

**NORTH
EAST
MOUNTAIN
TRUST**



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

Trustees Annual Report

1st October 2021 - 30th September 2022



Charity Contact Information

137 Blenheim Place
Aberdeen
AB25 2DL

www.nemt.org.uk
nemt.info@gmail.com

Scottish Charity Number SCOO8783

Objectives and Activities

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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 appreciation of value for 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

- Mar Lodge Estate Management Plan update
- CNPA 4th Park Partnership Plan
- Glen Dye Moor Project (carbon sequestration)
- Scottish Government National planning Framework 4 (need for the protection of wild land)
- Scottish Government Wildlife Management Bill

We carried out a membership consultation on local forestry to understand member views and, hence, ensure that we represent them accurately when replying to forestry consultations.

We have commented on or objected to a number of planning applications with varying success. These include proposals for various windfarms, hill tracks and skiing developments on Cairn Gorm mountain. We met with community council representatives to support their appearance at the Glen Dye Wind Farm public enquiry and intend to again work with local community groups in opposing the proposed Hill of Fare wind farm.

Our programme of winter lectures has continued via Zoom and continues to be well supported. It is a tribute to the energy and enthusiasm of the organiser. Thank you.

Finally, I would like to thank all of our members who have contributed in any way to the above either directly or by writing to their local MSP.

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

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Mike Duguid | Roger Owen |
| Debbie Fielding | Richard Spencer |
| Morna Harper | Donald Thomas |
| Brian Heaton | Ken Thomson |
| Catherine Lacy | David Windle |
| Alison Mitchell | |

Membership Report

We are supported by 12 mountaineering/hillwalking clubs, and 8 affiliated/reciprocal organisations, as listed below. In addition, we have 100 individual members.

Organisational Members (Clubs)

Aberdeen Hillwalking Club
Aberdeen Mountaineering Club
Aberdeen & Shire Hillwalking 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
NatureScot
Ramblers Scotland
Scottish Rights of Way Society

Organisational Members (reciprocal)

Aberdeen Mountain Rescue Team
Badenoch & Strathspey Conservation Group
Cairngorms Campaign
Mountain Bothies Association

Financial Review: accounts for year ending 30 September 2022

Income

| | 2021/22 | 2020/21 |
|------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Brought Forward from previous year | 10,885.63 | 10,348.28 |
| Club Subscriptions | 731.50 | 869.50 |
| Member Subscriptions | 2304.59 | 1,667.09 |
| Lecture income | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Donations received | 198.54 | 186.43 |
| | 14,120.26 | 13,071.30 |

Expenditure/Activities

| | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Lecture room hire | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Speaker fees | (200.00) | (416.32) |
| Postages | (157.10) | (288.23) |
| Insurance | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Subscriptions | (245.00) | (170.00) |
| Mountain Views | (1,241.30) | (1,040.00) |
| MV Sales | 90.50 | 48.00 |
| Domain hosting | (170.34) | (319.12) |
| Equipment | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Donations | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Council costs | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| | (1,923.24) | (2,185.67) |
| Balance in Bank | 12,197.02 | 10,885.63 |

Summary

| | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Balance b/f 1 Oct 2021 | 10,885.63 | 10,348.28 |
| Balance at 30 Sep 2022 | 12,197.02 | 10,885.63 |
| Surplus(Deficit) | | |
| for year | 1,311.39 | 537.35 |

Notes

HMRC Gift Aid claim of £654 included with individual subscriptions

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.

North East Mountain Trust

SCIO Ref SC008783

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 2022 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
Liathach
4 Millgrove Road, Stoneywood
Aberdeen
AB21 9HW

Sgd Malcolm Lamont 10 Jan 2023

Report signed on behalf of the Trustees:

D. Windle

Date 11/01/2023

David Windle, Chair

Catherine P Lacy

Date 11/1/23

Catherine Lacy, Secretary

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