

Minutes of the LUCS Committee Meeting 6th June 2023

1.0 Chairman's Welcome.

Present: Chairman David Shirres welcomed Peter Lewis, Mike Smith and Douglas Scott

Apologies for absence received from: Ronnie Reis, Lynne Nelson, Andy Eaglesfield.

2.0 Approval of previous Minutes: Approved, with the addition of reference to the formation of a sub-committee to co-ordinate the redesign of the Museum. Matters arising are minuted under topic headings below.

3.0 Boat Operations

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

3.2 *Battery Boats:* manning still subject to intense discussion. Activity required is specific to the dispatch / retrieval of the boats (leaving aside the waking up and putting to bed), and is so intermittent that it is not a good use of a whole afternoon. Would it be practical to operate them only on Sat mornings when volunteers are about? Meanwhile, the arrangements for setting them up in the morning have been streamlined, and new seats fitted.

3.3 *Dry Docking Plans:* Plans in place. D Sh noted that after all last season's to-ing and fro-ing, LUCS is in credit with MCA.

3.4 *Technical Status:* Ronnie Reis has issued a status report (appended) generally reporting status ok however, ...Colin G appears to have a small leak, as yet undetected, except for needing more frequent pumping. To be monitored. **Action:RR**
As part of defining Victoria's new power plant, the issue arose of Galvanic Isolation, which prevents boats from corroding when attached electrically to shore earth, through power supplies or the like. It is an issue which applies to all steel boats, though the only one of LUCS fleet showing any symptoms is Leamington. To be brought to the attention of Boats Convener. **Action: MJS**

4.0 Basin Operations

4.1 *Availability of Tea Room personnel: Post-Covid , numbers have been reduced, and there is need for active recruiting to restore sufficient numbers....advert/plea in Basin Banter (BB): it was noted that a catchment wider than BB would be beneficial, and members should be asked to invite friends outwith the BB distribution.*
Is there need for double staffing? (Some prefer to have company, even at times of low demand). Could Tea Room staff double as Receptionists?
Discussion involving Lynne N, Chris Gunstone, Pete Lewis, et al., needed to resolve best way forward, bearing in mind any resultant training requirements. DSh to promote. **Action: D Sh, LN, PtP, CG**
The issues regarding *Disclosure* if we recruit younger volunteers to be assessed. **Action : DSh**

4.2 *Facilities Status Issues:*

4.2.1 *New Radiators* fitted in toilets.

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

Action: AM

- 4.3 *Mooring protocols, boat positioning,*. DSh to issue site plan with preferred mooring points for each boat marked. This is to ensure sufficient clearance between boats so that others can manoeuvre with out risk of damage to either.

Action: DSh

Training in rope-management: plan for training shore parties and crew to be devised and scheduled.

Action: MJS, IAW

5.0 Promoting Heritage

- 5.1 *Museum Initiatives:* the concept of reducing physical content and wall-mounted text, combined with quick QR links to greater detail for those with particular interests, is seen as beneficial, although the physical layout must be attractive and stimulating. **Action:**

- 5.2 *Education:* The need to re-engage the young is paramount, and the need for an Education Convener urgent. Contacts with youth movements has brought parties of Brownies, Cubs back to the Basin. involving the young in Heritage issues is seen as a key element in seeking grant funding. A very constructive meeting with Russell of Linlithgow Young Peoples' Project (**LYPP**) has prompted them to organise a 'taster' boat trip. DSh to maintain contacts.

Action: DSh

6.0 Projects

- 6.1 *Victoria Lottery Funding.* Initial requests have been turned down as being lacking in certain aspects, but guidance given as to how to improve a re-submission, about to be submitted. Whilst our approach is to the Heritage Lottery Fund, other sources remain yet untapped.

Continuing action:

- 6.2 Two new potential suppliers of electric power solutions are now in correspondence, one of which is significantly lower-priced than the original. The other is expected to quote by next committee. 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, but there was considerable discussion of how to handle major weed-berg issues, which, in turn, emphasised the need for clear protocols for contacting base in cases when assistance is needed.

- 7.2 *Training:* Not only do boats carry phones, they have to have a contact procedure which ensures that any assistance call, short of an emergency, will be answered. Parties afloat and ashore need to be trained in this, once formalised.

Action: DSh

8.0 Events

- 8.1 *Fun Day*

- 8.1.1 Cardboard Boat Race (CBR) adverts and application forms have been published. There was discussion as to how many entries would be too many, given the need to hold the crowd's attention. A running time

beyond an hour was seen as too long. It should be made known that the number of entries may be limited at LUCS discretion. This encourages early entries as well as allowing us to limit quantity. **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.*

8.1.3 Rescue boats require that crew are trained in the buoyancy / trim limits of the craft. **Action Steve Braes**

To minimise stresses on the day, Actions / Timescales/ Manning plans to be issued and promulgated as far ahead as possible. (It would be advisable to review these in outline early, to make sure oversights are minimised: there is a lot of "it's aye been done this wey" to be incorporated or overcome). **Action: PtP**

- 8.2 *Perambulation.* Teas, cakes, etc to be provided, with Jim and Nuala Lonie and PtP in charge. Planned to arrive about 8pm. Provided gratis, but donations welcomed. *Deacons Night.* Plans in place for Burgers, 'refreshments' and crewed boat(s).

9.0 Marketing

- 9.1 *Flags* to be tried this week

Leaflets are now widespread through cafes, Tam Dalyell Centre, BnBs and will be posted on the Town Notice Boards. PtP to be advised who holds the keys to the Notice Board. **Action: MJS**

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

MJS

There was discussion about the possible flying of the *Pride flag*, or maybe offering *Pride Cruises*. It was concluded that soundings should be taken before further consideration in committee.. **Action:**

DSh

Basin Banter ever-hungry for copy...advertises for Fun Day, welcoming new members, recruiting, and encouraging recipients to invite involvement from neighbours and friend beyond the present distribution.

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.

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 4th July 2023.