

**REPORT OF THE AGM OF THE EAST OF
SCOTLAND BRANCH OF ATAXIA UK
LASSWADE HIGH SCHOOL CENTRE,
SATURDAY 23 MAY 2009**



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

Present: Derek Main (Chairman), Andrea Bothwell & Netsai, Liz & Pete Dalby, Penny Gardner, Chris Hill, John Hunter, John Reid, Tom & Doreen Vandeppear and Frances Wright.

Apologies: Ronnie Browne, George Foulkes MSP, Anne Green, Liz Griffin, Janice Heath, Andy & Faye Hogg, Jim Shepherd, Gavin Strang MP, Richard & Anne-Marie Thomson, Professor Bob Will.

1. Welcome and Minutes of last Meeting

Derek welcomed everyone and each person gave the usual introductions. The report of the January & March 2009 meetings will be sent out later.

2. Chairman's Reports

Nice to see so many people here especially those who have come a long way (eg John Reid from Hawick & John Hunter from Selkirk)

Derek is going again to the Royal College of Surgeons as a guinea pig. He says it's quite nice to go & speak to medical students, if you get asked to do it, he recommends you say yes. Liz has been too. One of our members Prof Will got people involved with this and at Scottish conference last year Derek mentioned it to the Head Office Chairperson who was interested to know about it.

Derek then summarised the meetings of the past year:

At our last AGM in May 2008 Peter Smeaton spoke on the importance of getting plenty of rest.

On 10 August we had a nice trip to Falkirk Wheel, which was organised by young Frances and well attended. It was really good.

At our September meeting there was an interesting demonstration of aromatherapy by Susan McVicker.

At the November meeting we had a talk by Dr Jon Stone from the Western General on the different types of Ataxia, and enjoyed a nice meal afterwards at the Laird & Dog in Lasswade. This was the second year running for our early Christmas meal.

In January we had a Burns supper meeting with a good turnout including Ronnie Browne doing a reading.

The March speaker was from VOCAL - very interesting and informative.

On 4 April five of us had a trip to the Alona Hotel in Strathclyde Park, where we had a very enjoyable meeting with the West of Scotland Branch with a lot of their members, including Harriet Bonney, their new Chairperson.

3. Election of Branch Officers

The Chairman Derek Main, Secretary Penny Gardner and Treasurer Frances Wright were re-elected, unopposed.

4. Treasurer's Report

Doreen Vandeppear presented a cheque for £120 from the Edinburgh Women's Townswomen's guild. Also another one from her neighbour of £35 for Jim's sponsored cycle ride (Frances has some money for Jim too).

The annual accounts for the year ended 31 March 2009 were approved and are appended to this report. Total income was £1,259.83 and expenditure £520.46 therefore there was a surplus for the year of £739.37. The bank balance at the beginning was £2582.91, plus surplus £739.37 less donation to HO £2,500 means £822.28 carried forward.

Frances reported that, since March, the income has been from Anne Marie's knitting, two standing orders of £10 each, collecting cans and donations. Yesterday's cheque for £112 from Mrs Thomson & Doreen's cheque today are yet to be paid in plus there are 2 full collection cans from Lasswade (none of these paid in yet). An increase in members' voluntary subs would be good.

The bank balance was £1,122.08 at the end of April 2009.

5. Social Events and Fundraising

If anyone has other ideas for social events over the summer can they please ring Derek on 0131 477 4371.

Frances suggested we think about social events over the summer - does anyone have any ideas? Suggestions included the Bo'ness & Kinneil Railway, Blair Drummond safari park (we could hire a bus – maybe get a discount?). BBQ? But finding someone to do the cooking may be a problem. Please feedback ideas to Derek. Liz volunteered to find out about Blair Drummond. Motability show in Scotland? SECC?

We plan to have a meal again at the Laird & Dog after the November 2009 meeting. Finally, Anne-Marie is always pleased to receive donations of wool for her soft toys.

6. Any Other Business

Save on your water rates!

Scottish Water – Tom V read the note on disabled discounts on the leaflet which came with the council tax demand – rang the water board and was referred to the council, the person said she'd send the application form. Guy came to inspect it and reduced their CT by a band and asked how long the wet room had been in, they got 3 years money back because of the disabled adaptations to the house. They don't advertise it; people are expected to find out through word of mouth.

8. Dates of Next Meetings

The next Branch meetings will be held on Saturday 12 September and Saturday 14 November 2009 at Lasswade.

YOUR BRANCH COMMITTEE

Chairman: Derek Main		0131 477 4371 derek@ataxia-east-scotland.org.uk
Secretary and Vice-Chair: Penny Gardner		0131 332 5218 penny@ataxia-east-scotland.org.uk
Treasurer: Frances Wright		0131 467 9023 frances@ataxia-east-scotland.org.uk
Committee Member: John Reid		johnreid@ataxia-east-scotland.org.uk
Committee Member: Liz Dalby		liz@ataxia-east-scotland.org.uk
Email committee Member: Susan McPheat		Contact through: susan@ataxia-east-scotland.org.uk

USEFUL WEB LINKS

If there are any suggested additions to this list please let us know

www.ataxia-east-scotland.org.uk: our Branch website
www.ataxia.org.uk the Ataxia UK website, it has many good links.
www.ohbother.co.uk: by an Ataxian and full of very useful information.
www.bbc.co.uk/ouch for an inside view on disability news.
www.evoc.org.uk: for local disability information in Edinburgh.
www.digg.org.uk: Glasgow's online resource for disability information.
www.gig.org.uk Genetic Interest Group
www.matchinghouses.com: re: accessible holiday house swaps.
www.skill.org.uk information & advice for disabled students
www.simr.org.uk/pages/news/index.html seriously ill for medical research
<http://www.vocal.org.uk> VOCAL
<http://www.caninepartners.co.uk> Canine Partners

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, 55 Carrick Knowe Road, Edinburgh EH12 7BN.