

**Bearsden and Milngavie Ramblers and Hillwalkers  
Minute of the Twenty-Eighth Annual General Meeting  
Held at the Fraser Centre, Milngavie on 10 November, 2017 at 7.30 pm.**

**1. Present**

Jenny Kane (Chairman), Phil McElroy (Secretary), Moira Allan (Treasurer); 38 members; Eleanor Peacock - North Strathclyde Area Representative; and Alan McBride, Mugdock Country Park Ranger - Guest Speaker.

**2. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Ian and Linda Weir, Fiona McCormack, Fiona Denman, Lillias Clark, Helen and Brian Donnachie, Joan Mackie.

**3. Chairman's Introduction**

Good evening and welcome. My name is Jenny Kane and as your chairman it is my pleasure to welcome you to our 28th Annual General Meeting. It's great to see so many people in attendance who obviously have the Ramblers well being at heart.

Before proceeding let me introduce the top table - Phil our Secretary and Moira our Treasurer. Janette will be taking the minutes this evening. Also attending tonight we have Eleanor Peacock the North Strathclyde Representative and our speaker for later, Alan McBride, Mugdock Country Park Ranger.

Can I ask that everyone remembers to sign the attendance sheet.

**4. Minutes of the 27<sup>th</sup> AGM held on 18 November 2016.**

On the table is a copy of last year's AGM Minutes. As there were no questions or comments on the Minutes, acceptance of the Minutes was **proposed** by Peter Bartos, and **seconded** by Hazel Miller, and **agreed** by the meeting.

There were no matters arising.

**5. Annual Reports of the Committee and Audited Statement of Accounts**

**a. Chairman's Report:**

No organisation can function without strong support, the same is true with our Group. Our support comes from the Committee and our walks leaders. We are indeed fortunate to have such dedicated Committee members, so I personally would like to thank every one of them for their hard work, and the support given to me over the past year.

As for our Walk Leaders - what an amazing group of people. Around 97 proposed walks were in our programmes this year - quite an amount - though in reality we have only a small group of leaders, who excel themselves by coming up with new and exciting walks each programme. Of course, we also have our Wednesday groups - The Wanderers led by Joan, Grace, Graham and Trevor; walks for the many every fortnight - and our Wednesday Short Walks, which go from strength to strength under the new leadership of Karine, Mike, and Steve.

Our walk programmes and our popular Social Events, expertly organised by Sheila and her team of Phil and Imogen, have all contributed to the huge success of our group. So on behalf of all our members. Thank you all.

Unfortunately on the downside we have a dire shortage of leaders, which is an ongoing problem. Just leading one walk a programme would make a huge difference and help ease the burden. With this in mind we have organised a meeting on January 23rd next year in order to encourage new leaders to come forward and receive any help and advice required, as well as to discuss walk gradings and etiquettes on walks. We are hoping for a good turnout at this meeting so please check the website for further details .

Looking ahead to 2018 , we will be celebrating our Group's 30th Anniversary. Quite an achievement! We have a variety of events organised throughout next year, details of which will be included in your next programme. I hope you will be able to join us in at least one of these to help us celebrate.

I now hand over to Phil who will give us a rundown of the year's activities, which could take some time as it's been another busy year!

### **5b. Secretary's Report:**

Good evening ladies and gentlemen!

After last year's AGM, the year kicked off with some very pretty walks in the November snow, especially the Ben Venue walk, however, we were fortunate to have a relatively mild day for our end of year Xmas walk around Drymen, led by Andrew & Liliias Summers. The lunch was held in the Buchanan Castle Golf Club, thanks to Burton Morrisson, the golf club member who was instrumental in securing our booking and 44 happy walkers attended. Due to catering changes at the Club, we had to re-arrange this year's lunch and I am happy to say that the Buchanan Arms has provided us with a truly mouth watering menu at a very reasonable price. Fiona Taylor has agreed to lead the walk around Drymen before lunching in the hotel & I believe 32 have signed up already! 2017 started off with the ever popular walk from Mugdock Country Park with lunch this year at the Blane Valley Inn. Thank you to Euan Kilpatrick for leading the very busy walk and to Moira for arranging the lunch.

The social side of the Group continues to be very busy and January's event was a Curry Night which was changed at very short notice from Classic India to The Ashoka in Bearsden thus increasing the numbers from 25 up to 42. So successful and popular was this evening that it will be repeated this January but the venue may be changed as there has been a fire at the Ashoka. We hosted a Beer and Sausage evening in February. In March, the Quiz night held here in the Fraser Centre had 35 attendees and a close run competition it was with the final result depending upon the last round, i.e. balloon modelling which proved to be good fun and there were some very weird creations....and controversial final decisions as to who were the winners! So popular is this event that we will be repeating it again this March but Sheila has even more surprise games up her sleeve to whet the competitive appetite of the Group. Thank you to Sheila Cawford, our social convenor for organising these events and she seems to turn her hand to all sorts of activities.

A guided tour of the Tenement House was the venue for our April event and a truly interesting and extremely informative experience was had by all. Thank you to Fiona Sinclair, a volunteer guide at the House and one of our members, for help in arranging this.

The Tour around Pollock House on May was attended by 19 members where we were entertained by a very amusing guide bringing the house to life with many humorous anecdotes. Our June event was a Cookery Demonstration at Glasgow Clyde College(aka Anniesland College) –a very informal setting in the kitchen. A very successful event with lots of delicious samples and interesting cookery hints.

We try to have a wide ranging social programme throughout the year to accommodate everyone from a tour around the University, Canal Boat trip with fish ‘n’chips, September Beetle Drive and a visit to the Central Mosque. Suggestions - we aim to please!

On a very wet dreich morning in June, we set off on the first Big bus walk of the summer. The bus dropped us at a beachside loo in torrential rain in Aberlady. However, by the time we had all ‘relieved’ ourselves, the rain stopped and it developed into a true ‘scorcher’ with some gals actually bearing their ankles to the North Sea!! Happily, after a super dinner at the Glen Golf Club in N. Berwick we made our merry way home accompanied by a beautiful sunset.

Also in June of this year, Andrew and Liliias Summers decided to stop leading their hugely successful Wednesday Short Walks and take a well deserved rest. Over the past 11 years they have led numerous local walks around Bearsden and Milngavie. On behalf of the Committee and all our members we would like to thank them both for their enormous contribution to the group. However, everyone was delighted and.... very relieved when they heard that Karine Davison had come to the rescue and agreed to be the co-ordinator of the the now named, ‘Wednesday Morning’ walks, ably supported by Steve Plastock and Mike Douglas. We wish you all the very best in your new venture!

In July, the second Big bus walk to Dunkeld was well attended and the August bus to Peebles was very popular as we returned to one of our old haunts, The Green Tree hotel for high tea. Thank you to all ...the leaders who lead the bus walks, ...to Moira and Peter for arranging the meals and of course, ....we musn’t forget our bus co-ordinator, Euan Kilpatrick...complete with clipboard.

As well as the Big bus walks, minibuses are also hired:

In March, the final stretch of the Borders Abbeys Way was led by Peter Bartos with a minibus full of eager walkers descending on Dryburgh ending the walk at Kelso Abbey.

In April, Fiona Taylor hired a minibus and led a linear walk from Callander to Comrie-part of the Scottish National Trail. The walk - all 17 miles of it - which took almost 8 hrs was enjoyed immensely by all the participants. Snoring on the return journey? Thank you, Fiona

In October, Moira & Peter hired a minibus and led us on another stretch of the Fife Coastal Path from Kirkcaldy to Upper Largo. I don’t know how they arranged it but they also provided brilliant warm autumn sunshine!!

Now, to something different. We have a couple of celebrities in our midst!

Hearty Congratulations goes to Pam Lee who along with her son, Phil, completed all the Munros on August 13<sup>th</sup> this year. You may remember seeing Pam’s photo on B/News where she was sporting a T’shirt painted by her son who surprised her as he pulled it from his rucksack and it read, ‘Ah Dun the Munros’!! Well done, Pam and we may see her photo again in the Walk magazine as they have been informed and the due photo sent in.

We have many keen photographers in the Group but as most of you know, Dave Clark's photo on Beinn Ime was shortlisted in the recent Ramblers Walking with Pals competition. However, in addition, this same photo appeared as a double page spread in the June issue of the Scottish Field magazine, and looks truly amazing. Also, his iconic photo of the Group on a rocky promontory on Ben Donich has certainly done the rounds and is currently featured on the back of the new Ramblers membership leaflets. Well done, Dave!

The destination for this year's Group holiday was the Czech Republic, the native land of Peter & Helena Bartos. In September, 32 members joined them on a holiday in the mountains of the Sumava National Park. We all had a wonderful time and a huge thankyou goes to Peter and Helena for their time organising not only our accommodation and the walks but also co-ordinating buses to/from the walks and transporting us on two very interesting sight seeing tours of Cesky Krumlov and Regensburg and Valhalla.....not to mention a much anticipated visit to the Pilsen Brewery on our return journey home! A huge thank you also goes to all the Leaders on the trip who at their own expense, flew out last year to reccie the walks for this holiday and did a marvellous job of leading a great variety of walks this September.

Now to community events.

Our Group participate in local Community events. In June, we were invited to become involved in the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations of Milngavie Week and Jenny, our president kindly offered to lead an evening walk which proved very popular, especially as I hear it ended up in a local hostelry! The secret of a successful walk!

For the last three years, a small group of us have been working with Milngavie in Bloom to transform the beginning of the West Highland Way from an overgrown unkempt area into the pleasant colourful walkway it is now. We were delighted to hear that with OUR support, they were awarded a Silver Gilt Award in the 'Keep Scotland Beautiful' competition. New gardeners and anyone interested in working outdoors will be made most welcome. Milngavie in Bloom truly appreciate our input and we are rewarded with home baked scones each workday and later this month, they have invited us for a 'Thank you' lunch.

With some surplus Group funds, it was decided to support a local project and Mugdock Country Park was again the chosen venue this year. Our Group has funded the materials for an upgrade to the path from the pond by the walled garden, down past the waterfall and again some Group members are volunteering with this project.

If you remember last year, our Group provided funds to install a multi- purpose hydraulic gate @ the Khyber Field in the Park. A plaque has now been put on the gate acknowledging OUR contribution and those who helped install it.

No report would be complete without mentioning the 'Famous 4', the 'Gang of Four', Graham & Grace, Trevor and Joan, the Leaders of the Wednesday Wanderers. The WW continue to prosper, having completed 25 walks since the end of the last financial year with average attendance of 28, down from 32 in 2016 with fewer new members joining. However, numbers fluctuate widely from 41 to 19. This year, highlights included taking the bus to Edinburgh to explore the Union Canal and Water of Leith, and also taking the train to Renton and walking across the moors to Balloch. They drive all over central Scotland as long as they can find suitable coffee and lunch stops as these maintain the social nature of the days out. The Gang of 4 have managed 12 months walking ...and I quote 'without deviation, hesitation or repetition' but they fear some walks may be 'revisited' in 2018 They would like to say that they gain great pleasure from the companionship they receive on the walks and thank the walkers for their great company

I have news of a retirement!! After 5 years of dedicated service as webmaster, delighting us all with an action packed photo gallery,.. keeping us informed of upcoming dates on B/News... and uploading lots of information on the website, Peter Allan has decided to step down from the post. However, he has agreed to stay on the Committee. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Peter for his sterling work... and his patience over these 5 years.

Membership nos! As of 30th September, the membership stands at a very healthy 304 and on 1st October the annual subscription increased by a staggering 50p to £35.00!!!

The summer and autumn of 2017 brought its usual bout of torrential rain and although some days we perhaps had to drive in the opposite direction than planned and a few high level walks had to be cancelled, it's been a very busy year with 11 A walks, 40 B, 48 C and 7D walks. So along with the WW walks and the Wednesday Morning walks, approximately 140 walks have been on offer, which is a great achievement on behalf of all the Leaders. Thank you and well done, indeed!

Before I conclude my report and may I mention that there are some Leaders' Checklist cards here and ICE (In case of Emergency) cards available. Only yesterday, I was notified of a Walk Leaders Induction Course on Saturday, Nov 18th... on Isle of Bute. The sender admits it's very short notice but the numbers are low and if anyone is interested, I can forward the email and post a notice on B/News.

Thank you!

### **5c. Treasurer's Report: 2016/17**

A copy of the audited accounts was laid on the table, and Moira went through the various items:

We currently operate 2 accounts for our Group

Number 1 – Main Account

Number 2 – Self Funded Account

No 1 – Main Account

#### **Year end balance - £307.54**

We had an opening balance of £506.58 and credits to the account were:-

£1432.00 Group funding from Area, including recce expenses allowance

£ 40.00 From Ramblers Worldwide Holidays Walking Partnership

£ 200.00 Advert Sales

Expenditure from the account was:-

£577.48 Walk programmes (Printing £362, Stamps/envelopes £215.48

£769.53 Walks related, comprising - recce expenses £470.95, First Aid Supplies

£84.83, Tick Removers for leaders £63.75, 2 GPS for members' use £150.00

£ 31.70 Web hosting costs

£300.00 Donation to Mugdock Country Park for pathwork at Craigend Dam

£177.93 AGM expenses £132.73, room hire for committee meetings

£45.20 £ 14.40 General Administration Costs

The closing balance is within the recommended level, for the end of the financial year, of £500.

The Committee realised there would be some surplus funds so it was decided to use this for club benefits mentioned above (First Aid supplies etc) thus bringing the account within the levels required. This means that our 2017/2018 funding should not be affected.

No 2 – Self Funded Account

## **Year end balance - £2984.61**

We had an opening balance of £1472.26 and credits to the account were:-£3637.00 Day walks by bus including any meals  
£8760.00 Holidays, comprising Czech Republic £7200, Braemar (2018) £1560  
£2909.00 Social events receipts  
£ 157.95 Other, donations from various members

Expenditure from the account was:-

£3846.80 Day walks by bus including meals  
£7205.88 Czech Republic holiday  
£2899.11 Social events payments  
£ 104.60 Flowers, cards and programme insert

There was a shortfall on the bus walks due to a bus payment being made after last year's annual balance. The Czech Republic holiday broke even with Braemar deposits having been received with no outgoings resulting in receipts being greater than expenditure. Social events also, more or less, broke even. The account recommended limit, for the end of the financial year is £1500. However, if we take in to account the Braemar deposits, we are within the required limit.

Finally, many thanks again to Graham Duncan for auditing the accounts this year and to other account signatories for help in checking entries and co-signing cheques, especially Hazel who kindly does the majority of this work.

Moira Allan  
Treasurer, Bearsden and Milngavie Group

Adoption of the accounts was **proposed** by Peter Allan, **seconded** by Jenny Kane, and **agreed** by the meeting.

## **6. Election of Executive Committee:**

### **6a Honorary Officers:**

Chairman - Jenny Kane, nominated by Doreen Kingsbury and seconded by Phil McElroy  
Secretary – Phil McElroy, nominated by Veronica Barclay and seconded by Silvia Murphy. Treasurer – Moira Allan, nominated by Madeline Blackley and seconded by Mary Darke. These Officers were duly elected.

### **6b Ordinary Members**

All the present Committee members wish to continue and this was proposed by Liliias Summers and seconded by Bea Withers. The following members were duly elected.

Peter Allan, Fiona Taylor, Sheila Crawford, Hazel Miller, Imogen Johnstone, Karine Davison, Dave Clark, Thea Stanton, Ann Maxwell, Euan Kilpatrick, Peter Bartos, and Fiona Denman.

Peter Allan has decided to stand down as Webmaster and the Committee wish to thank him for all his hard work over the years. Fiona Denman has agreed to take over this position in due course, with Peter happy to assist her during the transition period. Many thanks to Fiona.

## **6c Honorary Auditor**

Graham Duncan agreed to continue and was proposed by Karine Davison and seconded by Jane Watt. Thanks to Graham for standing again.

## **7. Appointment of Representatives to:**

**North Area Council** – Moira, Karine, Phil, and Jenny will continue as representatives.

**Scottish Council** – Karine Davison is willing to continue as our Representative for another year.

## **8. Any Other Competent Business: None**

Jenny thanked everyone for coming, with a special thanks to Sheila Crawford for arranging the varied and enjoyable social events over the last year; Euan Kilpatrick for the buses; a big thanks to all the Walk Leaders; and to Peter and Helena Bartos for the walking holiday in Sumava.

Refreshments will be served prior to the presentation by Alan McBride, Mugdock Country Park Ranger on the 'History of Mugdock Country Park'.