

# ONE-PUNCH KILLER GUILTY AFTER 5 YEARS

## He hit stranger for urinating in garden

» **DAVE FINLAY** reporters@dailyrecord.co.uk  
**A SHOOTING victim was brought to justice yesterday five-and-a-half years after killing a stranger with a single punch.**



James Hendry thumped drunken Edward Dooley on the head for urinating in his ex-wife's garden. Hendry - who was injured in a pub shooting that killed an Edinburgh boxer - told a taxi driver: "Get him in the f\*\*ing car or you will end up like him." Prosecutors thought there was insufficient evidence to charge him with murder over the October 2008 death. But they decided later to prosecute him for culpable homicide. Hendry, of Howden Hall Road, Edinburgh, yesterday

garden". Hendry, 34, then punched Edward, who fell to the ground bleeding. He tried to force the taxi to drive off with Edward but Jacob called 999, claiming Edward had been "hit by a car or something". Hendry went to a snooker hall and stayed there until closing time. He later told police he knew nothing about Edward being outside the house. Edward suffered skull and spine fractures and internal bleeding. His injuries were not survivable. Judge Michael O'Grady QC continued bail until sentencing this month. Hendry was wounded in a shooting at the Marmion bar in Gracemount, Edinburgh that claimed the life of boxer Alexander McKinnon.

## Fisherman dies at sea

A FISHERMAN has died after a falling overboard off the Summer Isles in Wester Ross. He was one of two people aboard a Loch Ewe-based creel boat when the accident happened at 10.40am on Tuesday. His shipmate recovered the body.

## Plane crash survivors

A PILOT and a passenger had a lucky escape yesterday after their small plane crash-landed. The Zenair 601 flying from Bute came down in a field near the B7045 Hoggs Corner to Straiton Road in Ayrshire. Both occupants were taken to hospital.

## 70 research jobs to go

SEVENTY jobs are to go at a world-renowned Scottish farming and environmental research centre. Cuts in Government funding to the James Hutton Institute in Invergowrie, near Dundee, have left them with a £1.8million deficit.

# EXPEDITION HOW

**EVERYONE has their own way of winding down after a hard shift at work.**

For most of us that means a pint, a book or a seat in front of the television. For Alan Rowan, it's a climb to 3000ft above sea level in the middle of the night. For more than a decade, the dedicated mountaineer and hillwalker lived a double life away from his work and his family - by day he was a busy journalist and by night he became the Munro Moonwalker, scaling the country's highest hills while the rest of us slept. And he has just told his amazing story in the new book *Moonwalker*. Alan, 59, is a former sports editor of the Daily Record and, when he had finished a busy night putting the paper together, he would swap his suit and tie for his waterproofs and a head-torch, drive for hours into the Highlands and climb, arriving at the top just in time for sunrise. He said: "I was working at nights and not getting enough time in the day to get up to the hills, so the idea just came to me to try going up after work. "I would finish work at midnight and be so full of adrenaline from a busy night on the paper that I couldn't get to sleep, so I thought I'd give it a try. "The very first time, everything was

» **BRIAN McIVER** b.mciver@dailyrecord.co.uk so perfect that I was hooked and it really fed on itself and became an obsession. "I'd be changing into my walking gear in the office and heading out for three or four-hour drives when everyone else was going home. "At first people thought I was mad but then they all just wondered where I was off to next. "It was amazing, you would get there in the middle of the night in the dark and, as you climb the mountain, you've got this present in the wrapping paper waiting for you and the fun of opening it at the top when dawn opens out over the ridges and there is no one else out there - it's just sensational." Raised in Dundee's Blackness area, Alan's earliest encounter with the great outdoors revolved around a trip to the hills with the Scouts. But as an adult, he discovered the joys of mountaineering when he found that the combination of a busy family life, working away from home six days a week and night-time shift patterns left him with a lot of time to kill on his own. Alan took to the hills slowly but soon fell in love with the high-altitude lifestyle. He began his moonlight quest in 1994 and set out for the twin Munros of Stob a'Choire Mheadhoine and Stob Coire Easain in the West Highlands. He

# AUTHOR CONQUERED MUNROS IN THE DARK

explained: "I was surprised at how well the first one went. It was funny because the second journey was the total opposite. "The third one wasn't great either but, because of that first trip, I knew that if you got the weather and the timing right, it was perfect. "And most of them were good ones - such as sitting up on Ben Hope at half three in the morning looking out to the sea, which was just fantastic. "My original idea was that I would leave work, drive to the mountains and then get some sleep in the car but, usually by the time I got there, it was so beautiful I couldn't sleep. I would just head on up. "I'd then be back down in the morning to see everyone else walking the other way up there and giving me funny looks. That happened a lot. "Sometimes I'd get a nap in the car afterwards or stop on the way back home. "But it worked out well because by the end of my walks - and my journey back home - I would be so tired that I would get an amazing sleep the next night." Living near Dundee with his wife Alison and two daughters, Claire, now 32, and Lucy, now 27, Alan worked at the Record offices in Glasgow, so he would stay in the city during the week, returning home at the weekend. That meant his strange hours didn't interfere with his family life - but it also meant that, at first, Alison was in the dark about his trips. Alan said: "I didn't tell her for a long time because I didn't think it was fair on her. There's no way she would get a

good night's sleep if she thought I was half way up a mountain in all kinds of weather. "My wife isn't a climber or walker, so while safety is always paramount and while I would never do anything daft, it's hard to get that across to people who don't do it. "She was speechless but she just realised that I know what I'm doing. She is reading the book just now - I'll get her review when she is done." Alan's favourite Moonlight Munro remains his first. The last, though, when he finally completed Munro No284 seven years later - becoming the 2433rd complete Munroist by getting to the top of Am Faochagach just south of Ullapool - was an anti-climax. "Working towards the Munros was the thing. You have so many fantastic days on the way there that you just want more of them. "My favourite Munro is definitely Buachaille Etive Mor at Glencoe. "This is the mountain that sparked my interest in the whole thing and it's where we take people who want to get started - if you don't enjoy walking up it, you should try something else." The gorgeous setting is also home to some tragic memories for Alan. The book is dedicated to his climbing buddy and former Daily Record colleague Fergus Wyllie, who scaled many a mountain with Alan but sadly lost his fight with cancer earlier this

year. And there is also a special mention for another former colleague and friend, Trevor Walls, who died almost 10 years ago on Buachaille Etive Mor, while making a moonlight climb of his own. Skilled climber Trevor fell after making a secret ascent to plant a bottle of Champagne at the peak to surprise Alan on his 50th birthday trek. Trevor is never far from the author's mind. Alan said: "Every year we walk up and pour a nip of whisky into the stream and have a minute's silence. "I'm always mindful of stories like that and I'd never say to anyone that night walking is a good idea. "It was for me at the time but you have to be very prepared and experienced and we don't take daft chances." Alan honours his friends with his continued adventures in the hills and said he still loves every minute. Having completed more than 1000 peaks in less than 20 years, Alan is still active and, now a part-time lecturer, author and grandfather, he spends as much time as he can out there. "It makes me feel good, it gives me time to think and, if you have any troubles or if you're working hard, this is a stress buster. "You get a nice tiredness - you feel like you can get a rest because your mind's not racing. "Also, it's the most beautiful country in the world, even in bad weather, and it's always different. "You just can't beat it." ■ **Moonwalker: Adventures of a Midnight Mountaineer** by Alan Rowan is out now on BackPage Press.



**ADVENTURE** Alan takes a breather at the summit of Stob Ban in the Mamores

**CONQUERORS** Clockwise from left, Alan at the top of his last Munro, his friend Trevor Walls, and with climbing pal Fergus Wyllie



# UP ALL NIGHT

In the dead of night, journalist Alan Rowan travelled the country scaling peaks to watch the sun rise from each summit. Here, he reveals the highs and the lows of his high-altitude quest

PICTURE: TONY NICOLETTI

**EXPLOITS** Author Alan Rowan at Glencoe with his new book, *Moonwalker*

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