

On Valentine's Day, three outdoorsy couples tell us how they met while taking part in their favourite activities.

**ON TOP OF THE WORLD**  
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**FIONA RUSSELL**

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Munros are the 282 Scottish mountains with a summit of at least 3000ft.

It was in December 2011 that Fi Priestley first met Scoob while walking Munros with friends in Glenshee, Angus.

Fi had taken up Munro bagging as a hobby when her two sons reached their late teenage years. Scoob was already a member on website Walk Highlands.

He had organised the six-Munro outing and Fi decided to go along.

At that point, Fi had walked 22 Munros, while Scoob, who has four grown-up children, had ticked off 44. They stayed in touch via Walk Highlands then started walking regularly together as friends, ticking off long and challenging routes.

By the time they got together as a couple around eight months later, Fi had bagged 114 Munros and Scoob was on 131 summits.

Fi, 44, said: "We realised we were going at pretty much obsessive hill walking pace and 2012 was a record year as we bagged 150 each."

On September 28, 2013, the couple both finished the full round of 282 Munros – and as they neared the top, Scoob picked up Fi, carried her to the summit and then got down on one knee to propose.

Scoob, 51, said: "It was such a great day. We both finished our first round on the same day surrounded by friends. We had hiked up Crowberry Tower via Curved Ridge before going on to Stob Dearg summit and this is where Fi agreed to marry me."

Fi and Scoob, of Dunkeld, Perthshire, were married in August 2014 at Pitlochry Register Office. The couple – the second to meet and wed through Walk Highlands – continue to walk together and are well on their way to finishing a second round of Munros.

#### No running away

A sudden decision to take part in a local hill race led to marriage for Kate Jenkins and Craig



# How we found the path to romance



**RUN FANS**  
Kate Jenkins and Craig Mattocks met at Lee Pen Hill race

Mattocks, of Edinburgh. Kate had planned to head north for a hill running event in July 2008 but at the last minute changed her mind and competed in the Lee Pen Hill Race in Innerleithen.

She spotted "a guy who looked interesting" on the start line and then watched with respect as he sped off up the hill and passed her on his way down.

Kate, 41, said: "I was really impressed with his speed and I told him so after the race. He said he had ended up getting lost so only got second place but he was pleased with his £80 prize money."

"I was left wondering who he was and I wanted to know more."

Some asking around friends revealed that Craig, 42, was in the same line of work as Kate, as a chartered surveyor, but in Northampton. Kate said: "It was

easy to find his email and we started chatting online. This time he was far more chatty and we quickly decided we liked each other."

Their first date was at a halfway point in the Lake District.

Kate said: "We met and instantly got on. We had a shared interest in running and outdoor activities. We spent a couple of years visiting each other in our own places."

In June 2010, Craig moved to Scotland and, later that year, just after Kate had run a superb time of 2hrs 57mins in the Berlin Marathon, he proposed to her.

Kate is also a previous winner of the 95-mile west Highland Way Race and Craig competed successfully as a triathlete.

Kate said: "It was very rushed with me at Berlin train station trying to get back home for work but, of course, I said yes." They were

in August 2011. Kate said: "We do a huge amount together. It's been great to find someone I can share so much with."

#### Wind in our sails

Claire and Andy Macpherson, of Newton Mearns, Glasgow, met in 2004 while crewing the same Scottish yacht and were engaged six months later.

The following year, they married in Tarbert on Loch Fyne, in the same church and on the same day as the bride's parents 30 years earlier. The couple now have two children, Ruaraidh, three, and one-year-old Iona.

Although sailing was the catalyst for their relationship Claire, 36, and Andy, 48, enjoy a wide range of outdoors activities together.

Claire, a solicitor, said: "We have always done a lot together,

including hill walking, cycling orienteering and scuba diving.

"For our 10th wedding anniversary, Andy and I took part in an orienteering event in Venice. I think that for a marriage to work there needs to be common interests and we really enjoying doing outdoor activities together."

Now with a young family, Claire and software engineer Andy continue to spend as much time outdoors as possible.

Claire said: "We are outdoors every weekend. We are currently cycling the full Forth and Clyde Canal in shorter sections.

"Ruaraidh can ride eight to 10 miles himself. We also do family orienteering and walk local hills."

"We all love spending time outdoors together. It brings us closer as a family."



**CLOSE**  
Macpherson family at the summit of Dumyat

**Advice and ideas**

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