

**RAMBLERS SCOTLAND SCOTTISH COUNCIL 2015
MINUTE OF THE TWENTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL MEETING
Held on Friday at Queen's Hotel, Nethergate, Dundee
on Saturday at the Dalhousie Building, Dundee University
Friday - Saturday 6/7 March 2015**

Friday 6th March

1. CONVENER'S RECEPTION

- 1.1 The Reception and dinner were followed by an address by our President Dr Andrew Murray. He said he was pleased to be attending and said what a great job Ramblers were doing in encouraging and promoting an active lifestyle through walking. He was delighted to introduce our new Director Scotland Jess Dolan.
- 1.2 Jess said she was pleased to be attending her first Scottish Council. She thanked the staff team at RS for making her feel welcome and also colleagues in the wider GB organisation, and SCEC and Ramblers members she has met on walks recently.
- 1.3 Key points of her presentation were:
 - a) She grew up in Derbyshire and has a keen interest in the outdoors and now loves being in Scotland.
 - b) Her professional background includes working in charities and started with Amnesty International followed by Friends of the Earth. Before joining RS she was working with RSPB heading up a landscape partnership project in the Inner Forth. When joining RS, she realised an opportunity to lead a team with a much greater role in strategy across an organisation, especially in the areas of active travel, wellbeing, health, conservation and engagement with nature.
 - c) She went onto to say that Ramblers occupies such an interesting position. Through our campaigning and policy work, we have the opportunity to influence the policy agenda on land issues, countryside protection, physical health, mental health, wellbeing, active travel, sport and recreation.
 - d) To conclude, she said that she had a lot of listening and learning to do. Scottish Council and General Council would provide her with great opportunities to hear from the more formal side of the organisation. She said she looked forward to getting to know everyone over the coming months and years and said people should feel free to get in touch and invite her along to a walk.

Saturday, 7th March

Morning Session

2. WELCOME TO DUNDEE

- 2.1 Brian MacGillivray, of Dundee Ramblers welcomed everyone to the meeting and to Dundee – the City of Discovery. He hoped everyone would enjoy the conference and take time out to enjoy this City of Discovery.

3. WELCOME TO THE CONFERENCE

- 3.1 The Convener welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave a special welcome to our guest, Dave Beacher, RHCT (Ramblers Holidays Charitable Trust) Trustee, staff members from Ramblers GB - Benedict Southworth, Chief Executive, Simon Barnett, Director of Delivery & Development and Angela Charlton, Director of Ramblers Cymru. He said he was especially delighted to introduce the new RS Director Jess Dolan.

4. WELCOME FROM DIRECTOR SCOTLAND

- 4.1 Jess Dolan, RS Director said she was thrilled to be here. She said that she had only been in post for a few weeks but had managed out on a couple of walks with Groups. She had been

delighted with the very warm welcome from staff members and Group members and hoped to get out with many more Groups in the coming weeks and months.

- 4.2 Jess said that before joining Ramblers, she had worked for two large membership organisations, RSPB and Friends of the Earth. On a personal level she was particularly interested in people's well-being and supporting people who felt engaged with the natural environment around them.
- 4/3 She said that every single day our Groups are helping people to connect with the outdoors – all this helps in getting people physically active and can also benefit people with mental health issues.
- 4.4 She told members to feel free to get in touch and talk to her on any issues.

5. ANNUAL REPORT AND ADOPTION OF ANNUAL REPORT

- 5.1 Jess Dolan introduced the annual report in pictures which showed Ramblers Scotland's achievements over the last year.
- 5.2 Scottish Council formally adopted the Annual Report.

6. ARRANGEMENTS FOR NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS TO SCEC AND AC (Scottish Council Executive Committee and Agenda Committee) AND ELECTIONS OF HONORARY OFFICERS

- 6.1 The Convener stated that there would an election for the Ramblers Scotland Convener role and, depending on the result of this ballot, there could be a possible election for the Vice Convener role. The candidates for the Vice Convener role were himself, David Thomson and Alison Mitchell.
- 6.2 Alison Mitchell and Jim Lawson had both submitted nominations for the Convener role. Both these candidates would give presentations before the interval
- 6.3 Dorothy King was appointed as Returning Officer for AC/SCEC nominations. If required, elections would take place during the afternoon.

7. ELECTION OF HONORARY OFFICERS AND APPOINTMENTS OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS

- 7.1 There were no other nominations for the President, Vice President and Treasurer roles so the posts below were elected automatically.

Position	Nomination	Proposed	Seconded
PRESIDENT	Dr Andrew Murray	Ben Douglas	Alison Mitchell
VICE PRESIDENT	Dick Balharry	Elizabeth Lawie	Alison Mitchell
VICE PRESIDENT	Dennis Canavan	Alison Mitchell	Ben Douglas
VICE PRESIDENT	John Foster	Alison Mitchell	Elizabeth Lawie
VICE PRESIDENT	David Grosz	James Lawson	Alison Mitchell
VICE PRESIDENT	John Holms	Alistair Cant	James Lawson
VICE PRESIDENT	Cameron McNeish`	Alison Mitchell	Vic Royce
VICE PRESIDENT	Dr Rennie McOwan	Alison Mitchell	Alistair Cant
VICE PRESIDENT	Malcolm Payne	Alistair Cant	James Lawson
TREASURER	Alistair Cant	David Thomson	John Holms

8. APPOINTMENT OF TELLERS AND SCRUTINEERS

- 8.1 Moira Dobson and Ishbel Cowie, Dundee Group were appointed as Tellers and Scrutineers.

9. APOLOGIES

- 9.1 Apologies were received from Jonathan Kipling, Ramblers Chair who was unfortunately unwell, Gwyn Lewis, Ramblers Cymru Chair, Catherine Brady, delegate for Inverness, Penny Sinclair (observer from Strathkelvin), who was recovering from a heart attack, Bridget Wilcox (Edinburgh Group observer) and Ian McCall, Senior Development Officer, Paths for All.
- 9.2 Scottish Council noted the sad passing away of 2 of our dedicated members, Tommy Jeffers and Michael Singleton.

10. APPROVAL OF ORDER PAPER

- 10.1 Barry Pottle, Convener of the Agenda Committee, said that the Committee were responsible for considering the competence of motions submitted to Scottish Council, compositing similar motions, and recommending the order in which motions should be taken. He said that no motions had been received from Areas or Groups for this year's Council and suggested, in the interests of democracy, that members should go back to their Areas and Groups and prepare motions for next year. He particularly pointed out that Paper 08C, outlining feedback from the RS vision survey, included some interesting ideas which could form the basis of motions for next year.

11. MINUTES OF SCOTTISH COUNCIL 2014

- 11.1 Scottish Council accepted and approved the minutes. This was proposed by Martin Davison and seconded by Michael Doherty.
- 11.2 There were no matters arising from the minutes.

12. STATEMENT AND ADOPTION OF ACCOUNTS

- 12.1 The Honorary Treasurer, Alistair Cant, introduced the accounts, which included the Income and Expenditure paper (06A) for the General and Campaign funds. The general fund relates to Scottish Council expenses (eg from this weekend), SCEC meeting and member expenses and is funded by a grant from the Board of Trustees. He indicated there was a surplus at year end which is being carried forward into the current year's budget. The Campaign fund includes an accumulation of donations from various sources received at different times.
- 12.2 The second paper (06B) is the balance sheet for the above 2 accounts.
- 12.3 The third paper (06C) is the account of the Scottish Ramblers Gathering (SRG) which is held for one weekend during the year and covers the income and expenditure as well as the balance sheets. The 2014 SRG was based in Braemar and a donation had been given to Mar Lodge Estate for their support of the Gathering. Alistair said he had understood that the SRG would not take place in 2015 as SCEC were discussing the future of the event. The next one planned will be in 2016.
- 12.4 The adoption of accounts was formally approved. This was proposed by Vic Royce and seconded by Brian MacGillivray.
- 12.5 Paper 06D gave a brief summary of the finances for Ramblers Scotland. These accounts have not been finally audited so technically they are not the final figures. The figures showed a higher income which is from 2 main sources - membership income and more project income coming into RS. Expenditure has grown partly because of more activity, changes in staffing and higher salary costs.
- 12.6 Questions from the floor were taken. These included: 1) how does the income for Ramblers GB equate to investment income, 2) a member found the actual year of accounts confusing; it was confirmed that the accounts under discussion were for the financial year 2013-14 which runs from 1 October 2013 to 30 September 2014, and 3) could the figures shown be broken down to identify actual costs.
- 12.7 Alistair Cant said this is very much a guidance sheet to try and summarise the full accounts. Benedict Southworth, Chief Executive said that the annual accounts were controlled by our charity account regulations and do not always provide the breakdown that members are looking for. It was also noted by Council that separate from the accounts, a detailed budgeting process takes place on an annual basis and a great deal of work is put into this.

13. APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS

- 13.1 The appointment for the independent examiner for Scottish Council Accounts was Paul Kenny. This was proposed by Alistair Cant and seconded by David Thomson.

- 13.2 The appointment for the independent examiner for the Scottish Gathering Accounts was David Fenlon. This was proposed by Jane Catto and seconded by Alison Mitchell.
- 13.3 Scottish Council declared that these 2 independent examiners were duly appointed.

14. PRESENTATION FROM CANDIDATES FOR CONVENER POSITION

- 14.1 Alison Mitchell and James Lawson both gave 3 minute presentations as to why Council should vote for them.

15. WORKSHOPS – (the next ten years – round table discussions on Ramblers Scotland’s vision survey results)

- 15.1 Benedict Southworth said that 760 people had completed the survey which tells us that there’s a huge appetite in what RS should do and can do. It was hugely encouraging to get this response from members and non-members. He said the 3 workshops would run simultaneously and would each focus on a different area of the survey and members should feel free to go between these workshops.
- 15.2 The 3 workshops would look at: 1) Group 1 – looking at Q4 “Which of the following issues should we address when developing our vision in the next 10 years?”, 2) Group 2 – looking at Q6 “What do you think Ramblers Scotland should aim to achieve over the next 10 years”, 3) Group 3 – looking at a comparison between Q7 “Which statements best describe Ramblers Scotland” and Q8 “Which statements best describe what Ramblers Scotland should be doing in 20 years’ time”.
- 15.3 Each workshop was led by staff members Benedict Southworth, Jess Dolan and Helen Todd and SCEC members Ben Douglas, Jim Lawson and Alison Mitchell.

16. ACTION TAKE ON 2014 MOTIONS

- 16.1 Scottish Council accepted the action on motions 2014. There were no questions on the actions.

17. SCEC MOTION TO GENERAL COUNCIL 2015

- 17.1 Scottish Council endorsed the following motion in accordance with para 9.7 of Ramblers Scotland Constitution.
- 17.2 The motion was proposed by Alison Mitchell and seconded by Liz Lawie, both SCEC members and read as follows:

The Scottish Council, on behalf of the members in Scotland, send their best wishes and congratulations to their fellow members in England and Wales in the Association’s 80th year. It is hoped that during the coming 20 years, until the centenary, the RA will be even more successful in all parts of the United Kingdom.

- 17.3 Scottish Council also noted that this was a celebratory motion and was proposed and recorded at the SCEC meeting held on 9th.February 2015

18. DECLARATION OF CONVENER ELECTION

- 18.1 James Lawson was successfully elected as Convener. The current Convener, David Thomson congratulated James in his new role which would take effect at the end of Scottish Council today.

19. PRESENTATION FROM CANDIDATES FOR VICE CONVENER POSITION

- 19.1 Alistair Cant, Hon Treasurer took over the chair as the Convener David Thomson had put himself forward for the Vice Convener position.
- 19.2 Alison Mitchell and David Thomson both gave 3 minute presentations as to why Council should vote for them.

Afternoon Session

20. WORKSHOPS

- 20.1 Three workshops ran during the afternoon session. The workshop sessions were held twice and members were given the choice of 2 out of 3. These covered:
- 1) Recruiting volunteers (Helen Todd & Jeannie Cranfield)
 - 2) Publicising your walks – using the new Group/Walks finder (Simon Barnett)
 - 3) Running Ramblers Scotland – governance change or not? (Benedict Southworth and Alistair Cant, Hon Treasurer).

21. DECLARATION OF VICE CONVENER ELECTION

- 21.1 Alison Mitchell was successfully elected as Vice Convener. Alistair Cant, Hon Treasurer congratulated Alison in her role which would take effect at the end of Scottish Council today.
- 21.2 David Thomson returned to Chair the meeting

22. DECLARATION OF CANDIDATES AND ELECTIONS FOR AC/SCEC (Agenda Committee and Scottish Council Executive Committee)

- 22.1 The Convener announced that there would be no election for the Agenda Committee. Two nominations had been received for the 3 places available. Barry Pottle and Liz Hunt were duly elected.
- 22.2 Eight nominations had been received for SCEC for the 7 places available. The 8 nominations included candidate forms for Alison Mitchell and David Thomson. As Alison had been elected to the Vice Convener post she would automatically become an SCEC member. There were therefore now 7 nominations for the 7 places available and therefore there was no need for an election. Those elected were: John Andrews, Ben Douglas, Jane Catto, Liz Lawie, Andy Malby, David Thomson and Vic Royce.
- 22.3 The Convener congratulated those elected to the AC and the SCEC.

23. SCEC QUESTION & ANSWER SESSION

- 23.1 An SCEC panel, consisting of all members of SCEC took questions from the floor. These included:
- 1) What is the main role of SCEC?
 - 2) Will there be an event to celebrate 50 years of Ramblers Scotland?
 - 3) There was 'information overload' over the Xmas season as members were asked to complete 2 separate vision surveys over this period, one for GB and one for Scotland, both on strict timelines.
 - 4) Can you clarify that members in Scotland are eligible to participate in consultations regarding the GB organisation?
 - 5) Request in the light of discussions that careful attention is given to ensuring communication and the way it is conducted is as clear and effective as possible.
 - 6) The percentage of men on SCEC far outweighs women – can anything be done about this?
 - 7) Is it possible for SCEC to look at what comes out of the Board of Trustees and General Council regarding ideas.
- 23.2 Benedict Southworth, Chief Executive said that the best way to think about SCEC is that it is effectively the Board of Trustees for Scotland. The BoT has devolved responsibility to Scotland. He further explained that the role of SCEC was to help set policy and strategy for RS and report back to the BoT every 6 months on the work that RS carries out. He said the RS Director and himself work with SCEC on everyday operations of the organisation. One difference between SCEC and the BoT is that Board posts are term limited whereas SCEC members can serve as many years as they wish with the exception of the President and Convener which are both 3 year terms.
- 23.3 BS agreed there is definitely a mood for change. AC said that SCEC would get notes from the workshops and discuss these outcomes. Matters will not change overnight, but potential changes are in the offing, both from GB and Scotland. There would be more opportunities for members to have their say in time.
- 23.4 Changes will include using more modern means of communication and finding ways for young people to be involved in the organisation, not just by going for a walk.

24. CLOSING REMARKS

- 24.1 David Thomson thanked: 1) Benedict Southworth and Simon Barnett for their input into the workshops 2) Dave Beacher and Angela Charlton from Wales. He said it was good that the 2 countries, Wales and Scotland, kept in touch; 3) Brian MacGillivray for welcoming delegates to Dundee; 4) the registration team - Peter Hargreaves, Ishbel Cowie and Alexina Brown, the Returning Officer Dorothy King, the tellers and scrutineers Moira Dobson and Ishbel Cowie - without their help it would have been very difficult to run the event so smoothly; 5) the University catering and event staff; 6) SCEC for their support and advice they had given him over the last few years; and 7) the wonderful staff at Milnathort, Helen, Kareen, Jeannie, Rob and Roxanne and of course Jess who has only been with us for a few weeks. Lastly he thanked everyone for attending today.
- 24.3 He asked members to remember to complete the online survey as SCEC really needs to hear what your thoughts are – the link would be sent to everyone attending the following week.
- 24.4 The meeting was declared closed at 16.35.

ATTENDANCE LIST (as at 5 March 2015)

PRESIDENT:

Dr Andrew Murray (Friday evening only)

SCOTTISH COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

David Thomson (Convener) (Hon. Treasurer)	James Lawson (Vice-Convener)	Alistair Cant
John Andrews	Ben Douglas	Elizabeth Lawie
Alison Mitchell	Vic Royce	

SCOTTISH COUNCIL AGENDA COMMITTEE:

Barry Pottle	Liz Hunt	James Bennett*
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*also attending as Group delegate

AREA DELEGATES:

Clydesdale to Solway	Ann Rankin
	Garry Tait
Forth Valley, Fife & Tayside	Mike Gray
	Allen Bardwell
Grampian	Jane Catto
	Anne MacDonald
Lothian & Borders	Sandy Janas
	Dorothy Stewart
North Strathclyde	Janice Forrest
	Anne Thomson
Renfrewshire, Cowal & Bute	David Gilmartin
Highland and Islands	Roger Smith

GROUP DELEGATES:

Aberdeen	David Fenlon
Badenoch & Strathspey	Ann Hadley
Balerno	Hamish Clark
Blairgowrie	Mike Morris
Brechin	Moirra Dunbar
Broughty Ferry	Linda Pirie
Clyde Valley	John Cooper
Cumbernauld & Kilsyth	David Forrest
Cunninghame	Christine Jeffers
Dalgety Bay	Dorothy Patterson
Dumfries & District	Stuart King
Dundee	Brian MacGillivray
Dunfermline & West Fife	Marion Webster
Edinburgh Young Walkers	Andrew Malby
Eildon	Martin Davison
Forfar	Christine Ferguson
Glasgow	Catherine Watt
Helensburgh & N Dunbartonshire	Peter Gordon
Inverclyde	James Bennett
Kilmarnock & Loudoun	Charles Reed
Kirkcaldy	William Gibson
Midlothian	Gillian Aitken
Moffat	Elizabeth Tait
North Berwick	Christine George
Paisley	Michael Doherty
Perth	Trevor Abell
South Ayrshire	Douglas Graham

St Andrews & NE Fife
Stirling & Falkirk
Strathkelvin
Wigtown

Dorothy Cameron
Colin Thomson
Ann Martin
Bob Chalmers

GUESTS AND OBSERVERS

Guests

Dave Beacher, RHCT Trustee and Chair Wirral Ramblers

Observers:

Sheena Anthony (North Berwick)
Ishbel Cowie (Dundee)
Moira Dobson (Dundee)
Kate Graham (South Ayrshire)
Jackie Taylor (Cunninghame)
Dorothy King (Dumfries & District)

Ann Langley (Strathkelvin)
Robert Lawie (Monklands)
Linda Robbie (Brechin)
Christine Sloan (Wigtown)

STEWARDS/TELLERS/SCRUTINEERS

Peter Hargreaves, Brian MacGillivray, Ishbel Cowie, Alexina Brown and Moira Dobson (also attending as Group observers or Group delegate)

STAFF:

Benedict Southworth, Ramblers Chief Executive
Simon Barnett, Director of Delivery & Development
Angela Charlton, Director of Ramblers Cymru

Ramblers Scotland staff

Jess Dolan, Director Scotland
Helen Todd, Campaigns & Policy Manager
Kareen Robertson, Communications & Finance Officer
Jeannie Cranfield, Games Legacy Advisor
Rob Burns, Medal Routes Project Officer
Roxanne Kerr, Office Administrator