

ANNUAL REPORT 2005-2006

President's Report - John Mackenzie

This has been - and continues to be - a year of growth and change; the year when we hope major new improvements in the overall efficiency of the MCofS will feed back to our members. This is an on-going process and is necessary when any NGO reaches a certain stage in its growth. We cannot really remain an amateur organisation much longer; amateur status is fine if you are a small in-house organisation that does not rely on government grants or has not pushed itself out into the wider political world where volunteers must be protected from potential court actions. Our duty is to support mountaineering in all its aspects and to be its voice in Scotland and this will get us increasingly into conflict with energy companies, political opponents and other bodies who are diametrically opposed to what we stand for and believe in. This is inevitable given the changes that are about to happen in the countryside and how they may threaten the tenuous thread of our own democratic freedoms. To be effective we cannot always be the nice guy, but we do try to be always reasonable and responsive and proactive in our statements.

In a move towards achieving greater responsiveness and efficiency our headquarters office workings are being reorganised. Following a **sportscotland** management audit we are hoping to employ a part-time Senior Officer, responsible for the smooth running of the office and management of its staff. There will be other internal changes as well, all in the interests of making sure that the members get what they want and are answered promptly and efficiently. Already we have a new digital telephone system in place and this will be followed by the long-awaited UK-wide membership database.

Equally important, in light of what I said in the opening paragraph, will be the need to change the MCofS from unincorporated to incorporated status at the AGM. This limited company will have a Board of Directors that will take the place of the Office Bearers, but we will still have the all-important Executive to represent the members of the MCofS, whether they are individual or club members. Although there will be a formal 'set-piece' AGM it will be followed by an open forum where members can air their views and concerns, so nothing in practice changes as far as the members on the floor are concerned.

Currently there are several areas within Scotland that require our close attention. The first and foremost is the need to be vigilant over wind power

and obtrusive transmission lines about which most of you will be more than aware. Our Energy Strategy does not preclude renewable energy - far from it - but strongly opposes visual intrusion in wild places and laments the lack of any nation-wide planning strategy. We will continue to make representation on your behalf over these issues. Access has still a distance to run before the new bill is fully accepted by all quarters; our presence on the National Access Forum helps direct the right questions to the right places - for instance wild camping, which at the last Forum had to be extricated from certain minds from roadside 'encampments', which are not the same thing at all. I believe we have successfully enshrined the right to wild camping anywhere in this country provided it is carried out sensibly and sensitively.

Other equally important aspects are youth training, safety on the hills and the attendant lectures and courses run in conjunction with Glenmore Lodge. Like it or not, it will be inevitable that indoor climbing competitions will grow in status and lead to an Olympic sport. This may start off as bouldering but will lead to the full gamut of the indoor scene and, though many may feel uncomfortable with this concept, it is a fact and a popular sub-sport of mountaineering pursued especially by the young and talented (and the not-so-young too!). Such a move will lead to greater sponsorship but also to greater pressures on climbing as we know it.

Safety and training courses are run efficiently and well; many have benefited and, despite global warming, we still have bouts of 'full-on' winter periods where such training and competence come into their own.

The message about all these activities is reinforced by The Scottish Mountaineer, which is proving as popular as it is informative and is now the main mouthpiece of the MCofS.

None of this could take place without the help of the staff and volunteers. Many thanks are due to Kevin, Roger, Mike, Pet and Ade in the office and equally to the Executive and all those who are co-opted on to the various committees. Indeed, two co-opted names have always stood out: Mike Newbury and Duncan Gray. Both have worked without due recognition, and the MCofS owes much to both. Naturally my personal thanks go to my Vice-Presidents, Treasurer and Secretary: Fred, Beryl, Mary, Derek and Nick are seemingly tireless, selfless and full of positive ideas and fun to be with. Thank you all for making the MCofS grow and develop.

Honorary Secretary's Report - Nick Halls

As the year has unfolded the Office Bearers have been heavily engaged in implementing the recommendations arising from **sportscotland's** 'Modern Sport Audit' (2004) and the subsequent consultant's report 'Structural Review and Office Functions' (2005) both of which provided direction for the Executive in their efforts to make the Mountaineering Council more effective.

Following the agreement of the membership at the AGM of 2005 that the MCofS should move towards incorporation, a Memorandum & Articles of Association have been drafted suitable for incorporating the Mountaineering Council, all this with the considerable assistance of lawyer Richard Spencer. The 'M&A' have been publicised on the website, and clubs have been formally asked to comment. It is planned that by the time of the AGM of 2006 these will be in a form that will enable the unincorporated MCofS to be wound up with the agreement of the membership and the assets transferred to the new incorporated MCofS Ltd. The new limited liability company will then come into existence, directors will be appointed, and the Mountaineering Council will for the first time have a legal identity and be able to enter into contracts as a company - rather than in the name of office bearers or employees - with limited liability. This will then provide the structure that government policy requires if organisations such as the MCofS are to be a recipient of public funds.

In preparation for this development the national Alex MacIntyre Memorial Hut is being transferred from the ownership ex officio of present Office Bearers of the MCofS and BMC to a trust. The trust will operate the hut as an independent legal and financial entity constituted to provide reasonably priced accommodation for mountaineers in membership of the MCofS, BMC & MCofI, as it does at the present time.

In accordance with the recommendation of the management consultant, and with the object of improving the marketing of the Mountaineering Council, arrangements are in hand to improve the website and through its improvement better to promote the unique services that the Council is able to offer. It is acknowledged that the vast content of the existing website is of high quality, but it needs to be better presented,

promote the brand image of the MCofS more effectively and be made as accessible as possible for members and others who wish to discover more about mountaineering in Scotland. The current content extends to 800+ pages and with the inclusion of additional searchable databases, and also the ability to make payments on-line via the UKIT system, the cost of the upgrade will be considerable. Both developments will put the finances of the Council under great pressure.

The Finance & Administration Sub-Committee has undertaken to invest in an up-to-date phone system, as well as modern IT hardware and software, but this work has been impeded to some extent by an unexpected invasion of rats, which gnawed and damaged cabling! The office now has the means to work effectively, and each employee has a dedicated direct-dial phone number and voicemail box.

Also in furtherance of recommendations made in the consultant's report, the Office Bearers are in the process of restructuring the administration as it is now impossible for a person holding the position of National Officer both to fulfil the sports development function and supervise the administration. These two functions are to be separated and a Senior Officer appointed to be responsible for the smooth running of the office and line management of the administrative staff. This will allow more time to be devoted to sports development.

Due to financial constraints it will not be possible to employ a Senior Officer full time and consequently the scope of the job will necessarily be confined to ensuring the administration works as efficiently as possible. The job description of the SO has been agreed, and the post will soon be advertised.

These developments are being taken forward by volunteers, who each have many other commitments on their time, including jobs and families, and consequently are only being overtaken as time and opportunity permits. A considerable debt of gratitude is owed to the numerous people, both elected, co-opted or just plain dedicated, who are trying to the best of their ability to improve the quality of service provided by the MCofS to its membership. Thanks are also due to Lorna MacLeod, of **sportscotland**, whose support is proving to be invaluable, as none of these undertakings would be possible without advice, financial assistance and guidance that have been provided by **sportscotland**.

Honorary Treasurer's Report - Derek Edge

The un-audited Income and Expenditure Account for the year ending 31 March 2006 shows a surplus of £21,600.

The total income increased by £35,400, which was largely due to an increase in grants, individual fees and club income (£17,200, £5,500, and £8,000 respectively).

The total expenditure for the year increased by £22,700 due primarily to accruals for the website development, restructuring and other one-off costs and other miscellaneous accruals. There was also another increase in the civil liability insurance premium. Staff salaries have increased as a result of underpaid pension contributions.

The Council would like to acknowledge the grants received during the year from **sportscotland** for the Mountain Safety Budget and the support provided for our admin. team, Scottish Natural Heritage, the Scottish Mountaineering Trust and the British Mountaineering Council (the latter three for access & conservation work).

This year we have completed the upgrade of the computer and telephone systems and so our work practices are much improved. The surplus for the year will allow us to continue this work and allow us to take on additional staff to assist the current hard working office staff. This will improve the service that we currently offer to members.

National Officer's Report - Kevin Howett

The focus of my work remains as chief officer to the MCofS with responsibility for the office and services to members as well as sports development. With the changes to the Access & Conservation post reported on elsewhere, I retained involvement on the Nevis Partnership as a director and acted as the main contact

for issues relating to climbers and birds particularly with RSPB and the NTS.

We reverted to publishing *The Scottish Mountaineer* quarterly, but an increase in pages to 84 meant more space for news and features. The magazine's increasing sales in various newsagents across Scotland help the publishers to keep down the fees required from MCofS. We have been fortunate to gain good quality articles from members in this past year, although we would like more contributions from hill walking authors. Once again two club news sheets were produced with issues specific to club members and administration.

The website continues to be managed by Duncan Gray on a voluntary basis. The Pitch-in pages continue to be a vital source of discussion of important topics. The biggest avenue for recruitment of new members is now the website (and *The Scottish Mountaineer* second most important). Individual membership has increased a little but several clubs have had to disband. Compensating for this loss, three new clubs were accepted into membership.

Office Responsibilities

We continued to have volunteer help in the office on a regular basis, which has helped the administrative staff immensely as we have been operating with fewer staff than a year ago, but with a bigger workload

Mountaineering Co-ordination Group

The 'MCG' is the forum for consultation and co-operation between the MCofS, BMC, MCofW, the BMC Committee for Wales and the MTUK.

During the year meetings were held at the Council's respective gatherings. The issues dealt with were the future reduction of grant from UKsport (who are to concentrate on Olympic sports), civil liability insurance (with further productive meetings with the brokers), the UKIT modernisation project, the threat of wind turbines to mountain areas and coaching in climbing. The future role of the MCG was not taken forward during the year.

Sports Development Committee

Overview - Fred Belcher

Let's start with what was a real success story: REALrock 05. We had more participants at a greater number of venues than ever before. The amount of enthusiasm shown by everyone taking part turned the whole event into three fun-packed weeks of 'outdoor' climbing. Learning from the successes of this event, REALrock 06 should be a climbing adventure for a lot of people.

Ratho has taken up a lot of the committee's time throughout the year. Now that Ratho's ownership is secured we look forward to working with Edinburgh Leisure in the management of the 'climbing facility'.

Throughout the year the committee has been represented at six meetings of the UKCC in Leeds. Establishing a proper coaching system for the benefit of Scottish mountaineers remains one of our long-term commitments.

The committee supported a new 'adventure centre', which includes a climbing wall, in Aberdeen. This facility is just what is needed in this part of Scotland to encourage youngsters off the streets and into adventure sports. Work has already started on the building and it should be ready for business in the spring of 2007.

Overall the committee has tied up a lot of loose ends this year and continues to move forward to secure a future full of opportunities in the sport of mountaineering.

Development Reports - Kevin Howett

Climbing Walls

A Regional Centre for Aberdeen has finally been secured after several previous attempts. Part of a large 'extreme sports' complex, including BMX and skateboarding, it will offer an exciting facility for the north east.

One aspect of sport development that has been coming to the fore is the development of climbing walls in Community School projects. We have given advice to several such proposals and support for grant applications to others. With the rapid growth of the government's 'Active Schools' network and its diversification into many

previously ignored sports for schools, I have been helping to ensure the development of appropriate facilities when the opportunity arises.

Linked to this we have been investigating the potential for a coaching system in climbing and have produced a position paper for discussion across all the mountaineering GB's. We have committed ourselves to take this forward and as a consequence have supported Ratho's BRYCS training programme and a working group has been set up to investigate the subject further.

Youth Development

The REALrock sessions were the best yet with 60+ sessions run all over Scotland. We also ran a REALrock weekend at the annual gathering at Glenmore Lodge when volunteers took the children to a local crag followed by a day's coaching by Dave MacLeod and Scott Muir.

Competitions and Teams

BRYCS again saw some of Scotland's best young climbers competing together. A final in London saw Scotland South gaining 4th and Scotland North a 9th place in the UK regional battle. The best personal performance came from Aline Kirland gaining a 2nd place. Natalie Berry and Robert Mackenzie competed in the BICC British competitions, both gaining 1st places to become British Youth Champions. Natalie competed brilliantly in the World Youth Championships in Beijing to gain 5th place.

Expedition Grants

The following awards were made: Simon Richardson and Mark Robson attempted Mt Zeus in the Canadian Pantheon Range. Oliver Metherell and team went to Rondoy in Peru and Dave Rowe and team attempted Mt Cook in winter.

Courses

A further course for the visually impaired was held at Glenmore Lodge administered by partially-sighted Norma Davidson. Lorraine Nicholson, whose brainchild the course originally was, also helped as a sighted guide this year.

Access and Conservation Committee

Overview - Beryl Leatherland

The most notable event of the year for the A&C committee was the departure last November of Mike Dales, our Access Officer, for the Scottish Canoe Association. Mike is enjoying his new job and continues to be involved in access matters, albeit in an environment with rather different challenges to address. We miss having a full time officer, especially one with Mike's knowledge and experience.

The MCofS is not in a position to advertise for a replacement for Mike at the

moment. We have to raise funds to cover the costs of a salary, our contribution to admin and the running of the office and some of the volunteers' expenses. To cover this around £k40/year is needed. We have secured a grant from the Scottish Mountaineering Trust of £k6/year for two years. The SMT has long supported our work and we really appreciate their generosity. The BMC also contributed £k10 to help represent English and Welsh mountaineers' interests during the year and we are very grateful for that help. Without such support from our partners in other organisations we would not be able to deliver our work programme. A grant

application to Scottish Natural Heritage is being prepared at the time of writing. We do, however, anticipate a significant shortfall and would remind members that to date none of their subscription has been directed towards A&C work; we have relied entirely on sourcing funds externally.

In the absence of a paid officer, the A&C volunteers have been beavering away and sharing the workload, alongside our 'day jobs'. We are supported by our temporary part-time assistant in the office, Sylvia Laing, who has gallantly and patiently coped both with our own eccentricities and the occasional frustrations of the office IT system. Much of our attention has been focused on responding to a deluge of consultations on all manner of topics issued by the SE, SNH, NTS, FC and others. It is really vital that we scrutinise these documents and thoroughly consider their implications for our access to the hill resource and their impacts on the environment before responding with our views. If the timescale for responding has been sufficient, members have been notified of these on the website, where there is also a list of all the consultations responded to. The responses submitted are also usually put on the website.

Access - Beryl Leatherland

The 9th February saw the first anniversary of the implementation of the statutory rights of access through the provisions in Part 1 of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act. Over the year, the A&C has received via e-mail a steady flow of queries and concerns from members (and non-members) about access matters in various locations. It is envisaged that it will be at least a couple of years until the Land Reform Act and the SOAC are effectively implemented and a culture of responsible access is established among users and land managers. We liaise with other organisations and NGOs in sharing experiences - via the various groups and working parties on which we have representation - in working towards establishing what is probably the best access legislation in the world. In addition, work has started on monitoring the composition and work of Local Access Forums.

The Hillphones scheme can be very useful where it is needed and when an estate is committed to keeping its information up to date, accurate and helpful. It should be noted that estates managed by the NTS, John Muir trust, SNH, RSPB and the Forestry Commission have no access restrictions to climbers and hillwalkers and no hillphones are in place yet, despite this, they manage high deer culls. We would welcome more estates aspiring to such a responsible approach and following their good practice.

Conservation - Beryl Leatherland

There are increasing threats to and pressures on our landscapes, particularly our wild land and more remote places. Scotland has huge renewable energy resources and there are vast numbers of schemes aimed at tapping into this potential. MCoFS policy strongly supports renewable energy strategies in principle, but many of these developments are not acceptable due to their environmental encroachment and the picture is clouded by applications to develop facilities that can only be considered to be speculative. We are not helped either by the planning legislation or by the government's lack of a coherent realistic energy strategy. Whenever we regard a scheme to be inappropriate then we lodge our reasoned argument, but this counts as just one objection. If members also presented their views individually we would

have a larger and more effective voice as every submission, however brief, contributes to the overall count of objectors. In future, we will endeavour to keep members even better informed about these matters via the website and will encourage more involvement.

British Upland Footpath Trust - Mike Newbury

The British Upland Footpath Trust (BUFT) is a charity co-founded by MCoFS, along with the Ramblers' Association and the Outdoor Industries Association. Nick Halls, MCoFS Hon. Secretary, is a Trustee.

In August 2005, BUFT published a Monitoring Survey Report on hill paths previously inspected in 1996-97. For this survey, members of the MCoFS Access and Conservation Committee inspected 7 paths in Scotland and 5 in the Lake District. The full Report is now available on CD with a paper summary; price £6 (inc. p&p) from BUFT, c/o BMC, 177-179 Burton Road, Manchester, M20 2BB.

In September 2005 BUFT held a conference at Bangor University with some 95 delegates present including representatives of user groups, National Parks and also path managers, contractors and consultants. Publication of a conference report is imminent at the time of writing. Important initiatives were put in hand, including a name change to the Upland Path Trust, and it is hoped to bring in representation from the Irish who are already enthusiastic contributors.

Representation at other Organisations and Committees

Committee members and others have represented the A&C committee on the groups and committees during the year:

Access and Conservation Trust
Angus Glens Management Group
British Upland Footpath Group
Deer Commission for Scotland Round Table
Hillphones Committee
Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park
Montane Scrub Advisory Group
National Access Forum
National Trust for Scotland
Nevis Partnership
Scottish Environment LINK:
- Landscape Task Force
- MoD Scottish Liaison Committee
SNH/NGO Round Table
Traprain Law Advisory Group
Upland Path Advisory Group

John Mackenzie
Dougal Roy
Nick Halls, Mike Newbury
Keith Miller
Dougal Roy
John Donohoe
Keith Miller
John Mackenzie
Beryl Leatherland
Kevin Howett

Beryl Leatherland
Beryl Leatherland
Beryl Leatherland
Alan Smith
Mike Newbury

I must publicly thank the members of the A&C committee and also Sylvia Laing for their unstinting work over the past few months in ensuring that tasks are addressed and completed. It is reassuring to be able to rely on such a dedicated, positive and knowledgeable team, and I hope they forgive me for constantly nagging them to produce their evidence and report forms for our quarterly SNH Review submissions!

Safety And Training Committee

Overview & Reports - Mary Webster

Our courses and training initiatives have been very successful this year. Navigation courses in the autumn were well attended. The winter skills courses and avalanche awareness courses were most appreciated by the participants. The winter mountain safety talks to clubs and universities, the public Tiso Winter Experience lectures and Clachaig Inn lectures continue to be well received.

We repeated the weekend safety and good practice seminar for university clubs at Glenmore Lodge, attracting many delegates from Scottish university clubs. Also this year we delivered a new winter weekend course for university students. These seminars were much appreciated by the participants and we are confident that people will become more safety conscious.

The Winter Essentials DVD produced with the BMC and MLTE was highly commended and is selling well. The Water Hazards video is still available and the possibility of converting to DVD is being investigated. The avalanche aide memoire cards continue to be promoted and distributed. Work is continuing on an Emergency Procedures card.

Our thanks are due to the hard work of our Mountain Safety Advisor, Roger Wild, for our well-organised events. In addition to this Roger contacts the media and has appeared on the television and radio to highlight current safety issues. I wish to thank all the members of the Safety and Training Committee who contribute their time and expertise and together we enable the MCoFS to promote safety on the Scottish mountains.

Scottish Mountain Safety Forum

This forum has a broad membership and contributes valuable input to mountain safety issues on which it advises the Scottish Executive.

Following the meeting last July to investigate the potential for a comprehensive weather forecast for outdoor users in Scotland, a sub-group was set up. It considered proposals submitted by interested parties and its conclusions are being sent to the Scottish Executive at the time of writing.

Mountain Leader Training UK

The National Guidelines for Climbing and Walking Leaders booklet provides a succinct overview of all the awards. The awards under MLTUK are kept under constant review. A possible Climbing Wall Supervisors scheme is being investigated.

After years of work, spearheaded by John Cousins, instructors and guides in the adventure activity are to be treated as a special case in the HSE Work at Height Regulations.

There is concern that UKsport is to withdraw funding from 2008.

Mountain Leader Training Scotland

The S&T committee continues to maintain a good relationship with this organisation. Registration figures for their various awards continue to be healthy. Moderation reports showed that providers are maintaining high standards. The December seminar was attended by 40 delegates.

The draft Winter Skills book is progressing well and is at the editing stage.

Huts

Huts Working Group - John Leftley

The working group (HWG) continues to maintain a general overview of issues related to hut management and to liaise closely with the BMC Huts Group.

The fourth MCoFS mountain huts seminar was held in November 2005 and was well attended. The implications of the Draft Private Water Supplies (Scotland) Regulations 2005 and the ongoing review of the legal liabilities of hut managers were the main items on the agenda. The fifth seminar is scheduled for autumn 2006.

As reported last year, a property at the foot of Lochnagar was offered on lease to MCoFS by the Balmoral Estate for use as mountaineering accommodation. A feasibility study was carried out and this showed that the likely cost of converting the property to the required standard was far beyond the amount likely to be achieved from grant aid and appeal to the membership. HWG, with regret, decided to proceed no further with the idea.

Alex Macintyre Memorial Hut - Brian Rendall

The improvements to the hut are producing positive comments from users and steady usage reflects this. Work has started on replacing and restoring the outside woodwork and guttering. Unfortunately this was delayed by the early onset of winter but will be completed in spring 2006. This work, along with the upgrading of the car park, may make little apparent practical difference to users, but it is important in order to stave off serious structural damage and the improved appearance helps encourage people through the door. Similarly, an inspection of the electrical circuits has been done with mostly positive results. The work arising will be completed within the next 6 weeks.

In November 2005 a disability access audit was carried out by John Gheel of sportsScotland. The recommended changes will be introduced as and when practicable.

The nightly charge increased to £5.50 per person per night from the start of 2006 and most users remain satisfied that this represents excellent value. This puts the charge in line with many other huts and continues to provide excellent value for money compared to commercial accommodation. Usage has remained steady against last year at 35% of available bednights.

The AGM of the management committee was held in April 2006. The draft annual accounts show sufficient revenue to allow necessary maintenance whilst retaining an appropriate reserve fund. Revenue is forecast to provide sufficient funds for further improvements in the future. The main target over the next few years is a major upgrade of the drying room and shower/toilet area.

Mill Cottage - Vaughan Hammond

The levels of occupation and usage followed the pattern of previous years. Various works were carried out including the fitting of a new multi-fuel stove for the lounge, and the installation of new window blinds and curtains. The internal layouts of the shower/toilet arrangements are being reviewed to see if a second shower can be accommodated, and the layout of the kitchen and food storage area is also being reviewed with the aim of increasing both the worktop area and the areas for wall shelving.

The trustees voted to increase the bed-night charge, which had remained unchanged for a number of years, to £6.50 per person per night for all future bookings and to £3.00 pppn for camping.

Notwithstanding the significant costs for the stove and the blinds, the balance sheet shows an increase in the level of contingency funds held in reserve for any major future expenditure.

Glenbrittle War Memorial Hut - Vaughan Hammond

John Foster retired at the end of the calendar year 2004 having served on the hut committee from 1976 and as its Chairman from December of 1983. This event was marked by the presentation of a gift from the committee and his fellow trustees with their thanks - and also those of the very many hut users over the decades - for his dedicated service and conscientious management. Dr Ruth Payne, who has been closely involved with the hut for many years, has taken over as chairwoman.

In early June 2005, a 40th Year celebratory gathering and dinner was organised at which many of those involved from the outset in the acquisition of the site and the creation of the hut were able to attend.

The UV water treatment system now installed to treat all incoming water has operated well. There have been improvements to the kitchen shelving and two new tall fridges have been provided. Improvements have also been carried out to the showers and toilets.

Abridged minutes of the Annual General Meeting the Mountaineering Council of Scotland 2005

President John Mackenzie in the chair

Present.

All those attending recorded their presence.

- 1. Apologies** Apologies received were noted.
- 2. Introduction of Guests** The President introduced and welcomed guests.
- 3. Adoption of the Full Minutes of the AGM of 2004**
The full minutes were adopted as a correct record.
- 4. Matters Arising** No matters arising from the minutes were raised.
- 5. Annual Report for 2004/2005** The annual report was accepted.
- 6. Presentation of Accounts by the Hon. Treasurer and appointment of Hon. Auditor**
The accounts for 2004/2005 as presented were adopted. The Hon. Treasurer expressed the thanks of MCoFS to the retiring Hon. Auditor, Alastair Sutherland. The Hon. Treasurer said that when the MCoFS becomes a Company Limited by Guarantee the accounts will have to be audited according to company law at f.e.c.
- 7. Proposal to Increase Annual Subscriptions**

The Hon. Treasurer explained the increases. He reiterated that the increase proposed by the MCoFS was separate from the increase imposed by Perkins Slade Ltd for the Civil Liability Insurance premium. The proposal was supported by 138 votes in favour, with none against.

The subscriptions agreed for 2005 - 2006 were:

	2005 / 06 [Excluding CLI]	2006 / 07 [Estimated] [Excluding CLI]
Individual Member [Ordinary]	£23.10	£23.10
Individual Member [Youth]¹	£10.10 ¹	£10.10 ¹
Concession	£12.10	£12.10
Joint/Family²	£37.10 ²	£37.10 ²
Club [per head]	£ 6.90	£ 7.00
Club [under 16]³	£ 4.90 ³	£ 5.00 ³
MLT	£18.10	to be agreed
MLT candidates registering [concession]	£10.10	to be agreed
Associate⁴	£60.00 ⁴	£60.00 ⁴
Civil Liability Insurance [CLI] per head	£3.65	to be agreed

¹Must now pay CLI ² Must pay 2x CLI ³ New Category, must pay CLI. ⁴Do not pay CLI

8. Proposed Changes to the Constitution

It was proposed that the MCoFS should become a Company Limited by Guarantee. This proposal was supported by 87 votes in favour with none against.

A proposal from JMCS (Edinburgh) that the MCoFS should become a charity was also considered. It was agreed that the feasibility of registering as a charity would be re-investigated.

9. Election to the Executive

President: John Mackenzie. Re-elected unopposed for a further 2 years.

Hon. Treasurer: Derek Edge CA. Re-elected unopposed for a further year.

Hon. Secretary: Nick Halls. Re-elected unopposed for a further year.

Vice Presidents: 1) Fred Belcher 2) Beryl Leatherland. Re-elected unopposed for a further 2 years. 3) Mary Webster. 1 year served in first term of 2 years.

Ordinary Members of the Executive Re-elected unopposed for a further 2 year term: Bob Hodgekiss, Alison McLure, Keith Miller.

Elected 2004, served 1st year of 1st term: Susan Jensen, Richard Spencer, Chris Townsend, Peter Willimott. Two positions were open for election. David Gibson (Grampian Club) was elected unopposed for a first term of 2 years. Nobody was proposed for the other vacant position and it may be filled by co-option.

10. Any Other Competent Business

10.1 Proposal by the Cairngorm Club

"The MCoFS, together with as many clubs and individual members as possible, should:

- 1) Object to the proposed 400 kV transmission line through the mountains from Ardmair Bay to the north of Ullapool to Beaully and then to Denny
- 2) Express concern that the Government's proposed new compulsory planning powers might be used to force through building pylons and wind farms in wild mountainous areas."

It was agreed that numerous objections from individuals would be more effective than a single objection from the MCoFS, which is obliged to object in accord with the constitution. The motion was supported by 57 votes in favour, with no votes against.

10.2 Proposal by Neil Cuthbert (Edinburgh JMCS)

"I believe the current methods of consultation with members regarding policy are failing to gain a true consensus. I propose that the MCoFS discuss and investigate an operational system of gathering members' views on policy issues."

Although withdrawn at the meeting, the proposal was nevertheless discussed. The Chairman observed that, in accord with the first Aim of the Constitution, the Executive Committee has been very concerned about how to engage club members more fully and agreed to look into the cost and feasibility of such a process. The meeting expressed general support for this action.

11. Date and Place of 2006 AGM.

It was agreed that the Annual Gathering should take place at Glenmore Lodge in June 2006 (Saturday 17th - Sunday 18th).

The Mountaineering Council of Scotland

Accounts

Income and expenditure account for the year ended 31 March 2006

2005		2006
Income		
65,866	Affiliation fees Clubs	73,833
51,421	Individual members	56,904
1,170	Associates	1,235
2,964	Donations	2,290
731	Interest	1,483
10,000	Grants sportscotland	28,000
5,000	Scottish Mountaineering Trust	5,000
23,405	Scottish Natural Heritage	12,570
0	The BMC	10,000
1,432	Sales	355
(2,628)	Less cost of sales	(165)
31	Royalties	18
1,085	Rents	845
848	Miscellaneous	4,384
161,325		196,752
Expenditure		
2,000	Expedition awards (sportscotland grant)	2,000
5,478	Officers' expenses	7,806
5,183	Committee expenses	7,040
1,601	Telephone	4,688
3,136	Postage	2,751
8,101	Scottish Mountaineer	8,717
11,447	Printing, stationary and computer expenses	15,274
5,835	Annual general meeting expenses	2,484
988	Heat and light	949
70,453	Officers' salaries, pensions and employers NIC	74,073
200	Mountain essay competition	200
200	Subscriptions	1,514
6,982	Rent and insurance	7,665
19,239	Civil liability insurance	24,342
4,540	Copier costs	5,551
2,758	Office expenses	1,751
4,239	Professional fees	8,300
152,380		175,105
8,945	Excess of income over expenditure for the year	21,647

Mill Cottage Income and expenditure account for the year ended 31 March 2006

2005		2006
Income		
8,115	Booking Fees	7,798
93	Interest	156
8,208		7,954
Expenditure		
1,292	Repairs, maintenance and cleaning	2,639
847	Heat and Light	575
600	Honararia	700
344	Insurance	343
3,083		4,257
5,125	Excess of Income over Expenditure for Year	3,697
Shown as:		
4,383	Opening Bank Balance	9,508
5,125	Excess of Income over Expenditure for year	3,697
9,508		13,205

Balance sheet as at 31 March 2006

2005		2006
Current assets		
44,229	Bank	95,798
1,050	Stock	1,050
13,626	Prepaid charges	15,995
58,905		112,843
8,500	Accrued charges	39,119
50,405		73,724
Capital and funds		
General reserve		
20,041	Balance at 1 April	28,986
8,945	Excess of income over expenditure for the year	21,647
28,986		50,633
Henry Hindmarch Access and Conservation Fund		
4,586	Balance at 1 April	4,362
0	Income - donation	5
(224)	Expenditure during the year	(230)
4,362		4,137
Legacy - James Hewitt Bequest		
10,000	Balance at 1 April	10,000
0	Expenditure during the year	(1,725)
10,000		8,275
Mountain Safety Budget		
7,057	Balance at Year End - 31 March	10,679
50,405		73,724

Mountain Safety Budget Income and expenditure account for the year ended 31 March 2006

	2006	2006
Balance brought forward - 1 April 2005		7,057
Grant from sportscotland		40,000
		47,057
Mountain Safety Advisor		
Salary, Pension & Employers NIC	(27,299)	
Expenses	(2,786)	(30,085)
Lectures and Courses		
Navigation, winter safety, avalanche and first aid		240
Avalanche DVD		
Net expenditure		(2,115)
Alpine DVD		
Net income		5,000
Avalanche cards		
Net expenditure		(1,034)
Establishment costs		
Copier	(1,281)	
Postage and despatch	(635)	
Telephone	(1,082)	
Rent and rates	(1,769)	
Administration	(3,617)	
		(8,384)
Balance as at 31 March 2006		10,679