

The voice of Scotland's hillwalkers, climbers, mountaineers and ski-tourers

# Scottish Mountaineer

ISSUE 86 – WINTER 2020

# 50

## YEARS OF MOUNTAINEERING SCOTLAND

Walking and climbing in 1970



• 50 YEARS: 1970 - 2020 •

The magazine of Mountaineering Scotland

## 14 Frost on the lens



## 20 Conservation Matters



## 24 Access Matters



## 40 Scottish Mountain Rescue



## 26 Scotland's mountains: dateline 1970



## 42 The comical side of the outdoors



## 55 Mountain Writing Competition - the winners



## Regulars

- 6  Mountaineering Scotland News
- 20  Conservation Matters
- 24  Access Matters
- 32  Mountain Skills
- 48  Get Climbing
- 64  Meet the Members
- 78  Out There

Front cover photo: Graeme Hunter in the Gelder Shiel Bothy, circa 1970, just prior to completing a step-cutting ascent of Parallel A Gully on Lochnagar.



Ladies First. I cannot recall the number of times I've had a guy look at a difficult or dangerous section and tell me "ladies first". It is a delicious bit of irony when the big, tough guys look at something sceptically and push me towards it; covering their actions by painting it as a chivalrous gesture.

# The **Comical** Side of the Outdoors

by Linsey Warren

**Sometimes mountaineering is deadly serious – other times you just have to laugh**

I was raised by mountain men; at least that is what I jokingly tell people! But the truth is, I've always loved the outdoors. As a child, I begged to be taken iglooming and attempted to run away from home to climb Mt Rainier. From rock climbing, to mountaineering, skiing, and scuba diving; the call to be outside and exploring runs deep.

Growing up, I moved between the United States and Europe, which is why my husband and I decided to migrate back in 2017. Nearly as soon as we arrived, we ventured to the hills. And it quickly became apparent that I was, in many ways, starting fresh as a beginner again; understanding what maps to buy and where, learning about grid references, local terrain and weather patterns, new terminology and

practices. There were days when it was frustrating, but ultimately, I came to learn, grow and get involved. To that end, I have been out on trips with different local walking and climbing groups and have been undergoing a year-long traineeship with Lomond Mountain Rescue, each experience lending itself to new memories and new stories.

Over all the years I've been in the outdoors, it is the stories that stick with me the most. The suffering, the discomfort, the fear, for the most part, fade away. But the friendship, the sense of achievement, the adventures and the laughs stay constant. One day after recounting just such a story, I joked that I should create comics based solely on the sheer number of stories I have gained over the years. In many ways

# THE WARREN VARIATION

# "Gaelic Names"



I believe they speak to the heart of the outdoor experience. With outdoor pursuits gaining mainstream popularity, it is easy to understand how the extreme nature of the pursuits attracts people and makes it an easy focus. A growing number of outlets have even focused on the mental and philosophical aspects. With such awe-inspiring and thought-provoking material available, it's easy to see how the every day little incidences can be overlooked. But these comics are a nod to all the other less openly celebrated moments. The amusing, lighthearted anecdotes we all have in some form or another. The ones that define us and unite us in more subtle ways. The little occurrences that add up to make the overall experience that much richer and more memorable.

Gaelic names. I'd like to believe I am not the only one who struggles with these names. I once spent an entire day telling people where I thought I was heading, receiving only confused shrugs, to find out I was going the same place everyone else was, just saying the name so incorrectly that no one could understand! It was on the Cuillin where my husband was attempting to sound out a name, that I told him we should stick with coordinates. We are hopeless otherwise!

The comics are inspired by my experiences and observations, with many being direct quotes from actual events. But lacking the artistic skills to depict them myself, I reached out to several artists online. It was ultimately a fellow climbing partner, who incidentally was the first to coin 'The Warren Variation' after having been on several herself, who introduced me to artist, Justin Van Gend ([www.justinvangend.com](http://www.justinvangend.com)) whose creative

illustrations have brought the comics to life. Born in South Africa, Justin is now a fully-fledged resident of Washington State, living on a houseboat with his wife. A degree in Illustration from the Rocky Mountain College of Art and Design, coupled with his participation in a wide variety of outdoor pursuits, has helped him bring a touch of reality to the comics.

I hope they make you laugh, or at the very least, smile!

## THE WARREN VARIATION

### *“Congratulations”*



Halfway there. Again, this is another quote from my blunt, bordering on irreverent, mentor. Although it is also a nod to anyone who has been out with someone who believes they are saying something positive when they are only making the goal seem that much further away!

## THE WARREN VARIATION

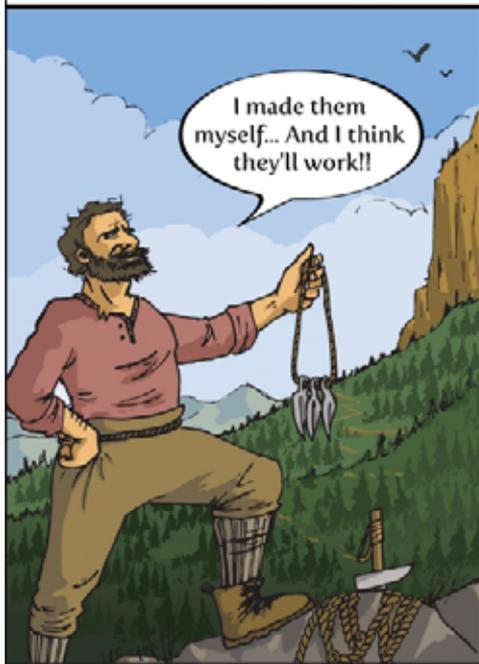
### *“Navigational Types”*



Navigational types. I am notorious for finding my own path or route and occasionally that will clash with my partner's more structured approaches. One particular partner, an engineer by trade, approached every situation logically with a map and GPS while I would occasionally tell him my gut was saying something else. This is a nod to the two vastly different approaches.

# THE WARREN VARIATION

## "Evolution of Climbing"



In the begining



Back in the day



...Today

# THE WARREN VARIATION

## "Tougher Than Indiana Jones"



Evolution of climbing. Over the years there has been a noticeable shift in mentalities across a wide range of activities, and the shift in the outdoor world is particularly stark. The three panels represent, from left to right, the people I learned from, my own experiences and what I see now. The shift is so contrasting it is comical, and perhaps inspiring of reflection.

Indiana Jones. This is verbatim what a friend yelled at me while we were both bushwhacking through a dense section of Cascade slide alder. It was hot, tiring, and frustrating work that was suddenly alleviated when through the brush I heard him yell that!