

Inverness Backcountry Snowsports Club – Meeting at Donald’s work, Inverness, 20th March 2017

Present – Mike, Donald, Sheena, Duncan, Jan, Lizzie, Nicky (Skype), Matt

Apologies – Troy, Julie, Rose

Approval of minutes from last meeting

Approved.

Matters arising

- All the committee congratulated Jan on a very successful trip to the Tatra Mountains of Poland. Jan had worked very hard to welcome Club members to this new area and all appreciated his efforts. It was thought desirable to visit the same area, or similar, in 2018.
- The Champagne and Powder weekend had yielded neither but all had a good time. Nicky was thanked for her work in organising this weekend.

Programme

- MAR 24 - Weekend Trip – Glen Affric at Strawberry Cottage – 12 people attending.
- APR 01 - 4 Tops/ Loch A’an area – or similar depending on snow distribution.
- APR 08 - Rob Roy and William Wallace event at the Braveheart at Nevis Range – 4 people attending.
- APR 15 - Day Tour - Grey Corries - or similar depending on snow distribution.
- APR 22 - Season finale – SSC Hut? Or should we choose a BBQ instead at Loch Morlich?
- APR 29 - Weekend trip - CIC Hut and Ben Nevis Gullies – Outside Magazine would like to do an article about IBSC for their November issue.

IBSC Hut

- *Are we committed as a committee to taking this forward?*

Yes we are although some were concerned by the workload that a project like this would generate. It was agreed that the committee itself would not bear the main burden and a dedicated working group, drawn from the Club membership, be formed at an appropriate stage. This working group should include people with the skills required to manage and deliver the project.

- *When do we approach members to set up a working group?*

Donald had been in discussion with ELLCT who had informed him that they still intend to pursue their purchase of the estate following the purchase of the estate and smelter by Liberty Capital. ELLCT expected that the situation should be clearer by June 2017. The Committee agreed that no formal announcement should be made to the Club membership or working group set up until June 2017 at the earliest.

- *Should we accept the free wind turbine from the SYHA?*

The SYHA had formally offered their Loch Ossian wind turbine to the Club for the hut project. The turbine is a Proven WT 2500 and the offer included the blades and control panel for the system. It was agreed to accept the kind offer and obtain the turbine at a date acceptable to both parties.

- *How do we transport it?*

Following research, it was understood that the largest and heaviest part of the system was the tower at 6 metres and 250kg. It was thought that a large trailer pulled by Mike’s landrover would be capable of transporting the system from Loch Ossian. 8-10 people would be required to assist on the day.

- *Where do we store it?*

Nevis Range have agreed to store the turbine outside at their base station.

- *What happens if we don’t use it?*

The Committee agreed that should the turbine not be used, the Club would sell it and give 50% of the proceeds to the SYHA after costs.

- *What are the next steps at this stage?*

- Nicky agreed to research the planning issues on the turbine at Loch Ossian and also at the CIC Hut.

- Nicky also agreed to set up a dropbox folder for document management.
- Matt had prepared a draft summary document for the hut project.

Membership

Thought to be 116 members of the Club.

Finance

It was thought that there was approximately £4,000 in the club account.

Inverness Dry Ski Slope

Donald reported that he and Helen Morgan had been representing the Club in discussions on the possible Inverness Dry Ski Slope. Discussions were at an early stage and being taken forward in partnership with Cairngorm Ski Club and Snowsport Scotland.

AOCB

- Equipment – It was thought best if Jan kept two avalanche sets and Donald the other sets.
- Jan agreed to research the cost and use of emergency locator beacons for club trips.

Date of next meeting – 02/05/2017 at 1900.