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Note: The Treasurer’s Report is placed out of sequence at the end of the Report for ease of reference.
Area Convener’s Report – Alan Bridges

1. My Convenor’s Report at the 2013 AGM gave an account of Area Council’s discussions of future possible roles of Area Council and Groups. This was in response to a motion from the North Strathclyde Area, which was adopted at the 2012 Scottish Council, asking SCEC to consult with Areas, Groups and members on this topic. We are still well ahead of SCEC in respect of this as, at the 2013 Scottish Council, the report from SCEC on actions taken on the 2012 motions was that they were considering setting up a Working Group to look at this. Ramblers UK are also reviewing the organisational structure of the RA in a series of meetings with area convenors. So far they have come up with the following list of “key aspirations and indicators” for Area Councils (which is still under discussion):

- Deliver the mission
- Co-ordinate and support groups, volunteers and members, delivering the mission.
- Work together
- The Area’s activities are effectively managed
- Engage locally
- The role that Ramblers play locally, with communities, organisations and local government is recognized and positive.
- Welcome everyone
- Activities are inclusive and encourage more people to engage.

2. At the moment, I believe Forth Valley, Fife and Tayside Area (and its component Groups) is meeting these targets. This is due to the dedication of those members who willingly give of their time and talents in leading walks (or planning medal routes or organising footpath maintenance days or any number of other activities) and put themselves forward for election as office bearers at Group or Area level.

3. I am particularly lucky in the support I receive from the Area Office Bearers. Although it is invidious to name particular individuals, I would mention special contributions made by three people. Ian Bruce has developed a system for the on-line submission of walks data which allows the collation of the Area Programme to be automated and has the capability to further upload that data to the RA Walkfinder. Nine Groups used the system to submit data for the current Programme. I would encourage the other Groups to try it as it simplifies the Walks Programme Co-ordinator’s task and considerably helps the Publications Secretary as the data is provided in a consistent format. The second person I wish to single out is Ben Douglas, who retires as Secretary at this meeting. Ben has not just been an able and conscientious Secretary, but has also taken a special interest in developing Medal Routes and Ramblers Routes, run Walk Leader Training Days, and is a member SCEC. He probably does other things as well, but we will have to manage without him now. Finally, I wish to thank Jim Young who is standing down as the Area Independent Examiner of Accounts. Jim has given many years of loyal service the Area, including a spell as Area Chairman.

4. Due to the onerous nature of the Area Secretary’s role. I propose to split the role into two: (i) Area Minutes Secretary and (ii) Area Liaison Secretary. This proposal was agreed by the members. (When the return to Central Office is made listing the Area Office Bearers, the latter role will be described as Area Secretary.)

Area Secretary’s Report – Ben Douglas

1. Area Council Meetings 2013 - There were three meetings held during the year, each attracting around 20 members. With the exception of one Group, all Groups were represented at least once at the meetings. This was better than last year.

2. Area Council Meetings 2014 - Thursday 3rd April, Thursday 19th June, Thursday 16th October 2014. I have made the booking with St Matthews Church, Perth for the three Area Council Meetings next year. Area Council Meetings are important in determining Area policies with particular regard to our much cherished Area Joint Programme, sharing good practice and giving alerts on problems.
3. On November 19 2013, I attended the Scottish Areas Chairs/representatives ‘Special Forum’ in Perth hosted by Jonathan Kipling, Chair of the Board of Trustees, and Benedict Southworth, CEO Ramblers. The meeting ran from 11.00 am to 4.30 pm with a buffet lunch. The focus of the forum was how best to deliver our mission in terms of promoting walking, access and communication. Seven of the eight Scottish Areas were represented and the debate was wide ranging. Summarising, we discussed the current state of the Ramblers as an organisation, successes/weaknesses, and possible future scenarios. We stressed the Scottish dimension within the overall GB structure of the organisation. In essence, how can the Ramblers operate and put across our message more effectively to attract more volunteers and members? It will be interesting to see the outcomes of the meetings held across GB as a whole.

4. Promoting Walking - Last year I mentioned two Ramblers walking initiatives with much potential. One year on, it is now possible to evaluate both in terms of take up in our Area.

(a) **Ramblers Scotland Medal Routes** Medal Routes is a partnership project funded by Scottish Natural Heritage, Paths for All and the Ramblers Holidays Charitable Trust. The project is progressing well. Over 50 walking hubs have been developed with around half of these in our Area, particularly south of the R. Tay. There are 16 in Fife alone. Four of our Groups have members who have contributed or will contribute, namely Broughty Ferry, Dalgety Bay & District, Dunfermline & West Fife and Kirkcaldy. Organisations and individuals outwith the Ramblers also make contributions, e.g. Fife Sports and Leisure Trust. Personally, I believe in the value of the project in terms of meeting our charitable status and as Scotland’s leading walking organisation. We can offer any length and challenge of walk from short Medal Route walks to Munros. Also, as one who has submitted several Medal Routes walks, the support from Ramblers Scotland staff, namely Jacqueline Ferguson previously and now Rob Burns and Judith Dobson as a volunteer, has been first class.

(b) **GB Ramblers Routes** This initiative has had virtually no take up in our Area. In my view as one who has submitted walks, the process has proved to be cumbersome and complex. The mapwork tools are easy to use but the rest of it is very time consuming. Also, without attending the day’s workshop session, the process would be very difficult to complete. I note the Dundee workshop session in March 2013 was cancelled through lack of interest. One final point about the two initiatives is that the Medal Routes has a tangible product on one piece of paper.

(c) **Ramblers Scotland (RS)** is aiming to set up a Young Walkers Group centred on Dundee. (To keep up with latest news from RS, check the Ramblers website. Also, I have recently found the Facebook page interesting and useful, and with the additional advantage of being interactive.)

(d) For experienced walk leaders who wish to mentor new walk leaders, the **Walk Leader’s Checklist** card is a most useful guide. It can be downloaded from the Ramblers website or contact by email to receive copies at ledwalks@ramblers.org.uk

5. **General Council 2013**

Betty Barton and I attended General Council (GC) in April 2013 as your Area Delegates. On 17th April 2013 I sent out a fairly detailed report to Groups of our time there entitled **Reflections of General Council 2013**. In the context of this AGM it is worth quoting 3 paragraphs from this document.

(a) Of the motions passed, the most significant may well be on the subject of **Reviewing the Governance Structure** (Motion 12). From a Scottish perspective Motion 2 on opposing the MoD proposed purchase of land at Cape Wrath was passed unanimously. (Subsequently, the MOD dropped their proposals)

(b) Ramblers President Kate Ashbrook and Jonathan Kipling, Chair of the Board of Trustees, did stress strongly how the organisation depends on the hard work and enthusiasm of all the volunteers who serve on committees, lead walks etc. and to convey this message on to Areas and Groups.
One of the benefits of attending GC over a period of time is networking and meeting up with delegates from all over GB who have similar views and challenging those who seem reluctant for the Ramblers to have a broader appeal. Also, I have a much greater awareness of the differences between Scotland and England in terms of the use the term Rights of Way, the legal status being entirely different and resulting from the differences in Scots law and English law.

For Information - Scottish Rights of Way

The main conditions for a route to be a right of way are as follows:

- It must join two public places (e.g. public roads or other rights of way); and
- It must follow a more or less defined route; and
- It must have been used, openly and peaceably, by the general public, as a matter of right, i.e. not just with the permission of the landowner; and
- It must have been used without substantial interruption for at least 20 years.

Unlike in England and Wales, there is no definitive map of rights of way in Scotland, and as a result they have not been marked on Ordnance Survey maps. ScotWays works with local authorities and local communities to determine whether routes meet the conditions listed, as interpretation of the law can be contentious. Ultimately it is for the courts to decide whether a route meets the necessary conditions to be a right of way.

Finally, it has been an honour to have been your Area Secretary for the past 6 years. At times, it has been challenging but never dull and I hope I have provided sound advice whenever needed to Groups, and especially Group Secretaries, during my period in office. My thanks go to Group Secretaries and my other Area contacts for their patience for what must seem an endless stream of emails from me. I must also thank Mike Gray, Area Treasurer. Over the years we have formed a very harmonious working relationship. To the next Area Secretary, I can be counted upon to provide every assistance to ensure a smooth transition. The main computer skills needed are Copy/Paste and organising emails and documents into different folders.

Walking in a Winter Wonderland, but in March! (Ben Douglas)

Area Membership Secretary’s (AMS) Report – Colin Thomson

1. In last year’s Annual Report it was pleasing to advise that membership numbers during 2012 showed a modest increase after 2 years of declining numbers. This year the declining trend has resumed. Area Member numbers at 1st December are down to 1,315 compared to 1,367 last year, representing a decline of 4%. This follows declining memberships in the year overall for Scotland (4%) and UK (5%).

2. From April this year Group Membership Secretaries received all membership information direct from London, instead of via the AMS. This appears to be an improved means of communication. I have received very few requests for assistance or queries since this change took effect.
Group Reports
A few points from the Area Secretary. Eleven Groups submitted reports. I have used a certain amount of licence in editing lengthy reports down to around 150 words and certainly no more than 200 words.

Broughty Ferry (Report from Ruth Jack)
Fifteen of our members set out on a Friday in late September to stay at Peebles Hydro Hotel for our annual weekend away. The programme was to have three walks of varying grades and lengths during the weekend. The first walk was a 3.5 mile stroll up by Venlaw Hill and Soonhope Burn. This is ideal for an evening walk and offers superb views of the surrounding landscape. The next day we were heading up by Cademuir Hill’s two iron-age Forts, Kirkton Manor and the Tweed. This 8 mile walk had ups and downs, flat walking, beautiful scenery and lots of history. Our last walk was a 7 mile walk going by Janet’s Brae Glentress and Eshiels Community Woodland. Walking up Janet’s Brae was another strenuous climb but we stopped to catch our breath and admired the beautiful views.
The decision to have a walking weekend away in Peebles was most definitely the right decision to make.

Dalgety Bay & District (Extract from Chairman Ken Wright’s AGM Report)
The Group has had another successful year, with plenty of good walking in various parts of the country with a good turnout for most of them. I must commend the walk leaders for their diligence and imaginative ideas for the walks. It is good to see others step forward and volunteer as walk leaders. One or two walks this year have been rather damp but have not put off walkers having a good day out.
We had a brilliant weekend away in Strathpeffer this year. Due to a shortage in cars and drivers a number of us using our bus passes travelled to Strathpeffer by public transport which turned out very successfully. We had several walks over the weekend suiting everybody’s likes and capabilities. The entertainment in the hotel every evening was excellent which helped to round off a great weekend, with a parting comment can we go back next year.

Dundee & District (Report from Secretary Moira Dobson)
We are happy to report that we have increased our membership by another 12 people. Two of our members reached the age of 80 and we celebrated their special birthdays by having meals in local hostelries.
In January we had our away day to the Burrell Collection by bus. This was well attended and the Burrell Collection was interesting and unusual. We also had a weekend away at Bannockburn and had over 25 people staying in a local hotel. On the Saturday two levels of walks were on offer. The weather was kind to us and on the Sunday again people had a choice to either walk around the area or go on a walk around Bridge of Allan. Our social events are popular and give people a chance to catch up with one another in a friendly environment.
A meeting was held to introduce ourselves to Ben Glencross who has been appointed to improve and review membership within Scottish Ramblers Groups. Hopefully his post will result in an increase in membership. We also attended a Training Session by Gwyn Hughes-Jones giving us instructions and information on how to navigate and map read.

Dunfermline & West Fife (Report from Chairman Alan Paul)
We held two long weekend meets this year. The first in April, based at Kindrogan Centre near Kirkmichael, from where we finished off the Cateran Trail, started the previous October. We had sunny weather but there was quite a bit of snow still lying. The second meet, at Melrose in October, was less sunny but at least there was no snow. A small but dedicated band attended the meets and enjoyed some excellent walking. Our day-walk programme this year was undertaken by nine leaders, including two welcome new ones. One of our established leaders has however decided to take a break next year in order to enlarge her portfolio of walks before starting again. Both she and some others have been concerned about having to commit to walks for the programmes without, at times, having been able to gain prior personal knowledge of them.
**Forfar & District** (Report from Immediate Past Chair Evelyn Taylor)
Although a happy group we have lost quite a number of members through demise, moving away from the area, work commitments and age. Our walks are well attended with walkers from other Groups joining us and, this pleases us as they tend to come back. Our bus trip took us on one of the wettest days of the summer, to Roslin Glen with a visit to the Chapel. Pitlochry was our weekend away. Fourteen of us enjoyed our walks in warm Autumnal weather and the excellent accommodation at the Hydro. The Christmas walk was in the gardens of Glamis Castle with our meal at Strathmore Arms which was very well attended. Our chairperson of many years stepped down at the AGM and we look forward to being led by our new leader Christine Ferguson.

**Glenrothes** (Report from Secretary Betty Barton)
Glenrothes have hit a milestone, earlier in the year we had our 20th birthday. In August 1993, twelve people met and set up the Group. It is remarkable that some of those founding members are still with the Group and still walking. The committee decided to celebrate our 21st year, and are now asking the membership how they would like to do this. The Group set off for the annual weekend away to Melrose with some trepidation in early September. The weather forecast was terrible. We all went to bed at the hotel and got up to bright sunshine and couldn’t believe it. It didn’t last but it could have been much worse. Sunday could not have been better, with sunshine to enjoy a walk along the River Tweed.

**Kinross & Ochil** (Report from Edna Burnett)
In May, we enjoyed a superb weekend walking in Glen Clova. 24 members booked into the excellent Glen Clova Hotel. Perfect weather all weekend and a terrific presentation on Saturday evening from Ian Sneddon, a man with an unrivalled knowledge of the many notable features of the area. Our own walk leader was incapacitated, but Forfar Hillwalkers supplied two members to lead our planned high level walks – 1) Bachnagairn, up and over the Glittering Skellies; 2) up Glen Doll to Corrie Fee, thence to Mayar and Driesh, returning via Kilbo Path. Lower walks – 1) Corrie Fee to Jock’s Road and back; 2) up the Glen to Bachnagairn and return, with a sighting of eagles!

**Kirkcaldy** (Report from Walks Programme Co-ordinator/Membership Sec Brian Clark)
We have had a successful year for with membership increasing from 70 to 79. Publicity has been a priority with posters in public places and leaving hand out leaflets for anyone to pick up. We have also ‘hit’ the Fife Free Press Community News columns with walk and Group activity reports. A full and varied walk programme has been offered during the year. This includes two weekends away and two evening meals following a walk.
The Group has participated in the Ramblers Medal Routes project. Routes for Kirkcaldy and Kinghorn have been set up and the existing routes in Burntisland have been amended to take in changes required for blocked paths.
‘Langtoun Daunderers’ have been established. They are, in fact, Kirkcaldy Ramblers who meet on the first Tuesday of the month at a location in Kirkcaldy for a 4 – 6 mile walk of from 2 – 3 hours duration with a venue for lunch on completion of the walk for any who wish to participate. The support for this outing has been very encouraging and we intend to continue with it in its present form next year.

**Perth & District** (Report from Allan Bardwell)
Perth & District enjoyed a full programme of walks this year with few cancellations owing to the good weather. We had two most enjoyable weekends away - the first in May to Melrose in the Borders and although the weather was not too kind we had a great time and in September to Fort William with better weather and also most enjoyable. We also organised two bus trip days supported by fund raising within the group , one to Aviemore and one to Loch Lomond, they were both well attended and enjoyed. Thanks were given at our AGM to the folk involved for all the hard work done in putting on these activities. On the charitable side, we continued to keep a path near Huntingtower clear and we joined up with Blairgowrie group and a P&K Ranger to clear a long section of core path at Collace. A good year for Perth Ramblers.
St. Andrews and NE Fife (Report from Secretary Iain Anderson)
We had a very good season with excellent walks and the highlight of the year being a very enjoyable holiday based in Kingussie in June. We had a total of 28 walks with only two being cancelled due to adverse weather conditions. They were generally well supported with a maximum of 34 members in attendance and a minimum of ten. We had a superb base at the Duke of Gordon Hotel in Kingussie with walks through some spectacular scenery, and the weather was quite kind to us! Our membership numbers showed a slight increase and the only problems we encounter is finding enough walk leaders and a lack of new younger members.

Stirling, Falkirk & District (Report from Chair Janet McNee)
We have had another successful year. Our membership numbers remain consistent, our finances are ‘in the black’ and our walks continue to be well attended. We are fortunate to be able to offer all grades of walks in our programme thanks to our great team of leaders. Despite a winter which dragged on, the summer was definitely worth waiting for. However our weekends away somehow managed to avoid that good weather - Strathpeffer in April had a heavy fall of snow; Braemar in June caught some really heavy rain; and we peered through the fog at Dunoon in September. But it wasn’t all bad and it certainly didn’t keep us from walking in some of the most beautiful areas of Scotland. Our annual ceilidh was again a great success and our sail “doon the watter” on the Waverley was wonderful.

Our Group now has its own website which contains all sorts of useful information.

Blue Skies over the Ochils in Summer

Area Publications and Advertising Secretary – Trevor Abell
1. Over the year, Issues 27 and 28 of the Area Joint Programme were produced in accordance with the standard timing. A total of 1,450 and 1,400 copies were produced for Issues 27and 28 respectively; the latter figure is likely to be the standard quantity for the next set of issues, unless membership drastically changes. For Issue 28, the number of labels (households) was 1130.
2. Generally around 6 newsletters are produced by the Groups and these are inserted in each issue for distribution. Ian Bruce was able to develop and distribute his computer programme to a range of Groups on a pilot basis. The tool has proved to be extremely successful and should now be adopted by all the Groups in our Area. The AJP Input Application produces a file for simple upload to Ramblers Walkfinder as well as the one for the printed programme. Ramblers HQ are in the process of changing the Walkfinder so some further modifications will be necessary to the programme at that time.

Walks Programme Co-ordinators have been very good at providing details of their walks in accordance to the timetable and Ian and I are extremely grateful for their efforts in this respect.
3. In terms of advertising, this has not been a great success. Ramblers Holidays and Craigdon Mountain Sports have continued their support, however Tiso have failed to respond. I made contact with several potential companies to gauge their interest to advertise in these and future issues. I am hopeful that Rohan will support the next issue and other companies will be approached for Issue 29.
Area Footpaths & Access Officer’s Report – John Andrews

1. It seems to be traditional at this time to reflect on the events of the past year. Having looked back at what I wrote 12 months ago, I’m not entirely convinced that this is a good idea. I notice that I was quite concerned about how our local authorities were facing up to the increased pressure on their resources. One typical way in which these bodies react to such situations is by ‘re-organising’, which usually means finding ways of getting their individual members of staff to do more work - for the same pay and in the same amount of time.

2. One cannot be too critical of people, when they are pushed into a corner and expected to perform the impossible, but the results do sometimes make one wonder about the depth of thought that goes into these manoeuvres. Having, as I assumed, allowed enough time to let the dust settle, I asked one of our councils to tell me which officers are now responsible for the everyday tasks associated with keeping our paths free from obstruction, confronting landowners who either cannot accept or do not understand the access legislation etc. There was a 2-week hiatus while they tried to work it out and then produce the explanation - a not completely clear one at that.

3. I have steadily come to realise that membership of a local access forum, whilst it can be frustrating, gives you an invaluable insight - not necessarily a very encouraging one - into how local authorities work. It can be amazingly haphazard and, as it seems to me, much can depend on such trifles as what individual officers had for breakfast or who has annoyed them most. So, if your report or complaint receives swift and successful attention - rejoice and be thankful!

4. When I come to look at the particular issues that were found worthy of comment a year ago - some of them look all too familiar. I notice that I referred to the many problems to be found in forest areas. This situation may - indeed should - improve with the publication by the Forestry Commission Scotland last month of its `good practice’ guide to the management of access and forestry operations.

5. The longest running show in town - the Bloomfield one, having taken a surprising twist during the year may come at long last to a conclusion with the death recently of one of the two owners.

6. Another `old chestnut’ is the enforced closure of the Walnut Grove level crossing, which is part of a core path. The Law Commission’s report into its investigation of the problems relating to level crossings raised some concerns, but had at least one helpful conclusion, i.e. that the law needs no clarification or alteration in respect of core paths created over level crossings - which it found to be entirely legitimate. Since Network Rail had told me that to try to do such a thing is unlawful, this appeared to be a major breakthrough. Accordingly I have asked Network Rail to tell me if there is any reason why they should not now take the locks off the gates at Walnut Grove and allow passage over it. Some weeks have passed without any response beyond a formal acknowledgement. I think the members of their legal department have dived down the nearest burrow and are sitting there with metaphorical fingers in the ears.

7. I wonder what new oddities 2014 will bring? Another decent spell of weather would be nice and would make it easier for you to get out and help clear some of our overgrown paths.
Scottish Council Executive Committee (SCEC) – Report from Ben Douglas

(a) At the outset, it is important to bear in mind that John Andrews and I are two out of eight volunteer members on SCEC following appointment at Scottish Council. We are not Area appointments. Since the last Scottish Council, SCEC has met on three occasions. Jonathan Kipling, Chair of the Board of Trustees, and Benedict Southworth have regularly attended and their input has been beneficial. They also do hear our concerns about the operations carried out by Central Office whether they are Scotland specific or more general in nature. Meetings are timed to last from 16.00 – 20.00 with a buffet tea providing a welcome break. David Thomson, Convener Ramblers Scotland, chairs the meeting and, with his direct approach, the meetings do not over-run!

(b) The Ramblers Scotland Business Plan 2012 – 2014 contains the following 4 aims.

1. Securing and Facilitating Access: This includes Review of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 – written submissions to the review. One of the Key Outcomes is to ensure Ramblers Scotland is seen as a key organization involved in access in Scotland.

2. Protecting the Outdoor Environment: This includes raising concerns relating to access on the National forest estate, i.e. publicly owned and private woodlands; the Hill Tracks Campaign; Renewables, campaigning to massively restrain windfarm development and long distance transmission lines.

3. Working Effectively and Efficiently: This includes Volunteer and Supporter Engagement. Ben Glencross was appointed as our Group Development Officer in August 2013, funded by sports Scotland; newsletters from Ramblers Scotland appearing in the walk magazine; transferring and re-writing material for the Ramblers Scotland section of the Ramblers website and also using Facebook and Twitter; Group Development and Leadership Training.

4. Promoting Walking: ‘Walk the Path to 2014’ by securing a lasting physical activity legacy for Scotland. A list of projects have been identified for which external funding will be sought to enable them to take place. These include
   - Medal Routes
   - Walk Forward – encouraging Ramblers Groups to develop short walks of 3 – 6 miles to make new, less active members welcome and to make links with local health walk groups.
   - Active Nation Community – integrating walking and cycling into everyday life
   - Xplore – a programme for children and young people by encouraging and supporting embedding walking as part of the PE curriculum.
   - Community Sports Hubs – programme of walking initiatives

(c) SCEC is given regular updates on the progress or otherwise of the 4 aims ranging from
   - No progress
   - Slow Progress
   - Steady Progress
   - Good Progress
   - Major Progress
   - Completed

In total, there are over 25 activities as per the Business Plan. The most recent update document runs to 16 pages. Therefore, this one page summary can only give a flavour of what is happening on your behalf. It is incumbent on members of SCEC to take a strategic view of what the Ramblers Scotland staff led by Dave Morris, Director Ramblers Scotland, are pursuing and, where necessary, establish priorities. In addition, Ramblers Scotland staff and SCEC have to react to unexpected events.

(d) Scottish Council: In association with Ramblers Scotland staff, SCEC are involved with the planning beforehand and the follow up afterwards, particularly in relation to motions passed.
A view of Dunfermline Abbey from the ‘Glen’ (Pittencrieff Park). Urban walks of 3 – 6 miles can bring diversity to a walks programme and may be suitable for new members or to retain older members who do want to take on the challenges of A or B walks. If such walks can be accessed by public transport, so much the better. We have many settlements in and around our Area whose historical architecture is part of our heritage. (Ben Douglas)

Area Treasurer’s Report – Mike Gray

1. Accompanying this report is the audited income and expenditure statement for the year ending 30th September 2013. The statement includes a summary breakdown of monies actually received and spent during the year, against the amounts forecast in the budget as well as those for the previous year (2011/12) for comparison.

2. The year ended with £750 more than anticipated in the bank. Almost half of this was due to a reduction in the number and, therefore, cost of Area Council meetings. The remainder is down to a number of smaller contributory factors, as can be seen in the statement.

3. Thanks, as ever, are due to Group Treasurers for their efforts during the year, and especially Jim Young for once more examining the Area accounts. He has intimated that this will be his last year of performing the examination, so I will be seeking a replacement volunteer for next year. Nominations, please!

Funding for Year Ending 30th September 2014 (See back page.)

4. Also accompanying this report is a copy of the Area budget for 2013/14, adopted by Area Council in July 2013. This gives a comparison of expected income and expenditure during 2013/14 against actual amounts recorded for 2012/13. The application for £8000 funding from Central Office is pending final approval, and will allow us to maintain the expanded Area walks programme and pay for the anticipated increase in Group running costs. Overall, the planned deficit keeps Area reserves as low as is practicable.

5. A more detailed breakdown of both the accounts for 2012/13, and the final budget for 2013/14 are available on request.
The Ramblers’ Association  
Forth Valley, Fife & Tayside Area  

Forecast Cash Balance  
Proposed Budget for year to 30th September 2014

<table>
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<th>Income</th>
<th>Forecast 2013/2014</th>
<th>Totals in 2012/2013</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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| Expenditure | | | |
| Groups - budgeted | 5138.00 | 4686.00 | 2 |
| Groups - other | 130.00 | 66.42 | |
| RA -other | 0.00 | 0.00 | |
| Walks Prog | 3400.00 | 3211.68 | 3 |
| Walks related | 0.00 | 0.00 | |
| Leader Training | 0.00 | 0.00 | 4 |
| Publ/Newslett. | 0.00 | 0.00 | |
| Publications/goods | 0.00 | 0.00 | |
| Campaigns/casework | 100.00 | 0.00 | |
| Practical work | 0.00 | 0.00 | |
| Fundraising costs | 0.00 | 0.00 | |
| Meetings | 690.00 | 629.84 | |
| AGM Costs | 250.00 | 170.32 | |
| Admin | 100.00 | 0.00 | |
| Other | 0.00 | 0.00 | |
| **Total Expenditure** | **9808.00** | **8764.26** | |
| Surplus/(Deficit) for year | (1282.00) | (47.07) | |

**Balance Sheet**

| Balance at 1st October | 2291.80 | 2338.87 | |
| Surplus/(Deficit) for year | (1282.00) | (47.07) | 5 |
| Balance at 30th September | 1009.80 | 2291.80 | |

Notes:
1. Requesting the same level of funding from RA GB as last year
2. Group funding requests increased by 10%
3. Expenditure on two editions of the Area Walks Programme to maintain the expanded version, with associated printing and postage costs
4. No further training at Area level is planned
5. Once again I have planned a cash deficit to keep Area reserves in line with Ramblers’ policy, the year-end balance representing 11% of annual expenditure, which is about as low as I dare let it go and still be able to meet commitments in early October 2014.
## The Ramblers' Association
### Forth Valley, Fife & Tayside Area

#### Cash Account
### Income and Expenditure
#### Year ended 30th September 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Actual 2012/13</th>
<th>Budget 2012/13</th>
<th>Prev. year 2011/2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Income</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From Cent. Office</td>
<td>8000.00</td>
<td>8000.00</td>
<td>8000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From RA - other</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donations</td>
<td>71.12</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>106.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank Interest</td>
<td>2.07</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>2.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publications</td>
<td>542.00</td>
<td>450.00</td>
<td>367.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Events</td>
<td>102.00</td>
<td>250.00</td>
<td>240.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
<td>8717.19</td>
<td>8701.00</td>
<td>8715.83</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **Expenditure**          |                |                |                      |
| Groups - budgeted        | 4686.00        | 4798.00        | 4227.00              |
| Groups - other           | 66.42          | 120.00         | 130.39               |
| RA -other                | 0.00           | 0.00           | 0.00                 |
| Walks Prog               | 3211.68        | 3300.00        | 2538.16              |
| Walks related            | 0.00           | 0.00           | 0.00                 |
| Leader Training          | 0.00           | 0.00           | 189.00               |
| Publ/Newslett.           | 0.00           | 0.00           | 0.00                 |
| Publications/goods       | 0.00           | 0.00           | 0.00                 |
| Campaigns/casework       | 0.00           | 100.00         | 0.00                 |
| Practical work           | 0.00           | 0.00           | 0.00                 |
| Fundraising costs        | 0.00           | 0.00           | 0.00                 |
| Council meetings         | 629.84         | 1090.00        | 988.60               |
| AGM costs                | 170.32         | 100.00         | 49.12                |
| Admin                    | 0.00           | 0.00           | 60.00                |
| Other                    | 0.00           | 0.00           | 0.00                 |
| **Total Expenditure**    | 8764.26        | 9508.00        | 8182.27              |

**Surplus/(Deficit)**
- (47.07) (807.00) 533.56

**Balance Sheet**
- Balance at 1st October 2012 2338.87 2338.87 1805.31
- Surplus/(Deficit) for year (47.07) (807.00) 533.56
- Balance at 30th September 2013 2291.80 1531.87 2338.87

**Represented by:**
- Bank statement balance 30th Sep 2291.80
- Uncleared transactions 0.00
- Balance at 30th September 2013 2291.80

Having carried out procedures in accordance with the Area and Group Audit guidelines
I consider the Forth Valley, Fife & Tayside Area accounts to have been properly prepared and to give
a true and fair view of the Area's finances for the year to 30th September 2013

Signed: J Young               M Gray
- Examiner
- Treasurer
- Morar
- 20 Woodlands Park
- Blairgowrie, PH10 6UW
- Date: 6th October 2013