

Committee Update

by Helen Russell, President

Over the last two years the committee has been busy with general club improvements, primarily in response to the club survey that was carried out in 2023. These changes are intended to keep the club in good health for the future.

We have successfully launched our new website and it has been well received by our members. We are expecting that its new more modern look will also attract new members. In addition, we held a new event to help market the club and this resulted in several new members joining the club. This event will now be a regular in our annual calendar. Our now regular Facebook and Instagram posts have also helped increase awareness on social media.

The new merchandise (hoodies, t-shirts, beanies, and buffs) with the Caimgorm Crest has been very popular with our members and is now permanently available to order.

Muir Cottage remains a favourite with members and guests and we have introduced a regular members' weekend in November in addition to our annual and very popular Burns Supper weekend. Improvements at Muir continue to be the focus of our attention and the heating system has been completely revamped to enable easier control and remote monitoring. In addition, a new dehumidifier has been installed in the drying room to make drying wet gear more efficient.

We have successfully produced new Indicators for Lochnagar and Ben Macdui; and these will be installed in 2026. We are very grateful to the people who have kindly funded the production cost.

We are in the process of becoming Incorporated. This change will provide the club with a formal legal identity and introduce limited liability, meaning members will be protected from personal financial responsibility. To enable this, the club held a vote in February and approved a motion to formally become a SCIO (Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation). Members will not see any changes in any of our activities, processes or procedures except that committee members and members will get the benefit of being better protected from liability.

In response to new Mountaineering Scotland Risk Assessment Guidelines the committee is busy revamping the Club's risk assessments. In a world where we are becoming more litigious it is important to ensure that our processes are robust and stand up to external scrutiny.

Our key activities: Weekend Day Meet, Midweek Week Walk, Weekend Meets and regular Climbing Events all remain as popular as ever. There is one new addition that has proved very popular: the Stravaigs, replacing previous Daunders, which provides a gentler option for some of our members.

The Cairngorm Club