

Minutes of the 24th Annual General Meeting of the Ramblers' Association Strathkelvin
Group held at the Park Centre, Kirkintilloch, on Thursday 17th November 2016 at 7pm.

Present: Archie Leishman, Evelyn Leishman, Christine Pacione, Charles Hasson, Bob Cole, Ann Langley, Ann Martin, Anne Wilkie, Bob Cloggie, Barbara Martin, Ann Bain, Robert Bain, Aileen McLay, Margaret Wilson, Christine Duffy, Frank Duffy, Sandra Porter, Mary Murphy, Mary Brown, Parmjit Kaur, Neil Kitchener, Christine Cameron, Surinder Atwal, Freda Bunyan, Ella Corbett, Alan Connor, Satnam Sandhu, Dougie Robertson, Iain Walker, Lisa McDonald, Liz McDonald, Rena Scott, Ray Fraser, James Lawson, Elke Hinton, Margaret Gibb, Liz Paterson, Matt Millar, Hazel Macfarlane, Pauline Anderson, Eric Meechan, Monica Ferguson (Area Representative).

Welcome: Archie welcomed everyone to the 24th Strathkelvin Group AGM with special mention of any new members and Monica Ferguson our Area Representative.

Apologies: David Ford, Alan Thomson, Kathleen Brolly, Rose Shaw, Stuart Ferguson, John Hinton, Maggie Nutley, Barbara Clark, John and Sue Dougall, David Mackenzie, Marjorie Dunn, Joan Darling, Ian Brown, George Martin, Alan Gemmell, Kathy Urquhart, Frances Price, Shirley Cowan, Vera Hodges, Hilary Sneddon.

Introduction: Archie paid tribute to Jean Addison who was known as “the Scone Lady” and whose walks were very popular. A minute’s silence was held so that members could remember her. Archie also mentioned that it was his last night after two years as chairperson, as the demands of the website work were proving too much for both roles.

Minutes of the 23rd Annual General Meeting: These were accepted as a true record by Iain Walker and seconded by Dougie Robertson.

Matters Arising: Archie pointed out that in the Footpaths Report, Jim Lawson is our new representative on the East Dunbartonshire Access Forum. Also under AOCB (item 5), Lenzie Community Council are carrying out a paths survey in the area and are looking for people’s favourite walks and paths. Members were encouraged to participate by completing the questionnaire on their website.

Chairman’s Report: Archie referred members to the 2016 Annual Report and went on to highlight the following:

1. **Programme Development:** Archie paid tribute to Ann Martin who has decided to stand down as Programme Co-ordinator. He went on to say that the club owes her a huge debt and she will be difficult to replace. Archie also referred to other sub-committee changes over the past year, with Bob Cole replacing Christine Pacione and Alan Thomson replacing Alan Connor. Archie stressed that new members are always welcome to join the sub-committee. Work has already started on Programme 52 and he reminded members that walks should be submitted on the latest walk form so that the information is in the right order. Also if any members have photographs suitable for the front cover, could they pass them on to the sub-committee. Finally, Archie said that the ‘Celebration Walk’ at Mugdock, to mark the launch of our 50th Programme, and coincidentally the 50th anniversary of Ramblers Scotland, had been a great success with many of our members attending.

2. **Walking:** Archie stated that there were 116 walks organised this year. During the summer bus trips were organised, but on two occasions this year they almost ran at a loss and Archie reminded members that “no shows” and cancellations will be charged. A Walking Weekend is being organised at Melrose in September 2017, for which 56 members have already signed up. The list is now closed. Ann Martin has reported that the turn-out on Wednesday walks has been poor on a few occasions and they may have to be reviewed in the future. Archie reminded members that new walk leaders are required, especially for the low walks.
3. **Social Events:** Archie referred members to the long list of highly successful and varied social events throughout the year. The latest was the annual lunch at the Scholars restaurant which over 30 members attended. Archie noted that the students were highly professional and the food and service were excellent. The Christmas lunch will again be at the Bowling Green in Milton of Campsie. Cheques should be with Charlie Hasson by November 26th. He thanked everyone who had contributed and Hazel for co-ordinating the events programme.
4. **Training:** First Aid awareness training was provided earlier in the year by St. Andrews First Aid, with more to come. All walk leaders will receive First Aid kits thanks to the award of a £500 lottery grant from East Dunbartonshire Council employees. Archie expressed his gratitude, on behalf of our group, to Liz Paterson’s husband, William who nominated us for the award.
5. **Communications:** Archie pointed out that, although the paper programme remains the main method of communication, more members are using the website for up-to-date information, including changes to walks. In addition, our walks now appear on the main Ramblers website and walkers from other Ramblers groups are asking to join our walks.
6. **Other Forums:** The annual Scottish Council will be held in Dunblane this year.
7. **Accounts:** Archie thanked Richard Britton, our Independent Examiner, for his services.

Finally, Archie stated that 12 new members have joined the group this year, which is encouraging. Archie also thanked members of the committee and sub- committee for their support over the year.

Treasurer’s Report: Charlie Hasson took us through the Statements for the General and Self - Funded Accounts which were available at the meeting. The one unusual item was the £500 grant from the East Dunbartonshire staff lottery. Charlie also thanked Richard Britton for his services.

Footpath Report: Jim Lawson took us through his footpath report which was available with the other AGM papers.

Social Events Report: Archie referred members to the Social Events Report on pages 13 and 14 of the booklet and thanked Hazel Macfarlane for her work in co-ordinating all the events and producing the report. He re-iterated his thanks to everyone who had contributed and encouraged members to keep the suggestions coming.

Motions:

1. Increase in Car Mileage Allowance

It is proposed that the Car Mileage Allowance, which was last raised in 2011, be increased to 10p per mile, with a maximum charge of £10 in the light of increased motoring costs in the interim period.

Proposed by Charlie Hasson, seconded by Alan Thomson

Motion carried – 35 for and 1 abstention.

2. Standardise on Metric Units

It is proposed that in future walks programmes, all heights and distances should be stated in metric units only i.e. metres and kilometres. The only exception being road distances which will continue to be measured in miles.

Proposed by Alan Connor, seconded by Bob Cole

Motion carried – 19 for, 9 against and 1 abstention.

Election of Committee Members and Officers:

It was announced that Ann Martin, Anne Wilkie and Alan Connor would be standing down from the committee.

ELECTION OF HONORARY OFFICERS			
Position	Candidate	Proposer	Seconder
Chairperson	Jim Lawson	Iain Walker	Christine Cameron
Vice Chairperson			
Secretary	Christine Pacione	Alan Connor	Christine Cameron
Treasurer	Charles Hasson	Aileen McLay	Elke Hinton
Programme Co-ordinator	Neil Kitchener	Robert Bain	Matt Miller
Membership Secretary	Bob Cole	Eric Meechan	Dougie Robertson
Transport Convenor	Robert Bain	Hazel Macfarlane	Aileen McLay
Footpaths Officer	Jim Lawson	Frank Duffy	Neil Kitchener
Halls Convenor	Barbara Martin	Christine Duffy	Margaret Wilson
Webmaster	Archie Leishman	Iain Walker	Christine Cameron
Ordinary Member	Alan Thomson	Bob Cole	Alan Connor
Ordinary Member			
Ordinary Member			
Independent Examiner	Richard Britton	Robert Bain	Ann Bain

ELECTION OF GROUP REPRESENTATIVES TO NORTH STRATHCLYDE AREA COUNCIL			
Position	Candidate	Proposer	Seconder
Representative 1			
Representative 2			
Representative 3			

ELECTION OF GROUP REPRESENTATIVES TO SCOTTISH COUNCIL			
Position	Candidate	Proposer	Seconder
Delegate	Ann Martin	Christine Cameron	Aileen McLay
Observer	Ann Langley	Barbara Martin	Frank Duffy

AOCB:

1. The Library is finished. Alan Connor says no-one has borrowed anything for two years so he has brought along the remains so that members can help themselves. Anything remaining will go to a charity shop.
2. It was noted that Kirkintilloch has lost its Walkers Are Welcome status. Although our group has no connection with this organisation, one of our members (Penny Sinclair) has been heavily involved, in a personal capacity, from the start. Jim Lawson was able to clarify that certain procedures have to be followed in order to retain the Walkers are Welcome status, including the submission of an annual return to the organisation. Unfortunately, these procedures have not been followed and, as a result, membership has been withdrawn. On a positive note, a local group is now looking at how this can be resolved.
3. Liz Paterson asked whether slower hill walks could be put on. Archie replied that this was a possibility if walk leaders could be found to lead them. He expressed confidence that 'high walk leaders' would be happy to help prepare these leaders.
4. Ann Martin said that attendance on the Wednesday walks was down during the summer – on one occasion only one member turned up. If there aren't enough leaders they may have to be dropped. It is a waste of leaders' time if they have to recce the walks and no-one turns up.
5. Charlie expressed the club's gratitude for all the work that Archie had put in as Chairperson and handed him a token of our appreciation.

After a break for tea and home baking, together with a very successful raffle, Archie thanked Ella Corbett and her bakers and helpers for organising and serving the refreshments, and Ann Martin and Ann Langley for organising the raffle. Also, on behalf of the committee, Archie thanked everyone for their attendance and the meeting was closed.

Christine Pacione

20th November 2016