

SCOTTISH MOUNTAIN RESCUE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



Thursday, 29 October 2020
Via Zoom

DRAFT Note of Meeting

Agenda Item 1: Welcome & Apologies

Attendance: a full list of people attending is provided in Appendix 1.

Neil Urquhart from Skye MRT was unable to connect to the meeting. No apologies received.

Peter Lorrain-Smith, Police Scotland gave an update on Chris Smith incident. He thanked all the teams involved.

Agenda Item 2: Minutes & matters arising from General Meeting of 13th April 2020

No matters arising.

DP asked if there were any questions. None raised.

The minutes were approved: Approved: 22, Against: 0, Abstained: 0

A full record of AGM votes is in Appendix 2.

Agenda Item 3: Reports from Officers

DP confirmed that papers had been circulated 2 weeks ago and asked if there were any questions for the Officers. No questions were raised.

Agenda Item 4: Financial Reports

Final Accounts:

MW reported that the Final Accounts have been fully audited and that she would be happy to answer any questions. She confirmed that last year SMR had deficit in the accounts, which had been predicted, because SMR had distributed some of the reserves and everyone got match funded last year, leading to a deficit. No questions raised.

Final Accounts were approved: Approved: 22, Against: 0, Abstained: 0

Income & Expenditure and Balance Sheet:

MW stated that the Income & Expenditure and Balance Sheet figures were to end of September 2020. She reported that the SMR expenditure has reduced drastically, owing to the unusual year. No questions raised.

Budget Proposal:

DP confirmed that the budget proposal included costs for training courses based on a standard programme but that it was unlikely that the full amount would be used this year. MW agreed and said that SMR would probably go into a surplus at the end of the financial year. No questions raised.

The budget proposal was approved: Approved: 22, Against: 0, Abstained: 0

Unrestricted Radio Fund Proposal:

DP talked about the proposal for the unrestricted radio fund – money that we had moved into a restricted fund from 2016. Now that SMR have concluded the project, it is proposed to move the remaining funds partly into a restricted training fund and partly into the general fund. The UKSAR training fund will diminish over the next few years, so DP suggested that SMR start to build up some funds for future training. DP said that we are hopeful of an underspend on the equipment allocation that we were given from the LIBOR fund at Westminster and that it might be freed up for future radio and communication plans. This is not guaranteed; we need to submit our final report.

No questions raised.

Unrestricted radio fund proposal was approved: Approved: 21, Against: 0, Abstained: 0

Agenda Item 5. Appointment of Auditor

DP stated that we would like to appoint Hogg and Thorburn as the auditor for SMR for the financial year.

MW confirmed that we will need to look at alternative auditors in the future to ensure that we are getting good value for money.

No questions raised.

Appointment of Hogg & Thorburn as auditor was approved: 21, Against: 0, Abstained: 0

Agenda Item 6: Training

Training Course Update: DP said that it had been an interesting 6 months from a training perspective. We need to prioritise training courses. SMR have followed Scottish Government guidance on running courses, as well as looking at what Glenmore Lodge and other emergency services were offering. We have held one face to face course – Cas Care training and assessment for 12 SMR team members. We have 70-80 people needing to be re-accredited before the end of February 2021, which will be a challenge for the medical group. We intend to develop online learning and concentrate on F2F for re-assessments, as well as providing additional support for teams where there may be no medical support for learning. Cas Care is a core priority for SMR.

Avalanche have been looking at redesigning their courses to make them non-residential and they are also looking at the possibility of going out to teams. Priority will be given to teams in avalanche prone areas. Need to keep avalanche and personal rescue skills current.

The rigging group has been looking at modularizing winter rigging courses to make them non-residential as well as online training.

Investigating what other training can take place online. DP asked that teams advise if they require any other training urgently in the meantime.

No questions/comments received.

Training Officer

DP thanked John Burnham for all of the work he had done as Training Officer.

DP advised that Donald McRae has put himself forward for the post of SMR Training Officer. Donald has been coopted on by the Executive until the General Meeting in March, when it can be voted on by teams.

DM agreed on the priorities for training in the short term and then advised that he would look to consult on training requirements with the teams.

UKSAR Training Fund Update

YH had sent out some Q&As to the teams in September but we are expecting further contact from UKSAR soon. When this is received, YH will advise teams. On the subject of discretion of using funds, YH reiterated that if training requirements have changed, as long as teams keep within the UKSAR guidance, that training plans can be changed. YH will resend Q&As if required.

No questions received.

Agenda Item 7: Distinguished Service Awards

Executive have recommended all 3 DSAs received to the AGM. AGM attendees voted.

Award of Distinguished Service Award for Ken Weatherstone of Arrochar MRT was approved: 22; Against 0, Abstain 0

Award of Distinguished Service Award for Moira Weatherstone of Arrochar MRT was approved: 22; Against 0, Abstain 0

Award of Distinguished Service Award for David Tyson of Galloway MRT was approved: 22; Against 0, Abstain 0

Awards to be presented at later date.

Agenda Item 8: Current Topics

DP stated that SMR should have been reporting back on the business strategy document which was approved at the last AGM, however, owing to Covid situation priorities have had to change.

DP ran an amended plan for the next 6 months by the attendees for response.

SMR have been working with organisations, e.g. Mountain Training, Glenmore Lodge, and it is anticipated that this winter will be extremely busy for all SMR teams in terms of rescues. Additionally, team members are also trying to cope with work/life under Covid. DP therefore suggested that the main priority should be enabling teams to concentrate on rescues over the next 6 months. DP was therefore proposing that all other projects be put on hold for the time being. It is planned to engage with the public with safety messages out in the media in the hope that there will be fewer callouts. SMR has a great presence on social media. DP said that he was keen to get other team members involved in delivering the messages over winter. KM/AR offered to help with media training.

ER gave a brief update on fundraising for charities in general, some trust funds have experienced a tenfold in applications, which will impact on SMR and teams. From a partnership point of view, it is an uncertain time for most businesses. Regular donations are coming through but many people are giving to NHS related charities. Individual donations are up but ER reported that our income is down a little on last year, owing to fewer significant donations.

DP asked that if any teams are finding themselves in financial hardship, to contact him.

DP advised that there were insufficient SMR funds to match fund Scottish Government monies this year.

Agenda Item 9: Chair Q&As

DP asked for questions/comments.

Question raised regarding the other emergency services use of PPE on callouts. SMR Medical Officer directed that all SMR team members should wear at least Level 2 PPE. SMR do not have insurance cover. UKSAR v4 guidance to be published soon.

AG gave summary of PPE supplies. PPE (masks and gloves) can be ordered through SP Services via the Office and delivery can go directly to teams (some products there is a 1-2 week wait currently). Teams should wear PPE for callouts or training. AG working on pragmatic solution to gloves. Will send out guidance to teams.

Agenda Item 10: AOB

SMR Insurance

MW gave brief update on insurance. We have now negotiated insurance, however we have been unable to insure teams for cyber insurance owing to the need for assurance that all of the teams have cyber policies and procedures in place. MW will distribute the relevant documents to the teams. DP confirmed that teams no longer have to prior notify every training event. An annual training programme will suffice.

SAR Helicopters

Dave Wright attended a recent SAR H Working Group meeting. SARH have been helping out the NHS during Covid when they are not busy. He confirmed that it is unlikely that a helicopter will be able to come out to team training, owing to their commitments and team protection. SMR/MREW have been asked to come up with some thoughts how SARH can deliver 1B cabin training, perhaps via elearning. Teams should ensure that ISA updates are up to date.

- Meeting ended -

Minutes typed up by Viv Warwick 6 November 2020

APPENDIX 1

SMR AGM ATTENDEES – 29 OCTOBER 2020

| Members | Teams |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| Ewan McKinnon | Arran |
| Ken Weatherstone | Arrochar |
| Tim Hamlet | Assynt |
| Bob McKeand | Borders |
| Malcolm MacIntyre | Braemar |
| Iain Nisbitt | Dundonnell |
| Craig Paterson | Galloway |
| Teddy Inglis | Killin |
| Neil Ross | Kintail |
| Shaun Duignan | Moffat |
| Andy Ravenhill | Oban |
| Gordon Binnie | Oban |
| Ross MacIntyre | Ochils |
| Matt Smith | PS Grampian |
| Allison Todd | PS Tayside |
| Tom Nash | SARAA |
| Dave Warren | SCRO |
| Paddy Stephenson | Skye |
| Richard Cockburn | Torridon |
| Dave Wright | Tweed Valley |
| Paul Cathrow | Tweed Valley |
| Pete Lorrain-Smith | Police Scotland |
| Alasdair Earnshaw | SARDA S |
| Ronnie Macdonald | Glenelg |
| Charlie Greenwood | Hebrides |
| David Dobson | Lomond |
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Exec/Staff

Damon Powell
Alastair Rose
Steve Penny
Donald McRae
Moira Weatherstone
Alastair Glennie
Darryl Ashford-Smith
Yasmin Harrower
Elsie Riley
Kev Mitchell
Tom Adams
Viv Warwick
Bill Glennie
Mario di Maio
Andy Morgan

APPENDIX 2
SMR AGM – 29 OCTOBER 2020 RECORD OF VOTING

See separate Excel spreadsheet

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