

10-24 MAY 2013 FINAL DETAILS

WELCOME TO THE 34th TGO CHALLENGE!



Winter 2012/13 has been long and hard, with snow falling into April and temperatures remaining low. At the time of writing much of the Scottish Highlands are white and it's likely that many folk on 2013's Challenge will encounter substantial snow cover in such areas as Lochaber, the Monadhliath and the Cairngorms. The plateaux will doubtless have large snowfields, as will passes such as the Lairig Ghru and Jock's Road; gullies such as Coire Odhar (used by many to access the Ghru from the Cairn Toul massif) could remain choked and even impassable.

Please be sure to weigh up the conditions before setting off. If necessary, carry an ice axe, or even crampons. On the off-chance that early May brings a thaw, bear in mind that snow melt may affect river levels making some crossings more difficult or even impossible.

Don't hesitate to adopt FWAs or make other changes as conditions dictate – we hope that this year will be accident and incident-free. Just be sure to let those of us in Control know of any changes, by phone or text. For the latest snowcast check the Mountain Weather Information Service website at www.mwis.org.uk and the sportscotland Avalanche Information Service at www.sais.gov.uk.

Be sure to read this document carefully – it might boost your chances of getting across in one piece. Enclosed you should find, if requested, temporary membership passes for the Scottish Youth Hostels Association, entitling non-member Challengers to use hostels within the TGOC area. If a hostel is full, priority will be given to SYHA members. If you forgot to request a pass, send a small SAE to the co-ordinator. Also within this document are details of Finish Control, along with a list of participants, with intended start/finish points and dates.

**DURING THE EVENT CALL TGO CHALLENGE CONTROL
on 01674 663411 or text to 07710 272584**

SIGN-OUT POINTS

Each sign-out point will have a TGOC 2013 start register containing the names of all participants due to sign out from that point. Please ensure you sign the register before setting out so that we know who has started and when. If you don't sign out, we will assume you have not started – if you get into difficulties later on, the alarm will not be raised. **If for any reason you are unable to start, you must inform us** (and please cancel any accommodation you might have booked).

Location

Acharacle
Ardrishaig
Dornie
Glenelg
Lochailort
Mallaig
Morar
Oban
Plockton
Shiel Bridge
Strathcarron
Torridon

Sign-out Point

Loch Shiel Hotel, 01967 431224, info@lochshielhotel.com
Grey Gull Inn, 01546 606017, thegreygull@live.com
Dornie Hotel 01599 555205, dorniehotel@hotmail.co.uk
Mrs Davidson, Taobh na Mara, 01599 522310
Lochailort Inn, 01687 470208, enquiries@lochailortinn.co.uk
West Highland Hotel, 01687 462210, info@westhighlandhotel.co.uk
Morar Hotel, 01687 462346, cr@theangushotel.com
Youth Hostel, 01631 562025, oban@syha.org.uk
Plockton Hotel, 01599 544274, sales@plocktonhotel.co.uk
Kintail Lodge Hotel, 01599 511275, kintailodgehotel@btinternet.com
Strathcarron Hotel, 01520 722227, strathcarronhotel@gmail.com
Youth Hostel, 01445 791284, torridon@syha.org.uk

Sign-out points are open from 9am-5pm each day from Friday, May 10, to Monday, May 13, except Oban and Torridon hostels which might be closed at lunchtime. Please remember with all the hotels that we have to fit in with their normal business, so don't get upset if there is a slight delay. Registers will normally be held at the reception desk. The first available start time is 9am on Friday, May 10, and the last time for starting is 5pm on Monday, May 13.

The register for Glenelg will be at Mrs Davidson's house, Taobh na Mara, and is usually hung in the porch. Anyone in the village will tell you where the house is. Please note that Clan Travel will (on request) meet the Glasgow and Inverness buses at Shiel Bridge and take you to Glenelg. To book this service, phone them on 01599 555477.

Tom and Liz Forrest provide B&B at their guest house in Kinlochewe and may be able to collect Torridon starters staying with them from the train at Achnasheen and take them to the start point. For details contact them on 01445 760234.

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The Land Reform (Scotland) Act gives the public a general right of access to all open countryside in Scotland, so long as the right is exercised responsibly.

There are exceptions, such as in the vicinity of houses or other buildings, on industrial sites, airports, railway lines and military areas. Access rights can be temporarily suspended by local authorities in certain circumstances and due regard should be taken of any closure notices. Attention should also be paid to hazard warnings (eg. for forestry operations) and to reasonable diversion requests displayed by land owners or managers and farmers. The rights also include a right to camp wild for one or two nights, again provided you do this responsibly and keep away from houses or other buildings.

The rights and responsibilities of the public and of land managers are explained in the Scottish Outdoor Access Code at: www.outdooraccess-scotland.com. Simplified versions are available in leaflets at tourist information centres or from Scottish Natural Heritage via www.snh.gov.uk.

The long-standing good relationship between landowners and hillgoers in Scotland helped bring about the present legislation; Challengers can help ensure that relationship continues by showing due consideration to the land and its people.

There will inevitably be funnels such as the Corrieyairack Pass, Glen Feshie and Jock's Road, where concentrations of Challengers are unavoidable. Let us try to leave the impression of TGO 2013 walkers as people who care deeply for the countryside through which they pass. In particular, please be scrupulous about properly disposing of litter and human waste, and leaving campsites and bothies clean.

Within the context of freedom to roam there are a number of places where local requests regarding access should be observed, as follows.

1: Glen Feshie. The estate has requested that camping be confined to the area around Ruigh-aiteachain Bothy, or further up the glen. To reach Glen Feshie from Tromie Bridge (NN790995), follow the right of way through forestry to a point near the Allt Comhraigh (NN824983), just north of Baileguish. Follow the signs to cross the footbridge, then rejoin the path marked on the map at NN826982. Please note that the bridge at Carnachuin has still not been replaced; the only crossing is at Stronetoper.

2: Forest Lodge/Victoria Bridge. Ask at the lodge or at Inveroran Hotel about suitable places for camping.

3: Glen Muick/Loch Muick. Because of the specific characteristics and sensitivities of the Glen Muick/Loch Muick area, Balmoral Estate has requested that there should be no camping and we ask that Challengers comply with this request. The nearest bothies are at the rear of the lodge at Glas-Allt Shiel (north side of Loch Muick), and at Shielin of Mark (NO337827).

4: Balmoral Estate. As a reminder, the estate's preferred routes are as follows.

- 1: Low-level by the main track from the Old Bridge of Dee via Connachat, Invergelder & Balmoral Castle to Easter Balmoral.
- 2: From Connachat via the track to Glen Gelder and Gelder Shiel, east of Lochnagar to either Glas-allt-Shiel or the Spittal of Glen Muick.
- 3: By the same route but taking the path from NO273862 to the summit of Lochnagar, then on to Glas-allt-Shiel or the Spittal.
- 4: By the right of way from Braemar to Glen Callater then up to Carn an t-Sagairt Mor and across to Lochnagar, then on to Glas-allt-Shiel or the Spittal.
- 5: As above to Glen Callater then following the right of way via Jock's Road into Glen Doll (much of this ground is now owned by Balmoral).

Keeping to these routes will be greatly appreciated and will ensure continuation of our good relations with the estate.

5: Glen Lee. Dalhousie Estates has asked that there be no camping on or near Loch Lee's shore, used for night fishing.

6: Glen Mazeran. The estate has requested that Challengers do not walk past Glenmazeran Lodge. If you are coming down Glen Mazeran, please take the right fork at NH7442 27 and go across the river and down to Laggan and the minor road at NH748224, thus avoiding the big house and respecting the owners' privacy.

7: Mauld. The access from Mauld (sheet 26 GR 399386) up to Loch a'Mhuilinn and on to Eskdale Moor is currently blocked and is the subject of negotiation between the owner and Highland Council's access team. There is unfortunately no convenient nearby alternative route.

GLEN DOE DAM

Work on this major construction project on one of our most popular Monadhliath portals is complete. New infrastructure is depicted on the latest Ordnance Survey maps though we suspect most Challengers will be carrying older editions; some of the tracks will ease passage but keep your navigational wits about you and try not to fall in any new reservoirs!

BEAULY-DENNY POWER LINE

The four-year project to replace the 132kV power line between Beaulay and Denny with a 400kV super pylon line will continue through 2013. Challengers might encounter access restrictions around construction sites. The Mountaineering Council of Scotland website has useful information regarding access issues for specific locations in Highland Council, Cairngorms National Park and Perth and Kinross areas. It offers general advice regarding the project and access. The MCofS has been told access won't be stopped and staff and contractors have had guidance to be positive regarding access, but the site specific advice might help you avoid areas which might not be as peaceful as you had hoped due to construction activity.

UPLAND POWER STATIONS

The trend for defiling our uplands with wind turbines shows no sign of abating. If concerned, monitor the situation on-line (Challenger Alan Sloman's blog – alansloman.blogspot.co.uk – is a fine start point). Respect any signs encountered at construction sites and follow diversion requests; please inform Challenge Control of any sites encountered, so we can spread the word.

BRIDGE NEWS

The bridge near Gaick Lodge is still missing and the river there has to be forded. The bridge below Balnansteurtach, west of Blair Atholl, over the Garry, is also missing, as is the bridge over the Feshie at Carnachuin. It would be very helpful if Challengers could note missing bridges (or indeed bridges in place but not shown on OS maps), to help us provide accurate vetting information next year.

GLEN FESHIE LANDSLIPS

As far as we are aware, there have been no new landslips affecting the Glen Feshie path south of Ruigh-aiteachain bothy. All the existing landslips can currently be crossed with care.

FETTERESSO & DRUMTOCHTY FORESTS

These forests are notoriously confusing, especially when you are pressing on eager to reach the east coast. If heading this way, ensure you have the latest edition of OS Landranger sheet 45, which shows the main forest tracks quite accurately. Felling and timber harvesting take place regularly here, so if there are any diversions signposted for safety reasons, please follow them.

We are advised that exits from the forest to Corsebauld (NO719830 and NO723830) are badly overgrown and very difficult to use, and therefore advise against trying to use these; consider the West Bogton exit (GR: NO735834) instead.

TRAVEL

VisitScotland (contact 0845 859 1006, info@visitscotland.com, www.visitscotland.com) has plenty of information, especially useful for Challengers from overseas. All transport links in Scotland are shown on www.travelinescotland.com or phone 0871 200 22 33.

Trains: enquire at principal stations or contact National Rail Enquiries (0845 748 4950, www.scotrail.co.uk).

Buses: Scottish Citylink (0871 266 3333, info@citylink.co.uk, www.citylink.co.uk), Stagecoach (www.stagecoachbus.com).

Mallaig to Knoydart ferry: Bruce Watt's MV Western Isles leaves Mallaig daily (except Saturday and Sunday) at 10.15am and 2.15am, taking around 45 minutes (www.knoydart-ferry.co.uk, 01687 462320). See also Knoydart Seabridge (www.knoydartferry.com, 01687 462916); for details of local charter boats see www.theoldforge.co.uk/knoydart-boats.html.

Camasnagaul-to-Fort William ferry: last crossing is at 4.35pm, no crossing on Sundays.

Loch Ness ferry: Gordon Menzies' MV Morag mo Chridhe sails from Temple Pier (GR: NH528300), more than a mile from Drumnadrochit centre, at approximately 8am and 5pm – allow sufficient time to reach the pier. Pre-book at least a day ahead (gordon.menziesm@btopenworld.com, 01456 450205, 07831 434691) and confirm your place by text, include the names of all in your group, when approaching Drumnadrochit. Prices are £10 per person, £25 minimum per crossing. Morag holds 12 people with packs; please wait patiently for a subsequent crossing if you find the boat full; Gordon will endeavour to get everyone across to Inverfarigaig (GR: NH517237) as soon as he can.

The co-ordinator will try to answer specific travel enquiries in case of difficulty. If you wish to contact other Challengers in your area with a view to sharing outward or return travel, we can supply telephone numbers or e-mail addresses.

Hang on to your pack: remember the cautionary tale of the Challenger so engrossed in conversation that he forgot to retrieve his pack before the train from Glasgow split at Crianlarich – when he reached in Oban, his pack was en route to Fort William! Be sure to take all your belongings with you when alighting a bus or train at your start point... or before!

SLEEPING, EATING & DRINKING

SYHA HOSTELS

Glen Affric hostel (Alltbeithe) is available by pre-booking only (0845 293 7373); as of April 16 there were places available on May 11 but not May 10. Advance booking is recommended for Braemar (01339 741659), Glen Nevis (01397 702336), Cairngorm Lodge (formerly called Loch Morlich, 01479 861238) and Aviemore (01479 810345) hostels, especially at weekends.

The following SYHA hostels are closed or unavailable: Cannich, Glen Doll, Killin, Inverey (but see overleaf). Tomintoul (01807 580364) does not open until 17 May. General hostel enquiries should be addressed to SYHA, 7 Glebe Crescent, Stirling FK8 2JA (01786 891400, www.syha.org.uk).

INDEPENDENT HOSTELS

There is an excellent network of independent hostels throughout the area covered by the Challenge – far too many for us to list. All provide good accommodation at very reasonable rates (www.hostel-scotland.co.uk).

Corrou Station: There is no longer a bunkhouse at Corrou Station but the Corrou Station House Restaurant (with B&B) opens from 11.30am to 10pm every day except Tuesday (Tuesday accommodation may be pre-booked) 01397 732236 www.corrou-station-house-restaurant.co.uk.

The Old School at Inverey (1km east of the former YH) now appears to be a holiday cottage.

The bar & grill with adjacent bunkhouse in Station Road, **Dalwhinnie** (www.dalwhinniebunkhouse.co.uk, 01528 522237), proved very popular with Challengers in 2012. The owners hope to offer camping with the use of toilets and showers, and will accept parcels.

Challengers Ali Ogden and Sue Oxley have settled in at the **Newtonmore Bunkhouse** in Craigellachie House, Newtonmore (01540 673360). Mrs Os' offers a TGO Challenge special rate of £15 per person per night and will be keeping the kettle on for passing Challenge friends old and new.

A new farm-sited bunkhouse – the rather Tolkien-esque **Bunkhouse at the Round House** – has opened mid-way between Laggan and Newtonmore on the A86 (approx NN672951). Camping pitches might also be available. See www.myhighlandbunkhouse.com or call 01528 544344.

BOTHIES

If using bothies, please scrupulously respect the code of use as laid down by the Mountain Bothies Association. We have received complaints in the past about Challengers leaving litter and cutting live trees for firewood: not practices we have any desire to continue. Many bothies are under threat of closure because of poor behaviour by people using them. We can help

redress the balance. Corndavon Lodge, Kinlochive, Dalbeg (Monadhliaths) and the 'fisherman's bothy' at Loch Cuaich are no longer available. The MBA half of Charr should be open for Challengers (sleeping platforms but no fire).

Faindouran Lodge in Glen Avon has been damaged by a collapsed chimney stack, is unsafe and should not be used. There are a few reasonable tent pitches outside the bothy, or the MBA advises that the adjacent Pony Shed about 20 yards from the main lodge can be used as accommodation instead, with agreement from the estate, though vetter Bernie Marsall advises that it's not the in best condition and that there are few suitable camping spots down the glen.

The shelter at the Fords of Avon has been subject of improvement works but remains a very small dark space. As far as we know, Glas-allt-Shiel (Loch Muick) will be open, as will Gelder Shiel and Shielin of Mark.

We're always grateful to the Mountain Bothies Association for its tremendous work maintaining these facilities throughout the Highlands a beyond. Details of MBA membership and other bothy news can be found on www.mountainbothies.org.uk

CAMPING

More and more so-called "campsites" in Scotland seem to turn backpackers away. We'd like to hear from Challengers who have suffered in this way in case we can take things further.

The Kilvrecht site at Carie, on the south side of Loch Rannoch, will be open in May; facilities are basic. Memus campsite in Angus is closed. Tummel Bridge no longer takes tents. In Fort Augustus you should now use the Cumberland Campsite. To check whether parcels can be accepted, contact Stravaigers Lodge, Glen Doe Road, Fort Augustus, tel 01320 366257. The online guide www.scottishcampingguide.com has an A-Z listing of sites with indications as to whether tents are accepted. The website www.ukcampsite.co.uk is also a useful resource.

WILD CAMPING

A guidance note on wild camping, and a leaflet on toileting called Where to Go in the Great Outdoors in Scotland, are available free from the Mountaineering Council of Scotland, The Old Granary, West Mill Street, Perth PH1 5QP (01738 638227, www.mountaineering-scotland.org.uk). Please follow their very sensible advice, in the interests of the mountain environment.

MAR LODGE

The National Trust for Scotland will again offer a very warm welcome at Mar Lodge. The 12-bed bunkhouse is available along with the lodge's largest luxury apartment, which sleeps 17.

Special dinners will be laid on on the Thurs/Fri/Sat/Sun nights, and continental breakfasts will be available. Clearly labelled resupply parcels can be sent. Campers can access drying rooms, showers and toilets; tea and coffee will be available in the gunroom along with, perhaps, something stronger. Prebooking is much preferred – contact hospitality assistant Rebecca Rowe (RRowe@nts.org.uk, 01339 720170).

TARFSIDE

St Drostan's Hostel, in Tarfside, will be available for Challengers from May 18-22. Team Tarfside '13 will comprise of Patricia Smith, Marie Donohoe and Marion Mitchell, ably hindered... sorry, abetted, by hubbies John and Alan. As usual, *pre-booking is not possible* and beds will be allocated on a first-come basis. The overnight charge is £18 per person. *It is not possible to send parcels to Tarfside*. Please use your own sleeping bag; sheets and towels cannot be provided.

Challengers are welcome to camp on Tarfside's sports field (loo, phone, cold tap) without charge.

Whether you're in the hostel or on the sports field, be sure to drop into the hostel to say "Hi", have a brew and help wash up. Tea, coffee and snacks, including bacon butties and home baking, will be available.

The Retreat Museum in Glen Esk provides a meals delivery service for Challengers overnighting at Tarfside. A menu will be available at the hostel and the campsite, and you can phone your orders through (01356 648070). The Retreat will also be open from 8am for breakfast, tea and coffee. We are delighted to be working with The Retreat and encourage Challengers to use this excellent service. More at www.gleneskretreat.co.uk

LAGGAN (Speyside)

This much-valued stop-off for TGO Challengers has seen a number of important changes which those passing through in 2013 should be aware of.

Laggan Stores: sadly the shop, which has resupplied many as well as offering support and assistance, has closed. Our sincere thanks to last owner Kala Downton for supporting the event and all Challengers. Those who'd planned to resupply here will either have to carry additional supplies from the Great Glen or get to Newtonmore or Kingussie, or come up with another solution.

LATE UPDATE: Monarch Hotel (formerly the Monadhliath): revised opening times apply and camping is no longer allowed in the grounds. Rooms and meals available but best pre-book on 01528 544276. No evening meals available Monday, May 13.

Other options: the Pottery Bunkhouse & Tearooms (NN632931 – www.potterybunkhouse.co.uk) is busy at this time and proprietor Lynda Whitty prefers advance bookings. Payment is by cash and advanced bookings must be pre-paid. Call 01528 544 231.

Anyone coming unstuck in the Laggan area can contact Sue and Ali at **Newtonmore Bunkhouse** (01540 673360). The **Bunkhouse at the Round House**, mid-way between Laggan and Newtonmore on the A86, may also provide an answer (01528 544344).

Other accommodation news

The Feughside Inn has closed and is for sale, with an application for conversion into three dwellings with a further three on the site. The nearby campsite (01330 850669) happily accepts tents and is popular with Challengers nearing the east coast.

The Taynuilt Hotel, near Oban, should be fully re-open. New owner John McNulty is refurbishing the hotel to offer six bedrooms, as well as a bar and meals. Contact: 01866 822437.

The Tomdoun Hotel, Glen Garry, remains closed and isn't expected to be open during the 2013 TGO Challenge.

The Dunalastair Hotel, Kinloch Rannoch, went in to administration on November 2, 2012, and isn't taking bookings.

Popular Cougie Lodge's facilities may be slightly reduced this year due to illness. Check on 01456 415459.

BRAEMAR GATHERING

Challengers will again be given a special welcome in Braemar over the weekend beginning May 17.

Entertainment will be provided on Saturday night at the Moorfield House Hotel (if you require a meal there book in advance, stating TGOC: 01339 741244). Admission is free but donations to Braemar Mountain Rescue Team are welcome. Singalongs are likely Friday and Sunday nights.

Braemar Mountain Sports will open all weekend, offering outdoor goods, including gas, advice (including a weather forecast) and tea and coffee.

The Old Bakery offers non-alcoholic drinks free with meals, exclusively for Challengers, and the former Hungry Highlander chippie is now an Indian takeaway. The chemist has stocked up on plasters and can offer advice on many problems including foot injuries, blisters etc, while the butcher will have a large supply of pies and other goodies for sale, but will not be open on Sunday.

For more information please check Doug Bruce's detailed postings on the TGO Challenge message board at <http://pub9.bravenet.com/forum/static/show.php?usernum=757451871>.

OTHER USEFUL INFORMATION

ADMIN FORMS

A few folk forgot to submit their admin forms; we've therefore assumed that those people wanted neither a place at the Thursday or Friday night dinners and had declined the free socks kindly being provided by Bridgedale. If, however, you are among that number and have any medical conditions or are taking prescribed medicines we ought to know about in case of any emergency, please get in touch as soon as possible. Admin forms can still be downloaded from the event's on-line resources page at The Great Outdoors Magazine's website.

DOGS

Dogs are not allowed on the Challenge. Anyone breaking this rule will be disqualified.

LAMBING

May is still lambing time in the Highlands. Please pass through flocks quietly and carefully, trying not to disturb the ewes. If you see sheep in difficulty try to inform the farmer; such information is usually very much appreciated.

UNOFFICIAL CROSSINGS

These are not permitted. The limit on numbers taking part in the

Challenge has been set for sound reasons and with regard to visitor pressures. Anyone crossing with a non-Challenger will be disqualified (though we don't wish to discourage friends or relatives joining a Challenger for a few days).

OTHER EVENTS

The large-scale cycling event called Etape Caledonia, held around Pitlochry, Loch Tummel and Loch Rannoch over the weekend of May 11-12 should not affect us (details from www.etapecaledonia.co.uk).

The Aviemor Walking Festival (May 12-17, www.aviemorwalking.talktalk.net) and the Royal Deeside Walking Festival, based in Ballater (May 18-24, www.royal-deeside.co.uk/RDnews/walkweek.htm) may affect accommodation availability in these areas.

The Scottish 6-Days Motorcycle Trial, held from May 3-11, might affect Challengers at the front of the pack during the trial's final weekend. There are 275 competitors (plus lots of spectators) and on-the-ground impact can be substantial, especially after rain, making walking a tad unpleasant. It's not possible to say in advance which areas will be used when, but the Devil's Staircase in Glencoe, hill tracks around Kinlochleven, and Rannoch Moor have been used in the past. Further details from www.ssdt.org.

TICKS

The dangers of tick bites are being brought home with reports of Challengers not only being bitten (which we'd expect) but also occasionally being diagnosed with Lyme disease. Every year we hear more reports of places with tick infestations. Deer and sheep ticks are easily picked up when walking through bracken, heather or high grass. Ticks hide themselves away in the warmer areas of the body and their bite is not always noticed. Please be vigilant: examine yourself, your partner or companion for ticks when possible, carefully removing any found on the skin. Tick removal forks can be obtained from chemists or vets surgeries. If you feel unwell and suspect that ticks might be the cause, seek medical advice as soon as possible. Early symptoms of Lyme disease include fever, headache, tiredness, depression and a circular rash. Longer term, more serious conditions are difficult to treat. To the best of our ken, no Challenger has succumbed to the long-term effects of Lyme disease; be vigilant!

GREAT OUTDOORS GRUB

Backpacking food specialists Outdoors Grub is offering Challengers a scrumptious 10 per cent off its wide range of dried meals, snacks and accessories, a great way to get quality lightweight supplies at great prices. To place your order, go to www.outdoorsgrub.co.uk/tgoc and enter the unique discount code "TGOC695A" to proceed to the order form. You can also call Outdoors Grub on 0800 567 7152, though please note that payment needs to be made online – payment over the phone is no longer available. Note that this much-appreciated facility is for Challengers only.

SPOT-On for 2013

Our thanks to Donald Cruttenden at Adventure Trading Post, who will again provide facilities for SPOT tracker-carrying Challengers' progress to be followed on-line. For 2013, he has offered to try to add other devices to the map: we'd be delighted if folk planning to carry such a GPS-enabled unit would contact him to help conduct a trial...

Adventure Trading Ltd introduced SPOT units to the UK. They

allow walkers to send pre-programmed messages to family and friends to let them know they're safe, and allow them to track progress on Google Maps. They work via satellite, side-stepping concerns about phone signals or vandalised phone boxes.

In emergencies, a GPS location sent to the authorities takes the "search" out of "search & rescue"; in less threatening situations assistance can be summoned from family and friends. During 2012's storm, Challenge Control kept informal tabs on SPOT-carrying Challengers, reassured that they were still moving under their own steam, despite phone-ins being overdue.

If you'll be carrying a SPOT tracker or other device, please email your "Public Shared URL" (included in your SPOT account) to Donald Cruttenden at support@AdventureTradingPost.co.uk at least a fortnight before the Challenge begins; don't forget to mention the TGO Challenge connection.

Challengers can claim a 10% discount on SPOT units bought from Adventure Trading Post before the end of May. Visit www.adventuretradingpost.co.uk and enter the unique code "TGOC2013" when checking out or contact Donald on 0161 713 2426.

REUNIONS

Scottish Reunion organisers and vetters have found a fresh venue for the 2013 gathering. It will be held at the Crianlarich Hotel, over the weekend of October 18-20. Details were distributed with the February newsletter and will also be included with the Final Report in June.

TGOC 2014 – THE 35TH CHALLENGE

The 2014 TGO Challenge will be held from May 9-23 (the Spring Bank Holiday is on Monday, May 26). Full entry details plus a feature on the TGOC13 will appear in October 2013's TGO magazine, on sale in September.

QUERIES

Up to May 9, please address all queries to the co-ordinator on 01729 822547 or tgoc@outdoorsmanning.com. After 3pm on Friday, May 10, use Challenge Control in Montrose on 01674 663411 or tgoc@outdoorsmanning.com.

2013 FACTS AND FIGURES

At the time of writing there are 151 solo walkers, 55 pairs, 15 trios and three quartets. These include 22 solo ladies (three of them first-timers), and three female pairs.

As far as we can tell, we have 34 married couples or partners. There are four fathers and sons walking together, three brothers, one set of grandparents and granddaughter, and one mother and daughter. Although walking as two groups, the Fowkes/Best teams are the largest family unit, aiming for our fourth triple-generation crossing.

There are 13 people on a tenth crossing, including vetting team Les and Issy Silkowski and two, Chris Peart and Bernie Roberts, on a 20th. They'll receive commemorative plaques at the finish. At the other end of the experience scale, we have 90 first-timers, for all of whom we wish a great Challenge and many more to follow.

This year's overseas contingent is strong: we have 49 overseas Challengers from 14 countries: Netherlands (18 walkers), USA (8), Belgium (5), Germany (3), Finland (2), France (2) and one each from Barbados, Denmark, Switzerland, Ireland, Austria and Italy. Furthest flung are two entrants from Australia. Closer to home we have three walkers from Northern Ireland, 11 from Wales, 67 from Scotland and the rest from England. We haven't added up the Yorkshire contribution, but it's strong!

Jessica Emsley (walking with grandparents Hugh and Barbara), Michael Fallent, from Austria (with Ian Haslett) and David Halberstadt, from the Netherlands (with father Charles) are our youngest Challengers, all 19. Melvin den Os (20) from the Netherlands, walking with father Leo and Russ Manion, and Minna Maria Huttu-Hiltunen (24) from Finland and six others under 30 help reduce the average age to a mere 56. Senior status is held again by Jim Taylor at 90. David Towers, Bernard and Margaret Fowkes, and Lou and Phyllis La Borwit complete our five octogenarians. Bernard and Margaret are the senior pairing at a sprightly combined age of 165, while Lou and Phyllis have a mere 164 years between them.

Once again, Shiel Bridge has attracted the most starters (60), followed by Oban (51), Mallaig and Strathcarron (both 37), Torridon (28), Morar (20), Dornie (19) and Lochailort (18). Least used are Glenelg with just 6, Plockton (10), Ardrishaig (15) and Acharacle with 16 starters. We have identified 45 separate finish points, 10 more than last year. St Cyrus is again the favourite with 66 of you heading there (don't forget to visit the beach!). Next are Stonehaven (50), Montrose (36), Lunan Bay (30), Dunnottar Castle (22) and Scurdie Ness (15). Some 25 of the finish points are being used by one Challenger or group – enjoy the solitude!

You must obtain medical advice before taking part if you are unsure about your physical ability to take part in the 2013 TGO Challenge. All participants accept the inherent risks of mountain walking and agree to abide by the event's rules, conditions and its spirit. All participants at their own risk and acknowledge that The Great Outdoors magazine, Newsquest Specialist Media Ltd, its agents, personnel or associates (including event sponsors, organisers, vetters and others acting on the event's behalf) shall neither be liable for any damage, loss, injury, illness or mishap, however caused. Nor will they accept any responsibility for the individual safety and security of participants, or any difficulty, delay, injury or other mishap arising during the event. We strongly urge all participants to arrange their own personal accident insurance. Participants who do not agree to the above statement should contact the co-ordinator to notify him of their withdrawal.

WE'RE WAITING FOR YOUR CALL!

During 2012's TGO Challenge we had three mountain rescue call outs – fortunately all resolved without serious accident – almost equalling 2004's four call-outs, one of which proved to be a genuine emergency. This excellent article by vetter Alan Hardy, who was manning Control during TGOC04, underlines the importance of making your regular phone-in calls on schedule (or as close as can be). If you don't call in, a procedure is started which might lead to a search: please don't let this happen unnecessarily!

I switched the answerphone on. It was 22.15 on Day Three of the 2004 Challenge and I'd "lost" 22 Challengers. To tell the truth I hadn't actually lost them – they'd failed to ring in on schedule. I compiled a list of those missing. There were four first-timers and the rest were experienced Challengers.

By 8.30 next morning the 22 had been reduced by four messages left on the answerphone and two text messages. More calls were steadily received from Challengers who had arrived at their destination late the previous night or that morning. By lunchtime only six calls were missing – two pairs, two threes, one four and one solo walker. I was more concerned for the solo walker than the others and started asking other callers if they had seen him.

Finally someone reported seeing him the previous day, walking very slowly, and obviously behind schedule. I decided to give him another 12 hours before taking further action. By late afternoon all but one couple and the solo walker had rung in, and I'd received a further report that he was now only a short distance from his previous night's destination.

I carefully checked the missing pair's route sheet. A straightforward walk on the first day but a bit of a climb on the second, and a fairly long mileage through desolate country to reach their overnight spot. A quick check with the start point confirmed that they had set off.

From their route, it seemed that they had been staying in B&Bs on the first two nights. I checked the Challenge records and started to phone all the guest houses in the area they should have been in. No luck. The same process for the B&Bs for their second night again brought no success.

They were now 24 hours late ringing in and I was growing increasingly concerned for their wellbeing. While both were experienced, they were getting on in years. After discussing the situation with Roger, we started to consider advising the emergency services.

It was clear from the calls coming in that a significant number of Challengers were well-behind schedule. My missing soloist finally called to say he was struggling with severe blisters (he was later to retire from the event).

I consulted with Roger again and we decided to wait until the morning before taking any further action. The pair were effectively 24 hours late but, if they were having foot problems because of the heat and the wet conditions underfoot, they could well be a day behind by now. But the thought that there had been no contact with them since they started four days ago continued to worry us.

I switched on the answerphone and started to analyse the day's results. Another 16 had failed to call. I sighed and started the list for detailed checking the following morning.

Next morning there was still nothing from the missing pair. I had one more option to explore before raising the alarm. I contacted the Visitor Information Service and got a list of all B&Bs registered with them. There were several that I didn't have. The second call confirmed that my missing pair had stayed with them on the first night. My next call drew a blank but I obtained phone numbers for other non-listed B&Bs and finally found one where they had stayed on the second night.

I was starting to feel relieved. I now had only a further 48 hours to account for. A few more calls and their location for the third night had been found. They were late arriving and late leaving next day but were in good spirits. According to their route sheet it would now be another day before they were due to ring in again.

Eventually I received the long awaited call: "Good to hear from you and where are you now? ... fine ... you were supposed to ring me two days ago, what happened? ... you forgot? Forgot ..." I stopped as the phone went dead. His 20p had run out!

In fairness I did receive a further and very apologetic call later in the evening and they were fully appreciative of the worry they had caused. Please don't let this happen to you.

Final thoughts

It's not all about monitoring progress. Some folk need a friendly voice to talk to after a few days in the wilderness, some need encouragement and some need advice. I recall one phone call made on a mobile from the summit of Sgurr Thuilm asking: "How can I get down into Glenfinnan and is there somewhere to camp with a good water supply?"

"If you check your map you'll see Glenfinnan in a roughly southerly direction," I said.

"Yes, but as it wasn't on my route I haven't got the map."

"Of course you have," I replied, "it's on the same sheet." ... and then the confession that he'd cut the map into narrow strips that covered only his route!

Have you ever wondered why Control asks if you've met anyone during the day or whether anyone else is at the same location? It all helps to build up a picture of where folk are, between phone calls and when they were last seen, so that in the event of a search the field is as narrow as possible.

So while you're out there enjoying yourself, spare a thought for those manning the phones for at least 13 hours a day, trying to monitor some 300 lemmings heading for the east coast. And if you get the chance please call in, it only costs a few pence and could save a lot of worry later.

We are aware that the number of working phone boxes in rural areas is falling each year, so it is important to take the chance of making a call when you can.

MAKING THE CALL

Most Challengers will be carrying mobile phones this year – a few will be carrying more than one! Some have nominated some exotic phone-in points – Munro summits, bothies, remote glens and more. Remember, however, that reception at such places is sketchy at best, usually non-existent. If you pass a roadside payphone, or other opportunity to use a landline, make the most of it. As the story above relates, if those manning Control don't hear from you, and have concerns, a search/rescue might be initiated.

A few points to bear in mind:

- Mobile phone batteries run down faster if the phone is working to find a signal that doesn't exist.
- Preserve your phone's battery by keeping it turned off – not merely on standby – when you're not making a call.
- Regard your phone as an emergency device only: using it to enjoy music or blog from your tent will soon flatten the battery.
- Before May 10, consider registering your phone with the EmergencySMS system, which allows texts to be sent to the 999 services – see www.emergencysms.org.uk for information.



FINISH CONTROL & MONTROSE

Finish Control, at the Park Hotel, Montrose, will be staffed from 3pm on Friday, May 10, to 5pm on Friday, May 24. John Manning, Robin Woodger, Roger Smith and Sue Oxley (among others) will be on hand to take phone messages between 9am and 10pm (except in emergencies) and to check-in finishers.

Ensure that you phone in at least four times during your crossing with a brief report on your progress. Phone 01674 663411 for Challenge Control. This is a direct line, with an answerphone should the desk be unmanned. Ensure you carry this number with you. If you decide to change your route, or are delayed, let us know at the first opportunity. If you have pre-booked any accommodation please inform them of any changes or possible non-arrival to prevent unnecessary worry.

Anyone retiring from the event, for whatever reason, must inform us within 24 hours to prevent a search being started. Breaking this rule will incur a three-year suspension from the event. If you are in difficulty, and can reach a phone, call Finish Control; if the situation is serious, dial 999 and ask the police to contact Mountain Rescue. If you have followed our advice and are carrying a tent, sleeping bag, shell clothing and emergency rations, you should be able to cope until help arrives.

With so many people trying to phone Control, lines will be busy. If the direct line is engaged, please try again (particularly if walking solo) so that we do not worry unnecessarily, or call hotel reception on 01674 663400 and leave a clear message, including name(s) and TGO number(s), location and a short message. If your message is straightforward (ie, on course with no problems), you can text **07710 272584**, giving the same details. It might not be possible to acknowledge or reply to texts. As mobile phone signals remain unreliable in parts of the Highlands, we would prefer you to phone – it's always nicer to talk!

No matter where you reach the east coast, you must report in person to Finish Control in the hotel's Kinnaird Room, before 5pm on Friday, May 24, when Finish Control closes promptly. On arrival in Montrose please remember to remove boots, rucksacks and wet clothing at the hotel entrance. After signing the finish register, you will receive your TGO certificate and metal lapel badge for successfully completing the crossing, as well as a TGO13 base layer courtesy of Rab, socks from Bridgedale and a TGO Buff. Tea or coffee and biscuits will be available.

Parcels of clothing, addressed to TGO Challenge, Park Hotel, John Street, Montrose, Angus DD10 8RJ, can be sent to the finish for your arrival, marked clearly with your name and TGO number. Please don't send them until shortly before the event as the hotel cannot store them for long periods.

The Park is full on Thursday, May 23, but there is sometimes late availability; check as you near the east coast. Further accommodation can be found via the local tourism website, www.angusanddundee.co.uk.

Celebrations

There will be gatherings, including a fixed price meal, at the Park in Montrose on the Thursday and Friday evenings of May 23-24.

The largest of these is traditionally on the Thursday (May 23) evening, when those who have completed 10 or 20 crossings receive their plaques. The Thursday dinner must, for reasons of safety, be limited to a maximum of 180 people and is usually fully booked. Priority is given to TGO2013 participants, plus a small number of sponsor representatives and the organising team. Plaques will also be presented at the Friday dinner.

Non-Challengers (other than the permitted guest accompanying each Challenger receiving a 10th or 20th crossing plaque) cannot be guaranteed places at the Thursday dinner. If you know of any non-Challengers who are thinking of coming up to Montrose, please pass this message on and ask them to contact us either (preferably) in advance or at the Park during the event. Names will be noted and places at the Thursday dinner provided if any are available.

Please note that the dinner indications already provided on admin forms are regarded as provisional only and do not guarantee you a place; too many bookings have to be altered during the course of the event (due to withdrawals, retirements, early and late finishes, etc) for us to base final numbers on these. You will need a ticket to attend the Thursday or Friday dinners; these will be available at the control desk in the Park Hotel where you can also find out how to pay for the meal and request special dietary requirements; please honour these – every year, Challengers requesting vegetarian meals are disappointed as others (who've either forgotten to request a veggie option or simply take a shine to the vegetarian meals as they're being served) snaffle them. This is unfair on those who have requested them and on the hotel staff left to handle the aftermath

It might be possible to arrange an informal fixed-price meal at the hotel on Wednesday, May 22, for those who have finished and wish to eat together.

Challenge merchandise

Challenge mousemats, pens and cloth badges will be available at the finish. A few embroidered TGO13 Rab fleeces may also be available. This is in addition to the baselayers, socks and Buffs that 2013's Challengers will receive on completion together with their certificates and badges. A small number of 2012 T-shirts left over in the wake of 2012's storm will also be available on a first-come, first-served basis. No reservations allowed!

Visions of the Gorms

TGO Challenger, The Great Outdoors Magazine's gear guru and looooong distance backpacker Chris Townsend has spent the winter making a documentary about the Cairngorms with cult outdoor filmmaker Terry Abraham. The film will debut at the Keswick Mountain Festival on May 18, appropriately enough at the same time as this year's Challengers will be ploughing through the 'Gorms on their own journeys. Just so you don't miss out, we hope to be able to show the movie in the Park Hotel during the last couple of days of the Challenge and might even have DVD copies available for sale. For full details, just reach the east coast!

Bern Ross: Inspired By Scotland

Challengers will be especially welcome at a solo art exhibition featuring the work of Bern Ross, wife of Challenge nine-timer Rod. "All my paintings are inspired by the climate and terrain here in Scotland and meeting the friendly, creative people," says Bern, who specialises in seascapes and figure drawings. The exhibition of between 50 and 100 of Bern's paintings will be in Montrose Library throughout May. Admission is free. Priced from £60 for framed drawings up to £700 for the largest 50" x 40" canvases, sales are being handled by the library (cash or cheques only) and Bern can arrange home delivery (Special Delivery £10; £20 if over 2kg). The library, at the south end of the High St where the shops peter out (by the Mill Lane cut-through to Tesco) is open between 10am and 5pm (except Wednesday afternoons).

Montrose massage magic

Turquoise Holistic Therapies will again be delighted to welcome weary Challengers to its treatment room in John Street (less than a two-minute walk from the Park Hotel). THT offers massage (with or without hot stones), aromatherapy, reflexology, reiki, Thai foot massage, and Indian head massage. Anyone wishing to book a treatment will be asked to complete a confidential online health questionnaire. Full details of all therapies and TGO Challenge specials, starting from £20, are available under special offers at www.turquoise-montrose.co.uk or call 01674 678775. Inez will have soothing and relaxing appointments available for weary soles throughout your time in Montrose but book early to avoid disappointment.

TGO CHALLENGE 2013: PARTICIPANTS

This list differs from that issued in February 2013. Numbers are allocated here: please note your Challenge number carefully and add it to your route sheet, so that you can refer to it when phoning Control.

Number of previous Challenges completed shown in brackets. Walking partners indented. * = new Challenger.

Tenth and 20th crossings in bold. Late withdrawals scored through.

Key to start point abbreviations:

- **Ach** – Acharacle • **Ard** – Ardrishaig • **Do** – Dornie • **GI** – Glenelg • **La** – Lochailort • **Ma** – Mallaig •
- **Mo** – Morar • **Ob** – Oban • **PI** – Plockton • **SB** – Shiel Bridge • **Sc** – Strathcarron • **To** – Torridon •

No.	Name	Age	Hometown	Sign out	Finish
1	Keith Adams	61	Glasgow*	SB 10/5	Montrose 23/5
2	Vicky Allen	64	Stowmarket (13)	Mo 10/5	Kinnaber Links 23/5
3	John Ambrose	58	Motherwell (2)	Sc 10/5	Montrose 20/5
4	Brian Aspinall	71	Rugby (8)	Ard 10/5	Arbroath 22/5
5	Paul Atkinson	58	Ellon*	Do 11/5	Stonehaven 23/5
6	Leendert Bakker	54	Amsterdam, Netherlands (1)	Sc 10/5	Stonehaven 22/5
7	Karin Moor	54	Amsterdam, Netherlands*		
8	Stuart Ball	37	South Queensferry (2)	Ob 10/5	Stonehaven 23/5
9	Kenneth Little	49	South Queensferry (2)		
10	Alan Little	53	South Queensferry (2)		
11	Martin Banfield	64	Altrincham (6)	PI 10/5	Fraserburgh 23/5
12	Judith Barnes	43	Wirral (6)	Ard 11/5	Meg's Craig 23/5
13	Colin Bennett	55	Gerrards Cross (4)	Mo 10/5	Grim Brigs 22/5
14	Jacqueline Best	59	Loughborough (4)	SB 10/5	Lunan Bay 23/5
15	Anthony Ford	60	Loughborough*		
16	Emily Best	32	Loughborough (2)		
17	Mick Blackburn	58	Burton-upon-Trent (3)	Ach 10/5	Stonehaven 22/5
18	Gayle Faulkner	38	Burton-upon-Trent (3)		
19	Steven Blomeley	46	Sale (2)	Ach 11/5	Dunnottar Castle 24/5
20	Edward Jeffries	40	Nottingham*		
21	Roger Boston	63	Burghead (6)	Ob 10/5	Collieston 23/5
22	James Boulter	41	Nottingham (1)	Ma 10/5	St Cyrus 23/5
23	David Boyd	62	Stirling (3)	Ob 10/5	Arbroath 23/5
24	Marion Boyle	65	Paisley*	Sc 10/5	Montrose 24/5
25	John Braide	63	Stockport (1)	SB 10/5	Stonehaven 24/5
26	Nick Bramhall	28	Aberdeen*	PI 11/5	St Cyrus 23/5
27	Trevor Brewster	61	Leeds*	SB 10/5	St Cyrus 22/5
28	David Brocklehurst	73	York (12)	To 10/5	Red Castle 23/5
29	Margaret Brocklehurst	71	York (12)		
30	Graham Brookes	67	Stockport (21)	SB 11/5	Red Castle 23/5
31	Allan Brown	55	Inchture*	SB 10/5	St Cyrus 22/5
32	Jeremy Burrows	45	Bedford (7)	Mo 10/5	Whiting Ness 23/5
33	John Burt	74	Alfreton (14)	Mo 10/5	Portlethen Village 24/5
34	William Burton	60	Christchurch, Barbados (1)	Do 10/5	Fraserburgh 23/5
35	Evan Bush	33	Bury St Edmunds*	La 10/5	St Cyrus 23/5
36	Catherine Cain	64	Darvel (5)	Ard 10/5	Catterline 23/5
37	Nigel Campbell	63	Compton Bishop (2)	La 10/5	Scurdie Ness 23/5
38	Paul Campbell	52	Bangor, Northern Ireland*	Ob 10/5	Montrose 23/5
39	Anthony Cathcart	70	Nuneaton (6)	To 10/5	Kinnaird Head 23/5
40	Bernie Clark	58	Gourock (2)	GI 10/5	St Cyrus 23/5
41	Roger Clegg	66	Wirral (2)	Ob 10/5	Stonehaven 22/5
42	Philip Linley	67	Wirral*		
43	Peter Clegg	61	Littleborough*		
44	David Foster	56	Stockport*		
45	Diane Collins	55	Monmouth (2)	To 10/5	Fraserburgh 23/5
46	Giles Cooper	40	Halifax (1)	Sc 10/5	Stonehaven 21/5
47	Ian Cotterill	51	West Kilbride (11)	SB 10/5	Slains Castle, Port Errol 23/5
48	Jim Cowie	67	Ceredigion (2)	Ach 11/5	Cowie 24/5
49	Doug Cowie	33	Ceredigion*		
50	Jeff Cracknell	49	Colchester (11)	Ob 10/5	Gourdon 23/5
51	Joke Cracknell	62	Colchester (8)		
52	Colin Crawford	55	Glasgow (14)	Ma 10/5	Dunnottar Castle 23/5
53	John Boyce	52	Edinburgh*		
54	Graham Crowder	56	Kelty (3)	SB 10/5	Stonehaven 23/5
55	Toby Dace	55	Leeds*	SB 11/5	St Cyrus 22/5
56	Vicky Green	38	Leeds*		
57	Frank Davis	71	Amstelveen, Netherlands (5)	Ard 10/5	Inverbervie 22/5

58 Andrew Dawkins	50 Manchester (4)	SB 10/5	Scurdie Ness 23/5
59 Pat Deane	70 Brecon (10)	Ard 10/5	Doonies Yawns 23/5
60 John Dingwall	73 Edinburgh (10)	Ob 10/5	St Cyrus 23/5
61 Raymond Disson	66 Chiseldon*	Ma 10/5	St Cyrus 23/5
62 Amanda Simmons	53 Cowes*		
63 John Dixie	70 Bishops Waltham (2)	To 11/5	Tangleha' 23/5
64 Helen Dixie	64 Bishops Waltham (2)		
65 Gregory Doughty Davis	56 Chesieres, Switzerland*	PI 10/5	Inverbervie 22/5
66 Anthony Driscoll	42 Wrenbury (3)	Ob 11/5	Arbroath 21/5
67 Graeme Dunsire	45 Letham (6)	Sc 10/5	Dunnottar Castle 23/5
68 Marion Dunsire	57 Letham (6)		
69 Jérémie Salaün	28 Le Merzer, France*		
70 Alan Dutton	67 Inverness (2)	SB 10/5	Lunan Bay 22/5
71 Jane Eggleston	59 London (3)	To 10/5	Lunan Bay 22/5
72 Hugh Emsley	65 Bala (2)	Do 10/5	St Cyrus 23/5
73 Barbara Emsley	66 Bala (1)		
74 Jessica Emsley	19 Horsham*		
75 John Enoch	49 Leamington Spa (4)	Sc 10/5	St Cyrus 23/5
76 Louise Evans	44 Forres (2)	PI 10/5	Lunan 23/5
77 Sheila Farley	51 Old Coulsdon (16)	Mo 10/5	Hall Green Castle 24/5
78 Brian Farncombe	66 Winchester (3)	Ma 10/5	Stonehaven 22/5
79 Michael Firkins	57 Mt Osmond, SA, Australia (1)	Do 10/5	St Cyrus 22/5
80 Richard Flint	29 Aylesbury*	Ma 10/5	St Cyrus 23/5
81 Theo Fokker	52 Naarden, Netherlands (1)	Ma 10/5	St Cyrus 23/5
82 Tony Ford	62 Macclesfield (3)	SB 10/5	Aberdeen 19/5
83 Pam Baird	63 Macclesfield (1)		
84 Adrian Fortune	47 Bradford (4)	Ach 10/5	Stonehaven 22/5
85 Bernard Fowkes	84 Loughborough (20)	SB 10/5	Lunan Bay 23/5
86 Margaret Fowkes	81 Loughborough (20)		
87 Darren Fowler	45 Medomsley*	SB 11/5	St Cyrus 23/5
88 Stuart Dixon	48 Tanfield Lea*		
89 Stuart Fraser	40 Banchory*	SB 10/5	Scurdie Ness 24/5
90 Scott Hamilton	40 Aberdeen*		
91 Richard Fuell	50 Thame (2)	Sc 10/5	Lunan 23/5
92 Rosemary Bryant	52 Thame (1)		
93 Bob Garnett	74 Riding Mill (7)	Sc 10/5	St Cyrus 24/5
94 Andrew Gerrard	57 Nether Wallop*	To 10/5	Dunnottar Castle 22/5
95 Diana Gerrard	45 Scarborough (7)	Mo 10/5	Downies 23/5
96 Jim Gibson	59 Menstrie*	Mo 10/5	Catterline 22/5
97 Barry Gilbert	53 Epsom (5)	GI 10/5	Johnshaven 21/5
98 Peter Goddard	66 Kirkby Stephen (22)	To 10/5	Seagreens 21/5
99 Peter Goodwin	70 Ludlow (13)	Ob 10/5	Redcastle 23/5
100 Ursula Woodhouse	74 Tenbury Wells (9)		
101 Donald Gray	62 Gloucester (5)	La 12/5	Nether Warburton 24/5
102 James Gray	28 South Wigston*	SB 11/5	St Cyrus 23/5
103 Gordon Green	63 Tamworth (3)	To 10/5	Stonehaven 22/5
104 John Griffiths	54 Minsted*	Mo 10/5	St Cyrus 23/5
105 Lindy Griffiths	54 Bolton (1)	SB 10/5	St Cyrus 22/5
106 Neil Griffiths	46 Ystrad Mynach*	Ob 10/5	Montrose 23/5
107 Marianne Grootveld	55 Ijmuiden, Netherlands*	Do 10/5	Montrose 22/5
108 Willem Fox	62 Amsterdam, Netherlands (1)		
109 Sam Hackett	59 Crewe (14)	Ard 10/5	Lunan Bay 22/5
110 Charles Halberstadt	59 Meppel, Netherlands*	Ma 10/5	Dunnottar Castle 23/5
111 David Halberstadt	19 Meppel, Netherlands*		
112 Valerie Hamilton	50 Lydbrook (1)	Sc 10/5	Catterline 23/5
113 Jon Hancock	43 Manchester (2)	SB 10/5	Lunan Bay 23/5
114 Gerry Harber	68 Morpeth (3)	Ard 10/5	Johnshaven 23/5
115 Alan Hardy	69 Walton on the Naze (24)	Ach 10/5	Dunnottar Castle 23/5
116 Bernard Forrester	59 Colchester (2)		
117 Rod Ross	63 Stonehaven (9)		
118 Julie Harle	53 Fisherville, KY, USA (3)	To 10/5	The Deil's Heid 21/5
119 Robert Harvey	47 Stockport*	SB 11/5	St Cyrus 24/5
120 Ian Haslett	32 Kendal (3)	Do 11/5	Lunan Bay 22/5
121 Michael Fallent	19 Waldneukirchen, Austria*		
122 Robert Hausam	59 Midvale, UT, USA (2)	La 11/5	Stonehaven 23/5
123 Bert Hendrikse	63 Maassluis, Netherlands (15)	Ob 10/5	St Cyrus 23/5
124 Suus Hubregtse	61 Maassluis, Netherlands (13)		
125 Chris Henwood	70 Truro*	SB 10/5	St Cyrus 22/5
126 Tony Hewitt	57 Cheadle (5)	SB 10/5	Scurdie Ness 24/5
127 Philip Hill	56 Wigan (2)	Sc 10/5	St Cyrus 22/5
128 Hein Hogenhuis	61 Didam, Netherlands (7)	La 10/5	Red Castle 24/5

129	Gary Holt	49	Doncaster (1)	Ob	10/5	Montrose	22/5
130	Freddie Phillips	67	Stockton on Tees*				
131	Derek Hopkins	63	Aldershot (3)	SB	11/5	St Cyrus	24/5
132	Michael Hopkins	60	Croydon (13)	Ob	10/5	Tangleha'	23/5
133	Peter Shepherd	72	Morpeth (15)				
134	Bart Horeman	53	Odijk, Netherlands (2)	Ard	10/5	Inverbervie	23/5
135	Minna Maria Huttu-Hiltunen	24	Kiljava, Finland*	Sc	10/5	St Cyrus	22/5
136	James Impey	50	Great Dunmow (2)	Sc	10/5	Montrose	22/5
137	Harry James	70	Gosforth (1)	Mo	10/5	Montrose	23/5
138	Mike Jepson	57	Wirral*	Ma	10/5	Stonehaven	24/5
139	Allan Freeland	41	Ellesmere Port*				
140	Jaya John John	41	Oxford (1)	Ob	10/5	Lunan Bay	24/5
141	Barney Stratford	35	Cambridge (1)				
142	Ray Johnson	60	Woolacombe (4)	Sc	10/5	Lunan Bay	23/5
143	David Poole	53	Swindon (5)				
144	Dennis Jones	46	Milton Keynes*	Ma	10/5	Stonehaven	22/5
145	Denise Jones	34	Milton Keynes*				
146	Lindsay Jones	58	Steyning (1)	Ma	10/5	Stonehaven	23/5
147	Alan Jordan	61	Stafford (12)	SB	10/5	Grim Brigs	22/5
148	Alan Kay	72	Ilkley (13)	Ard	10/5	Grim Brigs	23/5
149	Norma Keohane	62	Great Eccleston (9)	Ob	10/5	Stonehaven	22/5
150	John Keohane	59	Great Eccleston (17)				
151	Rolf Kerkhof Mogot	53	Ede, Netherlands (4)	Ma	10/5	Inverbervie	22/5
152	Marc Kevers	60	Chaumont-Gistoux, Belgium*	SB	10/5	St Cyrus	23/5
153	Alain De Decker	64	Jambes, Belgium*				
154	Guy Jacques	62	Colfontaine, Belgium*				
155	Gaetan De Decker	61	Limal, Belgium*				
156	Chris Kitt	50	Luncarty (1)	Ob	10/5	Montrose	23/5
157	Paul Kneeshaw	62	Taunton (7)	SB	10/5	Dunnottar Castle	22/5
158	Stephen Curtis	57	Taunton*				
159	Mike Knipe	61	Crook (11)	Ma	10/5	Scurdie Ness	23/5
160	Brenda-Dawn Linney	62	London (1)				
161	Manfred Kopisch	49	Menlo Park, CA, USA*	To	10/5	Stonehaven	23/5
162	Kerstin Kramer	49	Laurencekirk*	SB	10/5	Stonehaven	20/5
163	Margaret Anderson	55	Laurencekirk*				
164	Lou LaBorwit	83	Bowie, MD, USA (16)	SB	10/5	Tangleha'	22/5
165	Phyllis LaBorwit	81	Bowie, MD, USA (15)				
166	Philip Lambert	61	Bury St Edmunds (9)	Ob	10/5	Scurdie Ness	23/5
167	Andrew Walker	59	Cambridge (7)				
168	Alan Sloman	57	Warfield (17)				
169	Neale Lamond	53	Blairgowrie (9)	Sc	10/5	Peterhead	22/5
170	Stephen Foley	59	Blairgowrie (4)				
171	Veronica Foley	59	Blairgowrie (4)				
172	Stefan Lätzel	35	Essen, Germany (2)	Sc	10/5	Montrose	23/5
173	Shenia Dzaszyk	33	Essen, Germany*				
174	Andreas Becker	36	Essen, Germany*				
175	Chris Leach	56	Cardiff (1)	Ma	10/5	St Cyrus	23/5
176	Keith Leonard	65	Manchester (16)	La	10/5	Inverbervie	23/5
177	Ngumo Charles Dimitri	38	Scarborough (3)				
178	Graham Lewis	70	York (3)	PI	10/5	Stonehaven	23/5
179	Tina Davis	52	York*				
180	Richard Lewis	45	King's Lynn*	Mo	11/5	Stonehaven	21/5
181	Terry Leyland	68	Salford (17)	Do	10/5	Tangleha'	23/5
182	Laura Liddell	64	Ballater (3)	Ach	10/5	Lunan Bay	22/5
183	Matt Little	46	Bristol*	Ma	10/5	St Cyrus	23/5
184	Iain Lowther	28	Langley Park*	Ob	11/5	Scurdie Ness	22/5
185	James Lyus	41	Banchory*	Ma	12/5	Montrose	24/5
186	William MacAffer	47	Lochgilthead*	Ob	10/5	St Cyrus	22/5
187	Nicky MacCrimmon	29	Invergowrie*	Ma	10/5	Montrose	22/5
188	Elizabeth Dillon	39	Invergowrie*				
189	Rod MacDonald	47	Arbroath (1)	Sc	10/5	Dunnottar Castle	22/5
190	Bruce Maden	75	Preston (10)	SB	10/5	Seagreens	23/5
191	Frederic Maillard	47	Angers, France (1)	La	10/5	Stonehaven	23/5
192	Russ Manion	69	Taunton (12)	SB	10/5	St Cyrus	23/5
193	Leo den Os	49	Leiden, Netherlands*				
194	Melvin den Os	20	Leiden, Netherlands*				
195	Susan Marshall	62	Nelson (3)	SB	10/5	Arbroath	22/5
196	Chris Marshall	66	Nelson (3)				
197	Stuart Maxwell	31	Laurencekirk*	La	10/5	Montrose	24/5
198	Shap McDonnell	46	Wedmore (2)	PI	10/5	Crawton Bay	22/5
199	Brian McGill	58	Crewe (7)	SB	11/5	Johnshaven	22/5

200	Andrew Miller	46	Aberdeen*	Mo	10/5	Montrose	24/5
201	David Smith	40	Blakehurst, Australia*				
202	Pete Milner	55	Cheltenham*	Ma	10/5	Montrose	24/5
203	David Milton	46	Huddersfield (2)	Sc	10/5	Lunan Bay	22/5
204	Peter Molenaar	46	Maasdijk, Netherlands (6)	To	10/5	Crawton Bay	23/5
205	Sue Moore	56	Exmouth*	Sc	11/5	Stonehaven	21/5
206	Nicole Morschett	49	Inverness (2)	La	10/5	Dunnottar Castle	23/5
207	Don Newlands	61	Arbroath (3)	Do	10/5	Aberdeen	19/5
208	Andy Turner	55	Arbroath (3)				
209	Jim Lyons	61	Arbroath (2)				
210	Maria Norris	44	Preston*	To	10/5	Montrose	23/5
211	Carl Oddy	71	Chelmsford (9)	Ob	10/5	Findon Ness	22/5
212	Alison Ogden	47	Rotherham (7)	To	10/5	Blackdog Rock	23/5
213	Craig Parkes	38	Helston*	SB	10/5	St Cyrus	22/5
214	Brendan Duriez	43	Falmouth*				
215	Marian Parsons	64	Patterdale (3)	Gl	10/5	Scurdie Ness	23/5
216	Mike Parsons	70	Patterdale (3)				
217	Kirsten Paterson	65	Perth (2)	SB	10/5	Stonehaven	20/5
218	Chris Peart	63	Frome (19)	Ach	10/5	Scurdie Ness	24/5
219	Barbara Peers	76	Liverpool (10)	SB	10/5	St Cyrus	23/5
220	Louise Kiernan	65	Portland, OR, USA (4)				
221	David Pickles	50	Yelverton (2)	Ma	10/5	Stonehaven	23/5
222	Keith Pickup	66	Barnoldswick (7)	La	10/5	Arbroath	21/5
223	Denis Pidgeon	68	Glasgow (12)	SB	10/5	Scurdie Ness	23/5
224	Jean Pitchforth	67	Newtown St Boswells (2)	La	10/5	Stonehaven	23/5
225	Tony Pitchforth	72	Newtown St Boswells (1)				
226	John Plume	62	Keighley (6)	PI	10/5	Montrose	24/5
227	Sue Plume	59	Keighley (6)				
228	Jane Åsell	66	Birkerød, Denmark*				
229	Susan Pow	53	Livingston*	Ob	10/5	St Cyrus	24/5
230	Elizabeth Robertson	60	Livingston (1)				
231	Jeremy Prall	55	Sedbergh*	Mo	10/5	Rattray Head	22/5
232	Andy Pritchard	45	Tiverton*	La	10/5	St Cyrus	23/5
233	Tony Pugh	71	Ely (11)	SB	10/5	Fisherhills	23/5
234	Sean Putnam	70	Wellingborough (1)	Ob	10/5	St Cyrus	22/5
235	Norman Reeves	64	Ipswich (15)	Ob	10/5	Seagreens	23/5
236	Colin Reid	52	Inverurie (7)	Ma	10/5	Catterline	22/5
237	Bernie Roberts	67	Tunbridge Wells (19)	SB	10/5	Montrose	23/5
238	David Robertson	62	Perth (1)	Ach	10/5	Stonehaven	20/5
239	Iain Robertson	63	Cheltenham (1)	Ach	10/5	Peterhead Bay	22/5
240	Simon Hutchinson	61	Shaftesbury (1)				
241	Oliver Robinson	45	Launceston (2)	To	10/5	St Cyrus	22/5
242	Nicolas Roggen	43	Heusden, Belgium (6)	Sc	10/5	Dunnottar Castle	24/5
243	Jeffrey Rowe	70	Hessle (11)	Mo	10/5	Stonehaven	24/5
244	Martin Rye	46	Norwich (3)	To	10/5	Lunan Bay	23/5
245	Philip Werner	53	Maiden, MA, USA (1)				
246	Grant Sible	52	Austin, TX, USA*				
247	Andrew Salmons	44	Swansea (3)	Ma	10/5	Stonehaven	21/5
248	Barbara Sanders	61	Burnley (9)	Ob	10/5	Lunan Bay	23/5
249	Peter Kenyon	69	Burnley (8)				
250	Ellie Taylor	57	Accrington (3)				
251	Derek Goffin	61	Accrington (2)				
252	Simon Sawers	62	Peterculter (2)	SB	11/5	Balmedie Beach	22/5
253	Koos Schellevis	67	Wijk aan Zee, Netherlands (13)	SB	10/5	Kinnaird Head	22/5
254	Stuart Scott	62	Yelverton (10)	Gl	10/5	Montrose	23/5
255	Maria Scott	63	Yelverton (13)				
256	Bob Shield	60	Nottingham*	SB	10/5	Stonehaven	22/5
257	Les Silkowski	55	Appin (9)	Sc	10/5	St Cyrus	23/5
258	Issy Silkowski	52	Appin (9)				
259	David Skipp	44	Bournemouth (10)	Ob	10/5	Todhead Point	23/5
260	Robert Slade	45	Cardiff (5)	Do	10/5	Dunnottar Castle	23/5
261	Victor Slawski	59	Langport (7)	Do	10/5	Arbroath	23/5
262	Nicola Slawski	58	Langport (6)				
263	Craig Smith	52	Dundee*	SB	12/5	Montrose	23/5
264	Ian Smith	67	Dunfermline (2)	Ma	10/5	Stonehaven	23/5
265	Colin Lees	68	Dunfermline (2)				
266	Ian Sommerville	62	Aberdeen*	Ma	10/5	Aberdeen	23/5
267	Ted Spiller	69	Birmingham (10)	Sc	10/5	Keith Inch	23/5
268	Jenny Spiller	64	Birmingham (10)				
269	Ken Stimson	66	Swindon (4)	Ob	10/5	St Cyrus	23/5
270	Nina Stimson	67	Swindon (4)				

271 Mark Storey	43 Lechlade on Thames (7)	To 10/5	Montrose 23/5
272 Rod Sutcliffe	61 Hebden Bridge*	To 12/5	Stonehaven 23/5
273 John Tattersall	54 Salisbury (1)	To 10/5	Johnshaven 24/5
274 Susan Tattersall	51 Salisbury (1)		
275 James Taylor	90 Glenrothes (18)	Ard 10/5	Usain 21/5
276 Alan Tees	62 Londonderry, NI*	Ma 10/5	Montrose 23/5
277 Finbarr Mullin	61 Dungiven, Co Derry, NI*		
278 Jeanette Tennant	59 Aberdeen (3)	Ard 10/5	Johnshaven 23/5
279 Allison Summers	66 Stonehaven (1)		
280 Biagio Pellegrini	68 Varedo, Italy (4)		
281 Joy Thompson	68 Llandeilo (9)	Sc 10/5	Catterline 23/5
282 Ann Thorn	65 Penrith (13)	Ard 10/5	Dunnottar Castle 23/5
283 Alvar Thorn	68 Penrith (13)		
284 Geoff Tipler	66 Balsham (3)	Mo 10/5	Bellman's Head 20/5
285 Antti Tirilä	36 Siivikkala, Finland*	SB 11/5	St Cyrus 24/5
286 Colin Tock	62 Inch (15)	Ma 10/5	Stonehaven 23/5
287 David Towers	80 Settle (21)	SB 10/5	Footdee 22/5
288 Bob Tucker	68 Consett (12)	Ach 10/5	Braidon Bay 23/5
289 Jean Turner	73 Dunfermline (9)	Ma 10/5	Charleton/Kinnaber Links 23/5
290 Gerard Uiterwaal	69 Leersum, Netherlands*	Ob 10/5	St Cyrus 22/5
291 Peter Varley	54 Leeds (6)	To 10/5	Fraserburgh 22/5
292 Emma Warbrick	49 Tayport (2)	Sc 10/5	Tangleha' 23/5
293 Stan Appleton	64 Pateley Bridge (2)		
294 Mark Waters	42 Elphin, Ireland*	La 11/5	Montrose 24/5
295 Alan Watt	65 Glasgow (1)	Ob 10/5	Girdleness 22/5
296 Catherine Watt	64 Glasgow*		
297 Andrew Wilson	67 Nottingham*		
298 Humphrey Weightman	66 Berwick-upon-Tweed (10)	Sc 10/5	Stonehaven 22/5
299 Lee Wells	50 Spalding (9)	Mo 10/5	St Cyrus 23/5
300 Anthony Bowe	59 Halesowen (14)		
301 Bob Cartwright	51 Malvern (6)		
302 Bill Wheeler	67 Stirling (2)	Do 10/5	Bellman's Head 23/5
303 Jennifer Wheeler	50 Seaford (2)	Ob 10/5	Cocklem Bents 23/5
304 Ian Adamson	78 Warninglid*		
305 Anthony Whewell	60 Bury (4)	La 10/5	Lunan Bay 23/5
306 David Wilkinson	58 Bingley (11)	Mo 10/5	St Cyrus 23/5
307 Steve Wagstaff	61 Keighley (12)		
308 David Williams	55 Whitchurch*	Ma 10/5	Stonehaven 23/5
309 Mark Williams	41 Falkirk*	To 10/5	St Cyrus 23/5
310 Robert Willis	65 Birmingham (4)	La 10/5	Stonehaven 25/5
311 David Wilson	47 Eyemouth (2)	Sc 10/5	Stonehaven 20/5
312 David Wishart	64 North Shields (9)	To 10/5	Lunan Bay 23/5
313 David Wood	52 Rotherham (5)	To 10/5	Montrose 23/5
314 Conrad Woolcock	58 Hull (3)	La 10/5	Lunan Bay 23/5
315 John Woolston	53 Rushden (1)	Ma 10/5	Dunnottar Castle 22/5
316 Jonathan Worters	60 Ravenstone (5)	Do 10/5	Montrose 21/5
317 Ian Wright	69 Wirral (3)	SB 10/5	St Cyrus 24/5
318 Christine Wright	66 Wirral (2)		
319 John Wright	55 St Albans*	Ma 10/5	St Cyrus 24/5

The Great Outdoors



The Great Outdoors Challenge has been held every year since 1980 and is sponsored by TGO Magazine – the UK's leading hillwalking & backpacking publication – in partnership with outdoor equipment specialist Rab, for the most extreme conditions in the world.

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A WALK IN THE PARK?

Reaching the Park Hotel from Montrose Station sometimes proves more difficult than navigating your way across Scotland. Let's keep it simple: from the station, walk up to the roundabout with its distinctive swan sculpture. Keep right of the roundabout, cross the road where the railing ends, then go straight ahead up a small alley (Railway Close) to the High Street. Cross the High Street, turn left, then turn right down John Street. The Park is on the second corner down. *See you there!*

And finally... may the sun shine and the winds be behind you, and listen out for the Gockoo, a bird which has no home of its own but follows us noisily across Scotland each May, starting every morning without fail at 5am.