

MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL OF SCOTLAND

MINUTES of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held at GLENMORE LODGE on SATURDAY, 21 JUNE, 2003

Present.

Those attending recorded their presence on a list as they entered. The names recorded were:-

Laura Alexander (Lost Sheep Club); John Allen (IM + SMMC and others); John Armstrong (AMI); Alex Barbour (Cairngorm Club); Fred Belcher (Cairngorm Club); Stuart Bell (not member); Annie Bell (Upperward MC); Peter Biggar (Inverness MC); H Bishop (MBA); Tommy Bishop (Badenoch & Strathspey not member); Ian Bryce (Cairngorm Club); Helen Carabine (Nevis HWC); Brenda Clough (Perth MC); Alison Coull (EMC); Bill Crabb (Grampian Club); Shauna Culshaw (IM); Brain Culshaw (IM); Richard Davison (Perth MC); Marie Donohoe (Glasgow Glenmore); John Donohoe IM1723); Angela Duncan (Cairngorm); Derek Edge (IM1300); Andy Garman (Lost Sheep MC); Duncan Gray (IM); Nick Halls (IM1255); Brian Harrison (Nevis HWC); Andreas Heinzl (Inverness MC); Bruce Henderson (Blairgowrie & District HWC); Pete Hill (IM); Kevin Howett (SMC); Alfie Ingram (MRCofS); Joy Ingram (Carn Dearg); Andrew Lawson (Cairngorm Club); Beryl Leatherland (Edinburgh JMCS); Mark Looseley (Lost Sheep MC); John Mackenzie (SMC & MCofS); Donald Mackenzie (IM); Alison McClure (LSCC); Gerry McFarlane (IM); Allison McLaren (Glasgow Glenmore Club); Arthur MacLean (MCS); David McLellan (Upperward MC); Anne Mearns (IM); John Millar (IM); Keith Miller (IM & MCS Exec); Owain Millington (IM); A Mowatt (Cairngorm M Club); Isaac Naftalin (IM); Mike Newbury (Forth Valley & IM); C Nicholson (Nevis HWC); Malcolm Noble (Fraserburgh HWC); John Orr (Paisley HWC); Bill Park (IM179); Iain Peter (SMC); Bob Reid (SMC); Bill Renshaw (IM2379); Mo Richards (IM); K Robb (EMC); Margaret Samson (IM); Colin Sinclair (Forfar & District HWC); David Smeaton (MCS volunteer); Alistair Sutherland (IM113); Harrold Thomson (Glasgow Glenmore Club); Connie Thomson (Glasgow Glenmore Club); Mike Thouless (Nevis HWC); Ian Turner (IM1865); James Tweedie (Blairgowrie & District HWC); Garry Wardrope (Cairngorm Club); Mary Webster (LSCC); Roger Wild (SMC); Peter Willimott (Kirkintilloch HWC); Nigel Wright (SMC).

1 Apologies.

The following apologies were received:

Paul Airey (MLT Wales); Dennis Canavan (MSP); June Ross (LSCC); Kate Ross (MLTS Chair); Ali Morgan (SMSF); Bob Grant (SNH); Susan Grant (VisitScotland); Lorna McLeod (sportsotland); Ken Crockett (SMC); Stonehaven Hillwalking and Mountaineering Club; Culter HWC; Alan Blackshaw (IM); Martin Doyle (MTT); David Meeson; Cameron McNeish (TGO); Rennie McOwan (IM); Paul Grant (PSP); John Darcy (Northern Constabulary-SMSF); Alan Page; Adam Watson (IM); Margaret Palker (LSCC).

2 Introduction of guests.

The President, Pete Hill, introduced and welcomed the following guests:

Gordon Adshead, RC (BMC); K C Gordon (MCG – Rep Cttee for Wales); David Green (Crofters Commission); Doug Jones (MLT UK); Helen Lawless (MCofI); Iain McMoran (BMC/ Alpine Club); Declan O’Keefe (MCofI); Patrick O’Sullivan (MofCI); Margurite Robertson (Boots Across Scotland); Dave Turnbull (BMC); Mark Vallance (BMC); Tim Walker (Glenmore Lodge).

3 Adoption of the Minutes of the AGM of 2002.

A motion to adopt the minutes was proposed by Fred Belcher and seconded by Laura Alexander. The Minutes were adopted as correct.

4 Matters Arising.

No matters arising from the Minute were raised.

5 Annual Report for 2002/2003.

Pete Hill, the outgoing President, presented the Annual Report.

He reported the Council is in excellent order and thanked those who contributed to its effective operation during the year.

Of the myriad of issues which have occurred he made special mention of Fran Potheary the first holder of the Post of Mountain Safety Adviser, who moved on after establishing the high status of the post, and who has now been replaced by Roger Wild. Roger Wild, who has a long association with the Council and Mountain Rescue was able to hit the ground running as he was familiar with all issues and the people involved. He has continued to develop the importance of the post.

The President expressed his gratitude for the work done by the Access & Conservation Officer, Mike Dales, who has been extremely busy influencing the access legislation as it passed through the Scottish Parliament. It is clear from the legislation, which has emerged that his influence has been of great benefit to the membership. He emphasised the importance of continuing to work to influence the Access Code.

The administrative burden on the office has increased due to the steady rise in membership, which is now over 9,000. He expressed his gratitude for the work of all the employees of the Council who are serving the membership extremely well.

The Honorary Secretary, Nick Halls, spoke to his report.

He particularly mentioned that the request of the membership expressed at a previous meeting to 'do less and do it better' has been taken on board by the Executive. Office operations have improved and more work is being done in less time. An additional sub committee has been formed, the Sports Development Sub Committee, which now supports those aspects of the National Officers work which were formerly not overseen by a specialist committee.

He reported that the Council is in the last year of working through an over burdened Corporate Plan upon which bids for Grant in Aid are based. Remarkably most of the objectives of the Corporate Plan are being overtaken, but as the next four year plan is developed over the forthcoming year care will be taken not to overburden it with too many short term projects.

Strategies for developing the sport and increasing the range of services available to the membership over the longer term will be given great emphasis.

The work of the Council has been well supported throughout the year by numerous volunteers who have carried forward projects and undertaken aspects of the administrative burden. The Honorary Secretary expressed his gratitude for the work undertaken by the Finance & Administration Sub Committee, chaired by John Miller, and the National Officer, Kevin Howett. He particularly thanked the Administrator, Pet Thomas, who from the very moment that she entered the post has expanded its role and taken on increasing responsibility. The Council is now very dependent on her work and ability.

6 Accounts and appointment of auditor.

The Acting Treasurer, John Miller, reported on the accounts, which have now been audited. He apologised for some mistakes in the copy of the Accounts distributed in Issue 18 of the Scottish Mountaineer. He reported that the Council continues to be very constrained financially, with little room for manoeuvre. The balance of income over expenditure for the year being only £497.

The Accounts for 2002 - 2003 were accepted.

The substantial increase in the group premium for Civil Liability Insurance posed a significant threat to the financial viability of the Council. The date for the payment of the Civil Liability Insurance premium has been rescheduled from the beginning of the financial year to September. This has enabled the Subscription increase to be agreed before the premium is due for payment.

John Miller emphasised the importance of income from sales and drew attention to the number of items available from the Council. He drew attention to the availability of the meeting room at The Old Granary, the hire of which also provides an valuable income.

Appointment of Auditor.

A motion to appoint Alastair Sutherland, CA, as Honorary Auditor was proposed by John Miller and Seconded by John Donohoe.

Alastair Sutherland was appointed as Honorary Auditor.

The President expressed his gratitude to Alastair Sutherland for volunteering to continue as auditor for a further year.

7 Proposal to increase subscriptions.

The proposal to increase subscriptions was introduced by an explanation of the what is covered by the Civil Liability Cover Insurance provided by Perkins Slade.

Questions were raised about people with multiple memberships, who consequently pay multiple premiums. It was explained that at the present time it is difficult to identify people with multiple membership. It was requested that the position of people with multiple memberships be clarified.

Action NO

It was explained that the key feature of the Civil Liability Insurance is that it is a group insurance for which a group premium is paid based on the size of the membership to be covered. The Insurance covers all hill walking and mountaineering activities, which occur under the aegis of the MC of S, when those covered participate as a Club Member or participate as an Individual Member. People who participate both as an individual member and a club member apparently need to be covered for activity in both contexts.

It was emphasised that the difference between the estimated increase in subscriptions notified at the AGM of 2002, and those proposed represents a very small increase for three categories of membership. These increases arise directly from the increase in the premiums demanded for Civil Liability Insurance cover. This increase is beyond the ability of the Council to absorb.

A request was made for the Council to check if there is an age limit for Civil Liability Cover, similar to that for personal accident cover. It was agreed to check.

Action NO.

A motion to adopt the increase in subscriptions recommended by the Executive was proposed by Peter Willimott and Seconded by Keith Miller.

The increases in subscriptions were adopted.

Subscriptions for	2003 / 04 [agreed]	2004 / 05. [estimated]
I.M [Ordinary]	£20.00	£23.50
I.M. [Youth]	£ 9.00	£10.00
Concession [UB40, OAP, Student]	£12.50	£15.00
Joint [2 persons at same address]	£33.50	£39.50
Family [+ 2 children under 18]	£33.50	£39.50
Club [per head]	£ 8.00	£10.25
Associate.	£65.00	£70.00

It was emphasised that the increase in premiums for Civil Liability Insurance forecast by Perkins Slade for 2004 - 2005, will be in the order of £3.00 and this is reflected in the subscription increase estimated for 2004 - 2005.

8 Proposed changes to the Constitution.

The National Officer explained the proposed changes in the Constitution.

It was agreed that more thought must be given to the changes proposed under 8.3 for Item 13 **Special General Meeting, para B**. The proposal failed to identify the numbers of individual members who will be entitled to call a Special General Meeting. It was generally agreed that Individual Members should have the right to call a Special General Meeting, but the number must be specified and equivalent to the membership of ten or more Member Clubs.

P. Willimott expressed the view that 10 members is far too small a number to be entitled to call a Special General Meeting, which might impose unaffordable extra costs on the Council.

He expressed the view that the number should be more than 40 and possibly as many as 400 Individual Members. It was agreed that this change to the constitution should be withdrawn and reconsidered.

Action Executive.

A motion to adopt the proposed changes in the Constitution notified under 8.1,8.2 & 8.4 was proposed by Fred Belcher and seconded by John Mackenzie.

The changes to the Constitution identified under 8.1, 8.2 & 8.4 were adopted.

9 Election to the Executive.

The following people were elected to vacant positions.

Office Bearers.

President.

John MacKenzie was proposed by Bill Crabb and seconded by Fred Belcher.

John MacKenzie was elected as **President**.

Vice President.

Bill Crabb was proposed by John Mackenzie and seconded by Nick Halls.

Bill Crabb was elected as a **Vice President**.

Vice President

Beryl Leatherland was proposed by Allison McLaren and seconded by Laura Alexander.

Beryl Leatherland was elected as **Vice President**.

Treasurer.

Derek Edge C.A. was proposed by John Miller and seconded by Beryl Leatherland.

Derek Edge was elected as **Honorary Treasurer**.

Secretary.

Nick Halls was proposed by Mary Webster and seconded by John Mackenzie.

Nick Halls was elected for a further year as **Honorary Secretary**.

Executive Members eligible for re-election for for a second term.

Colin Simpson, Laura Alexander, Allison McLaren.

Colin Simpson, Laura Alexander and Allison McLaren were elected as Executive members for a second term.

Places on the Executive left vacant by election to position of Office Bearer.

Two places on the Executive were rendered vacant by the election of Bill Crabb and Beryl Leatherland to the positions of Vice President.

The following people stood for election.

Allison McClure was proposed by Allison Hyam and seconded by Kate Ross.

Bob Hodgekiss was proposed by Pete Hill and seconded by John MacKenzie.

Allison McClure and Bob Hodgekiss were elected to the Executive for a first two year term.

10 Any other competent business.

No other items of business were notified to the chair prior to the meeting or raised under this item.

11 Date and place of 2004 AGM.

It was agreed that the AGM for 2004 should again take place at Glenmore Lodge on Saturday 19 June, 2004. [Subject to Glenmore Lodge being available on the preferred date.]