

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
held at the Rescue Centre, Barnard Castle
9th November 2006 at 7.30pm

1) Opening Remarks

The team Leader Welcomed everyone to the meeting, paying particular attention to welcoming our President Harry Vane and vice presidents Alan Best and Ian Findlay.

2) Apologies:

Present:

David Bartles-Smith (Chair)	Chris Scott	Steve Owers	Steven Marrs	John Little
Colin Radley	Richard Warne	Simon Stewart	Paul Jenkins	Karen Fisher
Chris Roberts	Scott Bissett	Peter Bell	Adam Hearn	Mark Davis
Des Toward	Russell Warne	Richard Graham	Harry Vane	Ian Findlay
Alan Best	Donna Stewart			

Apologies:

Trevor Burton	David Clark	Paul Fell	Tom Keenan	Anthony McAdam
Helen Mortimer	John O'Doherty	Paul Renwick	David Robinson	Paul Young

3) Minutes of the 2005 AGM

Minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record

P: SM 2nd JL

4) Team Leader's Report, David Bartles-Smith

Welcome to our Annual General Meeting and welcome to TWSMRT. This evening I will reflect upon the past year and also look ahead and give my perspective on our future priorities.

Operationally we have again been busy, although less so than last year, the number of call-outs supports the continued trend. This has been the 2nd or 3rd busiest year in our near 40 year history. I said last year that I believed the number of call-outs will maintain at the levels we were at, and if anything would increase. I am still of the view that we must continue to frame our thinking and planning along this line. Teams throughout the region and the UK are reporting the same trends, and indeed liaison locally, regionally and at national levels seeks to underline the value of Mountain Rescue and the diversity of its use.

Later this evening there will be more detail on call-outs, but it is worth reflecting on a couple of key points. Firstly the increased likelihood of an early call, both in terms of search and rescue. This places greater emphasis on the Duty Controller: to assess and deploy but does enable a more appropriate response. Inevitably this leads to more early stand downs. This does not mean the call was premature, what it does mean is that we are 'included' – Mountain Rescue is a resource more likely to be considered than ever before. Yes – our excellent local relationships have contribute to this, but also the UKSAR memorandums continue to write Mountain Rescue into emergency response protocols. In this modern age of risk management, preparedness and diversity, we have to understand that Mountain Rescue, as a member of UKSAR, has only 2 options, either we play or we don't. If we choose to fulfil our role, then we

have to embrace all that this brings – I will come back to this point later.

The second point relates to the large scale search near Kirby Stephen. Our relationship and the support and confidence we receive from Durham Police was brought into sharp focus. Communications, strategy planning, resource support and our working relationship stood head and shoulders above all that we have experienced elsewhere. It has not gone unnoticed.

Leaving specific operations to one side, it has become quite clear to me over the past 3 years that if we are to continue to be effective and to develop we must have these relationships firmly in place. This view is not just gleaned from our current positive situation but also from what we learn from other Teams with less pro-active relationships.

During the past year we have continued to build on this relationship in many areas – including attending POLSA meetings and more recently providing 5 - day long presentations to Police Search Teams and Supervision, on the role and functions of the Team, including live SARDA dog demonstrations.

Can I once again thank Durham Police for their continued ‘standard setting’ support and commitment to Mountain Rescue.

A few moments ago I referred to an aspect of our work, which has taken up much of the Team’s time this year. During this year we have examined in detail much of what we do and translated this into standard operating procedures, protocols and guidelines. An onerous task but absolutely necessary. Now almost complete we have the bedrock for what we do, and what we need to deliver through training. We have to evidence this and we now have the process in place to do this. Yes we are a voluntary organisation but we have to behave and operate as any full time service would do. There is no scope to ignore this fact – and we haven’t. There is still some work to do – and examples are: concluding technical rescue developments and moving forward issues around water..

We have reviewed our constitution and defined new ways for the Committee to work – workloads are increasing but we have little extra time to give, hence the need to work more efficiently and in support of each other, keeping focussed on Team priorities and considering the impact of everything we do. This is of paramount importance. We must all recognise this and we have started by spending some time preparing a 5 year plan. This will soon be proposed for adoption and will provide a framework for our work, ensuring we follow priorities in an informed, structured and open way. This will be a challenge, but one we must deal with.

Within all this we must not lose sight of the most important aspect of our organisation – all of us. A modern Mountain Rescue Team is a very different proposition to that of just a few years ago, and sustaining and supporting volunteering in this very demanding role must be a priority. There are no shortcuts to effective and viable operational standards. Inevitably, It is all about increasing training needs, increasing call-outs, subsequent greater organisational needs and increased fundraising targets. There is no other voluntary role that demands so much, and we must always remember this, and our challenge is to find a way to embrace this within

the constraints we ultimately have as volunteers both collectively and as individuals. However, please do not be disheartened – we have already gone a long way down this road and much of what we had to do has been done. We are in a very strong position – ready to re-focus on what we all joined the Team for, to be on the hill, training and getting involved in operations. We have over the past few years embraced the many changes and opportunities presented before us. We are certainly with other Teams at the forefront of progress and ahead of most on the core changes needed.

The work done this year on setting standards and guidelines along with the 5 year plan sets out our stall – we now know very clearly what we have to do and how that can be supported. My priority, along with Chris Roberts is to take this argument forward to achieve major funding support. Support to you the volunteers, your training and the organisations fixed costs.

I have not been able to mention the many achievements made during this year, I must rely on those involved to highlight these in their reports, as I am sure they will, but I do want to highlight a couple of thankyou's on behalf of the Team – to our new Training Officer, Adam Hearn for his work on re-defining our direction on Training and to Steve Owers for his time as Deputy. Always valued, always to the point and as solid as a rock! Thankyou.

Finally, in the last year I have spent more time talking to other Team leaders and have had the opportunity to discuss and represent the Team in an increasing number of forums, Police and elsewhere. I take great pride and pleasure in the very positive comments and perspectives taken of us, I must thank all of you for your dedication and commitment – it is as usual a privilege to be able to be your Team Leader and to tell you how highly we are respected. Thankyou.

5) Deputy Team Leader, Stephen Owers

My remit as one of the Deputy Team Leaders for the past 3 years has been Finance, Fundraising and Communications. To quickly summarise my achievements, I never have and possibly never will be able to understand balance sheets, no one ever wants the job of Fundraising officer and I had to ask Adam how to take off the key lock from a high band radio on the callout on Tuesday.

I must thank Dave, Chris, John, Martin and Adam for all the work they have done in their respective posts and for helping to make me look at least partially competent.

As most of you will know I am not seeking re-election as Deputy Team Leader tonight. This is entirely due to an increase in my work commitments which I feel will not allow me to give the time which the position of Deputy Team Leader deserves. I still intend to remain an active Team member and hopefully Press Officer.

Thank you to everyone (which includes most of you here tonight) who has helped me over the last 3 years and I will certainly give every assistance to Adam if he is elected into the role tonight. Although listening to what I have just said why would he want my assistance.

Deputy Team Leader, Chris Roberts

My areas of responsibility this year have included recruitment and water, and I will deal with each separately.

We have put some considerable thought and effort into making the Team more water aware. Exercises have included work near and in some cases in water – Team members were again given the opportunity to experience first hand what is like to swim and be rescued from a fast moving river. The Team development plan makes provision for training and protocols around water; John Little has already made an excellent start on this work.

John has also embraced the role of Canoe Team Leader and has made some progress in recruiting some more skilled paddlers to the Team. The use and deployment of the Canoe Team is under review and is undoubtedly a major asset and resource for the Team as a whole.

The new recruitment process finished its first cycle this year with potential A list members being put through a formal night navigation assessment followed by a competence test on setting up Control; all those undergoing assessment passed with flying colours.

This year seven new members have been accepted onto the C list following our recruitment evening and then hill test – all are now working towards assessment in March 2007.

Several Team members have worked hard to develop this new process, particularly Paul Renwick who was primarily responsible for putting together the assessment regimes; thanks also to David Robinson for managing the mentoring scheme – another new development for the Team.

Tyne Tees have been following our new recruits throughout the year – this time next year there will be a video available of the whole process from start to finish.

Once again a very busy year for the Team in more ways than one. You will already have heard about the number of callouts and incidents dealt with by the Team.

What is not always so obvious is the tremendous amount of work done by Team members behind the scenes, in some case not fully appreciated because of its discrete nature. We should recognise and thank all those officers that tirelessly put in endless hours to the benefit of the Team and ultimately the wider community.

We now have a Five Year Plan (yet to be formally adopted) – a vision for our future development with clearly defined objectives and time frame. It is important that we keep this vision clearly focused and don't get tempted to stray away from it.

We have reached a point beyond which we cannot reasonably extend ourselves under the constraints of being volunteers. We must make sure that our volunteer force is not over burdened so that we can retain the excellent blend of personnel that we now have within the Team.

This year we have the retirement of Steve Owers from the role of Deputy Team Leader due to the pressure of work commitments; Steve is admired and respected for his expertise and common sense approach – thankfully Steve is not retiring from the Team or the Committee so we will still benefit from his experience and wisdom.

Deputy Team Leader, David Clark

No report

6) David Clark's Treasures report read by CS and SO

1. INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

Mrs Joanne Brooks PIIA has again examined the Treasurer's presentation of the Statement of Financial Activities and Balance Sheet confirming them as being an accurate representation of the Team's financial position. She made no charge for this service.

2 OVERALL SITUATION

The year has seen a net inflow of £2,937 (£3,157 outflow in the previous year) which has arisen after our income of £28,412 has exceeded our expenditure of £25,475. This puts us back to a similar cash position of two years ago with, at the end of July, £13,079 in our general funds and £2,362 held as cash for specific projects at our donors requests (£1,733 of which relates to the Iceland project). We have now fully utilised the specific vehicle fund and youth section money; in fact over utilised by £89!!

3 INCOME

Income (£)	05/06	04/05	Change
Associate Members	345	349	-4
Collection Boxes	1,865	1,938	-73
Donations and Gift Aid	5,529	5,208	321
Donors with specific requests	9,568	4,130	5,438
Vehicles	1,565	2,267	-702
Iceland Exchange visit	3,075	-	3,075
Other	2,609	2,879	-270
Raffles and members fundraising	403	249	154
Street Collections	3053	1,657	1,396
Youth Section	103	0	103
Sale of equipment	0	1,241	-1,241
Sale of notelets	121	48	73
Sale of Database	20	116	-96
Interest	156	159	-3
Totals	28,412	20,241	8,171

A special thanks to John Little and those who have given their time to the street collections which together with the collection boxes really are such an easy source of funding compared to the effort to some other fundraising activities.

Of course we cannot operate without the generosity of the public and those who have made specific donations to us this year again to allow us to serve the local communities.

4 EXPENDITURE

Item	05/06	04/05	Change
Management and administration of the team including printing, post, and telephone, PR and affiliation fees	1,093	1,085	8
Pagers & Mobiles	2,431	3,124	-693
Equipment & clothing	9,365	9,779	-414
Youth sections	110	253	-143
Licences & Insurances	1,085	1,117	-32
Premises	4,394s	3,051	1,343
Training	545	326s	219
Vehicles including their insurance	5,110	4,663	447
Iceland Exchange	1,342	0	1,342
Total expenditure	25,475	23,398	2,077

Like for like expenditure would be an increase of just over 3% which is a good argument of trying to run within a budget although as can be seen some items such as the premises were particularly high with repairs required to some parts of the building that you may well have expected to have been in a better state so soon, relatively, after the new build!

We have also seen a benefit in the cost reduction of pagers since the cessation of our Vodapage service and the introduction of PageOne with a good level of support from Durham Police. We will see the full year benefit in this next year.

CONCLUSION

My sincere thanks to all of those who have helped our funding over the last year, and as ever, a very special mention to Chris Scott who has maintained the financial records so meticulously. Chris spends an incredible amount of hours in keeping these records and ensuring people are paid on a time. His commitment puts me to shame as again work demands that I cannot give him or yourselves my personal thanks this evening.

So, a big thanks to you as team members for keeping to the spend guidelines and to the effort in keeping the funds rolling in as whilst our reputation and activity continues to grow then the money does at least need to try and keep pace.

I am sure with a close focus to ensuring that we do not spend on projects before funds are raised together with the support from the police and public that our high level of service can be maintained.

Accounts were accepted as of 31st July 2006

P: Rich W 2nd AH

7) Training Officer's Report, Adam Hearn

2006 has seen the implementation of the online logbook and a series of exercises to develop the individual skills of team members.

The recruitment and assessment process for new team members has been fine tuned by Chris Roberts and Paul Renwick and is working well.

A few A list members have not been able to attend training regularly and have either resigned from the Team or asked to move to the C list. Otherwise attendance at training has been generally good.

The casualty care training has as usual required a great deal of time and energy from both students and trainers. The exam is on the first Saturday in December and I am sure all will do well.

Crag training has taken some giant leaps forward following a visit from Mike Margeson acting as a technical advisor. Within the next few months I am sure that we will be secure in the knowledge that our Crag Team can quickly and efficiently rescue people or pets from any of the steep places in the County.

The Team Standard Operating Procedures are developing and will form an “operating manual” laying out how all the different areas of team operations are to be carried out.

In 2007 we will be having more exercises on the high fells, more night exercises and exercises in less familiar areas of the County. We will also be linking individual team members with particular group leaders in order to better direct training to meet individual needs.

Lastly can I thank those team members who have assisted me with delivering the training needed by the Team. There is still lots to do, but we have definitely made a great start.

8) Youth Team Leader's Report, Chris Roberts

This year has been an exciting one for the Youth Team. We have had our full compliment of young people engaged on a wide range of activities; the icing on the cake was the agreed funding from North Pennine LEADER + to support the long awaited Iceland project.

Last year the group was made up of 3 female and 9 male members, of those five have now left us to enter employment or take on further education. I am very pleased that one of our ‘retiring’ female members has agreed to stay with the group and act as a youth leader – this is I feel an exciting development in the way that we operate. We are now going through our regular recruitment process and have been successful in attracting three new members – it is hoped that we will attract a few more by the end of the year.

During the year the group have attended regular monthly training sessions including learning navigation and hillcraft skills, mountain rescue skills, safety on steep ground, single pitch climbing and aspects of rigging. The group became very familiar with the

equipment on the Team vehicles and were very proficient at setting up Control. Usually the Youth section take part in all of the Team training sessions as well as their own – this has not happened as much this year due to the different nature of Team training – it is hoped that in the coming year the Youth section will again be more involved with the whole Team.

Venues for Youth Team training have included Gregs Hut on Cross Fell, the Howgills, the Lakes, and of course our old favourite Goldsborough. This year we have also offered a Tuesday night session at the Base with a focus on climbing – this has been very popular, with many of our group becoming excellent climbers - a number of whom have now taken up climbing as a hobby.

In previous reports I have talked about possible links with Icelandic Search and Rescue (ICESAR) youth teams. Thanks to confirmed funding from North Pennines LEADER+ this ambition can now become a reality. The project has now started with the visit last July by ten young people from Isafjordur Rescue Team in NW Iceland. During their ten-day stay the two groups shared a number of activities together, including a four-day stay in the Lakes with visits to Keswick and Patterdale MR Teams, to whom I extend my thanks. Other activities included local walks, climbing and a very enjoyable day with Hartlepool and Sunderland RNLI stations, who deserve our thanks for entertaining us so well.

Our return visit to Iceland is timetabled for July / August 2007 – we are already making plans for our programme, which promises to be very exciting.

In all the whole project has been costed out at about £18,000 – there will be no cost to the Team as the total cost is being met equally between LEADER+ and Youth Team contributions (this does include a large element of ‘in kind’ contribution).

The Youth section has benefited from a significant amount of press coverage this year, including a very good feature on Tyne Tees television.

The Youth Section would not be able to run without the support of Team members – special thanks must be extended to Mark Binney who has given many hours helping with the group.

In all a very good year, which again highlights the benefits of including young people in an organisation such as ours. In future years I hope to report that other Teams are copying our model.

DBS made comments that at MRC Conference, the youth team was talked about enthusiastically with many teams suggesting they were interested in having one.

9) Groups Leader's Report, Stephen Marrs,

Incident Report for 2005 - 2006.

Please find below a comprehensive analysis of all incidents received by Teesdale and Weardale Search and Rescue Team (excluding all first responder incidents attended by individual team members).

CALL OUT ANALYSIS BY YEAR

This Rescue Year has seen a 34.5% decrease in the number of incidents since 2005 / 2006

Year on Year Comparison

Year	No. of Call Outs	Total Hours	People Assisted	Fatalities
1987	7	478	9	0
1988	9	888	4	0
1989	11	974	7	1
1990	11	853	51	0
1991	12	272	32	0
1992	13	855	20	2
1993	9	336	12	1
1994	18	7041	10	1
1995	12	699	14	0
1996	13	1458	16	0
1997	8	1688	11	2
1998	8	563	5	2
1999	18	649	21	1
2000	31	1832	16	2
2001	19	947	14	2
2002	40	3022	20	1
2003	35	1240	33	5
2004	41	1124	23	4
2005	58	1277	63	5
2006	38	1217	51	3
Total	411	27413	432	32

The graph below clearly illustrates the increased demand for OUR Search and Mountain Rescue

Team resource year-on-year.

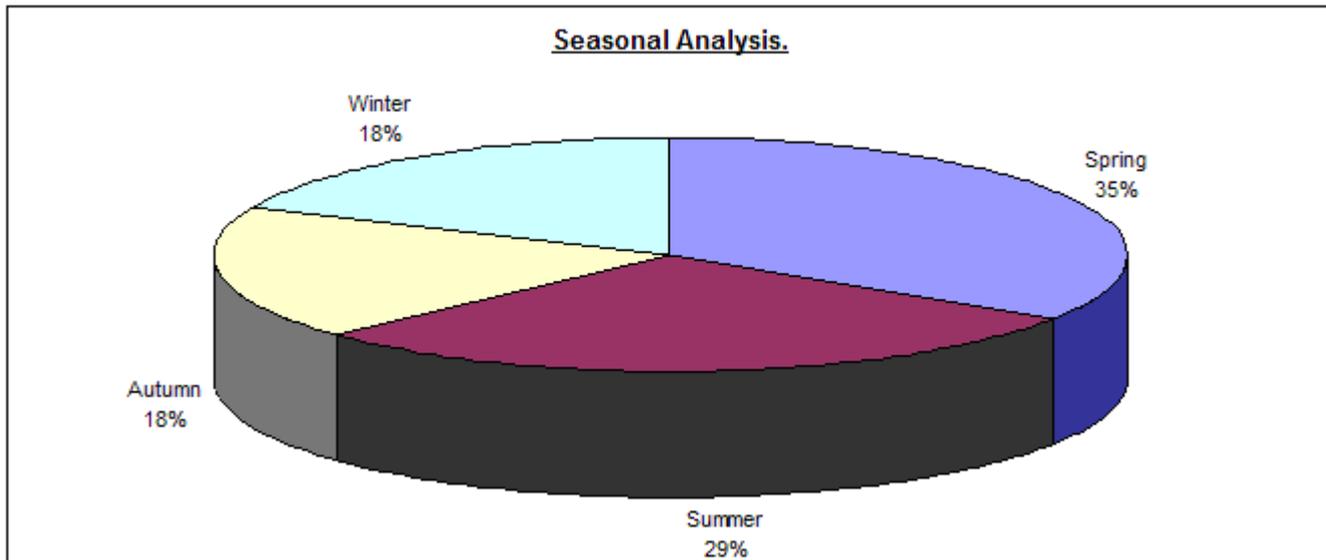
CALL OUT ANALYSIS BY MONTH

The greatest number of call outs in any particular month were received during March and August. During the rescue year of 2004/2005 the busiest month was also March.

CALL OUT ANALYSIS BY SEASONS OF THE YEAR

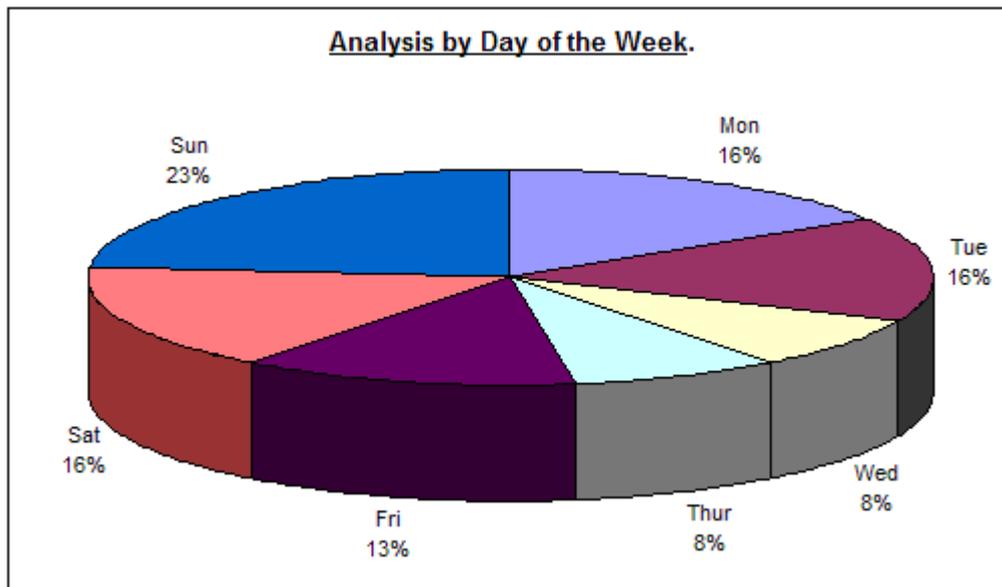
The majority of call outs in the 2005/ 2006 rescue year were received during Spring. This busy time of year has migrated from the Summer Season in 2004/2005.

(See graph Below).



CALL OUT ANALYSIS BY DAY OF WEEK

23% of all call outs during the rescue year of 2005/2006 were received on a Sunday. Again this change has migrated to a Sunday from a Saturday (20%) in the rescue year of 2004/2005.



Callouts:

Date	Time	Description
07/11/2006	06.30	06.30 hrs request by Police to search for vulnerable elderly male missing from home in Catchgate area of Co Durham. Search of woodland and farmland. Assisted by Police

		helicopter and 3 SARDA dogs. Missing person found by Team at 15.15 hrs wandering in search area, he was unharmed having spent two days and nights out in the open.
15/10/2006	14.15	14.15 hrs Durham Police recieved 999 call from a Duke of Edinburgh Award expedition group, who reported difficulties and one member suffering from hypothermia, in the Yorkshire dales area. Police contacted TWSRT Control on airwave and the Team Controller, on making mobile contact with the group, directed the Police helicopter, which was attending our ongoing search nearby, to the scene. Swaledale MRT then responded on the ground to this incident.
15/10/2006	8.30	Search for male missing from his home in Co Durham, continued from 9th October. TWSRT provided control alongside Kirby Stephen MRT, Swale MRT and supported by Penrith MRT, Scarborough MRT, Cleveland SRT, Northumberland National Parks SRT and North of Tyne SRT. Over 70 searchers involved in a search of forest and open fell in Cumbria , supported by Durham Police and Police helicopter. Body of missing person located.
14/10/2006	04.00	04.00 hrs call to assist NNPSRT and NOTSRT in search for teenage male lost and reported injured in Chopwell woods. Team SARDA dog Holly and two personnel sent in initial response - rest of Team on standby. Missing person located after 2 hours and prior to full Team deployment.
09/10/2006	0800	The Team were called to assist in a search by Kirby Stephen Mountain Rescue Team for a forty year old man whose car had been found near some woodland. The coniferous woodland was extremely dense and searching proved very slow. Two Team SARDA dogs attended. Swale MRT and Penrith MRT also attended along with the Police helicopter from the North East. Nothing found
06/10/2006	1730	Team Dog called to assist in search for missing elderly person following his car crashing into the river Swale. Passing Team member also assisted.
13/09/2006	2032	Team Member assisted young lady laying in the street semi conscious with blood from lacerations on her arms. County ambulance was called. Lady taken to Darlington Hospital.
09/09/2006	14.30	14.30 hrs request by Police to assist in search for missing vulnerable child in Stanley area. Team and 3 SARDA dogs en route when stood down as girl turned up safe.
31/08/2006	12.55	First Responder call to female diabetic emergency - oxygen and drugs given. Team member on scene 1 hour.
30/08/2006	0045	First Responder Call to 58yr Old Female, suspected heart attack. Oxygen & Drug therapy administered. Patient taken to hospital via ambulance
25/08/2006	16.30	16.30 hrs - Information from Police - request for help recieved

		after a 4 year old black labrador 'Sam' fell down a 35 foot deep mine shaft whilst out on a grouse shoot on Catterick Moss near Frosterley. 11 Team members attended and 'Sam' was safely recovered up the vertical shaft to the surface. 'Sam' was unhurt from his ordeal.
24/08/2006	1720	Received call from police at 17.20hrs to search for missing female on Cockfield Fell. Search of Fell by Team members, Police and Police Helicopter. Missing female found safe and well by Team Search Dog (Misty).
13/08/2006	0730	Callout following a request from Penrith MRT to assist in a major search in the Brampton area of Cumbria for a missing 75 year old and his dog. We joined Teams from the Lake District, Scotland, Dales, Northumberland and RAF Leeming in the search. Missing person found following day after dog alerted villages. Only minor injuries. Found outside search area
11/08/2006	1815	Vulnerable male adult missing from home for 8 hours in the Newton Aycliffe area. Initial search by SARDA dog and 2 team members. Male returned home.
09/08/2006	17.21	The Team were called out to a man and child stuck above High Force Waterfall in Teesdale. The pair were safely rescued by the fire service as the Team assembled.
02/08/2006	0900	Team First Responder called at 0900 to a female in Teesdale with a suspected Stroke. The Team First Responder was stood down as the ambulance arrived first. The casualty unfortunately died on scene.
01/08/2006	1215	Team First Responder called to a 63yrs female in Middleton in Teesdale with chest pains. Assisted local doctor until arrival of Barnard Castle ambulance. Casualty transported to hospital by ambulance.
01/08/2006	1956	Team called to Lanehead Quarry, Stanhope to rescue an injured female whom had fallen down into the quarry and come to rest on a ledge. A police Helicopter rescued the injured female as the Team assembled.
30/07/2006	1140	Teesdale & Weardale Search & Rescue Team were called out to one of their more unusual rescues on Sunday afternoon. Three sheep had been reported by a dog walker stuck on a ledge 10mts up a quarry face in Bollihope Quarry, Frosterley, Weardale Co. Durham. The sheep had been on the ledge since at least Saturday morning. Durham & Darlington Fire & Rescue Service attended on Saturday evening and after consulting with the farmer and the RSPCA it was decided to leave the sheep overnight to see if they could get down themselves. The sheep were still on the ledge on Sunday morning so it was decided to call out the Search & Rescue Team later in the day to recover the sheep. Team Controller Adam Hearn said "When we arrived two of the sheep had

		disappeared, we can only assume they managed to get down safely themselves. Unfortunately a lamb did not have the same courage so we needed to recover it. Two team members were lowered to the ledge and after some difficulty managed to catch the lamb, secure it to a harness and then the rescuer and the lamb were lowered to the ground. After a quick check the lamb seemed non the worse for wear and wanded off. We even got a round of applause from the sizable crowd who had gathered to watch.
24/07/2006	1930	19.30hrs Call out by Police to search for missing female in Hamsterley Forest area. Police helicopter also involved in search. Missing woman found safe as Team assembled. Stood down.
23/07/2006	10.00	Team present at Great North Walk near Darlington. Assistance given to 8 casualties.
22/07/2006	11.00	A man was reported missing to Durham Police on Friday evening (21st July). The police were concerned for his safety following a phone message sent to one of his friends. They contacted Teesdale & Weardale Search & Rescue Team on Saturday morning who concentrated the search on Beamish Woods to the north east of Beamish Museum. Thirty members of three mountain rescue teams (North or Tyne Search and Rescue Team and Northumberland National parks Search and Rescue Team) spent six hours on Saturday afternoon (22nd July 2006) searching dense woodland for the 33 year old man who had gone missing from West Pelton near Chester-le-Street. Three SARDA dogs were also deployed. Following a six hour search where no trace of the young man was found the search was called off.
20/07/2006	1500	First Responder Call Team member assisted female with suspected heart attack prior to arrival of ambulance.
12/07/2006	14.00	14.00 hrs standby to North Of Tyne Search and Rescue Team/Northumberland National Parks Search and Rescue Team in relation to search for missing male. Team stood down at 16.00 hrs - not required. Missing person located in hospital.
02/07/2006	1400	First Responder call 2/7/06 - Team member treated person - not sent to Hospital
17/06/2006	1100	First Responder call - Team member assisted person with breathing difficulties. Person later died in Hospital
15/05/2006	12.30	12.20 hrs Call out to assist Penrith MRT in search of High Pennine for lost male walker. Weather wet and cold. Team starting search of ground above Cow Green resevoir, along with two Team SARDA dogs, when missing walker located safe by RAF Seaking Helicopter at High Cup Nick. Kirby Stephen SMRT also attended.
09/05/2006	13.30	Request by Police to search for missing 35 year old male near Peterlee. Search of a local Dene, comprising steep, wooded

		and difficult terrain. Two Team SARDA dogs also attended along with support from Police helicopter. Nothing found and search stood down at 21.30 hrs. Body of missing person found 4 days later
23/04/2006	14.00	14.00 hrs Team on exercise when called by Police to assist at High Force waterfall following reports of a person with a broken leg. Ambulance and Air ambulance also attending. Team stood down en route as person evacuated by Ambulance.
10/04/2006	16.45	A teenage girl went missing from her home in Newton Aycliffe at 19.00 on Sunday 9th April. The Team were called mid afternoon the following day and searched the open and scrub land surrounding and near the missing girls home. In addition to police dogs the Team deployed three SARDA dogs. Nothing was found - Team stood down to await further developments. Girl found safe outside search area the following day.
09/04/2006	13.30	13.30 hrs Request by Police to attend Cow Green resevoir, following report of a male with arm injuries following a fall. Waether was cold with frequent snow showers. Incident had taken place on Cauldron Snout and the injured man was assisted by passing walkers. Team en route, along with ambulance and Air ambulance. Casualty evacuated by helicopter - assisted by Team member. Team stood down.
02/04/2006	12.50	12.50 Call -out by Police to person taken ill at High Force waterfall. Initial on scene reports indicated need for mountain rescue assistance. Team stood down en route, when Air ambulance able to evacuate casualty.
01/04/2006	20.25	20.25 hrs request by Police to search for a 59 year old male missing from home. Believed to be despondent. Mobile phone call traced to area of open ground near Shildon - search commencing when he was found on a road and taken to hospital. 1 Team SARDA dog also attended.
25/03/2006	07.00	Search continued in Cumbria for missing 74 year old male. Team searched area around High Cup Nick. 17 other MRT's and 120 personnel involved, in additon to 3 RAF Seakings. Search controlled by Penrith MRT and Kirby Stephen SMRT. Nothing found
23/03/2006	05.00	05.00 hrs Team called to Cumbria to assist in search for missing 74 year old male in area at foot of Pennine fells. Search lead by Kirby Stephen SMRT and Penrith MRT. Keswick MRT, Kendal MRT, Patterdale MRT, RAF Leeming MRT and Moffat MRT also attended alongw with SARDA Lakes and RAF Seaking. Search stood down at 15.30 hrs. Nothing found
19/03/2006	12.15	The Team were on a training exercise when at 12.15 they were called to assist with the evacuation of a female walker. The walker had a suspected leg fracture and was in a wooded

		ravine near Westgate in Weardale. Stanhope fire crew also attended and the casualty was evacuated to a waiting Air Ambulance.
14/03/2006	0215	02.00 hrs Request by Police to assist in search for despondent male missing from home in Darlington - one Team SARDA dog and support group deployed in initial response. Missing person returned home safe as search about to start.
10/03/2006	18.30	18.30 hrs Police request to search for 14 year old vulnerable girl missing since before dark, in Easington area. Search stood down at 20.30 hrs when she turned up safe well outside search area. 16 Team members attended along with 1 SARDA dog.
03/03/2006	15.30	Search for missing female in the coastal area near Peterlee. Coastguard search teams and police helicopter also involved. Two SARDA dogs and search teams deployed. The weather was very cold. The search stood down after 4 hours with nothing found. Missing woman turned up safe outside of search area early the following morning.
11/01/2006	20.30	Stand by for missing male in the Darlington area
09/01/2006	1940	Search for (another) missing elderly gentleman who had gone off on a daily walk of about 0.5 miles. Search developed as more sightings came in. Suspended in the small hours for continuation as NESRA shout the following morning. Missing person found wandering in Sedgefield as NESRA Teams start to assemble.
09/01/2006	14.30	Search for elderly gentleman missing from home since previous day. Initial search started 30 minutes before night fall and principle corridors were searched. Search was to resume next morning but missing person was identified in hospital having been collected off the street in an unconscious state at 13.00.
03/01/2006	16.09	A 37 year old woman had been missing for several days. The team were asked to look for her after she was seen by canoeists near the river Tees in Barnard Castle. The Team SARDA dog and the police helicopter were deployed. The missing woman turned up at a friend's house shortly after the Teams search commenced.
17/12/2005	6.52	A seriously damaged crashed car was found by the police on a rural road but no casualty had been found. Initial police searches for the 29 year old driver were negative. Police found missing man near his home shortly after the Team's search had commenced.
22/11/2005	10.02	Team on standby to search marshy area near Kelloe following reports by member of the public of calls for help. Team stood down after about 20 minutes.

Groups Leader's Report, Peter Bell,

From a personal view, a year of consolidation with the group leader role, together with the integration of the group leaders into Adam Hearn's training group, and the emphasis on training and development of team members.

Many challenges, much learned, and still considerably more to learn, as the team's role further develops and advances.

Groups Leader's Report, Keven Shevels,

No report

10) Public Relations Officer's Report, Stephen Owers,

The year started promisingly on the press front with coverage in the newspapers, radio and TV of Ian Findlay's retirement from the Team last year.

Since then the Team's relationship with Gail Westwood Tyne Tees reporter for Teesdale and Weardale has developed to the extent that she is currently following our new C list members through the first year with the team. 3 short pieces have so far been broadcast on Tyne Tees news programmes. We also received good coverage of the success of our three new SARDA additions to the Team. Unfortunately pictures of the handlers were not in as much demand as those of Misty, Holly and Bracken. I wonder why?

I must thank John Little for his work on promoting Press Releases on our web site. We now have a facility where the media can download photos of our incidents as soon as they are posted.

Media coverage undoubtedly assists the Team in fund raising with many organisations with no links to us donating money. The personal touch is always appreciated by these groups and I must thank those of you who have attended cheque presentations on behalf of the Team.

Team talks by various Team members and in various forms have again been successful not only in promoting the work of the Team but also in fundraising. Hopefully in line with our 5 Year Plan we will have Team merchandise to sell in the near future making these events even more successful.

Finally my annual request, are there any of you who would like to assist me on the press side of this position. I am not always available to produce press releases immediately after incidents so some assistance would be appreciated.

11) Equipment, Simon Stewart

I took on this role in May 2006 and perhaps wasn't quite prepared for the amount of work involved after every exercise and call-outs, my thanks go to those who have spent many hours with me sorting kit.

There have been a number of changes with regard to equipment in the last year and these changes continue with the introduction of new crag equipment and procedures.

A few of us have been on training which allows us to check equipment to the required FPE standards and this has proven further for our need to be conscientious in maintaining our equipment and ensuring it is cared for and stored correctly as well as being recorded. As such we have begun to develop an inventory of all equipment owned by the team which will allow us to do this.

Working closely with the transport officer we are still trialling new ways of stowing the kit on the vehicles – whilst this is time consuming and sometimes confusing for other team members, we hope to make a firm decision shortly when information will be disseminated to the rest of the team.

Trials are on-going for the introduction of new MR kit and these are being watched with interest once results are known we will formulate a plan for spending more of the teams closely guarded money!

12) Fundraising Officer, No Elected Officer

No report

13) Transport Officer's Report, Anthony McAdam

Another busy year for the transport officer. The progressing trend towards training for drivers and the need for policies and standard operating procedures has also brought with it a heavier work load. The new year will see the role out of the driver training plan. This will include off road driving, blue light driving and elements of road craft provided by the Institute of advanced motorists. Of course all this must be funded and the committee is working towards this with the five year plan.

Further progress will be made with the continued cooperation of the equipment officer in providing a workable solution to stow all the gear we need to carry. It is hoped the trailer will be fully refurbished and operational by the end of the year. Recently I have been collaborating closely with the crag Team and this will help motivate the progress and development of our future transport structure.

To conclude I would like to thank all those Team members who have done their bit to help over the year.

14) Team Member's Reps., Paul Fell, Karen Fisher, Helen Mortimer, Russell Warne

No report

15) Police Liason Officers Report, Kevin Tuck, Bob Danby

No Report

16) Associate Members Rep. Report, Paul Renwick

The Associate Membership has grown over the past two years and has been an enjoyable role for me. I would like to take this opportunity to thank its members for their kind support and regular correspondence I have received from them throughout my period as their representative. I hope that I have given something back to our silent members and managed to portrait the high regards that the Team holds these people in.

We have seen more and more of our Associate members participate in Team activities from fund raising, Team exercises and open days and I hope that the newly appointed person develops this area even more.

- In 2004-2006 I put forward a proposal to the Committee to try to stream line our subscription with the aim of the annual fee being collected in March 2007. Throughout this year I have been requesting a smaller sum (cleverly worked out by our own Chris "don't spend money" Scott) than their usual fee of £5.00 nearly all our member have given £5.00 including the new fee and the rest as donation.

- In December 2005 three Associate Members came out with the team on a very cold day. Two of these members were founder members of the Rescue Team

- August 2005 we held our first open day for our Associate Members

-Helen Mortimer helped me launch a supporters badge for our members which I believe we only have a hand full left (Only £3.00 each)

I have planned for the December Newsletter and Christmas Card to enclose

- A letter of thanks
- A gift aid certificate
- The option to receive a News letter by e-mail

I'm sure the new Associate Members Rep. will have lots of new ideas

I would like to thank Helen for her help on the badges, Chris Scott for his constant determination and support for the Associate Member Scheme, John Little for his computer wisdom without this support as well as our Associate Members this role would in the words of my year 8 class "suck.

Note: Report not presented at AGM due to technical difficulties.

17) IT Officer's Report, John Little

It has been another fast moving year for the Team's IT facilities. The public face of the website has not changed much although there has been plenty of tidying up. Things have moved on much more in the Members area of the website with personal logins for every Team member and many targeted features to help monitor and motive Team resources. The new message board is much better suited to our needs and much more user friendly. All Team members can now check on line how much training they have completed, their estimated Team mileage and many other things besides. Most of the current C List applied to join the Team via the website.

We have replaced both our base desktop computers and one of the laptops. All are now connected to the broadband system at the base. The remaining laptop is likely to be replaced in the coming year.

The Team have already purchased a new url twsmrt.org.uk This URL is registered in the Team's name so some of the problems encountered this year with an unscrupulous host should be avoided. That being said, rolling out the new Team name across the

website is still going to be a massive amount of work - I ask Team members to bear with me and alert me to any changes I've missed or problems that still need resolving.

Earlier this year we got £2000 from AOL to support an online system for the public to record details of their routes and trip plans. In February MyTrips.org.uk is due to come on line - we already have the backing of almost all of NESRA for this website and hope to have some other teams on side before the public launch.

18) SARDA Representative, Des Toward

Once again it is my pleasure to report another successful year for our four legged friends and handlers in Teesdale/Weardale. Over the past year the Team has gained three graded Search Dogs. As far as I am aware this is a first in the Teams history. We also have three dogs at various stages of training. Paul Renwick is up for pre-assessment and grading in January and Grame and Jonno are making their way through the training schedule.

As most of you know it is not easy and very time consuming training a dog and handler to Search Dog standard and at times normal team members!!! Must wonder what all the fuss is about, if so come and spend a day with us your more than welcome. (you might get wet so come prepared)

The yearly thanks to land owners/land clearance officer, you the Team but most of all those of you who give your time to come out and body for us.

19) Casualty Care Officer, Richard Warne

The past year has again seen team members putting their casualty care skills to use over a range of situations from call-outs to providing medical assistance at large scale, high profile events such as the Great North Walk, Durham Police's Bikewise event and the national downhill MTB championships at Hamsterley Forest.

Attendance at such events presents us with an invaluable opportunity for positive PR and for team members to gain valuable hands on experience treating casualties. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have given their time and skills to facilitate this.

Developments this year have included the implementation of pre-plans for incident 'hot spots' and the rolling out of the NEAS first responder scheme, utilising team members to facilitate the Ambulance Service in dealing with medical emergencies in County Durham.

Casualty Care training has continued throughout the year and as ever has required a significant amount of time and effort from both the training team and the candidates themselves. This year however we have had the distinct advantage of utilising the new NESRA cas-care teaching resource CD and handbook which really has taken the provision of medical training within MR a giant leap forward.

Finally in conclusion I would like to wish all candidates for the forthcoming cas-care examinations the very best of luck, thank again all those who have helped out over the past year and luck forward to your continued support.

21) Election of President and Vice Presidents

President and Vice President's all re-elected

Harry Vane spoke and thanked the team for re-electing him as President and for all the time and effort they put in both on callouts, training and fund-raising. He ran proceedings whilst DBS was accepted as Team Leader

P: AH 2nd JL

All in favour

22) Election of Officers and Committee Members

RW advised HM had withdrawing from the position of Members Rep due to her intention to go forward as Ass Mem Rep.

ROLE	CANDIDATE	PROPOSER	SECONDER
President	Harry Vane	David Bartles-smith	John Little
Vice-Presidents	Alan Best, Jon Stoddart, Bert Patchett, Ken Saxby, Cedric Scott, The Earl of Strathmore and Kinghome, David Thompson, Chris Scott, Ian Findlay	David Bartles-smith	John Little
Team Leader	David Bartles-Smith	Adam Hearn	John Little
Deputy Team Leaders (3)	Chris Roberts	David Bartles-smith	Anthony McAdam.
	David Clark	David Bartles-smith	Steve Owers
	Adam Hearn	Anthony McAdam	Steve Owers
Hon. Secretary			
Hon. Treasurer	Dave Clark	David Bartles-smith	John Little
Training Officer	Adam Hearn	Peter Bell	Paul Fell
Youth Team Leader	Chris Roberts	Paul Renwick	David Bartles-smith
Casualty Care Officer	Richard Warne	Paul Fell	David Bartles-smith
Equipment Officer	Simon Stewart	Adam Hearn	David Robinson

Group Leaders (5)	Peter Bell	Proposed and seconded on mass by committee 18/10/06	
	Stephen Marrs		
	David Robinson		
	Paul Renwick		
	Richard Warne		
Public Relations Officer	Steve Owers	David Bartles-smith	John Little
Fundraising	Anthony Tubbs	John Little	David Bartles-smith
Transport Officer	Anthony McAdam	Peter Bell	David Bartles-smith
Team Member 'Reps' (4)	Paul Fell	David Bartles-smith	David Robinson
	Karen Fisher	John Little	Steve Owers
	Russell Warne	Simon Stewart	Danny King
	Colin Radley	Adam Hearn	Anthony McAdam
SARDA Representative	Des Toward	Paul Renwick	Paul Fell
Associate 'Mem Rep'	Helen Mortimer	Paul Renwick	David Bartles-smith
IT officer	John Little	David Robinson	Paul Fell
Police liason	Bob Danby		Not elected

23) AOB

Chris Scott re-elected as book-keeper.

24) Date and time of next AGM

Thursday 8th November - 19.30hrs start at the Base