



## President's introduction by Mike Watson

MEMBERS of Mountaineering Scotland have a broad range of interests, neatly summarised in our logo - Walk Climb Ski. Some interests are common to all members and in the last year these were reflected by the release of two new strategies.

Members are the lifeblood of Mountaineering Scotland, and our new *Membership Strategy* signposts the ways in which we plan to increase our diverse and inclusive membership and support our affiliated clubs to ensure the sustainability of our organisation.

Our first *Conservation Strategy* comes in response to feedback from members and reinforces the importance we attach to promoting 'protection and respect for Scotland's mountains' and the associated flora and fauna. Davie Black, our full-time Access and Conservation Officer, is raising our profile in this crucial area with media and educational initiatives, and by working with partners to effect change at both local and national level.

In 2018 we reviewed the role of ClimbScotland, our youth indoor climbing programme, to ensure continuing support both for young aspirant members and those athletes performing at Olympic standards. The sport will receive a tremendous boost in October 2019 as Scotland is hosting the IFSC European indoor championships at Edinburgh International Climbing Arena, Ratho, and in 2020 when it features in the Tokyo Olympics. Indoor climbing has never been more popular and we aim to create more opportunities for



both young people and adults of all abilities to take part.

Mountain skills training and the promotion of self-reliance and safety in the mountains is another of our key priorities. The addition of another Mountain Safety Adviser to the team has allowed us to extend our programme of training courses and lectures to cope with growing demand, and we are exploring ways to develop this further.

Snowsports touring is also increasing in popularity, with rising demand for training and safety information for those taking part.

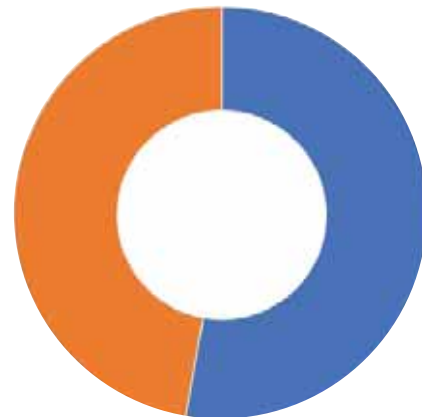
The profile of mountain safety has been raised by publicity and social media campaigns and the increasing effectiveness of partnership working through the Mountain Safety Advisory Group. The commitment and effectiveness of our Mountain Rescue Teams continues to inspire.

Despite all of this there will always be some danger inherent in mountaineering. The loss, through accidents in the mountains, of some of Scotland's most able and experienced mountaineers in early 2019 was a tragedy and we again offer our condolences to family and friends.

Stuart Younie, our Chief Executive, joined us in April 2018 and is already making an impact on the organisation which, although currently in a very sound financial position, will be challenged in the future to maintain the excellent level and range of services. As I write this our head office in Perth (now owned by Mountaineering Scotland) is undergoing

long-awaited refurbishment, providing staff with much improved working conditions and a high-quality meeting space for use by clubs and partner organisations.

We adopted a new format for the AGM in 2018 and were encouraged by the support from members – watch this space for the plans for 2019! We are also looking forward to next year and the 50th anniversary of Mountaineering Scotland. There will be much to reflect on with satisfaction, and we look forward to our future with growth in our membership, the continuing engagement of our members and support for our hard-working staff. We finish 2019 in a strong position, so let's be ambitious for what we can achieve, together, in the future.



### Our membership 2018-19

■ 7,199 Individual members

■ 6,427 Club members

**13,626 Total membership**



## Making the most of your membership

- As part of a commitment to engage our members we introduced a new format for the AGM and Members' Gathering, attracting over 60 members to Glenmore Lodge in November 2018 to participate in the formal meeting, enjoy an opportunity to meet other members over lunch and participate in a programme of free training sessions
- Celebrated the achievements of young climbers and the contribution of volunteers to Scotland's mountaineering community through the ClimbScotland Young Climber and Mountaineering Scotland Volunteer of the Year awards which were presented by Megan Griffiths (sportscotland) and Shaun Roberts (Glenmore Lodge) at the 2018 AGM
- Worked with clubs and partner organisations to provide support in meeting GDPR data

protection legislation, and help ensure protection and proper use of members' personal data

- Launched the Mountaineering Scotland Instagram account, gaining more than 2,500 followers by March 2019 and allowing us to reach new and even more diverse audiences
- Successfully grew the following for the Mountaineering Scotland Facebook (+17%) and Twitter (15%) pages and achieved a 10% annual increase in visits to the Mountaineering Scotland website
- Provided regular news, updates and offers to members through our monthly members' e-zine, quarterly Scottish Mountaineer magazine, website and social media
- Consulted with members on relevant issues including our conservation strategy and the placement of bolts at Diabeg
- Worked with club hut committees to encourage more members to make use of mountain huts throughout the year
- Provided opportunities for members to support our work through volunteering at over 30 events and climbing competitions

“As a first-time attender of the AGM, I found the day very informative and interesting. It was very well organised and an excellent venue.”

Tim, Mountaineering Scotland member

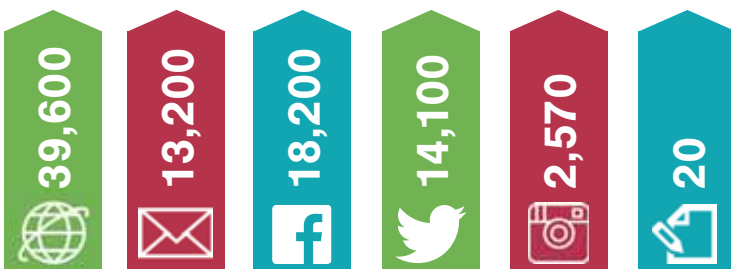
## Growing participation and supporting clubs

- Achieved a 4% growth in individual membership in 2018-19 reaching just under 7,200 individual members by March 2019
- Attracted 2,820 new individual and affiliated club members
- Delivered a 29% increase in family members compared to 2017-18
- International Women's Day social media campaign featured stories from over 15 female members to encourage more female participation in mountaineering and indoor climbing
- 56% of youth climbing competitors and 51% of university club members in 2018-19 were female, highlighting that more young women than ever are taking part in mountaineering and climbing
- 153 affiliated clubs with nearly 6,500 members
- 59 clubs responded to our annual club survey to identify their priorities and help inform our support for clubs over the coming year
- 6 youth climbing competitions and 1 para-climbing competition with over 2,000 competitors



## Our communications

- 39,600 website visits per month
- 13,200 email newsletter subscribers
- 18,200 Facebook page likes
- 14,100 Twitter followers
- 2,570 Instagram followers
- 20 Press releases



“Congratulations on a really great issue of Scottish Mountaineer. I don't know what you've done to get such a good set of articles and information together, but carry on with the magic dust.”

Gordon, Mountaineering Scotland club member

## Our people

- 7,199 Individual members
- 6,427 Club members
- 153 Affiliated clubs
- 120 volunteers
- 82 Associate members
- 12 directors
- 12 staff





## Mountain skills and safety

- Employed an additional part-time Mountain Safety Adviser to provide mountain skills training for clubs and allow us to expand our course offering for members as part of our mountain safety programme
- Delivered 32 mountain skills courses to 370 members, including summer and winter navigation, scrambling, winter skills, first aid, snowsports touring and avalanche awareness
- With the support of St John Scotland provided mountaineering and winter skills training for 20 University and College clubs during autumn and winter 2018/19
- Chaired the Mountain Safety Advisory Group, working with partners to monitor and address issues around mountain safety
- Worked in partnership with mountain safety agencies to deliver ThinkWINTER in December 2018 - our first collaborative winter mountain safety campaign - to reinforce winter safety messages through social media, print and online media
- Developed specific mountain safety advice for snowsports tourers with Snowsport

Scotland, Scottish Avalanche Information Service and Glenmore Lodge

- Annual winter safety lectures attracted over 850 people at 8 venues across Scotland, raising £2,227 for local mountain rescue teams and £714 for Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance
- Responded to more than 20 media enquiries on mountain safety issues and incidents including 8 live TV and radio interviews and an appearance on BBC Countryfile in December 2018
- Introduced a pilot 'Mountain weather' talk in partnership with the Met Office, attended by 100 people



“The course was absolutely perfect for my needs and I cannot think of anything that I would have wanted changed to improve my experience.”

## Skills and training stats

- 860** people attended our winter safety lectures
- 100** people attended our first mountain weather lecture
- 370** members came on our mountain skills courses
- 316** students from university and college clubs were trained in mountain safety and skills
- 91%** said “standard of instruction was outstanding”
- 84%** said “course was exceptionally good value for money”

“It was fantastic, the whole day start to finish was excellent”



“I really enjoyed the course and felt it had everything I expected and more.”

## Our thanks go to...

All the members and freelance instructors who support our courses, Cotswold Outdoors, Craigdon Mountain Sports, Tiso, Glenmore Lodge, Herald & Times, Mill Cottage Trust, Munro Society, St John Scotland, Scottish Mountain Rescue, Scottish Mountaineering Trust, SportsScotland, Walkhighlands, Winter Sports Legacy Trust, Police Scotland, Met Office Aberdeen.

## Respecting Scotland's mountains

- Mountaineering Scotland Conservation Strategy approved by the board in February 2019
- Produced a new hydropower statement which was sent to local authorities commonly dealing with hydro scheme proposals
- Submitted more than 60 responses and objections to planning applications and proposals
- Objected to proposals for four hydro schemes in Lochaber, resulting in two of the applications being withdrawn
- Successfully entered into discussion with the developer for the Moray West Offshore Windfarm over concerns with the potential cable landfall near a climbing crag at Redhythe Point, Moray, with the outcome that planning conditions require consultation with Mountaineering Scotland
- Worked with John Muir Trust and the Scottish Environment LINK Hill Tracks Group to campaign for amendments to the Planning Bill (Scotland), and promoted opportunities for members to get involved by contacting their MSP
- Achieved success with a number of planning authorities in requesting a narrow track reinstatement following construction of hydropower installations, reducing these from 2-2.5m wide to 1.5m in designated landscapes
- Joined the Scottish Rewilding Alliance – a network of organisations that share similar objectives and aspirations centred on rewilding in Scotland - to represent the recreational perspective. The aim is to enable rewilding at a scale new to Scotland through collaborative approaches, ensuring nature thrives, communities flourish and land owners benefit
- Attended a meeting of Scotland's Moorland Forum to discuss a 'Manifesto for the Uplands' and agreed to be a corresponding member of the Principles of Moorland Management Group, representing recreational interests, which had been lacking in discussions.



## Championing access

- Successfully delivered the Mend our Mountains campaign for Scotland alongside the Outdoor Access Trust for Scotland, raising over £100,000 for path repair on Beinn A'Ghlo and Ben Vane as part of the UK-wide campaign coordinated by the BMC
- Made a £5,000 contribution towards the replacement of the Carnoch Bridge in Knoydart
- Dealt with 59 enquiries from members on specific access issues, liaising with local authorities, National Park authorities and land owners to seek advice and resolution
- Challenged Argyll and Bute Council and Cairngorm Mountain over the introduction of car park charges in Arrochar and at Cairngorm Mountain, and sought assurance from HIE on winter access to the carparks at Cairngorm for snowsport tourists and mountaineers
- Updated and promoted the Snowsport Touring Code in partnership with the Snowsport Touring Advisory Group, providing advice on safe and responsible access through piste areas
- Worked with raptor study groups, rangers, climbing interests and SNH to provide up to date information for climbers on crags and cliff nesting bird locations
- Represented our members at the National Access Forum, the main forum group for discussion and resolution of access issues in Scotland
- Continued the relationship with Strathfarrar estates to maintain winter vehicle access for members to the private road up the glen.

## Get campaigning

**452 responses** to our consultation on placement of bolts at Diabeg  
**62 responses** to planning applications and proposals

**59** access enquiries or issues dealt with  
**30** requests by members for vehicle access to the Strathfarrar estate during winter 18/19

## Glen Etive hydro campaign

Following our formal objections to three of the seven hydro schemes proposed for Glen Etive in 2018 and subsequent approval of all seven schemes in spring 2019, Mountaineering Scotland took a lead role in presenting the case for limiting development in the glen, part of which is a designated Wild Land Area and National Scenic Area as well as being a popular destination for hill walkers and tourists.

In a high-profile campaign, along with the grass-roots Save Glen Etive campaign, the planning system was tested, engaging The Highland Council in debate and attracting the attention of the Scottish Government's Chief Planner and Planning Minister. Although planning approval was finally given for all the proposals, they were very much amended from the original schemes. The campaign highlighted important issues relating to landscape protection, local vs national interests and useful learning points for future campaigns on public policy.





## Developing the sport of climbing

- Worked with the BMC and Mountaineering Ireland to develop the format of the Youth Climbing Series across the UK
- Key partner in the Local Organising Committee and Project Steering Group for the IFSC European Championships to be held at EICA Ratho in 2019
- Worked closely with Scottish disability organizations and BAME group 'Boots and Beards' to make climbing more accessible to all
- Offered 30 climbing coaching workshops to 186 individuals, members of clubs and partner organisations

- Appointed Rachel Carr as ClimbScotland Representative and Coach on the GB National Youth Development Squad to offer support and advice to five members of the squad based in Scotland, coaching for the whole GB Youth Squad (40 members) and support for the Scottish Youth Squad coaching academies.
- Initiated discussions with representatives from Glenmore Lodge, Mountain Training Scotland and the Scottish Mountaineering Club to establish a new Climbing Advisory Group to help provide support and guidance to the board on issues specific to summer and winter climbing.



“Really enjoy these competitions. Thank you to all the volunteers and ClimbScotland staff!”

Lucy, ClimbScotland member

## Our thanks go to

All members of the SCWN - especially those who host our events – Allcord, Association of Mountaineering Instructors, Big Lottery Fund, Mountain Training Scotland, NICAS/ Association of British Climbing Training Trust, sportscotland, Psychi, Tendon and Tiso

“It was really well organised and quite accessible for all, very friendly volunteers.”

Tom, Paraclimbing competitor

## ClimbScotland

- Underwent a review by the Mountaineering Scotland board in December 2018 which recognised the success of the initiative to date. Recommendations included the creation of an adult climber membership and development of an infographic to demonstrate pathways for progression in climbing and mountaineering
- Girl Power! More young girls (56%) competed in our various climbing competitions than boys (44%)
- Taking part: over 2,700 youth competitors entered 21 climbing competitions including the ClimbScotland Fun Comp, providing an opportunity for 400 young climbers who were new to climbing to take part, as well as the Youth Climbing Series, Paraclimbing competition, Scottish Youth Climbing Championship and the Scottish Youth Bouldering Championship
- Climbing for all: working with partners, we have now established 3 paraclimbing clubs in Edinburgh, Stirling and Glasgow
- Indoor to Outdoor climbing: supported 20 young people under 18 making the transition from indoor to outdoor climbing at two 'RealRock' weekends and, in partnership with the Association of Mountaineering Instructors, delivered 8 'Ready to Rock Sessions' introducing 34 adult indoor climbers to outdoor climbing

“Having the boys and girls mixed and doing the same problems and routes is great for the kids.”

Annie, parent

## Get climbing

- 2774 competitors in 21 climbing competition events
- 328 participants supported at outdoor and indoor climbing sessions
- 186 participants at 30 coaching workshops
- 174 participants attended 6 youth squad coaching academies
- 70 ClimbScotland partners

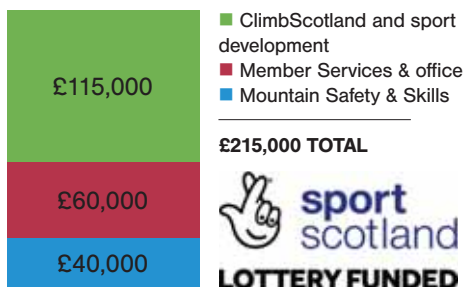
## Improving our organisation

- Delivered an end of year surplus of £5k compared with a projected deficit of £10k as a result of improved membership income (+£5k on budget) and cost controls. This included managing the additional costs associated with employing a full time Access and Conservation Officer and part time Mountain Safety Advisor.
- Initiated work to develop a longer-term financial plan to ensure the best use of resources and the future sustainability of the organisation in the face of increasing costs
- Finalised plans to invest in the development of the Granary to provide an improved office environment, new meeting area available for clubs and partner organisations and to enhance the value of the asset
- Agreed to a review of the existing Articles of Association and to set up an independent working group to examine the club voting process to ensure it is fit for purpose

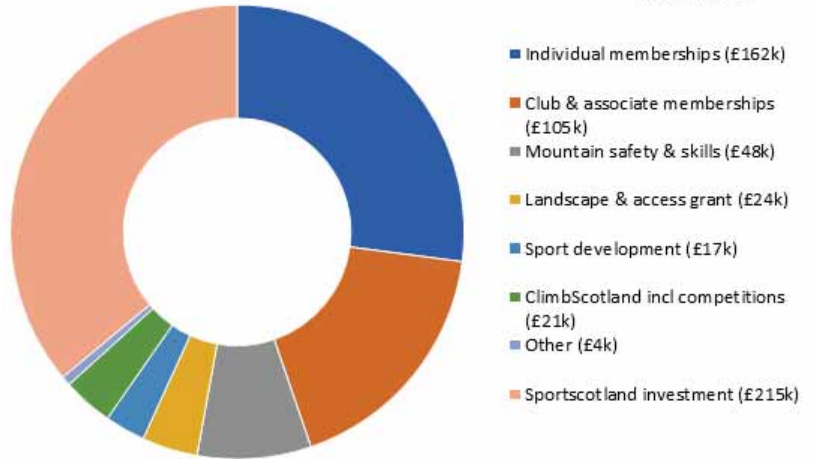
► Check out our full Treasurer's report and annual accounts at: [www.mountaineering.scot/annual-report-accounts](http://www.mountaineering.scot/annual-report-accounts)

## Sportscotland Investment

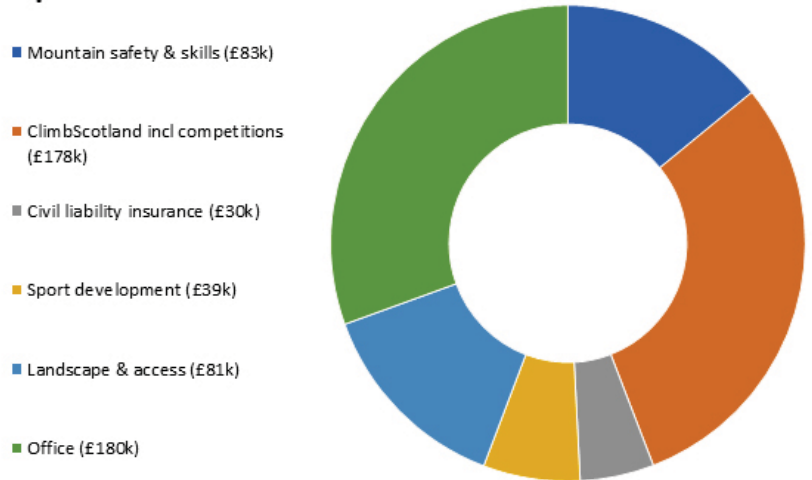
- Sportscotland investment as of March 2019 has been maintained at £215,000 - the same as last year and in line with our plans and current investment agreement – representing a decrease in the proportion of overall income from 37% in 2017-18 to 36% in 2018-19
- Following a successful midpoint investment review in September 2018 we secured a 3% increase in funding for 2019-20 from £215,000 to £221,000 which will assist in meeting rising costs and is allocated to specific projects and outcomes as outlined in the investment agreement
- Achieved the highest possible rating of our governance arrangements following an external assessment by KPMG



### Income



### Expenditure



### Allocation of subscriptions

