



TAY RINGING GROUP ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2026

Location: The Inchtute Hotel, Main Street, Inchtute, Perth

Date: Sunday 22nd March 2026

Time: 14:00

AGENDA DETAILS

I. INTRODUCTIONS

- a. Attendance
- b. Apologies
- c. Minutes from the 2025 AGM

II. REPORTS

- a. Annual Totals
- b. Secretary's Report
- c. Treasurer's Report

III. BUSINESS

- a. Approval of accounts
- b. Amendments to the Constitution
- c. Setting of subscription amounts 2026-2027
- d. Nomination of Auditor
- e. Election of committee members

IV. CONCLUSION

- a. Any other competent business

TAY RINGING GROUP – BUIDHEANN EÒIN-FHÀINNEACHAIDH NA TATHA
Promoting Conservation Through Ringing
Scottish Charity No.SC017091



TAY RINGING GROUP ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2026

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

I. INTRODUCTIONS

Attendance

In person: Steve Moyes (Chair), Anthony Wetherhill (Minutes), Mike Martin, Eilidh McNab, Rachel Steenson, Adam Fell, Derek Robertson, Anne Cotton, Mike Nicoll, Jackie Glencross, George Dunbar, Megan McGunnigle, Shirley Millar, Joyce Moyes, Bill Saunders, Ben Swallow, Jeroen Minderman, Will Brown, Laura Briggs, Chris McGuigan.

Online: Bruce Lynch, Sue Berrecloth, Ben Herschell, Catriona Carvey.

Apologies

Julie Wilson, Ellie Mayhew, Kirsty MacPhie, Barry Caudwell, Katherine Booth Jones, Chris Broome, Rachael Wilbourn, Louise Clark, Mark Wilson, Jacob Davies, Dan Spinks, Alex Mackerracher, John Calladine, Les Hatton, Page Huang, Alan Barclay, Sophie Edwards, Ailidh Barnes.

Minutes from the 2024 AGM

Circulated prior to the meeting. Minutes were proposed as correct by Derek Robertson and seconded by Megan McGunnigle. The minutes were accepted by a majority vote.

II. REPORTS

Annual Totals

Shirley Millar presented the annual ringing totals for 2024 which were circulated prior to the meeting, accompanied by some slides. Shirley noted that the poor weather in 2024 meant that there was a dip in birds ringed compared to the previous year. The usual suspects were in the top ten of birds ringed, though pullus numbers for tits were way down. Siskins and Starlings are way up on 2023. A new species for the TRG list in 2024 was Great Reed Warbler. Shirley noted that we have four RAS projects in the group, and made a plea for somebody to take over the running of the Angus Dipper project. The group currently has three CES, with a new one now set up at Cambus and run by Jacob Davies. TRG has also been participating in a national Moorhen colour-ringing project. Steve Moyes thanked Shirley for her work as Schedules Officer and for the presentation and preparation of the report. Anthony Wetherhill asked about distribution of Moorhen colour-ringing within the group and whether Shirley and Les could send some rings to be used in the Stirling area.

Secretary's Report

Anthony Wetherhill presented the Secretary's Report as circulated prior to the meeting. Membership of the group has increased from the last AGM, currently standing at 120. In 2024 there was a drive to update personal information and consents for GDPR. The distribution of members within the group has changed slightly, with the highest concentration of members now being in and around Stirling, followed by Dundee and Kinross. One of the papers published this year, in which TRG was acknowledged for its contribution, was on Black Grouse, and one of the authors has offered the traps to group members who might be interested in carrying on the work on this species. It was also noted that there were no grant applications made in 2024-2025, and members were therefore encouraged to ask the committee if they had ideas for a project.

Treasurer's Report

Mike Martin presented the Treasurer's Report as circulated prior to the meeting. Mike noted that as the accounts have been approved by the independent examiner, they can be submitted to OSCR once approved at the AGM. Once again the independent examiner declined a payment or honorarium. It was noted by the independent examiner that we are sitting on quite a lot of money at present, and this may be viewed unfavourably by OSCR. Income was high relative to the previous year, mainly because of Scottish Ringers Conference and increased income from membership subscriptions. Outgoings were mainly to the conference venue. The group didn't really make much money on the calendars despite the effort put in by Ailidh Barnes and others, and recommends that the committee discuss this at future meeting. Mike also notes that we have not invested any of the money in our accounts this year and is still in the process of finding a savings account for the £10,000 that we used to have in the Shawbrooks account. Expenditure on rings was down over the past year, and the expectation is that ring costs will go up over the next four years. Shirley notes it currently costs 27p to ring a Blue Tit and that we should not be worried about having too much money in our accounts at present. Derek Robertson leads thanks to the committee on organising a successful conference.

III. BUSINESS

Approval of accounts

The accounts have been approved by independent examiner David Edwards. The accounts presented in the Treasurer's Report were proposed for acceptance by Ben Swallow and seconded by Eilidh McNab. This was approved by a majority vote.

Amendments to the Constitution

Anthony Wetherhill presented a change to the Constitution that the Committee had proposed. This relates to a new category of membership, with the insertion of the following text under point b (ii):

"Full Member (Restricted) – any holder of a B.T.O. ringing permit who rings only a limited number of birds of a limited number of species."

This category is intended for full members of the group who only ring a small number of individuals or species. There was some discussion about whether or not the wording needed to be more specific with regard to numbers of birds/species ringed, and the rationale behind the decision to (re)-introduce this membership category. Laura Briggs proposes to amend the wording (seconded by Joyce Moyes) to add:

"...may apply for a reduced price membership subscription at the discretion of the committee".

A change to the Constitution requires a two thirds majority vote of members. The votes were **23 for and 1 against**.

Following the change to the Constitution, the Committee will update the membership category description document. This sets out what the Committee will consider when making a decision when a member applies for a reduced subscription rate, and can be updated as the modular permit system develops.

Setting of subscription amounts 2025-2026

The Committee was given the authority to set the subscription rates for 2025-2026 at the 2024 AGM. The proposed annual subscription rates are: Full membership - £60, Student membership - £30, Associate membership - £10.

Steve Moyes proposed acceptance of the change to the subscription rates for 2025-2026, seconded by Anthony Wetherhill. This was approved by a majority vote.

There was also a discussion about members with a lower income, and it was suggested that these members could apply for grants to support their activities within the group.

Nomination of Independent Examiner

David Edwards has served as our independent examiner for the last two years. Mike Martin proposes that David Edwards continue to be the Independent Examiner, seconded by Steve Moyes. This was approved by a majority vote.

Election of committee members

Megan McGunnigle has decided to step down from the committee this year, and Steve Moyes led in thanking her for her eight years' service to the group.

The following members of the 2024-2025 committee all agreed to stand for re-election:

- Chair – Steve Moyes
- Treasurer – Mike Martin
- Secretary – Anthony Wetherhill
- Les Hatton

- Sophie Edwards
- Rachael Wilbourn

Additionally the following group member was proposed for an ordinary member committee position by Ben Swallow and seconded by Anthony Wetherhill:

- George Dunbar

Anthony Wetherhill proposed that the above be put to a vote as a group. This passed by a majority vote and the above were duly elected.

Mike Martin has given notice that he intends to step down as Treasurer at the 2026 AGM, and Rachel Steenson will be joining the Committee as a non-voting member to act as a Deputy Treasurer with a view to standing for the position when Mike steps down.

IV. CONCLUSION

Any other competent business

Steve Moyes informed members that the Scottish Wildlife Trust, which currently owns Fife Ness, intends to dispose of the site. Chris Broome leads on management of the site for ringing. It is unclear if SWT wishes to sell the site or transfer ownership by August 2025. The late Jim Cobb donated the money for SWT to buy the site originally, but Chris Broome will be checking old paperwork held by Jim's family as there is thought to be some conditions placed upon SWT with regard to ringing and how the site is sold. TRG and Crail Community Trust have been approached initially to explore buying or transferal options. TRG's position is that ringing should continue there, but there's uncertainty over whether the group should take on ownership of the land. This will be discussed at Committee, and any decision about taking on ownership of the site will need an EGM.

Laura Briggs gives thanks to the group for the range of opportunities that have been available to her and other trainees over the past year.

Meeting closed at 15:20

TAY RINGING GROUP – BUIDHEANN EÒIN-FHÀINNEACHAIDH NA TATHA

Promoting Conservation Through Ringing

Scottish Charity No.SC017091



Tay Ringing Group – New Birds Ringed 1st January 2025 to 31st December

Species	A/FG/J	Pullus	Total	High/10 yr high	Species	A/FG/J	Pulli	Total	High/10 yr High
Greylag Goose	14		14	10yr	Sand Martin	799		799	10 yr
Mallard	36		36		Swallow	448	71	519	
Red Grouse	11		11	10 yr	House Martin	4	15	19	
Ptarmigan	9		9	High	Cetti's Warbler	1		1	
Grey Partridge	42		42	High	Long-tailed Tit	357		357	High
Nightjar	1		1	High	Wood Warbler	2		2	
Stock Dove	4		4		Yellow-browed Warbler	1		1	
Woodpigeon	37	3	40		Willow Warbler	415	6	421	
Collared Dove	19		19		Chiffchaff	478	6	484	High
Water Rail	1		1		Sedge Warbler	881		881	
Moorhen	9		9		Reed Warbler	229		229	
Oystercatcher	5	12	17		Grasshopper Warbler	8		8	
Golden Plover	1		1		Blackcap	193		193	
Little Ringed Plover	4	16	20		Garden Warbler	17		17	
Lapwing	1	90	91		Lesser Whitethroat	3		3	
Curlew	0	12	12		Whitethroat	116		116	High
Jack Snipe	2		2		Goldcrest	215		215	
Woodcock	79		79		Wren	262	2	264	
Snipe	8		8		Nuthatch	32		32	
Common Sandpiper	0	3	3		Treecreeper	39		39	
Redshank	1	2	3		Rose-coloured Starling	1		1	High
Common Tern	0	69	69		Starling	1272	5	1277	
Kittiwake	1		1		Song Thrush	58	7	65	
Black-headed Gull	1		1		Mistle Thrush	1		1	
Herring Gull	9	16	25		Redwing	70		70	
Lesser Black-backed Gull	0	94	94		Blackbird	451	33	484	
Osprey	0	19	19		Fieldfare	25		25	
Golden Eagle	0	6	6		Spotted Flycatcher	2	2	4	
Sparrowhawk	15		15		Robin	540	10	550	
Goshawk	0	2	2		Pied Flycatcher	1		1	
Marsh Harrier	0	9	9		Whinchat	0	2	2	
Hen Harrier	0	11	11		Stonechat	1		1	
White-tailed Eagle	0	1	1		Dipper	3	13	16	
Buzzard	0	1	1		Tree Sparrow	354	172	526	
Barn Owl	63	154	217		House Sparrow	306	4	310	
Long-eared Owl	4		4		Dunnock	453	7	460	10 yr
Short-eared Owl	1		1		Grey Wagtail	7	4	11	
Tawny Owl	1	16	17		Pied/White Wagtail	1		3	
Kingfisher	4		4		Meadow Pipit	49		49	
Gt Spotted Woodpecker	70		70		Tree Pipit	8		8	
Kestrel	0	33	33		Rock Pipit	8		8	
Merlin	0	4	4		Chaffinch	1129	7	1136	
Peregrine	0	46	46	10 yr	Brambling	1		1	
Jay	9		9		Bullfinch	257	4	261	High
Magpie	26		26		Greenfinch	458	3	461	
Jackdaw	78	9	87		Linnet	8	15	23	
Rook	10	1	11		Redpoll	129		129	
Carrion Crow	13	1	14		Common Crossbill	15		15	
Coal Tit	855		855		Goldfinch	461	1	462	
Blue Tit	1853	203	2056		Siskin	362		362	
Great Tit	802	292	1094		Yellowhammer	49	2	51	
Bearded Tit	241		241		Reed Bunting	510	1	511	
Skylark	93		93		Total	15924	1517	17442	
					Grand Total			751733	



TAY RINGING GROUP

SECRETARY'S REPORT 2025-2026

Covering the period 17th March 2025 to 22nd March 2026.

I. REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATION DETAILS

Charity name	TAY RINGING GROUP
Other names charity is known by	
Registered charity number	SC017091
Charity's principal address	1 MELVILLE TERRACE
	CRAIL ROAD
	ANSTRUTHER
	Postcode: KY10 3EW

II. STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Committee members (Charity Trustees) appointed at the 2025 AGM and serving up to the date of this Report.

Steve Moyes	<i>Chair and Reedbeds Coordinator</i>
Mike Martin	<i>Treasurer</i>
Anthony Wetherhill	<i>Secretary</i>
Les Hatton	<i>General member (Ringer-in-charge)</i>
George Dunbar	<i>General member</i>
Sophie Edwards	<i>General member</i>
Rachael Wilbourn	<i>General member</i>

Ex-officio committee members 2024-2025:

Rachel Steenson	<i>Depute Treasurer</i>
Shirley Millar	<i>Schedules Officer and Ring Administrator</i>
Ailidh Barnes	<i>Communications Officer</i>

- In 2025 and 2026 the committee met four times, in April, June, and September 2025, and January 2026. Once finalised and approved at the subsequent committee meeting, meeting minutes are available to all members to view [in the group shared file](#), or on request to the Secretary. Committee meetings are open for all members to participate in.
- All committee meetings in 2025-2026 took place online.
- The governing document of Tay Ringing Group is the [Constitution and Rules](#) as amended at the 2025 AGM.

Table 1: Breakdown of membership of Tay RG by membership grade and BTO ringing permit type

	Full	Full (restricted)	Associate	Student	Junior	Honorary	Total
None	0	0	9	0	0	1	11
T	20	0	8	5	1	0	35
C	32	1	8	3	0	0	45
A	9	1	2	0	0	2	14
S	16	0	4	0	0	0	20
Total	77	2	31	9	1	3	125

- Table 1 shows the breakdown in membership by grade and permit type. It represents membership counts only, not payments received as part of subscriptions and therefore may differ from the Treasurer's Report. Differences in the figures produced here and in the accounts will be due to late or outstanding membership fee payments, or recently joined members.
- Overall membership has slightly increased from that reported in the last Secretary's Report (2024-2025), from 120 members to 124 members as of the end of February 2026. However, there has been a drop in the number of full members from 81 to 77.
- The relative proportion of members holding each permit type has changed slightly from last year, with the largest part of the group still holding C permits (36%), but considerably more S-permits. There has been little change in the number of T permit holders or members holding no permit at all.

III. OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Charitable purpose:

1. To carry out bird ringing and to stimulate an interest generally in bird ringing as a scientific tool for bird study;
2. Without prejudice to the fostering of ringing activities elsewhere, to co-ordinate ringing activity in Angus, Dundee, Fife, Perth and Kinross, Clackmannanshire, Stirling and Falkirk; and
3. To analyse and publish the results of ringing activities of Group members

Summary of main activities:

- **Ringling Training Weekend** – Held on Friday the 25th to Sunday the 27th of July 2025 at various sites including the Tay Reedbeds and Dundee.
- **Group projects** – Examples of projects ongoing within the Group in 2025-2026 include: MOTUS Rock Pipit tracking; colour-ringing for various species; RAS and CES; Ptarmigan ringing at Schiehallion. For more information please see the Annual Totals Report.
- **Publications** – Papers authored by Tay RG members or published using Tay RG fieldwork or data in 2025-2026 that the Committee is aware of:
 - [John Calladine, Southall, C. and Neil Morrison, 2025. The role of fragmented habitats in facilitating dispersal of a nomadic predatory bird, the Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*. *Ringling & Migration*, **40**\(1\), pp.1-9.](#)
 - [Anthony Wetherhill, Carss, D.N., Heward, C.J., Humphreys, E.M., Hunt, J., Mark Wilson, and John Calladine, 2025. Tracking of goosanders *Mergus merganser* in Scotland. *Bird Study*, **72**\(4\), pp.359-370.](#)
 - Alexander, E.J., **Sophie Edwards**, Chapman, E.G. and Healy, S.D., 2025. Previous reproductive success informs nest-building decisions. *Behavioral Ecology*, **36**(2), p.araf009.
 - Martin, C., **Rachel Steenson, Mike Nicoll**, Galarza, A., Spatharis, S. and Salmón, P., 2026. Microplastic exposure and body condition in white-throated dipper (*Cinclus cinclus*) nestlings across anthropogenic landscapes in Scotland and Spain. *Environmental Research*, p.123989.
 - **Mike Martin** 2025. Rock Pipit feeding aboard a fishing boat. *Scottish Birds* 45: 323
 - Wawman, D.C., Smith, A.L. and Sheldon, B.C., 2025. Citizen science reveals host-switching in louse flies and keds (Diptera: Hippoboscidae) during a period of anthropogenic change. *Medical and Veterinary Entomology*. 1–18.
- **Grant applications** – There were grants awarded to: Julia Chase & Anthony Wetherhill for contribution towards purchase of a net gun for Carrion Crow ringing; Ben Herschell for purchase of colour rings for Starling RAS, Mike Martin for purchase of spring traps for Rock Pipit Motus project; Neil Morrison for contribution towards purchase of a thermal imager to support owl ringing.

TAY RINGING GROUP – BUIDHEANN EÒIN-FHÀINNEACHADH NA TATHA

Promoting Conservation Through Ringling

Scottish Charity No.SC017091



TAY RINGING GROUP

TREASURER'S REPORT 2025

Covering the period 01 January 2025 to 31 December 2025.

I. FINANCES 2024-2025 (ON A RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS BASIS)

Bank of Scotland Current Account					£25,194.14 OB
Income					
Membership ¹	Full membership payment £60	76	£4,560.00	£5,218.10	
	Associate membership payment £10	30	£300.00		
	Student membership payment £30	8	£240.00		
	Other membership payment		£118.10		
Data usage	Includes RSPB payment for costs of reedbed rings (with exception of hirundine roost catches)		£636.53		
Ring rebate	CES and RAS rebate is no longer paid by BTO as a grant, but is set against ring purchase. Ben Herschell donated his personal RAS rebate sum		£100.00		
Donations	2 x anonymous donors towards goose and Ptarmigan projects; Coral Shore, Forth Islands Heritage Group.		£19,147.77		
Equipment, nets & rings	Equipment: nets etc sold to members		£79.75		
Calendar sales			£35.00		
GAYE			£34.05		
Total incoming:				£25,251.20	
Expenditure					
Ring stock purchase	Rings purchased in the current year		-£6,228.93		
Grants paid	Grants made by committee: Julia Chase; Crail Community Partnership; Ben Herschell.		-£734.80		
Fee to External Examiner	External Examiner fee kindly declined		£0.00		
Reinbursements	Payments to Les Hatton, Steve Moyes and Anthony Wetherhill for group expenditure. Les Hatton also reimbursed for outlay associated with equipment purchase and delivery.		-£300.18		

Admin/IT/Website	No group website payment this year	-£0.00	
Savings a/c with Cambridge Counties Bank	Following AGM discussion, Committee approved investment of £10k in an interest earning a/c with Cambridge Counties Bank.	£10,000.00	
Equipment purchases	There was an unusual number of equipment purchases made this year, in particular resulting from grants/donations made in relation to Carrion Crow, goose, gull and Ptarmigan projects.	-£15,354.90	
Miscellaneous		-£30.00	
		Total outgoing:	-£32,648.81
		Total bank funds	<u>£17,796.23 CB</u>

OB – Opening balance

CB – Closing balance



II. ANNUAL FINANCE COMPARISON

INCOME	2023	2024	2025
MEMBERSHIP	£2,876.30	£3,826.20	£5,208.10
DONATIONS	£193.93	£226.79	£19,047.77
RINGS - USE OF DATA	£915.48	£1,062.47	£636.53
RINGS - RAS REBATE	£230.79	£0.00	£100.00
NET SALES	£591.91	£20.00	£79.75
CALENDAR SALES	£0.00	£304.00	£35.00
INTEREST	£13.62	£0.00	£0.00
GAYE			£34.05
GRANTS	£100.00	£0.00	£0.00
CONFERENCE FEES	£0.00	£20,225.70	£0.00
CONFERENCE RAFFLE	£0.00	£1,911.00	£0.00
TOTAL INCOME	£14,921.33	£27,600.74	£25,074.93
EXPENDITURE			
GRANTS	£234.80	£0.00	£734.80
BTO RINGS	£8,526.76	£2,666.53	£6,228.93
CALENDAR PRINTING	£0.00	£426.24	£0.00
EQUIPMENT	£0.00	£0.00	£15,354.90
INVESTMENT A/C	£0.00	£0.00	£10,000.00
IT	£0.00	£33.06	£0.00
ADMIN	£51.21	£0.00	£0.00
MISC	£0.00	£264.98	£30.00
EXTERNAL EXAMINER	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
CONFERENCE HOTEL	£0.00	£17,981.00	£0.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£8,812.77	£21,371.81	£32,648.81
NET INCOME-EXPENDITURE	£6,108.57	£6,228.93	-£7,573.88
OPENING BALANCE ¹	£12,796.64	£18,905.21	£25,194.14
CLOSING BALANCE¹	£18,905.21	£25,194.98	£17,796.23

TAY RINGING GROUP – BUIDHEANN EÒIN-FHÀINNEACHADH NA TATHA

Promoting Conservation Through Ringing

Scottish Charity No.SC017091

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Tay Ringing Group

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2025 which are set out on pages 1 to 3.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). The charity trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (d) of the 2006 Accounts Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under section 44(1) (c) of the Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeks explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

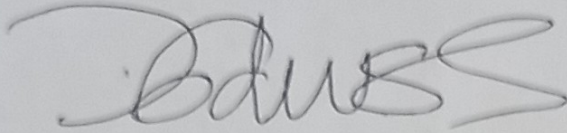
In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 44(1) (a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations

- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations

have not been met, or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'D Edwards', with a stylized, flowing script.

David Edwards A.C.A.

12 Barry Drive, Haywards Heath, West Sussex

16 March 2026