

**NORTH
EAST
MOUNTAIN
TRUST**



*“Protecting the coastal and mountain environment of
North East Scotland”*

Trustees’ Annual Report

1st October 2019 - 30th September 2020

NORTH EAST MOUNTAIN TRUST



Charity Contact Information

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Scottish Charity Number SCOO8783

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 working with other NGOs on getting driven grouse shooting licensed.
- Deer management, focussing on the need to bring numbers down to sustainable levels.
- Developments at Cairn Gorm mountain, focussing on the need for environmental considerations to be given due weight and for a site masterplan to be published, before any further developments are carried out, to avoid further waste of public money.
- The continuing proliferation of hill tracks both for driven grouse shooting and also for the construction of small scale hydro-electricity schemes.
- The problem of excessive ATV use over unsuitable ground resulting in damage to both vegetation and soils.

We replied to the following consultations:

- CNPA Local Development Plan – selected Supplementary Guidance Papers
- Strathspey Forest Local Management Plan
- Scottish Government – Permitted Development Rights
 - National Planning Framework 4
 - Interim Report on Regional Land Use Partnerships

We have commented on, or objected to, a number of hill track planning applications with varying success. One highlight is that the Cairngorm National Park Authority's decision that an ugly section of illegally constructed track above the Clova Hotel must be removed was upheld on appeal. This sends a clear message that flouting the law on hill tracks will not be tolerated.

We have not objected to any wind farm planning applications in this reporting period and instead produced a wind farm policy to guide future decision making on whether to object to specific applications; the aim being to balance preservation of our mountain landscapes with the need to combat climate change.

Our programme of six winter lectures has continued to improve and was completed just before Covid-19 forced such events to shut down.

As always, a big thank you to all our members who contributed in any way, e.g. contributing to the above or writing to their local MSP on protecting mountain hares.

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.

Charity Trustees

George Allan
Alex Brown (resigned 29 November 2019)
Debbie Fielding (appointed 3 March 2020)
Morna Harper (appointed 3 March 2020)
Brian Heaton
Catherine Lacy

Alison Mitchell
Jean Robinson (resigned 25 August 2020)
Richard Spencer
Donald Thomas
Ken Thomson
David Windle

Membership Report

We continue to be supported by 12 mountaineering/hillwalking clubs, and 8 affiliated/reciprocal organisations, as listed below. We have 107 individual members, who, although not currently (Winter 20/21) benefitting from reduced lecture fees, were offered extra, online, discount by two local outdoor gear shops during the main 2020 lockdown – many thanks to Craigdon and Hilltrek. Out of lockdown, there are other retailers also offering NEMT members discount.

Organisational Members (Clubs)

Aberdeen Hillwalking Club
Aberdeen & Shire Hillwalking Club
Aberdeen Mountaineering Club
Alford Women's Outdoor Group
BOOTS (Oldmeldrum Hillwalkers)
Cairngorm Club
Culter Hillwalking Club
Ellon Hillwalking Club
Granite City Hillwalkers
Stocket Hillwalking Club
Stonehaven Mountaineering & Hillwalking Club
Turriff Hillwalking & Mountaineering 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: accounts for year ending 30 September 2020

Income	2019/20	Notes	2018/19
Brought Forward from P/Yr	11710.21		10,975.12
Club Subscriptions	585.50		783.25
Member Subscriptions	1666.09		1,669.09
Lecture income	914.00		624.90
Donations recvd	106.00		1,049.93
	14,981.80		15,102.29
Expenditure/Activities			
Lecture room hire	(270.00)		(210.00)
Speaker fees	(720.32)		(583.85)
Postages	(149.41)		(351.53)
Insurance	(270.08)		(268.22)
Subscriptions	(205.00)	1.	(175.00)
<i>Mountain Views</i>	(1,040.00)		
less MV Sales	381.24		(1,104.29)
Domain hosting	(84.00)		(60.00)
Prom Matl/Cash box	(35.75)		(393.19)
Room hire - Council mtgs	(40.20)		(140.00)
Misc donations	(2,200.00)	2.	(106.00)
	(4,633.52)		(3,392.08)
Balance in Bank	10,348.28		11,710.21
Summary			
Balance b/f 1 Oct 2019	11710.21		10975.12
Balance at 30 Sep 2020	10348.28		11710.21
Surplus (Deficit) for year	(1361.93)		735.09

Notes

1. Subscriptions to Scottish Environment Link £180 and ACVO £25
2. Donations to Link ER Centre £500. Aberdeen Mountain Rescue Asscn. £200, OATS £1,000, ACT £500

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

Report of the Independent Examiner to the Trustees of North East Mountain Trust

I report on the accounts of **North East Mountain Trust** for the year ended 30th September 2020 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

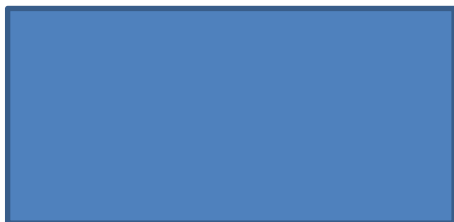
My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 and includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records.

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.



Sgd



7 Dec 2020

Report signed on behalf of Trustees by D Windle

Sgd



10 Dec 2020