

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the
Teesdale and Weardale Search and Mountain Rescue Team
held at the Rescue Centre, Barnard Castle.
Thursday 8th November 2007 at 19.30hrs

Present: Richard Warne, Paul Fell, Karen Fisher, Chris Roberts, Adam Hearn, Anthony Tubbs, Des Toward, Pete Bell, Bob Danby, David Robinson, David Bartles-Smith, John Little, Isabella Barnes, Dr C Scott, Chris Scott, Paul Renwick, Craig Stephenson, Ian Findlay, Scott Bissett, Richard Glover, James Spears, Richard Graham, Mark Davis, Andrew Maddison, John O'Doherty, Donna Stewart (minutes)

1. **Opening Remarks:**

Welcome: Ian Findlay as Vice President and long-standing, although retired, member of the rescue team welcomed everyone to the meeting, specifically Dr Scott and Chris Scott, also vice presidents and Bob Danby; the team police liaison officer.

2. **Apologies for absence:** Harry Vane (president), Earl of Strathmore and Kinghorne, Chief Inspector John Stoddart, Ken Saxby and Alan Best (vice presidents), Steve Owers, David Clark, Stephen Marrs, Simon Stewart, Russell Warne, Tom Keenan, Colin Radley, Ian Hallam.

3. **Minutes of the 2006 AGM** which were distributed as the Annual Report for 2006 were accepted as a true and accurate record
Proposed: John Little Seconded: Paul Renwick

4. **The Team Leader's Report - David Bartles-Smith**

Welcome to the AGM that marks the start of our 40th year of operation.

This past year has been relatively quiet in respect of prolonged searches and incidents, but never the less the frequency of our use by the Police and diversity of our call outs underpins the continued progression of Mountain Rescue as an emergency service. Our strong relationship with Durham Police continues, but this is increasingly mirrored by our integration into local and regional Civil Contingency contexts and, nationally the summer floods and Greyrigg Rail crash have pushed Mountain Rescue further into this arena of resilience and planning.

Barely a week goes by now without contact from our Civil Contingency partners, either planners or indeed Government Office North East. There is nothing tangible for you to see, but it is notable that our details and service are becoming increasingly embedded into Civil Contingency planning. This presents our challenge for the years ahead. I said some years ago that I believed Mountain Rescue was on a change threshold, and that the challenge will be immense and testing. We have done a great deal to prepare ourselves for this, and have achieved much already, and I will reflect upon this later.

Our call-outs in terms of hill incidents have been negligible. An interesting trend, and no doubt Stephen Marrs will reflect upon this in his overview of our incidents. We did expect that Open Access may have an impact, but to date there is no evidence of this. We have been involved in searches, again, throughout the County and in assistance to neighbouring Teams. We have given assistance in body recoveries and also a fatality at High Force, was the first there for many years. In response to this a multi-agency plan for the waterfall is currently being formulated between ourselves, the Police and Fire and

Rescue. Perhaps the most significant incident was the death of a soldier at Catterick at the start of the summer floods. TWSMRT were called to assist Swaledale MRT and RAF Leeming MRT to search for a soldier washed away in a swollen beck. There were some useful learning points in our command role within Police Silver control, but the effort, persistence and diligence of our searchers was immense in locating the buried body some 24 hours later. This incident served to remind ourselves of our core function, that of search, and the qualities that demands, but also opened up the whole debate on water and the associated risks. Soon after this we watched the floods reek havoc elsewhere and Mountain Rescue Teams in those areas were in high demand. We have reviewed our work around water, finalised standard operating procedures and secured funding for training and equipment to ensure we work safely and effectively in these high risk environments. This though is just the start and we must now embrace the issue of water and move the Team forward in this area. Yes this is a challenge but one we are more than capable of achieving.

Our efforts in the last three years have very much been aimed at organisational matters, liaison, structures, communication etc– a jigsaw I will come back to shortly. The focus now is very much on operational and training matters. A year ago we brought in a technical expert to review our crag work. The warts and all review was very much as we expected – all warts. Yet, no criticism - in fact applause that we were strong enough to consider engaging in such a process and that's just what we did. The Crag group, lead by Paul Renwick have completed a process of review and change that now exposes our work to external scrutiny which now defines our technical rescue work as being of the highest order. Our thanks to Mike Margeson and Bill Batson for their continued interest and support. Indeed in discussion with Mike it is apparent that whilst we have now evidenced a sound technical approach and procedure, the other significant interest has been the process. We have proved to ourselves that we are able to move the Team to new operational standards and should be entirely confident in achieving the same outcomes with water. Several Teams have watched this with interest and I do believe we are setting a model precedent in terms of review and change.

So why? – do we need to change? Isn't Mountain Rescue all brilliant anyway? The fact that we are well meaning dedicated volunteers will cut no ice in Court, we have to stand above that. Three years ago in my AGM report I suggested that if we purport to be what we are, we must accept the responsibility that brings, and review and change are fundamental to this. You will have witnessed how much greater our training spectrum is. New skills, new knowledge are demands that now underpin everything we do. My introduction this evening described the new emerging context for Mountain Rescue – and we, as a Team also have to be equally resilient and prepared. Reviewed best practice procedures, accredited external training, evidenced knowledge and skills, sound risk management are a pre-requisite to this. To coin an analogy, we are not sitting at the bottom staring up at this 'mountain of change' – we are already over the first summit and preparing for the next one, but with increasing experience and knowledge to ease our way. I am more than confident that we will continue to maintain this progress.

Individually that is a challenge. The Team member profile cannot sustain this knowledge and skill overload without individuals and groups taking on specialisms and an adult learning model approach. Specialist skill areas spread this knowledge load in the Team and whilst our training will move to more hill based work to bed in the core skills, specialist areas will and do inevitably place greater burdens upon the individual. We can

and must support that as a Team, with support to external courses and access to well resourced and documented operational procedures. Our recruitment remains strong to support this.

In my key contact areas I can report as follows:

Liaison with the Police remains very positive. We concluded a programme of talks on search management to over 75 Police officers, and our attendance at bi-monthly POLSA meetings enables good links and support throughout the force. A number of benefits arise from this both in tangible resources but most importantly in operational effectiveness.

Our Civil Contingency links continue as already highlighted and we retain a pro-active role and stance at both NESRA and the East Cumbria Panel. I continue to have discussion links with Teams throughout the UK and contribute regularly to informal groupings within MR E and W.

In the last four years we have taken each piece of the Team jigsaw, reviewed it, changed it and put it all back to together. This will inevitably always remain under review, but we do now have a structure emerging that will provide the platform for the future, it is as resilient and as well organised as we can expect. Financially we are in a strong position, but must remember that it is our commitment to this both in terms of fundraising and careful spending which has achieved this and this will always remain a key pillar of our deliberations. The new committee elected tonight will face a new task – annual plans and budget streams. Much work has been done by Chris Scott towards this and although the prospect will no doubt bring ‘work’ contexts into our Team, it is essential if we are to streamline our Committee work - to enable greater focus on the fundamental needs of an operational and training focus. It will, I guarantee simplify planning and understanding in the Team, of who’s doing what, but it is reliant upon each Committee member doing their task, and will ultimately mean that more of the time we give, can be dedicated to doing Mountain Rescue rather than just talking about it.

I will as your Team Leader ensure we achieve this and ask for all your support to that end.

Finally – as we look ahead to our 40th year, it is with some sadness that I acknowledge the death of one of our Vice Presidents, Bert Patchett earlier in the year and indeed we must also send our best wishes and thoughts to Ken Saxby who has announced his intention to stand down as Vice President this evening. Ken was a stalwart of the Team in its formative years and anyone who looks at the press archive on the website will fully appreciate the role and efforts made by Ken on behalf of the Team and SARDA.

David Clark has also announced his intention to stand down as Deputy Team Leader. David’s work frequently precludes him from attendance, but in his 10 or so years as a Deputy he has contributed greatly in a role which is so often hidden, challenging, and requiring quiet reflection and determination. David has given this throughout and I must acknowledge the support and advice he has given to myself over the years. Thank you.

Thank you to you all for your continued support and commitment to TWSMRT and Mountain Rescue.

Ian Findlay commented that the continual growth and development boded well for the future of the team, the team has a good past record as indicated in the incident report and will continue to go from strength to strength.

DBS then went onto present the incident report collated by Stephen Marrs.

5. Deputy Team Leaders Reports

Adam Hearn

Although the Team have had a relatively quiet time in terms of callouts I feel that the tempo of training and other developments has been high and a lot has been achieved.

Our new planning and budgeting structure has started to yield results and will in time make the administration of the Team easier.

I have been overseeing the radio systems used by the Team and gathering information regarding the use of GPS tracking by radio and Airwave. It is hoped that next year will see us moving ahead with the fund-raising to introduce a tracking system for all A list members.

Having attended the Search Management Course I feel more confident about organising searches on behalf of the Team and look forward to the opportunity to do so.

I welcome our greater involvement with neighbouring teams and I foresee great benefits from joint training and better understanding of our MR colleagues.

Lastly I would like to thank all those team members who have helped me to carry out the role of Deputy Team Leader during the last 12 months.

Chris Roberts

This has been a very busy year in the Team in an organisational sense; particularly with the implementation of the '5 Year Plan', which gives a new directional focus to the Team. Recruitment has been successful – 6 team members attained A list status this year and 12 new C list members have been recruited. Much of the success of this process is attributable to Paul Renwick.

The whole manner in which the Team approach water has been looked at carefully this year and will develop over the coming year. The Team is now equipped with PPE to allow for safe deployment in the water environment. Six Team members are trained swift-water technicians, one of whom has progressed to advanced level. The Team now has 4 dry suits for Team members involved in river search; a further 2 are to be ordered in the near future. Thanks largely to John Little the Team now has a comprehensive SOP relating to water.

This year has seen a major step forward in the provision of Team PPE (personal protective equipment). Every A list member now has a personal set of waterproofs, badged to give team identity, and a helmet and harness together with appropriate steep ground protection – all possible by a very generous donation and the hard work of the fund raising team.

6. Honorary Treasurer's Report and adoption of Accounts ending 31/7/07

Chris Scott presented the report on behalf of David Clark

From Bank statements:

31-Jul-07	20275603 Barclays Community Account	12,239.37	
	Deduct un-cleared payments	0.00	
	Add un-cleared income	0.00	
	Current balance		12,239.37
	Add cash and cheques in hand	0.00	
			<hr/>
			12,239.37

29-Jun-07	50477095 Barclays Tracker A/c	28,474.66	
	Add/deduct transfers, not on bank statement		
	Current balance		28,474.66

Total Team Funds	40,714.03
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Total Income for this year **62,962.69**

Total Outgoing for this year **-37,649.58**

From Treasurer's book-keeping:

Breakdown of Funds:	Current Balance	Movement this year
Reserved fund Vehicle	-2,253.55	-2,172.89
Reserved fund by Donors	20,295.78	19,929.17
Reserved fund Youth Section	283.29	290.00
Reserved fund Iceland 06	2,118.21	385.41
Reserved Fund 40th Anniversary	2,350.00	2,000.00
General Fund	17,920.30	4,881.42
Total Cash Funds:	40,714.03	25,313.11

The team leader read the conclusion of the report and thanks were reiterated to Chris Scott by Ian Findlay.

The Accounts were formally adopted and signed by DBS and IF.

7. Training Officer's Report – Adam Hearn

I believe that the Team has had a successful year of training. We have recruited again in February and look forward to a strong group being assessed for transfer to the A list in Spring 2008. In light of the healthy level of membership it has been decided that there is no need to take on more recruits next year. This will allow the Team to concentrate on more advanced training for A list members.

The Team have put around a dozen members through blue light training and this has proved to be very useful on a number of occasions.

This year has seen us participating in both East Cumbria Panel and NESRA exercises, as well as swiftwater rescue training with Swaledale MRT.

I have also been asked to chair an access working party and this is making progress in establishing contact with landowners, farmers and gamekeepers in the upper dales. Hopefully this will lead to easier access to land for training and more expert local knowledge during callouts.

Some team members have attended external training courses: 2 for search management, 1 for tracking, 5 swiftwater technician revalidations and 1 swiftwater advanced course.

3 team members also attended the IKAR medical symposium and 5 members are attending the advanced casualty care refresher / selection course in December.

I will be arranging refresher training for the BORDA off road drivers for early in the new year at Deepdale Centre.

Can I record my thanks to all those who have assisted in the delivery of training over the last 12 months and to the landowners who allow us to exercise on their land.

8. Youth Team Leader's Report – Chris Roberts

The Youth Team has had a busy year. The usual programme of events took place including hill walks in the North Pennines, Lakes and Howgills plus the ever popular night navigation to Cross Fell with bed, breakfast and evening meal at Greg's Hut.

The group had two successful fund raising events; an Everest climb on the base wall and a bag pack at Morrisons – jointly raising in the order of £1000 towards the Iceland project. The high point of the year was of course the expedition to Iceland. Accompanied by 9 members of the Youth Team I led an action packed 10 days in Iceland. Our hosts, the Team from Isafjordur, put together an exceptional programme for us.

In addition to a guided tour of many of the usual tourist attractions around Reykjavik, we visited ICESAR HQ, the Coastguard HQ and several of the SAR bases (including a ride in an ex NATO command vehicle over a lava field). Three days were spent at the ICESAR training centre where the group experienced earthquake search training (in a unique facility), caving and crevasse rescue, and glacier walking.

Travelling northwest to Isafjordur and the group were given the opportunity to swim in the North Atlantic in survival suits while being towed at high speed by a Zodiac inshore rescue boat. Whale watching from the Team's lifeboat and then being dropped off in a remote fjord for a trek and overnight camp brought the expedition to an end.

This exchange project has taken almost five years to accomplish, it was certainly a very enjoyable and memorable experience for all those who took part, whether it has the impact on involvement of young people in MR that was originally intended remains to be seen. Without the financial support of North Pennines Leader+ the project would not have taken place. Thanks must go to Chris Scott who tirelessly keeps the books and fills in the LEADER claim forms.

Now that this particular project has come to a close I have decided to stand down as Youth Leader. I have been proud to work with young people that have been through our programme but now feel that it is time for a change. I hope that we as a Team are able to maintain the interest for future young people in MR and the wider outdoor environment.

9. Group Leaders' Reports

Pete Bell:

As well as the operational aspects of group leadership on the callouts and excercises attended over the past year, the group leaders role has extended into training.

A training group comprising group leaders and invited guests chaired by the training officer, has contributed to the training plan and delivered training to team members.

My own personal training has included a field skills course at Bangor and active involvement in crag technical rescue.

I look forward to a year of challenging training and successful outcomes to callouts, wherever they may be.

Paul Renwick:

“What an excellent year for development and success”

My main responsibility as group leader for 2006-2007 was Technical Rope Rescue; since the review carried out for our team in June 2006 by Mike Margeson (MR Technical Advisor) who had identified several key areas for improvement.

Within two weeks of Mikes visit a full review of ours systems, our needs our equipment was under way.

Over the year I have had the opportunity to talk to many different organisations including Coast Guard, RSPCA (Rescue) Cave Rescue Organisation (CRO) and several other Mountain Rescue Teams and found the support and advice invaluable.

Hundreds of hours have been invested in the past year on training and understanding of rescue system, thousands of hours on the development of the two Technical Rope Rescue manual.

The focus for the year was then centred on developing, improving basic skills and understanding rope rescue systems that we would need in our team to carry out such specialist rescue successfully. Additional training days were needed to accommodate the learning of such complex systems with many team members giving up Saturday as well as Sundays for training.

In September Bill Batson (Chief Instructor, RAF MR) kindly offered to visit our team giving his time for free offering advice towards our system and development, for this the team should be proud that someone of his calibre is willing to give his time free and work with us. I have also used a lot of Bills time on SARDA courses asking hundreds of questions for this time I am personally grateful.

Also in September we ran our first Technical Rope Rescue weekend in a number of years aiming to give an in depth knowledge base on Technical Rescue this course was attended by several new crag team members and the feed back regarding this course has encouraged the team to organise another full weekend between June – August 2008.

Throughout the year two in depth manuals have been written documenting all the basic skill to the most complex rope rescue system. These two manuals have also be proof read by Bill Batson and Mike Margeson (Mike also reviewed our Manuals as an excellent piece of work) these manuals have proven an excellent teaching tool for both potential Crag team members and existing members.

So much time and effort has been put into this project and we now have fully comprehensive systems to deal with all types of incidents and the knowledge in a number of personnel to select and apply the right rescue system.

In November 2007 the team felt in a position to invite Mike Margeson back for a second visit Bill Batson also came along to the inspection as a second advisor. To say the day went well would be an understatement! The final feed back from Mike and Bill was our "team has made an amazing turn around and we should be proud of the progress made the level of understanding and knowledge was to a good level". At this point I would like to thank Mike for all his support he has given our team over the past 16 month not just as MR Tech Advisor but as the MR equipment advisor the team has received almost £2,000 off the MR to replace and up date our technical equipment.

Some of the crag team aims for this year is to

- *Continue with its development,*
- *Build stronger relationships with other Emergency Services*
- *Share this best practice with other teams from NESRA, we are planning to invite all NESRA teams to a technical rope rescue weekend ran by Bill Batson and Myself in 2008*

Also a huge thank you all who have helped in many different ways, to those people you've made this project enjoyable.

It's with grate pleasure I get to feed back this wonderful news and believe this success would not have been possible without the full support of our team and team friends.

Thank you and keep moving forward

Stephen Marrs:

I truly feel that we now have a team to be really proud of.

The development plan for the Rescue Team has now been published and gives us guidance for the forthcoming 5 years.

The decision to concentrate our training on core skills and going back to basics has paid dividends.

We now have a Bi-Annual recruitment period, this allows the training team to ensure that the new "C" list members gain the correct Rescue skills and knowledge to effect a safe & hazard free casualty centred rescue.

The Water Rescue side of the team is starting to make big developments. Having secured 2 large sources of funding will greatly assist this team to move forward.

The Crag Rescue side of the team has taken unprecedented development and along with success.(Please see the report by Paul Renwick).

The website / Communication tool developed by John Little is excellent. At times its hard to see firstly, where John finds the time to manage this system and secondly how we managed without this tool.

I must personally pass on my thanks to our Team Leader. The amount of professional commitment, time and effort does NOT go un-noticed. The partnership / consultation work and development can only go to strengthening our team.

The Teesdale & Weardale Search & Mountain Rescue Team now has a corporate image of not just looking the part, but delivering a First Class Search & Rescue Service 24 / 7 in whatever the weather.

Incident Report for 2006 – 2007.

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

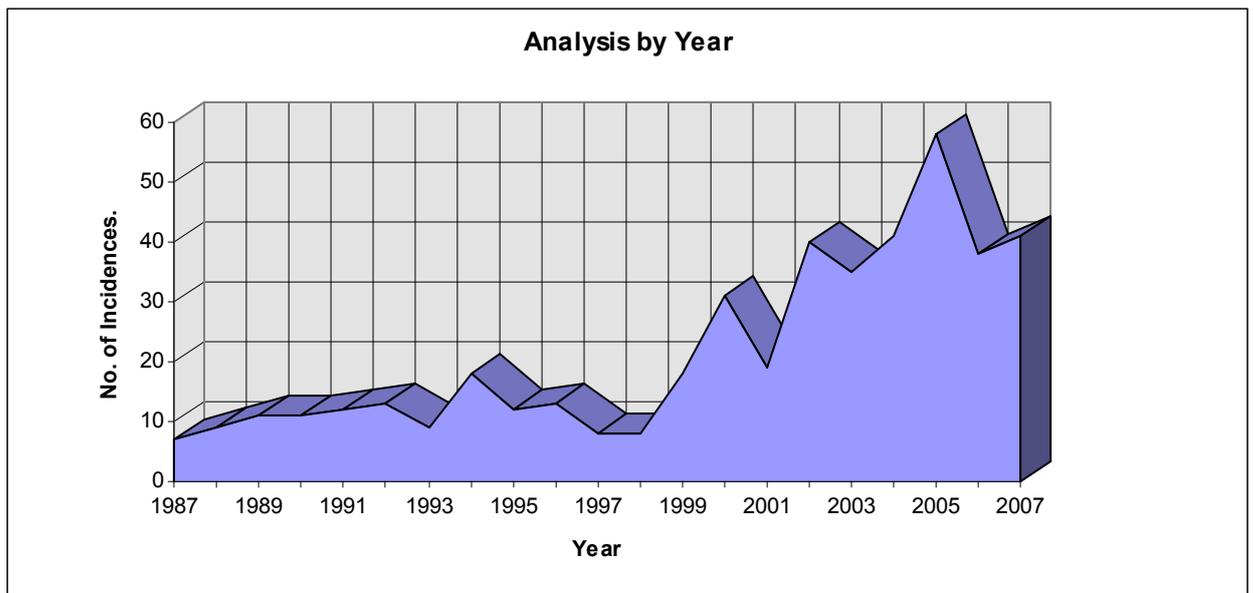
CALL OUT ANALYSIS BY YEAR

This Rescue Year has seen a 7.9 % increase in the number of incidents. This year we have attended 41 Team Call Outs, given 778 hours of time, assisted 50 people and dealt with 4 fatalities.

Year on Year Comparison

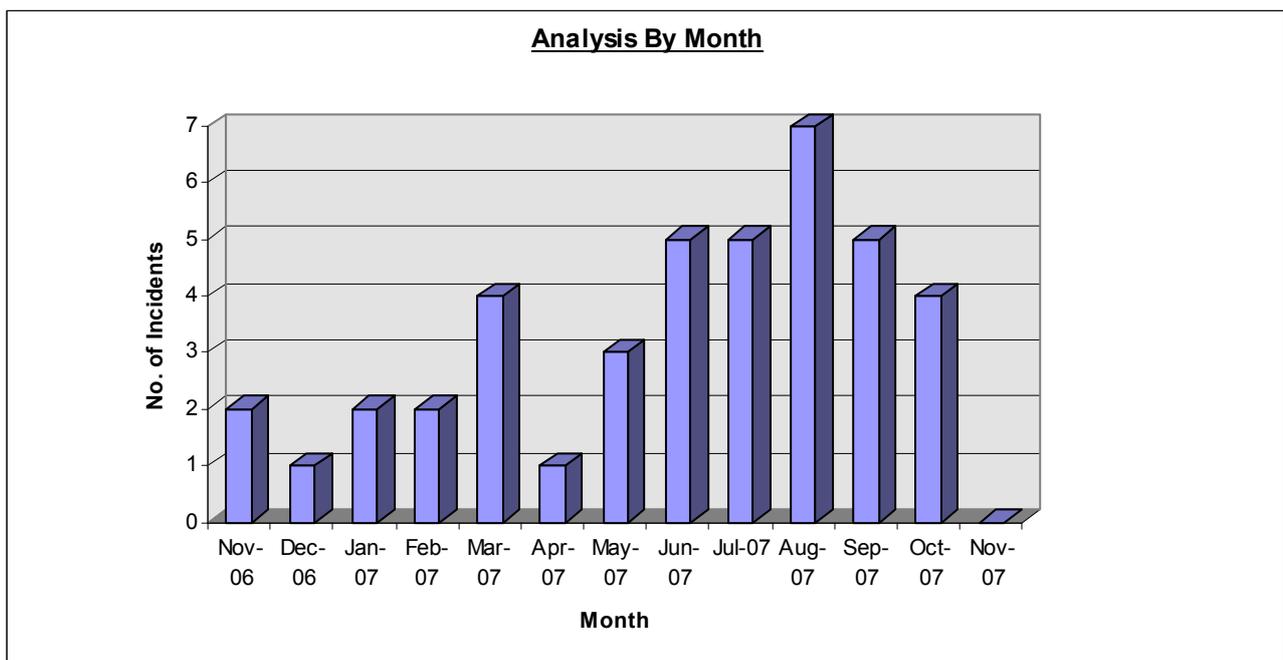
Year	No. of Call Outs	Total Hours	People Assisted	Fatalities
1987	7	478	9	0
1988	9	888	4	0
1990	11	853	51	0
1991	12	272	32	0
1992	13	855	20	2
1993	9	336	12	1
1994	18	7041	10	1
1995	12	699	14	0
1996	13	1458	16	0
1997	8	1688	11	2
1998	8	563	5	2
1999	18	649	21	1
2000	31	1832	16	2
2001	19	947	14	2
2002	40	3022	20	1
2003	35	1240	33	5
2004	41	1124	23	4
2005	58	1277	63	5
2006	38	1217	51	3
2007	41	778.1	50	4
Total	452	28191.1	482	36

The graph below clearly illustrates the increased demand over the last 20 years for OUR Search and Mountain Rescue Team resource year-on-year.



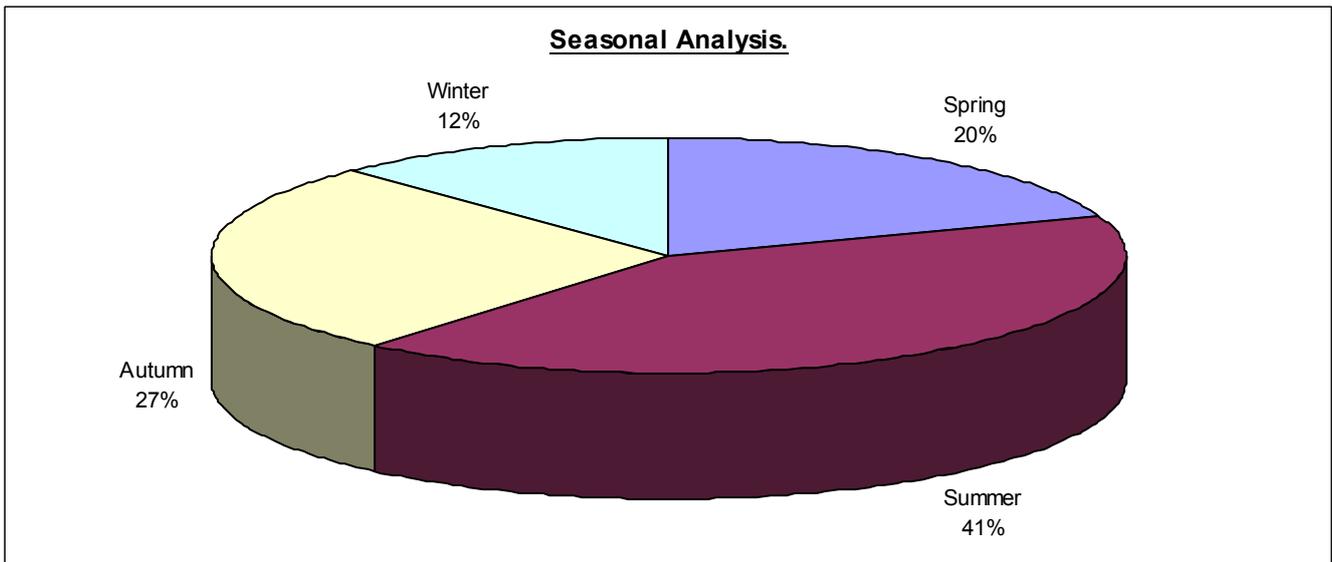
CALL OUT ANALYSIS BY MONTH

The greatest number of call outs in any particular month was received during August.



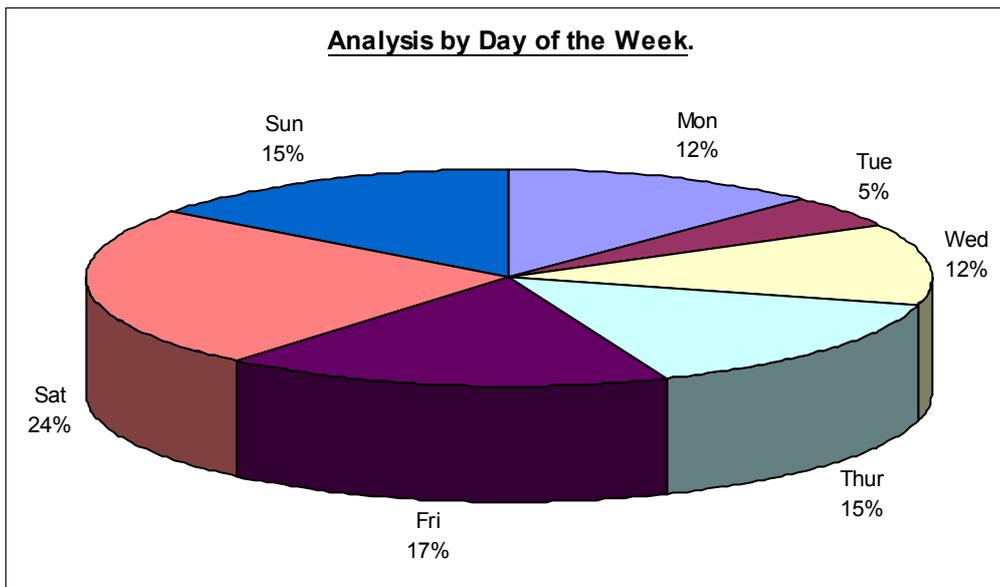
CALL OUT ANALYSIS BY SEASONS.

The majority of call outs in the 2006/ 2007 rescue year were received during the Summer, accounting for 41% of all incidents.



CALL OUT ANALYSIS BY DAY OF WEEK

24% of all call outs during the rescue year of 2006/2007 were received on a Saturday.



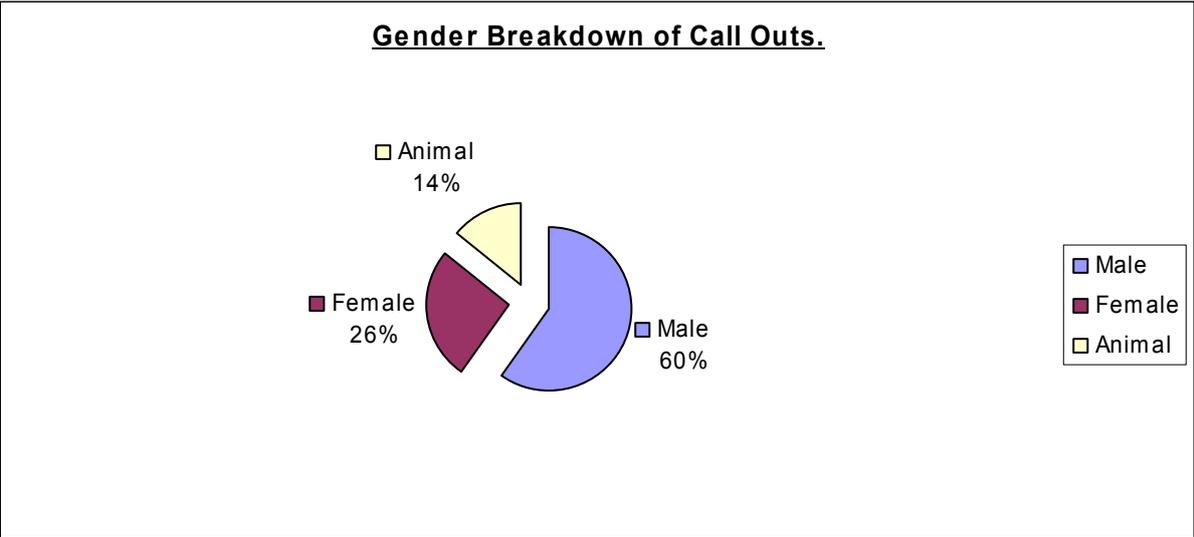
INCIDENTS ANALYSED BY HOUR

By looking at the below chart you can see that the average time of incidents over the last rescue year was between 8pm till 9pm



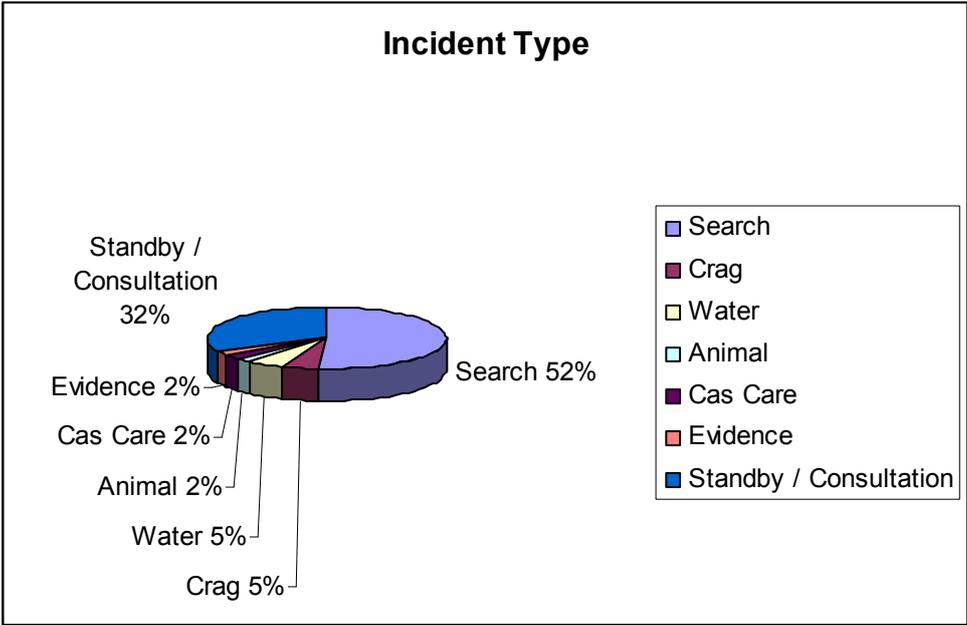
Incidents by Gender

The breakdown of incidents over the last Rescue Year by gender has seen that 60% of all Calls were to assist the male side of the population.



Incident Type

The analysis of the 41 Call Outs during the last rescue year has seen 52% of all call outs on searching and 32% on Standby / Consultation with other emergency services.



Analysis Conclusion

By looking at all of the data above you can see that if you are male, out adventuring in August, on a Saturday night about 2030hrs then luck may not have been on your side.

Analysis of team activity since the start of the Millennium.

Well what has TWSRT being doing since the turn of the Millennium?
 Well the answer is.... with 452 incidents received by the Team to assist 482 people and to deal with 36 fatalities since the start the year of 2000. This all adds up to a total of 28,191 hours spent on active call. If each hour of incident time was charged at the minimum wage

then it would have cost then the time spend would have cost £155, 051. However if this charge was charged at the average Police Officers wage, then this amount of time would have cost £264,300.

Incidents

<u>Date</u>	<u>Nature</u>	<u>Description</u>
0235 03/11/2007	First Responder	A First Responder call to an 84 year old male with breathing difficulties
1345 28/10/2007	Other	Team member came across an estate car with two male occupants stuck in Stanhope Ford with the river in spate condition. Accessed the ford from far side using 4x4 and attached tow rope. Recovered vehicle and occupants back to Stanhope side to await recovery of their vehicle.
19:04 28/10/2007	Team callout	Team called by police to search for male missing from home in the Durham / Chester Le Street Area. Mobile phone signal used to narrow down search area of missing male. Team stood down to allow police to make further enquiries.
08.00 24/10/2007	Team callout	08.00 hrs Team placed on standby in relation to possible search in Seaham area for missing male. Stood down after person located safe by Police
11.00 12/10/2007	Team callout	11.00 hrs request by Police to recover body of male from difficult ground under Hownsgill Viaduct. 6 Team members completed recovery.
19.30 08/10/2007	Team callout	19.30 hrs request by Police to assist with search dogs in wooded area near Durham City, in relation to ongoing enquiry. Strategy discussed and two Team SARDA dogs deployed. Nothing found.
04.00 30/09/2007	Other	04.00 hrs Team SARDA dog deployed to assist Swaledale MRT in search for missing soldier on exercise. 06.15 hrs Team placed on standby and called out at 07.15 to assist. Stood down almost immediately when soldier was located safe and well.
20.40 27/09/2007	Team callout	22.40 hrs consultation by Police with Team leader in respect of two young missing children. Children found safe by Police.
19.25 23/09/2007	Team callout	Standby to assist Northumberland search teams. Team not deployed as person located by Police.
01.00 19/09/2007	Other	Two Team SARDA dogs assisted Northumberland National Parks MRT in search in Newcastle area.
1900 16/09/2007	Team callout	Team member assisted 2 casualties that were involved in a 2 car RTC. Team member carried out Cas Care. Casualties treated for minor injuries.
1745 16/09/2007	Team callout	Team vehicles with 4 team members traveling back from Team Exercise came across a RTC. Team vehicles positioned to control traffic and 2 young people assisted out of vehicle and kept warm in team vehicle, 3rd casualty immobilised in her vehicle and "C" collar fitted, extracted when county ambulance and Police arrived on scene.
0830 30/08/2007	First Responder	First Responder call to 85 yrs male with suspected CVA. Administered oxygen and monitored until arrival of NEAS ambulance.
1300 26/08/2007	Other	2 Team members whilst out training assisted in the rescue of a man cragfast from a steep gully - Red Screes - Honister- Lake District.
0150 25/08/2007	First Responder	NEAS First Responder call to 72 yrs Male with suspected MI. Administered oxygen and observed until the arrival of NEAS ambulance.
12.30 24/08/2007	Team callout	12.45 hrs request by Police to recover body of male, with gunshot wounds, from a fell side in Weardale.
13.00 19/08/2007	Team callout	13.00 standby request from Swaledale MRT to assist in search for missing hill party in Tan Hill area. Kirby Stephen MRT also on

		standby. Two Team SARDA dogs sent ahead. Stood down when group turned up safe. Weather cold, wet and poor visibility.
20.30 17/08/2007	Other	20.30 hrs two Team SARDA dogs deployed to assist Northumberland National Parks MRT in search for missing female. Stood down on arrival as person located.
0800 06/08/2007	Team callout	Continuing search for missing farmer near Gibside. Canoe Search Team deployed to search River Derwent. Missing person found as part of the wider search operation.
2035 05/08/2007	Team callout	Consultation with police as to the best way to gain access to the top of Cauldren Snout and the Dam Wall. Two elderly walkers had become separated whilst trying to raise help as their dog had injured itself.
2000 05/08/2007	Team callout	Team requested to help North of Tyne and Northumberland National Parks Mountain Rescue Teams in search for missing farmer near Gibside, Burnopfield.
02/08/2007	Other	Team SARDA dog requested to help in Search in Northumberland
2200 17/07/2007	Other	23.00 hrs two Team SARDA dogs deployed to assist Northumberland NP MRT and North of Tyne SRT in search for elderly male missing in Tyne and Wear.
1815 15/07/2007	Other	Team members returning from exercise assisted driver and passengers stuck at Stanhope Ford, Co Durham.
16.15 12/07/2007	Team callout	16.15 hrs request by Police to search for missing vulnerable male in the Peterlee area. Steep gorges and wooded Denes. Two Team SARDA dogs deployed, with support from Police helicopter. Search about to commence when person located safe by Police outside of area.
11.45 10/07/2007	Team callout	11.45 hrs brief standby to assist Northumberland National Park MRT and North Of Tyne SRT in search from missing male. Team not deployed as person located.
20.35 06/07/2007	Team callout	20.35 hrs Request by Police for assistance following report of a 13 year old girl lost and distressed in steep wooded ravines of Castle Eden Dene. Team placed on standby, SARDA dog en route when Police helicopter located girl.
0040 01/07/2007	Team callout	0130hrs Request by Police to assist in search for a vulnerable teenager from the Chester Le Street area. Missing person found in South Shields as the SARDA handler was commencing his search.
0315 24/06/2007	Team callout	03.15 hrs. Urban rescue request by Police to assist in evacuation of an injured male from scaffolding. Fire service and ambulance in attendance. Casualty evacuated onto attending Fire Service Aerial Ladder Platform.
23.55 18/06/2007	Other	23.55 hrs brief standby to assist NNPMRT with SARDA dogs in search for missing vulnerable male in Northumberland. No further involvement.
3.40 17/06/2007	First Responder	First Responder call to suspected Heart attack. Treatment administered until North East Ambulance Service arrived.
3.45 16/06/2007	First Responder	First Responder call to 75 year old male with breathing difficulties. Oxygen administered, handed over to NEAS.
07.30 16/06/2007	Team callout	07.30 hrs continuation of search for missing soldier. Search involved NESRA MRT Teams with the support of military and the Police. Team SARDA dogs also attended. Body of soldier located by a Teesdale and Weardale SMRT search group.
1100 15/06/2007	Team callout	12.15 hrs request by Swaledale MRT to assist in search for 17 year old soldier missing in swollen stream. Search of flood corridor and surrounding terrain. SARDA dogs, RAF Leeming MRT and RAF helicopters also deployed alongside military and Police. Search stood down at 22.00 hrs to recommence at first light.
0930 11/06/2007	Team callout	09.30 hrs request by Police to search for missing vulnerable male in the Shildon, Brusselton Woods area. Two Team SARDA dogs deployed with Team support and assisted by Police helicopter and

		Police resources. Nothing found.
2000 26/05/2007	Other	Team search dogs put on standby to assist NNPMRT & NoT for an on going search at Alnwick Gardens in Northumberland for a missing 70 yr old female. The missing woman was found safe SARDA handlers were being briefed.
1615 20/05/2007	Team callout	Northumbria police via NNPMRT/NOTSRT requested Teesdale to be on stand-by then called to assist in a missing person search in Chopwell woods. TWSMRT were training with RAF Helicopter in Teesdale, and a search group and SARDA dog were flown to search area. RAF conducted aerial search. As ground searches commenced - the missing person was located by Police outside of search area.
18.15 06/05/2007	Team callout	Team on standby by Police following report of a male having fallen from High Force waterfall. Local Team members on scene along with rope rescue group, but full Team not deployed. Body recovered the following day by Police Underwater Unit.
2300 11/04/2007	Other	Search Dog Skye & Handler responded to call out via SARDA to assist North Of Tyne & Northumberland National Parks Mountain Rescue Team for Missing Male from the Washington Town area (Tyne & Wear). Missing person found outside initial search area.
1815 25/03/2007	Team callout	18.15 hrs request to assist Cleveland Search and Rescue Team in search for missing person on the North York Moors. 14 Team members and two Team SARDA dogs attended. Missing person located by Team early in search.
2315 22/03/2007	Team callout	23.25 hrs as Team were returning to Base following previous call-out, request by Police to search for a missing vulnerable male in the Darlington area. Open ground and urban search. Assisted by Police helicopter and one Team SARDA dog. Stood down at 03.00 hrs. Nothing found. Missing man identified as patient in hospital the following morning.
1630 22/03/2007	Team callout	16.30 hrs request by Police to search for vulnerable male missing from nursing home in the Seaham area. Search open ground and urban areas, assisted by Police helicopter and 2 Team SARDA dogs. Stood down at 23.00 hrs when person found safe outside of search area.
0915 10/03/2007	Team callout	09.15 hrs - brief Standby in relation to missing teenager in Durham. Turned up safe and well.
1700 15/02/2007	Other	Team member gave immediate care to a person who collapsed whilst on a train journey
1930 10/02/2007	Team callout	19.30 hrs request by Police to locate several drivers reporting as snowbound on a moorland road in NW Durham. Team members located 9 persons including an 8 week old baby, caught in drifting snow. Team SARDA dog Skye located two of the vehicles. Baby and mother evacuated by Team, before rest of vehicles dug out by road clearing equipment.
0800 10/02/2007	Other	08.00 hrs two Team members en route to Team training came across a car and driver stuck in white out conditions. Assistance given and escorted off hills to clear roads.
0630 06/02/2007	First Responder	Team member attended a First Responder call to an 82yrs female with chest pains. Monitored condition until arrival of NEAS ambulance. Patient was taken to Darlington Memorial Hospital.
1530 03/02/2007	Team callout	15.30 hrs standby and consultation with Police in relation to a missing person. Team stood down after two hours following further information.
0315 31/01/2007	Team callout	03.15 hrs request to assist Swaledale Mountain Rescue Team in search for missing vulnerable elderly male in Yorkshire Dales. Team search group and search dog Holly attended at first light. Missing person found by member of the public outside immediate search area.
1500 27/01/2007	Other	55 Year old climber, whilst descending from the summit of Aconcague to Base camp slipped and fell off the ice bridge into a crevasse. Team

		member assisted to recover the uninjured climber before the situation worsened.
1300 12/01/2007	Other	52 Year old climber, after descending from the summit of Aconcagua became exhausted and hyperthermic whilst trying to recover outside of a tent at Base camp. Fluids, food and warmth administered until the climber was cared for by friends.
1300 05/01/2007	Team callout	Team members recovered sheep from cragfast location on river Tees near Barnard Castle. Request from Fire Service.
0630 13/12/2006	Team callout	06.30 hrs request by Police to assist in search for missing vulnerable 14 year old girl in the Chilton area of County Durham. Search of woodland by Team and two SARDA dogs proved negative. Assisted by Police helicopter. Girl later turned up safe well outside of search area.
2310 29/11/2006	Team callout	Team members returning home from team training found a small van that had been driven off the road on to what the driver thought was solid ground but was in fact wet mud and had become stuck. The Team members used a Team members private 4x4 vehicle to drag the van back onto the road. The driver had been there some time before being rescued.
2230 29/11/2006	Team callout	Team members returning home from training discovered abandoned car at side of road between watershed and Bollihope. Car had been spotted some hours earlier en-route to training. Inspection of the car revealed map of local area in back seat and approach shoes and socks in passenger foot well indicating someone had changed footwear. The Police informed. Approximately one mile down the road, two walkers were spotted in darkness by the Team members. When questioned revealed they were doing some navigation practice but had become a little waylaid and had forgotten to leave a note in their vehicle.
0415 26/11/2006	Team callout	04.15 hrs request by Police to assist in search for elderly vulnerable male missing from Bishop Auckland General hospital. Search commencing when he was located safe and well. Police helicopter attended.
1730 20/11/2006	Team callout	17.30 hrs consultation request from Police in respect of a vulnerable person missing from home. Subsequently traced to an area out of county and referred via Police and ourselves to the MRT in that area.

David Robinson:

My first, and hopefully not last, year as a Group Leader has been an interesting one. I've learnt a great deal about the internal workings of the Team, the Committee and Individual Team Members. Unfortunately I have been unable to gain as much call-out group leadership experience as I would have liked, with attendance being limited due to other commitments, although I have gained a much greater understanding of the role thanks to some excellent Team exercises and working closely with the Team and other Group Leaders.

I look forward to the year ahead, my aim being to retain the Group Leader position, work alongside the Training Officer, Group Leaders and Team to help develop this years training program, ensure the operational status of the Team and to lead search groups on the hill. I have offered to devote more time in providing support to the Equipment Officer and hope to be able to take some of the pressure off him.

Thank you to all who have helped and supported me this year.

Thanks were given to the group leaders by Ian Findlay for all their hard work during the past year and for helping the training officer in developing the team.

10. Public Relations Officer's Report – Steve Owers – no report

11. Equipment Officer's Report – Simon Stewart

This year has seen a number of developments with equipment and a good deal of spending! The development of the Technical Rescue Group has seen a change in the system and equipment we use but this is now a simplistic system and the equipment we have should last us a good five years, with the exception of general wear and tear on basics such as ropes and karabiners.

Helmets and harnesses are being issued to all A-list team members and water PPE is in the process of being purchased.

Following a large scale search earlier in the year, we made the decision to create more group kits and these are awaiting final items before they can be put into service, this should hopefully mean every team member will have exactly what they need within their search group.

As the year has progressed I have seen a shift in team involvement in looking after equipment and this has helped me greatly. Members are now more willing to join in putting kit away or ensuring it is placed in the drying room, although it needs to be remembered, equipment is everyone's responsibility and this needs to continue.

A quarantine system has also been introduced which seems to be working well and ensures I get to know if anyone has concerns about any piece of kit.

My thanks go to those who have spent many hours here with me creating an inventory and marking up kit, particularly John Little, Mark Davis and Dave Robinson. Dave has agreed to provide additional support this coming year which will hopefully ensure things run smoothly.

Also thanks to our donors and the MRC who provide the funds for us to purchase the equipment we need.

12. Fundraising and Social Officer's Report – Anthony Tubbs

An exciting year that saw me land this role originally by offering to help John Little with some of the Street Collections!

The buckets used in the Street Collections have really helped increase the money that has been collected. This year we have collected in Durham, Bishop Auckland, Darlington, Stanhope and Barnard Castle raising over £3,500 – including over £1,200 from Durham – this year's Durham collection in exactly 1 month time – Saturday 8th December.

We have also had the opportunity of collecting at Sedgefield Racecourse, raising just short of £570 – an opportunity that will continue in 2008.

As always, our thanks must go to those individuals that have particularly supported the fund raising effort, including the Sea and Mud Challenge, the Great North Run and the equivalent Walk, talks by individuals, attendance at tractor rallies, not to forget the 3

Peaks DUCK challenge, which was the single largest fundraising effort ever seen by the Team.

Our thanks also go to the Associate Members that have continued to support the Team, especially at the Street Collections.

We have received around £3,500 in funding for water safety equipment which significantly increases our ability to react to water related incidents.

Chris Scott has continued to spend considerable time and effort to ensure the smooth running of the finances and without whom, we, as a Team, would be badly stuck.

Looking forwards – just a few hours commitment from every member of the Team at one of the collections makes it easy on everyone – please try to support the fundraising. We are also entering the 40th year of the Team and will be arranging various fundraising activities – again your support in this is very much appreciated.

13. Transport Officers Report – Anthony McAdam – no report

14. Team Members Representative's Reports – no report

15. Police Liaison Officer's Report

No report as such but just wanted to say a big thanks to the team for all the assistance given.

16. Associate Members Representative's Report – Helen Mortimer - no report

17. IT Officer's Report – John Little

It's been another busy year with three new websites.

The transfer to the new Team website went quite smoothly and the Mytrips website was successfully launched in February. There has been a steady flow of traffic to the mytrips site although not sufficient to justify further work on the site at this stage.

The NESRA website has now also been running for a number of months although take up by NESRA teams has been varied and patchy.

The Rescue Centre is now fully networked – thanks to the hard work mainly of Richard Glover. Also the Teams computer hardware is in a more up to date state than it has been in for years.

The 3 and 5 peaks events organised by DUCK proved to be extremely successful – thanks to Steve Marrs, Colin Radley and Anthony Tubbs for their help.

Most of the historic press articles collected by Steve Owers are now online as are almost all the historic newsletters. The remainder will be digitised over the coming months.

DBS emphasised how important the website has become for the team – allowing constant sharing of information between team members but also it allows funders to see what we do. Due to us having such a comprehensive and professional website, the team has been approached by a TV production company with an interest in filming what we do.

18. SARDA Representative's Report – Des Toward

Once again a good year for SARDA in the North East and for TWSMRT, we now have 9 operational dog teams in the NE:

4-Teesdale & Weardale,

4-Northumberland,

1-Swaledale,

This is probably the strongest the region has ever been, well done to everyone concerned.

As handlers we continue to attend national training courses as well as Team training when possible and also manage to fit local training in as well.

As always thanks have to go out to all those involved in assisting with the training of these dogs, bodies, land owners, family and friends etc. If it was not for you we would not be able to offer this resource to the team. Finally good luck to Nut and Jonno for their assessment in January.

Personal thanks were given to Ken Saxby for his involvement in the team, as without his influence, we would not have the SARDA dogs and trainers we have now.

19. Casualty Care Officer's Report – Richard Warne

Although seemingly quiet, the past year has seen team members utilising their medical skills over a wide range of incidents, from hypothermic infants and road traffic collisions through to first responder services in the dale and high altitude medicine in far away lands!

All of these were dealt with in the skilful and professional manner we have all come to expect from our team members.

Training continues in earnest, with a number of team members successfully completing their basic casualty care course during the early part of the year and a number of candidates poised to commence advanced medical training on the forthcoming courses. Best of luck to them!

The coming year brings with it the possibility of having up to five advanced medics and one senior paramedic in the team. This would be an enviable position indeed and would provide a valuable resource to the Team and community.

The acquisition of definitive medical insurance cover has allowed the continuation of medical cover activities providing hands on experience for team medics. Events of note covered during the past twelve months have included the Great North Walk, Durham Constabularies Bikewise event, the Barnard Castle Meet and the Middleton-in-Teesdale carnival.

With an approved applications system now in place, it is hoped that this element of Team activity will progress further during the coming year.

Further advances have included the acquisition of more medical monitoring equipment. The team now has its own sophisticated defibrillator unit with three lead ECG monitoring capability, a number of pulse oximeter units and blood glucose monitoring kits. It is hoped that all team members will have the opportunity to receive training where required to become proficient in the use of all the shiny buttons in the coming year!

Finally, in stepping down from my role as casualty care officer I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have offered their time, skill and support over the years and wish my replacement every success for the future.

Ian Findlay commented that the training given to our casualty carers was one of the teams best attributes, mainly due to Richard and our thanks go to him for the time and effort he has put in.

20. **NESRA Report** – covered in team leaders report

21. Election of President and Vice-Presidents

ROLE	CANDIDATE	PROPOSER	SECONDER
President	Harry Vane	David Bartles-Smith	Adam Hearn
Vice-Presidents	Alan Best, Jon Stoddart, Cedric Scott, The Earl of Strathmore and Kingham, David Thompson, Chris Scott, Ian Findlay	David Bartles-Smith	Steve Marris

Due to ill health Ken Saxby has withdrawn from his position as vice-president, we wish him a successful recovery.

22. Election of Officers and Committee Members

ROLE	CANDIDATE	PROPOSER	SECONDER
Team Leader	David Bartles-Smith	Donna Stewart	John Little
Deputy Team Leaders (3)	Chris Roberts	Adam Hearn	John Little
	Adam Hearn	John Little	Stephen Marris
	Paul Renwick	Steve Owers	David Robinson
	Stephen Marris	Adam Hearn	Anthony Tubbs
Hon. Secretary	Donna Stewart	David Bartles-Smith	John Little
Hon. Treasurer	David Clark	David Bartles-Smith	John Little
Training Officer	Adam Hearn	Peter Bell	John Little
Youth Team Leader			
Casualty Care Officer	Paul Fell	Richard Warne	Russell Warne
Equipment Officer	Simon Stewart	David Bartles-Smith	David Robinson
Group Leaders (5)	Peter Bell	Proposed on mass by committee prior to the AGM - nominations via team leader or deputies	
	John Little		
	Paul Renwick		
	Stephen Marris		
	David Robinson		
	Richard Warne		

Public Relations Officer	Steve Owers	John Little	Anthony Tubbs
Fundraising	Anthony Tubbs	David Bartles-Smith	John Little
Transport Officer	Mark Davis	David Robinson	Simon Stewart
Team Member 'Reps'(4)	Karen Fisher	David Bartles-Smith	John Little
	Russell Warne	Adam Hearn	John Little
	Colin Radley	David Bartles-Smith	Anthony Tubbs
	Adam Hearn	John Little	Anthony Tubbs
SARDA Representative	Des Toward	Karen Fisher	Graham White
Associate 'Mem Rep'			
IT officer	John Little	Donna Stewart	David Bartles-Smith
Police liason	Bob Danby	Not Elected	

Due to four people standing for the three positions of Deputy Team Leader a secret ballot was held over seen by Donna Stewart and John Little.

Although the votes were close the candidates with the highest votes were Adam Hearn, Stephen Marrs and Chris Roberts.

As a result of the above, Stephen Marrs withdrew from the position of Group Leader with the remaining five candidates being voted in.

23. **Any other Business**

Chris Scott was re-elected as book-keeper

24. **Date and Time of 2008 AGM**

Thursday 13 November 2008 19.30hrs

The meeting was then brought to a close by Ian Findlay who wished the team luck for the next 40 years!