

THE SCOTTISH MOUNTAINEERING TRUST 2003

Trustees met on 20th February, and 3rd October, 2003. Trustees were: K V Crocket (Chair), P Macdonald, R W Milne, G E Irvine, G S Nicoll, C J Orr, M G D Shaw, R K Bott, W C Runciman & A Tibbs. J M Shaw & J D Hotchkis in attendance.

Meeting 20th February:

Grant Applications:

South Georgia 2003: Trustees resolved to award a grant of £500.

Baffin Island 2003: The Trustees made a gesture of support and awarded a grant of £250. As with all expeditions, the Secretary would ask for a copy of the Expedition report.

Ben Rinnes: There was a full discussion on whether or not the grant should be conditional on receiving grant aid from other bodies. It was resolved however that no such conditions should be attached and the Trustees resolved to award a grant of £5,000.

Report from SMT (Publications) Limited. Richard Bott, Chairman of the Publications Company, reported on a busy year ahead with the Glen Coe and Ben Nevis Guides being well received. He explained the active and expensive programme for the next year.

Rob Milne, Convenor of the Publications Sub-Committee commented also that the Ben Nevis and Glen Coe Guides were selling well.

Responsibilities of Trustees: The Secretary will distribute with the Minutes Reference to Charity Commission Publications for the interest of the Trustees.

SMC Slide Collection: The Trustees indicated they were happy to accept the SMC collection if the Club agreed in the future to transfer the collection.

The Treasurer suggested putting aside a sum each year with a view to future cataloguing and digitising the slide collection at some point in the future. The Club could then apply to the Trust for a grant for that purpose.

The Secretary will look into putting the Grant Application Forms on the SMC website.

Meeting 3rd October:

Donation: The Chairman reported that the Trust had received an anonymous donation of £50,000

Grant Requests:

The Trustees considered an application in respect of the purchase of Avalanche Transceivers. This was considered an excellent use of Trust funds. Pertinent points such as insurance, third party liability and availability of the transceivers to members of the public were discussed and it was agreed to explore these points.

Report from SMT Publications Limited:

The Chairman reported for R. Bott. Sales were up, but so were expenses, and net profits were slightly down. For 2004, the Company is aiming for five new editions and two new books. The Board had agreed to the possibility of sourcing printing abroad. The first e-book is moving ahead, with 'A History of Glenmore Lodge' by I.D.S. Thomson intended as the first such publication. It would be available as a download from the SMC web site and payment will be possible by a secure server over the net.

Peter Macdonald began a discussion on the Royalty Agreement, which is currently fixed at 2% of gross sales, in recognition of the Club's expertise. It was agreed to refer the question to an expert on the subject.

Retirement of Trustees by Rotation:

Matthew Shaw had recently become a Director of the Company and offered to remain a Trustee for another year. This offer was gratefully accepted. Gillian Irvine and Graeme Nicoll would be retiring as Trustees by rotation.

SMT Leaflet:

The question of a leaflet disseminating the activities of the Trust was discussed at length, with many useful suggestions raised. The leaflet should be attractively designed and Bill Runciman and Matthew Shaw should consider its wording in the first instance.

The discussion broadened to include grant applications in general including where best to inform the hill-going public about the Trust. The Chairman confirmed that all three grant application forms (general, footpaths and expeditions) were now available on the club web site.