

Minutes of the LUCS Committee Meeting

4th July 2023

1.0 Chairman's Welcome.

Present: Chairman David Shirres welcomed Lynne Nelson, Andy Eaglesfield, Peter Lewis, Ronnie Reis and Mike Smith

2.0 Approval of previous Minutes: Approved, with the addition of agreement that full-week operations would be for six weeks, which had not been noted.

3.0 Boat Operations

3.1 *BML Issues:* Candidates progressing, but need still high. Ian Walker requested to supply latest status monthly **Action: IAW**

3.2 *Battery Boats:* Battery life seems to preclude despatch by untrained volunteers (e.g. Receptionists in general). LUCS is not in a position to advertise availability, but it might be practical to operate them only on Sat mornings when volunteers are about? Meanwhile, the physical arrangements for setting them up in the morning have been streamlined, and all but one have new seats fitted.

3.3 *Dry Docking Plans:* Plans in place. St Michael 23 to 30 Sept — this being her 5-yearly inspection, it requires a level of inspection above the norm, and will require a fair level of pre-planning. St Magdalene 2nd to 9th Sept. All booked.

3.4 *Technical Status:* The switch controlling the flushing of **St Magalene's** toilet has been replaced, to the relief of all. **Colin G's** presumed small leak continues to be monitored. **Action:RR**

Victoria's horn has been re-fitted after a brief submergeance. The current on-board bilge-pumping facilities, modified to filter out oil contamination, do not dry the bilges as before on a daily, post trip, basis. The pump-out is used on black-hand days, but the boat's floor becomes wet for most of the boat's length, introducing a potential for previously-avoided long-term internal corrosion. To be reviewed. **Action: PtP, RR, MJS**

Initial discussions around *Galvanic Isolation* (an issue not widely understood, but of potential concern if boats are to be connected to shore more often) suggest that fitting suitable devices to our shore supplies might be beneficial. Requires research into functionality and cost.. **Action: MJS**

3.5 *Bookings and Driver Allocation:* after a few near misses, where BML's were recruited to sail at literally minutes' notice, a list of known sailings with matching Drivers (or not, as should be obvious) will be posted in the MGC, on a rolling basis, to allow potential drivers the chance to plan their involvement.

4.0 Basin Operations

- 4.1 *Availability of Tea Room personnel:* Currently ok, but no reserve:
All to encourage new recruits, from beyond LUCS, by word of mouth..
The possibility of using Receptionists doubling as Tea Room staff
was discussed as worthy of investigation,

Discussion involving Lynne N, Chris MD, Pete Lewis, et al.,
to continue, bearing in mind any resultant training requirements.

Action: D Sh, LN, PtP, CMD

The issues regarding *Disclosure* if we recruit younger volunteers
to be assessed.

(SEE Post-Meeting Note at foot of these Minutes).

Action : DSh

- 4.2 *Facilities Status Issues:*

4.2.1 Concern about the flexing of the Tearoom floor at the Exit
was discussed, and concluded that a remediation plan was needed
for implementation out of peak season.

Action: AM

4.2.2 *Yard divider* fence restoration. Allister M devising solution

Action: AM

- 4.3 *Mooring protocols, boat positioning,*. Site plan with mooring points
marked has been circulated.. (This is to ensure sufficient clearance
between boats so that each can manoeuvre with out risk of damage to those
adjacent). The plan to have preferred rope positions indicated.

(Post-Meeting note: Since this discussion, it was suggested that

**mooring St Michael facing West, with her bows in the Basin cor-
ner, aft of Victoria, would ease the spacing, and make avoidance easier.**

She was left in that space after the cruise on 9th July.

BML

comments invited).

Discussions as to the need for additional moorings may be influenced
by the above note, though existing points are sufficient for current
operations, if used in accordance with the as yet unissued plan.

In any case, there is a need to plan for replacement of the existing, decaying
posts.

Action:

AM

Training in rope-management: initial plan for training shore parties and
crew is in development, based on IAW's initial assessment.

Action: MJS,

DSh, IAW

5.0 Promoting Heritage

- 5.1 *Museum Initiatives:* Museum Development Sub-Committee to be convened.

Action:

DSh

- 5.2 *Education:* The lack of an Education Convener continues to be a
major issue. The need to re-engage the young remains paramount, and
the need for an Education Convener urgent.

Contacts with youth movements and local schools need to develop.

DSh to maintain contacts.

Action: DSh

6.0 Projects

- 6.1 *Victoria Lottery Funding.* Heritage Lottery funding seems increasingly to be seeking activities requiring considerable community involvement, which is not appropriate for our purposes. Other potential providers are being identified and will be approached. However, lead-times involved suggest that Victoria's refit may have to be postponed.

Continuing ac-

tion:

- 6.2 There are three potential suppliers of electric propulsion in contention, and we are comparing notes with Scottish Canals, who are dealing with the same companies. Technical discussions continue to press bidders towards best and final quotes.

Action: MJS

7.0 Health and Safety

- 7.1 *Accidents and Incidents.* No new reports submitted to committee, but two incidents - non-injurious - are known to be in process for next committee to review.

- 7.2 *Training: See 4.3 above*

A new young volunteer, who is very interested in boats, their driving and mechanics - and about to enter his 6th year (doing Advanced Physics and Maths), at High School - has turned up, and very keen to become involved. We may be able to develop links via this initiative.

8.0 Events

- 8.1 ***Fun Day***

8.1.1 *Cardboard Boat Race (CBR)* adverts and application forms have been published. Last year's entrants to be contacted. **Action:**

PtP

8.1.2 To prevent recurrence of last year's late CBR start, boat trips will run between 1.30 and 3pm, the final sailings to be *disembarked and moored as blockships by 3pm.* Trip Ships will be one Large, and Leamington.

8.1.3 Rescue boats require that crew are trained in the buoyancy / trim limits of the craft. Is our water safety secure? **Action Steve Braes**

8.1.4 Peter has prepared a *list of Actions and Actors*, and will circulate to allow others to identify any omissions or errors. *Actions / Time-Manning plans* to be promulgated as far ahead as possible.

Action: All/PtP

The controllers of functions on the day need to know the actions and timescales of others, ideally before the day. The "It's aye been done wey" is not known by all, but is assumed by all who do. Commentator pleaded for orderly and timely information on the Boat Race entrants, with clear info as to who had won what.

that

8.1.5 Stall-holders are responding, but there will be no Punch and Judy, And the Face-painter has yet to respond. There is room for more.

8.1.6 Consultations needed with Tom McP re BBQ, Skip, gazebos, etc. Local businesses have been leafleted to advise associated closures.

Hire-boat operators to be advised of Basin restrictions, especially the avoidance of leaving boats moored the night before! **Action: PtP**

8.1.7 A new enhanced Sound System for Fun Day has been trialled by John Barker, with linked speakers on both banks.

9.0 Marketing

9.1

Leaflets now posted on the Town Notice Boards.

Improved access to *social media* via initiatives by Linlithgow BID (now One Linlithgow) should be available soon. Monitor and advise. **Action:**

MJS

Soundings should be regarding Pride Flag or Pride cruises continue.

Action:

DSh

Basin Banter ever-hungry for copy.

Action PtP

10.0 General Management

10.1 *Treasurer's Report*. Nothing of concern: numbers remain erratic, but trending upwards, with Leamington leading the way.

10.2 *Bookings*. Resolution of payment timeout problems still in discussion with contractors. (There are differing opinions as to what proportion of attempted bookings fail). Consultations continue.

10.3 A business-owner approached the Chairman initially informally, to seek to run "Chai Cruises" on our boats in a scheduled way. Initial reaction saw it as a conflict with our own LUCS Afternoon Tea Cruises (*a great success, socially and financially*). It has all sorts of ramifications not

great
clearly

to LUCS' benefit. To be discussed.

10.4 The established procedure of having the New Committee, post-AGM, generate the *Key Facts Sheet* means it comes into being after people have already started making bookings for the following year. This suggests

gests
its successor
implications

changing procedure to permit current Committee to commit to a programme before that Committee is formed. The require consideration and discussion before decision.

11.0 AOCB

11.1 It was mooted that a FAQ element in our Website might resolve some of the difficulties experienced by some potential bookers.

11.2 Date of Next Meeting 1st August 2023.