

AA Edinburgh and Lothian Intergroup
Minutes of AGM and Business Meeting 2024

Date & Venue: 29 November 2024 at St Catherine's Convent

Preamble & Traditions: Steve read The Preamble and Gordon read Traditions 1 to 12.

Statement on Offensive Behaviour and Inclusive Language: : Read by Grace, "This group wants all members, whether new or long-standing, to be kept safe while participating in meetings and other AA activities. This group does not tolerate bullying, harassment, discriminatory behaviour or any other form of abuse or exploitation and wishes to foster an inclusive fellowship. Bad language often offends but it's absence never does."

Present	In Person	Zoom
	Grace (Chair)	Peter (GSR Palmerston)
	Steve (Treasurer),	Mary (GSR St Cuthberts)
	Graeme (Electronic Comms Officer)	Kay
	Sarah (Observer)	Jemma (Region Rep)
	Christine (GSR)	Ewan(GSR Seaside Serenity Online)
	Dougie (Public Information Officer)	Susie(GSR Edinburgh Primary Purpose)
	Josh (Prisons Liaison Officer)	Kirsti
	Tommy(GSR Friday St Catherines)	Moira
	Gordon (Regional Prisons Officer)	Cheryl (GSR Murrayfield (COTGS))
	Dave	Fi (GSR Edinburgh Primary Purpose)
	George (GSR Stockbridge)	

Apologies: Chloe, Davy

Minutes of Previous Meeting: Accepted without amendment. Grace asked for someone to note the proceedings. Dave offered and this was accepted.

Rotation and Appointment of Officers

- **Chair:** Grace announced the end of her term as Chair and that she was stepping down. George offered to take up the position for the coming year. He gave a short resumé of his background in the fellowship. There being no other volunteers for the post, and no objections to George taking the position he agreed to become Chair from future meetings, but Grace agreed to continue as Chair for the duration of the current meeting.

- **Secretary:** This position is currently vacant and Grace asked for volunteers to take on this post for the next two to three years. Dave volunteered and gave a brief resumé of his background in the fellowship. There being no other volunteers for the post and no objections being raised, Dave was appointed as Secretary.
- **Region Rep:** Jemma is standing down from this post. She outlined the functions of the role. There were no volunteers and it was agreed to have filling the post as a standing agenda item in future. She confirmed she was happy to be contacted for information should anyone be interested.
- **Health Liaison Officer:** Moira said that she would be prepared to take on the post of Health Liaison Officer. She outlined some of the work she had previously done with the health sector. It was agreed that Moira speak with Dougie regarding what the role would entail and discuss at the next meeting. **Action Point 1: Moira and Dougie to liaise regarding Health Office Role.**
- **Other vacant posts:** Literature, Young Persons, Employment, Archivist, Telephones, Roundabout, Public Information, Armed Forces. These remain vacant and suitable volunteers will be appointed as circumstances allow.

Treasurer's Annual Report

Steve had circulated the annual accounts and summary of the financial status. These were agreed and accepted. There was some discussion regarding a large (£3,000) donation which had been made. Steve was able to confirm that appropriate diligence had been carried out and advice taken to confirm that the donation could be accepted and was within the limits for an individual.

Regional Report

Jemma presented her report, the key points being that there are now two vacancies for regional reps.

Conference Questions will be published in the December Service News which IG will circulate when received.

Region will run workshops on the questions on the following dates

Committees 1 – 3	16 th February 2025
Committees 4 – 6	23 rd March 2025 (both 11 am)

Intergroup need to receive input from Groups and collate a response for these. In order to ensure enough notice is given to Groups for consideration it was agreed that the same process be used as last year. George to check dates from last year and repeat this year. *

Annual Liaison Officer Reports

Dougie had circulated the **Public Information Report**. Key points are that talks have been given to five schools in the past year, with a further school talk planned for May 2025. The trams campaign has been a big success with that ending in early July 2025. Dougie has also been able to offer support and resource to Borders and East Lothian Intergroup (BELI).

Actions From Previous Meeting

- Service Intergroup Event: All complete
- Clarify AV equipment on treasurer's report: Complete
- Graeme: Add to website: Compete

- Decision to consult AAGB for advice: As mentioned in his report Steve had contacted AAGB and confirmed acceptability of donation. **Action Point 2: Steve and Grace to liaise with a view to advising applicable donors of the monetary limits for donation.**
- Graeme to change the wording on the Intergroup page of web site to encourage donations to be made to groups. Complete.

Matters Arising

- Website Hosting and Domain Name Ownership: Graeme has been doing a significant amount of work on this. Rob still owns the domain name but it is due to expire on 20th April 2025. The website is also still being hosted by Rob's hosting provider. The cost of hosting is currently estimated at £10 - £20 per month. Steve asked if Rob was owed any money. **Action Point 3: Graeme will check and let Steve know. Action Point 4: Steve and Graeme to check for any hidden costs re domain registration and web hosing. Action Point 5: Steve and Graeme to liaise with a view to intergroup making any payments required on an ongoing basis.**
- Meeting Finder Update: Graeme advised that the new format has been set up. All meetings are now on the same page but are colour coded according to meeting type with Zoom being blue, face to face green and hybrid in a third colour (to be confirmed.) This format was agreed and accepted.
- Mobile Apps: These replicate the functionality of the meeting finder page on the web site and are preferred by some. Apps exist for both the Apple Store and Google Play Store and could be reintroduced but that would incur some cost. **Action Point 6: GSRs to sound out their groups for demand, and report back at next intergroup.**
- European Young Persons' Event: This is due to take place in August 2025. **Action point 7: Jemma to arrange for Stevie to give a presentation on this at the January or March Intergroup.**

AOCB

- Josh gave an update on the work he had been doing as prison liaison officer. He has had a series of talks with senior prison service staff, and is currently discussing options for getting broadcasting time on prison radio. There continue to be regular and well attended meetings in prisons, and feedback shows that there is a 50% success rate for people who have been liberated. More work needs to be done with Scottish Health Action on alcohol Problems (SHAP) to raise the profile of AA with this group. A discussion was held on the operation of the chit system which Josh had been doing work on. **Action point 8: Josh to update the guidance on this and provide more information at the next intergroup]**
- Gordon remarked on the significant amount of work Josh had been doing with prisons and criminal justice, and this was acknowledged by the meeting.
- Dougie asked that the meeting thank the outgoing officers, Grace and Jemma, for all their considerable hard work on behalf of Intergroup. This was universally endorsed by the meeting.
- George said that appropriate email and WhatsApp access and credentials need to be set up for himself and Dave. **Action Point 9: Dave and George to liaise with Graeme accordingly.**

Summary of Action Points

1. Moira and Dougie to liaise regarding Health Liaison Officer Role.
2. Steve and Grace to liaise with a view to advising applicable donors of the monetary limits for donation.
3. Graeme to check and let Steve know if Rob is owed any money.
4. Steve and Graeme to check for any hidden costs re domain registration and web hosing.
5. Steve and Graeme to liaise with a view to intergroup making any payments for hosting required on an ongoing basis.
6. GSRs to sound out their groups for demand for apps, and report back at next Intergroup.
7. Jemma to arrange for Stevie to give a presentation on the European Young Persons' Event at the January or March Intergroup.
8. Josh to update and recirculate chit guidance and discuss at next Intergroup.
9. Dave and George to liaise with Graeme regarding set up of email and WhatsApp.

* Last year's Intergroup meetings were held on the 1st and 2nd Thursday of February. This year's meeting will therefore be held on Feb 6th (Committee 1, 2, 3 questions) and 13th (committee 4,5,6 questions), at the usual 7.15 time, by Zoom only. George Will put this in motion before the next Intergroup meeting.