

MOUNTAINEERING SCOTLAND AGM & EGM – Sat. 21 Nov. 2020.

President's summary report.

Meet Secretary, Colin, and I attended the MS AGM and EGM held as a webinar on Zoom.

It was very well-organised and everything ran smoothly.

Click on this link for the MS report on the AGM: www.mountaineering.scot/news/online-agm

MS President, Brian Shackleton and MS CEO, Stuart Younie hosted the meeting.

There were some points of particular interest to Clubs:

FEES

- Good news that membership fees remain unchanged.
 - At the 2019 AGM there was an undertaking that fees be fixed for 3 years. Then two unforeseen issues arose – a huge insurance claim followed by the coronavirus pandemic with the subsequent fear that both club and individual MS membership numbers would plummet, leading to a significant financial hit. However, the anticipated big fall in membership didn't materialise and, although there was some reduction, membership numbers in 2020 remain healthy. Therefore, despite the ongoing issue of increased insurance costs, it is still possible to honour the 3-year fixing of fees.
- A question was asked about a reduction in fees this year because of covid. The answer was no because all MS business is continuing despite covid.

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES WITH COVID

A comment from the floor praised MS for lobbying for a return to the hills after lockdown. Brian Shackleton responded that he was pleased that MS had managed to have hill walking classed as a low-risk activity.

He also underlined the value of MS representation. MS as an organisation is now raising the profile of outdoor activities as it is now being listened to because it is respected as a well-organised, responsible organisation.

Stuart Younie agreed, but noted that, although there was resumption of outdoor activities, there were still difficulties with travel restrictions.

COVID OFFICERS

Following suggestions at the AGM, there will be a survey asking Clubs to provide information on whether they have a Covid Officer / Covid Officers in place and also asking what type of activities clubs had been taking part in since lockdown.

The purpose of this is to help establish an online group for Covid Officers to share information and discuss issues arising, and also to gather information on how clubs are managing their activities safely and responsibly.

This information can then be used to feed back to the Government.

On 25 Nov. I received an e-mail with this short survey which I completed and returned.

TRAINING COURSES

Brian S. and Stuart Y. emphasised that, despite covid, MS outdoor skills training courses were continuing and were very good value for money, although they also warned that they may have to increase the cost.