



MINUTES
2025 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Tuesday, October 21, 2025, 7:30 -9:30 p.m.

Online Zoom Meeting

The online meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm.
Quorum was established with 85 people in attendance.

- 1) Approval of Agenda and Approval of Previous AGM Minutes** Motion to accept agenda (Tim Blair/Alexia Bloch) Approved. Motion to approve AGM minutes from 2024 (Birgit Weaver/Dominic Brecher). Approved.
- 2) President's Report – Dirk Rohde**

2024/2025 Events Review

The current Board was introduced and thanked for their valuable contributions to the Club. Executive members contribute anywhere from 100 to over 1,000 hours each year organizing special events and supporting their respective program areas. Special thanks to Beth Senichenko for stepping in as Jackrabbit/Bunny Coordinator this year, and heartfelt appreciation to Birgit Weaver, who is stepping down after many years of dedicated service to the Club.

In 2024/25 season, Hollyburn was host to the Teck Coast Cup #1 in Whistler Olympic Park. Thanks to the many Hollyburn families who provided event support to the Invictus Winter Games and to the Coast Outdoors P'ayakentsut Whistler Olympic Park. This past season we welcomed 188 returning families back to the club and 52 new families joined our club. Hollyburn is fortunate to have a dedicated team of volunteer coaches whose commitment and enthusiasm make our programs possible. Track Attack skiers participated in a successful Track Attack Exchange with Chelsea Nordiq. Track Attack skiers also experienced an on-snow session at WOP lead by Dustin and Aidan Hay with support from volunteer BC Ski Team athletes and several parent volunteers. The on-snow session was followed by cookies and hot chocolate. Thanks to Gillian Aubie-Vines for all her work in leading the development of the Long-term Strategic Plan that will guide our club until 2030. A key priority in our long-term strategic plan has been succession planning for the Head Coach position. We are thrilled to share that Frederick Serratore, formerly of the Nakkertok Ski Club, has accepted the Assistant Head Coach position and has been busy getting to know BC and our Race Team Athletes. A warm welcome is extended to Fred; we are thrilled you are part of our ski family. Hollyburn was awarded several grants to support our operations including a NWSDA grant for coaching support, a ViaSport Lead Forward Grant for coaches and Board training for gender equity training. Thanks to Jen Gow for her work preparing these proposals for funding.

2024/25 Club Numbers

Membership: Total Members=615, Jackrabbits/bunnies=158, Track Attack=74, Racers=44, Adventurers=18, Adult/Masters=32, and Coaches=108 with 17 student coaches. Overall, our membership has declined, however our Race Team numbers are up.

Race Participation: Teck Coast Cup #1=299, Invictus Winter Games-Cross Country=57 and Biathlon=130, and Coast Outdoors Payak=576. Participation at the Coast Cup #1 was one of the highest ever and participation in the Payak increased from the previous year. The Invictus Game, an international adaptive sporting event for wounded, injured and sick military personnel and veterans founded by Prince Harry, the Duke of Sussex, was a moving event for many Hollyburn volunteers. Thank you to everyone who supported this event.

2024/25 Noteworthy Results

Hollyburn athletes brought home the Coast Cup Aggregate Award, the Track Attack Team Aggregate Trophy, the BC Championship Club Trophy and were important contributors to BC winning the Divisional Championship at Nationals. Hollyburn raced to 7th place in the Aggregate Award at Nationals in Canmore, AB. The Lantern Ski at the Gitt's Cabin continues to draw a huge crowd, with families flocking to enjoy chili prepared by Julia Hegedus and hot dogs roasted over an open fire. The Lantern Ski coincided with the TA Exchange skiers visiting from Chelsea and it was a special memory for all our Ontario friends. Not to be outdone by the Lantern Ski, Julia was key to a memorable and delicious Volunteer Appreciation Night at the Hungarian Cultural Hall.

Katie Weaver was selected for the FIS Nordic World Cup in Les Rousses, France where she skied to an impressive 16th place in the classic sprint race. She also competed for Canada at FIS Nordic World Ski Competition in Trondheim, Norway and she capped her season with two golds (classic spring and BC Relay Team) and a silver (30 km mass start classic) at Nationals in Canmore, Alberta. Eamon Wilson was selected to compete for Canada at the Jr./U23 World Championships in Italy. Eamon, alongside Katie, is now training in Canmore with the Alberta World Cup Academy in Canmore.

2025/26 Key Events

This season, Hollyburn will host the Teck Coast Cup #1/BC Winter Games Trials on Jan. 4, the Teck BC Championships on Feb. 20-22, and will provide support to the popular Coast Outdoors P'ayakentsut on February 28. The Teck BC Track Attack Champs will be in Kelowna on January 24-25.

2025/26 Plans

We have adopted the SafeSport policies, as required by Nordiq Canada and the policies are found here: <https://www.hollyburnxc.ca/club/policiesplanhistory/> and <https://clubsafesport.nordiqcanada.ca/> All coaches, Executive members and licensed athletes have completed the necessary modules-Understanding the Rule of 2 and CAC SafeSport Training, and Criminal Record Checks are underway. The screening of volunteers who support the Race Team is also underway.

The Executive will be reviewing and updating the Club's Policies and Procedures in the coming year. To help members access affordable equipment, a gear swap is scheduled for November 2 at Coast Outdoors. In addition, Hollyburn will continue to subsidize club

clothing and race fees for athletes participating in races at Whistler Olympic Park and the Track Attack Championships.

We remind our 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 encourage all members to consider volunteering at races this coming season. We will be hosting the Teck BC Championships this year and volunteers are needed to ensure the event runs smoothly. We are in need of volunteers to support the Dessert Banquet to celebrate Aggregate champions. No experience is needed to volunteer and training opportunities to obtain Level 1 Officials Certification is available. We remind all members to follow Hollyburn on Instagram - hollyburnxc. Finally, we are recruiting a new paid part-time Club Administrator/Register and Bookkeeper. This can be one or two positions depending on the applicant's experience. Please contact registrar@hollyburnxc.ca for more information,

3. Financial Report Jenny Williams

2024/25 Financial Statement

The 2024/25 Revenue and Expenses and Balance Sheet were shared with the membership. We have incorporated members feedback into our financials to add more detail to help with clarity. In summary we ended the year with a \$24K surplus. On the balance sheet, we have increased our van replacement fund to \$30K and we have \$57K in unrestricted available funds. The \$24K surplus was due to unexpected reductions to our expenses. We saved \$2.5K on the replacement of some of the Jackrabbits skate skis because stock was not available. We saved a further \$4K on club clothing due to less orders. We were underbudget by \$8K on registrar and bookkeeping services and we realized a \$4K savings on renting timing equipment for the Coast Cup because we were able to benefit from having rental fees paid for by the Invictus Games test event. Finally, van maintenance costs vary significantly from year to year, and this came in \$6K below budget. While it is quite unusual for the club to have some many positive variances all in one year, this puts us in a good position as some costs are increasing materially next year. The race team started to transition this year from a volunteer Head Coach to a paid coach model which will increase the coaching budget. Our strategies to address this budget pressure included appointing a Grant Writer who successfully increased our gaming grant award and who applied for several new grants, and by increases to registration fees for race team members.

Question: Why are Race team trip fees included in revenue? These are the fees paid by each athlete who attend race events. Coaches and volunteer expenses are included in the Race Team budget, but athletes are paying for their accommodation and food costs which is shown as revenue.

Question: Does the budget surplus impact our ability to apply for and receive as large of a gaming grant? Yes, Gaming has provision that an applicant must have less than 50% in reserves to qualify for gaming grant. We are below this threshold, but we are keeping an eye on this surplus to ensure we remain eligible.

Question: Can you explain the deferred income in the Balance Sheet? This is for program fees paid in May or June for the upcoming ski season. Our fiscal year ends on August 31st so these program fees are categorized as deferred income on our Balance Sheet.

Question: What is included in program equipment and supplies? Wax for all club races and club skis, club skis, roller skis, and report cards.

Question: What is the bursary? This is for former Race Team skiers who continue to ski beyond high school at a high level. A full explanation is available in the Policies and Procedures on the website.

Move to accept the financial statement ending Aug 31, 2025 (Dmitry Shapovalow /Sandra Nelson). Carried.

Budget for 2025/26

The revenue and expenses were shared with the membership. We are planning for a \$13K deficit this year to keep our reserves at a reasonable level. We will keep some funds as unrestricted surplus to serve as a buffer against something unexpected. We are forecasting a significant increase to our Race Team coaching budget. For many years, Jake Weaver has led the Race Team programming as a volunteer and to allow him to step back, we are moving to a paid coach model. Adam Elliot, our part time coach, will be joined by Fred Serratore as a full-time coach. We will fund the increase in the coaching budget by grant writing, increases in registration fees for the race team, and using a portion of our prior years unrestricted surpluses. Host racing revenue and expenses are reflected in the budget for hosting the BC Championships. While this is a very costly event to host, we expect event revenue will full cover its expenses.

Question: Do we carry over funds? No, all expenses are accounted for in the year they were realized

Question: Why is the Race Team budget less this year? The Race Team budget was adjusted this year to help cover our paid coach. Our policies include a grant for older athletes attending Nationals, particularly for events that are far away or used to cover some of the expenses for the volunteers and this year, this grant will be reallocated to our coaching budget.

Question: How are we planning to pay for paid coaches in the future? We will continue to apply for grants, use surplus in the short term, and there may be some registration fee increase, particularly for Race Team athletes.

4. Program Reports

Jackrabbit/Bunny (JR) Program –Beth Senichenko

158 Bunnyrabbits and Jackrabbits took part in our programming. Hollyburn had the largest Skill Development Program in BC in 2024-25 with 235 Jackrabbits and Track Attack participants. During the pre-season, programming included dryland training at Stanley Park in November and older Jackrabbits took part in two weekends camps at WOP, one in October and another in December (on snow). There were several special events for Jackrabbits at Cypress including the Birkenbeiner, Ski-O, Biathlon and Sprints. There was also great participation at races at WOP for the Payak and for two Coast Cups.

For this upcoming year there are few spots available, particularly for 5- and 6-year-olds, please contact hccsreg@gmail.com for information.

Track Attack (TA) – Freya Kristensen

74 TA athletes registered last year. Dryland programming was scheduled from September to November at Empire Fields where approximately 20-30 athletes attending a roller ski practice on Tuesday evenings and weekend sessions that included running, ski striding, orienteering or cross-country race opportunities. This was the fourth season we offered our Skate Ski Rental Program for 1st year TA athletes with 10 skiers making use of the rental

program. TA athletes attended two weekend Regional Camp at WOP in September (dryland) and December (on snow). A special Zoom session for TA athletes showcased two Hollyburn alumni and an on-snow session with skiers from the BC Ski Team at WOP and a joint TA/Adventurers off-trail day in the Callaghan backcountry offered an alternative to racing during the BC Cup weekend at WOP. Track Attack Champs was well attended with 41 skiers travelling to Rossland to win the Aggregate Team Award for the third consecutive year.

Adventurers – Andrea Frisque

This program is for skiers who are 13+, as an alternative to the Racing Team program. Karen Foan has joined the team to help plan the program for the upcoming year. There are 25 skiers registered this coming year. Plans include two weekend sessions and three evening sessions; a coach is needed for the Tuesday evening session.

Racing Team – Jake Weaver

Our mission to improve on the previous year in all areas was a challenge because the 2023-24 season was one of our best ever. Race team athletes rose to the challenge, showing strong commitment through consistent attendance at training sessions, high participation in camps and race trips, noticeable improvements in technique and fitness, solid race results, and outstanding team spirit. A strong contingent of 36 Race Team athletes represented Hollyburn at the BC Championships in Telemark, Kelowna, earning numerous individual medals. They were joined by additional Hollyburn Jackrabbit, Track Attack, and Masters athletes, whose combined efforts led the club to a decisive 1st place finish in the Club Aggregate Award. This event was followed by Nationals in Canmore, Alberta, where a strong team of 36 Hollyburn athletes competed. The club achieved an impressive 7th place in the Club Aggregate standings out of 66 clubs, with several athletes earning individual medals and aggregate awards.

Our plans for 2025-26 are to maintain our successful, fun and inclusive athlete development pathway, while managing a growing team of 44 athletes. We will continue to focus on positive group dynamics as our team grows, we will maintain and build on our past successes, and this year will transition from a volunteer head coach model to professional coaching. For the third year, Adam Elliot will work with the team as a part-time coach at camps and races and will support athletes in online meetings. Adam will be joined by Fred Serratore, our new full-time Assistant Head Coach who joined us in July. Fred has a strong background in racing clubs as a Big Thunder athlete and as a Nakkertok coach. Fred has already shown a high level of knowledge and interpersonal skills when dealing with athletes and other coaches. 2025-26 is a transition year for the Race Team coaching team. Jake Weaver will continue as Head Coach this season and will mentor Fred throughout the year as Fred gradually assumes more of the Head Coach responsibilities. Beginning in the 2026–27 season, Fred will take over the role of Head Coach.

Volunteers – Olivia Bornik

Our club is supported and run by over 200 volunteers. These are key volunteers and regular volunteer positions, where key volunteers and coaches get early bird registration. We aim to align volunteers to positions that match with their interests and skill. We plan on looking at volunteer policies to draw on best practices, with a focus on volunteer recruitment and retention. We will continue with the popular volunteer appreciation event this year. Contact volunteering@hollyburnxc.ca if you have any questions or interests in volunteering. Positions that are currently available include: Mt. Washington Coast Cup Coordinator for JR

and TA, Jackrabbit Skate Ski Coordinator for the Sunday PM session, a Terrain Park Volunteer, and many volunteers are needed for BC Champs in late February, particularly for the events dessert banquet.

Coaching – Heidi Horlacher

Hollyburn supports ski specific training workshops through the National Coaching Certification Program (NCCP). Support is also provided by season plans, mentoring leads for each program, access to online resources and in person refresher sessions. Great care is taken to group athletes and coaches for best possible experience. We recognize the importance of a culture that fosters personal growth regardless of our goals in cross country skiing.

Hollyburn has adopted the SafeSport program, and is committed to a safe environment for athletes, coaches and club volunteers. Our SafeSport Officers are Carla Greer and Andreas Sandell. In 2024-25, 121 coaches registered for the season, with 90% being returning coaches and 11 new coaches. Our coaching team is supplemented by 17 paid youth coaches. The teen coaches program, supported by grants, offers a paid leadership opportunity for athletes who are mentored by partner coaches. We have 20 paid teen coaches registered for the 2025-26 season. Hollyburn will host 3 Cross Country BC coach training workshops including the Community on-snow coaching course, a Learn to Train Dryland course and a Learn to Train on-snow course.

Masters Program – Heidi Horlacher

There were 32 participants who were either coaches or parents. Our gratitude is extended to four volunteer coaches who supported the program: Nancy, Dave, Mattias and Tine. Coaches who registered for the Masters program received a discount on program registration fees.

5. Long-Term Strategic Plan

Gillian Aubie Vines shared the 2025-2030 Hollyburn Strategic Plan. This plan was 16 months in the making, starting with an Executive survey to identify our strengths and our challenges, a scan of strategic plans from five other clubs in BC and Ontario, two Board sessions to identify vision, values and goals, and a survey of club members in 2024 where 100 members responded. The club scan highlighted Hollyburn uniqueness where our strong volunteer coaching team keep fees low, our strong community of parent volunteers support our programming and operations, and our relationship with Cypress Mountain means we do not have to run a ski facility. The plan is available on our website.

6. Elections

Motion to approve Executive Board as presented. Andre Zimmerman/Tim Blair. Approved.

A member asked for clarification of Section 25(2) specifically if this section meant that up to 5 Members at Large (MAL) would be considered. Dirk explained that all communication to date stated clearly that three MAL would be elected and the Policies and Procedures Manual, available on the website, clearly states the Board will be composed of up to three MAL. Each candidate was provided with two minutes to address the membership. Elections were completed electronically. Congratulations to Jen Gow, Marieve Legrand and Megan Scheffer who were successfully elected to the Board. Dirk thanked all who stood for election and invited all members to continue to support our club.

7. Adjournment Motion to adjourn (Dmitry Shapovalov)

8. Payak Gift Certificate Draw

A random number generator was used to select from the attendance list. Congratulations to Jen Williams and Natalie Hull. Our thanks are extended to the Payak committee for their generous donation of entry fees for the Payak.

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