

National Minutes 25th November 2022
Rutherglen

In Attendance Voting Members(26)

Blackburn Monday, Garthamlock Monday, Parkhead Monday, Whiteinch Monday, Broughty Ferry Tuesday, Dennistoun Tuesday, Edinburgh Tuesday, Hamilton Tuesday, Paisley Tuesday, Rutherglen Tuesday, Blackhill Wednesday, Daisy Street Wednesday, Partick Wednesday, Toryglen Wednesday, Whitburn Wednesday, Ayr Thursday, Cumbernauld Thursday, East Kilbride Thursday, Livingston Thursday, Parkhead Thursday, Rutherglen Thursday, Shawlands Thursday, Irvine Friday, Perth Friday, Dennistoun Saturday, Rutherglen Saturday.

In Attendance Non-Voting Members(5)

Broughty Ferry Tuesday (2), Toryglen Wednesday, Rutherglen Thursday (2).

National Committee Apologies

Tam Joint Live Chat Coordinator, Claire PLO, Stephen Magazine Editor.

Apologies(32)

Airdrie Monday, Ardrossan Monday, Dundee Monday, Dunfermline Monday, Edinburgh Monday, Greenock Monday, Troon Monday, Wee Monday, Coatbridge Tuesday, Dumbarton Tuesday, Motherwell Tuesday, Partick Tuesday, Perth Tuesday, Aberdeen Wednesday, Craigend Wednesday, Kilmarnock Wednesday, Kirkcaldy Wednesday, Maryhill Wednesday, Parkhead Wednesday, Dundee Thursday, Erskine Thursday, Falkirk Thursday, Greenock Thursday, Hamilton Thursday, Kelso Thursday, Anderson Friday, Coatbridge Friday, Dumfries Friday, Dundee Friday, Parkhead Friday, Hamilton Saturday, Viewpark Saturday.

Edinburgh Tuesday Mark A – New Edinburgh Wednesday Meeting Proposal

Karen opened the meeting as David, National Secretary was stuck in traffic, The national reports were moved around to accommodate this.

National Secretary Report

I would like to thank all of you for attending tonight and contributing to the final national meeting of 2022.

I would also like to express my gratitude to all the members within the committee who have worked so hard in their individual roles, volunteering their valuable time to serve the fellowship to the best of their abilities, I'm looking forward to hearing all about the fantastic work that is being carried out throughout GA Scotland.

This is my first report as National Secretary since taking on the position at last month's AGM, first and foremost it is an honour and privilege to serve the fellowship that has giving me everything since day one and although I know the role comes with some challenges, I am happy to be here tonight and will do my very best to carry on the great work done by those who served in the role before me, I have fantastic support in the committee and around the fellowship with a special mention to my own base meeting who give me the strength and courage every day.

The first item I must address is in response to the point raised in regard to Bath Street Friday's meeting being closed on a Friday despite it showing open on the website. (Full details of the concern flagged up are in last month's AGM minutes) Several issues were highlighted on the night in question and the committee immediately reached out for some clarity from the meeting in question. Bath Street Friday's response is at the back of tonight's report.

In regard to the points raised by the meeting on behalf of the committee we would like to formally apologise to Bath Street Friday for naming the meeting in the minutes without doing due diligence and talking to the meeting first. we will learn from this in future and be more mindful of the impact this may have on a group. I would also like to thank the meeting for acknowledging the importance of informing the office in future if the meeting is to be closed for any reason and would take this opportunity to remind all groups that any changes to your meeting should be put to the office coordinator so that the website meeting list is a true reflection of what is happening within GA Scotland and avoid any potential issues arising with members or new members turning up to an empty hall.

We also wanted to reiterate the message previously delivered in regard to the secretaries what's app page. This group supersedes the secretaries email addresses and is for providing and receiving vital information to and from individual groups. We would therefore kindly request if members could refrain from raising issues or engage in debates on the group chat, the correct place for these conversations is in the body of the hall and is why we have these meetings bi-monthly. This will ensure nobody misses key information on the page.

Finally, I would like to thank the fellowship for all the fantastic work that has been done in 2022. Coming out of the pandemic and back face to face in meetings and with the community, carrying the message to help the suffering compulsive gambler through the door and to get a chance of better life away from the shackles of this illness one day at a time. Have Merry Christmas and a happy new year to you and your families.

David National Secretary/Broughty Ferry Tuesday

National Treasurer's Report

Gamblers Anonymous Scotland					
OCT-NOV 22	BANK	Date	25/11/2022		
		PINS/LIT	BL BKS	BANK	TOTAL
MONDAY					
Airdrie					
Ardrossan				125.00	125.00
Big Monday				333.60	333.60
Blackburn				570.00	570.00
Carlisle					
Clydebank					
Cumbernauld				100.00	100.00
Dundee					
Dunfermline				60.00	60.00
Edinburgh				125.00	125.00
Elgin				50.00	50.00
Garthamlock				200.00	200.00
Greenock					
Hurlford					
Musselburgh				30.00	30.00
Parkhead AM					
Parkhead PM					
Troon				100.00	100.00
Wee Monday					
Whiteinch					
TUESDAY					
Broughty Ferry					
Coatbridge				50.00	50.00

Dennistoun					
Dumbarton					
Edinburgh Ox				25.00	25.00
Falkirk					
Garthamlock				120.00	120.00
Govan					
Hamilton					
Motherwell				100.00	100.00
Paisley				150.00	150.00
Partick					
Perth				58.65	58.65
Peterhead					
Rutherglen				200.00	200.00
WEDNESDAY					
Aberdeen				15.00	15.00
Blackhill				100.00	100.00
Craigend				290.00	290.00
Daisy St					
Forfar					
Inverness					
Kilmarnock					
Kirkcaldy					
Maryhill					
Paisley					
Parkhead					
Partick				190.00	190.00
Toryglen					
Whitburn					

THURSDAY					
Ayr					
Cumbernauld				403.00	403.00
Dumfries					
Dundee				300.00	300.00
East Kilbride				100.00	100.00
Edinburgh				49.00	49.00
Erskine				300.00	300.00
Falkirk					
Greenock				150.00	150.00
Hamilton					
Kelso					
Kirkintilloch					
Livingston				75.00	75.00
Maryhill					
Parkhead				200.00	200.00
Rutherglen				200.00	200.00
Shawlands				600.00	600.00
FRIDAY					
Anderson				270.00	270.00
Bath St					
Coatbridge					
Dundee				100.00	100.00
Edinburgh					
Irvine				345.88	345.88
Parkhead AM			20.00	107.07	127.07
Perth				180.68	180.68
SATURDAY					

Aberdeen					
Dennistoun				250.00	250.00
Hamilton					
Kirkcaldy					
Rutherglen				147.61	147.61
View Park				250.00	250.00
SUNDAY					
Edinburgh					
Inverness				60.00	60.00
Rutherglen					
Collection				70.63	70.63
	TOTALS		20.00	7151.12	7171.12

<i>Balance C/FD</i>	<i>193.96</i>
CASH EXPENSES	
Office Expenses	
National Expenses	
Petty Cash Top Up	
Total Cash Expenses	Nil
Balance C/FWD	193.96

<u>CASH CARD/DIRECT DEBIT/CHEQUE EXPENDITURE</u>	
CASH CARD	
Balance B/FWD	1286.02
Postage	0.95
Wiseman	15.34
Digital Solutions	354.04
Office Stamps etc	128.05
Peterhead Rent	68.30
Tesco	62.75
MacAfee Software	99.99
Microsoft	59.99
Total Expenses	789.41
Transfer in from BOS	1450.00
Balance Carried over	1946.61

DIRECT DEBITS (A)	
Office Wages	2520.00
Transfer out to Cash Card	1450.00
CHEQUES (B)	
TOTAL D/D & CHEQUES	3970.00

TOTAL BANK **96,383.85**

Live Chat Coordinator Report

28 September to 22nd November

During this period on the chat the system fielded 175 chats

From the system I've got the following stats

1. 80.12% of the chats were for personal help and 19.88% of the chats were from a friend or family member.
2. Chatters waited 69 seconds to chat, and the average chat time was 13 minutes and 39 seconds.
3. The chat was manned on average 22 hours and 45 minutes a day.
4. During the 1249 hours and 6 minutes the chat was manned nobody had to be put in a queue.
5. During this period there were no tickets raised on the chat.
6. We currently have 47 active live chat agents.
7. Chat satisfaction was 83% with 15 chats being rated as good.
8. We currently have 150 agents on the meet and greet page working hard to get new and returning members along to meetings.
9. We also have 69 agents on the Gam Anon page supporting friends and family to get the help they need.

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

Every month 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.

We have posted messages on the live chat page and the secretaries page to see if we can recruit any further new or returning agents.

All agents that have been removed are free to come back at any time when they have more time to commit to the chat.

I received an email from live chat informing me of a pricing change. They are moving from a pay per seat model to a pay per agent model and this will have a significant impact on our yearly fee.

Currently we pay for 3 seats at an annual cost of £1210, live chat give us a further 4 seats free.

With the new pricing model, we will pay per agent and the annual cost with deductions and discounts will be around £8500 per year for the 47 agents we have helping out.

As you can see, this is a massive hike in charges.

We are contracted to live chat until the 9th of February 2023 so we will continue to use live chat as it is for now.

Everyone is aware of how crucial live chat is and it's vitally important that we keep some form of live chat going.

The web team are confident that an alternative webchat facility will be in place before current contract term with Live Chat expires. The new chat facility will bring additional benefits and cost far less than the current Live Chat product.

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 Editor Report

The next issue of the magazine will be out around the first week of December and the deadline for this issue is 30th November.

I currently have 10 articles however I have been approached by people and groups who have said they will send in articles so hoping to get this number a higher over the coming days. There is still time to get your story in this edition so please send them in if you can.

This will be the first magazine since changing to quarterly editions of the magazine so hopefully each edition will have more articles in them.

Finally, I would like to welcome Blair from Rutherglen Thursday who has agreed to come onboard with the Scottish Life and help me out with things. Looking forward to working alongside him over the coming months.

Thank you to everyone for the contributions for the latest magazine and please continue to send in those articles. You can send any articles to scottishlife@gascotland.org

Stephen Magazine Editor/Motherwell Tuesday

Public Relations Officer Report

Upcoming events

Bertha Park High School Talk

Bertha High School have confirmed that 2 school talks will take place on February with Kirsty from Broughty Ferry Tuesday will be speaking to the students and another member TBC will be going along with Kirsty to contribute to the Q&A session.

Completed events

St Luke's School Talk

David from Toryglen Wednesday attended St Luke's High School to provide a talk on gambling and the effects of Gambling, this was to around 40, 4th year pupils. A further date had been booked for 23/11/2022 but was cancelled due to school closure.

Feedback received from St Luke's was that pupils who attended the event were discussing the share with fellow students with a focus on gambling and the world cup.

School staff were extremely pleased with the session and have indicated they would like to repeat this share again for students who were unable to attend.

Many thanks to David from Toryglen for his service.

Citizens Advice Scotland – Gambling Support Services

I have had a Teams meeting with the gambling support services at Citizens Advice Scotland (CAS), they were looking for information on GA and how this can support an individual affected by gambling.

CAS were provided with details on meeting's and how individuals can access support, the 12 step Programme and how GA is not able to align with other organisations as CAS were keen to have GA Scotland promote their work.

Staff spoke of potential for future information sharing to be provided to wider teams and I informed them this can be done if future dates can be agreed. Staff were very grateful for my time and felt more confident in sharing information on Gamblers Anonymous.

DWP Teams Share

Callum from Blackburn Monday took part in a share/Q&A session with DWP staff and volunteers on 7th October 2022. The aim of this session was to provide some insight to DWP staff around raising awareness of compulsive gambling and the support GA can provide.

Reports from DWP staff stated the share was very useful and insightful and thanked Callum for his time.

I would like to thank David for his service.

Glasgow City Council Neighbourhoods

Kevin Dennistoun Tuesday our Glasgow Area PRO held a talk with Glasgow City Council NRS (Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability team) on 24/25/26 October. NRS is one of the largest services within Glasgow City Council and includes front line services such as waste and recycling, parks, road and lighting, community services.

The event took place over 3 days with around 1500 attendees, there were a range of stalls and information points, GA Scotland had 3 members attend to answer questions about problem gambling and provided issues of Scottish life magazine, leaflets etc.

Claire (Blackhill), Thistle Scott (Irvine) and Harry (Rutherglen) represented GA and spoke on the problem of compulsive gambling providing information and guidance on the support of GA.

Both myself and Kevin the Glasgow Area PRO would like to thank to all members involved for their service.

BBC Radio Scotland

Mari-Clare from Blackburn Monday provided information to BBC Radio Scotland around woman and gambling for a segment for a piece they were running on air. Mari provided information on how GA had supported her and some information on her own experiences accessing support as a woman.

I would like to thank Mari for her service especially as this request from the BBC was on the day the piece was due to air and Mari agreed to share her experience at the last minute.

Mari and Jimmy S (Perth Friday) are the newest members to join the PRO team. Many thanks to them both for their service.

I would like to thank all our volunteers who are giving up their time to give back to the fellowship and share a message to those who may be affected by compulsive gambling.

Bruce National PRO/Broughty Ferry Tuesday

Helpline Coordinator Report

Helpline report September - November 2022

Overall Calls 140 with 125 answered first time giving us 89% answered first time.

Thanks to all volunteers for continuing to support those in need.

I have agreed to continue in my role for the next 12 months and this was confirmed at the AGM and I'm more than happy to continue to give back to the fellowship.

We have had no new volunteers for over 12 months now which means that the same group of around 20 volunteers cover all the calls we receive all year round.

I would ask secretaries to raise this at their next business meeting and ask anyone who would like to get involved to contact me. It is not a busy role but very valuable for the fellowship carry the message from Step 12 and rewarding for those members who participate.

I will organise Christmas cover over the next few weeks to make sure we can have 24 hour cover for the helpline.

No other issues to report at present.

Bryan Helpline Coordinator/ East Kilbride Thursday

Prison Liaison Officer Report

Contact has recently been made with Cornton Vale Prison and an initial meeting will take place very soon, I am awaiting a reply from Shotts Prison to also undertake an initial visit.

I will send another message out on the Secretary's page to request support for prison visits, I would be really grateful if you could forward this onto your group members as we only have one active GA member attending visits' at the moment.

We also have a new prisoner receiving visits in Glenochil Prison.

Claire Prison Liaison Officer/Blackhill Wednesday

Social Media Coordinator Report

The social media pages this past month have had the following engagement:

Facebook - 50 accounts reached

Twitter - 2400 accounts reached

Instagram - 250 accounts reached

Thanks to all members to liked or followed the pages after the links were shared on the secretaries WhatsApp page.

Information about the pages has been posted in the upcoming Scottish Life. Thanks to Steven for his continued support.

Following the AGM, the relevant post holders (Bruce - PRO and Blair - Assistant Scottish Life Editor) have been added to the Social Media WhatsApp group.

We are looking for posts for the social media pages linked to people's experiences in and out of recovery at Christmas time. Please share this with your group. As per usual, posts should be no longer than 50ish words and should be forwarded to a member of the social media team.

Thanks for your continued support.

Hamish Social Media Coordinator/Perth Friday

Web Team Report

As outlined to the AGM in October, our transition away from Internet Creation Ltd. as our data server host has now commenced. The establishment of the GA Scotland website with Inventive Hosting as our new web host will be completed in January. This move brings many advantages as well as considerable cost savings.

In parallel, we will also be moving away from Live Chat as our webchat provider and replacing the current facility with an improved chat platform. The new solution will provide all the functionality of Live Chat together with some extended features and greater data security for chat users.

These two key changes mean that by the end of January 2023, we will have the strongest foundation in place to progress the website without technical or contractual constraints. We look towards constantly improving the range of content offered and allowing integration with our social media platforms.

In addition to these technical advantages, these two key changes will also result in cost savings to GA Scotland in excess of £2000 per year compared with what we are currently paying.

I look forward to confirming completion of this transition at the next National Meeting at the end of January 2023.

In the meantime, I'd like to thank everyone who has supported the progression of the web site in 2022 and I wish you all a happy and gamble-free festive period.

Mark M Web Team/Kirkcaldy Saturday

Office Coordinator Report

A very quiet report from me this month.

Just a reminder to let me know of any changes or closures to meetings during the festive period. If you are on as normal there is no need to let me know.

Please also remember to check your meeting information on the website regularly and advise me of any changes needed right away.

Any groups requiring 90-day coins they are available from the office and easy to send out just let me know if you need any.

A number of groups have still to collect Unity and Recovery plus the Protocol Banners please contact myself to arrange to come and pick them up from the office.

I just want to wish everyone a very merry festive season and thank you all for your continued support it is very much appreciated.

Karen Office Coordinator/Rutherglen Thursday

Bath Street GA Group's Response to false accusations in the National AGM minutes

This response comes from all Bath Street members and is not an individual reply from anyone.

A copy of the minutes from the AGM was posted in the Bath Street group's WhatsApp chat - only at that point were we made aware of an accusation that two visiting members had turned up at our meeting place and were turned away by a Bath Street member **It should be noted that this is 100% untrue !**

But if these two supposed visitors would care to step forward I'm sure we could clear up any accusations made. We suspect this will not happen quite simply because it did not occur. The saddest thing for us is that someone thought it prudent and right to put such malicious gossip into the national minutes. Approaching our group for clarification would have been far less damaging. Quite clearly we believe we are due an apology in the next national committee meeting minutes for the printing of this spurious and untrue accusation. We are hoping that the new national committee will do the right and honest thing.

Other questions and accusations of our group were raised in print within those minutes - again these could have been investigated before printing anything that could be seen as an attempt to sully the good name of our group. **Someone** must be responsible for these actions and as a fellowship we should be identifying such errors of judgement and not allowing these things to happen in future to any GA group.

The issue mentioned in the minutes regarding where our collection goes could have been asked of us and we would have answered honestly and promptly. Our rent is £230 per month which we have meet with our weekly collection and while we suspect this rent is most probably the highest of all groups within the fellowship we never impose any financial burden upon the fellowship by ever requesting any help to meet our responsibilities to pay our rent. We also have other costs which must be met from our weekly collection such as tea, coffee and other sundries. Again we never require any assistance to meet any costs incurred by our group in any way. No visitor is ever obliged to contribute to our collection in any way whatsoever, most do but have never questioned where our collection money goes. If they did we would gladly explain as we have in this letter of reply.

Suspicion would lead any good thinking person to see that the questioning posed within the minutes could possibly be maliciously motivated in order to make our group look bad. Again this is just a sad indictment of whoever decided to put such nonsense into the national minutes - it was nothing more than gossip.

It was also mentioned that we 'do not attend meetings' ... whilst that comment is unclear as to what is meant by 'meetings' it should be pointed out that several of our members do indeed attend other GA groups regularly. If by 'meetings' they mean the bi monthly national meetings - then the simple answer to that is that none of our members have a desire to miss their base meeting in order to attend a national meeting which is only ever held on a Friday. If the national meeting day was rotated then I'm sure we could be represented.

Having spoken to Karen (office co-ordinator) regarding what was printed in the minutes she did say that we should have let her know that our group was going to be closed to visitors on the night in question. We accept that this should maybe have been done as a matter of courtesy and if we find a need to close in future we shall notify the office.

In defence of our actions, our need to hold such a lengthy business meeting was necessary considering the facts of what needed to be discussed. It was, in fact, unavoidable and very pertinent to continuation of our group and fortunately the business meeting we held guaranteed our continued existence as the longest running group within the GA fellowship (although if there is a longer running GA group in Scotland we shall gladly stand corrected). We feel the most important thing is to keep our group open in order to be there for current, returning and new members.

There was also comment regarding our group not contributing to national GA funds which, whilst not doing so recently, we have indeed given what we could in the past when this could be afforded. In these times of financial hardship surely just managing to keep our group open should be praised rather than criticised unnecessarily at any opportunity.

Hopefully this response to what was posted in the national minutes will suffice and answer anything which was openly raised in print to general membership possibly causing bad feeling toward our group based upon completely false and unfounded allegations.

Hopefully the **new** committee will see fit to include a copy of our letter within the next national minutes as a matter of common decency and to allow others to understand how hard we work to keep the Bath Street GA group open and providing help to those who still struggle.

Yours in Fellowship,
All at Bath Street GA Group.

Robert

A.O.C.B

The collection on the night was £59.61.

Edinburgh Oxfangs Tuesday

A members raised an issue with the committee after attending the above meeting, a staff member from Gamcare was invited along to the meeting to share on a family member, this was arranged prior to David the new secretary taking on the role and the group were totally unaware the person was from Gamcare they were advised it was a Gam-Anon member, David (national secretary) contacted David (secretary at Oxfangs) and advised him that GA do not align with any other organisations and this should never have happened, also that if this happens again the group will be removed from the GA website, David (group secretary) forwarded a group statement on the issue for Charles to read out at the meeting as follows:

Oxgangs GA Tuesday Edinburgh

On the 10/11/22 the meeting was attended by 2 visitors, a share had been arranged by a member of another group, we were advised that they were from Gam-Anon, it came to light during the share that they were not from Gam-Anon, they were paid staff members from Gamcare and one of them was there to talk on her brother who had taken his own life from gambling and alcohol addiction.

This was totally out with the guidelines of Gamblers Anonymous Scotland.

We then held a business meeting on the 17/11/2022 where the situation was discussed and it was made clear that Oxgangs Tuesday will not have Non-Compulsive Gambler in the room sharing or being part of the meeting, the only time a Non-Compulsive Gamblers will be in the room is if they are there to support a new member or they have been invited for a pin. This will be done by prior permission from the group and will also be added to the GA website prior to the meeting so everyone is informed.

Oxgangs Tuesday

John T, Parkhead Monday asked why no one at the meeting challenged the speaker on the night, David National Secretary was also very concerned that Gamcare may feel that they now have an inroad to Gamblers Anonymous which will never be the case, and this should never have been arranged by any Gamblers Anonymous member in any of our rooms.

Mark A - Edinburgh Friday

Mark came with a proposal to open a Wednesday afternoon meeting in Wester Hailes, Edinburgh, the meeting will be from 12.30-2pm in Wester Hailes Healthy Living Centre, a meeting ran in there prior to closing down due to covid and they have now been given the go ahead to return. David, National Secretary spoke to Mark on issues that have arisen with both Tuesday and Friday Edinburgh meetings in relation to attendance by non-compulsive gamblers, our rooms are for compulsive gamblers, no other addictions should be discussed in a GA room and if this happens again in any of the Edinburgh GA meeting rooms they will be removed from the website. There were no objections on the night and the meeting will open on Wednesday 30th of November, proposed by Brian Whiteinch Monday, seconded by Matty Dennistoun Saturday.

David & Ryan Toryglen Wednesday

Amendments made 30th November 2022 as requested by Toryglen Wednesday & written statements from the National Meeting 25th November added after 2023 calendar

David advised the room that they are looking to change their meeting from a Wednesday to a Thursday evening, moving from Toryglen to Oatlands Ryan read out a written statement on behalf of the group with reasons for the move (see attached) The request was made for them to bring this to the National as this is as near to opening a new meeting as it can get, (as discussed and taking forward from the AGM).

Karen from Shawlands Thursday read out a written statement on behalf of the group objecting to the meeting change (see attached). Blair from Rutherglen Thursday objected on behalf of the group, adding there was no need for another meeting moving so close as the proximity of the venue to Rutherglen Thursday is only 1.6 miles away a 6 minute drive and not much further to the Shawlands meeting. Martin from Cumbernauld Thursday agreed with the objections given by both meetings. Further discussions took place David, National Secretary requested a show of hands to take forward the move, the majority of the room agreed, and the meeting will open on Thursday 1st December from 7-9pm in Oatlands Community Hub the last night in the Toryglen venue will be Wednesday 30th November.

Brian Whiteinch Monday

Brian spoke on the 12 Step Recover Meeting in Whiteinch this is the only GA meeting open to friends and family, currently Brian is the only member are sometimes there are up to seven visitors, to date no friends or family have attended, Brian invited members in the room to attend. David advised Brian to go onto the meet and greet as he could pick up new members for the meeting.

Bath Street Letter

John from Parkhead Thursday and Mick the Hat raised the letter sent in from Bath Street and were unhappy with some of the content, David advised them that the only concern the committee had was that they did not advise the office of their closure on the Friday night and this has been addressed with the group, the other issue relating to information passed on that members were turned away from the meeting due to the closure, David made the request 4 weeks ago for the members to contact him, to date no one has, adding that each group is autonomous and GA are unable to regulate groups, we can only regulate the website to ensure that any new or returning members can get along to meetings.

The meeting closed in the usual manner with thanks to David in the chair.

Meeting dates and venues for 2023; require hosts for the May & September 2023 meetings. room hire, and refreshments costs will be covered, please contact the office if you would like to host.

Calendar of Meetings 2023 all 7pm

Date of Meeting	Meeting Type	Venue
Friday 27 th January	National	Ayr, Castlehill Parish Church, 1 Old Hillfoot Road, KA7 3LW
Friday 31 st March	National	Rutherglen
Friday 26 th May	National	Host Venue TBC
Friday 28 th July	National	Rutherglen
Friday 29 th September	National	Host Venue TBC
Friday 27 th October	AGM	Rutherglen
Friday 24 th November	National	Rutherglen

Toryglen Wednesday Statement

Toryglen Wednesday have requested that this statement is added and is read and not ignored.

David advised the room they are looking to move there night and venue of the meeting as stated in the attached letter on behalf of the group. The Request was made for them to bring this to the national as the national secretary and committee have decided this was discussed at the Agm in regards to going forward in the fellowship

1. At the AGM on October 28th, it was brought up that there is now too many Wednesday groups in the fellowship. This was brought to our attention by David our national Rep which we discussed in a business meeting. Within the business meeting it was brought up about the possibility of changing the night of the meeting as trying to react to the points brought up at the AGM. We also noticed that many of our members are now struggling to make a Wednesday due to work, personal and family commitments.

2. The group voted unanimously to change night and the best night that suited our members was a Thursday night.

3. Our Group Secretary Bernie contacted David (National Secretary) on the 4th of November to inform him of our proposal. David mentioned it made sense as there is so many Wednesday groups but had to get back to us after he had spoken to the committee which was understandable.

4. On the 10th of November Bernie Received a message asking if we could provide a detailed response as to why our group came to this Decision, which we did.

5. This message also stated & we quote word for word in reference to moving to a Tuesday night instead. " Logistically it does seem quite close to Shawlands & Rutherglen Thursday so may or not affect two meetings in that area. The only southside meeting that close to you at the moment for Wednesday is Daisy Street yeah? A Tuesday would only conflict with Rutherglen Tuesday.

6. Our Response to this would be as follows :- We as a group are more than happy to move location to be further from Rutherglen Thursday but still need to keep local to Toryglen as our members want to stay in the Southside.

7. Shawlands Thursday is 11 minutes' drive from our new venue while there are many meetings on the same nights close.

1- Parkhead Monday – Garthamlock Monday 12 min Drive

2- Bath Street – Anderson Friday 5 min drive.

3- Blackhill Wednesday – Craigend Wednesday 5 min drive.

4- Toryglen Wednesday – Daisy Street Wednesday 6 min drive.

These examples show that there are various meetings close to each other's on the same night.

- Our group understand the national committee seem happy for us to change to a Tuesday and not a Thursday? Where Rutherglen Tuesday is closer from our new venue than Rutherglen Thursday is and Dennistoun Tuesday is only 9 minutes from our new venue?
- On a Thursday there is only 3 meetings in Glasgow City one of them and one of them is Ravel Row afternoon meeting and the other 2 are Shawlands and Maryhill Thursday.
- South Lanarkshire currently has 3 meetings on a Thursday
 - 1- Rutherglen
 - 2- East Kilbride
 - 3- Hamilton

- Our group also got asked on the 10th of November and again we quote “ The main question that’s been asked is do you have any reason not to continue as you are? Are there member, Venue issues preventing you staying as a Wednesday Group.
- We Feel as a group this was unfair and angered many of our members as we are self-governing and what we discuss at a business meetings is for us however again we gave a detailed response.
- We then get told on the 12th of November 8 days after our 1st contact; we have to go to the national meeting to propose that we want to change night.
- Finally, as a group we see no issues with this proposal as stated our group has been running since April 2021, we have 14 members which 3 of have found Toryglen and remained gambling free for a year a day at a time. As a group we are close and if we are not granted this there is dangers, we lose some members to GA as some members may not feel comfortable attending another meeting.
- We also feel as a group we are involved in the fellowship we are well represented at every national meeting also for a group our size our collections over the last year have been good as per the financial report discussed in the AGM. We travel well and our group are involved with the PRO side and being involved with the school talks and have a few members on the meet and greet chat.

• On the 14th of November the following message was put out on the secretary’s page

- “Please discuss the following proposed meeting change with your group prior to the National next Friday 25th, the group will bring the proposal to the National, any questions or queries regarding this contact David National Secretary or myself directly, please don't post on this page, Toryglen Wednesday are looking to change day and location of meeting, the proposed change is to a Thursday night 7 to 9pm venue Oatland Community Hub G5 OLS. Karen”

This was taken onboard via a proposal from Blair at Rutherglen Thursday, any new group looking to open should return their new group application to the office at least 2 weeks prior to the National Meeting this will enable Karen to send the information on the proposal out to all secretaries to discuss with their groups and any feedback from groups can be raised at the National Meeting this also states that proposal would be for a new group. In the ga guidance code there is no mention of proposals being discussed with ga groups prior to the national. Now we are not a new group we are a group of 14 members who are changing night and venue this has been

done before which we will get to. Also, in our conversation with David national sec he confirmed we are not a new group our proposal is only to change night and venue. Any proposals at the Agm need to be in 60 days before to be passed. We feel as a group that this was pretty unfair as over the last 2 weeks many groups have been discussing our group and proposal at their meetings. Our group travel very well and have recently felt uncomfortable at various meetings as many members of ga are asking them what is going on and why has this been put on the secretary's meeting. A day is a long time in the life of a compulsive gambler never mind 2 weeks. We have had members sitting at meetings where the chairmen or Chairwoman are saying there is a business Meeting at halftime, and we know it's in relation to our group. It has went as far as some of our members who do there ga very well have refused to attend any meetings out with their own this week in order to refrain from this politics. Now as stated we feel that the rules seem to be different depending on what group you are? To our knowledge proposals are brought to a national on the night its held. We also have it on very good authority that The Motherwell Friday group changed venue and night to Motherwell Tuesday and the secretary of this group contacted Karen at the office and it wasn't a problem. We feel this then brings in double standards? Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of the ga Program ever reminding us to place PRINCIPLES BEFORE PERSONALTIES. it seems to us that it is personalities before principles at times as we have followed every protocol in regards to our proposal and always stick to the Guidance code of Gambles anonymous.

- UNITY PROGRAMME STEP 5 :- GAMBLERS ANONMOUYS HAS BUT ONE PRIMARY PURPOSE TO CARRY IT'S MESSAGE TO THE COMPULSIVE GAMBLER WHO STILL SUFFERS.

Shawlands Thursday Statement

SHAWLANDS BUSINESS MEETING-17 NOVEMBER 2022 6.45 PM - 11 Members Present

David National Secretary has advised that the national committee agreed for transparency, all groups to be aware of the following two proposals prior to the next national meeting.

Shawlands group would like to thank the national committee for making us aware of the two following two proposals, allowing us as a group to consider each proposal prior to the next national committee meeting.

In the G.A.- Guidance Code for G.A. Scotland Members.

GA Unity Programme-Step 4 Each group should be self-governing except in matters affecting other groups or Gamblers Anonymous as a whole.

Using this guidance, the group considered both proposals at our monthly business meeting and agreed the following responses.

Proposal 1.

Please discuss the following proposed meeting change with your group prior to the National next Friday 25th, the group will bring the proposal to the National, any questions or queries regarding this contact David National Secretary or myself directly, please don't post on this page, Toryglen Wednesday are looking to change day and location of meeting, the proposed change is to a Thursday night 7 to 9pm venue Oatland Community Hub G5 OLS. Karen

As this is a group changing the date, time, and location, it is technically a new group application and should be considered as such. Our group are concerned that if approved it would affect our group negatively due to the close proximity to our group on the same night.

When the Toryglen Wednesday group was initially approved the reason given was that a Wednesday night was more suitable for those joining the new group, to help with their GA life and family life balance. A number of Shawlands members left to join this group, leaving us with only a handful of experienced pin holders, fortunately the fellowship supported us and have continued to support us by visiting the group, which we greatly appreciate.

We accept that members circumstances can change but find it is surprising that after such a short period of time, the Toryglen Wednesday group now want to change back to a Thursday. Surely if a Wednesday is no longer suitable for some of their members they could individually move to another more suitable meeting.

We are also aware of other Thursday night groups in the Glasgow area, low on membership numbers who also depend on visitors attending and they may raise similar concerns with this proposal.

Shawlands Group Decision

The Shawlands Group therefore have agreed they could not support this proposal for the above reasons.

Proposal 2.

Another proposal for discussion with your groups prior to the National New Meeting Edinburgh Wester Hailes Wednesday looking to open 30th November 12.30 to 2pm Wester Hailes Healthy Living Centre EH14 3JF any questions or queries please contact David or myself directly

Shawlands Group Decision

As this is a group a new group application and the day, time and date does not seem to affect any other groups in the locality, the Shawlands Group would support this proposal on this understanding, that it has sufficient members committed to attend.