

SNO~FOO AWARD



TO ERR IS HUMAN, TO FORGET IT WOULD BE DIVINE

This award is to be presented to an individual or group of individuals, for having committed or having been associated with an outstanding "blooper" during the year prior to the annual meeting.

To be considered for this award, the nominee must be a member in good standing of the Eastern Snow Conference.

This award is to be presented and accepted in a manner which is considered to be "in good taste." No one person or organization will be eligible to qualify for this award more than once. Nominations will be accepted by the ESC Equipment Committee. The decision of the committee is final.

SNOFOO 1989 - Gerry Jones.

Gerry is young at heart, and determined to work with snow whatever the conditions.....

During March 1989, Gerry was part of a group of workers examining the chemical properties of wind blown snow on top of the Cairn Gorm mountains in the Scottish Highlands. Conditions for this work are not pleasant, since wind speed gets above 100 km/hr and the temperature is well below zero centigrade.

Gerry had been ill with a disease that stiffened his appendages. He had had a lot of trouble with his arm and leg prior to coming to the UK. Despite rational arguments to persuade him otherwise, he was determined not only to do his fair share of fieldwork in good weather conditions, but also to experience the semi-Arctic blizzard conditions.

He went up the hill on a particularly bad day. Wind speeds indeed were over 100 km/hr, white outs were frequent, temperatures dropped to -10 centigrade, and Gerry experienced several near-death experiences, being disorientated while sober. He came off the hill literally half frozen, and we could hardly persuade him to drink a wee tot to warm himself during the evening.

A tea-total Jones may be one sorry sight, but the following morning was worse - his arm and leg were rigid and he was in great discomfort. He was in a similar state, yet strangely happy, four days later when we put him on board a train to go home. He had three bags, but only one arm and one leg for locomotion. Little old ladies were flocking to help him.

For being so reckless in the pursuit of snow chemistry, Gerry deserves his SnoFoo award for 1989. However, the SnoFoo is pretty wise really and had the last laugh. When we were struggling up the hill, Gerry failed to mention that he was nursed back to earthly paradise for four days by an absolutely gorgeous French nurse.....

Martyn Tranter