

**RAMBLERS ASSOCIATION
MONKLANDS GROUP
TUESDAY 21 NOVEMBER 2023 COATBRIDGE INDOOR BOWLING CLUB**

The 38th AGM of the Monklands Group was held in Coatbridge Indoor Bowling Club

Attendance of Outgoing Committee

Tony Grimason	Chairperson
Douglas Bryson	Treasurer
Christine McMahon	Secretary

Ken Paton, Liz Cushley, David Rankin, Stuart Sefton, Pat Rawlinson, David Dunn, Jacqueline Wilson, Rob Mackenzie

Apologies

Apologies were received from Janice Black.

Agenda

The minutes of last years AGM were read along with the Summary of Accounts. These were approved by Rob Mackenzie and seconded by Jackie Wilson.

Matters arising from previous minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

Chairperson's Report 2023

MEMBERSHIP

The total Rambler Association membership of Monklands Group is up12 and stands at 89 (2022: 77)

We continue to offer a £5 introductory fare for anyone joining us for their 1st walk. The club welcomed 44 first time walkers with the group over the last year.

COMMITTEE

The committee meetings were held in Coatbridge Indoor Bowling club.

PROGRAMME

The Committee would like to thank Ken Paton and Stuart Sefton for the task of producing the varied walks for the Winter and Summer programmes. We would also like to thank everyone involved with leading walks and all those who help with reccies.

MONTHLY LOCAL WEDNESDAY WALKS

David Dunn restarted the Wednesday walks once a month during the summer. These were local walks which were easy to get to by car or public transport. The average attendance is 13 on the summer walks (from 19 to 8). Thanks to David for organising these.

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.

SOCIAL PROGRAMME

The club meal with short walk was held at the Steading at Hillend in Edinburgh in January. At the meal a presentation was given to our former Chairperson, Bernadette Boulton. The meal was attended by 42 members.

Other social events during the year were the Burns Night/Family Fortunes, the Wine Tasting evening, Quiz night and Murder Mystery evening. Thanks to Tony, Stuart, Liz, Bill and Jackie for organising these events.

EASTER WEEKEND

The Easter weekend break was held at the Craiglyne Hotel in Grantown on Spey. All who attended thoroughly enjoyed the weekend, with a variety of walks on offer. Thanks to Christine for arranging the hotel and to Pat and Stuart for organising the walks.

Treasurer Report October 2023 – Douglas Bryson

RA financial year: 1 Oct 2022 – 30 Sep 2023

Good news first - the surge in numbers continued with an average 38 passengers over the 25 hires this year. 6 hires had 46 or more passengers, the bus maximum is 49. The bad news is the cost of these hires continues to increase and averaged £513 over the last year with the forthcoming price for winter 2023-24 at £570. The cost of the hires is up over 100% in ten years.

While passenger numbers remain high a fare of £15 plus our reserves should be sufficient to meet the increased costs without increasing prices. At the year end we had a balance on the self-funded account of £2612 plus £317 in the Main Account. We also benefited from continued sponsorship support from Inverhouse Distillers who gave us £500 in February this year. We did not request a North Lanarkshire community grant.

The financial aim of the club is to encourage participation with low prices while maintaining a sound financial position whereby we can absorb any temporary downturns.

Recce Cost: The group's improved finances allowed us to pay more realistic recce expenses based on recce round trip distances. In the year just finished we paid out £725 compared to just £350 the previous year. The increased amount should be enough to cover actual fuel costs.

The increased recce cost does mean that the money we receive from the RA is not sufficient to meet recce expenses in full. The allocation to recces from the Main account was £515 with the rest from the Group's self-funded cash.

Similarly the Fiver promotion was only allocated £100 from the Main Account whereas the true amount of the "lost" fares from the 44 new starts would be nearer £400. This loss was again met from the Group's own funds. However the Fiver promotion is a good selling point to introduce the club to new walkers and it could be argued the current high numbers are assisted by the investment in the cost of the Fiver promotion.

The amount received from the RA was £816 with the budget request for this year at £885.

The accounts were again examined and signed off by accountant Alex Gillies of Chapelhall.

Election of New Committee

Christine read through the nominations, the new committee being as follows:

New Committee

Ken Paton	Chairperson
Douglas Bryson	Treasurer
Christine McMahon	Secretary

David Rankin, Pat Rawlinson. Tony Grimason, Jackie Wilson, Rob Mackenzie, Stuart Sefton, Carolann McCrory and Linda Blair

The committee welcomed Carolann and Linda onto the committee.

Tony thanked Liz for all her work and commitment as social secretary of the club.

Honorary Auditor

Alex Gillies

Motions No motions were submitted.

Representatives to North Strathclyde Area

Ken Paton nominated Stuart Sefton and Rob MacKenzie as representatives to North Strathclyde Area

Scottish Council Representatives

Ken Paton nominated Stuart Sefton and Rob MacKenzie as representatives to Scottish Council

Any Other Competent Business

David Deacons asked why the club had not considered using Sams Travel bus hire since the price was so much cheaper than our current price. We are currently happy with the service offered by Golden Eagle.

Date of next AGM

Tuesday 3 December 2024