

Scottish Waterways for All

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting, Wednesday 26 August 2020 at 3pm Held virtually using Zoom

Attendees: Ronnie Rusack, Pat Bowie, Graeme Harvey, Sue Bedford-Visser, Gordon Daly, Richard Davies, Andy Davenport, Don Williams, Neil Kitchener, Sandra Purves, Chrisy Southgate, Carol Bell, Paul Flarry, Richard Millar, Josie Saunders, Kathy Gostick, Cathrine Topley, Fergus Duncanson, Karen Bradford, Jonathan Mosse, Paul Gunning

Apologies: Stewart Proctor (attempted to join), Cicely Oliver, Stuart Rennie, John Pomfret, David Edes

1.	Welcome PB welcomed everyone to the first Annual General Meeting of Scottish Waterways for All.	
2.	Notes from the formation of the SWfA meeting held on 1st August 2019 These were circulated in advance of the meeting as the most relevant set of minutes. This was the meeting when the group signed up to the Constitution and was formalised. It was felt that the minutes of the last AGM of the LCVG would not be meaningful in this context. Most of the matters arising had been covered through the year. PB ran through the main points: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Transport Scotland meeting had been held and worked well.• CT had promoted this group to SC Board and got a response.• CT was to talk to SC Board about having an observer from the group present – this has not yet happened.• JM sorted out web provision through the IWA which has been very useful. Thanks to JM.• GH agreed to approach DE to be the Highlands representative.• PB was to contact absent members to see if they wanted to be co-opted to the committee – done.• The Action List started well but then some things got in the way. This will be covered later in the meeting: how we will review progress and make it work better going forwards.• We have had a Dredging presentation and a Vegetation Management presentation.• JS had brought the Boaters' Survey to the meeting• MS had provided historic SC operational staff numbers• The Year of Coasts and Waters had regretfully been postponed	

	No-one wished to add anything else to this list.	
3.	<p>Chairperson's Report</p> <p>RR described how the group was set up as an advisory group to SC as well as to develop partnership working. The group evolved from the LCVG and merged with LCA, RYA, IWA and representatives from the Crinan and the Caledonian canals, bringing together a wide range of canal related skills and knowledge.</p> <p>RR ran through the aims and goals of the group and the key topic areas where action groups were established.</p> <p>He highlighted the contributions that the group had made to the Year of Coasts and Waters (postponed), the Volunteer Awards (postponed) and the Launch of the Big Splash, thanking SR in particular for the work he had done on the latter two initiatives.</p> <p>The global Coronavirus pandemic saw the group move from pro-active activity to fire-fighting.</p> <p>Speaking personally, RR said that he was against the group simply being a talking shop. He wants to see the group working in true partnership with SC, with the ability to carry out tasks and mark up achievements. The group needs the space to contribute effectively and has a great opportunity to step up volunteering given the right infrastructure. The appointment of a volunteer manager and the implementation of a training programme for volunteers in the use of power tools and machinery would free up SC staff for more meaningful work on the canals.</p> <p>RR said he was impressed with the new recent investment in dredging equipment but hoped it was not too late for this vital activity.</p> <p>He also stressed the importance of re-opening the F&C Canal right through from Bowling to Grangemouth.</p> <p>RR referenced the “good old days” when British Waterways worked hand in hand with the volunteer sector.</p> <p>In summary, RR said that this first year had had its ups and downs and some full and frank discussions. His wish for the future is for genuine partnership so that we are stronger together, creating sustainable canals for the future.</p> <p>A copy of the Chairman’s Report will be issued with this minute.</p> <p>PB asked for comments following RR’s report.</p>	

	<p>GD said that he remembered that there had been talk of encouraging cyclists' and fishermen's groups to join this group. PB said that Covid had scuppered a lot of actions but that this was still on the Action List.</p> <p>There were no further comments or questions.</p>	
4.	<p>Financial Report</p> <p>Treasurer GH spoke to his report which had been circulated in advance of the meeting. The accounts have not been submitted to an accountant as there are only 2 transactions.</p> <p>The 2 items of expenditure were for insurance for workboat Lochrin and were refunded by SC.</p> <p>Opening balance £2431.81 Closing balance £2431.81</p> <p>There had been a few issues with RBS over signatures and addresses when GH took over as Treasurer from SL but this has now been settled.</p> <p>The inaugural meeting of SWfA discussed changing the name of the account. This is in abeyance and can be dealt with by the new management Committee.</p> <p>SC were thanked for covering the insurance payments.</p> <p>There were no questions on the accounts.</p> <p>PB reminded the group that there was some money in the account if there were suitable opportunities to invest.</p>	
5.	<p>Election of new Management Committee</p> <p>According to our Constitution, there are 12 on the Management Committee with room for members co-opted for their skills and experience.</p> <p>Each year, 4 members of the Committee must stand down but are eligible for re-election.</p> <p>This year the following will stand down: Fergus Duncanson, Jonathan Mosse, Neil Kitchener and Pat Bowie.</p> <p>All had submitted a Nomination Form for re-election except for FD who is also stepping down from his role at RYA. FD was thanked for his involvement to date.</p> <p>In addition, a nomination had been submitted by Sue Bedford-Visser who has served as SWfA Secretary for the past year.</p> <p>Jonathan Mosse, Neil Kitchener, Pat Bowie and Sue Bedford-Visser were duly re-elected to the Management Committee.</p> <p>PB said that she had been in discussion with ST about how to keep everyone who was not on the Committee involved and share their ideas, comments</p>	

	<p>complaints etc. To this end SR has done some work on the concept of a social media space which could be part of the Volunteer Awards website.</p> <p>GH expressed thanks to Chrisy Southgate and the team at LCA for their work on Health & Safety matters and for their reports back to the group.</p>	
6.	<p>Election of Office Bearers</p> <p>The current Office Bearers are as follows: Chair: Ronnie Rusack; Vice Chair: Pat Bowie; Treasurer: Graeme Harvey; Secretary: Sue Bedford-Visser</p> <p>PB asked if anyone wished to step up to any of those positions or to resign from them.</p> <p>In the absence of anyone wishing to step up or step down, PB asked for endorsement of the status quo, which was supported by GD</p> <p>The new Management Committee is therefore as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ronnie Rusack (Chair) 2. Patricia Bowie (Vice Chair) 3. Graeme Harvey (Treasurer) 4. Sue Bedford-Visser (Secretary) 5. Richard Millar (Scottish Canals) 6. Josie Saunders (Scottish Canals) 7. Jonathan Mosse 8. Stuart Rennie 9. Don Williams 10. Neil Kitchener 11. Sandra Purves 12. Richard Davies 	
7.	<p>Any Other Competent Business</p> <p>No other issues were raised.</p>	
8.	<p>Close of meeting</p> <p>PB closed the meeting by inviting the new Management Committee to the next meeting and asking everyone to continue to feed back their ideas and information.</p>	