

**Minutes of the 27th Annual General Meeting of the Ramblers Association
Strathkelvin Group held at Park Centre, Kirkintilloch
On Thursday 14th November, 2019**

Present: James Lawson, Ella Corbett, Frank Duffy, Christine Duffy, Aileen McLay, Eric Meechan, Surinder Kaur, Iain Walker, Kathleen Brolly, Parmjit Kaur, Ann Blair, Frank McGovern, Rebecca McGovern, Barbara Martin, SK Sandhu, Evelyn Cook, Alan Connor, Anne Wilkie, Ann Langley, Liz Paterson, Neil Kitchener, Mary Murphy, Ann Martin, Martha Thom, Rena Scott, Bob Cloggie, Sheila Meiklejohn, Elke Hinton, , Francis Price, Mary Rocks, Marjory Dunn. (31)

1. **Welcome** Jim welcomed everyone to the 27th Strathkelvin Group AGM and introduced Karine Davison the representative from North Strathclyde Area Council.
2. **Apologies:** Shirley Cowan, Robert Bain, Archie and Evelyn Leishman, Alan Thomson, Alan Gemmill, Mary Campbell, Freda Bunyan Gordon Brown, Margaret Gibb, Cathy Urquhart. Ian McCallum, John Hinton, Rosemary McHugh, Moira Lang, Maggie Nutley, Joan Darling, Hilary Sneddon, Pauline Anderson, Lesley Queen, Hazel McFarlane
3. **Introduction:** Jim requested that everyone ensure they had signed the attendance register. Also, everyone should have a copy of the booklet containing the 26th AGM papers. It was appreciated that members had not had time to read those papers so he would take them through the individual reports.
- 4 **Minutes of the 26th Annual General Meeting:** These were accepted as a true record. Proposed: Neil Kitchener, Seconded by Mary Murphy.
- 5 **Matters Arising:** None
6. **Chairperson's Report on behalf of the Committee:** Since members had perhaps not had enough time to read the Annual Report the Chairperson went through each of the reports. Copies of the full reports are attached as Annexes these minutes:

Annex A - 2019. Annual Report – This lists the committee members. It also highlights our never-ending problem of getting enough walk leaders and easier walks. Although to look at the walk program we always seem to get it filled but the Walk Co-ordinator and the Team have to struggle to achieve this. It would be nice to have a surplus of walks and leaders. So please get involved. Short walks on Thursdays are well supported. The away weekend at Strathpeffer was a great success everyone seemed to enjoy the walks and company.

Training in First Aid and for Walk Leader was available and well supported. Communications here with changes to walks email is a great asset. The Ramblers stall at the Town Hall Fayre attracted a good deal of attention

Committee members attended Scottish Council and other forums throughout the year representing the group and looking after our interests and the myriad of other tasks involved in ensuring the smooth running of the group.

Annex B – 2019 Footpaths Report – there are many issues and things happening and they are detailed in the report.

Annex C – 2019 Social Events Report – lots of good times details are in the report.

Treasurers Financial Report - Jim presented this report on behalf of Robert Bain, Treasurer. Copies of the Audited Accounts were handed out to members.

Robert's Comments

Main Account

Income

In general, very similar to previous years. Principle increase due to increase in Area Funding.

Expenses

Increase due to increase in walks programme printing cost due to brochure no longer being printed by Strathkelvin District Council's in-house printer and being outsourced to local printer.

Bank balance at 30 September £214.37p

Self-Funded (Social) Account

Income

1. Increase in Day Walk Revenue due to 3 buses in Summer 2017/18 and 1 bus in October 2018. In the current year only 3 buses over the Summer.
2. Socials mainly due to Christmas Lunch being catered for in Glazert House Hotel instead of Bowling Club in previous year.

Expenses

1. Day walks – see comments at 1 above re number of buses.
2. See comments at 2 above – increase in cost £270. Also 25th Anniversary walk and catering cost of £608 in 2017/18 – therefore net decrease of £338.

Bank balance at 30 September £1.069.53p

7. Motions: There were no motions

8. Strathkelvin Ramblers 2020 Weekend Away

The Programme Co-ordinator and organiser of the away weekend Neil Kitchener provided members with an update on the planned weekend at Oban. A group of volunteers agreed to help organise this weekend

STRATHKELVIN RAMBLERS 2019 AGM MINUTES

9. Election of Committee Members and Officers:

ELECTION OF HONORARY OFFICERS & INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Position	Candidate
Chairperson	James Lawson
Vice Chairperson	Vacant
Secretary	Ann Martin
Minute Secretary	Vacant
Treasurer	Robert Bain
Programme Co-Ordinator	Neil Kitchener
Membership Secretary	Anne Wilkie
Transport Convenor	Robert Bain
Footpaths Officer	James Lawson
Halls Convenor	Barbara Martin
Webmaster	Archie Leishman
Ordinary Member	Martha Thom
Ordinary Member	Liz Paterson
Ordinary Member	Marjory Dunn
Independent Examiner	Richard Britton

All Committee - Proposed by Kathleen Brolly Seconded by Christine Duffy

Independent Examiner - Proposed by Elke Hinton and Seconded by Alan Connor

ELECTION of GROUP REPRESENTATIVES to NORTH STRATHCLYDE AREA COUNCIL

Position.	Candidate.	Proposer.	Seconder
Representative 1	James Lawson.	Mary Murphy	Anne Wilkie
Representative 2			
Representative 3			

ELECTION OF GROUP REPRESENTATIVES TO SCOTTISH COUNCIL

Position	Candidate	Proposer	Seconder
Delegate	Archie Leishman.	Mary Murphy	Anne Wilkie
Observer	Ann Martin.	Mary Murphy	Anne Wilkie

10. AOCB

10.1 Neil made a plea for new members to programme sub committee
Anne Wilkie Informed on availability of leaflets and information

10.2 Following break a member raised the matter of the club being very split and had changed a lot over the past few years. Any easier paced walks are not happening now and that there needs to be more encouragement to members. The club should be inclusive. Another member raised the fact she felt she had been really upset when she was told she would not be

STRATHKELVIN RAMBLERS 2019 AGM MINUTES

able to do walk and felt bullied. A Rambling group not a Mountaineering club. The committee will look into this matter to deal with this.

10.3 EuroRando will take place in September 2021

11. REFRESHMENT AND RAFFLE DRAW

There was a short break for refreshments and home baking and this was followed by drawing of the Raffle.

12. CLOSE

In closing the meeting Jim thanked all the committee for their hard work over the year. He also thanked Ella and her team for providing the lovely tea and home baking and Ann Martin, Ann Langley and Liz Paterson for organising the Raffle. Thanked everyone for attending and supporting the club.

Chairperson James Lawson (Jim)

Signed

Date

STRATHKELVIN RAMBLERS

2019 ANNUAL REPORT

Committee:

Chairperson	James Lawson
Secretary	Ann Martin*
Treasurer	Robert Bain
Programme Co-ordinator	Neil Kitchener*
Membership Secretary	Anne Wilkie
Minute Secretary	Mary Brown
Webmaster	Archie Leishman
Footpaths Officer	James Lawson
Transport Convenor	Robert Bain
Hall Convenor	Barbara Martin
Ordinary Member	Martha Thom

* The Programme Co-ordinator Neil Kitchener chairs the Programme Sub-committee whose members are Liz Patterson, Hazel Macfarlane, Maggie Nutley, Ann Martin

Walking & Social Programmes

During the year Programmes 56 and 57 were published. These programmes represent a lot of work by the sub-committee and especially the walk leaders who supply the walks and those who organise the social events or are involved in organising the Group's Weekend Away.

We never seem to get enough leaders and the committee is constantly striving to find new ways to encourage members to come forward and lead walks. If you have an idea then let the committee know. Ramblers have published a new booklet on Mentoring where experienced leaders can pass on their skills and knowledge to new walk leaders.

The social events report shows all events have been successful and well supported by the members.

The table below gives a breakdown of the walks by grade and a quick glance shows that there are two walks each week. Also, included are walks on Wednesdays.

Buses for walks were well supported by members and thanks to Robert Bain for all the juggling and organising to ensure that everything went smoothly. However, members are reminded that if they do not turn up for the bus after booking a seat they still have to pay.

STRATHKELVIN RAMBLERS 2019 MINUTES - ANNEX A

WALK GRADE	C	C+	B	B+	A	A+	Total
Prog 55 (Nov 18 – Mar 19)	5	16	17	1	0	0	39
Prog 56 (Apr 19 – Sep 19)	6	25	18	5	3	0	57
Prog 57 (Oct 19 – Nov 19)	1	7	6	0	0	0	14
TOTAL	12	48	41	6	3	0	110

Please note: B(Easy) graded walks are included along with B grade walks.

Short Walk Programme

There has been a short walk every Thursday giving a total of 52 walks (November 2018 to November 2019) with between 4 and 15 members on each walk. The walks are around 5km (3 miles) in length with an accumulated height of less than 300ft. Members meet up at the start of the walk at 10:00 am and at the end of the walk have coffee and a chance to chat. Details of walks are sent by email or text weekly to anyone who registers for the short walks.

2019 Weekend Away at Strathpeffer

Neil Kitchener organised this weekend and 43 members enjoyed a great weekend in Strathpeffer, the weather was fair to middling. The walks were both challenging and interesting. Jim took his team around Dingwall and out to the Cromarty Firth but failed to find any dolphins. Aileen and Joan took their team along Cat's Back to Dingwall as well as Rogie Falls. Bob visited Fionn Bheinn but the views were disappointing and Archie and Evelyn coaxed everybody up Ben Wyvis.

The hotel was ideal for the party with comfortable rooms, good food and lively entertainment which encouraged a number to take to the floor.

A number of teams took part in the treasure hunt around the town and The Dynamic Duo, Moira and Caroline and the Norn Goddesses, Francis, Mary, Marjorie and Christine were rewarded with bottles of wine for finding the treasure.

All in all, a good time was had by all and everybody is looking forward to next year in Oban.

Training

A never-ending process as we all constantly learn.

The First Aid Course at Hillhead Community Centre arranged thanks to Hillary Sneddon and Robert Bain and run by St Andrew First Aid was well attended. Hopefully the skills learned will never have to be used for real!

Member/s attended the Ramblers Scotland Workshop held in Glasgow and the Walk Leader training course at Mugdock Country Park.

Communications

The walk reports posted on our website by members provide feedback on individual walks together with pictures. Thank you to members posting reports and it would be nice if more members added reports. Archie Leishman our Webmaster adds all Strathkelvin Walks on to the Ramblers main database (Walk Finder) and maintains the Strathkelvin website adding all the programmes, socials, minutes, etc. and works hard to ensure all changes usually at short notice are done in a timely manner.

Emails are becoming the norm for messages to advise members about events and changes. So, in order to get information quickly members need to give the Webmaster permission to use their email. Paper programmes are still produced.

However, the best recruitment tool remains word of mouth so tell your friends and others how good the Ramblers are and how much you enjoy the walks and social events. Invite them to come on a walk.

Kirkintilloch Town Hall Fayre

In spite of the awful weather, the Town Hall Fayre which was held on Saturday 26th January was attended by 450 people throughout the day. The Ramblers stand attracted a great deal of attention and at least 15 people expressed an interest in the things we do. Lots of literature and sweets were given away but so far, we have not had any positive responses from potential new members. Maybe the walking bug will attack them when the warmer weather returns.

Our MSP, Rona McKay, spoke to us and the local councillor reiterated that rambling is good for everyone and helps the NHS.

Many thanks Christine and Neil Kitchener for organising the stall and Mary Murphy, Liz Paterson and Ann Wilkie for helping to man the stall.

Other Forums

Scottish Council 2019 was held in Dunblane on 9/10 March and was attended by Archie Leishman and Ann Martin on behalf of the group. Scottish Council 2020 is in North Berwick.

East Dunbartonshire Outdoor Access Forum where Jim Lawson is our representative.

Footpaths

Please see footpath report.

Accounts

A copy of the group accounts for 2018 -19 prepared by Robert Bain our treasurer is supplied. The statements show the club enjoys a healthy financial position. Thank you to our Independent Examiner Richard Britton for his services.

Committee

Throughout the report some members are not mentioned it just means they have been working hard behind the scene to ensure the smooth running of the group. The team - Ann Martin – Secretary; Mary Brown – Minute Secretary; Barbara Martin - Halls Convenor; Anne Wilkie - Membership Secretary; Robert Bain – Treasurer and Transport Convenor; Neil Kitchener – Programme Co-ordinator; Archie Leishman – Webmaster; and Martha Thom – Ordinary Member has worked hard throughout the year.

Conclusion

Another very busy year with lots achieved, but as always there is a never-ending list of desirable projects / tasks / etc. My thanks to the committee for their support throughout the year. Also, thank you to the Programme Sub-committee, our leaders (walks & social) and to you the members for supporting the events throughout the last year.

Future

As always, more volunteers are needed on the committee, to lead walks, organise social events and the many other Ramblers activities.

So please don't be shy come forward and help to keep the Group functioning and working for the benefit of walkers. Thank you.

On behalf of the committee

James Lawson (Jim) – Chairperson - Strathkelvin Ramblers

STRATHKELVIN RAMBLERS 2019 FOOTPATH REPORT
November 2018 – October 2019

East Dunbartonshire Local Access Forum (ED-LAF)

The last meeting held by ED-LAF was on 26 November 2018.

- Bearsden Golf Club - Planning Applications effect on core path also former Broomhill Hospital Site, Kirkintilloch paths were not part of plan.
- Chrichton's Cairn, Campsie Fells – Access Officer advises that it is the landowner who would need to take action
- Waterside Bridge – new bridge required no money at present.
- Torrance to Birdston disused railway – create a new path - maybe
- Forest Enterprise Scotland trial Code of Conduct for Dog Walking and Dog Walking Companies at Lennox Forest.

ED-LAF Chairperson reported that the East Dunbartonshire Access & Paths Development Officer Nicola Duenas had left to take up a post with Green Spaces. Alistair Kyle would be covering until a new person is appointed.

Note: East Dunbartonshire Council has still to appoint a full-time access officer and hence the ED-LAF has not met since 26 November 2018 a most unsatisfactory situation.

National Access Forum (NAF)

- “Unauthorized Mountain Bike Trails – a guide for land managers and riders” was launched at the Scottish Mountain Biking Conference.
- Outcome of the recent court case relating to a location at Cairnbank, Penicuik - Manson v. Midlothian Council.

ED Access Projects (Details & Updates available on council website.)

Improved access e.g. new paths or improvements to existing paths

- Twechar
- Kirkintilloch east canal connections
- Milngavie to Mugdock
- Torrance to Cadder
- West Highland Way
- Merkland Local Nature Reserve
- Lenzie Meadow Primary School
- Lenzie transport hub

Volunteers' Access Training Workshop – Glasgow Saturday 17 November 2018

- Aims of the event:
- 1) networking for Ramblers Scotland volunteers working on or interested in access issues;
 - 2) learning about and testing the applications of Scottish access rights;
 - 3) discussing how Ramblers Scotland can better support volunteers.

PROGRAMME

13.30 Arrival, registration, tea and coffee (bring a packed lunch if that suits, room available from 13.15)

13.45 Introductions, aims of the session

13.50 Ramblers Scotland access work at the national level
Short context-setting session for information

14.00 Responsible access and implementation of the law
Understanding the Act and the Code, where to get further information, how to promote responsible access

Dealing with access issues – looking at access situations and considering how to tackle them

Member access issues – air and share

15.00 *Coffee and tea break*

15.15 Legal cases
Lessons learnt from 2 successful access cases this year, Drumlean and Cairnbank
Mediation proposals

15.30 Ramblers Scotland support
How can Ramblers members get more involved in access matters (dealing with problems AND promoting/creating paths).

The role of the area and group access officers and how Ramblers Scotland can better support them

How can we better support Local Access Forums – and Ramblers members on them

Path funding opportunities.

16.30 Close, next steps

Other Footpath Issues

- **Right of Way (RoW) from Clachan of Campsie to Lennoxton** - The Forestry Commission has planted 100,000 trees and erected deer fencing everywhere. They have put gates in to allow access and no problems were encountered walking the RoW. However, various types of high stiles have been erected to allow access to other parts and you have to be fit and nimble to use them.
- **Reinstatement of Penny's Path Sign** – before asking ED Council to reinstate the signs I have been trying to locate the signs to be reinstated. Does anyone know where the signs are being held?
- **Ladies Mile** – The Chairman of Lenzie Community Development Trust (LCDT) has contacted Strathkelvin Ramblers (SR) on behalf of LCDT and Regent Square Residents Association regarding the state of Ladies Mile which is overgrown and marred by rubbish, it is also a popular drinking venue. They want to know if SR can advise or help to get Ladies Mile cleaned up and brought back into use. I have replied that I am happy to discuss the situation with the LCDT.
- **Note:** Walked by Thursday Walkers on 7th November 2019. A 200m section is rutted and in need of attention otherwise is suitable for fit walkers.
- **Maudslie Bridge** - Liz Paterson has given myself the maps and details re the closure of Maudslie Bridge. Raised the issue at Area meeting other groups nearer to the location were looking at the problem. Noted a new bridge was under construction.
- **Path Closed Signs** - There have been two incidences recently with signage being used by contractors carrying out tree felling or repairs where the sign warning that path is closed is placed near to where the work is being carried out. Result is you walk down the path and arrive at the sign and then have to retrace your steps. One was on Lenzie Moss and the other on the Strathkelvin Railway Path.

I hope the above gives you some idea of the work carried out and the problems. If anyone would like to help or get involved with Footpath work please get in touch.

James Lawson
Strathkelvin Ramblers Footpaths Officer

RAMBLERS SOCIAL EVENTS DECEMBER 2018 – NOVEMBER 2019

- December 8 Christmas Lunch, organised by Ann Martin at Glazert Country House Hotel proved to be a huge success with as always, a great attendance. Service was excellent as was the meal.
- January 7 Indoor bowling at Fintry Sports Centre organised by Bob Cole was very popular and great fun. Finished off by an excellent supper.
- February 20 A tour of Loxley Colour's showroom and laboratories led by Barbara Martin was a great insight into photographic finishings and a display of their work. This was followed by lunch at Caulders.
- March 19 Aileen McLay took a group of 16 on a visit to Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum for a guided tour followed by a snack lunch and the daily organ recital.
- April 16 This was billed as a visit to the Engine Shed in Stirling but unfortunately the venue had been double booked and the group of 7 of us were offered a guided tour of Stirling Castle instead which was followed by lunch at Henderson's Bistro.
- May 28 A Chinese meal at the Cotton House in Longcroft, attended by 16 people, was organised by Alan Connor and enjoyed by all.
- June 5 Christine Paccione and Ann Martin took 27 of us on a lovely day out to Aeolia and Blackmill Gardens in Kilsyth where tea, coffee and home baking were provided after the tour.
- July 4 The Annual Treasure Hunt organised by Neil Kitchener, attended by 17, was as always great fun.
- August 1 18 people attended the meal at the Golden Pheasant which completed a lovely walk on a beautiful day from Kirkintilloch Leisure Centre. Organised by Aileen McLay
- October 8 A very interesting walk round the Glasgow City Centre Murals was led by Freda Bunyan. With a coffee stop and lunch at the finish this was a good day out for the 12 people who attended.