

Inverness Backcountry Snowsports Club

Annual General Meeting, 2nd November 2017

President's Report

I would like to begin by expressing my thanks to all members of the committee for their time, effort and enthusiasm in ensuring the smooth running of the club during this past year, and especially in the preparation of our plans for a mountain hut by Aonach Mor. I would also like to thank those members outwith the committee who have in various ways aided the club both in its organization and objectives. I believe I speak for all the committee in expressing my admiration for the work undertaken by our secretary Donald Morris. He has striven tirelessly in updating the website, keeping open lines of communication and has been the driving force in shaping our vision for the hut. Our recent good news in this respect is to a large extent down to him. On the subject of the hut I acknowledge and appreciate all those who gave of their time and skill in removing the redundant wind turbine from Loch Ossian Youth Hostel and transporting it for temporary safe keeping at Nevis Ski Range.

The strength of our club is reflected in our broad and ambitious programme, and I believe potential members recognize this. After last season's Opener and the good turnouts for the mountain safety talk and transceiver evening, expectations for the season were high, especially given that by mid-November the hills were white. Alas the early promise melted away. The snow came eventually but in fits and starts and some imagination was needed to enjoy it, sometimes even just to reach it. Given the often frugal snowcover our residential weekends, at Loch Ossian YH, Glenuaig Lodge, Strawberry Cottage, the CIC Hut were very well attended and all had an enjoyable time. Thanks to all those who helped make them a success, be it arranging the accommodation, acting as chauffeur, purchasing supplies, serving up delicious meals. A writer and a photographer from the US publication, Outside Magazine, attended the CIC Hut weekend and their article is being published this winter. Our planned day trips were sometimes a victim of a lack snow and a number of them were cancelled. Having said that, members who made the effort and took a chance with the weather were usually rewarded. One particular day on the shoulder of Beinn Macduibh was peerless. Jan Sznajd led a small group on a week-long tour of the Polish Tatras and John Offord organized a trip to the Norwegian Mountains. All enjoyed some amazing conditions.

Despite last season's less than perfect conditions membership of IBSC remains healthy, and if our Facebook Page is anything to go by, interest in the club continues to grow. Our hut project has in the last week entered a new chapter and we can now begin planning in earnest. The committee is inviting any member who wishes to be part of this process to join our working group. These are exciting times for the club. I sense a hum of anticipation about the coming winter and once again we have a rich and varied programme. I wish everyone safe skiing and big adventures.

Mike Cawthorne, November 2017