

Board Meeting –Approved Minute

4pm, Thurs 2nd November 2023– The Granary and online via Zoom

Directors: Brian Shackleton (President & Chair); Nigel Clark; Jo Dytch; Lucy Fraser; Ilona Turnbull; Hazel Meehan; Dominic Hall; Alistair Todd; Andrew Walker; Pete Crane

CEO & Company Secretary: Stuart Younie.

Observers: Hugo Allan, Anne Butler, Fiona Kerr (Minutes)

1.0 Welcome and Apologies

BS welcomed everyone to the meeting:

- Attending in person at the Granary were BS, SY, AT, AB, FK
- Attending online were IR, PC, HM, JD, HA, DH, AW, LF

Apologies received from NC

2.0 Declaration of Interests

SY reminded directors who had not yet sent their forms in, to do so.

ACTION- All – return completed declaration of interest form to SY

3.0 Draft Minutes of the Full Board meeting of 10th August 2023

BS noted a correction in 7.3, bullet 3 where the surplus figure for 21/22 should be £39.7. Pending this correction, the minutes were agreed and adopted by IT

4.0 Actions and matters arising not tabled elsewhere in the agenda.

Legacy actions:

- SY/ IT – review of salary structure = carried forward
- DB - check figures on Manifesto for the Mountains = Complete
- SY – Revaluation of The Granary – to be carried out by the Factors

From 10th August meeting:

- SY/DB were to progress the Earba storage consultation = this is covered in the CEO's report
- 4 additional special meetings were to be held further to the August 10th meeting = 2 additional meetings were held on 24th August focusing on Structure and on 21st September focussing on finance. SY to circulate the notes for these meetings separately.
- A direct approach was to be considered to a suitable candidate for President = this was done and Anne Butler is standing for President.

- IT/JD/AW to agree a short statement providing an update on the approval process for the ED & I policy = this was done and has gone out to members.

5.0 Call for AOCB

- LF proposed Scott Forsyth to be given an honorary membership - tabled as 8.1.3
- SY had received an email from Ferranti MC with questions regarding club votes for AGM – tabled 8.1.4

6.0 CEO & Operational report

SY reported on the action from the last meeting regarding how the work on Access, Conservation and the Environment could be communicated to members. DB and HG would provide an additional quarterly update to members on Access and Conservation. There would also be a focus on these areas at the AGM.

Updates were provided on the recent consultations:

- The Old Man of Hoy had received over 900 responses and had been picked up by both Sky and BBC. A meeting would be held with Sam Percival to establish the next steps.
- Earba project consultation had received 315 responses which showed mixed views from members which would make it challenging to agree a position. BS questioned whether this pointed towards MS taking a nuanced view. PC pointed out that there was more emotion from those who were against the project. AT commented that he felt the consultation had been a bit short. He also pointed out that full details are not available on the size of the station and it could be huge. PC felt the project will happen regardless of our stance so our focus should be on maintaining access and the environment.

ACTION: DH/PC to update at next meeting

SY continued and provided the following updates from his report:

- Alex McIntyre Memorial Hut is needing some work and discussions are ongoing with the trustees. A longer-term plan is also required and a review of its governance.
- Pentland Hills Skyline – SY has been supporting Scottish Athletics and attended a meeting with Willie Rennie MSP who has agreed to write to the Cabinet Secretary for Rural affairs, Land reform and Islands and the leader of Edinburgh Council about the access issues and landowners charging for the event.
- Three sister's carpark Glencoe– work had started and the smaller carpark would be for coaches only therefore reducing the actual number of car parking spaces. SY had spoken with Emily Bryce of NTS who had relayed criticism about the project due to a lack of consultation.
- SportsScotland – SY and BS had attended the midpoint review meeting and had received positive feedback.

SY also circulated his full operational report.

7.0 Finance Report

7.1 Financial Report Q2 2023

HM reported the following notes from the Q2 report:

All budget figures updated from version 5

Overall membership income higher than last year and close to updated budget

Individual membership income 10% up on last year

Club membership income 18% up on last year

Other income higher due to bank interest on savings account.

Mountain safety income is close to budget but costs are higher partly due to external staff delivering navigation courses.

Also Includes £2289 of costs to be reclaimed from StJohns

Climb Scotland overall is close to budget.

Within this, Fundas net income considerably higher and Talent coach costs considerably higher.

Real Rock net income lower due to kit purchased for Real Rock not in budget.

EDI currently underspent by 80%

Member Services contains 11k of costs relating to It's Up to Us -

to be invoiced and reimbursed from OATS

A further £5k overspend in Member services due to higher than budget payment for

Spring magazine plus higher than budget marketing costs.

Property and IT - still awaiting energy and IT bills but amounts are accrued.

Staff Expenses are lower than budget

- The full year forecast is currently a deficit of £48k and HM highlighted work that was being done to mitigate this. She also noted the proposal and paper which had been circulated regarding increase of fees to help the position next year.
- BS asked for clarification of what was recoverable within the deficit amount which is the St Johns and OATS figures.
- JD commented that feedback from clubs regarding next years proposed fee increases had been positive.
- AT reported that following a recent Health and Safety meeting it was established new fire doors would be required at the Granary.

7.2 Insurance update

SY gave an update on insurance. The BMC claim had been settled at £13m and the advice from Howdens was that MS liability cover should extend to £20m (currently £15m). This is due to the risk of being under insured, or for being sued for having inadequate insurance in the event of a claim exceeding £15m. This additional cover has been quoted at a £5k premium. SY had also met with the BMC to discuss the shared interest and potential to align renewals.

It was noted that other governing bodies had similar cover and also that some offered varying levels of cover to members.

ACTION- SY To reconvene Insurance working group and set a meeting as early as possible.

8.0 Governance

8.1.1 AGM

SY provided an update on plans for the upcoming AGM. He and Karen had completed a site visit the previous week and were happy. He invited directors to let him know if they could present any slides of the annual report. Expected numbers are around 52 in person and 11 online.

8.1.2 Appointment of Chair

BS advised that he would chair the AGM but from the next meeting a chair would need to be appointed. BS gave an overview of the role and suggested it could be filled by an existing director on a periodic or rotational basis. SY noted that the BMC also had split roles.

ACTION – SY look at BMC roles. All - contact BS or SY if more information is required on the role.

8.1.3 Honorary Memberships

LF proposed Scott Forsyth to be given an honorary membership. She provided some background on his lengthy service as a ClimbScotland volunteer and had shared his charity link. SY also proposed Dave Gordon for his extensive contribution to work around wind farms.

Everyone present agreed on these 2 honorary memberships and that they could be announced at the AGM. AW pointed out a lack of diversity within current honorary members.

ACTION – SY to check on official process and certificate for honorary members.

8.1.4 AGM Voting process

SY reported that he had received an email about voting procedures from the Ferranti MC. The points were discussed, and it was agreed that the current procedure offered the fairest and most democratic option

ACTION – SY to respond to the email.

8.2 Membership and Communications

8.2.1 Membership Update

SY circulated slides from HG which showed the membership trend over the last few years and the current plateau. The main reason given for non-renewals is the cost of living. A discussion followed around thoughts of the current membership position and its composition. IT questioned if the 33% females was representative to number on the hill and perhaps they were members of other groups instead of MS. BS though there were bigger groups of males. AB asked if a non-members survey was done to gain insight SY confirmed that this had been carried out in 2021 and another one was due.

8.2.2 Communications Strategy

A final draft of the Communication Strategy was circulated for approval. AW noted that it would provide focus, help manage resources effectively and manage outcomes. It would also offer a strategic framework for big pieces of work such as a new website or campaigns such as It's up to us. HG had given feedback that it was already being used, it worked and was beneficial. Following a discussion around its values and possible applications, the strategy was approved.

8.2.3 "Its Up to Us" Update

SY reported that the campaign had now raised £52k plus the £100k Diamond grant. The recent volunteer day had been very successful and helped by good weather. There has been lots of goodwill and support around the project. Next steps are to gain political engagement and a push on donations in the spring. BS reported that he had been disappointed that the direct debit was through paypal .

8.3 Policies and Procedures Review Schedule status report

SY informed that the Facilities Strategy was now complete and ready to be signed off and that this linked to point 9.1.

9.0 Standing Agenda Items

9.1 Risk Register

SY had updated the Risk Register and noted that the main addition was the risk of loss of web support as ClimbScotland website support will end in March 24. SY will incorporate the risk register into the risk policy and is close to circulating that. It was proposed that the Risk Register could sit under FAG rather than full board and HM suggested this would allow for deeper scrutiny and provide governance and structure.

ACTION – HM/SY to adopt and amend agendas going forward.

9.2 Health & Safety

AT had recently spent 3 days looking at Health and Safety and reported there was a lot to do. He had also met with John Morris consultants and has passed the priorities to SY, including a requirement for new fire doors. SY also noted that he, RC and JS were going to review risk assessments and policies and had a meeting with Adventure Activities Authority.

9.3 Child Wellbeing

ClimbScotland staff had recently been asked for advice by Ratho about a concern they had. (Which was not connected to ClimbScotland). They were advised to alert Edinburgh Leisure.

10.0 Future meetings 2023

- **AGM** – 11th November 2023
- **Post AGM Christmas Meeting** –Thurs, 14th December
- **2024 dates** – TBC

AW provided a vote of thanks to BS which was reiterated by all.

Minutes by FK 27/11/23

Approved 29/02/24

