



*"Protecting the coastal and mountain environment of  
North East Scotland"*

# **Trustees Annual Report**

1<sup>st</sup> October 2017 - 30<sup>th</sup> September 2018



### **Charity Contact Information**

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Scottish Charity Number SCOO8783

### **Charity Trustees**

George Allan  
Alex Brown  
Brian Heaton  
Catherine Lacy  
Alison Mitchell

Jean Robinson  
Donald Thomas  
Ken Thomson  
David Windle

### **Structure, Governance and Management**

NEMT is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) under the Scottish Charitable Organisations Regulations 2011.

### **Trustee Appointment**

NEMT is managed by a Council of not more than ten individual Members and as many representatives of Organisational Members as wish to have their representative on the Council. The overall minimum number of members of the Council shall be six.

## Objectives and Activities

The North East Mountain Trust (NEMT) is an association of climbers and hillwalkers in northeast Scotland. Its main aim is to conserve the upland, coastal and rural environments of northeast Scotland for the benefit of the public wishing to take non-motorised recreation there, both now and in the future. It acts as an umbrella group of hillwalking and mountaineering clubs.

During the year, NEMT continued to campaign on the following topics:

- Grouse moor management, focussing on the damaging effects of the trend to more intensive management, and also the illegal activities of gamekeepers. This included attending the SNH meeting at Battleby to discuss the results of the recent project on counting mountain hares and also working with other NGOs on getting driven grouse shooting in Scotland licensed.
- Deer management, focussing on the need to bring numbers down to sustainable levels.
- Developments at Cairngorm Mountain, focussing on both the need for environmental considerations to be given proper weight and for Natural Retreats, the tenant, to follow existing planning requirements, particularly the production of a master plan for future activities. Following the collapse of subsidiary Cairngorm Mountain Ltd, this is now redundant.
- The continuing proliferation of hill tracks both for driven grouse shooting and also for the construction of small scale hydro schemes. This year, LINK published its report on the Prior Notification system, with NEMT playing a major role in its compilation. The report has been taken up by Andy Wightman MSP who is seeking an amendment as part of the Planning (Scotland) Bill process to bring moorland and hill tracks fully under the planning system. We objected or commented on a number of hill track and hydro track proposals, with mixed success, including three of the seven proposed tracks in Glen Etive, a Wild Land Area of particular note.
- The need for full restoration of the construction track built for the Beaully-Denny pylon line.

We replied to the following consultations:

- Peatland & Energy Policy Statement
- Guidance on Engaging Communities in Decisions Relating to Land
- Corrie Fee NNR Management Plan
- Planning (Scotland) Bill
- CNPA Local Development Plan: Main Issues Report
- CNPA Forest Strategy

We objected to the following planning applications:

- Renewal of the lapsed planning application for An Camas Mor, the proposed new town near Aviemore, including the relaxation of earlier planning conditions
- Construction of a golf course on a protected area at Coul Links
- Two dry ski slopes beside the Coire Cas carpark at Cairngorm Mountain. The application was later refused by the Park Authority
- A small number of proposed windfarms in areas either with valued landscapes or designated as Wild Land. In particular, we objected to the proposed Glendye windfarm on our doorstep. The Cullachy (Coireyairack) and Caplich (Wild Land Area 34) windfarms were refused.

NEMT donated money to the Save Bennachie Alliance, and I'm pleased to report that their campaign has been successful. Very well done.

We published an updated annual work plan in our biannual publication "*Mountain Views*". A stand at the annual Ramblers Scotland Council meeting gave an opportunity to promote our activities. Our programme of six winter

lectures has gone from strength to strength – a tribute to the hard work and enthusiasm of our new lectures organiser. Thank you.

Finally a big thank you to all our members who contributed in any way, eg contributing to the above or writing to their local MSP.

## **Membership Report**

We have 105 individual Members in addition to the Organisational Members listed below:

### **Organisational Members (Clubs)**

Aberdeen Hillwalking Club  
Aberdeen Mountaineering Club  
Alford Women's Outdoor Group  
Cairngorm Club  
Culter Hillwalking Club  
Cults Hill Walking Club  
Ellon Hillwalking Club  
Granite City Hillwalkers  
Stocket Hillwalking Club  
Stonehaven Mountaineering & Hillwalking Club  
Turriff Hillwalking & Mountaineering Club  
XXL Club

### **Organisational Members (affiliated)**

Bailies of Bennachie  
Ramblers Scotland  
Scottish Rights of Way Society  
Scottish Natural Heritage

### **Organisational Members (reciprocal)**

Aberdeen & St John Mountain Rescue Assn  
Badenoch & Strathspey Conservation Group  
Cairngorms Campaign  
Mountain Bothies Association

## Financial Review

RECEIPTS	2017-18	Notes	2016-17
Membership			
Individual Members	1563.09		
Organisational Members	844.50	2407.59	2068.00
Donations	423.35	1	883.00
Lectures receipts	513.50		642.00
<i>Mountain Views</i> sales	179.00		189.00
Bank interest			2.00
Gift Aid repayment			334.00
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>3523.44</b>		4118.00
PAYMENTS	2017-18	Notes	2016-17
<i>Mountain Views</i> costs	1380.57		1,373.00
Lecture costs			
Room Hire	35.00		
Publicity	5.60		
Lecturers' Expenses	581.01		
	621.61		686.00
Admin costs			
Post, Phone & Internet	194.86		
Council meeting costs	241.97		
Insurance	252.32		
	689.15		481.00
Subscriptions	275.00	2	125.00
Donations	525.00	3	260.00
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>3491.33</b>		2,925.00
	2017-18	2016-17	
	£	£	
Balance B/F	10943.01	9750.00	
surplus/(deficit)	32.11	1193.00	
Balance C/F	<b>10975.12</b>	10943.00	
Represented by Closing Bank Balance	<b>10975.12</b>		

## Notes to Accounts

1. £373 received from funeral collection of the late Sandy England
2. Subscriptions paid to Scottish Environment Link (2 x £125) for 2017/8 & 2018/9 and Aberdeen Council of Voluntary Organisations (£25)
3. Donations made to Save Bennachie Alliance (£150), Link Hilltracks Campaign (£175) and Mend Our Mountains (£200)

## Independent Examiner's Report

I report on the accounts of **North East Mountain Trust** for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> September 2018 in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, "the Act" and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006, "the Regulations"

The Trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1-d) does not apply.

## Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Independent Examiner

As the Trustees of the Charity, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. It is my responsibility under S44(1)c of the Act to examine these accounts and to report whether particular matters have come to my attention.

## Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 and includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records.

It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeks explanations from the Trustees concerning such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence needed in an audit and, consequently, I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

## Independent Examiner's Statement

In relation to my examination, I confirm that no matter has come to my attention:-

- Which gives reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 44 of the Act and Regulation 4; and to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting requirements of the Act and Regulation 9 have not been met, or
- To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Malcolm Lamont  
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4 Millgrove Road, Stoneywood  
Aberdeen  
AB21 9HW

  
Malcolm Lamont 22/12/18

## Statement of the charity's policy on reserves

NEMT is currently well funded and our policy is to reduce the size of our reserves slowly over the coming years. Each year the trustees will consider when the size of reserves reduces to a level at which, going forward, no further reductions are prudent.

## Annual Report approved on behalf of Trustees



David Windle 29 January 2019