

**Minutes of the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Ramblers' Association Strathkelvin  
Group held at the Park Centre, Kirkintilloch, on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2017 at 7pm.**

**Present:** James Lawson, Archie Leishman, Evelyn Leishman, Christine Pacione, Charles Hasson, Bob Cole, Ann Langley, Ann Martin, Anne Wilkie, Robert Cloggie, Barbara Martin, Ann Bain, Robert Bain, Aileen McLay, Margaret Wilson, Mary Murphy, Mary Brown, Parmjit Kaur, Neil Kitchener, Surinder Atwal, Freda Bunyan, Ella Corbett, Alan Connor, Dougie Robertson, Elizabeth McDonald, Rena Scott, Ray Fraser, Liz Paterson, Matt Millar, Hazel Macfarlane, Eric Meechan, Evelyn Cook, David Mackenzie, Alan Gemmell, Shirley Cowan, Ann Blair, Marion Myatt, David Ford, Kathleen Brolly, Marjorie Dunn.

**Welcome:** Jim welcomed everyone to the 25<sup>th</sup> Strathkelvin Group AGM.

**Apologies:** Frank Duffy, Christine Duffy, George Martin, Frances Price, Iain Walker, Alan Thomson, Margaret Gibb, Hilary Sneddon, Christine Cameron, Moira Lang.

**Introduction:** Jim requested that everyone ensure they had signed the attendance register. Also, everyone should have a copy of the booklet containing the 25<sup>th</sup> AGM papers. It was appreciated that members had not had time to read those papers so he would take them through the individual reports.

**Minutes of the 24th Annual General Meeting:** These were accepted as a true record. Proposer: Alan Connor, seconded by Ann Martin.

**Matters Arising:** Jim noted that the two Motions had been adopted i.e. the Increase in car mileage allowance to 10p per mile, with a maximum of £10, and the adoption of metric units for heights and distances, apart from road distances. He also reminded us that there was no longer a library, that the Walkers Are Welcome is now in the hands of the council, and that a number of slow B walks had been included in the walks programme. In addition, the Wednesday walks have a steady 12 attending.

### **Chairman's Report:**

#### **Walking & Social Programmes**

During the year Programmes 52 and 53 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 can never 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.

The social events report is on pages 13 and 14. 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.

Following the request at the last AGM, a number of slow paced hard walks were included in the summer programme. The walks to Ben Lawers, Ben A’an and Meikle Bin were judged to be a great success by those who attended. Thanks to Christine Duffy and Christine Cameron for arranging them. Volunteers to lead similar walks next year will be most welcome.

The weekend at Melrose in September 2017 was a great success. Congratulations to the organisers Hilary Sneddon, Ann Martin, Aileen McLay and Bob Cole. There were three walks on the Saturday and Sunday thus providing members with a choice. All the walks were well supported.

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.

WALK GRADE	C	C+	B	B+	A	A+	Total
Prog 51 (Nov 16 – Mar 17)	4	14	17	0	0	0	35
Prog 52 (Apr 17 – Sep 17)	6	24	16	8	7	1	62
Prog 53 (Oct 17 – Nov 17)	1	6	7	0	1	0	15
TOTAL	11	44	40	8	8	1	112

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

### **Short Walk Programme**

Since starting the short walks programme in April 2017 there has been a short walk every Thursday giving a total of 32 walks to date (November 2017) with between 6 and 15 members on each walk. The walks are approximately 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 emailed weekly to anyone who registers for the short walks.

### **Training**

This is always ongoing as we all constantly learn. Thanks to Bob Cole and Christine Pacione for running the map reading course. There were also opportunities to attend Ramblers Scotland Development/Training Days/Workshops or Paths for All Training Events. Some members from our group attended but we would like to see more of our members take advantage of the training opportunities.

### **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 many at short notice are done in a timely manner.

Emails are becoming the norm for messages but paper programmes are still produced.

However, the best recruitment tool is 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.

## **Other Forums**

The 2017 North Strathclyde Area AGM was held in Helensburgh this year and members from Strathkelvin attended. The 2018 North Strathclyde Area AGM is being hosted by Strathkelvin Ramblers and takes place on Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> January 2018 in Lenzie Public Hall at 10:00 for 10:30 start and is followed by a local walk.

Scottish Council 2017 was held in Dunblane on 11/12 March and was attended by Ann Martin and Ann Langley on behalf of the group. Scottish Council 2018 is in Aberdeen on 10/11 March 2018.

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

## **Accounts**

A copy of the group accounts for 2016 -17 prepared by Charlie Hasson 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**

All the members on the committee are busy and throughout this report I have referred to various roles We must remember Barbara Martin is busy ensuring that venues are booked for all our meetings and Bob Cole the Membership Secretary is looking after recruitment and ensuring new members are welcomed and is responsible for distributing any email communication'.

During the year Alan Thomson resigned from the committee due to other commitments. Alan thank you for your input to the committee I hope that sometime in the future you will find time to come back on the committee.

Also, both Charlie Hasson – Treasurer and Christine Pacione – Secretary are not seeking re-election to the committee. A great loss to our committee and we thank them for all their input to the committee over the years.

## **Conclusion**

A busy, busy year with lots achieved and more still more to be achieved. My thanks to the committee for their support throughout the year. Also, thank you to all our leaders (walks & social) for supporting the events throughout the last year.

## **Future**

We need volunteers to fill the vacancies on the committee and also more members to come forward and lead walks. So please act now and volunteer.

*Jim asked for comments and questions from the floor. One member mentioned problems she was having opening emails on her phone.*

**Treasurer's Report:** Charlie Hasson took us through the Statements for the General and Self - Funded Accounts which were available at the meeting. Charlie also thanked Richard Britton for his services.

**Footpath Report:** Jim Lawson took us through his footpath report, starting by saying that it had been another busy year with a lot happening:

**Annual North Strathclyde Area Access Meeting November 2016** – provided the opportunity to find out what is happening in the adjacent council areas. Wide ranging discussion on problems ranging from right of way on Isle of Bute (Castle Tower being sold off by council new owner not keen on path and has blocked it) – Kelly Cut in need of repair. SEPA diverting a path @ Dumbreck Marsh (lack of consultation) real problem seems to be a lack of Access Officers. Path Watch is very successful in England and Wales and has now been launched in Scotland. National Parks problems with litter, camping. Hill tracks too easy to get retrospective planning permission for tracks.

**Ramblers Scotland eNewsletter** - highlighted some new positive developments

- Rhins of Galloway a new coastal path is planned.
- ‘Interest is growing in the possibility of creating new national parks in Scotland, with lively discussion about two possible sites in the south of the country. Dumfries and Galloway Council was presented with plans to create Scotland’s third national park in their region. And Jedburgh Town Hall was packed for a public meeting about a potential new national park in the Scottish Borders.’

**East Dunbartonshire Access Forum –**

Green Networks - An update on the Green Network Strategy and the draft paper “East Dunbartonshire Green Network Strategy 2016 – 2021” was given by Sylvia Gray (Team Leader Sustainability Policy) and Francesca Pandolfi (Greenspace and Biodiversity Policy Officer). It was interesting to note that active travel, wildlife, environment, etc. had all been addressed. I can only hope that the council approves the report and carry out the proposals.

**Note:** Both the East Dunbartonshire Green Network Strategy 2017 – 2022 and the East Dunbartonshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan 2017 – 2021 have now been published. PDF copies can be downloaded from the council website. They make interesting reading as they cover core paths, long distance routes, nature reserves, etc. In fact, its every place we walk in East Dunbartonshire.

Access Meetings Topics included – future updating of core path plan; better promotion of Core Paths in and around Lennox Forest; Closed Waterside Bings bridge; Summer Outdoor Access Forum Tour Discussion; getting the southern section of the Strathkelvin Railway Path National Cycle (PNC) Network status.

New East Dunbartonshire Access Officer appointed - With effect from Monday, 14th Aug 2017 Nicola Duenas takes over from Alistair Kyle as Access & Paths Development Officer at East Dunbartonshire Council.

The condition of Core Path Number 79 shown on Map 21 Milton of Campsie, East Dunbartonshire Core Paths Plans. It starts at Redmoss Road and crosses the nature reserve to join the Strathkelvin Railway Path and is in need of being upgraded. I have asked the Access officer for an update on the status of all core paths in East Dunbartonshire.

**Annual Joint Meeting of National Access Forum and Local Access Forums** – I attended this forum held at the Scottish Natural Heritage Battleby Centre, Perth, along with Councillor Gotts and Access Officer Alistair Kyle.

Overall Theme - Promoting the Benefits of Access – Making Responsible Access Happen

- *Morning - Enjoying the Outdoors with Dogs: - Promoting the good: minimising the bad - Stephen Jenkinson, Kennel Club Access and Countryside Advisor - Getting dog owners (and their dogs) more active in woodlands - Dr Fiona Fylan, Brainbox Research Ltd. - Promoting responsible dog walking on National Nature Reserves – a project researching ideas, trialling practical solutions, and training - Theresa Kewell, SNH*
- Launch new “Access Design Guide”
- *Afternoon theme – recognising successes for all on the ground - St. Fillan’s Group – Loch Earn creation of new path on route of old railway - Community Paths Groups, Paths for All – providing training/guidance e.g. path grading; liability insurance - Kinneil Estate cycling groups – working with teenagers to create mountain bike routes using crowdfunding - Smarter Choices Smarter Places – active travel; use buses; car share; signage; mapping*
- Open Issues group sessions – sharing experience and inspiration: small group discussion sessions to share participants’ queries and interests - Discussion / ideas / review / next steps arising – I was in the group that discussed multi use paths and sharing lots of ideas.

Most of the paths around Lenzie and Kirkintilloch have been walked. There are problems, mostly muddy sections and vegetation growth which seems to have exploded.

**Paths for All Courses** - I have attended the following courses:

- Managing Your Community Path Project - Never realised so much was involved in getting a path built the surveying was very exacting.
- Promoting Your Community Path Project - It was interesting to see all the ways one can go about promoting a path. Video was a very powerful tool and could be fun making the video however need a tripod or very steady hands.

Together they gave an insight into the work involved in creating a path. The knowledge gained will prove useful on the access forum and in dealing with access issues in general.

**Finally** -To sum up the above topics show the wide-ranging nature of the issues and the work involved in footpath work. In the future with cuts in funding the councils are struggling to and may in the future be looking for volunteers to carry out path work. Would you be prepared to help?

*Jim asked for comments from the floor and Bob referred to an email from Barbara Clark about cyclists eroding footpaths and discussion followed about what if anything could be done about it. Barbara Martin pointed out that she thought that Buchanan Street in Glasgow was now a shared space between pedestrians and cyclists.*

**Social Events Report:** Jim 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.

## RAMBLERS SOCIAL EVENTS DECEMBER 2016 – NOVEMBER 2017

- 7<sup>th</sup> December 2016 Christmas Panto at Oran Mor organised by Anne Clark was well attended and enjoyed by all. Unfortunately, the walk had to be abandoned due to bad weather.
- 10<sup>th</sup> December 2016 Christmas Lunch at Milton of Campsie Bowling Club served by the popular Table 13 was supported by over 50 Ramblers. Once again organised by Ann Martin and Christine Pacione.
- 25<sup>th</sup> January 2017 Moira Lang arranged a visit to the Danny Kyle Open Mike session during Celtic Connections. This was followed by Tatties and Neeps at Café Hula where they were unexpectedly entertained by musicians having a jam session.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2017 Scottish evening at Campsie Village Hall where folk music, ceilidh dancing and a haggis neeps and tatties buffet was enjoyed by all, arranged by Elke and John Hinton.
- 16<sup>th</sup> February 2017 Barbara Martin took 19 Ramblers on a visit to the Hunterian Museum followed by an informative walk back to Buchanan Bus Station.
- 8<sup>th</sup> March 2017 A short walk followed by lunch at Katie's Kitchen organised by Ann Martin and Ann Langley. Had a very good turnout.
- 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2017 Lenzie Bowling Club was the venue for an interesting talk by Jacquetta Megarry of Rucksack Maps. 26 Ramblers attended, organised by Bob Cole and Barbara Martin.
- 7<sup>th</sup> April 2017 The first meeting of the very successful Basic Skills in Ordnance Survey Mapwork Course organised by Bob Cole and Christine Pacione.
- 18<sup>th</sup> April 2017 Parmjit introduced a large number of us to her Gurdwara where we were made most welcome and after a guided tour were treated to a lovely meal.
- 10<sup>th</sup> May 2017 Christine Pacione again arranged a visit to the popular Ross Priory.
- 30<sup>th</sup> May 2017 Orchid Lane Chinese Restaurant was the venue Alan Connor chose for 20 of us to enjoy a meal.
- 20<sup>th</sup> June 2017 Ella and Harry Corbett managed to arrange a visit to the National Museum of Rural Life which included a walk on one of the few sunny days of this summer. Well done!
- 19<sup>th</sup> July 2017 Six teams took part in the local Treasure Hunt arranged by Neil Kitchener. Great fun had by all.
- 17<sup>th</sup> August 2017 Ian McCallum gave 10 of us guidance on a walk at the RSPB Visitor Centre at Lochwinnoch.

- 14<sup>th</sup> September 2017 A visit to the Riding for the Disabled at Summerston was an eye opening and very humbling experience, organised by Anne Wilkie.
- 25<sup>th</sup> October 2017 The ever-popular Scholars Restaurant organised by Christine Pacione and Ann Martin had an excellent attendance.
- 8<sup>th</sup> November 2017 Freda Bunyan took 21 on an interesting tour under Glasgow Central Station.

**Motions:** There were none.

**Election of Committee Members and Officers:** It was announced that Charlie Hasson and Christine Pacione would be standing down from the committee.

<b>ELECTION OF HONORARY OFFICERS</b>			
<b>Position</b>	<b>Candidate</b>	<b>Proposer</b>	<b>Seconder</b>
Chairperson	Jim Lawson	Bob Cole	Barbara Martin
Vice Chairperson			
Secretary			
Treasurer	Robert Bain	Aileen McLay	Anne Wilkie
Programme Co-ordinator	Neil Kitchener	Alan Connor	Bob Cole
Membership Secretary	Bob Cole	Neil Kitchener	Kathleen Brolly
Transport Convenor	Robert Bain	Margaret Wilson	David Mackenzie
Footpaths Officer	Jim Lawson	Archie Leishman	Bob Cole
Halls Convenor	Barbara Martin	Hazel Macfarlane	Alan Connor
Webmaster	Archie Leishman	Bob Cole	Anne Wilkie
Ordinary Member	Mary Brown	Kathleen Brolly	Marion Myatt
Ordinary Member			
Ordinary Member			
Independent Examiner	Richard Britton	Aileen McLay	Margaret Wilson

<b>ELECTION OF GROUP REPRESENTATIVES TO NORTH STRATHCLYDE AREA COUNCIL</b>			
<b>Position</b>	<b>Candidate</b>	<b>Proposer</b>	<b>Seconder</b>
Representative 1	Jim Lawson	Archie Leishman	Hazel Macfarlane
Representative 2			
Representative 3			

<b>ELECTION OF GROUP REPRESENTATIVES TO SCOTTISH COUNCIL</b>			
<b>Position</b>	<b>Candidate</b>	<b>Proposer</b>	<b>Seconder</b>
Delegate	Archie Leishman	Matt Millar	Robert Bain

Observer			
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**AOCB:**

1. A show of thanks was proposed for the retiring members of the committee;
2. Alan Gemmell congratulated Hazel Macfarlane on her organisation of the Social calendar and proposed a show of thanks;
3. He also reminded the club that the arrangement by which we use the Southbank car park is based on an assurance given years ago and should be reconfirmed with the new EDLC Access Officer;
4. Bob asked anyone who is having problems with their Ramblers' emails should give him their current email address or send him an email to update their details;
5. Ann Martin asked whether the Treasurer's Report should be approved: Proposer Alan Gemmell, Seconder Robert Bain;
6. Charlie Hasson reported that he still had nine First Aid kits and Ice Packs (bought with the £500 ELDC lottery award) still to be distributed. Barbara Martin agreed to take them as she also still had a few to hand out;
7. Jim reminded everyone that new Leaders' cards and Ice cards had been published by Ramblers and were available for members.

After a break for tea and home baking, together with a very successful raffle, Jim 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, Jim thanked everyone for their attendance and the meeting was closed.

Christine Pacione

19th November 2017