain Rescue, the various Charities, Centre Staff and others would need to be transported, fed, entertained and cared for during the day.

Friday night began with a meet and greet at the Towers. A number of people from MR locally were on hand to outline the plans for the weekend, tell them something of the work of mountain rescue and also to run some activities at the Towers centre itself. They have some

interesting tree climbing and via ferrata type activities which the children could amuse themselves with during the evening. I'm sure Phil B gave an excellent talk about mountain rescue which I missed.

Saturday London Crag

All good hill days start with breakfast and it was clear that there was plenty to eat given the number of sausages left over and devoured by latecomers. This was followed by the complex and time consuming issue of kit to all the children for the needs of the day. Harness, helmets, boots and waterproofs were tried on and promptly dumped in the scrum to make a packed lunch. Aah it takes me back to the time I used to work in centres. Eventually and I mean eventually we loaded the children into the vehicles for the run to Big Willie's farm and London Crag.

Fortunately, the team members from Llanberis, Aberglaslyn, Ogwen and Aberdyfi were much better organised and had set up a number of climbs on the crag on which the kids could test their skills and practice their growing confidence. It was a well organised set up with lots of opportunity to climb and support each other. The slight threat of rain soon disappeared to be replaced by the more insistent threat of midges. Repellent anybody?

Back at the Towers, the staff were busy providing thrills for all with climbing and abseiling on the outdoor wall, whilst slides and swings were thrilling the less abled children. Have you seen the look of joy from a wheel chair bound child swinging happily from the sturdy branches of a tree? Just as entertaining was the look on the parents faces who were brave enough to allow their very seriously ill children to take part in activities normally denied to them. Rope slides and tree swings, whatever next?

Lunch was taken on the hoof before the afternoon's activities swung into action.

Cwm Llugwy

NEWSAR had set up a search scenario high up in Cwm Llugwy. Using Mac's highway to access the location, we were treated to the delight of a convoy of specially adapted Volkswagen Transporters (of which there must have been at least 4) following MR vehicles high up into the mountains. A SARDA handler was demonstrating how his dog searched for missing people in the mountains when Huw Birrell announced that we may well be visited by North Wales Police helicopter. As if by magic the said helicopter came into view and after a few fly by's landed on so

the children could come and have a look at it. The crew were keen to show off their aircraft and it must have been somewhat underwhelming to be upstaged by the SARDA dog which some of the kids were far more interested in. None the less, many took the opportunity to sit inside and ask questions. Thanks for NWP for coming and joining in the fun. The aircraft soon disappeared and it was time for this group to head down to Oggie Base.



Tryfan search

Those children who had been taking part in the climbing on London Craggs during the morning were brought back to Oggie base for their lunch. After a suitable period of time an obliging Police Officer turned up in his car to inform everyone that the team had been called out to a mountain incident. This was the cue for a search and rescue exercise for two carefully placed volunteers with the necessary fake injuries etc. Everybody was ferried in the team landrovers with blues and two's wailing for a short distance to the start of the search. All very exciting. During this exercise we were treated to the site of a second helicopter doing a flypast. This was the iconic Seaking, performing one of its last flights in the valley. It's still a great sight and much admired.

Once the casualties were found it was first aid treatment and loading of the stretcher for a carry back to base. The kids were doing it all, radios, first aid, stretcher carrying, you name it, they did it. And I think they were loving it.

Eventually everybody from all the charities came back to Oggie base for speeches, more food and the handing out of goody bags to commemorate the day. Andy H summed up the day and thanked all for excellent day we had enjoyed. And for one last treat the brand new S92 Helicopter made an appearance and landed on briefly at Oggie Base. Three helicopters in one day is a rare occurrence indeed and just served to highlight what a great day it had been. So everyone packed up and got ready to go home. Thanks and best wishes were exchanged for a day that brought together a very diverse group of people united by one link and that is the Charities supported by Kate and Wills. And so our part in the process ends.

We have done our bit now! It's going to be somebody else's turn for a good number of years. It is without doubt a colossal amount of work for those involved in organising and putting the day together and we would like to thank all those members of the mountain rescue community who gave up their time to help out on the day. However it is also a major commitment and undertaking for those children's charities that take part in the day. It is difficult to explain the sense of achievement for all those families and children who take part in the day. For some it would be a severe strain and very demanding but all those who came told us they had a great day. One of the best days of their lives perhaps! It was a great day and one that will stay in the memory for a long time.

Dave Worrall

PS

We should say that there is a part 2 to this as can be seen from the cover picture.

Once again Ogwen were asked to host a 'special day' for the Princes Charities. Everyone was sworn to secrecy about this. Tim R spent many, many hours in contact with KP (Kensington Palace) about a visit by their Royal Highnesses, the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge. They were visiting North Wales in December to see some of the projects being run by charities that they have an interest in.

A group from Holyhead Highschool came over to the Towers, in Capel Curig. They had all been involved with Mind.

They were kitted up with waterproofs and harnesses and set off for a morning of tree climbing and via ferata. It was damp but there was plenty of bell ringing as the youngsters and 'Miss' Stella climbed the trees.

Back in the centre there was a fantastic spread set out for lunch and then the Royals arrived. After meeting the high and mighty of MREW they chatted with the youngsters. They were all spellbound – and yes that really is some sapphire in Kate's engagement ring!

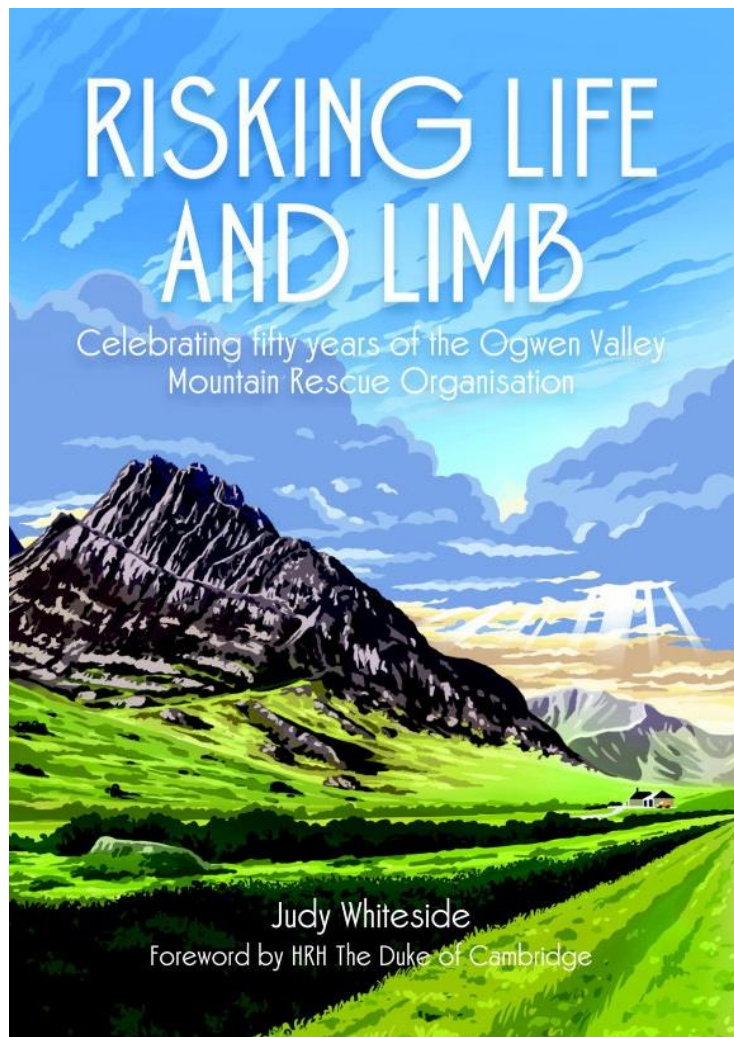


After the chats, they were out for a quick adventure with climbing and abseiling. All too soon they were getting changed out of MREW jackets and back to Royal duty attire and were whisked off in a Range Rover.

Ogwen has an online shop

We have lots of items available in our online shop – or you can send a good old fashioned cheque if you want!

We have the Risking Life and Limb book by Judy Whiteside which charts the first 50 years of the team.



Children's cotton t-shirts have been restocked – they are available in small, medium, large and extra large in either red, blue or green.

Arriving soon will be some tech tees for adults. There is a new design of buff and some beanies in a charcoal grey.

We also have the anniversary mugs.

Please have a look at the team website for colour pics of all of these items and more.