



**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HOLLYBURN CROSS COUNTRY SKI CLUB
Tuesday, October 17, 2024, 8:05 to 10:11 p.m.**

The online meeting was called to order at 8:05 pm.
Quorum was established with 35 people in attendance.

- 1) **Review of Agenda and Past Minutes.** Motion to accept agenda (Dmitry Shapovalov/Morna Fraser). Approved. Motion to approve AGM minutes from 2023 (Morna Fraser/Heidi Horlacher). Approved.
- 2) **President's Report – Dirk Rohde**

2023/2024 Events Review

- a) The current board was introduced and thanked for their many years of contribution to the club. The 2023/24 season was busy with several races at Whistler Olympic Park including Teck Coast Cup #1, Coast Cup#2/BCWG Trails, Teck BC Cup #2, and support was provided to CVXC who hosted the Coast Outdoors P'ayakentsut. The season ended with a successful volunteer appreciation event at Browns Social House that was masterfully coordinated by Andrea Frisque and Joanne Fenwick. To say the room was packed would be an understatement. 2023/24 was a successful year for Hollyburn where the Club received several grants this season, one of which supported a pilot program called, Ski with the Elites. Hollyburn also won the CCBC's Membership Contest where Hollyburn had the highest percentage of our previous winter's total membership.

2023/2024 Successes

Hollyburn athletes had a successful race season, winning the Coast Cup Aggregate Award and the Track Attack Team Aggregate Award. For the first time ever, Hollyburn won the BC Championship Club Trophy and at the Canadian Nationals Hollyburn raced to 5th place in the Aggregate Award. Hollyburn's strong race results were key to BC winning the Divisional Championship at Nationals.

Hollyburn athlete Eamon Wilson was selected to join Canada's Youth Olympic Games team and Katie Weaver was selected to race on World Cup Period 3 and 4. Aidan Hay is skiing for University of Alaska Fairbanks and was selected as an alternate for the 2024 NCAA Championships, Dustin Hay is skiing for Dartmouth College where he won the Top Freshman Award and Japhy Crookham is skiing and running for Nipissing University.

2023/24 Club Numbers

- a) Membership: Total Members=656, Jackrabbits/bunnies=191, Track Attack=72, Racers=33, Adventurers=17, Adult/Masters=31, and Coaches=139 with 18 student coaches.
- b) Race Participation: Teck Coast Cup #1=219, Tech Coast Cup #2=169, Teck BC Cup#2=415, and Coast Outdoors Payak=519.

2024/25 Key Events

Looking forward we have a busy race season planned for 2024/25 starting with the Teck Coast Cup #1 on Jan 18, the Teck Coast Cup #4 on March 9, Invictus Games on Feb. 10-11 and the Coast Outdoors P'ayakentsut on February 24. The popular Teck BC Track Attack Champs will be in Rossland on January 24-25 for Track Attack skiers.

2024/25 Updates

Nordiq Canada has a SafeSport Mandate for all clubs in Canada. Last year Ontario rolled out and piloted the program and this season all clubs in Canada now need to implement the policies. The policies are available at on our website under Policies and Procedures and on the Nordiq Canada website <https://clubsafesport.nordiqcanada.ca/>. As our first steps, our Executive has adopted the policies, is completing the necessary modules, Understanding the Rule of 2 and CAC SafeSport Training and are recruiting a SafeSport Coordinator.

The Executive will work to finalize the Long-Term Strategic Plan followed by a review of the Club Policies and Procedures. We have a Gear Swap planned for October 26 at Coast Outdoors to help support members find affordable gear for the season. Finally, Hollyburn and Chelsea will participate in a Nordiq Exchange this coming year.

Hollyburn will continue to subsidize club clothing and race fees for athletes for races at WOP and Track Attack Championships and we plan to continue to provide athlete grants to skiers who continue to ski beyond high school.

A few reminders: We remind all members to remain respectful of other skiers and staff at Cypress Mountain, particularly at the Cypress gate and if asked to show your pass please do so. We also remind all members to follow Hollyburn on Instagram - hollyburnxc. Finally, race volunteers are always needed. No experience is needed and training opportunities to obtain Level 1 Officials Certification is available.

3) Special Resolution Bylaw Change

We thank a long-time member who identified two inconsistencies in our Bylaws related to our membership policies.

The Executive purposes:

Amend Part 2 Membership, item 6 to read: The amount of the annual membership dues are determined by the directors. This change supports the alignment with the BC Societies Act and our current Club practices.

Remove Part 2 Membership, item 7 (d) on having been a member not in good standing for 12 consecutive months. This change is consistent with item 9 that states all members are in good standing except a member who has failed to pay their current annual membership fee.

Moved by Morna Fraser and seconded by Jenny Williams. Approved.

4) Presentation of Draft Strategic Plan

Jill Aubie Vines reviewed the process to develop the draft Strategic Plan which included screening of plans from other clubs including interviewing 5 clubs for best practices. Over 100 members completed a membership survey, and this feedback was used to draft a plan. ~85% of responses were positive. However, there were several opportunities identified including improved communications, increased connection between members, improved coach support and development, investments in equity, diversity and inclusion and more opportunities for feedback.

Jill shared our draft vision, values, and strategic priorities for the next 5-8 years. Our vision is to provide high-quality cross-country ski programming to families in Greater Vancouver, and to be recognized by CCBC and Nordiq Canada as a national leader in athlete development. The draft values are passion, community, respect, health, excellence, environmental responsibility, and organizational sustainability. The framework of the plan includes who we are, what we do and how we operate. For each area of the plan, our strengths and areas of improvement were identified followed by a strategic priority and specific actions for the Board and membership to advance in the coming years. In total, eight strategic priorities were identified and shared with the membership.

Jill issued a call out for a volunteer with graphic design skills to help with some final polishing of the plan.

Question 1 from the floor-Are there any plans to improve our relationships with our partners? Answer: This is particularly important for Hollyburn and has been captured in the Strategic Priority #3 Develop a communication strategy to improve communication pathways with members and partners.

Question 2 from the floor: Curious about our vision to be recognition by CCBC and Nordiq Canada as a leader in athlete development. How do we measure this? Answer: It is difficult to measure directly but several lines of evidence will be used to evaluate this. For instance, CCBC has approached Hollyburn about our successful teen coaching program, we frequently are granted full funding for our proposals, our funding applications are approved year over year, our athletes are routinely selected for the various Provincial Ski Teams and are selected for race assignments. Finally, we were awarded a National Winter Sport Development Association Grant to enhance our programs and develop athletes to achieve excellence.

Question 3 from the floor: What are the next steps? Answer: Take the plan to the Board for review and share with members, perhaps on the website. Jill will discuss process more with the Board.

5) Financial Report

Jenny Williams presented the financial statements from the year ending August 31, 2024.

- a) Income statement - We incurred a surplus of \$9K in 2024 compared to a deficit of \$24K in 2023. We have a solid financial footing moving forward. In general, our expenses over the years were similar, however our revenue has increased by \$30K. We receive a Community Gaming Grant each year and this year we successfully applied for a Kal Tire Skill Development Program grant which allowed for skiers from the Race Team to coach TA athletes. Our Operation Snowball generated over \$12K in donations to the club. Club Events is a major line item which includes fees received for events that the club host such as the Coast Cups and Dryland Camps. It also includes the costs race team athletes pay towards the cost of attending races. We had some savings on administration due to a short period where we did not have a registrar. There were also some savings on coach and officials training. Again, under Expenses Club Events is a large category which includes subsidies for athletes to race at WOP, Track Attack race fees subsidies and the cost for volunteer coaches/wax technicians to attend races to support athletes. Move to accept (Morna Fraser/Heidi Horlacher). Approved.
- b) A Balance Sheet was presented. Our cash on hand is \$258K which included revenue for 2024/25 registration fees for the coming year and is considered deferred income. Each year we put aside \$5K in a reserve for future replacement of the club van which now sits at \$15K. We have ~\$44K in available funds which is a sensible amount to manage unexpected expenses.
- c) A draft 2024/25 budget was presented for information. We are aiming to break even this year. There are some significant changes this coming season: we have hired a professional Assistant Coach to assist our growing Race Team which is supported by a \$10K grant from NWSDA. Our Community Gaming Grant increased, partly an increase in the operating grant and a one-off capital grant to pay for repairs to the wax hut roof. We also increased the program fees for Race Team athletes and to a lesser extent to SDP programs. Our van replacement account will increase by \$5K to \$20K.
- d) Two requests from our membership were noted: 1) Next year for financial statements to be shared with our membership before the AGM and 2) Included additional details in future budgets to increase transparency and better understand the budget.

5) Program Reports

a) Jackrabbit/Bunnies

Dirk reported on the Jackrabbit/Bunny programs on behalf of Jen Gow. We were operating at full capacity with 190 skiers in 2023/24. Sessions were held on Saturday AM, Sunday AM and PM. Hollyburn was commended by CCBC for running the largest skills development programs in BC. As part of our program, the Coast Cup, BC Cup and Payak introduced skiers to racing at WOP. Special Events included: biathlon, Ski-O, and the Birkebeiner. Local races had great representation of

Bunnyrabbits and Jackrabbits. We are recruiting a Jackrabbit Coordinator and a Jackrabbit Head Coach. Beth Senichenko has graciously agreed to assist with operations this winter season. Spaces are available on Sunday morning and afternoon for 5-year-old bunnies.

b) Track Attack

Marieve Legrand presented the Track Attack report (Learn to Train ages 10-12). 72 athletes were registered in the 2023/24 program. Dryland training ran from September to November with 2 sessions each week; one session of roller skiing at Empire Fields on Tuesday evenings and either a running, ski striding or orienteering session was held on the weekend. There was great attendance at the Dryland session with 20-30 athletes attending each training day. There were two early season on-snow at WOP sessions, one on Nov. 19 and another on Dec. 9-10. Nine 1st year TA skiers benefited from our Ski Rental Skate Ski Program which is now in its third season. There were two regional camps at WOP, one dryland camp in September and one on-snow camp in December. Both camps were well attended.

Special Events included the Train with the Elite pilot program supported by a Kal Tire SDP grant. Two training sessions at WOP and one on-line session were led by Hollyburn alumni athletes to provide mentoring to TA athletes. These sessions were well attended with 30 skiers taking part in either one or both sessions offered over the Christmas break. The second special event offered was a joint TA/Adventurers Introduction to the Callaghan backcountry to explore backcountry skiing as an alternate to racing at the BC Cup.

The 2023-24 season saw some challenging snow conditions leading to marginal conditions at Cypress where some sessions needed to be cancelled. Our coaching team pivoted to dryland activities out of necessity. Thankfully, safe snow conditions returned by the end of February resulting in a good end to the season. There was great representation of TA skiers at the local Coast Cup and BC Cup races at WOP. Track Attack Championships in West Kelowna also saw great representation from Hollyburn with 63 out of 71 TA athletes attending. The weekend was fun, and Hollyburn won the Aggregate Team Award for the 3rd consecutive year. Our thanks are extended to all the parents who assisted and supported our large team.

All graduating TA skiers are now continuing their skiing journey with 7 athletes joining Adventurers and 15 joining the Race Team, a testament to Hollyburn's vision of developing a life-long love of skiing in our athletes.

c) Adventurers

Andrea Frisque is the new coordinator for the 2024/25 ski season. Thank you to Andre Zimmerman who was the coordinator in 2023/24. Our program provides opportunities for skiers 13 years and older to ski once or twice a week. The focus is on skiing for life, being active, socializing, having fun, trying new things, volunteering, and for some athletes participating in the Payak. Some activities include skate and classic skiing, skiing off trail, orienteering, avalanche awareness,

snow cave building, snowshoeing, tobogganing, and the highlight is an overnight sleepover at Cypress Mountain cabin. A coach is still needed for Sunday program.

d) Racing Team

Head Coach Jake Weaver presented the Race Team report. Our goal for 2023/24 was to improve on the previous year in all areas, which was a big challenge because 2022/23 was one of our best seasons ever. We achieved our goal because we had exceptionally good participation in training sessions and at races that led to a high level of fitness, improved technical ability and fun. Many athletes were selected to the three levels of the BC Team, Eamon Wilson was again named to the National Development Team, and Katie Weaver was named to a national team. Hollyburn athletes won many BC Cup, BC Winter Games and several Nationals medals and several athletes earned Aggregate Awards at the BC Championships and at Nationals. Eamon Wilson were selected to race at Youth Olympic Games and Eamon and Katie Weaver raced at World Cup events. We have more athletes that are continuing their racing career after high school at ski academies and at several universities.

We had a large team of 79 athletes attend BC Champs in Salmon Arm where our club won the Club Aggregate Award for the first time ever. We also had a large team of 22 athletes, and 13 coaches/volunteers attend Nationals 2024 in Nakkertok, Gatineau Quebec. Hollyburn placed 5th out of 65 clubs with several individual medals and aggregate awards. The skiers represented our Club very well.

We plan to continue on our successful pathway, striving to improve in all areas while managing a growing team of 41 athletes. Our focus will be on positive group dynamics, integration of several new coaches including the addition of a part-time professional coach (Adam Elliot) to our team, and the recruitment and training of more volunteer waxers. Hollyburn is extremely fortunate to expand our coaching team with the addition of Adam Elliot, one of BC's and Canada's top coaches. We are grateful to have received a generous grant from the National Winter Sport Development Association to help support Adam's wages. Adam's skills and knowledge are an asset to our program, and we are lucky to have him part of our team. Welcome Adam to the Hollyburn family.

The 2024/25 events include the annual backpacking trip in August to Tenquille Lake, a Regional Dryland Camp in October in Whistler, Frozen Thunder Camp in October in Canmore, followed by a BC Ski Camp in Vernon, and Regional On-Snow in Whistler. We have an exciting race season planned with two races in Whistler, BC Championships in Kelowna, a BC Cup in Revelstoke followed by a BC Cup in Prince George, and Nationals in Canmore in March.

Question: Can kids moving up to race team join throughout the year? Yes, we have all different levels of involvement, and all are welcome.

e) Masters Program

The report was presented by Heidi Horlacher. Despite poor snow seasons there was strong interest in the Masters Program. The sessions were held on Wednesday and Thursday nights with 31 athletes and 2 coaches each night. A preferential rate was offered to our coaches to support skills development. Thanks to Nancy Hostetler who developed the season plan and lead the sessions on Wednesday night.

f) Coaching Program

The report was presented by Heidi Horlacher. In 2023/24, we had 139 registered coaches, 16 teen coaches and 10 “nonparent” coaches support our programs which was a growth of 10 coaches over the 2022/23 season. We hosted four coaching workshops/courses including two Community Coaching courses, L2T Dryland, L2T On Snow, and a Coaches refresher session at Cypress on Jan 7th. The club has a subscription Nordiq Ski Lab to technique videos to support our coaches. We also offered a workshop on neurodiversity for our coaches this season. This was the second year of mandatory training from Nordiq Canada to keep sport safe: The Rule of 2 and the Safe Sport for all coaches.

5) Election of Board

There are a few changes to the Executive this year. We have a vacancy on the Board for a Jackrabbit/Bunny Program Coordinator. Please consider volunteering for this key role.

Motion to vote for full board as a full slate (Morna Fraser/Jake Weaver). Approved.

President – Dirk Rohde

Vice President – Morna Fraser

Treasurer – Jenny Williams

Secretary – Shannon Harris

Coaching Coordinator – Heidi Horlacher

Jackrabbit/Bunny Program Coordinator – VACANT

Track Attack Coordinator – Freya Kristensen

Racing Program Coordinator – Jake Weaver

Directors at Large – Birgit Weaver, David Morris, Megan Scheffer, Jen Gow, and Marieve Legrand

6) Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 10:11 pm. Move to adjourn (Morna Fraser/Shannon Harris). All approved.