Secretary's Report

When you start to look at the achievements of club members across the year, how do you decide which events and which individuals are most worthy of mention? You might focus on the traditional hill racing events, but then what about some of the amazing and crazy feats of ultra running both home and abroad, duathlons, triathlons, long distance swims, mountain challenges, orienteering, Munro bagging, Corbett bagging, paddling expeditions, cross country ski-ing trips, the list goes on and Cosmics are out there doing it all.

However we are Cosmic Hillbashers, with our roots in hill racing and must congratulate Veronique Oldham on continuing to put the Cosmic colours out there at the business end of hill races, securing 3rd place female in the SHR Long Classics series. In the Scottish Hill Runners' Championship Veronique was confirmed as F55 champion and 3rd F50 following the final race at Morven. No one else in Cosmics did the 4 races required to complete the SHR championship and earn their souvenir mug this year.

Of the other individual achievements, Alan Cormack is a standout with his multiple ultra running achievements – full details further down this report. Elaine Murdoch has achieved podium finishes in Duathlon events at Scottish, British and European level and Chelsea Cook has secured multiple podiums and PBs from 5K through to marathon.

Beyond that I leave it to everyone to make their own judgements on the relative achievements of their team mates. I set myself a bit of a task which I did come to regret. On the basis of wanting to be inclusive and to recognise as many as possible of members' achievements across the year and not leave anyone out, I set out to collate all of the information in the weekly Monday posts on Facebook. I have not detailed all of the Krunce results (just the series ones), nor all of the activities completed for the elevation challenge, or Parkruns (multiple participants most weekends) but have managed to list the achievements of 60 Cosmics' members – on the following pages. Apologies if I have gone wrong in any of the copying and pasting, and aware this is only what we know about. Names in alphabetical order so should be easy to find everyone! N.B. This would not have been possible without the weekly reports by Anna Harris-Logie and Anita Hamilton.

We are also doing great things with group activities, like the Marcothon Challenge. At the end of 2024, 14 members completed the challenge to undertake at least 25 minutes of activity every day in December with a further 11 members taking part. A great device for fostering club cohesion and a healthy competitive spirit outwith the traditional racing context. 10 have signed up for so far for Marcothon 2025 – get signed up on Spond as December is fast approaching!

This team dynamic was taken to another level (pardon the pun) with our elevation challenge which kicked off in May. 29 Cosmics were signed up with the initial target to achieve the combined height gain of all the Munros within the area of responsibility of the Aberdeen Mountain rescue team – 35,275m. From the very start the driving force of the leader board saw individuals quickly building formidable totals and within a couple of days it was clear that the target would have to be urgently revised. So, the new target – the total combined elevation of all the Munros 287,044m was our aim! Although this could clearly not be achieved within the original timeframe of the month of May this new target was on an ASAP basis, and amazingly was achieved on 21 June.

Total elevation 288,335 meters

Top contributions were 27900m for Dave Taylor, 26749m Marianne Lang & 24191m for Corri Black, and over £900 raised for the Aberdeen Mountain Rescue Team

All participants - 31 names in all so I think there were some latecomers - Dave, Marianne, Corri, Sam, Lesley, Rob, Colin, Anna, Richard L, Ian H, Anita, Gillian, Véronique, Graeme, Gemma, Rory, Jim, Lynn, Ian C, Andrea, Graeme C, Stuart R, Maria D, Linda, Pippa, Lesley, Jason W, Moray, Elaine, Ros & Lyndsay.

Whatsapp groups have been a great tool for fostering the team dynamic in these multi participant events.

Another aspect of our club which I think is really worthy of mention is the sheer number of races that we organise. This appears to be enabled by multiple different club members taking the lead on race organisation, all doing a tremendous amount of work to deliver these events, supported by members across the club. The result is an amazing contribution to the local hill running scene at the same time raising some funds for our club in the process.

Special thanks to Gillian Clunas for the huge amount of work done on the runs programme as well as organising social events, help with organising the AGM hosting bake-offs, arranging surveys and many other tasks. Great work by Anna Harris-Logie on the social media supported by Anita Hamilton.

Finally I must mention Ewen Rennie who continues to come out in all weathers to deliver our Tuesday sessions – what would we do without Ewen and the dreaded whistle? Also note Ewen is homing in on 600 Parkruns and has over 100 volunteer credits.

What an amazing group of people we all are, and I say without irony, someone out there in our membership would be privileged to take up the role of Chair of such a great club. The chair will be supported by a hard working committee who invest a lot of time and energy in their roles. With buy in from members on what you need from your club we will work to deliver and make the club even better in 2026 and beyond.

Member achievements:

Corri Black Third place in the Elevation challenge fund raiser for Aberdeen Mountain Rescue with 24,191m elevation, In the Alps completed the UTMR (Ultra Tour Monte Rosa) stage race, 4 days starting and finishing in Grachen. She has recorded 170K and 11,000m climb, 38 hours of running to finish in 100th place overall, 7th F50.
Ultra event called “Lakes in a Day” from Caldbeck to Cartmel via the Helvellyn Ridge and the shore of Windermere, 85km and 4000m climb, which took 17h23m, finishing about 01.30.

Keiran Budgell - Pittenderich Night Race, Clachnaben Hill race, Cairn William Hill race.

Iain Campbell – Ben Chonzie Hill race, Tarland Pressendye race, Bennachie Hill Race, 1st place Morven Hill race.

Rod Campbell 2nd M70 El-Brim-Ick

A Cosmics legend and our Welfare Officer, turned 80 years old in September.

Andy Chapman Grampian Mountain Challenge with Colin Larmour (Cosmic Comics) was 5th in C class. OMM (Original Mountain Marathon) with Ian Hamilton, 16th Vet (90th overall) in the Long Score

Gillian Clunas Clachnaben Hill race 2nd FV60, Would recommend the St Cuthberts Way as a long distance route. Very varied terrain but up close and personal vegetation in the summer (didnt like the ferns). Finishing at Holy Island was quite special walking out around 3kms to the island at low tide, with Linda Smith (The Cosmetics) Grampian Mountain Challenge C class, many multi day paddling expeditions.

Chelsea Cook 3rd F Forfar Multi-Terrain Half Marathon, 3rd F Feterresso Marathon, Nairn 10Km race 40:37, Inverness half marathon, 1h29 at Alloa Half marathon, Fast and Flat 5K – PB 18.43, Balmoral races overall 2nd, Garioch Half Marathon 1st F, Glen Tanar Trail Running Festival 2nd woman in 25K event, Scottish Half Marathon with a PB, 2nd F Dyce Half Marathon, 3rd F Crathes Running Festival Half Marathon, Loch Ness Marathon - Chelsea improved her best by a fantastic 12 minutes and made the qualifying time for automatic entry to the London Marathon, Peterhead 10K PB and 3rd female, Fraserburgh Half Marathon was very muddy (I think there must be an off road section), but this didn't prevent Chelsea from getting a PB and a podium place as 2nd Female.

Alan Cormack

- Forfar Multi-Terrain Half Marathon
- Proms 3K (Feb)
- Lapland Arctic Ultra, 50k from Overkallix to Jockfall at the weekend. A huge PB with 1h58 from last year
- D33 ultra
- Inverness half marathon – the day after the D33!!
- Methlick 10K,
- Pennine Bridalway 270km
- Formatine & Buchan Railway 12hr Ultra 1st Vet
- 7th Spine race (268 miles of the Pennine Way). Completed the race in 137 hours, at 1am which is his quickest one yet with 19hrs left on the timer. 8.5 hours later, he was taking part in Wallaceneuk parkrun in Kelso"
- Great Glen Ultra 72 miles from Fort William to Inverness, for the 12th time
- Chapeltown 10K
- With Graeme Lornie ran from Carlisle to Newcastle along Hadrian's Wall, 62 miles 1,839 m, just as a training run!
- Run Banchory Trail Half Marathon
- T184, 184 miles along the Thames from source in the Cotswolds to the Thames Barrier in London – Alan has completed this event more often than anyone else and finished in 8th place,
- Loch Ness Marathon – with a new PB by 2 minutes,

- first Proms 3K,
- Loch Kinord (off road) 10K,
- another phenomenal ultra event; this one was called Lon Las Cymru, 250 miles non-stop from Holyhead to Cardiff along the length of Wales and including some big big climbs. Alan finished in typical nonchalant style in 85h35m, the time limit was 88 hours.
- Metro Proms 3K on Friday lunchtime (the day before the 50k event),
- Dava Way 50K in 5.44.42, a 25 min PB!
- With Graeme Lornie they planned to do “Escape from Meriden” event, from a stone cross located in the centre of England you run as far as you can (measured as the crow flies) in any direction for 24 hours. Train was diverted so, unable to make the start, they just casually ran 80K or so from Birmingham to Coventry for the hell of it.

Jim Currie Clachnaben Hill race, Balmoral races – 3rd in category in 15 mile race, Tarland Pressendye race, Mither Tap Hill Race, Glen Tanar Trail Running Festival15K, Tap o’ Noth Hill race at Rhynie Gala, Krunce Series 1ST M60**,** Cairn William Hill race, Bennachie Hill Race, Millstone Mayhem 10K, Morven Hill race

Maria Davis Balmoral races, Glen Lyon race, Thom’s Cairn 10K, Loch Kinord (off road) 10K

Alan Dick El-Brim-Ick, Dess Woods Night race, Forfar Multi-Terrain Half Marathon, Feterresso Marathon, 1st M50 2025 Glenshee Snow running race short course, Clachnaben Hill race, Mither Tap Hill Race, Ben Rinnes Hill Race, Grampian Mountain Challenge C class with Mark Stockton, OMM (Original Mountain Marathon) was 83rd in B class along with Etienne Dick

Andrea Drummond first Proms 3K, North District Cross Country league race at Grantown on Spey. Also other events while competing for JSK.

Nicola Edward El-Brim-Ick, Forfar Multi-Terrain Half Marathon, Methlick 10K, London Marathon, Brewdog race, Crathes Running Festival Half Marathon,

Alec Erskine Clachnaben Hill race 3rd M60

Lesley Gomersall Completed her last Corbett with Sam Gomersall. Different hill from Sam on a different day, both during the elevation challenge in which they were both well up on the leader board.

Sam Gomersall British Orienteering Championship. Completed his last Corbett with Lesley Gomersall. Different hill from Lesley on a different day, both during the elevation challenge in which they were both well up on the leader board.

Moray Greig Proms 3K (Jan), Proms 3K (Feb),

Gary Gutteridge 1st M70 – new category El-Brim-Ick, Abernethy Highland Games Race, a 10 mile forest trail run, Huntly Room to Roam 10K**,** Loch Kinord (off road) 10K 2nd M70.

Anita Hamilton El-Brim-Ick, Tarland Pressendye race 1ST F60, Tap o' Noth Hill race at Rhynie Gala, Krunce Series 2nd F60, 2ND F60 Cairn William Hill race, Bennachie Hill Race, Morven Hill race (very surprised to get a prize as 2nd F60).

Ian Hamilton, 3rd M60 El-Brim-Ick, Pittenderich Night Race, Tarland Pressendye race, Glenshee 9 race. Note: it's not 9K or even 9 miles, it's 9 Munros and a total of 34K and 1700m (assuming you take the right route). It was a SHR Championship as well as a Long Classic Race this year, Tap o' Noth Hill race at Rhynie Gala, Krunce Series 3rd M60, Bennachie Hill Race, OMM (Original Mountain Marathon) 16th Vet (90th overall) in the Long Score, Morven Hill race

Annaelle Harris-Logie 3RD F, El-Brim-Ick, 3rd F Lumphanan Detox 10K, Pittenderich Night Race, Inverness half marathon, Ibiza Marathon, Étape Inverness Cycle, Leeds Ironman Triathlon - it was a tough hilly course for both bike and run. Annaelle finished in 13.47.41, 3rd F Tap o' Noth Hill race at Rhynie Gala, some of the Ultra running brigade did their own Tour de Mont Blanc (plus extras for sightseeing) - with Rob Jobling and Gemma Morgan and friends did 182K and 10378m climb over 61/2 days in the Alps. Bennachie Hill Race, 15 mile spectacular Illuminator Race at Glen Tanar 4th female

Kevin Heath – Proms 3K (Feb),Pittenderich Night Race, 2nd M60 2025 Glenshee Snow running race long course, Methlick 10K, Balmoral races, Tarland Pressendye race 3rd M60, 35th Bennachie Hill Race

Richard Ingram Dess Woods Night race, Ben Chonzie Hill race, Tarland Pressendye race, Mither Tap Hill Race, Krunce Series 1st M50, 2nd M50 Cairn William Hill race, Bennachie Hill Race, Gight Eight (13.3 km)

Rob Irvine El-Brim-Ick, Stone lifting competition 170kg!

Rob Jobling, Lumphanan Detox 10K, Ibiza Marathon, Étape Inverness Cycle, Balmoral races including fastest official 5K time, Loch Ore swim, 3800M 2nd in new age category, Leeds Ironman Triathlon - it was a tough hilly course for both bike and run. Rob finished in around 11.42 (within the top 200), 10K SWIM event at Loch Earn, some of the Ultra running brigade did their own Tour de Mont Blanc (plus extras for sightseeing). With Gemma Morgan and Annaelle Harris-Logie and friends did 182K and 10378m climb over 61/2 days in the Alps. 15 mile spectacular Illuminator Race at Glen Tanar, Peterhead 10K – PB,

Gillian King Garioch Half Marathon 3rd F45, Krunce Series 2nd F40

Dave Kirk Tarland Pressendye race, Mither Tap Hill Race, Krunce Series 2ND M50,

Kat Lancaster Trail Escape Edinburgh (28.5K), Millstone Mayhem 10K.

Marianne Lang Second place in the Elevation challenge fund raiser for Aberdeen Mountain Rescue with 26,749m elevation

Richard Lang Methlick 10K, Clachnaben Hill race, Highland Cross, with Alan Gilkison (Cask of Fiction) Grampian Mountain Challenge 9th in B class

Colin Larmour, 2nd M50 El-Brim-Ick, Pittenderich Night Race, Clachnaben Hill race, Highland Cross, Cairn William Hill race, Grampian Mountain Challenge with Andrew Chapman (Cosmic Comics) 5th in C class, Morven Hill race

Pauline Larmour El-Brim-Ick

Shayne Lilith-Moon Balmoral races, Dunydeer race came 2nd FV50, Clashmach Hill race, Mither Tap Hill Race 1st FV50, Krunce Series 2nd F50, Bennachie Hill Race, the t Glen Clova Half Marathon.

Graeme Lornie Pittenderich Night Race, 2025 Glenshee Snow running race long course, D33 ultra, Pennine Bridalway 270km, completed the Montane Lakeland 50 Ultra Trail Race, 80K and 2962m in 19h23m. With Alan Cormack ran from Carlisle to Newcastle along Hadrian's Wall, 62 miles 1,839 m, just as a training run! T184, 184 miles along the Thames from source in the Cotswolds to the Thames Barrier in London – retired after 91K at Oxford, citing "not enough hills". With Alan Cormack they were heading for the "Escape from Meriden" event, from a stone cross located in the centre of England you run as far as you can (measured as the crow flies) in any direction for 24 hours. Their train was diverted so, unable to make the start, they just casually ran 80K or so from Birmingham to Coventry for the hell of it.

Lesley Marshall D33 ultra, Formatine & Buchan Railway 12hr Ultra, Brewdog race,

Derek Meehan Cycling tour of Highlands in May, 160K+ per day

Hazel Meehan Cycling tour of Highlands in May, 160K+ per day

Dennis McDonald 1st M60 Pittenderich Night Race, Clachnaben Hill race 2nd M60, Tarland Pressendye race, 2nd M60, Ben Nevis Hill race (2h 29, 4th M60), 2ND M60 Cairn William Hill race, Grampian Mountain Challenge with daughter Samantha (Old timer and First Timer) was 4th in C class, Morven Hill race 3rd M60

Fiona McDonald El-Brim-Ick, 3rd F40 Dess Woods Night race, 2nd F40 Pittenderich Night Race,Tarland Pressendye race 2nd F40, Balmedie Beach Race 3rd overall female, Mither Tap Hill Race 1st FV40, Krunce Series 1st F40, Cairn William Hill race 2nd and first F40, with Dagmar Borrowman (Team the O Girls) Grampian Mountain Challenge 6th in B class, Morven Hill race (3rd F40),

Samantha McDonald Grampian Mountain Challenge with dad Dennis (Old timer and First Timer) was 4th in C class

Lyndsay McEwan Run Banchory Trail 5K, River Ness 10K, Loch Kinord (off road) 10K

Paul McLeod Forfar Multi-Terrain Half Marathon, Methlick 10K, Cateran 55, Run Banchory Trail Half Marathon, completed the Highland Fling in 11.49.04. That's 85K (53 miles) 2300m ascent/2100 descent from Milngavie to Tyndrum along the West Highland Way.

Tina McLeod Forfar Multi-Terrain Half Marathon, D33 ultra, Methlick 10K, ULTRA X 60K race, Canicross - Furnations Scotland at Glamis castle, Kirkhill 8, Brewdog race, Saltire 6 (6hr trail race), completed the Montane Lakeland 50 Ultra Trail Race, 80K and 2962m in 16h45m, Crathes Running Festival 5K, first Proms 3K, Loch Kinord (off road) 10K, Peterhead 10K, Gight Eight (13.3 km)

Rory MacPherson El-Brim-Ick, Proms 3K (Feb), Pittenderich Night Race, Ben Chonzie Hill race, Moray Coastal Trail Race 75K, Tarland Pressendye race 2nd M40, Balmedie Beach Race 1st M40, Ben Rinnes Hill Race, Speyside Way 50k Ultra (4hrs 49), Ben Nevis Hill race (2h 33), Krunce Series – 3rd M40, Cairn William Hill race, Bennachie Hill Race, Peterhead 10K – PB, Morven Hill race

Gemma Morgan Ibiza Marathon, Loch Ore swim, 3800M, 2nd in category, 10K SWIM event at Loch Earn, some of the Ultra running brigade did their own Tour de Mont Blanc (plus extras for sightseeing). With Rob Jobling and Annaelle Harris-Logie and friends did 182K and 10378m climb over 61/2 days in the Alps. That's extreme training for you - just awesome!,

Elaine Murdoch Duathlon **-** 3rd in the British champs and 1st in the Scottish champs, European Championship Duathlon. 2nd in the Sprint event then did the full the next day and came 4th! Garioch Half Marathon 2nd F35, 1st in the Floors Castle Duathlon, St Andrews Sprint Duathlon, 4th and first female in the 1st of the Fetternear Shadow Series (6.1K, 61m), Peterhead 10k, 6th overall and first female in the 2nd race of the Fetternear Shadow Series.

Veronique Oldham 1st F50 El-Brim-Ick, 1st F55 at the Screel Hill Race, Ben Chonzie Hill race 2nd F50, Stuc a'Chroin hill race, Goatfell race 1st F50, Glen Rosa horseshoe in very tough conditions 2nd F50, Balmedie Beach Race 2nd overall female, Ben Rinnes Hill Race 3rd female, Glenshee 9 race. Note: it's not 9K or even 9 miles, it's 9 Munros and a total of 34K and 1700m (assuming you take the right route). It was a SHR Championship as well as a Long Classic Race this year, Cairn William Hill race – 1st Female, Bennachie Hill Race (1st F50), the 41st Two Breweries Race (29K, 1500m climb), Veronique was 2nd FV50 in the race which is part of the Scottish Hill Runners Long Classics Series. 3rd place female in the SHR Long Classics Series after a great run last weekend in the Carnethy Skyloop Race. was 1st F50 in the Meall a Bhuacaille hill race, Morven Hill race (1st F50), and also the 2025 Scottish Hill Runners Championship. Veronique Oldham was confirmed as F55 champion and 3rd F50.

Steven Orr Scottish Half Marathon,

Stuart Ritchie Clachnaben Hill race, Tarland Pressendye race

Pippa Samphier Bennachie Hill Race, completed the Bennachie Ultra Marathon (31 miles, 5000 ft).

Linda J Smith in the Aosta valley in Italy, finished the La Thuile Ultra Trail Marathon, 43K and 2500m, in 8h14m placing 38th out of 63 women, (with Lynn Smith and Katy Boocock) Grampian Mountain Challenge 17th in B class

Linda H Smith with Gillian Clunas (The Cosmetics) Grampian Mountain Challenge C class, North District Cross Country league races at Fort William and Grantown on Spey, 19 Munros completed this year with 1 left to go.

Lynn Smith (with Linda Smith and Katy Boocock) Grampian Mountain Challenge 17th in B class

Mark Stockton El-Brim-Ick, Dess Woods Night race, Feterresso Marathon, Winner Cosmics handicap race, first Proms 3K, with Alan Dick Grampian Mountain Challenge C class

Ally Sutherland Speyside Way 50k Ultra (5hrs 5), Dyce Half Marathon, Ben Nevis Hill race (3hrs), Loch Ness Marathon, completed the Bennachie Ultra Marathon (31 miles, 5000 ft).

David Taylor – Pittenderich Night Race, Ben Chonzie Hill race, Snowdonia Ultra Trail 109km, 6768 elevation in the heat, Winner of the Elevation challenge fund raiser for Aberdeen Mountain Rescue with 27,900m elevation, Cairn William Hill race

Sue Taylor El-Brim-Ick with a special prize

Jason Wild 3rd M50 El-Brim-Ick, Pittenderich Night Race, 2025 Glenshee Snow running race Long course, D33 ultra, Ben Chonzie Hill race, Balmoral races, Bennachie Ultra races was 3rd in the Ultra-trail (18 miles and 3,300ft)

Clyde Williamson – Stuc a'Chroin hill race, 3rd in the North Berwick Law race out of a field of over 300, 3rd M Tap o' Noth Hill race at Rhynie Gala, Ben Nevis Hill race (fastest Cosmic in 2h 6 mins), 2nd Cairn William Hill race,

Jason Williamson, 1st M50 El-Brim-Ick, Proms 3K (Jan), Proms 3K (Feb), 3rd M50 Pittenderich Night Race ,2025 Glenshee Snow running race, Clachnaben Hill race, Ben Chonzie Hill race, Stuc a'Chroin hill race, Tarland Pressendye race 2nd M50, Mither Tap Hill Race leading Cosmic, Ben Rinnes Race leading Cosmic, Tap o' Noth Hill race at Rhynie Gala, Ben Nevis Hill race (2h 31), 8th and 1st M50 Cairn William Hill race , Bennachie Hill Race (3rd M50), Morven Hill race

Linda H Smith, Secretary

Cosmic Hillbashers