



SCOTTISH SKI CLUB

MINUTES OF THE 2022 AGM HELD AT STIRLING COUNTY CRICKET CLUB AND VIRTUALLY ON ZOOM ON WEDNESDAY 16TH NOVEMBER 2022 AT 7.30 PM

WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Ms Moira Langmuir, President, welcomed the 20 members present in person and the 13 present on Zoom, whose names are recorded in the Attendance Book.

Apologies from 8 other members were received with regret and all are recorded in the Attendance Book.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS AGM HELD ON 10th NOVEMBER 2021

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

Proposed by: Eric Renshaw **Seconded by:** Allan McMurtrie

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None.

4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Moira Langmuir

“At last some normality seemed to return following the far reaching impact of the Covid pandemic”

Storms in the early part of the season brought snow and resorts were finally able to get running again, apart from the funicular at Cairngorm. However, it is hoped it will re-open in January/February 2023. There were great opportunities for touring and it was great to see the Race Training programme back in action on Cairngorm.

- **Bursary** Our Bursary programme is now in its second year and details of this can be read in the Journal along with photos and reports from Bursary recipients. The Bursary supported 4 trainees last year and 6 bursaries were awarded for this season (22/23) to trainees who attended a training camp in Hintertux in October 22. Alan Robertson (Chair of the Bursary Committee) reported that fundraising has exceeded expectations and there remains £10,000 for season 23/24. Moira and Alan thanked all the membership for their generous donations.
- **Huts** Moira and the Committee recognise that our huts are our greatest asset and thanks go to Colin McFarlane (Cairngorm), Seonaid Cleare (Glencoe) and Davie Austin(Nevis Range) for keeping them going. Thanks to a lot of fantastic work by a few people over work party weekends, the huts are in a good state of repair and offer a warm, sociable shelter and welcome to all members. Any members who would like to get involved in a work party or who can offer their expertise are asked to contact the hut convenors.
- **Tow appeal** The Club has supported Cairngorm Mountain in the first step of the development plan to improve the lift system on the mountain, as reported in the Minutes of the 2021 AGM. On this basis, we launched an appeal, targeting mainly Life Members, which raised £15,000. However, some of the fundamental understandings have changed and this affects whether the Club can commit funds to the project. Bill Aitken, who has driven the appeal, explained that even if we had raised the £90,000 needed to purchase the surface two as in the plan, it would not be available until 2023/24 and the club would not have ownership of it. After this update, there was a unanimous decision not to go ahead. Donors will be contacted regarding a refund of their donation or the

- opportunity to leave it the SSTT account. SSC remains supportive of Cairngorm.

• **Obituaries** We have sadly lost a number of members this year and they will be remembered in the obituary section of the Journal. Two members who contributed hugely to the club were mentioned: Hans Kuwall and Harry Causer.

Hans was a legend in Scottish skiing and will be remembered by many as the founder of the SSC Race Training programme at Cairngorm and at Hillend through the Lothian Ski Racing Association (LSRA). The 2023 Convenors' Canter will be run as a tribute to Hans and an opportunity for some of us to share memories of our Race Training days. Details will be given in the Newsletters in due course.

Harry was the architect of our huts. In a recent conversation with Moira, he told her he was delighted to learn that the huts had stood the test of time and were still providing a welcome shelter and meeting place for members.

Moira finished her report by expressing her thanks to all the Committee and by mentioning that any member who would like to join the Committee would be very welcome.

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. Any member who would like to access a copy of the accounts should contact Wilma.

Income

- As the accounts show, we have had another successful year.
- Subscriptions have remained in line with last year.
- No large donations this year as they have been made directly to the Bursary.

Expenditure

- The cost of producing the Journal is substantial but this is seen as an important part of the Club. All agreed this is worth it.
- Huts continue to be maintained at Glencoe and Cairngorm, thanks to the hard work by the hut convenors which was recognised by all. Work has also started on the hut at Glenshee.
- Racing made a loss as some trainees were owed days from winter 2020/21. Insufficient snow meant that the full programme could not run. However, the Childrens' Championships run by Jason Baggaley in March helped to offset this

Bill Aitken asked if, as interest rates are rising, it would be possible to get more money from the banks. Wilma will make enquiries.

Regarding the Journal, Alan Forbes mentioned that he has every Journal and some other Club publications in digital form and asked if they could be put on the website.

The Accounts were adopted.

Proposed by: Bill Aitken

Seconded by: Colin McFarlane

Wilma thanked Moira and the Committee for their continued support

6. MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT: Dave Leckie

A chart of the membership statistics over the last few seasons was displayed on screen to illustrate Dave's report. He reported

- A continuing decline in membership.

- Latest figures (November 2022): 651 paid up members and 17 new members.
- 186 Life members and 581 who pay a subscription.
- 22 members have cancelled their Direct Debit since last season (figures for September 2022)
- Subscriptions have remained unchanged apart from the introduction of the Young Adult category for season 2020/21
- Postage costs are significant and collecting and updating email addresses remains 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

Dave reported that he has begun to document how the current membership system works, using a bespoke system written to meet the needs of the club.

7. SECRETARY'S REPORT: Kathryn Jardine

- 4 Committee Meetings this year, 3 on Zoom. and one in person at The Royal George Hotel, Perth in September. Eight members of the Committee were able to attend and 3 joined on Zoom: our first attempt at a hybrid meeting. All agreed it was great to be together again.
- Topics regularly discussed: Membership, Races and Race Training, section updates, huts, SSS and policies, Cairngorm stakeholder group, Journal, Bursary, website and social media.

Bursary sub-Committee

- 3 meetings on Zoom
- Main priorities: administration, selection and next steps.

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: Moira Langmuir

Moira spoke to a Presentation shown on screen which featured many of our trainees as well as results. There will be more detail in the report by Calum Shepherd, our Head Coach, in the Journal.

- This season's training was interrupted at times by the weather and inconsistent snow cover.
- At New Year, a traditional camp was run by ATC at Cairngorm. Despite limited snow and training being confined to the patch, the trainees once again made the most of every opportunity to hone their technique. Other activities included avalanche training, safety courses, ski touring and even a yoga session in the hut.
- A few weeks of warm weather mid-season meant that training had to be moved to Braehead and trainees also took part in other sports to maintain their fitness levels and to learn new skills.
- The snow returned in March and the very successful Children's Championships were held in great conditions.
- The season ended on a high note with the Convenors' Canter – a day of fun, sun and various innovative ways of getting up the hill ending with a barbecue at the hut.
- Special mention was also made of our members on the bigger stage: Charlie Guest who achieved a great 13th in a World Cup slalom in Schladming and came 21st in the slalom at the Olympics in Beijing. Katie Guest led Mena Fitzpatrick to gold at the Para World Championships, unfortunately missing the Olympics due to covid. And, of course, we all celebrated Dave Ryding's fantastic Kitzbuhel world cup slalom win. Despite serious funding problems, all are racing this season.

Moira ended the report by expressing thanks to Calum for his commitment and excellent organization and to the rest of the coaching team: Daisy, Duncan, Jemma and Sula. Thanks also to Andrew Saunders, Mark Blyth, Sean Langmuir and, of course, the parents of our trainees. The club also would like to thank Mikey Jachacy at CMSL for his tireless support.

Discussion

Andrew Saunders is meeting with CMSL at the end of November to discuss next season. He hopes to get an idea of when the funicular will be up and running so that the club can plan. Access to the top of the mountain will make a huge difference to the training opportunities.

Jean Lindsay-Bethune (on Zoom) expressed her congratulations to everybody.

9. CONSTITUTION

No amendments.

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:	Mark Blyth
VICE PRESIDENT:	Andrew Saunders
PAST PRESIDENT:	Moira Langmuir
SECRETARY:	Seonaid Cleare
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
NEWSLETTER EDITOR:	Moira Langmuir
GENERAL MEMBERS:	Bill Aitken, Virginia Beckett, Loddy Cooke, Angela Goodman, Eddie Guest & Kenny Waitt

COMMITTEE MEMBERS WITH SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES

HEAD COACH:	Calum Shepherd is employed in this position through ATC SCIO
HOLIDAY CONVENOR:	Graham Scott
TOURING:	VACANT
WEBSITE:	Giles Lawson Johnston
SECTION CONVENERS:	
CAIRNGORM	Colin McFarlane
GLENCOE:	Seonaid Cleare
LOCHABER:	Davie Austin

Proposed by: Mike Jardine

Seconded by: Colin McFarlane

11. REVIEW OF SUBSCRIPTION LEVELS

PROPOSED SUBSCRIPTIONS 2022/23

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: Andrew Saunders

Seconded by: Mark Blyth

12. APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT PERSON TO REVIEW THE ACCOUNT

Lorna Rofe agreed to review the accounts

AOCB

1. JohnO MacKay (on Zoom) raised the question of free skiing at Cairngorm for those over 75. He believed his was a condition for EU funding for the funicular. A discussion followed and the point was made that was that this is not just about SSC members but all those in Scotland over 75 wishing to use uplift at Cairngorm. It was noted that this concession is granted to those over 80 at Glencoe. It was agreed that SSC would raise this with SSS and Cairngorm.

2. The meeting ended with a presentation made by Rona Hulbert on behalf of the Club to Moira as out-going President and Kathryn as out-going Secretary. They were presented with beautiful bespoke quaichs which were crafted by Mat Hulbert from oak sourced near Farletter, Kinncraig, a very special place for all of us in SSC. Both Moira and Kathryn expressed their thanks to the Committee and the Club and wished the new President and Secretary all the best.

The formal part of the meeting ended at 9.15.

It was followed by an interesting and informative presentation by Scott Simon, the recently appointed CEO of Snowsport Scotland, in which he talked about the experience he brings to the position, his plans for the coming season and his vision for the future of Snowsport Scotland.

With over 20 years of experience of competitive sport including leading the British Olympic Canoe team to Gold medal success in Rio and Tokyo, having previously worked in joint services at Glenmore Lodge, Scott brings to Snowsports a wealth of expertise and knowledge at the same time recognising the challenges coming into a winter sport.

Scott explained in clear terms that the main focus of his job is the strategy for the Milan/ Cortina Winter Olympics in 2026. This will involve the evolution of the strategy for 2018-22. As well as the obvious focus on the performance element of our athletes, the main, wider aims are the development of great places, increasing participation at all levels, delivering excellent performance pathways and providing an effective snowsports education system that supports the development of recreational participants and the snowsports work force. He is confident that these targets will be met.

He stressed the commitment of SSS to Snowsports in Scotland and particularly to inclusivity. He recognises that membership of clubs is dropping (as mentioned in our Membership Secretary's report) and wants to make sure that clubs are sustainable. To this end, he is very keen to work with SSC and other clubs on strategies to boost membership.

One of Scott's main concerns is the environment and he shocked us all by stating that the earliest prediction of a snow free Cairngorm could be 2030, although most would say that 2080 is more accurate. Therefore SSS has to balance the sustainability of its business model with its environmental policy. For example, using the mountain for Mountain Biking in the summer would offset the environmental impact of the winter activities.

Scott ended his presentation by inviting questions from members:

Concern was expressed regarding the current challenges at Braehead. Scott has written to the Scottish Government to ask for clarification about their intentions and is waiting for a reply.

There followed a wider discussion about funding for UK Sport/ GB Sport and Sport Scotland.

Moirra and Andrew asked if SSS would consider providing funding in the form of underwriting the days when training is attended by a very small number of trainees. This would enable clubs to guarantee coaching for up to 10 weekends regardless of numbers. Clubs would not claim for days when the number of trainees exceeds 8 (at which point training ceases to run at a loss). Clubs would have to account for all funding. Such a scheme would be well received by snowclubs. Scott agreed to consider this and will discuss this further with the Club.

At all points everyone was impressed by Scott's ambition, vision and willingness to listen- there are many reasons to be optimistic and the future of Scottish snowsports seems to be in good hands!

Kathryn Jardine

November 2022