



ramblers scotland
at the heart of walking

Ramblers Scotland
Kingfisher House
Auld Mart Business Park
Milnathort
Kinross KY13 9DA

Phone 01577 861222
Fax 01577 861333

Email scotland@ramblers.org.uk
www.ramblers.org.uk/scotland

RAMBLERS SCOTLAND SCOTTISH COUNCIL 2010

MINUTES OF THE TWENTY-THIRD ANNUAL MEETING Held at Allan Park South Church Hall, Stirling 27th February 2010

1. WELCOME TO STIRLING

- 1.1 Janet McNee, Chair of Stirling, Falkirk & District Group, welcomed everyone to Scottish Council at the Allan Park South Church, Stirling.

2. WELCOME TO THE CONFERENCE

- 2.1 Scottish Council Convener, Dennis Canavan, welcomed delegates and visitors to the meeting.
2.2 Dennis particularly welcomed Rodney Whittaker (GB Ramblers Chair), Tom Fisher (GB Ramblers Vice-Chair) and Helen Lloyd-Jones (Ramblers Wales Chair).

3. APOLOGIES

- 3.1 Scottish Council noted apologies from the following:

Ken Davidson (SCEC)
John Foster, Vice-President
David Grosz, Vice-President
Elisabeth Longley (Highland & Islands Area)
John Arthington and Mary Mitchell (Wigtownshire)
Bernard Ginty (North Berwick)
Olga Foran and Lynne Millar (Moray)
Shirley McFarlane, Jack Robertson, Jim Campbell, Russ Glover and Madeleine Currie (Isle of Bute)
Shirley McDougall (Moffat)
George MacQuarrie (Scotways)
Roger Smith (Inverness)
Senga McRae and Valerie McGowan (Livingston)
Linda Nash (Glenrothes)
Ann Rankin (Strathclyde, Dumfries & Galloway Area)
Margaret Docherty (Paisley)
Alan Anderson (Helensburgh & West Dunbartonshire)
Iain and Sue McQuistin (Dumfries & District)
Albert Grant (Aberdeen)
Barbara Cameron (SLOW)
Isobel Burnett (Midlothian)
Lesley Glidden (Biggar)
Dennis Taylor (Stirling & Falkirk)
Terry Turbitt (Midlothian)

4. ADOPTION OF ORDER PAPER

- 4.1 Barry Pottle, Convener of the Agenda Committee (AC) sought approval of the Order paper (07) which was distributed with the third mailing in early February.
4.2 He asked the Council to note that Motion 1 had been withdrawn following the change of wording to the final version of the Board of Trustees' motion after their meeting the previous week. There had been one amendment to Motion 1 which was also withdrawn. The text of this withdrawn motion from SCEC had been as follows:

[1] Scottish Council Executive Committee

This Scottish Council supports in principle the following motion and requests the Board of Trustees to recommend its acceptance by General Council:

A federation of Ramblers' organisations

Given the desire of many in Ramblers Scotland and Ramblers Cymru for a more devolved organisation with greater financial independence, this General Council resolves in principle to create three independent organisations from the Ramblers' Association, for England, Scotland and Wales, linked by a federation structure to ensure they all remain part of the Ramblers' family.

It therefore requests the board of trustees to set up a working party, which includes representatives from all three countries, to develop detailed proposals in consultation with Areas and the Scottish and Welsh Councils and their Executive Committees, for discussion and endorsement at General Council 2011, with the aim of concluding the process by General Council 2012.

The amended Board of Trustees motion was distributed to all delegates on arrival and is as follows:

"This General Council resolves that it is in the best interests of walkers in England, Scotland and Wales to operate across the whole of Great Britain as one organisation. However, it recognises that members in England, Scotland and Wales have the right, if they wish to move to separate sister organisations, to be able to do so. It therefore requests that Board of Trustees to (sic) set up a working party, which includes representatives of all three countries to review the options and develop detailed proposals, in consultation with Areas and Scottish and Welsh Councils and their Executive Committees, for discussion and endorsement at General Council 2011, with the aim of concluding the process by General Council 2012."

4.3 The Order Paper was accepted by Scottish Council.

5. PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

5.1 Dick Balharry, Ramblers Scotland President, addressed the conference.

6. MINUTES OF SCOTTISH COUNCIL 2009

6.1 The minutes were approved with no amendments. The minutes were proposed by Liz Hunt and seconded by Alison Mitchell.

6.2 Olga MacFadyen questioned the remarks made by GB Chairman, Kate Ashbrook, at the end of the meeting, given the actions of the Board of Trustees to cut the Ramblers Scotland budget just two months afterwards.

6.3 There were no matters arising from the minutes so they could now be signed and distributed.

7. TRIBUTE TO JAY HUNT, MONKLANDS GROUP

7.1 Liz Hunt led a short tribute to Jay Hunt, Chair of Monklands Ramblers, who died on 2nd February at the age of 61 after losing his fight against cancer.

8. DIRECTOR'S REPORT AND ACTION TAKEN ON MOTIONS 2009

8.1 Scottish Council watched a review of the annual report as a powerpoint presentation.

8.2 Arthur Homan-Elsy raised the issue of Dave Morris's job title. He said that at a meeting in Edinburgh last December, the Chief Executive had said that Dave could use the title of Director externally, but there seemed to be some uncertainty.

8.3 Dave Morris agreed that it was difficult to use the title of Senior Development Officer Scotland externally but this was an on-going discussion with the Chief Executive.

8.4 Dennis Canavan said that this issue had been discussed at SCEC and their view was that Dave's correct designation was "Director Scotland".

9. ADOPTION OF ANNUAL REPORT AND CONVENER'S ADDRESS

- 9.1 Dennis Canavan stated his anger over the reduction in staff from 7 to 2 following the 70% budget cut in July 2009. He asked Council to adopt the Annual Report.
- 9.2 Barry Pottle noted a slight correction to the Annual Report in that GRUFF was still listed as a group but they had in fact left the Ramblers in August 2009.
- 9.3 The Annual Report was adopted, proposed by Brian MacGillivray and seconded by Trevor Graham.

10. STATEMENT AND ADOPTION OF ACCOUNTS

- 10.1 The Honorary Treasurer, Alistair Cant, introduced the accounts, which included the Income and Expenditure for Scottish Council and the campaign fund accounts (paper 4A1/2), and also the accounts for the Scottish Ramblers' Gathering (paper 4B).
- 10.2 The accounts were adopted, proposed by Jean Hight and seconded by David Thomson.
- 10.3 Trevor Graham asked about the Scottish Legal Defence Fund, and Alistair Cant replied that this fund is managed within the Ramblers Scotland main account. There had also been appeals income which was monitored through the office.
- 10.4 Olga MacFadyen stated that she had not understood what the appeal had been for. Dave Morris explained that over £4,000 had been raised which was noted in the Business Plan. Money had been spent on the production and mailing of a letter from Dennis Canavan in September, and a newsletter to all members in January, in association with the Scotsman newspaper.

11. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

- 11.1 It was agreed that Paul Kenny should be appointed as Independent Examiner for the Scottish Council accounts, and David Fenlon for the Gathering Accounts.
- 11.2 There were no elections for the positions of President, Vice-Presidents, Convener or Hon Treasurer. The following were duly elected.

Position	Nomination	Proposed	Seconded
PRESIDENT	Dick Balharry	Alistair Cant	Alison Mitchell
VICE-PRESIDENT	John Foster	Alison Mitchell	Alistair Cant
VICE-PRESIDENT	David Grosz	Alison Mitchell	Alistair Cant
VICE-PRESIDENT	John Holms	Barry Pottle	Ben Douglas
VICE-PRESIDENT	Cameron McNeish	Jean Hight	Ben Douglas
VICE-PRESIDENT	Dr Rennie McOwan	Ben Douglas	Jean Hight
VICE-PRESIDENT	Malcolm Payne	Alistair Cant	Alison Mitchell
CONVENER	Dennis Canavan	Hilary Graham	James Lawson
HON TREASURER	Alistair Cant	Alison Mitchell	David Grosz

- 11.3 There were three nominees for the role of Vice-Convener so candidates were invited to give a short presentation in support of their nominations. However, Alison Mitchell announced that she would be withdrawing her nomination in order to take on a voluntary role within the Ramblers working with groups and members. David Thomson and Hilary Graham then gave their presentations.

Position	Nomination	Proposed	Seconded
VICE-CONVENER	Hilary Graham	Dennis Canavan	Chic Nash
VICE-CONVENER	Alison Mitchell	Alistair Cant	James Lawson
VICE-CONVENER	David Thomson	Ken Wright	Ben Douglas

12. ARRANGEMENTS FOR ELECTIONS TO AC AND SCEC

- 12.1 Bridget Wilcox was appointed as Returning Officer and nominations for AC/SCEC were to be received by the end of the morning break with elections taking place during the lunch break.

13. APPOINTMENT OF TELLERS AND SCRUTINEERS

- 13.1 Jim Young (Blairgowrie) and John Gilhooly (Midlothian) were appointed as Tellers.
13.2 Karen Inkster would assist the Returning Officer as Scrutineer.

14. PRESENTATIONS

- 14.1 Delegates and visitors enjoyed a presentation from Angela Charlton, Fundraising Officer (Scotland and Wales) outlining work she is doing to raise external funding for Ramblers Scotland.
- 14.2 Following the morning break, the Convener welcomed our keynote speaker, Bruce Crawford MSP for Stirling and Minister for Parliamentary Business, who spoke about his life-long enthusiasm for walking and the countryside and his experiences of facing access difficulties. He concluded by wishing Ramblers Scotland every success and hoping that we could continue to work together with the agencies to make Scotland a great place to live and work in.
- 14.3 Council then enjoyed a very interesting and informative presentation by David James of Mountain Unity, outlining the work he does to bring economic development through trekking and mountaineering in the Wakhan Corridor in Afghanistan.

15. VICE-CONVENER ELECTION AND DECLARATION OF CANDIDATES FOR AC/SCEC

- 15.1 The Convener announced that David Thomson had been elected Vice-Convener by 42 votes to 11. There was one abstention.
- 15.2 It was announced that there would be no election for the Agenda Committee as only three nominations had been received and so Barry Pottle, Jean Highet and Ben Douglas were duly elected.
- 15.3 There were nine candidates for the seven places on SCEC, so the elections would take place over the lunch break. The candidates were John Andrews, Ken Davidson, Hilary Graham, Liz Lawie, Jim Lawson, Anne MacDonald, Brian MacGillivray, Alison Mitchell and Chic Nash.

Afternoon session

16 RAMBLERS RESTRUCTURING – PROPOSALS AND DISCUSSION

- 6.4 16.1 Council held an hour-long discussion regarding the restructuring proposals, chaired by Dick Balharry. This was based on a paper by Dennis Canavan which was distributed on the day, and laid out issues for consideration. Most of the participants in the debate seemed to favour Option 3 which called for the creation of a federation of independent Ramblers organisations, based on Ramblers England, Ramblers Scotland and Ramblers Cymru, supported by "Ramblers Services", all within the overall "Ramblers family".

17. MOTIONS 2010

- 17.1 The Agenda Committee recommended that the date and time for remission of undisposed of motions and amendments, under Standing Order A.5.2 should be 16.00 on Saturday, 27th February, 2010 provided discussion of motions commenced at 15.00 on that date. If discussion of motions commenced later than 15.00 on that date, then the time for remission of undisposed of motions and amendments should be one hour after the time when discussion of motions commenced
- 17.2 Motions not affecting the constitution or standing orders (Rule 6.5 and Standing Order A.3).

[2] Strathclyde, Dumfries & Galloway Area

The following motion was proposed on behalf of the Strathclyde, Dumfries & Galloway Area by Elizabeth Berry and seconded by Ross Elder (both from this Area).

This Scottish Council resolves that no final decision should be made on changes to the structure of Ramblers Scotland, without members of Ramblers Scotland being given details of any changes and being balloted individually on what they wish the outcome to be.

The motion was carried unanimously

[3] Strathclyde, Dumfries & Galloway Area

The following motion was proposed on behalf of the Strathclyde, Dumfries & Galloway Area by Ross Elder and seconded by Elizabeth Berry (both from this Area).

The Scottish Council instructs the SCEC to ensure that Ramblers Scotland run walk leader training courses during 2010. This training should cover all levels of walks, with an emphasis on those members prepared to lead easier graded walks.

Reason - easier graded walks are the most popular walks but the hardest to find leaders for and affect recruitment of new members as easy walks are not always available every week.

This motion was passed overwhelmingly.

18. RESULTS OF THE SCEC ELECTIONS

- 18.1 The Convener announced that John Andrews, Hilary Graham, Jim Lawson, Anne MacDonald, Brian MacGillivray, Alison Mitchell and Chic Nash had been elected to SCEC. Ken Davidson and Liz Lawie were unsuccessful.

Alison Mitchell	45	Chic Nash	44	John Andrews	35
Anne MacDonald	35	James Lawson	31	Brian MacGillivray	30
Hilary Graham	29	Liz Lawie	27	Ken Davidson	25

19. CLOSING REMARKS

- 19.1 Rodney Whittaker, Board of Trustees said this had been a very interesting and useful meeting. Ramblers was always going to be campaigning for walking and paths. But there was a whole new agenda of walking for health, and for the future of the Ramblers as a whole we had got to get into that area. He had made a note of the points made in the debate today and hoped we could get a structure which was better suited to the reality of the 21st century in Scotland.
- 19.2 Helen Lloyd Jones said that she felt the Ramblers had endured a difficult winter but there were signs of new growth and that spring was coming. She had enjoyed visiting Scotland again this year.
- 19.3 The Convener said that he hoped a basis for potential success in the future had been laid and that we could look back at the Scottish Council meeting of 2010 as a turning point for Ramblers Scotland.
- 19.4 He thanked the stewards, Janet McNee of Stirling, Falkirk & District Group for her opening remarks, the Ramblers staff, the church staff, the caterers and also to the delegates for coming to the meeting.
- 19.5 Chic Nash gave a vote of thanks to the Convener for his hard work.

The meeting closed at 16.10.

ATTENDANCE LIST

PRESIDENT

Dick Balharry

VICE PRESIDENT

John Holms

SCOTTISH COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Dennis Canavan (Convener)
Alison Mitchell (Vice-Convener)
John Andrews
James Lawson
Chic Nash

Hilary Graham (Vice-Convener)
Alistair Cant (Honorary Treasurer)
Elizabeth Lawie
Anne MacDonald
David Thomson

SCOTTISH COUNCIL AGENDA COMMITTEE

Ben Douglas Jean Highet Barry Pottle

AREA DELEGATES

Forth Valley, Fife & Tayside

Grampian
Highland & Islands
Lothian & Borders

Strathclyde, Dumfries & Galloway

Brian MacGillivray
Linda Robbie
Brian Allan
Vic Royce
Arthur Homan-Elsy
Joan Pennie
Elizabeth Berry
Ross Elder

GROUP DELEGATES

Badenoch & Strathspey
Bearsden & Milngavie
Blairgowrie & District
Broughty Ferry
Cumbernauld & Kilsyth
Cunninghame
Dalgety Bay & District
Dundee
Dunfermline & West Fife
Eastwood
Edinburgh
Edinburgh Young Walkers
Forfar
Glasgow
Glasgow Young Walkers
Inverclyde
Kilmarnock & Loudoun
Kinross & Ochil
Kirkcaldy
Linlithgow
Lochaber & Lorn
Lothian Walkers
Mid Argyll & Kintyre
Midlothian Walkers
Monklands
Musselburgh
North Berwick
Paisley
Perth & District

Morag Kellaway
Andrew Summers
Sean Galbally
David Banks
William Dorman
Christine Jeffers
Donald Wallace
Marjorie Gillan
Paul D'Mello
Marion Cole
Olga MacFadyen
Pamela Gidney
Christine Ferguson
Rosaline Gibb
Kimberley Burke
Trevor Graham
Steve Beeley
Alan Bridges
Brian Clark
Elsie Smith
Colin Roberts
Jacqueline Bruce
Ian Chalmers
Lee Oates
Liz Hunt
Shona Kerray
Iris McAdam
Agnes Doleman
John Whitehurst

South Ayrshire
SLOW (South Lanarkshire Older Walkers)
St Andrews & NE Fife
Stirling, Falkirk & District
Strathkelvin

Michael Stevens
Mary Ritchie
Will Aitken
Janet McNee
Alan Gemmell

OBSERVERS, GUESTS AND SPEAKERS

Speakers:

Bruce Crawford MSP for Stirling and Minister for Parliamentary Business
David James, Mountain Unity

Guests

Rodney Whittaker (Board of Trustees Chair)
Helen Lloyd Jones (Ramblers Cymru Chair)
Tom Fisher (Board of Trustees Vice-Chair)

Observers:

Margaret Aitken (St Andrews & NE Fife)
Jean Anthoney (North Berwick)
Margaret Bush (Kilmarnock & Loudoun)
Maureen Chalmers (Mid-Argyll & Kintyre)
Mike Gray (Stirling, Falkirk & District)
James Harrower (South Queensferry)
James Innes (Midlothian)
Matthew Innes (Midlothian)
Julie Keenan (Edinburgh Young Walkers)
Alex Kelman (Broughty Ferry)
Ann Kerrigan (Edinburgh)
Gillian Krwanwicz (Midlothian)
Robert Lawie (Strathclyde, Dumfries & Galloway)
Jean MacGillivray (Dundee)
Bob McNie (Edinburgh)
Joan Martindale (Edinburgh)
Charles Milligan (Cunninghame).
Cheryl Prior (Midlothian)

Elaine Ramage (SLOW)
Jacqui Ritchie (Kinross & Ochil)
Janette Seale (Cumbernauld & Kilsyth)
Phil Seale (Cumbernauld & Kilsyth)
Paul Sealey (North Berwick)
Hilary Shearer (Cumbernauld & Kilsyth)
Penny Sinclair (Strathkelvin)
Shirley Smith (Linlithgow)
Mary Smyth (Linlithgow)
Lena Sutherland (Linlithgow)
Anne Thomson (Glasgow)
Eileen Turnbull (North Berwick)
Ian Turnbull (North Berwick)
Gordon Wallace (Paisley)
Maurice Watson (Linlithgow)
Neil Weir (Bearsden & Milngavie)
Bridget Wilcox (Edinburgh)
Willie Woods (Paisley)

STEWARDS/TELLERS

Elaine Stevenson (Stirling, Falkirk & District)
Muriel Clark (Stirling, Falkirk & District)
John Gilhooly (Midlothian)
Jim Young (Blairgowrie)

STAFF

Dave Morris, Director, Ramblers Scotland
Helen Todd, Development Officer, Ramblers Scotland
Angela Charlton, Fundraising Officer (Scotland & Wales)
Karen Inkster, GB Led Walks Officer

Signed:



_____, Convener

(Dennis Canavan)

Date:

11 April 2011

