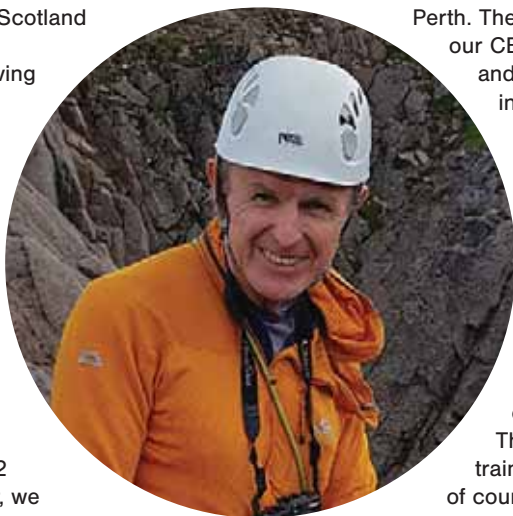


President's introduction by Brian Shackleton

MOUNTAINEERING Scotland is now in its 50th anniversary year, having been established back in 1970 from a small number of Scottish climbing and hill walking clubs. Our membership now stands at almost 15,000 with a significant increase through clubs, which had been a focus for us during the past 12 months. In particular, we welcomed the Eagle Ski Club and the Alpine Ski Club, highlighting the interest and growth in participation in ski touring and ski mountaineering over recent years.



The stature and reputation of Mountaineering Scotland has grown over the years as membership has increased, so it was great to see us taking a leading part in a number of high-profile events over the past year. In early October 2019, we were involved in the organising committee and hosted the reception for the IFSC European Climbing Championships held at EICA Ratho, which showcased the indoor climbing events due to take place at the Tokyo Olympics. Our ClimbScotland team also helped to raise the profile of indoor climbing in Scotland by hosting an open climbing competition which was televised live on The Adventure Show on BBC Scotland. In January, the Mountain Safety Parliamentary reception at Holyrood enabled Mountaineering Scotland and our Mountain Safety Group partners to highlight to MSPs and policy makers the part we all play in mountain safety.

A further significant event, and part of our 50th anniversary year celebration, was Streat Alba Geamhradh 2020, the International Winter Climbing Meet held across a number of mountain venues in late February. This meet had previously been organised by the BMC and was taken on this year for the first time by Mountaineering Scotland, with support from the SMC, the Alpine Club, BMC and Salewa. The winter weather provided exceptionally good climbing conditions for the UK-based host climbers to share with their international guests, with all agreed it should return to Scotland in the future.

The day-to-day running of Mountaineering Scotland for our members is carried out by the team based at the office in The Granary,

Perth. The team is ably led by our CEO, Stuart Younie, and was strengthened in early 2020 by the addition of Ben Gibson as a further Mountain Safety Adviser. We also welcomed Ali Rose, who has taken over from Nick Carter in delivering student training on behalf of St John Scotland. The delivery of safety training through a range of courses remains an important membership benefit and is popular with our members, always scoring highly in our membership surveys.

The work we carry out on access, conservation and protection of our landscape remains at the core of why our members join Mountaineering Scotland, and this work remains as relevant today as it was when we were formed in 1970. There continue to be access issues to be taken up on behalf of our members, and challenges to be made against inappropriate developments which threaten mountain landscapes, as evidenced by our campaign against hydro schemes in Glen Etive and other schemes elsewhere. On the conservation front, we have launched an initiative to highlight the climate change challenge we all face, with the establishment of CRAG, the Climate Response Action Group. There are a number of steps we can take as an organisation to tackle climate change so we are pleased to see members also involved in this initiative. Our 'TakItHame' litter campaign, started in 2019, has also proven popular and has been relaunched in 2020 with our reusable and recyclable sugarcane bags becoming collectables in their own right!

The 2019 AGM at Glenmore Lodge at the end of November brought a number of changes at board level, with myself taking over as President from Mike Watson, Nigel Clark taking over from David 'Monty' Monteith as Mountain Safety Director and Lucy Fraser from Avril Gall as ClimbScotland director. These roles are all entirely voluntary, so it is particularly appropriate here to thank Mike, Monty and Avril for all the work they have put into the organisation and for making such positive contributions over the past few years. Directors' periods of office on the board of Mountaineering Scotland are limited to

four years so there is a constant process of renewal needed from one AGM to the next. At the 2020 AGM, we will be seeking a new Treasurer along with two further directors, so I would ask members to consider whether any of the upcoming director vacancies might be of interest to some of you reading this piece.

This introduction to our Annual Review 2019/2020 has looked back at the more positive aspects of the review period. As February passed into March, however, it became clear to everyone that the Coronavirus pandemic would impact all our lives and put mountaineering activities on hold. Mountaineering Scotland closed its office at the Granary in March with all the staff working from home and all training courses for members and ClimbScotland activities cancelled. Since then, staff and directors have adapted to new ways of working but have remained focussed on how the organisation can help our members get through the many weeks of lockdown and uncertainty. As lockdown measures have been relaxed by government, we have worked tirelessly with our partner organisations in the Mountain Safety Group and with other outdoor sporting bodies to make the case for resumption of mountaineering activities out of doors. During this time, everyone at Mountaineering Scotland has greatly appreciated the feedback provided to us by many members, clubs and partner organisations. We look forward to your continued support during brighter times ahead as we all get back to enjoying our sport in its many forms during the rest of 2020.



Our membership 2019-20

- 7,296 Individual members
- 7,617 Club members

14,913 Total members



Growing participation and supporting clubs

- Achieved an overall 9.4% growth in membership in 2019-20 reaching just under 15,000 members by 31 March 2020.
- Sent the annual club survey to our 162 affiliated clubs in February 2020 to find out more about their aspirations and how we can support them.
- Attracted 8 new clubs and 2,820 new club members, increasing total club membership by 18% to just over 7,600.
- Increased representation for ski touring in our membership through affiliation of the Eagle Ski Club, the UK's largest ski touring club, and the Alpine Ski Club.
- Held our first networking event for clubs at Aberfoyle in September 2019, attended by 23 club organisers representing 18 clubs.
- Supported two young women to become leaders through a traineeship linked as a legacy to Into The Mountain, an arts production based on the work of Nan Shepherd, in partnership with the Scottish Sculpture Workshop.
- Celebrated International Women's Day 2019 by highlighting women in mountaineering and climbing through members' own stories.
- Improved member data gathering to enable improved reporting and equalities monitoring.

Making the most of your membership

- Bi-annual members survey was emailed to 10,600 members in October 2019, with 1,234 (12%) responding, providing us with insights into what members value about our organisation and see as priority areas.
- 85% of survey respondents said membership was excellent or good value, and 98% were satisfied or very satisfied with membership.
- Climate change came through as an important issue for our members in the survey, with 93% saying climate change is very important or fairly important to them.
- 75 members attended our AGM at Glenmore Lodge in November 2019, with voting on membership fees, updates to the articles of association and election of new president Brian Shackleton, Lucy Fraser (Director for ClimbScotland) and Nigel Clark (Director for Mountain Safety).
- 91 people took part in our 'Faces of the Mountain' photo competition, with over 200 entries.
- Provided the regular news, updates and offers that members look forward to through our monthly members e-zine, quarterly Scottish Mountaineer magazine, website and social media.
- Grew the presence of both Mountaineering Scotland and ClimbScotland on social media, with a 15% increase in Facebook likes, 6% increase in followers on Twitter, and nearly double the following on Instagram in 12 months.



“Mountaineering Scotland is a one-stop respected national organisation dedicated to advocating mountaineering, hillwalking and conservation interests.”



Our communications

- 35,500 website visits per month
- 16,302 email newsletter subscribers
- 21,000 Facebook page likes
- 15,500 Twitter followers
- 5,000 Instagram followers
- 36 Entries in Mountain Writing Competition
- 16 Press releases

Our people stats

- 7,296 Individual members
- 7,617 Club members
- 162 Affiliated clubs
- 120 volunteers
- 87 Associate members
- 12 staff
- 9 directors

Mountain skills and safety

- Employed Ben Gibson as permanent part-time Mountain Safety Adviser to provide mountain skills training days for clubs and allow us to expand our mountain skills course offering for all members.
- Delivered 32 mountain skills courses to 370 members, including summer and winter navigation, scrambling, winter skills, first aid, ski touring and avalanche awareness.
- Introduced night navigation courses in autumn 2019 to provide another level of training for members.
- With the support of St John Scotland, provided mountaineering and winter skills training for 20 University and College clubs during autumn and winter 2019/20.
- Hosted a Parliamentary Reception in January 2020 in partnership with Scottish Mountain Rescue to highlight the importance of mountain safety and rescue in Scotland. Attended by 120 guests including MSPs, individual and club members.
- Chaired the Mountain Safety Advisory Group, working with partners to monitor and address issues relating to mountain safety in Scotland.



“The course was very positive and really good fun. I learned a lot and had a great time. Thank you.”

- Worked in partnership with Scottish Mountain Rescue, Glenmore Lodge and Mountain Training to deliver ThinkWINTER throughout the winter of 2019/20, reinforcing winter safety messages through social media, print and online media.
- Responded to more than 20 media enquiries on mountain safety issues and incidents including 8 live TV and radio interviews.
- Delivered 7 winter safety lectures and 4 spring ‘Skills for the Hills’ talks, attracting over 700 people at 10 venues across Scotland, raising £3,000 for local mountain rescue teams and Scotland’s Charity Air Ambulance.



“Learning from Heather was easy, fun and so relatable. She is everything you could want in an instructor. A fountain of knowledge.”

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, Mountain skills and safety Scotland, Scottish Avalanche Information Service.

“These courses are great and make me and my party safer on the hills. Keep them coming!”

Skills and training stats

- 706** people attended our spring and winter safety lectures
- 40** people attended our first mountain weather workshops
- 370** members came on our mountain skills courses
- 316** students from university and college clubs were trained in mountain safety and skills
- 93%** said the standard of instruction on our courses was outstanding
- 98%** would recommend a Mountaineering Scotland course to a friend

Streap Alba Geamhradh: Winter climbing meet 2020

Mountaineering Scotland organised and hosted the Scottish Winter Climbing Meet for the first time in 2020, bringing together climbers from the UK and across the globe to experience what turned out to be some of the best winter conditions in recent years.

- 28 guest climbers from 22 countries
- 30 UK-based host climbers
- 150 routes climbed
- 10 volunteers
- 6 days of climbing
- 6 first ascents
- 4 climbing huts

The event was supported by Salewa, The Alpine Club, SMC, BMC, Tiso Aviemore and Nairns.





Respecting Scotland's mountains

- Launched #TakItHame – a new campaign to encourage mountaineers to pick up any litter that they find on a trip into the hills – in June 2019.
- Scottish Environment LINK – networking with other NGOs as two Scottish Government Working Groups report on the environmental matters associated with red deer, and managed grouse moors.
- Held the inaugural meeting of the Climate Response Action Group (CRAG), a member-driven initiative to ensure that intent and actions to address the climate crisis are integrated into all that Mountaineering Scotland does, and we as individuals can do, as part of our walking, climbing and ski touring activities.
- Planning casework dealt with 74 cases since March 2019, 57 of them windfarm proposals. The number of windfarm proposals in development that >50MW, with turbine heights in excess of 150m is of concern.
- Produced a draft position statement in response to the Cairngorm Mountain Masterplan outlining Mountaineering Scotland's terms of engagement in a potentially controversial development.
- Continued to track the progress - and lack of it - of the seven hydropower developments in Glen Etive.



Get campaigning

- 74 responses to planning applications and proposals
- 43 access enquiries or issues dealt with
- 21 requests by members for vehicle access to the Strathfarrar estate during winter 2019/20
- 8 Members of CRAG



Championing access

- Attended the relaunch of the Beinn a'Ghlo path following successful repair and upgrading which was supported by funds raised through the Mend Our Mountains campaign.
- Dealt with 43 enquiries from members on specific access issues, liaising with local authorities, National Park authorities and land owners to seek advice and resolution
- Represented our members at the National Access Forum, the main forum group for discussion and resolution of access issues in Scotland.
 - Raised the issues around litter resulting from informal roadside camping with the National Access Forum to reclaim wild camping for responsible campers, and to deal with anti-social behaviour without resorting to byelaws. This resulted in a broad-ranging discussion in which local management solutions was a preferred means of dealing with the matter, and a short-term working group was convened to look at delivering solutions.
- Subsequent to this we received a request from the Scottish Parliament's Public Petitions Committee for our view on Petition PE1751 on powers to create 'no wild camping' zones. Submitted a response refuting the need for special powers or byelaws to control camping.
- A letter from Mountaineering Scotland about the confusion in public reporting of wild camping, roadside parties and motorhome tourism was published in *The Herald*.
- Continued the relationship with Strathfarrar estate to maintain winter access for hill walkers and climbers to the private road up the glen.
- Created an online quiz on access rights and responsibilities promoted on our website.
- Worked with raptor study groups, rangers, climbing interests and SNH to review guidance for climbers and provide up to date information for crags and cliff nesting birds.
- Involved in discussions following 5 queries on bolting and climbing route development.





“Relaxed, friendly approach, warm environment, general organisation and excellent route setting”

ClimbScotland

- 1,385 youth competitors entered 12 climbing competitions including the ClimbScotland Fun Comp, Youth Climbing Series (YCS), Paraclimbing competition, Scottish Youth Climbing Championship and the Scottish Youth Bouldering Championship.

- 147 individuals competed this year in 6 competitions in the Scottish National Bouldering League.

- Hosted the first adult paraclimbing speed competition in the UK, with 7 competitors taking part.

- Took on three new volunteer Competition Coordinators for north Scotland region and one for south Scotland.

- Engaged new competition route setters, expanding the team to 47 across Scotland.

- Hosted an open climbing competition at EICA Ratho which was broadcast live on BBC's *The Adventure Show* in July 2019, with over 30 climbers taking part, ranging in age between 11 and 37.

- Established four new youth climbing clubs: Charleston Academy Climbing Club, Arrochar Climbing Club, Cairngorm Squirrels (Grantown High) and Mearn's Climbers.

- Indoor to outdoor climbing: supported 56 young people under 18 making the transition from indoor to outdoor climbing at one RealRock weekend and four one-day sessions and, in partnership with the Association of Mountaineering Instructors, delivered 7 Ready to Rock sessions introducing 26 adult indoor climbers to outdoor climbing.

Developing the sport of climbing

- Successfully supported the organisation and delivery of the IFSC European Championships held at EICA Ratho in October 2019 in partnership with the BMC, Edinburgh Leisure, City of Edinburgh Council and Event Scotland.
- Supported the development of 6 new climbing walls in Scotland including help with funding applications, coach training and route setting.
- Offered 24 climbing coaching workshops to 176 individuals, members of clubs and partner organisations.
- Delivered 12 'Better Belaying' sessions for 86 competition volunteers.
- The Scottish development squad

attended 6 climbing academies, with 40 of the 70-strong squad making it into the Scottish Team.

- 8 Scottish athletes were selected to be part of the GB National Development Squad.
- Scottish athletes Will Bosi, Max Milne and Hannah Smith competed as part of the GB senior climbing team.
- Member of the newly formed Competition Climbing Performance Group (CCPG), which will oversee GB Climbing, a new department of the BMC, responsible for all aspects of competition climbing, the GB Climbing Team and the Paraclimbing Team, the development of the talent pathway and the performance programme.



“Love the positive and encouraging atmosphere at these competitions. Such a good thing to see all competitors cheering each other on.”

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, DMM, Pyschi, Tendon, Rock and Run, Edelrid, Red Chill, CAMP, 2Pure/So iLL and Tiso. Also a massive thanks to all our volunteers!

Get climbing

1385 competitors in 12 climbing competition events

176 participants at 24 coaching workshops
147 youth participants supported at outdoor and indoor climbing sessions

76 participants attended 5 youth squad coaching academies

70 ClimbScotland partners

Improving our organisation

- Completed the development of a three-year financial plan from 2020 to ensure the best use of resources and the future sustainability of the organisation in the face of increasing costs.
- Delivered the refurbishment of the Granary to provide an improved open plan office environment, the creation of a new meeting room and increased storage which will enhance the value of the asset.
- Reviewed the Articles of Association to ensure they meet Company Law and agreed a new voting process for clubs, increasing their share of the total vote in proportion to the size of their membership.
- Established the Climate Response Action Group to support the delivery of more sustainable and lower carbon practices across the organisation.

▶ Check out our full Treasurer's report and annual accounts at: www.mountaineering.scot/annual-report-accounts

Allocation of membership subscriptions

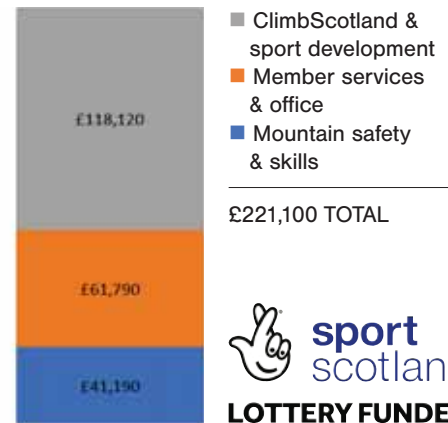
- As a not for profit membership organisation, we rely on your subscriptions to support the work we do on behalf of all our members.
- The majority of membership fees go directly towards access and landscape work and campaigns, member services and the public liability insurance which all members enjoy as a key member benefit.
- See allocation of membership subscription chart (right) for the full breakdown.

Sport Scotland Investment

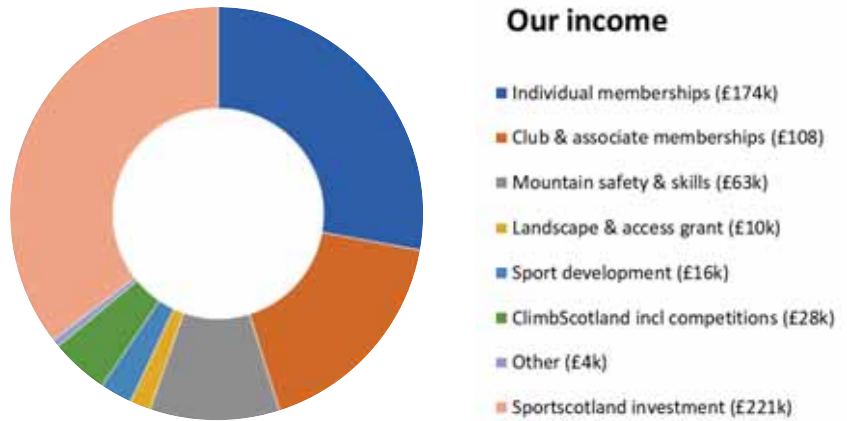
- Sportscotland investment as of March 2020 was 3% up on the previous year from £215,000 to £221,000 which will assist in meeting increased staffing costs. This figure represents 35% of our total income, a decrease from 36% in 2018-19.
- This funding supports our mountain safety programme and enables us to engage with the next generation of climbers (and future members) through the ClimbScotland programme.
- Practical support through sportscotland helps us be a more effective organisation

and includes legal and HR support, staff and board training and support to help us achieve the equalities standard for sport.

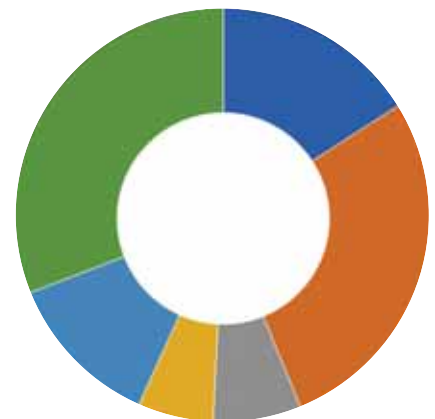
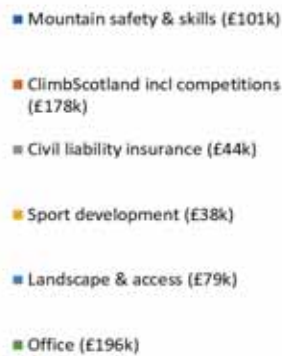
- Through sportscotland we also have many opportunities to work with other governing bodies where there are common interests, working together on joint campaigns and sharing good practice.
- Underwent a medium level development audit conducted independently by KPMG which confirmed our governance arrangements were at the second highest level "satisfactory with comments".



Our income



Our expenditure



Allocations of membership subscription income:

