



MANCHESTER AND DISTRICT WALKERS (MR50)

COMMITTEE MEETING

15th November 2025, 4pm, Ape and Apple

AGENDA AND REPORTS

Agenda item	Requested by
1. Welcome	ES
2. Apologies	LE
3. Adoption of the Standing Orders and Procedures for the AGM. Propose Second	All
4. Matters arising from and acceptance of Minutes of the AGM held on Saturday 9 th November 2024 Propose Second	LE
5. Presentation and Acceptance of the Annual Report for 2023-2024. Propose Second	LE
6. Presentation and Acceptance of the MAD Walkers Accounts 2023-2024 Propose Second -	NM/Auditor
7. Appointment of 2 Tellers for counting votes.	LE
8. Election of officers. Chair Treasurer Secretary Walks Co-ordinator Weekends Co-ordinator Socials	

Webmaster	
Social Media	
Membership Secretary	
9. Appointment of an Auditor for 2025-2026	
10. Motions for debate	
11. Prize Draws	
Walk Leader	
First Time Walk Leader	
Back Marker	
Weekend Organiser	
Social organiser	
12. Raffle for attendees	
13. Chair's closing remarks	
14. A.O.B	
15. Date of next meeting and 2026 AGM.	

REPORTS

Chair (Ellie)

2024/2025 has flown by and it is strange to think it is November again and time for the AGM. It has been a year, in many ways, of 'business as usual'. Important points for me, as Chair, have been:

- Helping to organise external navigation training for walk leaders at the start of the year
- Helping to contribute to matters in the area committee and Ramblers nationally, such as the update to Ramblers Governance, and sharing the updates to walk leader requirements with my group
- Being the main point of contact for matters in regards to behaviours and code of conduct, and, along with the committee, striving to promote a safe and welcoming environment for all who come along to our walks and events
- Working with others on the committee to organise the Young Ramblers Weekend in

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Manchester on Friday 24th - Sunday 26th Oct. This has been quite a big task for the committee, but everything came to together on the weekend and everyone from Manchester and beyond had a good time whether finding clues round Manchester, discovering a new favourite walk or dancing to techno beats! Special thanks to Chip, Katie, Mike and Natalie for all the effort on and behind the scenes, and to Arthur for handling the website for the weekend.

I have thoroughly enjoyed being Chair this year and supporting the group!

Secretary (Lottie)

Hi Guys, its been a whole year, not much to report from the secretary role, hope you all enjoy the AGM. It has been a pleasure to be on committee this year and thanks to our chair and all committee members for making it such an enjoyable and successful year.

Walks Co Ordinator (Mike & Kim)

It's been another busy year for MAD, with 194 walks by 58 different walk leaders and 58 different backmarkers (as of 7/11/2025). In total, they covered a distance of 2077.1 miles and 90,401 meters of ascent, or 109 Burj Khalifas. Tom Scarborough led the most walks with 21 closely followed by Steven O'Hare with 20. Circular walks were the most common, making up 61%, while 86% were accessible by Public Transport.

11 people led their first walk for the group with Anna also stepping in to take over when another walk leader was unable to continue due to injury.

We have had success appealing for walk leaders on quieter weekends and also introduced an automated email inviting walk leaders to complete a form which tells us the number of walkers, their backmarker, any equipment used and any feedback they may have. This has proved to be popular among walk leaders and incredibly useful as Walks Coordinators to keep track of everything that goes on behind the scenes of our amazing walks.

Alongside our usual programme of walks we introduced the Sunday Stroll this year. This is a monthly easy walk aimed at people who are new to walking and perhaps don't have much experience or suitable clothing for some of our longer walks. This proved to be incredibly successful and well attended both by people joining us for their first walk and longer term members. I hope this is something the group can build on going forward. We have also had a number of socials throughout the year aimed at helping people to develop their navigation skills.

The group also hosted the National Young Ramblers weekend with 7 walks all across the Greater Manchester and High Peak area alongside a collection of Socials. This has been great to have worked towards and something for all involved to be proud of, showcasing our group to Ramblers from across the country.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone who has volunteered to lead or backmark a walk this year, you really are the cornerstone to the group - here's to many great walks ahead!

Membership Secretary (James)

This year we've had an increase in the group's membership from 620 to 657, which is a similar increase to the +35 recorded during 2023-24. We have new people join every week and inevitably some people's lives take different directions and they leave us. Some have

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migrated to Manchester Weekend Walkers or moved to different parts of the country and moved their membership to other groups.

I have usefully sent emails to those who've signed up for walks and indicated that they are not currently members, giving gentle reminders about joining and getting the full benefit of the great walks, socials and weekends we offer.

On a personal note, it's been a pleasure to work with the rest of the Committee this year, and I have collaborated with the Area walks, having led one in March for them and advertised it through MAD.

Treasurer (Natalie)

The annual accounts 24-25 for MAD Walkers are presented below.

Please note the Ramblers financial year runs from the 1st October 2024 to 30th September 2025. As part of the annual return, Jon Flitney completed an independent audit and prepared the attached report which showed no errors.

N.B: Since activity often goes across previous financial years - it is useful to focus on the white column when understanding the accounts.

Outstanding activity: As of the 30th September 2025 there were 4 weekends that were still active and had upcoming activity in terms of payments and expenses.

These weekends were:

- Glencoe Weekend (Sep 2025)
- South West Ireland Weekend (Oct 2025)
- Young Ramblers Weekend (Oct 2025)
- New Years Llanberis Weekend (Dec/Jan 2026)

N.B: Since then we have completed the activity for the 3 weekends that are now in the past - to help with a smooth transition for the new treasurer.

Therefore the key figures to note are:

- As of the 30th September 2025 the bank balance was £11,194.38.
- However removing the payments and expenses that were yet to be completed against the 4 active weekends - the actual management accounting balance is £4,959.43.
- This is a slight increase overall from 23-24 of £296.92.

During this financial year:

- Ramblers provided MAD Walkers £711.92 of funding based on our membership numbers. These funds were used to cover the previous AGM cost, meetup subscription (we share with Weekend Walkers to split the cost) and also some committee meeting rooms.
- From our own self-funds we funded the previous AGM prizes, and also topped up the cost of the walk leader training that was in February. We also have some remaining MAD Walker badges - welcome for members to purchase.
- As usual though, the bulk of our activity was around weekends and socials. This included some weekends that had significant upfront costs - and so we needed to strategically keep a healthy balance in the account to manage this. (Our lowest bank balance was £2,818.98).
- Also happy to report that all weekends and socials this year had careful budget planning - which resulted in no deficits. For those that also had a significant surplus, we arranged partial refunds to attendees.

Looking ahead, since we have continued with a healthy balance, as an outgoing committee we have discussed ideas to use some of the surplus funds for additional training such as first



aid. However, ultimately this will be for the new committee to decide.

Thank you for trusting me with the accounts this year. I have really valued my time as treasurer, and I'm sorry that I can't continue due to conflicting personal circumstances. I will of course do what I can to help the new treasurer to ensure a smooth transition.

Main & Self-funded account transactions 01/10/2024-30/09/2025			Profit/Loss in this Financial Year			Profit/Loss Overall (since 01.10.2018)			Cashflow Totals in this Financial Year	
Event	Ref	Description	Main	Self funded	Total	Main	Self funded	Total	Income	Expense
Opening Balance (01/10/2024)			353.18	10,043.33	10,396.51					
INCURRED										
Weekends	WK23	Riga Weekend		-4,101.89	-4,101.89		56.11	56.11	0.00	-4,101.89
	WK20	Bala Weekend		-51.29	-51.29		242.04	242.04	0.00	-51.29
	WK15	Robin Hoods Bay Weekend		-8.28	-8.28		82.83	82.83	0.00	-8.28
	WK24	Shropshire Weekend		37.21	37.21		37.21	37.21	1,368.00	-1,330.79
	YR25	Young Ramblers Weekend - ACTIVE		1,018.40	1,018.40		1,018.40	1,018.40	1,068.40	-50.00
	WK26	Helvellyn Weekend		0.18	0.18		0.18	0.18	2,160.00	-2,159.82
	WK25	Glencoe Weekend - ACTIVE		2,346.00	2,346.00		2,346.00	2,346.00	7,006.00	-4,660.00
	WK27	Malham DIY Weekend		0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	230.00	-230.00
	WK28	South West Ireland Weekend - ACTIVE		749.55	749.55		749.55	749.55	4,050.00	-3,300.45
	NY25	New Years Llanberis Weekend - ACTIVE		2,121.00	2,121.00		2,121.00	2,121.00	2,750.00	-629.00
Socials	PARTY24	20th Anniversary Party		-715.72	-715.72		20.28	20.28	48.00	-763.72
	SW24	Santa Walk 2024		15.00	15.00		15.00	15.00	474.95	-459.95
	BQ25	Summer BBQ 2025		5.41	5.41		5.41	5.41	684.00	-678.59
Miscellaneous	BADGES24	Badges (2024 Onwards)		41.00	41.00		-156.31	-156.31	45.70	-4.70
	CWU	CWU - Walk Leader Funding		-300.00	-300.00		-50.00	-50.00	0.00	-300.00
	PR24	AGM Prizes 2024		-77.99	-77.99		-77.99	-77.99	0.00	-77.99
Ramblers funds	RACH	Income from Ramblers	711.92		711.92	2,989.72		2,989.72	711.92	0.00
	AGM	AGM 2024 cost	-772.00		-772.00	-2,003.40		-2,003.40	100.00	-872.00
	Meetings	Room Hires	-74.00		-74.00	-133.00		-133.00	0.00	-74.00
	Meetup	Meetup Subs	-146.63		-146.63	-251.63		-251.63	0.00	-146.63
Closing Balance - Overall			72.47	11,121.91	11,194.38				20,696.97	-19,899.10

Audit of MAD Walkers (MR50) Accounts, 1st October 2024 to 30th September 2025

A summary of the audit of MAD Walkers MR50 Accounts for 1st October 2024 to 30th September 2025.

Balance

The opening and closing balances were cross-checked between the bank statements and spreadsheet. The change in balance was cross-checked with the total payments and income.

Payments

There were 67 payments out of the bank account in the 2024-25 financial year, of which ten were randomly selected for audit.

The selected payments varied from in size from £3.15 to £1,082.00. For each transaction selected the Treasurer provided a receipt and / or other evidence as appropriate to the item, which was checked. All evidence was satisfactorily provided and each payment was also compared to the bank statement.

Events

Three events were randomly selected, with the list of transactions for the event checked against the total in the summary, which matched.

Questions

A high balance similar to last year was noted and answered as there were four events with expenditure still to take place, which once complete will reduce the balance significantly.

I consider the Manchester and District Walkers (MR50) accounts to give a fair representation of the Group's financial activities for the year to 30 September 2025.

Jon Flitney
15th October 2025

Social Secretary (Chip)

Since our last AGM, the group has held over 105 socials, hosted by 51 different members, including 9 first-time hosts. In addition to our regular monthly drinks, this year's calendar also introduced a recurring board game social, which has been well received. I'd just like to add my personal thanks for everyone who hosted socials and helped support some of our larger events.

Communications And Social Media (Katie and Ed)

I've shared the Social Media & Comms role with Ed this year, with Ed looking after Meetup and I've looked after the Instagram and Facebook pages. We've essentially operated entirely separately (hence separate reports) but this is something the incoming post-holders could of course review if they wanted a more joined-up approach or to divide the work differently, or even to focus all efforts on particular platforms.

So, aside from Meetup which Ed has successfully resurrected for MAD this year, we've continued with Facebook and Instagram as our social media platforms. Despite Facebook not being first choice amongst MAD's target age group it does still seem to do the job for the members' Facebook group, and on the public Facebook and Instagram pages we get a fair bit of engagement from non-members and other walking groups. But in all honestly, it's been a year of "keeping things ticking along" and maintaining a basic online presence for MAD rather than seeking to improve or review this.



Follower numbers as at 10th November 2025:

- Instagram: 2893 (up from 2443 reported at the 2024 AGM)
- Facebook (public): 5663 (up from 5456 reported at the 2024 AGM)

I've continued the tradition of the weekly walks roundup post on the members' Facebook page and from informal feedback it seems like this is still appreciated by many. Thanks to everyone who has chipped in with helpful replies about things like transport issues and large events when I hadn't been aware of them!

Finally, thanks so much to everyone who shares photos on the members' Facebook page or tags MAD in their stories. There are some of you who are really regular and reliable contributors and it's you lot who've generated the vast majority of the content I've shared on the public pages! It was great to be able to tap into that for help with the National Young Ramblers Weekend (thank you, Scott H!), and that some of you have put yourselves forward to take on the role for the coming year.

Webmaster (Desi and Rob)

We've added the agenda and reports from previous months to the website now. A few inconsistencies were fixed in the walk submission forms (including Risk assessment links and minor copy and format changes). Asking new volunteers for their post code in the social submission form has been removed as not required. Frequently Asked Questions were updated in the email to the walk leaders to include how to deal with incidents on walks.

Rob has made a change and now the sign-up forms for walks with limited numbers of participants are opened automatically on the Monday (between 7 and 8pm) of the week they are scheduled. Let us know if you want that to be changed to 6-7pm instead. There were a few walks already of this type and the automation seems to work. As a result walk coordinator(s) no longer need to open the forms manually.

Weekends Co Ordinator (Miranda)

Weekends in the Year

This year there were four "group-accommodation" weekends and four "DIY" weekends organised by a balance of experienced and new organisers, and between them visiting Scotland, Wales, England and Ireland.

Group Accommodation Weekends form an essential part of the MAD experience, allowing members to spend more time together walking, relaxing and sharing in the domestic chores.

These full weekends have taken place in the year:

- Sarah Kendall and Dan Otto organised a trip to the Shropshire Hills early in the year.
- Lottie Edwards organised her first MAD weekend to a recently reopened hostel on the side of Helvelyn in April.
- Jess Booth made her weekend organising debut by arranging a four night weekend to Glencoe in September giving members the opportunity to spend an extended time in Scotland and climb Ben Nevis by two different routes.
- Stephen Jones and Sarah Kendall headed West to the Republic of Ireland in October.

Between these there were DIY weekends organised by Stephen O'Hare, Charlie Stainton, Jack S and, Stephen Jones and Sarah Kendall.

Thanks to all those who organised weekends including the four new organisers (Lottie Edwards, Jess Booth, Steven O'Hare and Charlie Stainton) and special kudos to Sarah

Kendall who jointly organised three weekends! Well done Sarah and Steve Jones who did



two. As a result of all their efforts 130 members joined group accommodation weekends and 64 members made their way to DIY weekends.

Future Weekends

Because of the timeframes involved in organising weekends, they are often planned some time in advance and next year's calendar is already starting to fill up.

There are two group accommodation weekends already scheduled for the coming committee year: New Year in Snowdonia organised by John and me; and late January at Ennerdale thanks to Anna Caulcott, another first-time organiser. There are also two DIY weekends scheduled in spring (another from Sarah and Stephen!).

There is also a New Year Weekend being planned for 2026-27.

There's still plenty of space in the calendar so if anyone would like to get involved in organising weekends then please do talk to the new Weekends Coordinator who I'm sure will be happy to help you.

Process Improvements

Early in my term I designed a set of standard templates for the google sign-up forms and I have found that this has made the role of weekends coordinator easier to implement and I hope that organisers have also appreciated having a go-to template that works well. I will let my successor decide if these templates should continue to be used going forward.

Unfortunately, it was noted several times this year that there have been a small number of members who have joined weekends away but made no effort to contribute to cooking, cleaning or tidying even their own used breakfast dishes away. I recommend that all organisers remind members upfront that helping out is expected and not optional.