

East Kilbride and District Young Farmer Club Management Report 2025/26

Our club aims this year were to:

- To continue to recruit new members
- Volunteer with local community organisations once a month.
- To go on two farm tours to promote farming to our members.

We are delighted to have achieved each of our aims this year.

- We have recruited 5 new members, 4 of which are juniors and explored new ways in which to recruit these members
- We have successfully volunteered once a month for all 12 months of the year in a variety of community organisations'
- And finally we headed on two farms tours: Grahams Family Dairy Farm and Lochwood Farm, achieving our third aim.

We will now reflect on the activities and successes of the club over the last 12 months;

April

Abbie McKinna finally completed her Santa Bungee Jump for the Catherine McEwan Foundation on 5th April, after Storm Darragh forced the original December date to be postponed.

The following day, 6th April, saw 15 members travel to Dumfries for West AGM. The trip paid off, with Anne Craig stepping into the role of West Chair for the year ahead and our Club of the Year team placing second, securing a spot at National. It was also brilliant to see EK represented on national committees, with Jack McKinna joining Agri Affairs and Emily and Kirsty Craig joining Finance.

Our first charity event of the year took place on 8th April, when members collected Easter Eggs for the Lodging House Mission appeal. A total of 105 eggs were donated and gratefully received by Eaglesham Church.

A Sports Night marked our first monthly meeting on 14th April. From egg-and-spoon to three-legged races, the competitive streak within EK was on full display. Thanks to Ian and Aimee for organising a brilliant evening, rounded off with a classic game of rounders.

Later in the month, on 26th April, our girls headed to Beith Show for the tug of war competition as a warm up for Lanarkshire Tug of War. Ian stepped in as tacky boy for the day, and we were delighted to have Gail Pollock from Avondale join the team.

We volunteered on 27th April at Eaglesham Community Garden. Members got stuck in helping to level ground for moving the compost tubs, strimming grass, bagging leaves, and digging holes for Hazel bushes and Gooseberry plants - a fantastic team effort which the ladies admitted they couldn't have done without our help.

That same evening, 27th April, we hosted our New Members Night at the rugby club. Club leader Daniel and Hayley organised the evening with "night out" themed games, with a twist involving two traitors. It was great to welcome so many new faces at the start of the year.

May

May began with our annual netball and football tournament in conjunction with Avondale on 1st May, a busy and successful evening with plenty of teams taking part. Although EK didn't secure any placings this time, it was brilliant to see so many new members getting involved.

A few days later, on 4th May, our girls team travelled to Biggar Rugby Club for the highly contested Lanarkshire Tug of War competition. After battling through a tough round robin of eight teams, they earned a well-deserved place in the semi-finals and finished 4th overall. Their progress since last year has been fantastic to see. Huge thanks go to Matt Brown for coaching the team again this year, to James for stepping in as coach on the day, to Abbie for being tacky girl, and to all the members who came along to support.

The action continued at Ayr Show on 10th May, where our handicrafts girls put on a brilliant display for the theme Shop Window. No prizes this time, but a great effort all round and a big shoutout to Aimee for organising handicrafts this year. Our tug of war girls also competed in scorching sunshine, gaining more valuable experience with Lesmahagow member Craig coaching on the day. And well done to Calum Gray, who was busy showing his cows.

Our monthly meeting on 12th May brought something new with the EK Bake Off, where pairs tackled biscuit week. Congratulations to our star bakers, Jill Strang and Jamie Baird, and to our EK soggy bottoms, James Hair and Jamie Boyd. Thanks to Abbie and Andy for organising such a fun event.

Volunteering for May took place on 17th May, where some members headed to Langlands for a sunny morning of litter picking. Plenty of rubbish was collected, making a real difference to the area.

Later in the month, 19th May saw us host our mock auction alongside Lesmahagow at Parklea Farm by kind permission of the Lawson family. With over 60 competitors and a beautiful evening, it was a fantastic turnout. A massive thank you to David and Emily Lawson for arranging Thorntonhall Ice Cream for everyone, and to our auctioneers, Murray and Dougie, who kept the night running smoothly.

Throughout May, members also took part in our Walk for Hearts challenge, raising money for the British Heart Foundation. The original target of 890km was smashed early, leading us to increase it to 2000km which we also achieved. Four group walks were held across different local areas, and over £250 was raised for charity.

Success continued on 27th May, when our team travelled to the Willie Waddell Centre for Carluke, Lanark and Biggar's hockey tournament. Despite being eaten alive by midges, the team brought home the win, a brilliant start to the hockey season.

Rounding off the month, 30th May saw Jill Strang lead a farm tour for the Eaglesham Beavers at her family farm, teaching them all about where milk comes from. It is great to see EK members getting involved in RHET farm tours and sharing their knowledge with the next generation.

June

The month got off to a strong start when we headed to Bathgate's hockey tournament on 3rd June, battling every type of Scottish weather and still managing to bring home second place, another great result for EK.

Just two days later, at Lanark's Volleyball Tournament on 5th June, we pulled together three teams as preparation for Lanarkshire Sports. The practice clearly paid off, with EK placing both first and second. A brilliant effort from everyone involved.

The much-anticipated Lanarkshire Sports followed on 8th June, held at Biggar High School. EK was well represented with two volleyball teams, a netball team and a football team. All teams put in a fantastic shift, and a special shoutout goes to EK A for winning the volleyball and lifting the shiny new trophy we donated last year.

Success continued on 9th June, when our team travelled to West Ren's mixed netball tournament and secured first place, adding another red certificate to the collection.

We then hosted our own volleyball tournament with Lesmahagow at Dodside Farm on 10th June, kindly supported by the Livingstone family. A great turnout and smooth running of the night made it a real success, thanks to the committee for helping with scoring.

West Stockjudging took place at the Mains Farm on 13th June by kind permission Strang family. Committee members were kept busy with setup and bar duties, and a special well done goes to Calum Gray for placing third in the Junior section.

For June volunteering, members headed to the Scout Hall in Eaglesham on 14th June to tackle an area of overgrown weeds. It was a tough shift, but the transformation was appreciated by everyone there.

The Highland Show brought several busy days for our members later in the month. EK achieved an incredible result when James, Emily and Jamie led the club to second place in the National Club of the Year competition. Jan placed third in the decorated wellies competition, and Calum Gray won the Junior Dairy Showmanship award. Our handicrafts girls put on a brilliant display, Jan and Aimee volunteered at the RHET stand, and Calum Gray and Jamie Boyd took part in the stockjudging programme for the first time. A huge well done also to all members who entered the photography competition.

A new event for our monthly meeting took place on 27th June, when we held an ABC Challenge. Members toured around EK and Eaglesham collecting items beginning with each letter of the alphabet and taking selfies along the way. Thanks to Rachel and James for creating such an enjoyable night.

We rounded off the month with tractor driving at Auldhouse Farm on 29th June, thanks to David Robertson. It was brilliant to see first time drivers giving it a go alongside the seasoned pros.

July

The month began with three of our junior members heading to the West Junior Day Out on 3rd July, where go-karting, laser tag and dinner at Cosmos made for a brilliant day. It was especially nice to see two of our juniors, Erin and Jamie, helping to organise the event through their roles on the Junior Forum.

A few days later, on 6th July, we held our hockey tournament in conjunction with Lesmahagow YF. Attendance was lower than hoped, but those who came along enjoyed a great day, finishing with a big mixed game.

The West Young Farmer of the Year competition took place on 7th July, with James Hair and Jamie Boyd giving it a go for the first time. Although there were no placings this year, it was fantastic to see both boys stepping up to try something new.

Volleyball action followed on 8th July, when two EK teams headed to the Ali McCoist for Carluke and Avondale's tournament. The final turned into an EK showdown, with both teams proving equally competitive. EK1 took the win, with EK2 settling for second, well done to both teams.

Our mixed netball tournament took place on 17th July at the Ali McCoist, where a very warm hall made for an extremely sweaty evening. The boys certainly weren't shy about getting stuck in, and a big thanks goes to Gillian Crozier for umpiring.

The following day, 18th July, we submitted our entry to SAYFC's new online digital video competition, themed What is Young Farmers? We were delighted to place second in another national competition with our submission.

For our July monthly meeting, members visited Grahams Family Dairy Farm on 19th July for a tour focused on Jersey cows and the business behind the operation. Lunch at Caulders rounded off the day nicely, thanks to Emily and Harry for organising.

Volunteering for the month took place on 20th July, when members supported Strathaven Junior Parkrun. From barcode scanning to timekeeping and marshalling, there was a role for everyone.

EK Show followed on 26th July, where our stand was packed with games including our new ring toss, feed-the-clowns and the classic football card. Thanks to everyone who volunteered on the bar and helped with the tug of war demo, and a special shoutout to David Robertson for providing a tractor for the stand. It was a fantastic day and we're already excited for next year.

We rounded off the month on 27th July with volleyball and netball teams competing at West Sports. The boys threw themselves into the netball as enthusiastically as ever, and EK came away with two second-place finishes, great work from everyone involved.

August

A few carloads of members travelled to Auchenheath Farm on 2nd August for Lanarkshire stockjudging, where Calum Gray earned a brilliant second place in the junior male category.

The following day, 3rd August, our golfing trio of Andrew Brown, Jamie Baird and Gregor Boyd headed to Hollandbush Golf Club for Lanarkshire golf. It turned into a very successful outing, with the boys placing second overall, Andy winning the longest drive and Jamie taking closest to the pin.

Golf continued on 5th August, when Harry, Andy and Jamie Baird battled Storm Floris at Avondale's tournament. Despite the wild weather, they managed to bring home the win.

A club day trip to Millport followed on 9th August, starting with a windy cycle around the island before lunch, sheltering from heavy rain, and finally braving a dip in the sea. It was a brilliant day from start to finish and easily one of the highlights of the year.

First aid training took place in Dumfries on 10th August, where Andy and Erin completed their course thanks to funding from the Willie Davidson Fund. Both are now fully first aid trained, following joining up with Lower Nithsdale to complete it.

Sunshine greeted us on 14th August at Troon beach for a night of beach volleyball, finishing naturally with a dip in the sea in classic EK style. Thanks to Jan and Jamie Baird for organising our August meeting.

A competitive evening followed on 20th August, when Elliot, John and Gregor headed to ScotKart for Lanarkshire go-karting. Elliot secured third place in Group 3.

Past secretary Emily Craig took on West Fittest Farmer on 23rd August, completing endurance, strength and sprint workouts. She not only won the title for the third year in a row but was also part of the winning open team, an incredible achievement.

The next day, 24th August, saw our team head to Marr Playing Fields for West Hockey. After a tough run in the round robin, they reached the semi-finals and finished in third place.

Volunteering competed the month on 24th and 25th August, with several members helping at the Strathaven Balloon Festival. From supporting the public attending the event to enjoying the balloons in action, it was a great couple of days for everyone involved.

September

The month got underway with our September meeting on 4th September, when we held Slip and Slide Olympics at Lettrickhills Farm by kind permission of the Boyds. From rounders to races, teams battled it out across a series of games to see who would come out on top. Thanks to Sara and Jamie Boyd for organising another brilliant night.

A busy day followed on 7th September, with three EK teams taking part in Lanarkshire Beef Cattle Dressing at Lawhead Farm. It was great to see so many first-timers giving it a go, and a special shoutout goes to Ian and Kirsty, who placed second in their very first attempt.

Our ten pin bowling night was on 11th September, when 28 members headed to Tenpin @ XCITE Braehead for our annual competition. It was a fun and competitive evening, with plenty of laughs and some impressive scores. Congratulations to all our winners, including King Pin Jamie Baird and Queen Pin Laura McWhirter.

Root and Grain took place on 14th September, where we had a foursomes team and several individual entries. Our team placed third, and Lia secured first place in her further article, a fantastic achievement.

Clay pigeon shooting returned on 21st September, this year partnered with Robbie Anderson and his charity shoot in aid of Reverse RHET. A huge thank you to Robbie for all his help and organisation on the day.

Lanarkshire Bowling followed on 25th September, with Andrew, James, Jamie, Jamie, Charlie and Laura heading to Hollywood Bowl. The team placed second overall, and another shoutout goes to Jamie Baird for winning King Pin.

Volunteering for the month saw members completing a litter pick in the Orry in Eaglesham and surrounding areas. A few unusual finds and several full bags later, the area was looking much cleaner than before.

A very early start came on 28th September, when a group of members joined the Lanarkshire Club Crawl to raise funds for the SAYFC Big Build. Walking from Auldhouse to Netherlethame at 6am meant we hit 10,000 steps before 8am, an impressive effort from the team.

The month wrapped up on 30th September, when two EK pairs took part in Carluke's Badminton Tournament at Forth. No placings this time, but it was great to see our juniors stepping up and getting involved in these events.

October

October got off to a lively start with our Charity Frog Race Night on 3rd October, raising funds for the British Heart Foundation. From first-timers to seasoned pros, we had a brilliant mix of competitors. Congratulations to our six heat winners and to Emily Craig for taking the overall win. A huge thank you goes to the Lanarkshire members who came along to support, to Barry Cuthbertson for hosting the evening so smoothly, and to Murray Steel for auctioning off our "jockeys" in the final.

A strong performance followed at West 5s on 5th October, where our team travelled to Stirling and remained unbeaten all day, securing the win, well done to the boys.

Lanarkshire quiz night arrived on 17th October, when four EK teams headed to Biggar Rugby Club for the Lanarkshire Quiz. EK1 and EK2 tied for third place, leading to a tense tie break where EK2 came out on top.

Later that week, 19th October saw members head to the Strathaven Hotel to support Jack and Kirsty at Lanarkshire Mr and Miss. It was a fantastic evening from start to finish, with Jack being crowned Lanarkshire Mr Young Farmer and Kirsty placing second in Lanarkshire Miss – qualifying them both for the West competition.

The following day, 20th October, Jamie and Gregor Boyd took part in Lanarkshire Dairy Cattle Dressing at Lettrickhills Farm. The boys won both the junior section and the overall competition, well done boys!

Volunteering for the month took place on 25th October, when members headed to K-Woodlands to help EK Community Trust set up for their Halloween event. From assembling spooky animatronics to building a fence, the team helped get everything ready for the big weekend.

Support continued on 26th October, when we went to The Garage in Glasgow to cheer on Jack and Kirsty at West Mr and Miss. Jack was crowned West Mr Young Farmer and Kirsty placed second in the Miss competition, a great success for them both and something the whole club is proud of.

Badminton followed on 27th October, with three EK pairs competing at West Badminton in Stirling. No placings this time, but everyone enjoyed the friendly competition and the Nando's afterwards.

We rounded off the month on 29th October with a trip to Kelburn Castle in Largs to take on the "Nightmare" experience. From clowns to chainsaws, the scares were relentless, and some members definitely jumped more than others. Thanks to Abbie and Aimee for organising tonight.

November

November began with our annual split meeting on 1st November, with the boys heading to Top Golf to show off their skills while the girls enjoyed a creative evening decorating cakes at Burnside Bakehouse. Everyone then met up afterwards for dinner at Di Maggios, making for a great day.

The following morning, 2nd November, Jamie and Gregor Boyd were back in action at National Dairy Cattle Dressing, finishing in a brilliant third place. A fantastic achievement for the boys.

Lanarkshire Country Cook took place on 12th November at Rosshall Academy, where two EK teams, Harry and Abbie, and Kirsty and Mackenzie, cooked up a storm. Harry earned a special mention for his homemade pasta, while Kirsty and Mackenzie brought home the win.

A new activity was introduced on 17th November, when we held a carpet bowls night as part of Anne Craig's aim as West Chair for all clubs to try something new. It turned into a fun and relaxed evening, with some members even discovering a hidden talent.

Our November monthly meeting followed on 22nd November, this time a games night. Teams competed across a variety of games to see who would come out on top. It was a brilliant event and definitely one to repeat. Thanks to Andy and Ian for organising.

Our volunteering was on 30th November, when members headed to Eaglesham to help with the Christmas Tree Light Switch On. We collected donations for Christmas parcels for pensioners and served mulled wine and mince pies, helping to make the evening festive.

December

December started with Mackenzie and Kirsty returning to Rosshall Academy on 2nd December for West Country Cook, where they produced another fantastic three-course meal. Their hard work paid off with a brilliant 3rd place and a special award for their dessert.

On 5th December, Jack McKinna represented EK in Lanarkshire Member of the Year. He impressed once again and was crowned Lanarkshire Member of the Year, bringing the trophy back to EK for the second year running.

Another of Anne Craig's aims as West Chair was met on 6th December, when members supported Cash for Kids by donating toys for children this Christmas. The generosity shown was hugely appreciated and contributed to a great cause at a meaningful time of year.

Curling was next on 7th December, when members headed to Hamilton Ice Rink for a come-and-try session. With thanks to James Hair for showing everyone the ropes, some members discovered a new hobby, while others realised it maybe wasn't for them!

Festive spirit was in full swing on 12th December, when our December monthly meeting took us to the Christmas Markets at Glasgow Green. It was a fun, festive night that got everyone into the Christmas mood. Thanks to Jamie Baird and Jamie Boyd for organising.

The month rounded off with volunteering on 20th and 21st December, when several of the boys helped Eaglesham Fair with their Santa Run. Jack took the job of driving the tractor pulling Santa's sleigh around the village, while others collected donations for Christmas parcels for pensioners, a lovely way to give back at the end of the year.

January

January got underway with two EK teams taking to the ice at Hamilton Ice Rink on 4th January for Lanarkshire Curling. The Huskies swept their way to first place, while the Penguins secured a strong third, well done to both teams.

A more relaxed evening followed on 13th January, when we held a pizza night at the rugby club for our January meeting. With concert practices in full swing, it was the perfect chance to unwind and catch up. Thanks to Sara and Emily for organising a chilled night.

Volunteering continued on 17th January, when members visited Loaves and Fishes Food Bank. With new windows due to be fitted, we spent the morning clearing and reorganising the warehouse. It was inspiring to see the incredible work Lesley and the team do, going far beyond food parcels to fulfil their motto of providing “*full tummies, warm hearts and clear heads*” to anyone who needs support.

We received a kind donation on 20th January, when Eaglesham Fair donated £250 to recognise all the volunteering our members carried out over the festive period at the Christmas Tree Light Switch On and the tractor run.

The month finished on a high with Concert 2026, which ran from 29th to 31st January. After weeks of hard work, commitment and rehearsals, the cast and crew delivered another brilliant show. A huge thank you to everyone who came along to support us across the three nights at the Village Theatre, we can't wait to welcome you back next year, same time, same place. This year our awards were as follows:

Best newcomer: Erica Gray

Greatest Showman: Jan King

February

February began with our charity coffee morning on 7th February at the Carswell Centre, raising funds this year for SAYFC Big Build. Thanks to the committee members who baked, donated tombola prizes and helped run the morning, we raised a fantastic £340. A special thanks also goes to Park Farm Dairy for kindly providing the milk, our teas and coffees were all much tastier knowing the milk was local.

Volleyball followed on 18th February, when a team headed to Kilmaurs for their tournament. It was a great night full of laughs and friendly competition, even if we didn't come away with any placings this time.

A trip to Edinburgh on 21st February brought a brilliant day out for the Six Nations. Members enjoyed brunch at Copper Still before heading to the Three Sisters to watch the rugby. Thanks to James and Harry for organising such a fun outing.

National Competitions Weekend took place on 27th February – 1st March, with a group of members travelling to Inverness for a packed schedule. EK was represented in bowling, football, Member of the Year and hockey, and we came home with several successes: second in bowling, third in football and third in hockey, a fantastic set of results.

Throughout February, members also took part in volunteering by donating blood. For Abbie and Kirsty, this was their first time, while Jill completed her fourth donation. We would encourage anyone who can to go along and donate, it wasn't nearly as scary as they first thought.

March

March started with a big night at Paisley Town Hall on 7th March, where we took part in the highly contested Lanarkshire Talent Spot competition. Our scene, *Books Unite to Make Things Right*, came together thanks to the brilliant work of producers John and Lorna Hyslop, and the

music and tech support from Alex Bell. Rachel McLaughlin choreographed all our dances, and Gregor Boyd closed the show with his bagpipes. Jack McKinna also played his part, drawing the raffle in his role as Lanarkshire's Mr Young Farmer. No placings for us this year, but we have enjoyed getting our Sunday nights back!

A few days later, on 12th March, our March meeting took us to The Court Padel Club to try out a new sport. It didn't take long for the competitive streak to appear, with Adam and Harry taking the win. Thanks to Rachel and Jan for organising our final meeting of the year.

Volunteering wrapped up on 15th March, when members supported Strathaven Junior Parkrun. From cheering on the runners to scanning barcodes at the finish, everyone had a role to play. It was a brilliant way to round off a full year of volunteering.

Our committee this year consists of our office bearers and elected committee members

Our office bearers: Jack McKinna, Kirsty Craig, Ian King, Andrew Brown, Abbie McKinna and Aimee Craig

Our elected committee: James Hair, Emily Craig, Rachel McLaughlin, Sara Dawson, Harry Mulvey, Jamie Baird, Jamie Boyd and Jan King.

Our elected club leaders – Daniel Livingstone and Hayley-Jo Stephen.

Without all of the committee's support and hard work this year, we certainly would not have made it through the year and we cannot thank you all enough.

We would like to take this time to wish next years office bearers and committee the upmost success for the year ahead.

This brings us to the end of our management report for the year 2025/26.

Chairman: Jack McKinna