



Borders Search and Rescue Unit



A Piece of History

Sometimes the stars align and bring a bit of good fortune and so it has proved recently for the BSARU. Sharp eyed Euan Gibson of Kirk Yetholm spotted an old stretcher and mentioned it to team member Scott Thompson. It was an item in a farm sale at Hethpool. Investigation and a conversation with Bill Elliot the farmer, established it had been given to him by the team about 30 years ago, after they had acquired a new stretcher. It has now been very kindly donated to the team by Mr Elliot and his family, seen below with Scott.



In 1933 the Rucksack Club and the Fell and Rock Club joined forces to form the “Joint Stretcher Committee,” to create a stretcher suitable for the rigours of the Mountains’ By Easter of 1934 the Thomas stretcher was born. The original design had narrow angled aluminium alloy skids, which were later replaced with wooden ski-like skids with curved up ends. After 1965 a mesh bed replaced the original canvas bed making it lighter and reducing wind resistance.

If any ex team members can furnish further information on the stretcher it would be much appreciated. Contact details below.

New face masks embroidered with Team's name. Made by Ivy Thirkle, designed by Margaret Thompson.



<https://www.scottishmountainrescue.org> and <http://www.bordersar.org.uk>
BSARU is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation SCO23213

Seymour Haugh