

**Minutes of Meeting from
The Scottish Countryside Rangers Association
Annual General Meeting held on 18th April 2008
At Holyrood Park, Edinburgh**

1. Present

23 Full Members of SCRA.

2. Apologies

Nic Bullivant	D Shannon	Lisa Ford	Matt Mitchell
A Wilson	B Russell	A Irvine	J Connolly
J Evans	Paul Johnson	H Boyle	

3. Welcome

Niall thanked everyone for attending the annual training event and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting

- There were no matters arising.
- An auditor has been appointed and Tony explained that the books are currently being audited. Ann McKillop mentioned that if you are a member of CVS then there is an option to get the books audited for free.
- Margaret Fraser Award – This was not awarded in 2007 or 2008. Niall suggested that the Association President could be asked to review SCRAMbles for 2007 and 2008 to November this year, but not for future years. Bob Reid Proposed this motion and Ann McKillop Accepted.
- Admin Assistant - Niall discussed issues relating to the admin post. He welcomed back Caroline Burt as the new admin assistant and apologised for admin difficulties over the last 2 years.

5. Chairs Report

(A more detailed report is to be found on the Members Pages of www.scra-online.co.uk.)

- Niall thanked co-councillors on SCRA Council and reiterated that a large amount of input to the association is voluntary.
- Niall thanked all SCRA members for their continued support and re-iterated that if members have any issues that they would like SCRA to investigate they should discuss them with SCRA Council members.
- Niall also thanked Bridget Dales and SNH, and said that the relationship with SCRA and SNH is much more positive. The profile of SCRA is continually improving with other key organisations.
- Niall mentioned the previous situation relating to SCRA Admin. There had been a few problems over the last two years with the Admin post. Niall introduced Caroline Burt to the meeting. Caroline has agreed to take on the SCRA Admin from 15th January this year and will endeavour to provide an efficient admin service to SCRA Council and SCRA members.
- Ranger Review: The Review will have a major impact on how SNH will relate to Local Authority Ranger Services in the future. Discussions with the Government, COSLA and SNH are ongoing. Niall stressed to all Rangers that their Head of Service needs to tie into the single outcome agreement.
- Single Status: Niall has had contact with various Ranger Services (RS's) throughout Scotland with varied results. Approximately two thirds of the RS's responded to the letter. The key point was that all the Rangers who went through the COSLA scheme have been graded at 0.6 or 0.7 Main Grade Ranger. The paper will be uploaded onto the SCRA website with a summary of

work undertaken on Single Status. SCRA aims to develop a model of Best Practice for Local Authorities (LA'S) / Employers to assist with the employment of Rangers.

- Development Plan: The development plan consists of 9 projects and the £70,000 funding was received from SNH for a period of 3 years. This is part of a larger project of £120,000 with the difference being made up of time and in-kind contributions.

Some of the projects of the development plan include: A new Ranger Induction pack will be created; 10th/11th/12th November Ranger Rendezvous which will see 100 Rangers gathering to share best practice/experiences/ideas; Foundation Ranger Training Course (FRT) to be held later this year (an FRT course was held last year and was very successful).

Niall offered a challenge to all SCRA members to help recruit more new members for 2009. The aim is to increase the membership to 150 or more.

A session of discussion and questions ensued on Ranger issues.

6. Treasurers Report

(Audited accounts will be available at the EGM).

- Mark Palmer congratulated Tony Wilson for taking on the role of SCRA Treasurer and said he felt optimistic that Tony would do a good job.
- Tony indicated that the books are currently with Lyn Hutchisons Associates (Auditors) Cupar.
- Auditing for 2006 had been difficult due to IRF Congress and the Admin situation.

Further discussion on the accounts ensued.

7. Membership Report

Niall discussed the membership and informed the meeting that there had been an increase in membership during 2007/2008.

8. Training Group Report

- The 2008 Programme will be available in the next few weeks.
- The Foundation Ranger Training Event in 2007 was extremely positive and the hope is to run a second course in 2008.
- Accreditation to CPD:- SCRA is currently looking at possibilities with Elmwood College. The training could be accredited by SCRA with an SVQA included. The plan is to run two pilot courses this year with the aim to have the full course running next year.
- The SCRA Training Sub Group still requires a Chairman.

9. LINK Report

(LINK report will be available at the EGM).

10. SCRAMble

- There were only 2 issues of SCRAMble compiled over the last member year.
- Niall asked the meeting if anyone would like to give up some time to assist with SCRAMble? And also requested more articles and any suggestions for articles – contact Caroline Robertson.
- The deadline for the next articles is 4 weeks.

11. Motions

- Membership Changes (to be applied in 2009): A restructure of the membership so that it becomes more attractive to employers eg Team Membership (not for small employers of 2 or less). This would facilitate employers to be more active within SCRA. NONE AGAINST. MOTION CARRIED

- Honorary Positions (4 years terms): Currently Drennan Watson is SCRA President and has reached end of term. It is proposed that this position be offered to Ruth Grant. Drennan has been offered the position of Vice President and has indicated that he is still very keen to support Rangers and fight for SCRA. Ruth Grant stated that she was very honoured and it is fantastic to come full circle. She hopes she will have a lot to offer SCRA and would like to promote the importance of SCRA Rangers in Scotland and how important it is for members to be active members. MOTION CARRIED.
- Honorary Membership: (1) Alison Wilson has carried out the post of SCRA Secretary for 6 years. She was the driving force behind the IRF Congress in Stirling and has always worked tirelessly for the Association. (2) Paul Johnson went into retirement and then became Head of the National Trust for Scotland Ranger Service. ALL AGREED MOTION CARRIED.

12. Changes to SCRA Council

- Alison Wilson has changed jobs and is now retiring from Council but would like to continue to be involved with SCRA.
- Certain Officers to take on specific task areas: (1) Roger Powell will step down from the official position and become ex officio member for LINK (2) Jimmy Connolly will take on an ex officio role for SCRA's perspective for volunteering.

Name	Position	Proposed	Seconded
Duncan McDonald	Highland Representative	Votes were not taken as AGM was non-quorate. Officers will serve in current roles until they can be ratified at the EGM later in 2008.	
Paula Bell	Stirling Representative		
Niall Loble	Chairman		
Tony Wilson	Treasurer		
Jane Evans	Secretary		
Mark Palmer	Ordinary Member		
Bob Reid	Ordinary Member		
Caroline Robertson	Ordinary Member		

There are currently 4 vacant positions including Vice Chairman.

13. Amendments to Constitution

- Amended Logo
- Amended Association Address
- Amended President
- Grammatical correction of Rangers to Rangers'
- Re-write Section 2
- Amend 4.1.4 – Quorate number for AGMs to be reduced from 24 to 20
- Ann McKillop suggested various changes:
Change(1) “with an interest in...” Change To “supporting the Aims of the Association”.
Change(2) Section 2.6.2 – 2.7.3 “time to time” Change To “as deemed by Council Policies”.
- Charity – Changes to membership?

ALL AMENDEMENTS AGREED

14. A.O.C.B.

Ruth Grant asked the meeting to empty all their change into a hat to help fund a Ranger to attend the IRF Congress in Bolivia.

Mark Palmer mentioned a fund-raising event which involves guessing correct times for climbing a series of Scottish hills. Prizes etc. Please see Mark for more info.

Tony Wilson mentioned three IRF events: (1) World Congress May 2009 Bolivia (details on IRF website) (2) 2008 EU IRF Seminar in Hungary 14th to 20th Sept (3) Iceland Exchange – small group to go in August (£200 to £300)

Ann McKillop mentioned that SCRA has given a donation of £500 to Bolivia for the Congress Ranger Association.

End of Meeting: Niall thanked everyone for
Date of next meeting: to be arranged

4
attending.