



The Mountaineering Council of Scotland

The Granary
West Mill Street
Perth PH1 5QP

Tel: 01738 493 942

Annual General Meeting

Dewars Centre, Perth - 26 September 2015, 16.30

Minutes of the Meeting

The Chair (B. Linington, President) declared the meeting open and welcomed the members present (see registration list below). He stated that apologies had been received from: John Donohue; Avril Gall; Megan Griffiths on behalf of sportscotland; Dave Gordon; Donald Shiach; Alan McCaffery; Heather Morning; Ken Thomson on behalf of the Cairngorm Club; and Peter Willimott.

a) Roll call and the appointment of Tellers

At the request of the chair, the Company Secretary (D. Gibson) appointed J. Anderson and himself as Tellers.

b) The approval of the Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM)

No questions were raised and the minutes were approved unanimously through a show of hands. There were 169 votes by proxy and two abstentions.

c) The receipt of the annual report

The Chair referred to the Annual Report, published in the August 2015 edition of the Scottish Mountaineer magazine, which covered the period up until March 2015. The Chair sought questions but there were none.

d) The receipt of the annual accounts

The Treasurer (R. McMurray) presented the Treasurer's section of the annual report. He stated that 2014-15 had been a year of continued growth with a strong financial performance for the MCoS and a continued increase in total membership income, resulting in a surplus of approximately £74k.

Income was £541k in 2014-15 in comparison with £519k the previous year. This was a 4% increase on the previous year. It included an increase in the investment secured from sportscotland. Access and landscape work continued to be supported by the Scottish

Mountaineering Trust (SMT) and the British Mountaineering Council (BMC). The board wished to thank these and other organisations which provided such support to the MCoFS.

Total expenditure was £467k in 2014-15 compared with £485k in the previous year and total capital reserves stood at £295k at year end compared with £233k in the previous year.

The budget for the 2015-16 had been made on the basis of a fully costed operational plan. For the first time, a net budget deficit of £39k had been approved by the board. This was in order to enable investment in membership, mountain safety, access and landscape issues.

The Treasurer explained that due to delays in the conveyancing process for the purchase of the Old Granary offices, the National Trust for Scotland had agreed to waive rent during the period in which conveyancing took place. This meant that the MCoFS had paid no rent for the last year.

A number of questions were raised by members.

A member questioned whether the growing proportion of income attributable to sportscotland investment was a risk in light of trends for growing public sector austerity, post-Scottish Parliamentary elections and post-Rio Olympics next year. D. Gibson explained that sportscotland investment was ring-fenced for defined projects linked to performance targets which were monitored closely and that the MCoFS had a Risk Management Strategy in place.

Another member shared their concern about whether the growth in sportscotland investment and related targets for climbing development activities (ClimbScotland) might impact on the MCoFS's commitment to hillwalking. D. Gibson assured the audience that the MCoFS defined the targets in its investment application to sportscotland and that such targets were developed with the aim of meeting MCoFS own objectives. He explained that hillwalking activities are also supported by sportscotland investment, including the mountain safety advisor role, the Mountain Weather Information Service (MWIS) and Mountain Training Scotland.

Another member questioned whether the MCoFS was missing opportunities to engage with the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme in relation to encouraging young people into mountaineering. D. Gibson explained that the MCoFS had just started a partnership with Duke of Edinburgh Scotland to offer Gold Award achievers a year's free membership – a potential audience of 1000 young people. The member suggested that it would be better to target Silver Award holders. D. Gibson welcomed the suggestion and stated that as this was a new initiative with a new partner, that its success would be reviewed and that further decisions may be taken in due course.

e) The fixing of members' annual subscriptions

The Company Secretary confirmed that subscription rates for individuals and members of clubs would remain unchanged. A motion had been tabled to clarify joint membership and family membership categories including a minor adjustment to subscription rates, and to add a concessionary rate for people with disabilities and carers, and to remove the term OAP from the concessionary rate table although this was still covered under the term 'unwaged'.

Following discussion, a member requested that the motion as tabled be amended to retain the term OAP in the concession category. The proposed amendment to the motion was put to the vote and approved unanimously by the meeting, following which the meeting unanimously approved the amended motion to fix annual subscriptions.

f) The election of the President and Board members

President, Brian Linington made a short valedictory speech, noting his thanks to those directors who resigned in 2015-16, Michael Anderson, Paul Webster and Pamela Miller, all of whom did valuable work on behalf of the MCofS during their time in office.

He also offered his thanks and those of the MCofS to all members; all volunteers including elected members, advisory groups, those working on competitions and events and those giving advice; sportscotland for continued investment, and to Megan Griffiths, the sportscotland Partnership Manager; the BMC and the SMT for their grant support for access and landscape work and other activities; Glenmore Lodge for their support on Mountain Safety courses and other partnership working; the mountaineering instructors who make our courses and lectures possible; members of the Scottish Climbing Wall Network for their support for climbing competitions and events; other sponsors and supporters including Herald & Times Group, Scottish Cycling and Scottish Walks magazines, Silva, Tiso, Cotswold Outdoor, The Munro Society, walkhighlands, Summit Financial Services, Sporting Chance Initiative and the Glasgow School of Art; a special mention was made for John Leftley, for his contribution to the work of the Huts Advisory Group; and to many others who have made voluntary donations during the year; and finally to the staff and officers of the MCofS.

Mike Watson went on to thank B. Linington for his leadership as President over the last 5 years and his overall contribution to the MCofS since 2008.

There was one nomination for President, M. Watson. He made a short speech explaining his reasons for standing for the role. His election was approved with no need to vote as there was no competing nomination.

After short statements outlining their background and experience, David Monteith was confirmed in the role of Mountain Safety Director, Chris Todd was confirmed in the role of Landscape & Access Co-Director and Avril Gall was confirmed in the role of ClimbScotland Director, again without recourse to a vote as there here were no competing nominations. Michelle Sweeney, Director for Clubs; Robert McMurray, Treasurer; David Gordon, Landscape & Access Co-Director and Donald Shiach, Director for People Resources were all eligible to continue to serve until the 2016 AGM.

At this point the Chair invited further questions from members, but there were none. As no business had been tabled under items g) and h), the Chair declared the AGM closed.

Attendees list

- Jane Anderson MCofS/IM 55396
- Steven Vance Individual member
- David Monteith AMI
- Paul Calton MCofS
- Jamie Smith Scottish Hillwalking and Activities Group
- Michael Jeans MCofS
- Jonathan Binny Individual member
- Michelle Sweeney MCofS
- Brian Linington MCofS
- Martin Torzewski Highways Hillwalking Club

- Mary McFarlane West Lothian Mountaineering Club
- Andrea Partridge MCofS
- Micharl Anderson Individual member
- Jim Plaice Cioch Climbing Club
- Ron Payne Perth Mountaineering Club
- Dave Paton Cioch Climbing Club
- Lindsay Anderson Individual member
- Stuart Young XXL Hillwalking Club
- David Gibson Individual member
- Gail Addis Glasgow NHS Hillwalking Club
- Anne Crombie Blairgowrie & District Hillwalking Club
- Emily Bryce MCofS
- Brian Shackleton SMC
- Henry Thomson Individual member
- Mike Watson SMC
- Chris Todd Individual member
- Sue James Perth Mountaineering Club
- Kevin Howett SMC
- Dave Morris Individual member
- Norrie Shand 45 Degrees Mountaineering Club
- Nick Grant Individual member
- Margaret Hammond Oban Mountaineering Club
- Vaughan Hammond Oban Mountaineering Club
- Robert McMurray MCofS
- James Duncan Fraser 45 Degrees Mountaineering Club
- Joy Ingram Carn Dearg
- Alfie Ingram Carn Dearg
- John Leftley Individual member