

**Gamblers Anonymous Scotland**  
**Minutes of the National Meeting**  
**25<sup>th</sup> March 2022**  
**Rutherglen**

**Voting Members Present(27)**

Big Monday, Blackburn Monday, Clydebank Monday, Dundee Monday, Garthamlock Monday, Greenock Monday, Parkhead Monday PM, Troon Monday, Whiteinch Monday, Broughty Ferry Tuesday, Coatbridge Tuesday, Dennistoun Tuesday, Edinburgh Tuesday, Rutherglen Tuesday, Blackhill Wednesday, Daisy Street Wednesday, Kirkcaldy Wednesday, Paisley Wednesday, Partick Wednesday, Toryglen Wednesday, Ayr Thursday, Cumbernauld Thursday, Livingston Thursday, Rutherglen Thursday, Shawlands Thursday, Rutherglen Saturday, Kirkcaldy Saturday,

**Non-Voting Members Present(3)**

Blackburn Monday, Rutherglen Tuesday, Rutherglen Thursday.

**Apologies (32)**

Airdrie Monday, Ardrossan Monday, Dunfermline Monday, Parkhead Monday AM, Wee Monday, Dumbarton Tuesday, Govan Tuesday, Garthamlock Tuesday, Hamilton Tuesday, Motherwell Tuesday, Perth Tuesday, Aberdeen Wednesday, Craigend Wednesday, Forfar Wednesday, Kilmarnock Wednesday, Maryhill Wednesday, Parkhead Wednesday, Whitburn Wednesday, , Dundee Thursday, Falkirk Thursday, Maryhill Thursday, Parkhead Thursday, Anderson Friday, Bath St Friday, Coatbridge Friday, Dumfries Friday, Dundee Friday, Irvine Friday, Perth Friday, Dennistoun Saturday, Hamilton Saturday, Kirkcaldy Saturday.

**National Committee Apologies (3)**

Stephen Magazine Editor/Motherwell Tuesday, David PRO/Broughty Ferry Tuesday, Hamish Social Media Coordinator/Perth Friday

## National Treasurers Report

### No Cash Donations

<b>CASH EXPENSES</b>	<b>199.56</b>
Office Expenses	2.76
National Expenses	9.21
National Expenses	9.34
Petty Cash Top Up	
<b>Total Cash Expenses</b>	<b>21.31</b>
Balance C/FWD	<b>178.25</b>

<b>BANK ONLY 25/3/22</b>	<b>Pin/Li/Cards</b>	<b>B/BOOK</b>	<b>BANK</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>MONDAY</b>				
<b>Airdrie</b>				
<b>Ardrossan</b>			136.00	136.00
<b>Big Monday</b>				
<b>Blackburn</b>			400.00	400.00
<b>Carlisle</b>				
<b>Clydebank</b>			60.00	60.00
<b>Cumbernauld</b>				
<b>Dundee</b>	9.00		91.00	100.00
<b>Dunfermline</b>			80.00	80.00
<b>Edinburgh</b>			50.00	50.00
<b>Elgin</b>				
<b>Garthamlock</b>			400.00	400.00
<b>Greenock</b>				
<b>Hurlford</b>				
<b>Musselburgh</b>			10.00	10.00
<b>Parkhead AM</b>				
<b>Parkhead PM</b>			500.00	500.00
<b>Troon</b>			40.00	40.00

<b>Wee Monday</b>			<b>230.00</b>	<b>230.00</b>
<b>Whiteinch</b>				
<b>TUESDAY</b>				
<b>Aberdeen</b>				
<b>Broughty Ferry</b>			<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>
<b>Coatbridge</b>				
<b>Dennistoun</b>			<b>202.40</b>	<b>202.40</b>
<b>Dumbarton</b>				
<b>Edinburgh Oxfangs</b>	<b>5.00</b>		<b>50.00</b>	<b>55.00</b>
<b>Falkirk</b>				
<b>Garthamlock</b>			<b>398.64</b>	<b>398.64</b>
<b>Govan</b>				
<b>Hamilton</b>			<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>
<b>Motherwell</b>			<b>150.00</b>	<b>150.00</b>
<b>Paisley</b>			<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>
<b>Perth</b>			<b>200.00</b>	<b>200.00</b>
<b>Rutherglen</b>			<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>				
<b>Blackhill</b>			<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>
<b>Craigend</b>				
<b>Daisy St</b>				
<b>Forfar</b>				
<b>Inverness</b>				
<b>Kilmarnock</b>			<b>150.00</b>	<b>150.00</b>
<b>Kirkcaldy</b>			<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>
<b>Maryhill</b>				
<b>Paisley</b>				
<b>Parkhead</b>			<b>80.00</b>	<b>80.00</b>
<b>Partick</b>			<b>145.00</b>	<b>145.00</b>

<b>Peterhead</b>				
<b>Toryglen</b>			<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>
<b>West Linton</b>				
<b>Whitburn</b>			<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>
<b>THURSDAY</b>				
<b>Ayr</b>			<b>140.00</b>	<b>140.00</b>
<b>Cumbernauld</b>			<b>150.00</b>	<b>150.00</b>
<b>Dundee</b>			<b>280.00</b>	<b>280.00</b>
<b>East Kilbride</b>				
<b>Edinburgh</b>			<b>42.00</b>	<b>42.00</b>
<b>Erskine</b>				
<b>Falkirk</b>				
<b>Greenock</b>			<b>50.00</b>	<b>50.00</b>
<b>Hamilton</b>				
<b>Kelso</b>				
<b>Kirkintilloch</b>				
<b>Livingston</b>			<b>450.00</b>	<b>450.00</b>
<b>Maryhill</b>				
<b>Parkhead</b>			<b>250.00</b>	<b>250.00</b>
<b>Rutherglen</b>			<b>200.00</b>	<b>200.00</b>
<b>Shawlands</b>			<b>280.00</b>	<b>280.00</b>
<b>FRIDAY</b>				
<b>Anderson</b>			<b>280.00</b>	<b>280.00</b>
<b>Bath St</b>				
<b>Coatbridge</b>				
<b>Dumfries</b>				
<b>Dundee</b>				
<b>Edinburgh</b>				
<b>Irvine</b>			<b>19.52</b>	<b>19.52</b>

<b>Parkhead AM</b>				
<b>Perth</b>			<b>140.00</b>	<b>140.00</b>
<b>SATURDAY</b>				
<b>Aberdeen</b>				
<b>Dennistoun</b>			<b>300.00</b>	<b>300.00</b>
<b>Hamilton</b>				
<b>Kirkcaldy</b>				
<b>Oxgangs</b>				
<b>Partick</b>				
<b>Rutherglen</b>			<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>
<b>View Park</b>			<b>140.00</b>	<b>140.00</b>
<b>SUNDAY</b>				
<b>Edinburgh</b>				
<b>Inverness</b>			<b>50.00</b>	<b>50.00</b>
<b>Rutherglen</b>				
<b>NATIONAL COLLECTION</b>				
<b>Sundry Income</b>				
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>14.00</b>		<b>7044.56</b>	<b>7058.56</b>

## CASH CARD/DIRECT DEBIT & CHEQUES

	B/FWD
<b>CASH CARD (A)</b>	<b>1782.25</b>
Live Chat	1175.79
Currency Fees	35.16
Digital Solutions	170.79
Bruce D Travel Expenses	65.25
Internet Creations	318.00
Kettle and Supplies	85.26
Office Stamps	165.00
Maryhill Wednesday Rent	320.00
123 REG Domain Name	19.19
<b>Total Cash Card Expenses</b>	<b>2354.44</b>
Transfer in	2000.00
<b>Balance C/F</b>	<b>1427.81</b>

<b>DIRECT DEBITS (A)</b>	
British Telecom	399.44
Office Wages	2520.00
British Directories	90.00
BT Direct Debits Helpline A/C	20.82
Cash Plus Card Transfer out	2000.00
<b>CHEQUES (B)</b>	
The Wynd Centre Paisley Wed Rent 11020	60.00
The Wynd Centre Paisley Wed Rent 11021	120.00
<b>TOTAL D/D &amp; CHEQUES</b>	<b>5210.26</b>

**TOTAL BANK £107,138.41**

## Live Chat Report

During this period on the chat the system fielded 235 chats

From the system I've got the following stats

1. 80.37% of the chats were for personal help and 19.63% of the chats were from a friend or family member.
2. Chatters waited 80 seconds to chat, and the average chat time was 14 minutes and 24 seconds.
3. The chat was manned on average 21 hours and 43 minutes a day.
4. During the 1200 hours the chat was manned nobody had to be put in a queue.
5. During this period there was 1 ticket raised on the chat
6. We currently have 45 active live chat agents
6. Chat satisfaction was 90% with 19 chats being rated as good and 2 chats being rated as bad

Live chat and its associated groups have been working well with little issue.

We are working to get every group in Scotland on the meet and greet and the majority of meetings are represented now which is fantastic.

There are a small number we are still currently looking to get on and regular messages are posted on the secretary's page, this has been successful getting more groups on the meet and greet. Moderators have also been contacting meetings directly to encourage someone from their meeting to come on board.

Every couple of months agents not logging in or not fulfilling the minimum requirement of 10 hours per month are either contacted in person or are sent messages of encouragement or support to see if we can help them up their hours and if the hours are still not met then they are removed from the agent list.

They are free to come back at any time when they have more time to commit to the chat.

When this process takes place, messages regarding this are posted on the agents WhatsApp group to keep everyone in the loop.

Thanks to all agents and moderators for giving back some of their precious time that the fellowship has given them.

Tam Joint Live Chat Coordinator/Blackburn Monday

## **Scottish Life Report**

Karen read the Scottish Life report as Stephen was unable to attend. Karen added that if anyone has any ideas for other items to add to the magazine then please let Karen or Stephen know.

Latest issue went live on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2022, through distribution on the Secretary WhatsApp group and uploaded onto the website. Apologies for this being a little late this month, I had some issues which meant it took slightly longer than anticipated.

There were 15 submissions in the latest issue from 12 groups (Blackburn Monday, Dundee Friday, Motherwell Tuesday, Parkhead Monday, Aberdeen Wednesday, Paisley Wednesday, Dennistoun Tuesday, East Kilbride Thursday, Rutherglen Saturday, Erskine Thursday, Garthamlock Monday, Dundee Thursday)

This was a great response and numbers seem to be increasing in terms of the articles I am receiving so it would be great to see this continue moving forward.

Next Issue will be April and the deadline for articles will be 22<sup>nd</sup> April and I will aim to have this out around the 29<sup>th</sup> of April.

Thank you to everyone for the contributions for the latest magazine and please continue to send in those articles. The articles have been a bit slow coming in so far for the next edition so if you have the time your contributions would be welcome.

([scottishlife@gascotland.org](mailto:scottishlife@gascotland.org))

Stephen Magazine Editor/Motherwell Tuesday

## **PRO Report**

Kevin read the PRO report as David was unable to attend.

First things first I would like to congratulate George on taking the National Secretary position until Octobers AGM, this will provide much needed stability for the fellowship, and I know he has the support of everyone!

To the PRO report and it's been a fantastic period over the last 8 weeks with not one but two shares at the Blackwatch 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion in Inverness.

### **The Black Watch, 3rd Battalion 14/02/2022 and 14/03/2022**

The Black watch are concerned over the amount off the young members of the force in financial hardship and mentally struggling over gambling and they were looking for

GA to provide a 40-minute therapy and recovery at the Inverness Barracks along with a Q&A. This was to help provide an insight into the mind and traits of a compulsive gambler and how the support of GA helps people recover. Bruce who is himself ex-military and Maggie from Forfar Wednesday travelled to Inverness to provide two shares which covered around 200 people. Richard the welfare officer described Bruce and Maggie as outstanding providing direct, honest shares about the destructive nature of compulsive gambling and how GA is enabling them to lead a better life gamble free, they both provided all the options if anyone felt they needed support in the future. Richard was straight on the case to capture those who did not manage the first session so on the 14<sup>th</sup> of March Billy and Brian provided a “ power share into the shocking reality of compulsive gambling.”

We have been asked if we would return periodically as new recruits come in and we have of course agreed. I would like to thank everyone that took the time out to share their experience, strength and hope, I know from speaking to the fab four that they took a lot from the experience also.

### **Computer gaming and gambling**

I received an email from a student looking to hear from any compulsive gamblers that have been directly affected by computer gaming gambling, more and more games offer the chance for you to buy mystery boxes or cards to win special items. These offers are triggering the minds of compulsive gamblers and the results are devastating with many kids going to guidance teachers admitting the inability to stop and the damage its caused. I am looking to find members of the fellowship who may have experiences with this form of gambling. If you're interested and want to get involved in providing your story, please get in touch via email to [pro@gascotland.org](mailto:pro@gascotland.org) or contact Karen at the office.

### **GA Sharing Team**

We are still looking for regional volunteers to get involved in current and future projects and be a part of the GA PRO Sharing team. The response has been positive across GA Scotland. The vision is to have as many areas covered so wherever people need the GA message we are there and ready to help. Each month I will share the list of volunteers and the areas they cover on the secretary's page to forward to their respective groups. As always thanks to all that have put themselves forward for service, to those who have shared or are sharing soon and to the amazing support of the PRO team.

David PRO/Broughty Ferry Tuesday

## Helpline Report

172 calls 156 answered first time.

Been a bit busier in the last two months and a great effort from everyone to answer the calls.

As always looking for more people to volunteer and to help those still suffering. Please get in touch with me if you would like to be added to the helpline.

Not much else to report. Everything running smooth which is always a good place to be.

Thanks to all those who continue to volunteer.

Bryan Helpline Coordinator/Rutherglen Tuesday

## PLO Report

Simon spoke as follows before reading his report: **"I am looking for someone to come onboard and shadow me in the PLO role and then take over the role on a permanent basis, due to health problems I will be unable to continue in this role on a long term basis and would be really grateful if you could speak to your group members and advise me of anyone who is interested in taking on this role"**.

Good evening, everyone, the past 2 months has given such a positive outlook to the PLO Team.

With some new practices implemented (thanks again Karen) this will see more information shared and a smoother way of contacting prisoners.

With the new referral system in place at HMP Edinburgh the PLO team are currently supporting 3 new prisoners. An additional 2 new members have joined the team this has really helped, but as there are usually 2 members attending each visit, someone has to undertake 2 visits per week which can be very hard.

To take the referral system forward, we are looking to implement teams throughout the country, this will enable us to arrange prison visits as soon as the referrals come in.

The criteria for the role is to be a pin holder, and be available Monday to Friday between the hours of 9am and 4 pm as this is when visits take place

An Enhanced Disclosure is required to visit the prisons, this is arranged through the fellowship, via email.

If anyone is interested in supporting the PLO team, please either contact me directly or via Karen in the office, please discuss the prospect of supporting the work of the PLO team with your groups.

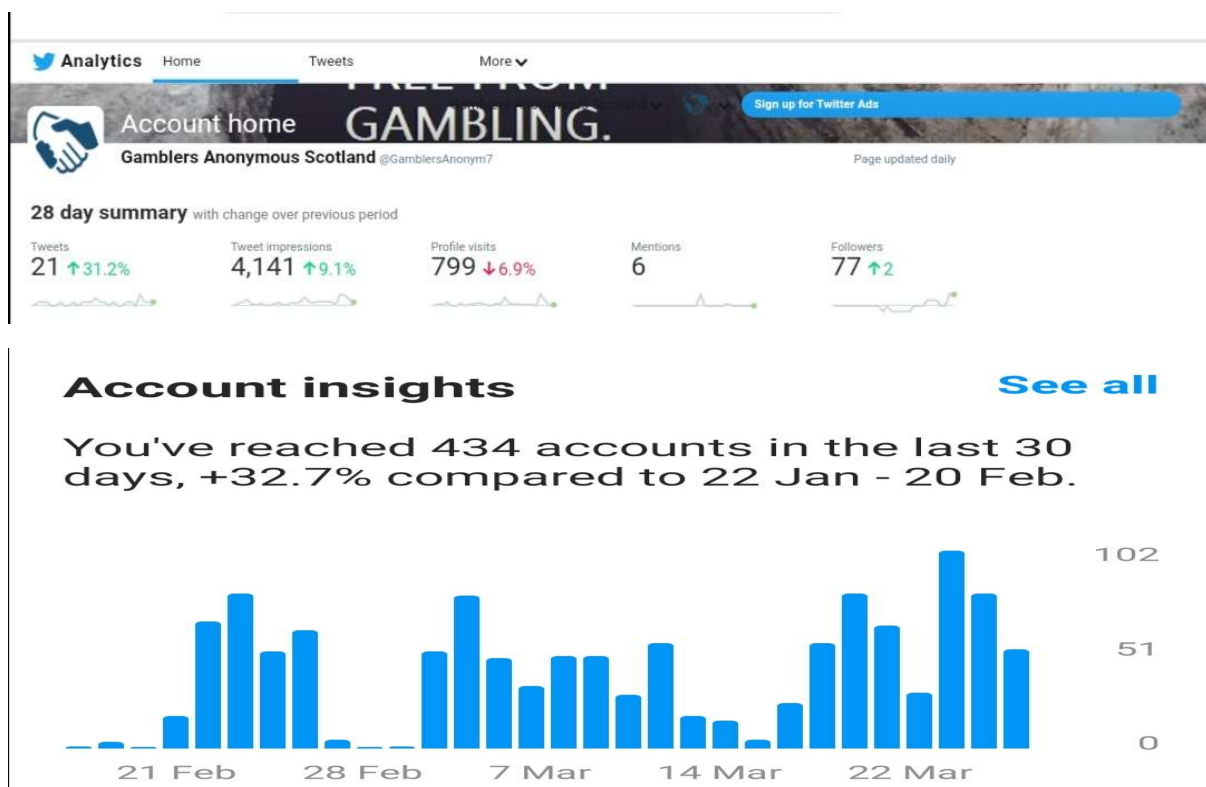
Simon PLO/ Livingston Thursday GA

## Social Media Report

Karen read the Social Media report as Hamish was unable to attend.

The Gamblers Anonymous Scotland social media pages have again been busy since the last National meeting. We have continued to share daily posts from the Just for Today book which have been well received. We have also recently called on the fellowship to contribute to the pages by suggesting common words and phrases heard in GA meetings and found in GA literature and giving their thoughts on what they mean 'in GA'. This will hopefully encourage the still-suffering compulsive gambler to look past what could be intimidating or off-putting language and take that first step. We have again also liaised with Stephen, Scottish Life Editor, who has shared members' stories for us to narrate and share online.

**Analysis Aims** Our focus for the coming weeks and months: Collate a bank of common words and phrases with GA members' perspectives on what they mean 'in GA' Resolve the issue with the Facebook page Make links with the revamped GA website, including uploading links to the audio shares we have Final word Again, if anyone would like to contribute to the social media pages, or get involved as part of the team, please don't hesitate to get in touch. Please also make sure that your meeting has the recently printed social media signage on display.



Lastly, we hope to continue developing the social media pages so that the help and support for the suffering compulsive gambler is more accessible than ever. Thanks again to the Social Media Team and to all the other members giving a little bit back to this incredible fellowship.

Hamish Social Media Coordinator/Perth Friday

## **Office Coordinator Report**

I just want to remind everyone that the Wednesday and Sunday Conference Calls are available for anyone who meets the following criteria: those living in an outlying area with no access to a local meeting, working away from home, housebound or suffering from an illness preventing attendance at a live meeting, in the later stages of pregnancy & or early post-natal stage. I am highlighting the Wednesday meeting as it currently only has two members regularly attending, members who are shielding can also use the service, this may be something that meetings still using hybrid could advise shielding members of as this would increase attendance and also remove the need to continue using hybrid. Please contact Craig at Kirkcaldy Wednesday (Sunday Meeting) or London John, Anderson Friday (Wednesday Meeting) if you have members who could benefit/fit the criteria of the service.

As you all know I have recently undertaken an exercise to collate the number of current members in the Fellowship, as of today this stand at 1022, (only one group did not submit their information) I have attached a copy of the base figures for each meeting.

The new website has still to be launched, Mark M should hopefully have this up and running very soon.

A couple of groups have contacted me recently as their hall providers have requested a copy of their safeguarding policy, this is not something that the fellowship has in place, after looking into this I came to realise that we should have one in place to protect every member of fellowship, I will discuss the policy and the need for this under A.O.C.B a copy of this is also attached.

Please remember to check your meeting information on the website regularly, more so after requesting a change to the information held.

A reminder to send me all pin information by the end of each month for the following month, pins sent in after this will be held to add to the website the week of the pin.

Karen Office Coordinator/Rutherglen Thursday

MONDAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY	
AIRDRIE	12	ABERDEEN	15	BLACKHILL	12	AYR	26	ANDERSON	17	ABERDEEN	17	EDINBURGH	8
ARDROSSAN	24	BROUGHTY FERRY	11	CRAIGEND	11	CUMBERNAULD	13	BATH STREET	13	DENNISTOUN	4	INVERNESS	7
BIG MONDAY	18	COATBRIDGE	13	DAISY STREET	11	DUNDEE	28	COATBRIDGE	3	HAMILTON	10	RUTHERGLEN	6
BLACKBURN	28	DENNISTOUN	25	EDINBURGH	0	EAST KILBRIDE	15	DUMFRIES	14	KIRKCALDY	13		21
CARLISLE	8	DUMBARTON	7	FORFAR	11	EDINBURGH	9	DUNDEE	6	OXGANGS	2		
CLYDEBANK	2	FALKIRK	3	INVERNESS	6	ERSKINE	11	EDINBURGH	18	PARTICK	4		
CUMBERNAULD		GOVAN	5	KILMARNOCK	15	FALKIRK	30	IRVINE	15	RUTHERGLEN	33		
DUNDEE	11	HAMILTON	15	KIRKCALDY	17	GREENOCK	6	PARKHEAD	8	VIEWPARK	7		
DUNFERMLINE	13	MOTHERWELL	15	MARYHILL	6	HAMILTON	12	PERTH	9		90		
EDINBURGH	22	OXGANGS	6	PAISLEY	20	KELSO	14		103				
ELGIN	6	PAISLEY	20	PARKHEAD	14	KIRKINTILLOCH	12						
GARTHAMLOCK	25	GARTHAMLOCK	24	PARTICK	12	LIVINGSTON	22						
GREENOCK	14	PERTH	12	PETERHEAD	6	MARYHILL	7						
HURLFORD		RUTHERGLEN	9	TORYGLEN	12	PARKHEAD	8						
MUSSELBURGH	8		180	WHITBURN	11	RUTHERGLEN	8						
PARKHEAD AM	3				164	SHAWLANDS	19						
PARKHEAD PM	14						240						
TROON	3												
WEE MONDAY	11												
WHITEINCH	2												
	224												

 NO INFO  
 CONF CALL  
 ZOOM

25-3-22 1022 MEMBERS

# GA Scotland Safeguarding Policy

## OVERVIEW

At the heart of safeguarding is creating a safe and welcoming environment where everyone is respected and valued.

Ensuring that GA Scotland is run in a way that actively prevents harm, harassment, bullying, abuse, and neglect. It is also about being ready to respond safely and well if there is a problem, everyone in GA Scotland has a role to play in safeguarding and should be aware of their duties of care to others and hence follow the law and best practice regarding safeguarding, when acting in GA Scotland's name.

## THE BASIC PRINCIPLE

Everyone should recognise that all individuals regardless of race, age, ability, gender, identity, sexual orientation, religion, or belief have the right to protection from all types of harm and abuse.

## WHOM THE GUIDANCE PROTECTS

This policy applies to the safeguarding of all GA Scotland members, as well as those with whom GA members come into contact when acting in GA Scotland's name. This includes those under the age of 18 (minors) and vulnerable adults (who may be members of GA).

## BEST PRACTICE

A copy of the latest version of this policy should be given to every new and existing GA Scotland member. It is vital that all Groups' Secretaries learn about and understand issues regarding safeguarding and protection in the context of GA, that a safe environment may be maintained for GA members, as well as those with whom GA members come into contact when acting in GA's Scotland's name.

## NEW MEMBERS

Meetings with members who are new to GA should be conducted by at least two existing GA members.

## SPONSORS

A Sponsor should:

1. Have at least one-year's abstinence from gambling.
2. Have regard to this guidance and their duty of care towards other GA Scotland members.

## DISCLOSURE SCOTLAND CHECKS FOR MEMBERS ATTENDING PRISON VISITS

Prisons will carry out identification checks and will ask all volunteers to provide an Enhanced Disclosure Certificate. An Enhanced Disclosure Check must be obtained by any GA member engaging in a regulated activity. If any Group's Secretary or GA Scotland member is unsure whether a role requires any sort of criminal record check of any sort, they should consult the following Scottish Government guidance: <https://www.mygov.scot/organisations/disclosure-scotland>. Details about who may require a Disclosure Scotland Check in Scotland can be found here: <https://www.mygov.scot/disclosure-types>

## REPORTING SAFEGUARDING CONCERNS

There are many forms of abuse and many types of abusers as well as many ways that abuse can be inflicted, the generic areas of abuse are: psychological, physical, sexual, financial, and emotional.

If any GA Scotland member believes they are being abused or knows/suspects that another GA member is being abused they should consider taking the following actions, as appropriate:

- Contact a GA Scotland Safeguarding lead as follows: The GA Scotland National Secretary or The GA Scotland Office Coordinator
- Preserve any/all evidence.

- Report their concerns to:
  - Their Group's Secretary and/or any other member.
  - The Local Authority Adult Social Care Team (about a vulnerable adult); and/or
  - The Local Authority Children's Services Team (about a minor).

### **IN AN EMERGENCY**

If there is immediate risk of abuse call 999. If there is any doubt about whether a situation amounts to abuse, GA Scotland members should consult their Local Authority's Designated Safeguarding Lead.

### **SMALLER GROUPS**

Smaller GA Scotland Groups, and those in rural areas, should consider working with other Groups in their Region to pool their resources and to promote and strengthen their safeguarding practices.

### **REVIEW**

This policy is reviewed annually by Gamblers Anonymous Scotland (and whenever a change in legislation occurs).

National collection on the night £52.90

### **Points raised from Reports**

Paul from Clydebank raised the donation of £60 showing against his meeting on the bank sheet, this was not paid in by Clydebank, Charles advised members that when it came through it said Clydebank against it. The donation was lodged in a Clydebank area bank, this was the only reference against it. Karen will send a message to all secretary's to try and find out which group this belongs to. This again shows that there is a need to add a group reference when paying in donations to the fellowship.

Neil from Blackhill Wednesday asked if we had any posters available that could be handed into doctor's surgeries etc, Karen advised him that there is a poster available, this has been used by a couple of members when it has been requested, the social media information is currently being added to the poster and this will then be made available to everyone in the fellowship. Brian Mac, Rutherglen Saturday added that our information could also be added to the LED screens within doctor's surgeries, Simon PLO reminded the meeting that there is a power point available this has been included on screens within HMP Edinburgh and David PRO also has a copy of this.

Bryan the Helpline Coordinator discussed the increase in helpline calls recently and the need for some new agents to support the helpline, members can contact either Bryan or Karen if they are interested in becoming an agent.

Tam Live Chat Coordinator asked if there was any feedback in relation to the Outlying conference call meetings changing over to Zoom Meetings, Karen apologised as she should have brought this up earlier as it was carried over from the last national meeting. Karen informed the meeting that she had contacted both of the members running the Wednesday and Sunday conference calls and they both preferred to stay on conference call due to the following, members attending were happy using the conference call and some members attending had problems with signals depending on where they lived or if they were offshore or in another country, a discussion had taken place with the members attending in relation to moving over to zoom, the consensus was that they were happy using the conference call.

Lorna from Garthamlock Monday spoke on the need to change over to zoom and added that they have two members working away who don't use the service as it is on conference call and not zoom, Karen advised Lorna that if she had members who worked away and were looking for a zoom meeting to bring a proposal to the next National if they wanted to open an outlying area zoom meeting. Karen also added that everyone needed to be aware that the members running the current conference call meetings give up their own time to run them and that the decision to change should be made by members attending the meetings and fitting the criteria. Also raised by Neil at Blackhill Wednesday and Declan at Coatbridge Tuesday was GA Scotland should also be running zoom meetings for members and they should be open to all. George W replied that GA is and has always been a live meeting

fellowship and this has led to where we are at today, if the pandemic hadn't hit then we would not have been using zoom and it's time to get back to normal, George also advised Lorna that we are open to looking at a remote zoom meeting depending on the criteria accompanying the proposal.

### **A.O.C.B**

George W gave his national secretary's report at this point due to being new to the role although he had previously been national secretary for 4 years prior to Mark S. George discussed the stage the fellowship was at when he first took on the role and the progression that has been made over the last 8 years. George will fill the role until the AGM in October, it is hoped that a committee or group member will come forward to take on the role at that point.

Karen discussed the Safeguarding Policy and the need for the Fellowship to have this in place, to ensure that it is run in a way that actively prevents harm, harassment, bullying, abuse and neglect, and responding to this safely when there is a problem. The policy will be given to all current members via the secretary's WhatsApp group, a copy will be added to the new website (once it has launched) and all newcomers packs will have a copy included. George W added that the fellowship needs to have safeguard leads in place who can be contacted when there are concerns, this will be the national secretary and the office coordinator. Karen also advised the meeting that she is looking at a pop-up banner to replace the table cards used at meetings this will remove the need for these and it will all be contained on 1 banner in the room, Karen is just waiting on Hamish adding the social media information to get the banners ordered.

George W discussed the secretary's WhatsApp group and reminded the meeting that this is for meeting and office information only nothing else should not be posted on this group anything else should be done by private message, moderators have been reinstated on this page, they are the national secretary and the office coordinator.

John T discussed the convention in September there are currently over 100 places booked, John added that very few Scottish members have booked places, he asked members to discuss the convention with their members. John also spoke about the money in the GA bank account and after speaking to Karen has realised that it would not be possible for GA to buy their own premises as who would be the named person on this. John brought an idea in that the fellowship could give all of the halls we hold meeting in a one off donation of support, due to the effects of covid and the increase in gas/electricity prices as a thank you from the fellowship, George W added that if any group wished to do this then they could use a future donation to the fellowship, this could be given to the halls rather than sent into the national.

Brian from the Whiteinch meeting gave an update: the meeting has been running for 4 months now, there are currently 2 members who attend each week, and they cover the rent costs between them. Brian added that they would really like to see some visitors coming along.

The meeting ended in the usual manner.

**Next National Meeting: Friday 27<sup>th</sup> of May 7pm.**

**Please Note: Venue still to be decided The Whitburn away Meeting will now be the 30<sup>th</sup> of September 2022**