

SCOTTISH



SKI CLUB

MINUTES OF THE 2021 AGM HELD VIRTUALLY ON ZOOM

Wednesday 10TH NOVEMBER 2021 AT 7.30 PM

WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Ms Moira Langmuir, President, welcomed the 34 members present, whose names are recorded in the Attendance Book.

Apologies from 12 other members were received with regret and all are recorded in the Attendance Book.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS AGM HELD ON 9th NOVEMBER 2020

No amendments were requested. The adoption of the minutes was accepted by the meeting.

Proposed by: Mike Jardine **Seconded by:** Eric Renshaw

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None.

4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Moira Langmuir

“Who could imagine that, a year on, we would still be grappling with the pandemic?”

Moira began by expressing sympathy to all those whose lives have been changed by the pandemic.

Despite the pandemic, last season turned out to be one of the best for many years. SSC members are very intrepid and made the most of the regular snowfall and their ingenuity to find amazing places to ski when the resorts were closed.

Although the resorts were closed for most of the season, it has been a busy year for the Committee. Moira summarised the highlights.

- **Race Training** This initially morphed into Ski Touring with the help of ATC SCIO. It developed further with avalanche and mountain safety awareness at Glenmore. As we had to comply with Scottish Government rules, this took place mostly in the Highlands and Aberdeenshire and the trainees benefitted greatly from the opportunity to explore and

increase their awareness. Once restrictions were relaxed and organised sporting activities were permitted, training on Cairngorm resumed, although the lifts were still closed. The season ended with a club race and a barbecue at the hut. Moira expressed her thanks to the coaching team at ATC SCIO for their flexibility, enthusiasm and dedication.

- **Website** We continue to fine tune this. It is a very useful resource and members are encouraged to inform the Committee of any additions or changes they would like featured online. Particularly useful is the list of deals for members and links to partner organisations offering discounts.
- **Bursary** The newly launched SSC Bursary in partnership with ATC SCIO has been a huge success. Moira thanked members for their generous donations and help in supporting the next generation of talented and deserving youngsters. Four bursaries were awarded in August 2021 and the experiences of the recipients will be covered in their articles in the Journal.
- **Huts** Moira thanked all the Hut Convenors for their continued work in keeping the huts in good working order. Committee and club members and friends have attended work parties throughout the year to maintain access to our huts and keep them weatherproof.
- **Funicular** The opening of the funicular has been delayed until the 2022-23 season. The Club continues to engage with HIE on the development of Cairngorm and improved facilities for skiers.
- **Obituaries** We have sadly lost a number of members this year and they will be remembered in the Obituary section of the Journal. Moira mentioned her fond memories of Ian Cairns, a Past President of the Club and 'a force to be reckoned with in Scottish skiing'. John O Mackay informed the meeting that Donnae Mackenzie, a past Secretary, had left a generous sum to Cairngorm Mountain Rescue and asked for this to be acknowledged.
- Moira thanked all the Committee for their various contributions, enthusiasm and commitment to the club and Scottish skiing. The Committee is always looking for help with running the club and any offers would be appreciated.

5. TREASURER'S REPORT : Wilma McIntyre

Wilma presented the Accounts which are available to members on request. The Accounts were displayed on screen as Wilma spoke.

Income

- This year has been successful which has led to a surplus despite a slight drop in subscriptions. The Committee is committed to maximising opportunities to raise the profile of SSC and to attract new members.
- £10,000 of donations received: most of this has gone out to SSC/ATC SCIO Bursary which was supplemented by a donation from Blues this year for which the club is very grateful.
- Race Training has made some profit. It is likely there will be a reduction next year as some trainees will be due days carried over.

Expenditure

- No Direct Debit fee this year as a result of amendments made to charges last year. Therefore admin fees are reduced.

- The cost of producing the Journal has increased but this is seen as an important and valuable asset of the club.
- Hut maintenance: Glencoe, Nevis Range and Cairngorm. Hut convenors were thanked for their continued hard work keeping the huts wind and water tight.

Accounts were adopted.

Proposed by : Andrew Saunders, Myrtle Simpson **Seconded by** : Eddie Guest

Wilma thanked Moira and the Committee for their continued support.

6. MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT : Dave Leckie

- Dave reported a continuing decline in membership. Membership was dropping before the pandemic and several members have delayed renewing membership due to the uncertainty created by it.
- We finished the 2020/21 season with 761 members (down from 925 in 2019/2020) of whom 24 were new members.
- Latest figures (November 2021) : 673 paid up members and 14 new members.
- We have 200 Life members and 500 who pay a subscription.
- It is too early to see if the new Young Adult category makes any difference to numbers but the hope is that it may stop members leaving when they reach 22.
- Direct Debits are the easiest means of payment to maintain but most prefer to use Paypal.
- Postage costs are significant and collecting and updating email addresses remain a challenge. To reduce costs, the Newsletter is distributed by email. A paper version is available on request.
- Email: Dave has email addresses for 85% of the club. Members are requested to provide Dave with an up to date email address and to inform him of any changes.
- A positive development is that several long time resigned members have renewed for the coming season.

Discussion

Andrew Saunders asked why there was a big jump in numbers in 2008/09. Dave will look at this for the next Committee Meeting.

Moira suggested that it may be due to changes to Race Training which is 'leaner' or less active now and many people move on to Academies. Families usually join because of their children so, if they move on to an Academy, they no longer have need of a club.

Moira reported that, from the Snowsport Scotland AGM, other clubs are in a similar position.

Eddie Guest suggested that what the club may be able to do with the White lady would be very beneficial and may attract members.

All agreed with Moira that our huts are our biggest asset in attracting new members.

7. SECRETARY'S REPORT : Kathryn Jardine

- 6 Committee Meetings this year, all held on Zoom.
- One meeting dedicated to progress on updating the Constitution.
- Topics regularly discussed :
Membership, Races and Race Training, section updates, huts, Cairngorm lease, SSS and policies, Cairngorm stakeholder group, Journal, Bursary, website and social media.

SSC/ATC Bursary

- January 2021: Bursary sub group set up.
- Main priorities: fundraising, administration and selection.
- 6 meetings held from set up in January to launch in March.
- 2 further meetings to consider applications and for selection.

SSS Policies

These are a requirement linked to the club's renewal of SSS subscription. This is ongoing and once they are finalised will be available on SSC website.

Newsletter

2 Newsletters circulated. Moira and Seonaid Cleare are exploring more effective ways of circulating the newsletter to members.

Kathryn thanked Moira and the Committee for their continued support.

8. RACE TRAINING REPORT : Andrew Saunders

There was no proper Race Training programme at the start of the season due to Lockdown from Boxing Day 2020.

As things eased up, we managed a 1-1 coaching ratio and between SSC and ATC we fought to get trainees on the hill either ski touring or training. Activities included

- Skinning up from the Hayfield to top of Cairngorm.
- Night tours
- Mountain safety and avalanche awareness provided by Andy Townsend of Glenmore Lodge
- Full weekend of roadside GS training in the Cromdales: trainees walked up and down, slipped course and had 2-3 runs.
- New year camp at the Lecht but 3rd lockdown meant it had to close on 3rd January
- Several Munros bagged
- As Cairngorm closed, training moved to Glencoe
- As restrictions eased, snow gates opened and trainees could train on a man-made patch of snow. No uplift due to Covid so they walked up and down: 30 runs!
- End of season 20k ski tour from the car park to Ben Macdui and Cairn Toul
- End of season race at Cairngorm with Prizegiving and barbecue at the hut.

Andrew reported that ATC and the coaches managed to salvage so much from what could have been

a bad season. The trainees gained important life skills such as determination, motivation and resilience and are now more aware of what they can do with a good level of fitness.

He expressed his thanks to the coaches and ATC.

Moira thanked Andrew, the Race Training team and particularly Sean and Murray for providing such a varied, challenging and enjoyable programme which meant that the trainees were out every weekend and, in some cases, in the evening and after school.

Discussion.

Andrew commented that he was very pleased with the commitment shown by CMSL by transporting equipment up to the M1 Poma and allowing an hour's GS training on the White Lady.

Alan Robertson, Eddie Guest and Rona Simpson congratulated the Race Training team, the coaches and ATC for their innovation and enthusiasm. SSC was the only club providing this and it will be featured in the Journal.

Ski Touring

Andrew reported that this was very popular with the trainees and is discussing including night tours with ATC.

Rona suggested that, to attract new members, SSC should capitalise on and market the fact that SSC was the only club doing this. JohnO MacKay suggested covering it in an article in the Strathie. He commented that it was heartwarming to hear of the exploits of the trainees and their appreciation of big spaces and the mountains.

Moira stated that the club intends to set up a Facebook group to organise touring together.

9. CONSTITUTION

Online AGM is approved provided that the Committee intimates this in a Committee Meeting and informs members.

10. COMMITTEE

ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

Elections were made in accordance with the Constitution and Rules of the Club. Election of Council members was put to the members and unanimously agreed.

PRESIDENT:	Moira Langmuir
VICE PRESIDENT	Mark Blyth, Andrew Saunders
PAST PRESIDENT:	Rona Hulbert
SECRETARY:	Kathryn Jardine
TREASURER:	Wilma McIntyre
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY:	David Leckie
RACE CONVENOR:	Jason Baggaley
RACE TRAINING CONVENOR:	Andrew Saunders
JOURNAL EDITOR:	Alan Robertson & Sam Thomson HUTS

CONVENER Colin McFarlane (Cairngorm) NEWSLETTER
 EDITOR: Moira Langmuir
 GENERAL MEMBERS: Bill Aitken, Eddie Guest & Kenny Waitt
COMMITTEE MEMBERS WITH SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES
 HEAD COACH: Mark Blyth/ Coaching is provided by ATC
 HOLIDAY CONVENER: Douglas Tullis has expressed his intention to stand down from this post.

 TOURING: VACANT
 WEBSITE: Giles Lawson Johnston
SECTION CONVENERS:
 GLENCOE: Seonaid Cleare
 LOCHABER: Davie Austin

Mark Blyth is stepping down as Head Coach. Coaching will be outsourced to ATC. No other changes to Committee.

Proposed by : JohnO MacKay **Seconded by :** Myrtle Simpson

Discussion re Ski Touring Convener

Although it is agreed that this should be a feature of the club, there has been little enthusiasm to organise groups. The question of liability was also raised. The Committee agreed to continue working on this.

11. REVIEW OF SUBSCRIPTION LEVELS

PROPOSED SUBSCRIPTIONS 2021/22

It is proposed that membership fees will remain at current price for the season 2021/22

	Direct Debit	PayPal/Other
Family (incl Junior 0-21 incl on 1.09.22)	£90.00	£95.00
Husband/Wife/Partner	£78.00	£82.00
Ordinary (over 26 on 1.09.22)	£46.00	£49.00
Young Adult (22-25 incl on 1.09.22)	£25.00	£25.00
Junior (0-21 incl on 1.09.22)	£25.00	£25.00
Social	£15.00	£15.00

Proposed by : Dave Leckie **Seconded by:** Colin McFarlane

12. APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT PERSON TO REVIEW THE ACCOUNT

Lorna Rofe agreed to review the accounts

13. AOCB

1. Bursary : Alan Robertson

Background

In order to progress, trainees need time to train in the Alps. The aim of the Bursary programme is to support youngsters in doing so.

- Bursary launched in March 2021.
- Target of up to £30,000 achieved within 6 weeks thanks to some significant donations including £10,000 from 4 ex pats in Canada.
- 8 weeks of training camps awarded : £1350 camp fees, awardees responsible for funding equipment and travel.
- October 2021: very successful first camp in Hintertux.
- Bursary funding programme to be re-launched in the next few weeks. The group is conscious not to press existing supporters. and will continue to work on this. Promise of a further £10,000 from a well-know Scottish skier.

Discussion

Branding : some concern expressed regarding the prominence in photos of ATC branding over SSC. The group is aware of this and the difficulties involved in dealing with it due, in part, to the variation in quality of kit. Trainees are always encouraged to wear SSC kit.

2. The future of Cairngorm : Bill Aitken

Bill presented the Master plan for the future of Cairngorm. The Scottish Government, HIE, CMSL and SSC are all committed to this. The SSC initiative is led by Andrew Steel and Bill represents the Committee. SSC is the catalyst to achieve short term improvement as the first step in the process. SSC to raise £120.000 funding in the coming months.

- The Master plan proposes Cairngorm as a year round Mountain resort which will also benefit Spey Valley, the Highlands and Scottish tourism.
- It is hoped that it will serve as the catalyst to encourage the Snowsports community to return and to get the tourist industry on-side.
- Funding :
 - Scottish Government: £20M for funicular repair
 - Scottish Government: £40 M for Master plan - two 6 person chairlifts, replacement Day Lodge, upgraded power supply, New White Lady tow
 - SSC £120,000 seed funding
- Current situation
 - SG has funded funicular repair
 - HIE wants Master plan to proceed
 - CMSL is ready to implement it
 - SSC is ready to be the catalyst
- Proposal
 - Purchase of 2 surface lifts (on line of old Fiacail T-bar and

- Implementation
 - lower White Lady)
 - SSC to raise £120,000 with possible CSC contribution
 - CMSL to raise balance, commit to operation and maintenance of lifts, agree training priorities with SSC and CSC
 - New Surface lifts in service at start of 2022/23 season
 - White Lady T-bar for 2024/25, first 6 man chair later
- Funding SSC's £120,000
 - Donations to be processed through SSTT. Gift Aid of 25%
 - CSC may contribute part share (still to be discussed)
 - Main target will be SSC Life Members
 - Campaign to raise funds by Spring 2022

Myrtle Simpson thanked Bill for 'getting it off the ground'.

The meeting concluded at 21.15 and was followed by an entertaining and interesting presentation by award winning photographer Ed Smith.

With a background in kayaking, Ed has become an expert in many sports and enjoys telling stories through photography. We were treated to many wonderful photos which showed his progress as a photographer and visual story teller, at the same time demonstrating the challenges of skiing with photo equipment. He aims to 'capture the story in one image' and his photos certainly do that: there were some jaw dropping shots of terrifying exploits all against stunning scenery both in the Alps and in Scotland. Ed loves what skiing offers as a blank canvas and his photos taken in Spey Valley during lockdown show our mountains at their very best. Using ski touring equipment meant that he could access the huge snowfields in Glenfeshie and capture the true 'ski at all costs' spirit of Scottish skiers journeying through all conditions. Ed continues to develop the style and content of his work and is introducing an abstract element to his photos with some magical results.

Following his presentation, Ed shared some helpful tips regarding cameras and how to set up the ideal photo. His show launches on Friday 3rd December in Kinraig and all members are welcome to visit it.

K. Jardine

November 2021

