

**REPORT OF THE AGM OF THE EAST OF
SCOTLAND BRANCH OF ATAXIA UK
LASSWADE HIGH SCHOOL CENTRE,
SATURDAY 5 MAY 2012**



<http://www.ataxia-east-scotland.org.uk>

Present: Pete Dalby (Chair), Liz Dalby, Tom & Doreen Vandeppear, John Reid, John Hunter, Derek Main, Kenny Hunter, Frances Wright, Anne-Marie & Richard Thompson and Penny Gardner

Apologies: Andrea Bothwell

Chair's Welcome

Pete welcomed everyone and explained that, apart from the formal business of the AGM (standing down of committee, election of committee members and approval of accounts) there would be an open agenda as we have no speaker organised.

Election of Committee

Pete recommended that Frances & Penny be re-elected as Treasurer & Secretary respectively. There were no other applicants for these posts, therefore they were duly re-elected.

He then went on to say that he felt the position of Chair was relatively less important, because everything we do is a team effort, and it helps to have a change occasionally. He then asked Anne-Marie if she'd consider taking it over for a year? She has been here many years, lots of fund raising and said at the last meeting that she needs more to keep her occupied. Attending committee meetings might be a problem (she does not drive) but we could use funds to get transport through for her. She could give the role of Chair a fresh look. Pete thinks she'd be brilliant and we all agreed.

Finally, other committee members were asked if they would be willing to continue and Branch members present were asked if anyone else wanted to volunteer. We agreed that the more people involved, the better.

Agreed:

- **Anne-Marie Thomson Chair**
- **Pete Dalby Vice Chair**
- **Frances Wright Treasurer**
- **Penny Gardner Secretary**

Other committee members elected:

- **Liz Dalby**
- **John Reid**
- **Derek Main**
- **Doreen Vandeppear**

Accounts for the year 2011-12

These were presented to the meeting and approved (attached). Frances & Penny got the books balanced in 3 hours in April & sent them off to Ataxia UK. The closing bank statement has also been sent, in accordance with the auditing regulations.

Capital expenditure of £333.32 was on 2 circulation booster machines, which members are trying out and finding very useful. Unfortunately, one of them was lent to a new member who has failed to return it, so it might have to be written off.

Travel expenses of £108 were used in helping people to attend meetings. Donations eg from the collection at Susan McPheat's funeral therefore give real benefit to members.

Some donations / collections are specifically for the benefit of Scottish Ataxians and should be ring fenced in the accounts, so the decision was made to send £500 to Ataxia Central Office for their funds.

Website and Other Communication

It was agreed that Penny would set up a Branch Group on FaceBook. It's best to keep it semi-private - several of us can be administrators and add relevant people, friends and family by request.

Penny shared info on Ataxia UK – how to access & edit our Branch page. Richard agreed to give it a try.

Branch website – Penny's son in law will help once he's finished his HND in a month or two. Also, Penny will probably be retiring in Jan / Feb 2013 so will have more spare time to update the website regularly.

Treasurer's Report since the last meeting

Up to 24 March income includes 4 collecting cans: 2 from Lasswade = £50 and 2 from the Station Bar & the Artisan Bar = £43. £25 has been received in membership subs. Total £118. We have handed in / posted letters to say thanks to donors.

Expenses: £39 paid out to Gala wheels which enabled attendance by John & Kenny at the last meeting, Hazel waived her mileage allowance. A donation was received via Pete - someone in the Fife Job Centre, which supports different charities, raised £93 & Frances wrote thanks on headed notepaper. We asked the name of person who suggested us, it was Rae McInnes (maybe she goes to the West of Scotland meetings?) Frances left her email address in case they want to get in touch again.

Our two regular standing orders of £15 from an anonymous donor & £10 from the Smiths came in April & May = £60 total

£1348.06 was the balance at the bank yesterday. Also today received cash of £64.20 from Anne-Marie. She has taken off postage of £17.28, so total revenue was £81.48 but we will record the income as £64.20.

Do we send anything to HO? £500 was agreed.

Frances's friend has donated a coffee set for fundraising. Do we put it on EBay? Or raffle it? There is a danger with scams. Maybe someone could hold a coffee morning and have an informal raffle.

Meetings and Social Events

What's happening with the new school? – Pete asked at the Lasswade High School Centre office but no one knows.

We agreed to arrange a trip in June to ex Royal Yacht Britannia, which is fully accessible. Suggested date is Saturday 23 June.

Other possible outings: Dynamic Earth, perhaps in July?

Frances is going to try and book with Seagull Trust on Sat 4 August for Falkirk Wheel & cruise. Be there at 1.30, cruise starts at 2pm. Picnic?

Pete is to contact Janice re Strathclyde Country Park and a possible get together with the West of Scotland Branch.

Other matters arising

We expressed our sadness at the passing of Ronnie Browne's wife Pat. Frances has sent a sympathy card to Ronnie on behalf of the Branch.

Frances asked for Tina to add her to mailing list and for Ataxia Central Office to include her in the email list for all financial information.

We agreed to replace the missing circulation booster as it has proved so beneficial for members. Or an alternative might be a TENS machine - John Reid will check availability & cost of TENS machines for the next meeting – and will bring his own one along for people to try.

Next branch meetings

Planning ahead, we tentatively agreed the following:

- Saturday 15 Sept 2012,
- Saturday 24 Nov 2012 & early Xmas meal afterwards

Draft meeting dates for 2013:

- Saturday 19 January
- Saturday 24 March
- Saturday 11 May

ADDRESS FOR MAILING:

East of Scotland Branch of Ataxia UK,
Penny Gardner, Branch Secretary
3 Craigleith Gardens, Edinburgh EH4 3JW

E MAILED REPORTS

If you would prefer an e mail instead of a hard copy, please let us know your e mail address:

Name _____ Telephone No. (optional) _____

E Mail address _____

Please post to the Secretary, Penny Gardner, at 3 Craigleith Gardens, Edinburgh EH4 3JW or e mail penny@ataxia-east-scotland.org.uk

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MEMBERS' VOLUNTARY SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Please send a contribution if you can - £5 per household is suggested,

Please send a cheque, payable to East of Scotland Branch of Ataxia UK to:

Frances Wright, 9 Colinton Mains Terrace, Edinburgh EH13 9AT