



MINUTES OF THE HYBRID 2023 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

HELD AT STIRLING COUNTY CRICKET CLUB AND VIRTUALLY ON ZOOM WEDNESDAY 8TH
NOVEMBER 2023 AT 7.30 PM

WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mark Blyth, President, welcomed the 20 members present in person, and the 13 present on Zoom whose names are recorded in the Attendance Book. Apologies from members were received with regret and are recorded in the Attendance Book.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS AGM HELD ON 16th NOVEMBER 2022

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: Mark Blyth

Mark highlighted that the 2022/23 season was mixed with good snow early in December 2022, followed by thaw cycles in January and February. The best snow accumulations were in the east, with some good touring on the Cairngorm plateau. In the west, experienced lack of snow resulting in particularly early close at Nevis Range.

January 23 saw the long-awaited reopening of the funicular at Cairngorm a 25 million pound cost.

Despite the mixed season, it has been a busy year for the club and committee. Mark summarised the club's season:

Races

The Lecht Open ran at the end of January. Unfortunately Scottish children's race was cancelled due to lack snow on the homologated slopes. The conveners canter was held at the end of April 2023 in

beautiful weather and snow conditons.

Bursary Programme

Six trainees were funded by the bursary 22/23 and attended the training camp in Hintertux in Austria.

For 2023/24 season the funds being used to support new SSC Alpine based programme which will be headed up by Callum shepherd. Camp was run in October 23 in Hintertux and another camp during the English Championships Bormio Feb 2024.

Update on SSC in the National Ski Teams

Charlie Guest up and down season, great first run, however missed most of season as injured shoulder. On return 28th Semmering WC, World Champs 31st. Calum Langmuir last year in junior 17th World Junior SG, then selected for senior World Champs SG where placed 38th. Katie Guest with Menna Fitzpatrick. Siver GS, bronze SI at Para World Championships. SSC continues to feature throughout GB and wider. Others who have been involved int eh programme early in their career include: Hamish Blyth, Ruaridh Blyth, Freddie Horn, Calum Hunter, Ian Menzies, Ryan Pye, Murdo Watson, Christina Dow, Daisy Cowie, Madison Spence. SSC produces skiers of national and international standard.

Scottish Ski Training Trust

Decision was made to support SSC skiers in the GB Olympic or Europa Cup squads with a grant £1000 per athlete per year for the next 3 years to Milan/Bormio Olympics in 2026, subject to them remaining in their squad. Charlie Guest and Calum Langmuir received awards for 2024. The trustees hope to continue this in future.

Bursary programme incorporating SSTT

Aligning the two funding programs. New funding round planned starting summer 2024.

This will incorporate a fundraising ball in November 2024. The aim is to match the £30K we raised at the last round (3 years ago). Promise of potential match funding promised on a 1:1 basis.

Mark expressed the Club's gratitude for all the support from the members to help our young aspiring and established ski racers.

Huts

Mark 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. Cairngorm and Glencoe will be undertaking a trial of key safe to increase accessibility.

Membership and communication

The club's membership continues to decrease for a variety of potential reasons. Committee has been working hard to address this from a number of angles. Firstly, we plan to move membership system

to Clubspark which will allow improved communication with existing membership, and automate membership process. We are also taking steps to improve our social media presence and raise awareness of club, this has included recently appointing James Pitcher as Social Media Convenor.

New section of SSC

Since the pandemic, there has been an upsurge in Backcountry Skiing.

We are delighted to announce the return of a Backcountry Skiing section and the recent appointment of Felicity Houbert as Backcountry convenor. This section will include courses on Winter skills development and avalanche training as well as outings. Current dates: Sun 7th Jan, Sun 14th Jan, Sat 20th Jan, Sat 3rd Feb or Sun 4th Feb 2024

Obituaries

We sadly lost George Stewart in February 2023 at grand age of 103. George made a huge contribution to Scottish skiing as President of SSC and SNSC. Obituary to follow in The Journal

Committee

Mark thanked all the Committee for their various contributions, enthusiasm and commitment to the club and Scottish skiing.

Mark also highlighted that new committee members are always welcome!

5. TREASURER'S REPORT: Wilma McIntyre

Wilma presented the Accounts which are available to members on request. The Accounts for the year end 30 June 2023 were displayed on screen as Wilma spoke.

Income

- Club ran at a deficit this year.
- The clubs' finances are in a strong position and can afford to sustain this loss this year (although not ideal)
- Deficit is in part due to the fall in membership subscriptions. The Committee is committed to maximising opportunities to raise the profile of SSC and to attract new members.
- Racing made a small loss this year, after the sponsorship from Blues.
- Dual slaloms at Fir Park in the last 2 years have been successful. Wilma thanked the race organisers.

Expenditure

- The cost of producing the journal is still substantial but we see this as an important asset to the club and a lot of our members look forward to receiving it in the post.
- Hut maintenance: Glencoe, Nevis Range and Cairngorm. Hut convenors were thanked for their continued hard work keeping the huts wind and water tight.
- Not enough snow this year to run the Childrens Champs or the Bairns Bucket for which we had a small outlay

Query around cost for trainees for race training. Trainees can buy bundles of training days to reduce the cost from £40 for individual days to £30pd for a block of 6.

Query around status of huts as fixed assets.

- Wilma and Mark will look into hut/ fixed asset status

Huts general expense in the accounts is the insurance.

Accounts were adopted.

Proposed by : Mike Jardine **Seconded by :** Andrew Saunders

Wilma thanked Mark and the Committee for their continued support.

6. MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT : Dave Leckie

Dave reported a continuing decline in membership. The uptake of membership renewals was slow and the number of new members is still disappointing though slightly improved.

- Latest figures (November 2023): 625 paid up members and 33 new members. (651 and 17 this time last year respectively)
 - 149 member have no renewed subscription so far.
 - Reminder will be sent when weather turns colder
- Life members now make up 25% of the club
- No significant difference between membership categories between last season and current season
- Direct Debits are the easiest means of payment to maintain but most prefer to use Paypal.
- Email: it remains difficult to encourage members to update email details: AGM notification was bounced back by 12 email accounts

Discussion

How known if members are receiving post: Dave includes return label on envelopes to try and keep postal addresses up to date.

Mark highlighted that a good season would hopefully attract new members. Race Training attracts families usually join because of their children so, if they move on to an Academy, they no longer have need of a club. Diversifying what the club offers may also help.

Alan Robertson pointed out that new members joining are already at 33 and more may join over the season.

Andrew Saunders highlighted the decrease 2016/17 coincided with governing body changes.

Mark has been in touch with SSS to reinvigorate the Nevis Range training program which may increase scope of membership.

Dave checking Lochaber membership no's

Andrew Strawbridge asked if racing available at Glencoe as most convenient for Glasgow. Mark highlighted lack of interest in Glencoe racing to date and problem spreading programs too thin.

7. SECRETARY'S REPORT : Seonaid Cleare

- 5 Committee Meetings this year, all held on Zoom.
- Topics regularly discussed :
Membership, Races and Race Training, section updates, huts, Cairngorm lease, SSS and policies, Cairngorm stakeholder group, Journal, Bursary, Backcountry, website and social media.
New subcommittees set up in 2023 focusing on membership and internal/external communication

SSC/ATC Bursary

- January 2021: Bursary sub group set up.
- Main priorities: fundraising, administration and selection.

Newsletter

2 Newsletters circulated. Still some glitches including spam filters for mailchimp emails. Last disseminated October 2023

Seonaid thanked the Committee and members for their support.

8. RACE TRAINING REPORT : Calum Shepard

198 Trainee days

- Up to 19 trainees per day
- 9 Coaches
- Only 2 days stormbound

Backup plan established for fitness days for stormbound/ no snow days.

Start of season new booking system introduced with online payment system, and allocation of coaches

Bearsden partnership- great engagement and coaches have been great for topping up coaching days if needed.

At start of 22 season Alpine were involved in coaching. During the season, Calum became directly involved with the SSC reducing outgoings.

Website updated with 2024 season. Packages of 10/20 sessions. Almost enough registered to allocate coaches for first few weekends of season-improvement from last year.

Alpine programme Hintertux SSC ran camp with two other coaches, and 6-8 trainees per week. Successful despite early season conditions. Camps planned pre Christmas 2023, New Year, Bormeo Feb 2024 and Easter half term.

October camp run for £750 pp. Other companies twice as expensive. Very positive position for club. SSC made small profit.

British freestyle champ: back at Cairngorm after over 10 years in Lax, Switzerland. Ran bank slalom. Six trainees took part; three too podiums.

9. 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.

2023/2024 COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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 (<i>standing down</i>)
RACE TRAINING CONVENOR:	Andrew Saunders
JOURNAL EDITOR:	Alan Robertson (<i>standing down</i>) & Sam Thomson
HUTS CONVENER	Colin McFarlane (Cairngorm)
NEWSLETTER EDITOR:	Moira Langmuir
GENERAL MEMBERS:	Bill Aitken, Eddie Guest, Kenny Waitt, Rona Hulbert, Loddy Cooke, Virginia Beckett, Angela Goodman (<i>standing down</i>).

COMMITTEE MEMBERS WITH SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES:

HEAD COACH:	Calum Shepherd
HOLIDAY CONVENOR:	Graham Scott
TOURING:	Felicity Houbert
WEBSITE:	Giles Lawson Johnston
SOCIAL MEDIA:	James Pitcher
SECTION CONVENER:	
GLENCOE:	Seonaid Cleare
LOCHABER:	Davie Austin

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PROPOSED AT AGM:

General members:

Andrew Strawbridge **proposed by:** Loddy Cooke **seconded by:** Virginia Beckett

Proposed by : Bill Aitken **Seconded by :** Andrew Saunders

10. REVIEW OF SUBSCRIPTION LEVELS

Membership fees will remain at their current price for the season 2023/24

	Direct Debit	PayPal/Other
Family (incl Junior 0-21 incl on 1.09.23)	£90.00	£95.00
Husband/Wife/Partner	£78.00	£82.00
Ordinary (over 26 on 1.09.23)	£46.00	£49.00
Young Adult (22-25 incl on 1.09.23)	£25.00	£25.00
Junior (0-21 incl on 1.09.23)	£25.00	£25.00
Social	£15.00	£15.00

PROPOSED SUBSCRIPTIONS 2024/25

It is proposed that membership fees will have a 5% increase season 2024/25

And Young adults increase to age 30

Proposed 24/25	Direct Debit	PayPal/Other
Family (incl Junior 0-21 incl)	£95	£100
Husband/Wife/Partner	£82	£86
Ordinary (over 26)	£50	£52
Young Adult (22-30 incl)	£27.50	£27.50
Junior (0-21 incl)	£27.50	£27.50
Social	£16.00	£16.00

proposed by: Loddy Cooke **seconded by:** Virginia Beckett

11. APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT PERSON TO REVIEW THE ACCOUNT

Lorna Rofo agreed to review the accounts

proposed by: Bill Aitken **seconded by:** Mike Jardine

12. AOCB

Rona H is going to order t-shirts and link in with Calum for t-shirts orders.

Bursary Charlie Guest and Calum Langmuir very excited about bursary and keen to connect with current trainees via video or directly.

CS to contact Charlie Guest

Part 2

George Reid gave a wonderful overview of some of his many happy days on skis in a tour across Scotland spanning Sgairneach Mhor in Drumochter to Ben Hope in Lairg. He has very kindly allowed the recording to be included for members.

SCleare

November 2023