

Annual General Meeting

Online (via zoom)

23rd November 2024

Minutes of the AGM – Approved 29th November 2025

The Chair, Jo Dytch(JD), welcomed everyone present on behalf of the board and staff of Mountaineering Scotland.

Apologies were noted from :

- Kevin Firth
- Tim Brett
- Alistair Beeley
- Paul Harrison
- Laura Harrison
- Brian Shakleton
- Beryl Leatherland

Attendees list included at the end of these minutes.

(a) Roll call and appointment of tellers.

CEO Stuart Younie (SY), reported that registration had been carried out in advance and a record of attendance had been taken and would be noted in the minutes. He also noted that Helen Gestwicki and Karen McVeigh were the appointed tellers.

(b) The approval of the minutes of the previous AGM and of any subsequent EGM

The Chair confirmed that the minutes from the 2023 AGM had been published on the website in advance of the meeting.

SY reported the results of the voting as follows: 3,196 in favour, 0 against, 428 abstentions.

No amendments or matters had arisen in respect to the minutes and therefore the 2023 AGM minutes were approved.

(c) The receipt of such reports as the Board may consider appropriate to bring before the AGM for approval or information

The Chair noted that the Annual Report had been made available online.

(d) The receipt of the Company's annual accounts and reports

Hazel Meehan (HM), Treasurer and Director of Finance, presented a pre-recorded summary of the financial report and began by confirming that the annual accounts for April 2022 to March 2023 had been prepared in accordance with financial standards and produced externally by accountants MMG.

HM reported that Mountaineering Scotland still faced very significant post-COVID inflationary pressures, and membership has been affected by the cost of living and general economic situation. The Financial Advisory Group and the Board have closely monitored the financial position and the landscape across our peers in the industry

It was noted that a surplus of £2,626 had been achieved against a budgeted deficit of £23,506 as a result of cost controls and a legacy donation of £19,600 which contributed significantly to this position.

Membership subscriptions remain the primary income source (57%) however these are starting to plateau, and growing membership is a focus for the team. sportscotland funding increased slightly to £252,050 down from 37% of total income to 35%.

Public liability insurance is a key part of our membership package and costs for this benefit have risen, from £44,000 back in 2021 to £116,648. The review of our insurance provision was an important exercise to undertake to position ourselves sustainably going forwards.

HM went on to provide an overview of how funding was allocated across the activities of the organisation and then reported projected deficits of £49k and £76k in next 2 financial years due to rising costs. To address this and ensure that current activities and services to members are maintained an increase of £6 to adult individual and £5 to adult club fees was proposed.

Questions:

- A question was received about the funding from Braemar MRT and SY confirmed that MScot had a long-standing relationship with the team who had generously funded our student activities over the last few years. A letter of thanks had recently been sent by the President.
- A comment on the impact of the proposed increase in fees on older club members who were not active members was noted.
- A question was raised about the likelihood of a reduction in funding from sportscotland given the pressure on public sector finances. JD and SY had both attended the investment review meeting in Oct and had been encouraged to ask for an uplift in funding and received very positive feedback on the submission. Although the exact figures would not be confirmed until the new year there was confidence that a robust proposal had been made but as a contingency a hold had been put on replacing a vacancy within the ClimbScotlsand team until the investment figure was confirmed.
- A question was asked about whether any assessment was done in relation to members leaving because of cost-of-living pressures. It was confirmed that an exit survey was carried out with all leaving members to identify the reason for not renewing their membership. Cost

pressures had been a factor over the last couple of years however other reasons such as moving away and no longer being active in the hills had also been identified. Looking at previous data, a conservative estimate had been put on membership increases in the budget forecasts to mitigate against this risk.

- A question was raised about applications for trust and grant funding, and it was noted that options were being explored but were limited due to MScots legal status as a not-for-profit company rather than being a charity.
- A question was received about the potential to share financial updates with members on a quarterly basis. It was confirmed that this was the role of the Finance Advisory Group and they would consider the request.

(e) The fixing of members' annual subscriptions

The chair confirmed that this item had been widely discussed over previous weeks and proposed to move straight to the vote.

SY reported the results of the vote which were 3,319 in favour, 240 against, 65 abstentions.

The increase in membership fees was approved.

(f) The election of the Board members

The President Anne Butler stepped in to chair this Item and reported that 3 directors were standing down at this AGM:

- Jo Dythch, standing down as Director for Clubs with Stephen Johnson proposed to take over
- Dominic Hall, standing down as Director for Landscape and Planning with Andrew Tait proposed to take over
- Hazel Meehan, standing down as Treasurer and Director of Finance with Fiona Bennett proposed to take over

Thanks were noted to JD for 6 years' service in the role of Director for clubs and thanks were also noted to HM and DH for the contribution they had made to the Board during their terms of office.

Two Directors were seeking approval to extend their term of office by a further two years:

- Ilona Turnbull, Director for Governance, HR and Equalities
- Alistair Todd, Director for snowsports touring

All other directors are eligible to remain in office and are prepared to do so.

Votes regarding the three vacant positions and the two extensions to existing terms of office were shared by SY:

	For	Against	Abstain
Steven Johnson	3,423	1	200
Fiona Bennet	3,423	1	200
Andrew Tait	3,423	1	200
Ilona Turnbull	3,423	1	200
Alistair Todd	3,423	1	200

AB welcomed the three new Directors and congratulated IT and AT on the extension to their terms of office. AB then handed back to JD to chair the rest of the meeting.

(g) The consideration of and taking of decisions on any duly notified proposals for the adoption of any new Policies or the amendment or revocation of any existing policies

No proposals were submitted.

(h) Any other competent business

No additional business was submitted.

Acknowledgements:

The Chair handed over to AB who extended thanks to key partners and funders:

• sportscotland • Glenmore Lodge, National Outdoor Training Centre • Mountain Training Scotland • Scottish Mountaineering Trust • St John Scotland • Scottish Mountain Rescue • Association of Mountaineering Instructors (AMI) • Scottish Avalanche Information Service (SAIS) • Met Office • Mountain Weather Information Service (MWIS) • Police Scotland • British Mountain Guides • Connect Communications	• Outdoor Access Trust for Scotland • The BMC • Mountaineering Ireland • Ramblers Scotland • Tiso, Cotswold Outdoor & Craigdon Mountain Sports • The Munro Society • Braemar Mountain Rescue Team • Urban Uprising • Association of British Climbing walls Training Trust • Scottish Climbing Wall Network • Association of British Climbing Walls • Snowsport Scotland • Developing Mountain Biking in Scotland
---	--

Thanks were also noted to all the volunteers who support the work of Mountaineering Scotland and ClimbScotland . A particular note of thanks was made to John Leftley for 40 years of service in his previous role on the Board, as Huts Convener and volunteer on the Alex McIntyre Memorial Hut management group.

Supporters & volunteers • John Leftley • John Irving • Colin McAdam • Tommy McManmon • Tony Brown • Sophie Bosi	• Contributors to Scottish Mountaineer and Mountain Matters • Volunteer instructors at student training weekends • Parents and Squad members who have volunteered and helped out at climbing competitions and academies
--	---

• Niel Ross • Andrew Flockton • Anna Fraser • Strathfarrar padlock volunteers: Alan Bird, Gary Butler, Bob Hemingway, Martyn Willow and Arno von Kietzell	• Social media supporters and all our followers. ClimbScotland competition sponsors • Scottish Climbing Walls who hosted our events • DMM • Edelrid/Red Chilli • Highland Outdoor Adventures
--	---

The Chair concluded the AGM by giving thanks to members, clubs, and staff for their ongoing support.

Attendees:

Staff & Board

Alistair Todd	IBSC / Mountaineering Scotland Board
Andrew Tait	Mountaineering Scotland Board
Andrew Walker	Mountaineering Scotland Board
Anne Butler	Mountaineering Scotland Board
Brendan Hughes	IBSC / Mountaineering Scotland Board
Fiona Bennett	Mountaineering Scotland Board
Helen Gestwicki	Mountaineering Scotland
Hugo Allan	Mountaineering Scotland Board
Ilona Turnbull	Mountaineering Scotland Board
Jo Dyth	Mountaineering Scotland Board
Karen McVeigh	Mountaineering Scotland
Pete Crane	Mountaineering Scotland Board
Stuart Younie	Mountaineering Scotland

Members

Abdul Rahim Khan	
Adam Cosci	University of Stirling Mountaineering Club
Alan Dunn	
Alan Young	
Ali Borthwick	Edinburgh JMCS
Alice Simons	
Anastasiya Gancheva	Glasgow HF

Andrew Goldie	
Andy Barton	
Archie Robertson	Forth Valley Mountaineering Club
Bob Reid	SMC
Brian Shackleton	SMC
Caroline Reilly	Glasgow HF Outdoor Club
Chris Evans	RNRMMC
Chris Huntley	Scottish Mountaineering Club
Christine Watkins	SMC
David Hannah	
David McAlpine	
Denise Hesketh	JMCS Edinburgh
Duncan THOW	
Emily Russell	
Fiona Porter	
Gordon Ballantyne	
Gordon P Riddler	
Graeme Hunter	SMC
Graham Duncan	Moray Mountaineering Club
Graham Horn	
Hannah Vuozzo	
Helen Todd	Red Rope Scotland
Ian Parkin	
Ingrid Petrie	
inken blunk	Ladies Scottish Climbing Club
Irene McGugan	
James Greg	
James Jarvis	
Jane Grimley	
Jane Ollerenshaw	Nevis Hillwalking Club
Jonathan Wilson	
judy taylor	
Ken Thomson	
Kirsty Molnar	
Lisa Hutchison	SMC
Liz Bibby	
Marco Limonci	Scottish Midweek mountaineering club
Margaret Rae	
Marguerite Robertson	Upperward Mountaineering Club
Maria Hybszer	
Mary McFarlane	West Lothian Mountaineering Club
Neil Hearty	
Paul Karas	Eagle Ski Club
Richard Tiplady	
Rick Salter	RHSoc
Robert Thomson	Scottish Midweek Mountaineering Club

Ross McDowell
Sally Lindsay
Sandy Stoddart
simon birch
Simon Fraser
Simon Nash
Steve Glasper
Steven Johnson
Stuart Gray
Stuart Paton
Susan Jensen
Tim Simons
Tony Kinghorn
Ulrike Damerow
Willie Munro

SMC, Lochaber MC (JMCS), Relative Hills Soc
Ochil MC

Lomond MC
Forfar Hillwalking Club

Scottish Mountaineering Club

Ferranti Mountaineering Club
Edinburgh Ski Touring Club

