Item 3 on agenda

RAMBLERS ASSOCIATION
MONKLANDS GROUP
TUESDAY 18 NOVEMBER 2025 COATBRIDGE INDOOR BOWLING CLUB

The 40th AGM of the Monklands Group was held in Coatbridge Indoor Bowling Club

Attendance of Outgoing Committee

Ken Paton	Chair
Douglas Bryson	Treasurer
Christine McMahon	Secretary

David Rankin, Stuart Sefton, Pat Rawlinson, Jacqueline Wilson

Everyone who attended were asked to sign the attendance sheet and were also given a voting sheet which was then placed anonymously in the ballot box.

Ken welcomed all to the meeting and asked that everyone had signed in and put their voting sheets in the ballot box.

Apologies

Apologies were received from Tony Grimason.

Minutes from previous AGM

The minutes of last year's AGM were read along with the Summary of Accounts. These were approved by Bill Cushley and seconded by Rob Mackenzie.

Matters arising from previous minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

Chairperson's Report 2025

MEMBERSHIP

The total Rambler Association membership of Monklands Group is up 19 and stands at 120 (2024: 101)

Due to continued increase in coach fares the introductory fare for anyone joining us for their first walk has been increased from £5 Fit for a Fiver to £10 Starter for Ten.

COMMITTEE

The Committee held 10 meetings during the last year which were held in Coatbridge Indoor Bowling Club, Coatdyke.

PROGRAMME

The Winter programme for 2024-2025 consisted of 11 walk days and the Summer programme 2025 consisted of 11 walk days. The Winter programme included five B+ walks, eleven B walks, two C+ and one C walk. The Summer programme (excluding the Easter weekend walks) included three A+ walks, two A walks, four B+ walks, nine B walks and two C+ walk. One walk was cancelled in January due to storm damage.

The January meal was held in Largs at the Willowbank Hotel. A short walk around Kelburn Country Park took place before the meal. Everyone enjoyed the walk and the meal at the hotel.

The Committee would like to thank Stuart Sefton for the task of producing the varied walks for the Winter and Summer programmes. We would also like to thank everyone involved in leading walks and helping as back markers. We also thank everyone involved in doing reccies.

We would also like to thank our webmaster, David Rankin, for keeping the Group web site updated and ensuring all information is correct.

MONTHLY LOCAL WEDNESDAY WALKS

The number of monthly Wednesday Walks this year was increased to 10 taking place from February through to December. The number during 2024 was 8 walks. Attendance on these walks ranged from 14 to 22 with an average of 18 walkers. Walkers comprised of members of the Monklands Ramblers (MR) (majority) and non-members. Non-members included members from other clubs such as the Glasgow Ramblers, Eastwood, Paisley, Cumbernauld & Kilsyth and other people who accessed the Monklands Ramblers website. Whilst some walks were local, this year's programme included walks in Glasgow, Cumbernauld, Edinburgh, Livingston, Largs, Balloch, Kirkintilloch and Lanark. A few of the Wednesday Walkers went on to become members of the Monklands Ramblers. In addition to Tony, two walks were led by David Dunn & Christine McMahon.

BOOKING ON WALKS

Booking on walks by text has continued with members notified in the newsletter of the booking contact. That person may be different from that week's walk leader. The newsletter is issued on the Wednesday after each weekend walk with details of the walks on offer and likely social stops. It also details any forthcoming social events. The Wednesday walks are also issued separately by newsletter.

FIRST AID TRAINING

Leaders of the club carried out an outdoor first aid training course at SPR in Airdrie. All leaders are also in the process of carrying out two of the RA recommended training courses which will be completed by December.

SOCIAL PROGRAMME

The social events held during the year were our annual quiz in October, the Xmas night on 14 December, Largs meal in January and the ten pin bowling in May. Thanks to Jackie Wilson for organising these events and Bill Cushley for taking the time to prepare the quiz and acting as quizmaster.

40TH ANNIVERSARY

The club celebrated its 40th Anniversary in July which was held in Coatbridge Indoor Bowling Club. Thanks to everyone who contributed to the buffet. A great evening took place with former and current members exchanging memories and stories of their time with the Group. There were many photographs on view and thanks to everyone who provided these pictures. 40th anniversary badges have also been handed out to members on walks since July.

EASTER WEEKEND

The Easter weekend break this year was at the Coylumbridge Hotel in Aviemore with 27 attending. This was another successful weekend and the hotel was a great location for starting the walks. Those requesting a single room were allocated a large room by the hotel which was appreciated. Thanks to Christine for arranging the weekend and to Stuart for organising the walks.

Motion submitted to group

Stuart Sefton read out the motion which he had submitted. This was as follows:

Motion 1: to amend parts of the Monklands Ramblers constitution – AGM 2025.

1. These proposed amendments to the constitution are designed to further clarify amendments proposed and agreed in 2024, specifically in relation to what happens when a committee member leaves the committee during their term (Clause 6), and also to remove a conflict between Clause 6 and Clause 7.

2. It is further proposed that any references to gender be made gender neutral throughout the constitution.

3. Motions to alter the constitution require two thirds majority at the Annual General Meeting.

The Clauses below in italics are the existing clauses within the constitution, these are immediately followed by the proposed new wording of the clause. For ease of comprehension of the proposed changes these are highlighted.

6. Management

(i) Subject to the directions of any Annual or Special General Meeting as to the exercise of its powers, the management and control of the Group shall be vested in a Committee which shall consist of the Honorary Officers and as many members of the Group as the Annual Meeting shall from time to time decide, with a minimum of three and a maximum of eleven. All members shall serve for a period of three years with one third of the members, or as near one third as is practicably possible, retiring annually on a rolling basis. Each member shall retire at the end of their three-year period. These members shall be eligible for re-election. Where the number of nominations is less than or equal to the positions available members shall be elected by simple majority. Where there are more nominations than positions available the positions shall be filled by those achieving the highest vote, subject to also achieving a simple majority of those for the nomination versus those against. It is proposed that the above clause within the constitution be replaced with:

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a) co-opt someone to fill the post and the period of office shall end when the original member was due to retire;
b) wait until the next Annual General Meeting to fill the vacancy and the period of office shall end when the original member was due to retire;
c) not fill the vacancy until the time when the member was due to retire.

In the above scenario (b), where there is more than one committee position to fill at an Annual General Meeting, the meeting will elect the members to fill those positions and, among the committee members so elected, the person taking the leaving member's position will be drawn by lots unless one of the committee members so elected volunteers to take that position.

7. Officers

(j) The Honorary Officers of the Group shall be a Chair, a Treasurer, a Secretary and such other officers as the Group in General Meeting may determine, to be elected at the Annual Meeting.
(ii) They shall retire at the Annual Meeting following their election in accordance with the provision set out in Clause 6 (i), but shall be eligible for re-election.
(iii) The Committee shall have power to fill vacancies.

It is proposed that the above clause within the constitution be replaced with:

7. Officers

(i) The Honorary Officers of the Group shall be a Chair, a Treasurer, a Secretary and such other officers as the Group in General Meeting may determine, to be elected at the Annual Meeting.
(ii) Committee members whose term of office expires in terms of Clause 6(i) shall be eligible for re-election.
(iii) The Committee shall have power to fill vacancies.

9. Resignation or Retirement

Any member of a Committee shall vacate his office:

(a) he gives notice of his intention to resign and his resignation is accepted.

(b) he fails to attend three consecutive meetings of the Committee as may be convened unless the failure to attend was due to some reason approved by the Committee.

It is proposed that the above clause within the constitution be replaced with:

9. Resignation or Retirement

Any member of a Committee shall vacate their office:

(a) they give notice of their intention to resign and their resignation is accepted.

(b) they fail to attend three consecutive meetings of the Committee as may be convened unless the failure to attend was due to some reason approved by the Committee.

Both motions submitted were carried by a majority.

Monklands Ramblers – Treasurer Report October 2025 – Douglas Bryson

RA financial year: 1 Oct 2024 – 30 Sep 2025

The finance info is for the period up to September 30 which is the end of the Ramblers financial year.

We operate two accounts. The Self-funded account deals with bus hires and socials, the Main Account is the finance we get from the Ramblers Association, that is spent on club admin and recces.

We finished the year with over £3,400 which is an increase from just under £2700 last time. The main reason was a rise in the average number of passengers which has gone up from 40 to just under 44.

The Self-Funded account gives more details on these accounts –we spent over £15,000 on 22 bus hires. That was financed by bus fares, profits from social events, 4TH year of Inverhouse sponsorship and grants from North Lanarkshire Council. We had some admin costs that we couldn't allocate to the Main Account but were still just under £800 up on that account.

The Main Account is the funding we get from the RA. We received a total of £1,060 in 4 instalments plus a £200 contribution to our 40th anniversary costs. The bulk of the RA cash normally goes on recce fees. This year we had various costs which will not recur such as the 40th anniversary cost for the badge and various first aid items where we still have supplies.

The intention is to try and keep fares at the current £15 for as long as possible assisted by our reserves but passenger attendance figures and cost of future hires especially in the summer months will determine if we need to ask for a £20 fare at least on some of the summer hires.

A financial history was shown back to 2007 which illustrates how numbers since covid have been significantly ahead both for passenger numbers and costs.

The full set of accounts were submitted to the RA in October and were examined and signed-off by accountant Alex Gillies of Chapelhall.

Douglas read out the Treasurer's report and then asked if there were any questions.

Shona Brown asked about the high costs of the bus hires and if we had received any quotes from other bus companies. Douglas confirmed we had tried Kevins Coaches who were £120 more expensive and on one occasion we tried Photoflash who were £800 for the Glencoe hire. Due to this we have decided to keep with Golden Eagle as we find them a good company with great drivers.

Sylvia Maclachlan asked about using bank transfer instead of cash for bus fares. This had previously been discussed at committee meetings and felt it was too much extra admin work for this to be valid.

Amanda Milliken asked if it would not be worth even increasing fares by £1 but Douglas mentioned it would mean carrying more change as it was easier to pay people back £5 note.

Election of New Committee

Rob Mackenzie and Anne-Marie Goldie counted the votes from the ballot box. Brian McMullen read out the votes. The committee are as follows:

New Committee

Stuart Sefton	Chairperson
Douglas Bryson	Treasurer
Christine McMahon	Secretary

Ken Paton, David Rankin, Pat Rawlinson. Tony Grimason, Jackie Wilson, Rob Mackenzie, Amanda Milliken, Hilary Fyfe

Honorary Auditor

Alex Gillies

Representatives to North Strathclyde Area

Rob Mackenzie has agreed to take this on board and will attend the meeting in January, date to be confirmed.

Scottish Council Representatives

Hilary Fyfe has agreed to attend Scottish Council and was advised it was one meeting a year. Christine will confirm the date to Hilary.

Any Other Competent Business

Davy Deacons was asking if we were returning to Largs for the January meal as he felt this decision was not democratic for the committee to decide as he had heard others were wishing to attend locally. It was explained how difficult it was to get a good deal for a large amount of people and also explained the amount of work that Jackie had put into this as she had enquired with other places who were much more expensive. Jackie also confirmed she had enquired at the Tudor but they would not consider taking on a large group for a few hours.

Gerald Hefferman asked if any action had been taken after the noise disruption at the back of the bus after the Lake District walks. It was explained that a newsletter had gone out asking people to use earphones when listening to music as not everyone wants to listen to other people's music and also from a safety point of view no-one should be walking up and down the bus unless absolutely necessary ie Douglas collecting the bus money.

Date of next AGM

Tuesday 17 November 2026