

## AA Edinburgh and Midlothian Intergroup

### Minutes of Meeting on 26 March 2026

**Date & Venue:** 29 January 2026 at St Catherine’s Convent

**Preamble & Traditions:** Moira read The Preamble and Graeme 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)	Tom (GSR Meadowbank)
	Dave (Secretary)	Lorna (GSR Edinburgh Primary Purpose)
	Graeme (EComm)	Sam (GSR Edinburgh Primary Purpose)
	Moira (Prisons LO)	Grace (GSR Gayfield)
	Jane (GSR Portobello)	Jason (GSR Seaside Serenity)
	Steven (Archivist / GSR Muirhouse)	Mark (GSR Stockbridge Monday)
	Brian (GSR Palmerston Place)	Cheryl (GSR COTG Friday)
	Sharon (GSR St Catherines)	
	Christine (Observer)	

**Apologies:** **Steve (Treasurer)**, Tom (GSR Willowbrae), Chloe (GSR Lipstick with the Winners), Loral (GSR EPP), Chris (GSR Tuesday Murrayfield)

**Minutes of Previous Meeting:** Accepted without amendment

#### **Actions From Previous Meeting**

1. Steve and Graeme to devise ticket sales mechanism. See agenda item below.
2. Brian and Graeme to produce flier / publicity material. See agenda item below.
3. George to circulate message regarding Conference Question workshops. Action complete. See also agenda item below.
4. Dave to Liaise with Graeme to transfer Prisons email address to Moira and set up a new aamail TLO address for Susan. Action complete. Allocation of email addresses in progress.

5. Dave to liaise with Dougie and Ryan to facilitate deliver of presentation. Action complete. Dougie has delivered school presentation.
6. Dave to facilitate contact between Susan and Loral. Action complete.

George asked that two action points for the next meeting be added. **Action point 1: Dave add a standing agenda item of 'Liaison Posts' for all future meetings. Action point 2: Dave and George to work towards the completion of all role descriptions for publication on the web site.**

### **Group Reports and Service Reports**

No written reports, other than the finance report, had been submitted or presented on this occasion.

#### **1. Treasurer's Report**

Steve had submitted the year-to-date Financial Report which had been circulated prior to the meeting. No questions arose. George advised again that Steve would be standing down as Treasurer at the November 2026 AGM and that volunteers are sought for this position. Steve had previously indicated his willingness to act as mentor to any interested party in the lead up to the handover.

#### **2. Prison Liaison Officer**

Moira reported that her active participation as PLO had been delayed due to the requirement for her to be approved for second level disclosure. Josh is currently pursuing this. Moira is also in progress of obtaining her official aamail email address. She also advised the meeting that one of the obstacles facing the role was in finding people to attend meetings at Saughton which currently take place on Friday afternoons. She will be seeking to change meetings to a more convenient time for volunteers.

#### **3. Archivist**

Steven reported that he is currently working to compile a history of AA in Edinburgh similar to the York and Glasgow ones, and he is keen to work with Graeme to put some form of content on the Edinburgh web site. He said that he had a photographic archive of Cockburn Street and had also heard rumours that there is a 'lost collection' of archive material somewhere in the Convent. Sharon advised that she had a collection of old photographs which Steven would be welcome to. **Action point 3: Steven and Graem to work together to publish archive material on the web site. Action point 4: Sharon and Steven to arrange transfer of photographs.**

### **Matters Arising**

#### **1. Closure of Scotia Region**

George has previously circulated an email advising of Scotia Region's decision to wind up the region with effect from 24<sup>th</sup> May. This decision had not been taken lightly but there had been a quorate Regional Assembly at which the decision had been reached and it is now up to Edinburgh and Midlothian Intergroup to apply to become a member of another Region. George advised that the other regions in Scotland are: East of Scotland, Glasgow, Highlands & Islands and Southwest Scotland.

There was a wide-ranging discussion on the rights and wrongs of the dissolution of Scotia Region but the underlying issue has been the longstanding and consistent lack of volunteers to take on service roles. This is a problem that affects all Regions and Intergroups to a greater or lesser extent. George pointed out that Edinburgh and Midlothian Intergroup had publicised this

issue for many years and last year had held an event to encourage more volunteers to come forward. Other Intergroups and Regions have held similar events but the dearth of willing servants continues.

There was a consensus that the decision of what Region we should seek to affiliate with was too important to be taken without consulting more widely at Group level. Although East of Scotland may seem the logical choice geographically other factors such as demographics, service roles vacant / filled, manner in which the Region is run etc.

It was agreed that George would circulate an email outlining the position and summarising options for potential Regional affiliation, and that GSRs would take the issue back to their groups to gather their views. An extraordinary General Meeting would then be held on 30<sup>th</sup> April at which a decision on Regional membership would be taken based on the widest possible consultation with group members.

**Action point 5: George to circulate email outlining options for Regional membership.**

**Action point 6: GSRs to consult with group members re Region membership.**

**Action point 7: Dave to promulgate EGM on 30 April.**

## **2. Edinburgh Convention**

Brian had drawn up a provisional programme with speakers which had been circulated prior to the meeting. The day would comprise three sessions of three slots each giving 18 speaking / sharing slots. Seven of the 18 slots had currently been filled.

Tickets for the day will be charged at £5.00 payable in cash at the door. The main hall of the Norton Park Conference Centre has been hired from 09:00 to 19:00 at a cost of £773 for the ten hours. The main hall has a capacity of 100 so even if all places are sold it is likely that part of the provisional allocation from Intergroup funds will need to be used. Brian said however that he hoped that when donations are added in the event would be significantly self-funding.

Catering was discussed. While preparing sandwiches etc ourselves is an option it was accepted that there may be risks attached (such as allergies etc) and that good value pre-prepared buffet food was available from various sources at very reasonable cost. Brian said it was likely that this would be the option chosen. Coffee and tea will also be provided on a voluntary suggested payment basis and Brian said that he hoped attendees could be encouraged to bring donations of biscuits etc.

Cheryl asked if consideration had been given to having a literature table and this was accepted as being a good idea. Cheryl said she was happy to liaise with Brian and Dougie to arrange this. Lorna said that she had some literature and the meeting agreed that some modest expenditure on the purchase of additional literature, if necessary, would be acceptable. Cheryl to be added to the Convention WhatsApp.

There was discussion on how widely the flier had been distributed and circulated. Brian undertook to send a copy to Dave who would circulate it along with any other Convention related information to the Intergroup email list.

**Action point 8: Brian to send Dave the Convention flier and related information .**

**Action point 9: Dave to circulate flier and related information.**

**Action point 10: Brian, Cheryl, Lorna to liaise re organising a literature table.**

Graeme raised the issue of communication between the convention organising team and himself. He said that setting up of the QR code and a pre-payment system had not been possible due to delays in confirmation of the ticket price. Brian felt that there had been no shortcomings regarding communication. George acknowledged that there were lessons to be learned for the future but that this meeting was not the appropriate forum for further discussion of this matter prior to the Convention and the current focus should be on making that successful. He suggested that a wash-up/lessons learned session be held at a future Intergroup meeting.

#### **AOCB**

There was no other business.

The meeting closed with The Serenity Prayer.

**Date of EGM 30<sup>th</sup> April 2026**

**Date of Next Business Meeting: 28<sup>th</sup> May 2026**

#### **Summary of Action Points**

1. Dave to add a standing agenda item of 'Liaison Posts' for all future meetings.
2. Dave and George to work towards the completion of all role descriptions for publication on the web site.
3. Steven and Graeme to work together to publish archive material on the web site.
4. Sharon and Steven to arrange transfer of photographs.
5. George to circulate email outlining options for Region membership.
6. GSRs to consult with group members re Region membership.
7. Dave to promulgate EGM on 30 April.
8. Brian to send Dave the Convention flier and related information .
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