

Minutes of the LUCS Committee Meeting

5th September 2023

1.0 Chairman's Welcome.

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

2.0 Approval of previous Minutes: Approved, with the deletion of Peter Lewis from attendees.

3.0 Boat Operations

3.1 *BML Issues:* Candidates progressing, but need still high. Ian Walker requested to supply latest status monthly. **Action: IAW**
Some paperwork issues to be resolved, and co-ordination of work, records, application status to be maintained as closely as possible. Note that Peter needs lead time to fit into work commitments.
Training outline syllabus to be developed (with input, possibly, from Sorted)? **Action D Sh/ IAW**
Driver Training co-ordination: create training Whatsapp group. **Action: PtP**

3.2 *Battery Boats:* no action

3.3 *Dry Docking Plans:* Plans in place, including prep in advance for St Michael 5-yearly,. All booked, transport planned.

3.4 *Technical Status:*

Colin G's presumed small leak continues to be monitored. **Action:RR**
Engine has survived immersion: only plastic coving to be found.
Victoria's bilges: The pump-out to be used every black-hand day.
Some concern this leaves bilges wet, encouraging internal corrosion.
To be reviewed. **Action: PtP, RR, MJS**

Galvanic Isolation Requires research into use and cost. **Action: MJS**

3.5 *Bookings and Driver Allocation:* system to be reviewed to ensure that crises (both perceived and actual) are avoided. Channels of communication are Key factor, with differing data viewpoints a major issue.

Action: All, D Sh to distil.

3.6 *Future Targeted Cruises*

A list of proposed Cruises targeted at events like Mothers' Day, etc., to be developed for discussion in time for Key Facts Sheet. **Action: LN**

4.0 Basin Operations

4.1 *Recruitment of Tea Room personnel:*

The possibility of using Receptionists doubling as Tea Room staff was discussed as worthy of investigation, bearing in mind any resultant training requirements.

Action: D Sh, LN, PtP, CMD

The issues regarding *Disclosure* if we recruit younger volunteers to be kept in mind.

- 4.2 *Facilities Status Issues:*
 4.2.1 Tea Room floor to be repaired after Christmas **Action: AM/AE**
 4.2.2 Yard divider fence restoration. Allister M devising solution
Action: AM

- 4.3 *Mooring protocols, boat positioning,.*
 Mooring of St Michael pointing West successful in creating clearance.
 Mooring layout plan to be promulgated. **Action DSh**
 The need to replace rotten posts remains. **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

4.4 Notes of Meeting between LUCS Chairman and John Paterson, new CEO of Scottish Canals

David reported on a very constructive meeting with SC's CEO, which was cordial and collaborative. Mark Smith of SC was also present to note SC actions. Our concerns over weed, dredging, the state of the basin quayside, current gaps in advertising LUCS' presence, etc., were recognised. There was a general disposition towards collaboration in both promotion and activity. CEO had been unaware of the history of use of Truxors, but

con
support.

sidered the possibility of LUCS drivers helping with dredging

from the Wheel was
resources).

The Possibility of occasional LUCS-operated cruises

discussed (though needs some planning of

The terms of Leamington's operations were discussed, with potential benefits to LUCS, when accounting terms are rationalised to include LUCS' contribution to SC in benefits in kind.

David's report engendered much discussion, which will continue over coming months as plans crystallise.

5.0 Promoting Heritage

- 5.1 *Museum Initiatives:* Proposals in development: hats etc., for sale.. possibility of collaboration with SC's Archivist, Chris O'Connell was discussed with SC CEO **Action:**

DSh

- 5.2 *Education:* The lack of an Education Convener continues to be a major issue. Contacts with youth movements and local schools need to develop, but momentum not yet established..

DSh to maintain contacts.

Action: DSh

6.0 Projects

- 6.1 *Victoria Re-fit.* Heritage Lottery funding seems unlikely. Other potential providers identified : meeting to select other target donors to be advanced. Tailoring our requests to meet a wide range of favoured criteria will require concentrated consultative effort.

Action: DSh to co-ordinate

- 6.2 We are comparing notes with Scottish Canals, who are dealing with the same companies in their electrification plans.

The three potential suppliers to be asked to refresh their quotations, which have lapsed. **Action:**

MJS

- 6.3 *Cashless Donations.* With the decline in the everyday use of cash, the acquisition of a machine to accept donations by card was discussed - it has been found successful in other heritage sites. It was agreed to purchase such a system for LUCS.

Action: DSh

7.0 Health and Safety

- 7.1 *Accidents and Incidents.* No new reports
As a consequence of a previous report, AE and GH to collaborate on an entry in Basin Banter re proper use of poles. **Action AE /**

GH

- 7.2 *Training:* A new young volunteer, Neel, has turned up, and remains very keen : We may be able to develop links via this initiative.
Mentoring to be actively continued. **Action AE**

8.0 Events

- 8.1 **Fun Day**
A "Wash-up Meeting" to be convened: Peter collating information in preparation. **Action:**

PtP

- 8.2 **Halloween Cruises**
21/22 and 28/29th October. St Michael will not be available.
Planning to be progressed, using St Magdalene, and Story-Teller..
Price £14ph (tbc) **Action DSh**
- 8.3 **Volunteers Cruise**
A social cruise for new members: 11th November? **Action: AE**
- 8.4 **Chairman's BBQ.** Social cruise and BBQ 14th Oct?
- 8.5 **Winter Talks** - Re-establish this old tradition? **Action:AE**

9.0 Marketing

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

MJS

- 9.2 Soundings regarding Pride Flag or Pride cruises continue. **Action: DSh**
- 9.3 Basin Banter ever-hungry for copy. New Members to be given a mention.
Is Social Media help needed? **Action PtP**

10.0 General Management

- 10.1 *Treasurer's Report.* Nothing of concern: noted.
- 10.2 *Bookings.* Resolution of payment timeout problems still being monitored.
Consultations continue. Arisings to be monitored.
- 10.3 Potential commercial collaborations, which don't conflict with LUCS interests remain to be discussed.
It was noted that the Music Cruise with Sue McHugh and her harp brought high praise from audience and performer. She is keen to do it again, potentially on a fairly regular basis. To be discussed.
- 10.4 The established procedure of having the New Committee, post-AGM,

gests
its successor
implications

generate the *Key Facts Sheet* means it comes into being after people have already started making bookings for the following year. This suggesting procedure to permit current Committee to commit to a programme before that Committee is formed. The implications 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 10th October 2023 (Delayed by clash with MCA Certification activities).