

**Tim Dinsdale**  
 I have to report some very sad news. Tim Dinsdale died on 14th December 1987. He had only been poorly for three or four days, at first it was thought the pain he had was caused by a recurrence of an ulcer, however it was quickly found that he had suffered a massive heart attack and although he was given every care, including surgery, he could not be saved. Tim's was the name most people associated with Loch Ness, the piece of film taken in 1960, his three books, (running into many editions) and of course his lectures. In the course of lecturing he brought the mystery of Loch Ness to many, many people, over the years it must run into thousands. His simple, sincere presentation was very impressive, here was a dedicated man who was not really trying to persuade the listener, but who knew what he had seen and filmed and who gave the facts and said more or less, there you are, decide. I first met Tim at the beginning of the 1970 season at the Loch Ness Investigation H.Q., Achnahannet, the first time he had agreed to be the field director of one of their expeditions. I had made arrangements to be on expedition for the full season, I was fortunate to be able to work closely under Tim's direction. He was a man for whom, I had great respect. Perhaps not the most practical, he had some funny ways, I remember the first time he took the P.R. takings to the bank. But that is another story, as they say. He had great character and instilled the crews with his enthusiasm and energy. It was a great shame the proposed permanent H.Q. site for the LNI, along by Invermoriston, did not come to fruition. With Tim in charge great things could have developed. When I started the Ness Information Service Tim gave me encouragement, and much help. He was critical of Nessletter number 1, rightly so, and took me to task, he said if the Nessletters were to be accepted and to be useful, I had to produce them to a higher standard. I am still trying to come up to the standard he would require. Over the years he continued to assist, with information, proofreading the early year's issues, recommending the NIS to anyone with an interest in Loch Ness, and always encouraging. I personally will miss him, and his dedicated, respected, presence, will be a tremendous loss to the 'Monster Folk'. I had the privilege of meeting his wife and family at Loch Ness during the 1971 season. I offer them my sincere condolences and sympathy.

**Tim Dinsdale: an appreciation.**  
 On 16th April 1960 Tim Dinsdale embarked upon an adventure which was to change his life and inspire countless others to share in a quest. His film was the flame which rekindled interest: a turning point when audiences from home to university and museum were given a glimpse of the incredible. Some scoffed. They have their successors today. But in the months and years that followed, others joined that search. And Tim was always there, quietly telling his story, encouraging the solo investigators and advising and leading some of the LNIB expeditions. He wrote eloquently - three books; lectured enthusiastically - here and abroad; and searched on remorselessly - more than fifty private expeditions. He endured many months of discomfort aboard little 'Water Horse' believing, as so many others have, that the final piece of conclusive evidence would one day come to hand. What can one say now that he has gone? If I may, I'll quote his own words, with which he concluded 'Project Waterhorse', since they are as appropriate now as they were when he wrote them in 1975: "Time is unimportant, and the passage of it can in no way affect the outcome, for where truth is involved, the facts stand up; as indeed the people do who recognise them."

For twenty seven years Tim stood with a bold and unshakeable conviction. In a Christmas card he wrote to me a few days before his death he said: "Perhaps in '88!" He was planning a new expedition even then. In '88, or when ever, it will be done, and when it is, it will surely be in his memory, and in tribute to a man of enormous courage, of charm, determination and above all of unassailable integrity. We salute him.

Nicholas Witchell.

**Tony Harmsworth**

I published Henry Bauer's account of Operation Deepscan in NIS 84, I also said I had a letter from Tony answering some of the points raised by Henry.

Tony stressed that he was in no way challenging Henry's account, just presenting the Loch Ness Centre's position. It is; "Dear Henry, Thanks for your write-up on Deepscan which I found interesting, I think, in general that it is quite accurate, but there are one or two points that I would like to clarify. 1. You are, of course right that Adrian had to work in rather a media circus, but he recognises that this was the price he had to pay to pull all of the equipment together. 2. As regards Saturday night I agree that the conference went along the wrong lines and all the positive aspects were lost in the negatives. Incidentally Adrian, myself, Debby, Ronnie and Dick were very much against the release of the "head" material in the way it was done. We believed that a low-key handout on Sunday night would have been infinitely preferable. Unfortunately we were not calling the shots. The "head" item could not have been suppressed beyond Sunday due to 'third party' knowledge, and, incidentally, the object is the head - the fact that this was not conclusively demonstrated at the press conference was due to the timing and method of release being outside the Project's control. I must emphasise that I do not think the object is the head - it is the head and stills show this clearly. Again a low-key press release was the way to handle it - not how it was attempted to be done. As far as I am concerned the Academy made a simple interpretive mistake in 1975 due to the erroneous belief that the cameras were in mid water. I have stated this belief on many occasions to Dr Rines and it was a matter of agreeing to differ. The text in the exhibition has always pointed out the possibility that the pictures showed debris or monsters, which was in the spirit of Dr Rines' request at the symposium. 3. As regards Exhibitions I must point out that the first Exhibition opened after the Bureau's close down was at Fort Augustus and was staged by the Loch Ness Project and mention in your book that they supported proliferation of Exhibitions is not true. They were, in fact, instrumental in the transfer of that material to our exhibition in order, specifically, to centralise on one display. The Exhibition at the Lodge is in a different class completely:- a) The building was constructed without Planning Permission. b) It was advertised as "The Famous Loch Ness Monster Exhibition". c) The choice of name Loch Ness Visitor Centre is causing people to believe it is the Loch Ness Centre. d) My three attempts to foster co-operation were met with: no reply in the first instance, my being told to get off his premises in the second instance, and a solicitors' letter telling me to never communicate with him on the third instance. e) He has made no attempt to offer the Project any assistance and his staff have been derogatory about the Project's work. f) He made attempts to film Project equipment in use without the Project's knowledge. g) His exhibition has been the subject of numerous complaints. h) This became so severe that his Exhibition Tourist Board Membership was eventually discontinued. i) He regained that membership on a constitutional technicality. j) It appears he has only become interested in the Project when it showed a possibility of benefitting him direct through accommodation. My position, as accommodation co-ordinator was impossible - I do not book accommodation through solicitors. As regards accommodation cost, I was responsible for trying to help Lowrance pay for 91 journalists and some 20/30 staff and the only way this could work was through a 'pool' with every hotel charging the same sum. You, (Henry), for instance were accommodated free of charge by Lowrance and it was only the charging in the 'pool' that permitted this. The Lodge were not in this scheme and we are told, charged full price for all press staying with them. Your 50 per night room only cost Lowrance around 15 per night due to the co-operation of all hotels in the pool. Mr Skinner, at the Lodge, did not ask to be a part of this until a few before the event, by which time our patience with him had become exhausted. I mention all of this, because while it was obvious you discussed the situation with him, you did not do so with me and your opinions are therefore based on insufficient data. However, finally, I reiterate that I am not in disagreement with your overall view of events on the search and press conferences - only with the specific items above. I am still looking forward to stocking the paperback version of your book and I am attaching press cuttings. Yours sincerely, A.G. Harmsworth, Director."

I think that, very clearly, gives Tony's explanations to the points raised by Henry. I have followed the progress of Mr Skinner and his new building in the local Inverness papers. He was given permission in December 1986 to build an 'activity centre' next to his hotel the Lodge, at Drumnadrochit.

Members of the Inverness divisional planning committee twice visited the site to absolutely sure what, and where it, was being constructed. However, as it was going up it was noted that it was closer to Mr Skinner's property boundary than had been agreed. Although this was made known to Mr Skinner work carried on. Also the finished building was six feet higher than the original plans. The debate about this building has gone on and on, the planning committee said that while the appearance of the building was not objectionable, it was not what was planned, and there was the feeling construction had continued in outright defiance of the committee. Also to be taken into account were the objections of Mr Laidlaw, a neighbour, whose bedroom had been deprived of much of its natural light, and the amenities of his home generally detracted from. The committee eventually voted to tell Mr Skinner that the building had to come down. He has now appealed to the Scottish Secretary to have that decision reversed. That, along with number of complaints the local tourist board has received about Mr Skinner and his exhibition, is some of the background to the situation in Drumnadrochit during Operation Deepscan.

#### Doug Macfarlane

Doug sent me an account of his latest trip to the loch during his son's mid term holiday, the 9th to 19th October. This allowed them to connect with the final stages of Deepscan. While hitching up the caravan on the morning of October 10th he broke a window with his hand, so after patching up himself and the van it was early afternoon before they left home, in Ayrshire. Arriving at The Clansman Hotel just too late for the Saturday news conference, but to be told that Adrian had, to quote some of his own associates, "blown it". Doug managed to talk to Dave Steensland, the Lowrance engineer, and showed him his latest soundings. He said Doug had some interesting large targets, and showed interest in a large blip that Doug had obtained in Loch Morar, but then thought it may have been a side lobe from a nearby underwater escarpment. It was too far down to hope for any sensible positive result from that sounding, however Doug's feelings on the matter are that it is not a side lobe. Doug says that Dave was obviously shattered and was falling asleep during the press conference, and everyone there seemed somewhat demoralised. Doug is thinking that he must employ other additional search methods to try to eliminate some of the puzzles posed by sonar and echo sounders, as they depend too much on interpretation to be seen as infallible. However he does point out that even during the last war when sonar was in its infancy, many submarines were sunk with its aid. Doug has thought about trying to obtain sponsorship of some type, but he has been advised to remain on his own if he can manage. So he will try to adopt that approach again this season. He met Ivor Newby at the Clansman during the Deepscan week and had a good Nessie natter, they had met for the first time at the Edinburgh symposium. He also met Nick Witchell, the first time their paths had crossed at the loch. Doug and his young son Alan took his dingy out from Temple Pier on Sunday, to carry on with his normal loch search. They found the deepscan camera boat stranded with its camera fouled on the wreck of an old whaler, one of his funny targets near Temple pier. He has originally thought it was one of the Academy's cameras, but over a period of time it became obvious the object had been there too long to be a camera, it transpired to be 4 x 200 watt light bulbs floating on their cable tethered to the wreck. Doug collected them as they floated free to the surface when Dick Raynor cut them loose. They were probably the Academy's background lights for the strobe camera. They continued with their underwater search with mid-water sounder work, much of it under oars in the northern basin, obtaining some mid-water targets of little interest. They were at the Sunday conference at the Clansman, Adrian spent little time on his latest targets, and tried to spend as much time as possible talking about underwater bores, and other cross loch research, where they used the 24 cruisers at one mile intervals along the loch to sound cross sectional segments of the loch to determine fish population, a laudable effort, but not what all those journalists had come all that distance to hear. It was left to Daren Lowrance the president of Lowrance, to commit himself to putting a size on the targets obtained during the week. He said they were smaller than hoped for, about the size of a large Grouper, or seal, or shark, and smaller than a whale. The bulk of the Deepscan operation was done on the Friday and Saturday, by which time, some of the boats were breaking down.

Besides the 20 Lowrance equipped boats they were also using the New Atlantis, and an underwater T.V. camera equipped cruise as back up boats, to follow the main line and home in on any interesting targets. Later on the Monday Doug saw the underwater T.V. camera that was being used by Adrian, it was an Osprey unit, and apparently cost 50,000. Doug wrote to Osprey last year for information on their underwater cameras, and received a stack of pamphlets back, minus the price lists he had also asked for. Doug said it was while Dick Raynor had the camera, he took it down off Temple Pier, and filmed a tree stump, identical to the Bob Rines' Gargoyle Head photograph. Ivor Newby says it is unquestionably the same object. Dick says that he was always unhappy about that particular shot of Bob's, and he had seen that object while diving in the bay before, he also told Doug that the rest of Bob's shots look all right to him. Doug commented that Adrian seemed to be trying to devalue all of Bob's results because of one suspect photograph. Doug reports that he managed to take the dingy out on 8 occasions, during the week, totalling 19 1/2 hours sounder and 43 hours camera watch, with his wife Margaret also doing some camera watch. That brought the total at Loch Ness, for 1987, to 86 hours with the echo sounder and 176 hours camera; at Loch Morar the totals were 14 hours sounder, and 22 1/2 hours camera; at Loch Lomond they clocked up 4 1/2 hours sounder and 10 hours camera and 18 hours sounder and 22 hours camera in the Firth of Clyde. Doug said that he has a variety of new ideas for the next seasons research, and has started work on his first project, but will not pass on details until it is producing results in the field. He has just purchased a fresh car, a metallic green Renault 20, 2.2 Litres, registration LES 525X, the extra power will be handy for towing his caravan. He finished by saying that 1987 had been a memorable year for the Edinburgh Symposium, and although Deepscan did not turn up anything conclusive, the statement from Swiftech with the 25 foot plus sizing ties in with some of the earlier American sounder estimates. Doug thinks that may correspond to a medium sized beast as described by many witnesses.

A comment or two about Doug's work. It may seem somewhat strange that he spends time at other locations without monsters but, Loch Morar has a history of 'monster' sighting reports, there have been a few vague reports from Lomond but I have serious reservations about them, and the Clyde is not noted as the home of monsters. However I think Doug's work at all these venues is very important, at Morar, obviously there is the chance of positive evidence, the other places provide him with good experience in using his echo sounder and the charts he obtains help improve his interpretation techniques. As far as camera watching at these places, again I think it could lead to interesting results. All the ordinary explanations some say provide the answer to all the monster reports at Loch Ness, waves, driftwood, waterbirds, otters etc; exist in these locations as well, and if Doug or Margaret could produce monster-like photographs they would be important for comparison with any obtained at Ness. I must admit I have never really liked the Academy's 'Gargoyle Photograph', the fact that it could be termed to be like a gargoyle was off-putting, not really matching up with the various descriptions given by eye-witnesses, I was much happier about the 'Flipper Pictures', despite the enhancement/retouching controversy.

Well that concludes another Nessletter, another one carrying sad news. There were just a few days short of a year between David James death and Tim's. I am sending a page one of NIS84 with this one. I was aware that some were poor quality, but thought I had weeded them out. But I have had a note or two from members who had received poor copies, so everyone gets another.

The name and address are unchanged:- R.R. Hepple, Huntshieldsford, St Johns Chapel, Bishop Auckland, Co Durnam, DL13 1RQ, for all your news and views, which are always welcome. Tel 0388 537359, Subs U.K. 2.50 U.S.A. \$7.00.

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