



**West
London**

AGM TREASURERS REPORT 2024-25

Introduction

A short summary of the last three Financial Years is given in the Table 1 below: -

Table 1
Summary of Accounts for 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2022-23

	Financial Year		
	2024-25	2023-24	2022-23
Opening balance	£1475.17	£1,026.27	£1,445.78
Receipts			
From Area	£449.67	£558.59	£583.84
Self-Funded Holidays			
RW Travel ¹	£170.00	£270.00	£80.00
Day Walks	£0.00	£359.52	£186.90
Holidays	£31,210.00	£10,360.00	£14,300.04
Total Receipts	£31,829.67	£11,548.11	£15,150.78
Payments			
Newsletters/Publicity	£75.00	£81.30	£167.90
Expenses		£99.99	£151.16
AGM / Meeting Costs	£95.50		£26.00
Walks Related	£577.57	£118.71	£108.33
Walk Leader Training	£250.00	£87.50	£630.00
Walk Programmes	£95.75		
Publications/Goods	£25.98		
Self-Funded Holidays			
Day Walks		£359.46	£186.90
Holidays	£30,087.16	£10,352.25	£14,300.00
Total Payments	£31,206.96	£11,099.21	£15,570.29
Surplus/Deficit	£480.16	£448.90	£419.51
Closing balance	£2,097.88	£1,475.17	£1,026.27

¹ This is a payment we receive from Rambler WorldWide Holidays if a member books a holiday with them.

There are a few important points to note from this table.

- Our ordinary “running” expenses were £1,119.80. This included Walk Leader Training and First Aid course.
- Our main receipts – from Ramblers HQ was £449.67. We had three quarterly payments, but declined the fourth. This was part of our strategy to reduce our balances.
- However our accounts are dominated by our Self-Funded Holidays. These include collecting monies for the holidays we organised to Selworthy, Aberystwyth and next years planned trip to Bavaria.
- We also received £170 from Ramblers World Wide Holidays which also goes into our Self-Funded Holiday “Pot”.
- This meant Self Funded receipts totalled £30,087.16 in the financial year.
- We are holding £700 in our bank account for deposits for our proposed Bavaria holiday planned for next May.
- Even taking this into account we do have a surplus on our Self-Funded Holiday Pot of £592.84. This included the Ramblers World Wide Holidays payments. We have much more discretion on what we spend any surplus from this Pot under Ramblers Treasury Guidance.

The accounts for 2024-25 were submitted to our Area Treasurer in November and duly accepted. They are now being reviewed by our Independent Examiner Paul Ryan.

I would like to thank Paul for volunteering to carrying out this important role.

Income Expenditure and Reserves

As can be seen from Table 1, our routine levels of expenditure remain low. Since 2020 we have reduced our costs significantly by reducing the amount of printed walks programmes we produce, using electronic communications where we can and by moving to on line meetings.

This meant that our level of reserves had increased as lower expenditure level meant we had a higher percentage level of surplus. Head office policy is that these should be below 100% of annual expenditure. Last year our reserves position was 288% - i.e. much higher than the policy. This is a significant percentage rise compared to previous year (87%) but in reality, the actual sums are very low and we do want some real contingency. We did though institute a plan to spend more this year to reduce our reserve levels – and turned down one Quarter Income from Ramblers HQ.

Our Reserves now stand at 39.9% – i.e. well within Ramblers guidance.

Ramblers Worldwide Holidays

If a local member of West London Ramblers books a holiday with Ramblers Worldwide holiday, we receive a small payment from them.

Such funds are treated as being discretionary (they are known as Self-Funding Holidays in Ramblers parlance.) We can use such funds more or less as we wish - provided the local membership is satisfied. The total sums are small, but we have been using some of the monies to try to reward those supporting our activities. So for example we have used for buying drinks for a Walk Leaders get together as an expression of thanks for all their efforts. We look for your support in doing this.

Self-Funded Holidays

The major feature of our accounts is the increase in Self-Funded Holidays. This is where we use our Ramblers Bank account to take payments from members for holidays we organise. This year we organised a holiday Selworthy and Aberystwyth. We plan another trip to Bavaria, and looking to develop a programme of other such holidays.

To confuse things, such funds are also treated as being Self-Funding Holidays in Ramblers parlance. This makes understanding our accounts more complicated. However we ring fence any payment for our own self organised holidays.

That said any profit or loss is combined with the monies from the Ramblers World Wide Holidays and are used with the discretion mentioned above.

Conclusions

There is little change to our overall financial position, which based on current expenditure levels is sound. We actually made a slight loss this year, but this was in line with our strategy to reduce our balances.

We are running many more financial transactions through our account with using it to collect and pay for Self-Funded Holidays. This affords us the opportunity to collect and pay much more easily, but we just need to be vigilant to ensure all proper controls are in place.

As ever we want to maximise use of Ramblers HQ income to help improve the service we offer to our Group members. Suggestions for things we can do to improve things for members is welcome. But we also want to balance this with not claiming monies unnecessarily and denying others any need for funding, and keeping our balances within guidance levels.

Assuming expenditure remains the same and no unforeseen issues our position is healthy. We should periodically check the need for Quarterly payments from HQ on an as needed basis.

Members are invited to comment on this report.

Innes Garden
Treasurer
West London Ramblers