

AA Edinburgh and Lothian Intergroup

Minutes of AGM and Business Meeting 2025

Date & Venue: 27 November 2025 at St Catherine's Convent

Preamble & Traditions: Dougie read The Preamble and George read Traditions 1 to 12.

Statement on Offensive Behaviour and Inclusive Language: : Read by George "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
	George (Chair)	Josh (Prisons LO)
	Steve (Treasurer)	Tam (GSR Edinburgh First)
	Dave (Secretary)	Sharon (GSR St Catherines)
	Graeme (EComm)	Brian (GSR Palmerston)
	Dougie (PI)	Fin (Observer)
	Moira (Region Rep)	Tom (GSR Willowbrae)
	Willie (Observer)	Lorna (GSR Edinburgh Primary Purpose)
	Christine (Observer)	Suzie (GSTR Edinburgh Primary Purpose)
		Chloe (GSR Lipstick with the Winners)

Apologies: Jane (Portobello), Ewan (Seaside Serenity), Steven (Archivist), Davie (LGBT Thursday), Chris (COTGS Tuesday), Mark (Stockbridge), Cheryl (COTGS Step 11)

Minutes of Previous Meeting: Accepted without amendment

Annual General Meeting

Rotation and Election of Officers

- **Chair:** George continues as Chair.
- **Secretary:** Dave continues as Secretary.
- **Treasurer:** Steve continues as Treasurer.
- **Ecomm:** Graeme continues as Ecomm
- **Region Rep:** Moira continues as Region Rep.
- **Public Information Liaison:** Dougie is standing down from this role after several years of service in various Intergroup roles. George thanked him for the commitment and energy he had contributed to IG over many years, and the appreciation was echoed by the whole meeting. Dougie indicated that he would be willing to help and advise anyone who succeeded him in the PILO role. At the date of the AGM no-one had stated their willingness to take on the PILO post, so it remains unfilled going forward. Prior to leaving office, Dougie had produced draft role descriptions for the various IG posts. It was agreed that this work should be progressed with a view to publishing the role descriptions on the IG web site.
Action point 1: George and Dave to progress this work.
- **Prisons Liaison:** Josh indicated that he was keen to relinquish his role as he had significant other Fellowship and personal demands on his time. This has been exacerbated by several potential additions to the Prisons Team being unable to continue service. The meeting felt that it was important that this valuable role be filled. Josh agreed to continue in the interim but that a successor would be required. George said that he would discuss the way forward with Josh following the latter's return from overseas towards the end of the year. **Action point 2: George to discuss filing the Prisons Liaison role with Josh.**
- **Health Liaison Officer:** This post remains vacant. Moira said that she would be keen to take on this role if a replacement could be found to fill the Region Rep role. This situation will be kept under review over the coming year.
- **Archivist:** Steven continues as Archivist.
- **Other vacant posts:** Literature, Young Persons, Employment, Telephones, Roundabout, Armed Forces. These remain vacant and suitable volunteers will be appointed as circumstances allow.

Treasurer's Annual Report

Steve presented the annual accounts and summary of the financial status. The IG financial situation remains stable and healthy with a prudent reserve of £2,500 being held at year start and year end. All liabilities and expenses had been paid promptly, £13,516.17 had been passed up to region and £558.87 had been allocated to underwrite the 2026 Edinburgh Convention. The accounts were agreed and accepted.

Public Information Report

Dougie presented the public information report. There have been several school talks over the last year: St George's, Heriots, Boroughmuir. These have all been well attended and received. The trams campaign is continuing for a second year, and presentations have been given to Scottish Health

Action on Alcohol Partnership (SHAAP) and The Royal College of Physicians (RCP). The most recent school talk scheduled for 26 November had been postponed and is provisionally rescheduled for 11 February 2026. Dougie said that he would be willing to assist with this should a new PILO be in post by then.

Regional Report

Moirira presented her report. Conference Questions will be published in the December Service News which Dave will circulate when received. Moirira reported that most positions at Region level are vacant. This developed into a wider discussion surrounding how best to recruit people into service roles and how to communicate the availability of service roles for those who wished to fill them, both at regional level and Intergroup.

Fin said that he knew of at least two people who would be keen to take on service roles but didn't know how, and Steve made the point that communications with groups relied on there being GSRs in the group who were known to IG and who took part at IG level.

George said that, in the past IG members had offered to go out to groups to present on IG, its role and how to get involved. However uptake had been low. Last year a workshop had been arranged which had had some success in recruiting fresh blood to service positions.

Moirira said that region had held workshops in the past and it was likely that further workshops would be arranged. There was acknowledgement that recruitment difficulties is a perennial problem

Group Reports

Written reports had previously been submitted by Lipstick with the Winners and Edinburgh Primary Purpose. These had been circulated with the agenda and there were no related questions.

Business Meeting

Actions From Previous Meeting

All actions have been completed except for action 3 which Dave is actively progressing and will report back at next meeting.

Matters Arising

- **Edinburgh Convention**

Brian had submitted draft proposals for the Edinburgh Convention and gave a verbal precis at the meeting. There are currently five Fellows on the organising committee, one of whom has previous experience of organising a convention. A WhatsApp group has been set up to facilitate communication. The Norton Park Conference Centre has been booked for 11 April 2026 at a cost of £256. Brian confirmed that this is a firm costing and that we qualify for charitable status for pricing purposes.

A draft programme for the day has been drawn up with Al-Anon and Al-Ateen having a presence with their own meetings in break-out rooms. AA sessions would be open, allowing Al-Anon and Al-Ateen members to attend them if desired. Several matters were discussed around the details of the event including the programme, catering and finances.

Suzie questioned whether there might be additional content in the programme in the form of workshops or similar, and said she could speak to group members for their ideas. Brian envisaged catering being on a 'self-provided' basis, but George pointed out that catering could be also provided by the conference venue at an additional cost and that this could be an option.

In terms of finance, it is intended that the convention be self-funded from ticket sales and this was the model used for past conventions. Steve confirmed that he had made provision in the accounts to underwrite any loss or pay for up-front costs if necessary. Brian advised that he anticipates pricing of £5 per ticket which will more than cover all costs.

The possibility of including one of the IG committee officers on the convention the WhatsApp chat was raised but it was agreed that this was not necessary. The meeting was content that Brian and the committee continue with their plans, keep IG informed and present a near-final proposal at the January IG meeting. **Action point 3: Brian to continue current work, keep IG advised of progress and present proposal at next meeting.**

- **Distribution of Financial Reports**

This issue had been raised because the quarter 3 national financial report had not been seen by some groups. Steve had assumed that NSO sent these directly to groups on their mailing list however it seems that this is not the case. Steve had previously forwarded the Q3 report to Dave who had circulated it to IG. It was agreed that Steve would now forward all national financial reports to Dave who will circulate them to IG. **Action point 4: Steve to forward financial reports for circulation going forward.**

During the discussion related to finance several people expressed their concern at the way national financial matters had recently been publicised. There was a feeling that the routes by which messages were communicated were inappropriate in that they seemed to bypass recognised communication channels. There was also a feeling that recent messages had been unnecessarily alarmist. Moira said that there were similar feelings at the regional level.

The meeting agreed that it may be appropriate to feed back IG's concerns to region. **Action point 5: George, Steve and Moira to discuss with a view to delivering an appropriate message to Region.**

- **Conference Questions discussion dates**

Although 2026 conference questions and a regional timetable not yet been published (awaiting December Service News), it was agreed that, as last year, IG workshops 2026 be set provisionally for Thursdays 5th (questions 1-3) and 12th (questions 4-6) (Zoom only, usual start time. **Action point 6: Volunteers sought to facilitate the meetings and to attend and present out position at Region meetings.**

AOCB

There was no other business.

The meeting closed with The Serenity Prayer.

Date of Next Meeting: 29th January 2026

Summary of Action Points

1. George and Dave to progress development and publication of role descriptions.
2. George to discuss filing the Prisons Liaison role with Josh
3. Brian to continue current convention organisation work, keep IG advised of progress and present proposal at next meeting.
4. Steve to forward financial reports for circulation going forward.
5. George, Steve and Moira to discuss view on national financial communication with a view to delivering an appropriate message to Region.
6. Identify volunteers to facilitate and report on the Conference Questions meetings.