

Scottish Mountain Rescue

General Meeting

Tuesday 30th March 2021
Online Zoom Meeting



Agenda Item 12b: Distinguished Service Award Nominations

Roger Parry – Oban MRT

The mountain rescue community in Scotland has for some years made awards to individuals who have made a highly significant contribution to mountain rescue in Scotland at team or national level over many years.

The below paragraph is taken from the criteria by which we make these awards

The definition of what constitutes “a highly significant contribution” is left to the judgement of the nominating team. For example, the nominee may have made a significant contribution to aspects of leadership, training, fund raising, public relations, operational work, or other exceptional or meritorious activity, to the benefit of mountain rescue.

The process is for nominations via the team for approval at the SMR Executive and agreement according to Constitutional voting rules at a General Meeting.

Roger Parry has been nominated by Oban Mountain Rescue Team with a citation that is overleaf.

Executive has approved this nomination.

Decision: General Committee are asked to approve that a Distinguished Service Award is made to Roger Parry of Oban MRT.

If General Committee approve this award Roger will be invited to attend the AGM in September 2021 for the presentation of a certificate.

Citation for award of a Distinguished Service Award to Roger Parry.

Roger Parry was one of the founding members of Oban Mountain Rescue Team and has since served as a committee member until his recent retrial. In his 20 years of service, Roger has made a highly significant contribution to the team and has been instrumental in getting the team to where it is today.

When we formed Oban MRT back in 2000, we were starting with a blank canvas. While all involved were active hill goers, climbers and mountaineers, we mostly knew very little about mountain rescue or setting up an organisation and charity. In those early days, Roger's experience and knowledge of charities, funding and contacts were key and came to the fore in guiding us on developing a sound governance structure and financial stability.

Roger was an active team member who has contributed greatly to all operations on the hill in all weathers and circumstances. He continued his personal mountaineering and completed his Munro's and took up Ice Climbing late in life, enjoying the excellent winter of 2010. Roger continued in active service until 2015 when he turned 70, but he continued to be a board member for many more years, till his recent retrial in February 2021.

Roger served as a board member for 20 years, for 13 of those he also took on the role of Team Treasurer. In that time, he has undoubtedly put in thousands of hours diligently administering the accounts and ensuring we have a suitable team base. He was instrumental in the negotiations with the Order of St John, firstly in the purchase of the old Fire Station in Oban as our Rescue Post but also the subsequent transfer of ownership of this to the team several years ago. He has diligently looked after the Rescue Post and ensured that it was kept in good order by chasing us all up for leaving a mess!

In addition, Roger has always contributed his wise counsel and judgement to help steer the board through difficult decisions on resources and governance. There is no doubt that the Team is in such healthy shape today because of Roger's guiding hand and sage advice.

It is true to say that Roger has left a lasting legacy in the form of a strong, well-resourced and resilient team. We owe him a depth of gratitude and we as a team wholeheartedly endorse this nomination for a Distinguished Service Award.