Ogwen Valley Mountain Rescue Organisation

Photo: Russ Hore

NEWSLETTER
Winter 2017

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OGWEN VALLEY
MOUNTAIN RESCUE ORGANISATION

December 2017

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

From the Chairman

It's always difficult writing an introduction for the December newsletter as I don't want to simply repeat what I am going to day in the introduction to the annual report. Therefore I'll keep this relatively short.

At the time of writing we have had 93 callouts, which is slightly less than this time last year. It is still a lot of commitment for a group of just under 50 volunteers. The average volunteer has responded to 20 callouts.

Just under half the callouts have been to people who are lost or stuck as opposed to injured. We are however fortunate that we don't get casualties climbing Tryfan (like happened on Snowdon) in just their underwear, for charity. The highlight of that event must have been reading a quote from Chris Lloyd in our local paper where he referred to climbing Snowdon in "frilly knickers"!

The Team's social media presence continues to grow. Karl Lester has taken on management of our Facebook page and is doing an excellent job of engaging with the public. It is essential in the modern world for us to have a social media presence to raise awareness of what we do. We currently have 6763 page likes on Facebook, a number that is steadily increasing.

We try to report facts on social media, and not to criticise our casualties. We also ask members of the public to do the same and on occasions we need to post reminders that anyone can make a mistake. Some of our posts are seen by over 25,000 people.

Although we haven't posted on Twitter for a while we still have 5,528 followers. The main issue with Twitter is knowing what to say, when you've only got 140 characters to say it. We don't want to simply post links to our Facebook page on Twitter.

The main event of note since the June newsletter was published has got to be the Oggie 8 Challenge. This took place on Saturday 5th August. 15 teams entered, with 63 participants in the main event. One team took part in the Oggie 4, which includes the second half of the course only.

The first team to complete the event (Llwybr-Main Duo) did so in 6 hours 49 minutes, whilst the Scrambled Legs were second in 9 hours 19 minutes, and Wally's Wanderers third in 10 hours 5 minutes. The final team to complete the challenge was West Bromwich MC in 15 hours 35 minutes. They were the winners of the "Spirit of the Event" prize for the team that, in the view of the organisers, best encompasses the spirit of having fun whilst raising money for OVMRO.

The weather during the event was mixed, with hail at times and sunshine at others. Thanks go to the marshals who sat out on the mountains checking off and feeding teams sweets, whilst remaining cheerful. Feedback from participants was very complimentary.

Thanks also go to Zoé Penfold and Mel Day who put in a lot of organisational work to ensure the event ran smoothly. There's also the people who helped out at base, and the ice-cream man, Mr Stripey, who fed everyone free ice-cream! Also the Welsh Oven mobile pizza van that donated half their profits back to OVMRO.

Finally thanks to the companies that supplied prizes for the event: Cunninghams, Costwold Outdoors, Tyn y Coed, Joe Brown, Lucozade, Royal Oak and Siabod Café.

Andy Harbach
Chairman
OVMRO

Summer Alpine Rock & Snow - Martin Wall

It is our third summer adventure in the Mont Blanc massif for Dave C and myself. We now have a good understanding of the cable car & ski lifts in the area and how they significantly improve access into the high mountains. This year we are joined by two friends and competent climbers Dave H and Ben. The plan is to get a few steady multi pitch rock routes in first on the Aiguille Rouges at circa 2000 metres before heading up to the high mountains above 3000 metres. Our strategy is to build confidence on rock and aid our acclimatisation. We already have several routes planned for the week, but are prepared to change these depending on current weather conditions, overcrowding and the stability of the snow.

It's not supposed to rain here

Our first morning is greeted with the arrival of rain, not the start we had anticipated. The four of us sit in a bakery in Chamonix centre drinking coffee whilst watching the thunder and lightning show outside. We discuss alternative plans ranging from via ferrata, a jolt through the MB tunnel into nearby Italy, or even heading north for forty minutes into Switzerland for some sport climbing. As luck would have it, the rain suddenly stops and the sun comes out from behind the clouds. Decision made, its back to plan A, to take the Flegere lift up to the Index for some Gneiss multi pitch climbing.

We split into two teams, Team 1 – to climb Nez Rouge (D 5A) a six pitch, 180-metre climb. Team 2 – to climb the fantastic South East Ridge (AD 4C) of the Index, a six pitch, 130-metre route with a series of exposed abseils. Dave C and I will tackle Nez Rouge on the Aiguille de la Gliere having previously enjoyed the South East Ridge a few years

Looking back down the tricky slab 1st pitch of Nez Rouge

back. Ideally we will get to the top of our route first and snap a photo of Team 2 standing on the summit at 2595 metres. As we're the only climbers on the mountain today, we ascend with no delays and get our photo of Team 2 at the summit.

Big Boots on Le Brevent

Our second day starts with the usual deciphering of the weather forecast, Chamonix Meteo appears to be the most accurate for the area. The plan today is to tackle a route in a different region wearing mountaineering boots. Mic est maousse AD+ 5a, a 5 pitch, 105 metre climb on Le Brevent. We set off early, keen to start before the crowds arrive and get back down before the late afternoon/early evening thunderstorms arrive.

A tricky layback start

We take the Telepherique du Brevent to the top station just below the summit at 2525 metres and follow an adventurous, scenic, descent route for approximately forty-five minutes to get to the start of the climb. We make good use of the in situ iron ladders to down climb where necessary. Unlike North Wales's snakes and ladders all the rungs are in place and they're firmly bolted to the rock. As we approach the base of the climb we can see a few groups above making progress up the initial arête.

Looking at the terrain we agree to move together initially and only pitch the steeper more exposed ground as required. Its pitch three before a belay plate makes a brief entrance for an exposed ramp and steep corner, which Dave C makes light work of in his Scarpa phantom lights. It's a final scramble along the ridge before descending down to the foot of the crux 5A pitch. We stop here for lunch, and enjoy the view across the valley overlooking the snow covered Mont Blanc massif; the sun is cracking the flags.

It's my lead on the next pitch. A tricky layback start leads to a groove that is well protected – the climbing steepens above to a hand jamming crack and exposed flakes to finish. A 20-metre abseil off the top leads us to a final ridge – once again we move together to complete the route and then head back up the track to the summit of Le Brevent. "Ice cream all round I believe"! As we return back down to the valley floor via the ski lift we see the dark clouds gathering way in the distance, we're happy with the time it's taken us today.

Bed & Breakfast at 2702 metres

With a few rock routes at altitude now under our belts it's time to head for the high mountains. Our plan today is to take the bus to the end of the valley to Le Tour and head up to the Albert Premier refuge where we'll stay for the night. We have done our homework and spoken to the Chamonix Compagnie des Guides, so have a plan in place. The route we have in mind has seen some recent ascents, so we are fairly confident of summiting if conditions are still good. If not, we have a plan B and C just in case… The walk up to the hut takes in some stunning scenery, which flanks the glacier de Tour, presenting us with cascading white water falls, huge crevasses and a clear view of the Aiguilles Rouges on the opposite side of the valley. We can't help but stop and take photos at regular intervals.

Day trip to Switzerland anyone…

The following morning we start with a 4am breakfast before heading off up the scramble behind the hut heading for the glacier. We rope up as a four on a flat boulder field; ahead, the glacier is scoured, with little snow evident. We push on into the darkness heading south eastwards – our next feature a significant band of rock running east to west, which we need to cross at its furthest eastern point. Day light starts to break and reveals a moody sky with dark, ominous looking clouds heading our way.

Our plan is to take on the Arête de la Table AD 5A, which is a six pitch 450 metre climb, and then on to the south summit of the Aiguille de Tour. As we pass beneath the granite cliffs we hear nearby rock fall from above; looking up we see large boulders bouncing down the mountainside. We continue, heading towards our entry point for the climb, the couloir. When we arrive, we note the snow is thin and the risk of further rock fall is too high to continue. So we revert to plan B, the south summit, which is a much safer alternative in these conditions. We move on together, the groups' disappointment is evident, but we continue on crossing the glacier, past a huge tower of rock and up through the Col du Superior at 3289 metres. It's a steep pull up through the col, the wind is howling through the gap and there is a fair bit of lose rock getting kicked off by other parties. We cross the col, entering Switzerland and reach the Trient glacier; we are greeted by bright sunshine and an eerie stillness. We head north, passing the Aiguille Purtscheller on our left. Access on to the Aiguille du Tour is restricted somewhat by a Bergshrund, we have to cross it at its narrowest point on the right hand side and then make a tricky traverse back above it leftwards to gain access onto the rock. We then scramble our way to the ridge, finally summiting at 3529 metres, and are rewarded by a spectacular view across the French and Swiss Alps. A few photos for the album and then it's off again, heading back to the Charamillon col de Balme ski lift; lasts one is 5pm, loads of time…

Rest day or Not

Today is a planned rest day so we make sure all alarm clocks are off following the previous early start and enjoy a lie in. We decide to have a leisurely stroll and explore Chamonix town centre and it's plethora of restaurants, cafes and outdoor shops. However, by mid-afternoon we're done and some easy sport climbing is suggested. Les Gaillands, Forestiers area provides the evening's entertainment with over 20 routes, single and multi-pitch ranging from 4b to 6b+. Well worth a visit if you're ever staying in the local area and fancy a quick roadside climbing fix.

Oops, here comes another adventure

The weather for our final day once again looks great, we agree on something not too challenging, but enough to keep us entertained. La Somone D-5b on Le Brevent appears to be a good choice with eight pitches and 205 metres of enjoyable climbing. Once again we head off to the top station of Le Brevent ski lift. We then descend on foot into the clouds, passing two climbing crags and walk beneath the main cliff. We follow the track downhill until we arrive at the toe of a buttress and see a French guide and his client racking up. We assume this is our agreed route and exchange pleasantry with them before they set off and disappear out of sight.

We once again we rack up as two teams, Dave C leads off on the first pitch, which is steep but steady and seems a little harder than our guidebook suggests. I arrive at the belay and prepare to lead through. The guidebook says it's a ten metre easy down climb, in reality it's a 5A slab going up. "I think this part of the route has changed!" says Dave, as I start off. He's right, this section doesn't register with me either; but I carry on upwards anyway. Once at the belay point, I get the chance to speak to the French Guide's client as he is just setting off. I ask quickly in my best French accent, "What route are you doing?" "Crackoukass", he shouts down. "Yes, lovely climbing isn't it", I reply automatically. I'm actually thinking – Shiiit, we're on the wrong bloody route and it's the one we didn't fancy doing, as it was three grades harder. At this point I also realise we don't have the guidebook…

Minutes later, Dave joins me at the belay station and I inform him of the breaking news. He handles it well and is happy to lead through up the next pitch. We can see it's an OK slab start but have no idea what grade it is or where it leads to. Half way up and Dave shouts "which way?", his inclination is to go right. I reply "I think it's left and then straight up!" After some deliberation, the sport climber in him takes over and he tackles the slab head on. It looks tough, but he battles his way up on some tiny crimpy holds, managing to get a cam in for some protection; before long he is at the top red faced and out of breath. "Good effort pal, are you safe?" I shout. "About as safe as it gets, I'm on top of a f**ing pillar!" I hope there's enough room for two of us up there, I think, as I start to climb. A short while later, after bridging my way up through a chimney (I take the trad route), I join him on the top. Believe me, it's definitely not designed for two! The only way off is to untie from the rope and abseil off. Fifteen minutes later, we're both stood on a shelf looking back up at the huge pillar of rock; we can hear Ben on the other side, battling his way up the pillar.

We now have two options: make a series of abseils to try and retrieve our rope and bail off the route, or tackle what we believe is a 6A corner leading to a large hand jamming crack. We both agree the corner looks like a great pitch – I take the lead, onwards and upwards for another fifteen metres of fantastic rock starting with a layback crack. I stop halfway up and manage a hands-off rest, perched on top of a flake. I snap a photo of Ben and Dave H on top of the pillar – then continue on – I arrive at a large belay ledge and bring up Dave C. From here we can see an easy down climb/scramble and a great spot for lunch; we've certainly worked up an appetite!

Within a short while all four of us are sat on the rocks laughing at the situation we had just got ourselves out of. We settle for the relatively easy last two pitches up the exposed arête

of La Somone; the finish to our original planned route that leads to the summit. It's about two hours later before we're sat outside La Bergerie de Planpraz, at the half way ski lift station, enjoying a well-deserved cold beer and taking in the magnificent vista overlooking the Mont Blanc massif.

"Cheers everyone, to the next adventure!…"

Clive Swombow cutting the cake at the 333 Dinner

Oggie 8 : the competitor's view - Andy Harbach

Last year I was sitting in the pub with a few friends and we started talking about mountain walking. I'm convinced everyone had been drinking too much because we ended up agreeing to enter the Oggie 8 Challenge. Last time something like that happened I ended up doing Tough Mudder, a 12.5 mile obstacle course with lots of water and mud (and all team members know how much I like mud).

The most important thing for us to decide was our Team name. Our team consisted on Dan & Ruth Faulkner, Luke Riddle and myself. Dan and Ruth had just got themselves an energetic little spaniel called Jet, and we decided he would need to be a part of our team. Hence the team name became Jet Setters.

The next thing was training for the event. We had plans to go out walking once a month, but other things always got in the way. I went on holiday to Switzerland for a week during July which provided some good training, although cable cars meant there wasn't a huge amount of ascent. Dan and Ruth went for a walk to Aber Falls whilst I was away, and Luke bought some new boots.

The event started at 7:00 a.m. from Oggie Base. I was reliably informed that there are two 7:00's in the day, which I didn't previously believe. The event started off with a flare which led to significant barking from Jet. This theme continued throughout the day whenever he saw a sheep or even some of the marshals. We set off up towards 3185 between Carnedd Dafydd and Carnedd Llewellyn. We were near the back of the pack, not helped by someone stopping to have a poo that needed picking up shortly after we left. Dan has feeding the dog sorted. He took 8 sausages up the mountain, which added to his weight. As the day went on his bag got lighter as he fed them to Jet, and Ruth's bag got heavier as she picked them up when they emerged the other end!

Our first summit was Carnedd Llewellyn and we were pleased with the sweets and jaffa cakes which Bill Dean offered. We were in the cloud from the ridge line so I used the phone to navigate across country to Yr Elen, and then to bypass Carnedd Llewellyn on the way back towards Carnedd Dafydd. This proved to be a good move as we seemed to gain a fair bit of time and places on the Carneddau. As we left Chris Lloyd on Carnedd Dafydd it started to hail. Well, what can you expect during the British summer time?
The descent from Pen yr Ole Wen was not so bad, and it started to clear up a bit. As far as the route goes, it was wet and muddy walking along the back of Llyn Ogwen, and it would probably have been quicker and slightly more pleasant to have gone along the

road. We arrived at the Brew Shack around 12:40 and were promptly asked by a marshal what time we would be leaving. We were then treated to some excellent bara brith and had some cake and sausage rolls (yes – Jet did have some too) before leaving to head up Y Garn. This was the second major stint of ascent for the day, and a lot of teams were finding it hard work. We met the Lonely Souls on the ascent and seemed to keep passing each other for the rest of the day. Unfortunately Tarquin lost his bonus points on the summit for not offering us any chocolate or jaffa cakes. Even worse than this was Jed's check point at Llyn y Cwn where he told us about the three breakfasts they had eaten during the day!

From Llyn y Cwn we ascended the screes to Glyder Fawr. This is always a bit of a drag, and today was no exception. Then across the summit plateau to Glyder Fach bypassing Castell y Gwynt. We were heading for the Cantilever where I expected the next checkpoint to be. Jet saw another sheep and started to make a lot of noise. A head poked over the ridge line and it turned out to be John Barber who was manning the next checkpoint. We headed up to him. Apparently a few teams missed his checkpoint and went straight for the cantilever. John tried encouraging us by saying we were 4 hours behind the first team, but I don't think Ruth found it quite as inspirational as intended.

After passing KC Gordon who was diligently steering teams away from the Bristly Screes we went to the Miners' path and on to Bwlch Tryfan. This was the checkpoint we had to visit twice, and we're sure it was positioned as far from Tryfan as possible just to keep us fit. After a short scramble up Tryfan we met Tim Radford and Sy on the summit. They took the obligatory summit photo, and we stopped for refreshment (yes we did carry beer round the entire route). Jet had done really well on the ascent, but insisted on being lifted over a few rock steps on the way down. By the time we reached Bwlch Tryfan again the marshals has considered sending out a search party. They clearly didn't realise we had to visit the pub on the summit.

The last part of the route was the descent to base via Cwm Tryfan. This went without incident, other than coming close to twisting an ankle, and the dog wasn't even pulling at that stage. Ruth seemed to be on a mission as we reached the Yellow Brick Road, and we almost had to run to keep up with her.

It was great to get back to Oggie Base in just under 13 hours to be greeted by a pizza man and an ice-cream van along with another beer. Even Jet seemed to be tired. It was a relief at 8:00 p.m. when Mel said they would be doing the presentations. I thought that would mean I could go off to bed shortly after. However there was one more presentation, the spirit of the event, which went to the last team to return to base for their cheerful determination. At 11:00 p.m. I escaped and went home. The next day we had a short walk around Bangor, and Jet was full of energy yet again.

I'd like to thank all the people who made the day possible. Zoé and Mel did a great job organising it, and they had support from various 333 and team members throughout the day. All the marshals looked after us and were incredibly cheerful

despite the hail and sometimes wet conditions. I know I've taken the piss a bit in places, but that's part of Team life and you all did a great job.

Andy Harbach - Member of team Jet Setters

OVMRO from the viewpoint of the newest couple to join/support the team

Charlie and I moved to North Wales 2 years ago. It was a huge step into the unknown for us, but we were both determined to make it work.

Within 3 months of moving in, Charlie had applied to join the team and completed his initial hill day. All the family were delighted that he was accepted onto the team – I will never forget the sheer delight on his face when he walked in and showed us his shiny Mountain Rescue visor sign! We were all incredibly proud of his achievement. From that day forward, we joined the ranks of "on-call" families across the country. I have almost learnt not to heave a sigh of relief on a Saturday night and say: "Ah, how lovely, a peaceful evening in…." as this is almost invariably followed by the tinkle of the mobile phone and Charlie leaping up off the sofa to grab his kit…

Charlie's first call out was the day after his initial hill day and to date he has attended or been available for almost 60 events, ranging from lost and lonely walkers, twisted ankles, very poorly casualties to fatalities.

OVMRO has given Charlie comradeship and a feeling of belonging. Barely a day goes by without meeting a team member in the village or being hooted at whilst out walking the dog! It is important to him to be able to help people who experience difficulties in the hills and mountains, come rain, wind, snow or sunshine! The banter and support between team members enables them to deal with everything which is thrown at them, whether it is a fatality or a call out which turns out to be a complete waste of time and effort (fortunately these are very few and far between).

The team attend training sessions on Wednesday nights and weekends, including Casualty Care, Navigation, Technical Rope Rescue and Swift Water Rescue. Charlie has just started his training in Advanced Casualty Care, so plenty of studying to be done over the winter period! During the pre-Christmas Mulled Wine and Mince Pies evening in December 2016, I happened to chat to Andy Harbach (Chairman) and Jo Worrall (Treasurer), and somehow ended up volunteering to stand as Treasurer when Jo retired in March. I was voted in as treasurer following the OVMRO AGM in March. I had no idea what I was taking on. The last 7 months have been a massive learning curve, I have met more team members, I get hooted at walking through the village and receive more emails and post than I could ever have imagined. As well as being on first name terms with the bank…!!

OVMRO is a brilliant organisation and we are delighted to be part of it. It fills our lives, our time and adds a huge variety to our day to day life here in beautiful North Wales.

Charlie/Heather Beale

Dave Snelson ran the Trailffest Half Maraton and raised £250.00 for the team

The Trailffest half marathon is one of the most scenic anyone could hope to run, with dramatic changes of scenery and terrain the whole way to the finish line; your hill climb efforts are rewarded with spectacular views.
The runners and spectators all travelled up on the steam train to Blaenau Ffestiniog lying at the foot of the Moelwyn mountain range. The start was given by the train whistle and the runners all set off for the home to the finish line in Porthmadog.
We started up in the mountains and finished down by the sea at the Ffestiniog Railway Station. To the uninitiated, this looks like a "downhill" run - but the organisers have other ideas! The twists and turns had us running up and down the hills, through streams, bogs, forests etc. and had us all working hard to keep going. There were some very steep and challenging climbs along the way and some runners dropped out - it was tough!.
The route took us passed the industrial slate quarries in Blaenau Ffestiniog then down through the beautiful vale of Ffestiniog. We passed through open countryside into the wooded lower slopes then on into the forestry plantations and then through farm land.
Towards the end, there was a section on a small tarmac road and this brought us to the cob embankment, where we ran along towards the finish, with stunning views of the mountain range that we all ran from on the right hand side and the sea on our left. I crossed the line in 3 hours 2 minutes. My position was 134 out of 184.

Dave Snelson

Team training in Croatia

So the story starts with just one simple question; 'Daz, can you ski?' to which I answered, 'Of course I can'…

I was put in contact with Josip through social media and like all people I decided to have a quick look at his profile and see what he was all about. For anyone who knows him, he is fairly mad compared to us Brits, but as I was soon to find out, fairly normal for Croatian Mountain Rescue.

Once landed in Zagreb I was met at the airport by Josip who helped me with my extremely large kit bag as my kit list had been somewhat lacking (thanks Craig). I knew what car he was in as it was plastered in HSGCC stickers, blue lights and was parked/abandoned near a sign that translated into – no parking. I was soon to discover that being a member of the Croatian MR was very different to what we know and love.

We arrived in Karlovac, the base location where I was shown around, given a camp cot bed and key. Josip had to go but said someone would be along to see me soon. After a quick check of exits and a short trip around the building to familiarise myself the door boomed open. 'You Army boy – let's go and get a drink' were the first words he said to me. Word had got passed that I was a serving member of the Military and that the last time I had been

in that part of the world was during the war. Renic had also been in the war (Special Forces Police/Intelligence) and wanted to chat about a few things. We walked and talked and ended up at the local watering hole, 'sit next to this wall Daz, if there is an explosion it will keep us alive'. My memory fades at this point but it was a good night – I never did ask what side he was on…

After a few days we moved down to Platak, the base for the course. We arrived and Josip suggested a quick trip out onto our skis to blow out the cobwebs, well only after a few cold beverages to loosen up, so off out we went. I am not sure what was worse, finding out that skiing whilst 'tired' is mentally challenging or that they wanted me to ski UPHILL.
After the odd slip and fall the cobwebs were firmly blown away and we retired to the bar for a chat. Josip just came out and said it, 'what you have never skied uphill before?'. 'No' I said, 'I was wondering why the bindings were as they were'. Again thanks Craig.

As with all these little mishaps you either get on with it or go home, so with this in mind and the team's reputation to think about I cracked on and had what can only be described as one of the best and toughest weeks of my life. Anyone who knows the course will understand that

it is not just about the skiing, the rescues, the middle of the night missions, the parties, it's all about the individual's ability to do all this whilst being a team player and not letting anything stop you achieving the overall mission.

During the week we covered so much, some of which I was familiar due to other winter training and skills I had but the added pressure of the skis made it that little bit harder. We looked at basic drills and skills, from ice axe arrests to snow holes leading to the big final exercise test mission which was a very demanding 14 hour exercise which included a large mountain, a technical rescue, first aid and of course the joyful stretcher ski back to the base (they really do mean race).

To summarise my overall experience is hard to do, my feet took a number of weeks to forget what had happened to them (new ski boots are not the best idea), again thanks Craig. They made me feel so welcome and one of the team. The badge we wear means so much to them, it's a family and one that can be trusted to achieve anything whilst the chips are down. I learnt so much and made so many friends that I will be going back again this year – not to repeat the entire course I will add, just to do some winter skills and catch up with some great friends, or the extended Oggie team family as they are known to a few who have been out with them.
Daz Edkins

333 AGM and a look at the past year

The Teams 333 supporters held their 20th AGM on 28th October at Siabod Cafe. This year's AGM was special as it celebrated 20 years of supporting and raising money for the team.

Clive Swombow welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked everyone for their support over the last twenty years. 333 has developed over the time, it was started to raise funds for the team to replace equipment as EC laws were introduced to ensure that equipment was replaced on a regular basis. 333 now has members that assist the team as the number of call outs has increased putting more pressure on team members to respond. The following 333 members have taken on roles, John Barber- team secretary, Heather Beale-team treasurer and Matt Noble- merchandise officer, others have also volunteered to drive the vehicles and work at the base at weekends.
Thanks were extended to Jo Worrall former treasurer and Pete Frost former secretary for their hard work.
Clive said "It has been a privilege to serve as chair for the last twenty years". He expressed his opinion that the AGM is an occasion where the supporters can be thanked, for them to enjoy a meal together and meet other members, as many live many miles away, including Sweden.

The following events have been held over the last twelve months as a thank you from the team.
12th Nov: "Evening Walk" organised by Dave Worrall, the idea was to experience the "Super Moon" (Last seen in 1948 where it is in a position closest to earth) the walk took us over Moel Eilio, unfortunately due to cloudy conditions the moon wasn't seen until entering Llanberis on our way down. 4 members and a neighbour of Dave's attended.
27th Nov: Andy Harbach organised and ran a G.P.S. Course 11 members attended.
4th Dec: members attended the "Lighting up of Betws" an opportunity to Fundraise/ fly the flag outside Cunningham's (£88.33 raised in the collection boxes £160 in merchandise sales).
9th Dec: Chris Lloyd and Dave Worrall hosted the ever popular "Mulled Wine and Minced Pies" evening at Base. An opportunity for Team and "333" members to show slides etc of their antics over the past year
14th Jan: a talk was given by the farmer from Blaen Nant, a very charismatic local to Ogwen, the venue was the Siabod Café.
15th Jan: the annual "Turkey and Cobweb Walk" was held, this time on Llandudno's Great Orme, a walk with history, this event must be gaining in popularity as we had 51 members and one well behaved little dog. ("333" and the Prestatyn Rambling Group.)
3rd Jun: Dave Worrall held another very informative "Navigation Day" where he was able to demonstrate, and try out on the participants some of his many ideas, a theoretical morning was followed by a practical afternoon in area behind London Crags, unfortunately due to the Team being operational the group was banished to the bunk room in Base, managing very well without "Power Point".4 Participants.
2nd Jun: "Midsummer Madness Walk "another popular walk, this time organised by the "Troglodyte" Duo John Roberts and Evan Kinsey, and ably assisted Peter Frost. With a walk from Siabod Café to what is referred to as the "Lake District" of North Wales, LLyn Crafnant

and LLyn Geirionedd making it an opportunity to explore the Bryn Cenhadron mine in the Geirionedd gorge the workings of the Pandora/Klondike mine and the Clogwyn y Fuwch Quarry before returning to Siabod Café. 20 members in all ("333" and the Prestatyn Rambling Group).
2nd Aug: we were invited to fundraise at the Betws y Coed Church fete.
5th Aug: Oggie 8.
12th Aug: we were invited to fundraise at the Betws y Coed Classic car event.
20th Aug: Clive Swombow ran another of his very interesting and informative tracking courses.
26th Aug: We were invited to fundraise at the Conwy Quays by the Colwyn Bay Jet Ski Club, our part was organised by Chris Lloyd. Where the jet skiers, charging £4.00 an exciting ride up the Conwy estuary were able to raise funds for the Team and R.N.L.I (A figure of £950 was raised also £49.00 in Merchandise and £50.00 in tins).Chris, Dave Salter and Anne Rogers were each treated to a high speed trip after the proceedings.
1st Oct: Tim Radford ran another "Casualty. Care" day at Base.

Forth coming events include-
4th Nov: evening walk, lead by Dave Worrall. 16:30 meet at base for a night walk in the Ogwen Valley.
14th Jan: Turkey and Cobweb walk, on the Llyn Peninsula.
Please see the website for times and meeting place, or look out for an email communication

If anyone has any good ideas for courses or events don't hesitate to email the secretary.

If anyone is still not receiving my regular email updates either look in your junk box or send your email to chris.wycherley@outlook.com.

<u>The new committee is as follows</u>:

Chair: Clive Swombow
Secretary: Chris Wycherley re elected
Membership secretary: Clive Wycherley

Committee members:
Dave Salter (re-elected)
Alan Green (re-elected)
Dave Jones (re-elected)

CALLOUTS for 2017

Date	Time	Duration	Location	Cas.	Description	Team deployed
Totals to 28th June		199h20m		54M 24F 3Dog 2 Goat		482
01/07/17	13:45	01:55	Afon Ddu gorge	1M Leg injuries	A male gorge walker was reported to have an ankle injury high up in the Afon Ddu gorge, and his group asked for assistance. Local team members were on scene very quickly and discovered he had managed to extract himself from the gorge and was close to the concrete access road. His ankle was splinted, he was given pain relief and then he was driven down to the rest of his group who were going to take him to hospital.	12
01/07/17	16:40	00:55	Pen y Bont forest, Dolwyddelan	1M Illness	A male camping by a lake in Pen y Bont forest rang for an ambulance as he suspected he had food poisoning. The team were also requested so deployed a vehicle and team members to Dolwyddelan. They were stood down on route as the ambulance had already located and picked up the casualty.	11
01/07/17	17:30	07:00	Craig yr Ysfa	1M Leg injuries	A male climber suffered a foot injury at the top of Amphitheatre Buttress and was unable to descend. The Coastguard Helicopter could not reach the climber due to cloud cover but flew Ogwen members high up on to the mountain. A very long and difficult stretcher extraction by OVMRO and NEWSAR team members followed to bring the climber down to Cwm Llugwy. From there he was taken to Oggie Base by team vehicle and advised to attend the local hospital.	19

Date	Time	Duration	Location	Cas.	Description	Team deployed
01/07/17	18:30	04:30	Carnedd Llewelyn	2M Lost, stolen, strayed, stuck	Two males became lost in cloud in the area of Carnedd Llewelyn whilst attemping the 14 peaks. They had lost their map and had no idea of their location. No contact with the casualty party was possible despite numerous attempts. A search party of OVMRO and NEWSAR team members was deployed and SARDA dogs from England were also tasked due to the possible poor outcome of the casualties in the wet weather conditions. When contact was finally established with the males they were back at their car at Dolgarrog. All team members were recalled and the Search dogs st0od down.	8
01/07/17	19:45	10:00	Glyder Fawr	1F	A male and his 73 year old mother started a route over the Glyderau in bright sunny weather. They made slow progress through the Devil's Kitchen and up to Glyder Fawr and Glyder Fach. At this point they tried to retrace their route but, as forecast, the weather changed and the mountains were gradually covered in thick cloud. They lost their way and the mother became exhausted just below the summit of Glyder Fawr and could not move. A large party of rescuers, with members of OVMRO, NEWSAR, Aberglaslyn MRT and RAF Lossie MRT, deployed to the area and located the casualty. She was encouraged to move slowly down the mountain as the Coastguard helicopter was also on scene waiting to pick her up at any available opportunity, but the weather kept closing in and so the helicopter returned to base and she was carried all the way down to the road.	14

Date	Time	Duration	Location	Cas.	Description	Team deployed
02/07/17	20:30	01:25	Carneddau	1F Lost, stolen, strayed, stuck	A father and daughter parked their car opposite Glan Dena and ascended Pen Yr ole Wen, onto Carnedd Dafydd then onto Carnedd Llewelyn. At this point the daughter, who was going faster than her father said she wanted to go to Yr Elen. Due to miscommunication he remained on Carnedd Llewellyn while she completed her round trip and passed him (without knowing) and descended back to the car via Llugwy reservoir. After not seeing his daughter for some time (and having an inoperable phone) the father then asked a passing pair to call for help to locate his daughter. These three started to walk off the hill by which time the Coastguard helicopter was overhead searching and the daughter had been located safe and well at the car. The heli lifted the 3 on the hill back to Oggi Base.	11
03/07/17	17:40	02:50	Crafnant valley	1F	An 18 year old female on a D of E expedition appeared to collapse whilst walking uphill in the Crafnant valley area. R936 Coastguard Helicopter was tasked immediately and local team members went direct to scene. She responded well to glucose therapy and it was decided that she did not need an airlift. The team vehicle took her down to Trefriw to a waiting ambulance for onward transport to hospital.	21
07/07/17	16:40	01:35	Llyn Geirionydd	1M Illness	A group of males were swimming in Llyn Geirionydd when one of them had a panic attack and possibly passed out. His friends assisted him onto some rocks a short distance from the shore where he came round but felt unable to swim to shore. No contact could be made with the group so a hasty team went to scene and the Coastguard Helicopter was tasked. Shortly afterwards the TL managed to speak to the group who were safe and well and no longer needed assistance. Heli and team were stood down.	13
12/07/17	14:00	00:55	Idwal Slabs	1F Lost, stolen, strayed, stuck	A solo female scrambler reached a small ledge high up above the Idwal Slabs and could go no further so rang a friend to ask for help. Luckily, the Coastguard Helicopter was training close by so was re-directed to her location for a quick pick-off. Team members had assembled at base to assist if necessary.	5

Date	Time	Duration	Location	Cas.	Description	Team deployed
15/07/17	20:30	07:25	Craig yr Ysfa	1M Leg injuries	A group of 5 had climbed Amphitheatre Buttress on Craig yr Ysfa and were abseiling back to the base of the route when one male took a swing and hit the side of the gully. He injured his hip and leg and was not able to continue the descent. The Coastguard Helicopter R936 could not reach the casualty location due to strong winds but flew Oggie team members as high as possible. RAF Valley MRT were also asked to assist and were flown to the same location. The casualty was treated, placed on a stretcher and lowered 300m down the mountain to the landing site. Unfortunately R936 could not get back in due to the deterioration in the weather, so the casualty was carried to the team vehicles by the old mines. He was transferred to an ambulance at Taly Bont and all members went home or returned to base.	12
19/07/17	12:10	03:20	Cwm Penamnen, Dolwyddelan	1F	A 17 year old female with previous knee problems subluxed her kneecap whilst out on expedition. Although it relocated she felt unable to walk down to the group's vehicle 300m away. Team members from Ogwen, Aberglaslyn MRT and South Snowdonia SART drove up the forestry track close to her location, and she was carried on a stretcher the short distance to the group's vehicle.	6
19/07/17	14:15	04:45	Llyn Elsi	1F Lost, stolen, strayed, stuck	A solo female walker reported herself lost on a forestry vehicle track close to Llyn Elsi above Betws y Coed. Initial description of her location was established and she was asked to walk back down the track to the first junction and wait there. A team vehicle drove the likely tracks but could find no sign on the woman. RAF Valley MRT were asked to assist as it seemed the search may take some time. More vehicles were about to deploy when the woman turned up safe and well in a caf in Betws having met up with some other walkers.	17

Date	Time	Duration	Location	Cas.	Description	Team deployed
23/07/17	13:05	01:25	Y Garn	1M Leg injuries	A solo male walker asked for assistance after injuring his leg on the descent of a scree slope. He was able to move but shaky on his feet and was worried about falling again. Initially his location was indeterminate but listening to the 999 recording clarified it slightly and spotters were deployed to several locations to scan with binoculars. By this point the walker had continued to descend to the old (A5) road by himself, walked back to his car and then, driving down the Nant Ffrancon saw the MR vehicle and stopped to inform us he was safe. He had been trying to find a phone signal to report he no longer needed help.	17
25/07/17	23:40	-23:0-25	Tryfan	Nothing found	A member of the public camping at Gwern Gof Isaf camp site, A5 Ogwen valley reported that he could see flashing lights on a nearby mountain, probably Tryfan. He saw 2 to 3 lights coming together on a rocky peak, no specific pattern to the flashes, viewed for about 15mins then not seen again. No other reports of overdue or missing climbers to NWP. Assessed as likely to be mountaineers using head torches to descend Tryfan. No action taken.	2
27/07/17	16:05	08:00	Heather Terrace, Tryfan	1M Dead	Hillwalkers discovered a body of a male at the foot of North Buttress just off the Heather Terrace. The MRT implemented an investigation of the scene and gathered relevant evidence from the area which was transferred to North Wales Police. The body was then evacuated using a technical rope system from Heather Terrace down into Cwm Tryfan where the RAF Valley MRT met the group and assisted with the evacuation to the road	23
29/07/17	16:00	03:50	West Face Tryfan	1M 1F Lost, stolen, strayed, stuck	Party of two hill walkers were following a route description from a walking magazine. Route - North Ridge Tryfan and Bristly Ridge. The party followed the North Ridge to the approximate area of North Tower where they became disorientated and attempted to rejoin the footpath near Llyn Bochlwyd by descending and traversing the steep West face of Tryfan. The party became cragfast in Y Gully and called for MRT assistance. OVMRO team member scrambling on Tryfan diverted to assist with searching the West face and located and stabilised the cragfast walkers, one of whom was in a precarious location. Small hill party accessed the cragfast walkers from Brag rocks. Rope used to recover and lower the casualties to safe ground. No injuries, escorted of the hill and to Oggie Base for a debrief.	13

Date	Time	Duration	Location	Cas.	Description	Team deployed
31/07/17	12:20	00:40	Bangor	Nothing found	NWP requested a SARDA trailing dog to assist with finding a crime suspect in the Bangor area after NWP scenting dogs had failed to find the suspect. Request via OVMRO as Bangor was in our operational area. During the process of assessing the incident and liaising with SARDA co-ordinator, the suspect was detained by NWP and the request cancelled. No further action taken by OVMRO.	2
01/08/17	16:00	02:15	Miner's Bridge, Betws y Coed	1F Leg injuries	The team were called to assist the Welsh Ambulance Service Trust who were attending a lady with an ankle injury in the woods near to the Miner's Bridge, Betws y Coed. Team members attended the scene and assisted with treatment and transport of the casualty to a waiting WAST ambulance.	21
09/08/17	18:30	01:45	Gribin Ridge, Glyder Fawr	1M Leg injuries	A male walker presented himself to the informant, high up on the Gribin Ridge, after a boulder rolled onto his leg causing a deep cut, possibly down to bone. The informant dressed the wound and the cas was able to walk slowly. A hasty party of 3 team members deployed to assist the cas off the hill whilst other members at base prepared for a possible stretcher carry. The hasty party deployed from idwal brewshack and met up with the cas below Bochlwyd stream. The cas was then assisted to the brewshack where OVMRO doctor assessed injury and recommended trip to hospital. Cas taken to hospital by OVMRO and other members returned to base.	17
09/08/17	20:35	01:10	Moel Siabod	Lost, stolen, strayed, stuck	A family, including 3 children, lost their way on the lower slopes of Moel Siabod during an afternoon stroll in the Bryn Engan forest. Luckily, their exact location was determined by the use of SARLOC and a team vehicle drove to within a very short distance of them and retrieved them. Although it was a clear sunny day and there were farms and houses close by, they had not been prepared to walk down to them. Unnecessary call-out.	8

Date	Time	Duration	Location	Cas.	Description	Team deployed
10/08/17	22:45	04:45	Aber forestry	3F Lost, stolen, strayed, stuck	Three female walkers became lost on a walk from Rachub to Aber. The owner of their rented holiday accommodation had concern for their safety as they had been out for over 10 hours on a relatively short walk, and she had received several text messages saying they were lost in felled woodland and surrounded by water so could make no progress. A small hill party took a team landrover into Aber forest to the most likely location and luckily soon discovered the 3 ladies who were waiting for daylight to try again. They were warmed up and walked down to the Landrover, then driven back to their accommodation.	7
12/08/17	07:15	04:25	Cwm Idwal	1M Nothing found	The team were called to search for a man who had made 3 broken phone calls to NWP asking for help. As there was no more information, hasty hill parties were sent out to search all the paths around Cwm Idwal, Devil's Kitchen and Glyder Fawr area. During the search another call was received by NWP by a male asking for help on Tryfan. NWP compared calls and concluded they were from the same person and it was a hoax call. All hill parties were recalled.	15
15/08/17	21:00	01:15	Glyder Fawr Main Cliff	1M Lost, stolen, strayed, stuck	A solo male scrambler became cragfast on the upper part of the Glyder Fawr Main Cliff when he lost the route. He was unable to safely make progress or to retreat from the small ledge he had reached. As it was almost dark at this point the decision was made to request the Coastguard Helicopter to assist whilst Team members gathered at Oggie Base. Fortunately for everyone the winchman was able to extract him from the ledge and he was flown to Oggie Base.	11
16/08/17	11:30	02:00	Dolwyddelan castle	1M Leg injuries	A male tourist slipped on wet grass close to Dolwyddelan Castle, injuring his ankle. WAST initially attended the incident and treated the casualty, but then requested OVMRO assist with the evacuation. A small hill party took the team vehicle to within 50m of the casualty, and a short stretcher carry got him on board for a drive down to the road and waiting ambulance.	11
17/08/17	14:30	02:30	Close to Swallow Falls	1F Arm injuries	A female walker sustained a wrist injury whilst walking by the river between Swallow Falls and Miner's Bridge, Betws y Coed. WAST were called first but once on scene asked OVMRO to provide assistance with the evacuation. A small hill party used a stretcher to carry her back to the road and the ambulance.	16
20/08/17	04:00	02:00	Brynteg, Anglesey	1M Lost, stolen, strayed, stuck	OVMRO were requested to assist in a search for a vulnerable male in the Brynteg area. SARDA was also contacted and were able to provide a trailing dog. Whilst in the early stages of organisation of the search the missing man turned up safe and well. OVMRO and SARDA stood down on route.	3

Date	Time	Duration	Location	Cas.	Description	Team deployed
20/08/17	17:05	06:20	West Face Tryfan	3M Lost, stolen, strayed, stuck	Three males lost the route whilst descending from the summit of Tryfan and strayed into broken ground high on the West Face. Hill parties managed to locate them and rope them to safe ground before a slow walk off the mountain.	20
20/08/17	20:05	04:00	North Ridge of Tryfan	5M Lost, stolen, strayed, stuck	Five poorly equipped males became lost in fading light on the North Ridge. To quote the Team Leader 'They got lost. We found them' No other information available.	11
25/08/17	19:00	00:30	North Ridge Tryfan	2F Lost, stolen, strayed, stuck	A mother and her 7 year old daughter had climbed the North Ridge to the area of the North Tower. At this point the mother decided it would be wise to descend but in doing so strayed too far to the west on to broken ground, and at this point she called 999 to ask for MRT advice. Team members training at base deployed to the Milestone car park area and luckily spotted the pair descending the path, having been assisted back to the path by a passing walker. They were safe and well so the team stood down.	8
26/08/17	18:45	05:05	Alphabet Slabs, Glyder Fach	1M 1F Lost, stolen, strayed, stuck	A well equipped couple had planned a route up Bristly Ridge and on to the Glyderau, however at some point on the Ridge they decided it was too steep for them. They managed to traverse westwards off the ridge and eventually found themselves in Main Gully on Glyder Fach face. They descended this but rang for help when one of them finally became cragfast on the top section of Alphabet Slabs. A small hill party went to their aid and a Coastguard helicopter was also tasked but was delayed due to another incident in the Lake District. A joint effort resulted in the female casualty being winched from the crag and the male casualty being roped down to safer ground.	12
26/08/17	22:35	-21:0-25	Carnedd Dafydd	2F Lost, stolen, strayed, stuck	Two sisters reported themselves lost between Carnedd Dafydd and Carnedd Llewelyn whilst attempting the 15 peaks. They were well equipped and experienced walkers but had become disoriented in the cloud. They were given a compass bearing to follow which would allow them to descend easy ground south of the ridge back to the A5. Progress was monitored through the use of SARLOC and phone calls. One team member walked up a short distance to escort them back to the road.	10

Date	Time	Duration	Location	Cas.	Description	Team deployed
26/08/17	22:40	00:35	Tryfan	Nothing found	A camper at Gwern Gof Isaf campsite reported seeing flashing lights on Tryfan and was concerned that someone may need assistance. When the TL called the informant the lights had disappeared. Team members were deployed to the campsite to have a look but could see no lights either. It was decided that no MRT action was needed as there had been no request for help from that location and no report of overdue parties.	7
27/08/17	17:55	03:35	Clogwyn yr Cyrau, Betws y Coed	1M Leg injuries Spine	A male climber, leading a route on the crags of Clgwyn y Cyrau, took a 6m fall which resulted in him impacting a ledge with both feet. His friends lowered him to the base of the route but they were unable to move him further as he had pain in both ankles and his lower back. The team managed to drive a landrover close to the location, so after a short stretcher carry he was driven down through the forest to a road ambulance.	16
27/08/17	21:10	01:55	North Ridge Tryfan	1M 1F Lost, stolen, strayed, stuck	Two climbers had finished a route on the East Face and tried to descend the North Ridge. However, in the dark they became disoriented low down on the ridge and asked for assistance. Two team members were quickly on scene and guided them back to the road.	8
28/08/17	15:50	31:15:00	Pen yr Ole Wen	1M	A male walker, out with his son, had a sudden onset of severe chest pain close to the summit of Pen yr Ole Wen. The team deployed immediately but there was an initial problem determining the location. More team members were flown high on the mountain by the Coastguard helicopter but the cloud cover prevented a quick extraction by the aircraft.. The casualty was treated for a possible cardiac event and then carried over difficult ground until below cloud level. At this point the helicopter returned and was able to recover the man and fly him to hospital.	24
30/08/17	14:30	06:15	Bangor	1M Lost, stolen, strayed, stuck	NWP requested the assistance of OVMRO and SARDA in the search for a male patient missing from Ysbyty Gwynedd. A trailing dog from SARDA picked up his trail to a certain point, and this information resulted in NWP standing down the team and the dogs.	12

Date	Time	Duration	Location	Cas.	Description	Team deployed
03/09/17	15:55	01:10	Crimpiau	5M Lost, stolen, strayed, stuck	A party of 5 claimed to be stuck in undergrowth close to the A5 at Capel Curig after attempting a walk to Llyn Coryn. SARLOC located them as only 500m from the road, and by the time the team vehicle had driven that way they were only 250m away and were able to continue to the road.	5
08/09/17	14:55	02:00	East Gully, Glyder Fach	2M Lost, stolen, strayed, stuck	The brothers had walked to the summit of Glyder Fach and then followed a vague path which they thought would lead them into Cwm Bochlwyd. Unfortunately it led them into East Gully and they continued down this until they could go no further and could not climb back out. Team members gathered at base but luckily the Coastguard Helicopter was able to snatch them off the hillside and drop them at Oggie Base.	7
16/09/17	12:15	00:25	Nant Ffrancon	1F Leg injuries	Report of a female with an ankle injury in a rocky area close to the road. WAST requested team assistance initially but the team were stood down soon afterwards as the ambulance crew were able to manage the situation themselves.	6
16/09/17	18:25	01:30	Cwm Bochlwyd	Nothing found	A group descending the Y Gribin ridge late in the day reported that they had heard cries for help. After discussion with them they were happy to continue their descent and follow up any further cries. North Wales Police had no other reports on their system and after monitoring the group by phone, they came across a tent with a couple of people close by. They may have been the sound source. The incident was closed followng checks with North Wales Police	12
18/09/17	14:30	05:15	West Face Tryfan	1M Lost, stolen, strayed, stuck	A solo male walker had climbed the North Ridge of Tryfan to the summit, but when he tried to return the same way drifted off on to the broken ground of the West Face close to Notch Gully. He became cragfast on a slippery ledge and asked for help. Two hill parties deployed and located him in Notch Gully, he was then roped up to the ridgeline and was brought down Western Gully back to the road.	11
18/09/17	18:40	04:00	Llyn Cowlyd area	2F Lost, stolen, strayed, stuck	A minimally equipped and prepared pair of female walkers started a walk at Capel Curig based on a phone app taking them into Llyn Cowlyd which they walked around the north side. They then tried to walk back on the south side but the app gave no information and they then could not find any path and soon got stuck on steep ground and called 999 for help. The MRT drove into Cowlyd and recovered the pair from steep heather ground and returned them to their car at Capel Curig.	7

Date	Time	Duration	Location	Cas.	Description	Team deployed
20/09/17	12:50	05:10	Bristly Ridge	2M Lost, stolen, strayed, stuck	Two males who had climbed Tryfan and then continued on up Bristly Ridge became cragfast close to the notch. They felt unable to continue but lacked confidence to descend as the weather had deteriorated into heavy rain. A small hill party located them, roped them down to safe ground and then walked them off the hill.	12
23/09/17	22:50	-22:0-35	Deganwy Vadre	1F Illness	The team was asked to assist with the extraction of an intoxicated 14 year old female who was semi conscious and unable to walk down from Deganwy Vadre. Shortly afterwards the team was stood down on route as Ambulance crew and Police Officers on scene decided not to wait and managed to get her to the ambulance.	5
28/09/17	13:55	02:10	Glyder Fach	1M Leg injuries	A solo male walker rang a family member and asked her to ring for help for him as he had twisted his knee and was struggling to walk. When a Team Leader made contact with him he was making slow but steady progress down the Bristly Screes. He agreed to continue his descent and the TL phoned him at regular intervals to monitor his progress. He was able to walk back to the road, at which point the team was stood down.	6
04/10/17	11:25	02:00	Tryfan	1M Leg injuries	The party were descending Upper Western Gully when a male slipped and fell approx 5m sustaining a knee injury. After consultation with MRT, it was agreed that he should continue to walk off the mountain if it was safe to do so. The group supported the casualty and they made their own way off the mountain with periodic calls to MRT giving their status and location. The group were then met by the Ambulance for treatment. This was a really good effort by the casualty and the group.	2
05/10/17	13:30	01:20	Glyder Fach Main Face	1M Trunk injuries	A male climber sustained pelvic and chest injuries following a 30ft fall whilst abseiling. Initially an air ambulance was tasked to the incident as they were close by, but although they could get a Paramedic to the casualty they were unable to evacuate him due to the steep terrain. The Coastguard helicopter was then tasked and rapidly evacuated the casualty to hospital, leaving a paramedic and climbing partner plus dog on the hill. At this point MRT were called to assist those remaining, but the air ambulance returned and managed to get them on board. The team stood down.	7

Date	Time	Duration	Location	Cas.	Description	Team deployed
07/10/17	21:30	01:40	West side of Tryfan, Bochlwyd area	1M 1F Lost, stolen, strayed, stuck	A couple asked for assistance when they lost the path on their descent of the West side of Tryfan. With just 1 headtorch and no map, they called for assistance. They had been navigating using Google Maps and a page from a guidebook. Their location was obtained and they were given advice by MRT on how to proceed safely. As a precaution, the Team were mobilised to support them off the hill. The pair eventually found the main descent path and made their own way to the A5 road just as Team Members were leaving Base to locate and assist them.	5
08/10/17	17:45	04:45	Glyder Fawr/ Y Garn	2M 2F Lost, stolen, strayed, stuck	Two adults with 2 young children asked for help as they were lost in cloud on a mountain. There was much confusion about which mountain they were on and they were unable to activate SARLOC. Poor communication and poor phone signal also complicated the operation. Although they stated they were on Y Garn further information placed them on Glyder Fawr, so search parties were deployed into Cwm Idwal to ascend via the Kitchen. The cloud finally lifted and R936 were brought in to the search. They were eventually located on the South side of Glyder Fawr above Llyn Cwmffynnon and lifted to Oggie Base. They were totally unprepared for a day in the hills with no map, compass, torch or extra clothing.	20
13/10/17	14:25	02:35	Sychnant Pass	1F Leg injuries	A solo female walker, out with her 2 dogs, slipped on wet grass above the Sychnant Pass and suffered an ankle injury which prevented her from walking. Hill parties went to her aid, treated the injury and carried her back to the road whilst the dogs were taken to a family member close by. She was then passed over to an ambulance crew for further assessment and transport to hospital.	15
14/10/17	12:10	02:50	Llyn Cowlyd dam	3F 1M	A group of 4 teenagers, on a D of E expedition, set off their SPOT tracker and also rang 999 because they believed one of the group may have had mild hypothermia as they were all wet and cold. As they were accessible by vehicle at Cowlyd dam, a team vehicle was deployed to pick them up. Subsequently there was a report that their group leaders were dealing with the situation, however the team continued to the location and met up with the group plus leaders. They were all returned to their campsite by team vehicle to dry off.	16

Date	Time	Duration	Location	Cas.	Description	Team deployed
17/10/17	14:05	01:15	Gribin Ridge	1M Arm injuries Lost, stolen, strayed, stuck	Two male climbers had climbed Cneifion Arete and were descending steep ground into Cwm Bochlwyd when one of them fell a short distance, and dislodged a rock that then struck his arm. They were able to make themselves safe on the ledges but asked for assistance to get off the mountain as the arm injury prevented the casualty descending safely. Due to good weather and time of day the Coastguard Helicopter was requested whilst team members gathered at Oggie Base. The aircraft was able to extract the climbers and flew them straight to hospital.	8
27/10/17	13:30	04:10	Above Sychnant Pass	1M Leg injuries	The group were walking the North Wales Coast Path when the male slipped and sustained injuries. The casualty was treated by Team Members and then evacuated to the road using a farmer's quad bike. The casualty made their own way to hospital.	14
28/10/17	17:30	05:50	Tryfan	1M 3F Lost, stolen, strayed, stuck	The group of 4 departed from the lakeside layby, ascended N ridge of Tryfan and descended to South summit with intention of going to Bwlch Tryfan then into Cwm Tryfan. However, a compass bearing from South Summit went wrong and led them onto the West face. They were unhappy to retrace their steps on steep ground so called for assistance. Party of MR recovered them from their location and escorted them back to the road.	14
30/10/17	11:15	5:45	Gribin Facet	1F Lost, stolen, strayed, stuck	A female climber seconding Slab Route on the Gribin Facet unfortunately managed to get her leg totally jammed in a crack in the rock. Her partner was unable to free it so called for help. An Oggie hill party was dispatched and back up was requested from Llanberis MRT who also deployed to the cas site. A joint effort with rope systems and washing up liquid finally freed the leg and she was lowered to the base of the crag and loaded on a stretcher ready for evacuation.	9
02/11/2017	16:35	04:20	Tryfan	2M	Two males lost became lost on the descent of the North Ridge of Tryfan and ended up on top of the Milestone Buttress. Hill parties located them , roped them to safe ground and then walked them back to the road.	13

From the editor

Many thanks to those that contributed articles for the newsletter.

We have a few more that we will save for the next issue, but we can never have enough articles. So please put pen to paper (that is showing my age) and write something for the newsletter. It does not matter how long or short it is.

Pictures are also welcome, especially for the front cover.

If you would prefer to receive the newsletter in electronic format please email chris.wycherley@outlook.com

Russ Hore

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Dates for the Diary

1st Dec	Memories, Mince Pies & Mulled Wine evening
2nd / 3rd Dec	(One of these dates) Fund raising out side of Cunninghams in Betws Y Coed
16th Dec	Caffi Siabod quiz
14th Jan	Turkey & Cobweb walk. Yr Eifl from Trefor

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