

MINUTES
OF
LSKC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday 27 March 2025

1	Attendance 65 members present including committee Apologies received: Ken McIlroy, Sarah McIlroy, Karen Peiga, Amanda Grant, Peter Thayer, Ian McIntosh, Jane McLaren, Emma King, David Golightly, Mike Partington, Lesley Harradine
2	Welcome David welcomed members to the meeting and thanked members for the positive tone and content of the email discussion of the motion to be considered at this meeting.
3	Minutes of 2024 AGM: The minutes of the AGM held on 24 March 2024 were proposed by Ian Patterson and seconded by Claire Eadie, then approved by show of hands. There were no matters arising from those minutes.
4	Reports 1. Chair – David thanked the members of the committee and training committee who had recently stepped down for all their work, Antje Nish, Michelle Herron and Jim Tait. He also thanked Morva Mackenzie and Antje for the laborious work of managing membership admin. David noted that the age and gender profile of the club remained much as it had been reported in 2024. 2. Trips – Ivor Fennell explained that there had been some 120 trips on the Club's calendar for 2024 (though the number of actual trips had suffered from the near constant winds) and there were already some 101 planned for 2025 including 21 multi-day trips. Tuesday evening paddles would recommence on 1 April. As Ivor is standing down, Gerry Mulligan will take over the co-ordination of trips. Ivor concluded by thanking those members who had organised trips. • Following a request from members, Ivor asked trip planners to consider putting out emails in evenings/weekends as working members often found trips already full by time they were able to look at emails in the evening. 3. Storage/Containers – David said the club needed to consider taking another container to meet demand of storage and asked if members supported doing so. Support was clearly given by a show of hands. 4. Website – David explained that the Committee are proposing to replace the existing website with something easier to use and manage which would also have a phone app interface and would promote better communications. With help from (in particular) Dave Cuthill, Russell Henderson and Richard Taylor considerable progress had been made, and it was hoped to have something up and running in next few months. 5. Thanks - David thanked Ivor for co-ordinating and organising trips over last few years, Lindsay Donald for organising the Grange Club for our winter talks and Chris Gordon, Tim Gibson and Neil Black for leading the conservation work on the Lamb.

4	Financial Report Louisa reported on the draft accounts which had been circulated with notice of the AGM. Highlights included that membership income was up and equipment hire income was stable although it had suffered from weather related cancellations. Pool session income is also stable and the containers are full. In 2024 the Club had made a surplus of £4,594 and now has reserves of around £19,000. The reserves policy remains a target of £12,000 to be able to replace our hire fleet if lost (e.g. through fire) as the boats are not insured. We clearly have this covered. The Club is also committed to providing some financial support for members undertaking leadership and coaching training on basis that they will use this training to support members. This does not yet show in the accounts as the relevant training is still underway. The accounts were approved on a show of hands.
5	Training & Coaching Roddy thanked members collectively for their contributions to training and development such as organising first aid and VHF training. The club has helped many members obtain SKA and CSKA with the dividend that this now means there are some 16 members working towards SKL which would really help with trips. Financial support has been obtained from Paddle Scotland for this training. The first female specific training courses had been well-received. This is helpful as, while the overall gender balance of the Club is pretty good, the balance amongst leaders is poor. There were two specific people Roddy wanted to thank, Maria Hamilton for her time and energy organising the training and development work and Ian Patterson for the Pool sessions.
6	Safety and Standards for Deployment Neil explained that Paddle Scotland's implementation of Standards for Deployment (SfD) had caused a lot of debate both within and outwith the Club. As late as the volunteer conference in April 2024, there had been no mention of SfD and its launch had come as a surprise to most. PS has said it is committed to supporting clubs but has also lost a lot of capacity adding to the difficulties. Fundamentally SfD reflects the Club's longstanding approach of paddling in a safe and enjoyable way. It does however require the Club to know that trip leaders have the relevant skills and requires committees to champion safety. David noted that the Club meets SfD requirements in most cases, but PS has not given sufficient thought to informal paddling together and SfD seeks to make committees liable for everything. We need to find a solution which is likely to involve an opt-in email list and clear acceptance of risk/personal duty of care. The new website should make at least the formalities of this easier to manage. The Committee recognise the need to find a way to enable informal paddles without the committee being liable for everything.
7	Motion to Disaffiliate Rod explained the rationale for his motion having been a member of the SCA for 40 years and LSKC for 20, peer paddling was baked into the ethos of the Club and is something that he believes the Club must facilitate. He had been horrified by SfD and what it appeared to entail. However, he would prefer not to disaffiliate and, on the basis that the new committee would seek to find a way to enable peer paddling within the Club, he was not putting the motion forward today, albeit reserving the right to re-propose it if a satisfactory solution could not be found.
8	Amendment of Constitution David put forward the motion to amend the constitution subject to the changes being restricted to changing SCA to PS and providing a means to defer applicants without

	some experience from becoming members until they have completed induction training. This is important to protect other members, leaders and the committee as, once members, anyone can hire equipment and seek to go on trips. The committee recognised the need to rethink the approach to informal paddles and was not moving to remove the reference to peer paddling from the constitution. The motion was discussed and while generally supportive of a rethink, several points were made including that the retention of peer paddling in the constitution left the committee and others at risk and that there was little reason to believe PS would be willing to reconsider the approach to peer paddling under SfD. The committee were asked to name a date by which they would come back to members on the issue of informal paddling. David agreed committee would provide an update by 1 July. On this basis the restricted amendments to the constitution were passed 44 for, 2 against. Motion supporting rethink of informal paddling passed 50 for, none against and 2 abstentions.
9	Suspension of membership applications As the Club now has an induction programme, David asked for agreement to lift the suspension on new member applications. This was approved on a show of hands.
10	Election of new Committee Claire Eadie put the following nominations to the meeting, all of which were approved on a show of hands: • Gerry Mulligan • Louisa Newby as Treasurer • Roddy McDowell • Mark Hamilton as Secretary • David Simpson as Chair • Morva Mackenzie • Neil Black as Safety Officer Claire thanked the existing committee. David added that the committee intended to co-opt Mark Anderson and Michael Wilkinson as additional members.
11	Conclusion David thanks members for attending and for the constructive debate.