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**1 IMPORTANT VEHICLE NEWS**

*The Newsletter of  
Kendal Mountain Rescue  
Team*

# The Mintcake

*Incorporating Ecake, the electronic Newsletter for the Kendal Mountain Rescue Team.*

## Editors Comments

I hope that everyone enjoyed there Jubilee weekend, and made the most of the extra Bank Holiday.

This months offering has the usual mix of articles, but also features one item of particular importance, details of the preparation and arrangements surrounding the purchase of a new vehicle.

To someone such as myself whose very idea of heaven is not the various merits of 4 wheel drive systems this task seems quite an easy one. It is amazing, however, the amount of comment and opinion a subject such as this can generate.

The purchase of a new vehicle is a major investment for the team, and it needs everyone to help however they can to support the group running the project.

Please take time to read the various reports included in this issue of Mintcake on the subject of vehicles.

## Main Committee News

The Team's Main Committee discussed the Base & Vehicle WG report on a replacement for Mobile 2 and agreed with it's recommendation. However, the caveat that it's first option may not be available was, unfortunately, confirmed just prior to the meeting! Consequently a decision has to be made between the 2nd choice (65,000 on a

vehicle which will last 15 - 20 years and fully meet all the operational needs of the Team), or the 3rd choice (a 30,000 vehicle that will last 8 - 10 years but will impose restrictions on casualty transporting in severe weather etc.) With no financial constraints the choice is easy - the Pinzgauer. However as most of the money for any replacement vehicle will have to come from a new 'Wheels Appeal' (as we must earmark virtually all our current funds to pay for next years' running costs and the replacement radio system being forced upon us in the near future), we may be limited to the 2-wheel drive Toyota.

The existing Mobile 2 can be maintained in an operational state (but at a cost) for the next 12 months or so, but much beyond that it becomes a serious time and money problem. The lead time for any replacement vehicle (to produce a detailed specification, purchase, modification and introduction of the replacement) is at least 6 months and could be nearer a year. And that is after we have made the commitment to go for a particular model!

The Operations & Membership Working Group will consider the operational implications of having to go for a 2-wheel drive vehicle at their next meeting. The July Main Committee will then discuss all aspects of the matter, including the feasibility of raising a lot of money with a new 'Wheels Appeal' (which is hoped to start later this year). Team members are asked to consider both the operational restraints that may occur and also how we can raise money for either vehicle. Please attend either / both of the next Ops & M'ship and Main Committee to input to the discussion, or pass your thoughts onto any Committee member. If you

know of any local company who may be will to support the Team in a major way, please let the Committee know!

## Dates for the Diary

### Equipment and Medical Working group

26<sup>th</sup> June

### Fundraising

Saturday 31<sup>ST</sup> August 2002 -  
Westmorland Shopping Centre  
Collection

### Social

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> July

The annual Kendal 'V' L&A Cricket match. Players needed, please contact me if you are able to, and would like to play. (Particularly if you are good!!) Spectators welcome. There will be a BBQ (care of Kendal catering Core) Play will start between 17:45hrs & 18:00hrs

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July

150yrs of Kendal Mountain Rescue!! Three of our team members (Hil, Sue and Dagmar) are hitting the big 50 and throwing a party to celebrate!

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> July

BBQ at Punchbowl House,  
17:30hrs. An earlier starting time  
than in previous years to allow  
people to sober up ready for  
Monday morning, not that any of  
us would over indulge!

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> into Sunday 21<sup>st</sup>

As some of you may be aware,  
I am getting married in the  
summer (Simon Thorn not the  
editor). In celebration of this  
fact I am proposing a social event  
with a difference. The plan is to  
sit on top of a hill, (location TBC,  
mainly dependant on my ankle as  
it's currently in plaster) watch  
the sun go down, have a few  
beers, bottle of wine etc. bit of a  
laugh and wait for sunrise and go  
home. Possible locations include  
Thornthwaite Beacon, or  
Kentmere Pike. It will certainly  
be within team area.

I should mention that this event  
is not exclusive to KMSRT. I have  
invited other friends and  
relatives due to the reason  
initially behind it.

Everybody is welcome. Some  
people, I believe are bringing bivi  
gear with the intention of getting  
their heads down for a bit in the  
night. It's up to you!

Fingers crossed for fair weather!

#### Base and Vehicles

A few items from recent B & V meetings:

1. Rubbish - S.L.D.C. require the  
Team to register as a 'non-domestic waste  
producer' to have our rubbish taken away!  
Also only special bags that we have to buy  
from the council can be used. Collection of  
full bags would need to be arranged. The  
Team will try and not use system, by asking  
everyone to take rubbish home, or to the  
tip.

2. Generator (as used for  
Torchlight and occasionally micro waving in a  
bothy) - The generator is not routinely  
maintained. It is up too who ever plans to  
use it to get it checked over before hand  
AND to clean it and check afterwards. Any  
problems, then see Steve Kelley.

3. Notice boards and white boards -  
A reminder to all that the main white board  
is for very short term notices only.  
Interesting bits to go on the notice board  
in the main briefing room. All notice boards  
and white boards will regularly be 'purged'  
by B & V. If you want a note to stay pinned  
up until a certain date, then please make  
that fact clear.

4. Base Open Days - Please make a  
special effort to keep the base building,  
the vehicles and the grounds clean prior to  
the open days (2<sup>nd</sup> June & 25<sup>th</sup> August).

5. The next B & V meeting will be on  
Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2002, start 19.45. Any  
Team member (Supporter, Full or  
Provisional) is invited to come along, they  
will be made most welcome.

6. Replacement for Mobile 2 - On  
the notice board is a 'growing' specification  
list for the new vehicle, please have a look  
at it - then share your thoughts on the  
matter. It will provide the basis of the  
final specification for the replacement  
vehicle.

7. More on the replacement for  
Mobile 2 - The following outline options have  
been presented to the May Main  
Committee.

The Base & Vehicles Working Group  
have now completed the initial work on  
identifying a number of replacement options  
for Mobile 2. Considerable time and effort  
(particularly by Trevor Cotton & John  
Everett) has been spent identifying the  
options. This has been achieved by a  
combination of discussions / visits involving:

- vehicle suppliers
- specialist conversion companies
- manufacturers
- Team members
- other emergency service users.

The choice of possible vehicles is extremely limited. This conclusion has been reached  
after pragmatic consideration of:

- Principal operational requirements (main casualty transport / carry at least 10

Team members and kit / cope  
with all likely on-road conditions  
encountered locally).

- Likely funding restrictions of Team.
- Limited range of manufacturers and models.
- Height restriction due to base garage height.
- Anticipated width restraints in typical use.
- Stability and handling in typical use.
- Undesirability of sideways facing seats.

There is not a 'perfect vehicle' / 'perceived  
acceptable price' combination. The  
replacement vehicle will have to be a  
compromise.