

Annual Report of the North East Mountain Trust Year Ended 30th September 2012

Principal Address

PO Box 40

Aberdeen

AB11 6QQ

Scottish Charity Number 008783

The object of the Trust is to protect from potentially damaging developments the upland and coastal environments of Scotland, and in particular the North-East of Scotland, for the benefit of all taking recreation there both now and in the future.

The objective is achieved by:

- The collection and dissemination of relevant information
- Providing a forum for the discussion of such information by interested parties
- Making representations to individuals and authorities who have responsibility for the above environments

In addition, NEMT

- Organises a series of public lectures on relevant topics
- Distributes a regular newsletter on NEMT's activities and related matters

The Trust is administered by a General Council composed of members and representatives of member and affiliated bodies. This Council may appoint subcommittees. The membership of the General Council is shown later in the Report.

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NEMT Chairman's Report, Sept 2012

It's always good to celebrate success and, as I write this, I'm very optimistic that we'll shortly have something to truly celebrate. This is, of course, to do with hill tracks and getting the General Permitted Development Orders amended to require planning permission for all hill tracks. Over the years, we've spent a huge amount of effort on hill tracks and have continued to write letters of objection and draw enforcement officers' attention to new track construction. The work on the petition and getting the subject discussed at Holyrood looks as though it's now about to pay off. Yes, things have moved slowly. The petition is two years old. But, changing the law has never been a speedy process. To go on any longer would be to tempt fate and I shall stop now.

Another success has been the Adopt-A-Path scheme. Most people that I talk to have surveyed their paths. I have certainly surveyed mine (and cleared out all of the drains). Once COAT appointed Chris York and we had a consistent face to deal with, things have moved forward. Next year, we'll begin a campaign to encourage more volunteers and see if we get full coverage of the paths on our side of the Cairngorms. We'll also be contributing to proposals for further path repairs.

Our work with LINK has continued to grow and we remain active members of the National Parks Planning Taskforce and the CNPA Liaison Group. We have been working with the M C of S on their campaign to keep windfarms away from our iconic mountains.

We have continued to write letters objecting to windfarm proposals where they impact on wild land and also responded to the CNPA on their consultation exercise for the new park plan. Deer fencing remains an area of concern, particularly when the solution is to reduce deer numbers.

Our key target for next year will be to increase our membership base, particularly the proportion that are active in our campaigns, and to secure some positive progress on restricting the current unrestrained development of more and more windfarms. We ran a very successful and enjoyable event at Mar Lodge estate in October 2011 which attracted considerable outside interest, and hope to organise another such event in the coming year.

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GENERAL COUNCIL

Office Bearers

David Windle	Chair
George Allan	Deputy Chair
Catherine Lacy	Minutes Secretary
Gordon Strachan	Treasurer
Donald Thomas	Membership Secretary & Webmaster
Brian Heaton	Lecture Organiser
Jennifer Cook	Mountain Views Editor
Maureen Stuchbury	Ex officio

Representatives of Member Clubs and Affiliated Bodies

Hamish Clunas	Aberdeen Hillwalking Club
Heather Eddie	Aberdeen Hillwalking Club
Jasmin Cameron	Aberdeen Mountaineering Club
Duncan Thow	Aberdeen Mountaineering Club
R John Hughes	BOOTS Oldmeldrum Hillwalkers
Sandy McIntosh	Cairngorm Club
Ken Thomson	Cairngorm Club
Alan Murray	Ellon Hillwalking Club
Kris Howard	Granite City Hillwalkers
Alistair Beeley	Stonehaven Mountaineering & Hillwalking Club
Roger Owen	Stonehaven Mountaineering & Hillwalking Club
Dave Liddle	Turriff Hillwalking & Mountaineering Club
Donna Taylor	Baillies of Bennachie
Alison Mitchell	Ramblers Scotland
Ursula Ryalls	Scottish Rights of Way Society
Peter Galloway	Aberdeen & St John Mountain Rescue Assn
Tessa Jones	Badenoch & Strathspey Conservation Group
Drennan Watson	Cairngorms Campaign
Kenny Freeman	Mountain Bothies Association

Newsletter Editorial Team

David Windle Jennifer Cook

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2. MEMBERSHIP

Membership numbers have remained static over the year. We have 107 individual members at the end of the year, plus one life member. My job is made much easier by the vast majority of members who pay by standing order.

Outstanding subs were received from all clubs. Our clubs represent 700 members. We continue to welcome other groups representing over 16,000 members as affiliates.

Several members' email addresses have changed and I would like to hear from any member or club rep who does not receive emails from NEMT.

Donald Thomas

Membership Secretary

Member Clubs and Affiliated Bodies

Member Clubs

Aberdeen Hillwalking Club	57
Aberdeen Mountaineering Club	63
BOOTS (Oldmeldrum Hillwalkers)	26
Cairngorm Club	420
Ellon Hillwalking Club	40
Granite City Hillwalkers	19
Stonehaven Mountaineering & Hillwalking Club	40
Turriff Hillwalking & Mountaineering Club	36

Affiliated Bodies

Baillies of Bennachie	3000
Ramblers Scotland	7000
Scottish Rights of Way Society	1828
Scottish Natural Heritage	

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Bodies with Reciprocal Membership

Aberdeen & St John Mountain Rescue Assn	45
Badenoch & Strathspey Conservation Group	35
Cairngorms Campaign	410
Mountain Bothies Association	3857

3. Treasurer's Annual Report for the year to 30th September 2012.

- 1) The accounts are shown on a "cash" basis, with receipts and payments being entered as and when received/paid.
- 2) All funds received and accounts paid during the year under review were on an "unrestricted" basis.
- 3) The figure of **£562** for Gift Aid represents two years' claims, the 2011 reclaim having been received after the end of that financial year.
- 4) The year's successful series of lectures produced a surplus of **£377** against last year's figure of **£636** – the decrease being primarily due to smaller attendances during the year. It is anticipated that the move to alternative premises for the lectures and General Council meetings will save in the region of **£150** per year.
- 5) Mountain Views deficit of **£993** follows the normal pattern. A review of advertising and advertisers is currently being undertaken and at the same time consideration is being given to a rise in the issue price – this has not been changed for quite a number of years.
- 6) The accounts show a deficit of **£766** this year (last year **£2053**) primarily due to a one-off donation to the Cairngorms Campaign legal fund (**£500**), and a drop in Lectures Income, as mentioned above (4).
- 7) Public Liability insurance has been retained to ensure adequate cover for Trust activities similar to the earlier Hilltracks project. The amount of cover has been maintained with virtually no increase in premium.

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- 8) Once again I would confirm that the General Councils' watching brief over the Trust's financial affairs ensures that we are satisfied our funds are more than adequate to meet present and anticipated expenditure.
- 9) The foregoing accounts are shown on an unexamined basis, all relevant papers and statements etc having been handed over to the Independent Examiner for his perusal.

Gordon Strachan, MCIBS. Treasurer., 18th November 2012

Year Ended 30th September 2012		2,011
Deficit for year	766	-2,053
Accumulated surplus		
Brought forward 2010		9,768
Brought forward 2011	7,715	
Funds in hand	6,949	7,715
Funds held		
Unrestricted funds	6,949	7,715
Restricted funds	-	-
Total funds	6,949	7,715
Represented by:		
Balance in Bank	7,109	7,715
Balance Cash	-	-
Balance Petty Cash	-	-
Creditors (o/s chqs)	160	-
Total Balances	6,949	7,715

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<u>Receipts</u>	2012		2011	
<i>Unrestricted funds</i>	£	£	£	£
Membership Subs:				
Individual members	1,472		1,552	
Clubs	619		457	
Affiliated bodies	75	2,166	50	2,059
Miscellaneous income:				
Donations	36		-	
Gift Tax recovered	562		-	
Bank interest	3	601	4	4
Lectures income		546		812
Mountain Views (sales & ads)		190		188
<i>Total Unrestricted receipts</i>		3,503		3,063
Restricted funds		-		-
Total Receipts for year		3,503		3,063
Deficit for year		766		2,053
		4,269		5,116
 Payments				
Mountain Views expenses		1,183		1,403
Mar Lodge Open Day		946		
Lectures expenses		169		176
Hilltracks (net non-restricted funds)				700
Subscriptions (LINK)		100		100
Adam Watson's book				377
Cairngorms Campaign		500		
Admin costs:				
Admin expenses			6	
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Insurances	237		236	
Internet services (net)			4	
Rent	400		400	
Stationery			62	
Telephone/postages	581	1,371	403	1,260
Total Unrestricted Payments		4,269		4,016
 Restricted payments (Hilltracks)			-	1,100
Total Restricted Payments				
 Total Payments for year		8,538		9,132