

AA Edinburgh and Midlothian Intergroup

Minutes of Meeting on 30 July 2026

Date & Venue: 30 July 2026 at St Catherine's Convent

Preamble & Traditions: Dave read The Preamble and Steve 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 its absence never does."

Present	In Person	Zoom
	George (Chair)	Alison (Chair EoS Region)
	Dave (Secretary)	Davie (TLO EoS Region)
	Steve (Treasurer)	Tam (GSR Edinburgh 1 st)
	Graeme (EComm)	Brian (GSR Palmerston)
	Gordon (GSR COTGS Murrayfield)	Loral (GSR East End Group)
	Moirra (Prisons LO)	Sharon (GSR St Catherine's)
	Lesley (GSR Portobello)	Lorna (GSR EPP)
	Christine (Observer)	Sam (GSR EPP)
		Cheryl (GSR COTGS Step 11 Group)
		Ewan (GSR Willowbrae)
		Tom (GSR Willowbrae)

Apologies: Mark W (GSR Stockbridge Big Book), Chris (GSR COTGS Tuesday), Steven (Archivist), Jason (GSR Seaside Serenity)

Minutes of Previous Meeting: Accepted without amendment

Actions From Previous Meeting

1. George: Pursue HLO discussions with Ewan and Cheryl. **Status:** Done; see Liaison Posts.
2. George: Discuss RLO role with Tom. **Status:** Done; see Liaison Posts.
3. George: Advise Moira that she can take on Roundabout Liaison as well as PLO. **Status:** Done; see Liaison Posts.
4. Steve: Progress possible appointment of AFLO and facilitate communication with EoS Regional AFLO. **Status:** Done; Steve has put the potential IG postholder in touch with the EoS Region AFLO.
5. Dave: Review role profiles and add suggested time commitments. **Status:** Done; see Matters Arising.
6. Dave: Complete remaining role profiles. **Status:** Done; see Matters Arising.
7. Steve: Contact TfE for quotes and options for continuing the Tram Campaign for a further year and report back at the next meeting. **Status:** Done; see Matters Arising.
8. Steve: Post message on IG WhatsApp chat regarding Gratitude Week. **Status:** Done.

Vacancies / Liaison Roles

1. Telephone Liaison Officer

See under matters arising below.

2. Regional Liaison Officer

Tom had previously expressed an interest in this role. He has had discussions with George prior to the meeting and they concluded that despite him having work responsibilities on a Sunday (when the Regional meetings take place) he would nonetheless be able to fulfil his responsibilities in this role. This was accepted by the meeting. He gave a resume of his background in AA. George proposed. Steve seconded. **Tom was appointed to the role of RLO.**

3. Health Liaison Officer

Ewan and Cheryl had both previously expressed an interest in taking on this role and it had been proposed that they share responsibility and work together in the post. Cheryl has since taken on work commitments which may pose a conflict of interest or anonymity in the health role but affirmed her willingness to provide support to Ewan in a non-public facing capacity. Ewan gave a resume of his background in AA. George proposed. Steve seconded. **Ewan was appointed to the role of HLO.**

4. Roundabout Liaison Officer

It had been agreed at the May meeting that there was no contraindication to Moira taking on this role in addition to her post as PLO and **Moira was appointed to the role of Roundabout Liaison Officer.**

5. Armed Forces Liaison Officer

Steve reported that he had been in contact with a Fellow who would potentially be interested in taking up the AFLO role. Steve had previously taken an action point to facilitate contact between this Fellow and the EoS Regional Armed Forces Liaison Office which he has now done.

George intimated that he is aware of some Fellows who may be interested in other service opportunities and he will take these forward with the individuals concerned.

Group and Service Reports

1. Treasurer's Report

Steve had submitted the year-to-date Financial Report which had been circulated before the meeting. Steve confirmed that the IG finances remain sound and that our first payment to EoS Region had been made. All liabilities have been covered and there remain sufficient funds to cover a further year's payment for the Trams Campaign should this be approved, still leaving a prudent reserve of c.£2,500. Steve advised that he had received regular payments from someone who had not identified which Group the amounts were proper to. He would endeavour to establish the identity of the individual. No questions arose.

Steve also noted that he had not received any financial reports for circulation recently from GSO and Dave confirmed that he has received no such reports either

Steve reiterated previous announcements that he would be rotating out of his role at the next AGM (November) and that a new Treasurer would need to be appointed.

2. Prisons

Moira had submitted a written Prisons report, which had been circulated. She advised that she will require level 2 disclosure. This will need to be applied for on her behalf by the Scottish Prison Service and paid for by AA at a cost of £25. It was agreed that IG should cover this cost.

She also requested that she be authorised to buy twelve copies of the Big Book for distribution at prison meetings. This would be at £11 per copy. This was agreed by the meeting.

Moira offered to take on two further action points:

- **Action point 1: Investigate the potential to get Roundabout magazine into prison libraries,**
- **Action point 2: Develop a leaflet to publicise the PLO role and encourage volunteers for prison service work across EMLI.** (She will work with Davie to explore commonality with similar leaflets for the TLO role.)

3. Archivist

Steven had tendered his apologies but had previously reported that he is continuing to work with Graeme to develop an archive website modelled on examples elsewhere.

4. Group Reports

- Gordon advised that COTGS continued to have good attendance.
- Lesley advised that the Portobello group continues to run their two meetings on alternate weeks from two temporary venues whilst renovation work on the Wash House takes place.
- Tom reported that Meadowbank continued to have good numbers and good sobriety
- Moira advised that the Corstorphine meeting had extended from one to one and a half hours and had a presence from LEAP most weeks,
- George reported that Stockbridge continued to have good attendance and also hosted LEAP attendees frequently.

Matters Arising

1. School Talks

Dave advised the meeting that Dougie and Loral had delivered the school talk at George Heriot's. This had received particularly positive feedback from the school as always, and the meeting thanked Dougie and Loral for their contribution and service. Dave advised that Dougie had offered to deliver further school talks if there was demand and he was able to do so. Dave advised that a request from St Augustine's had been received some time ago and had been held pending appointment of a successor to Dougie. As no such volunteer has come forward the meeting agreed that Dave should contact Dougie with a view to him doing the St Augustine's talk, accompanied by an interested Fellow. **Action point 3: Dave to contact Dougie with a view to taking forward the St Augustine's talk.**

2. Telephone Liaison Role and Twelve Stepping

Davie (TLO for East of Scotland Region) had been invited to make a short presentation on the TLO role with a view to encouraging volunteers from EMLI to come forward to fulfil related roles at Intergroup level. This was in the context that EMLI has not had TLO representation since pre-Covid.

Davie outlined how the national call handling system operates and how TLOs, call responders and twelve-steppers fit into the process:

- Calls to the national helpline are routed to responders. (For calls from landlines the calls will be routed to local responders based on the caller's location. For mobile calls, routing is arbitrary),
- The Regional Telephone Liaison Officer is responsible for the support of Intergroups and for training & co-ordination,
- Intergroup Telephone Liaison Officers are responsible for running the local rota and maintaining responder and twelve-stepper lists,
- Responders take calls, provide information and refer to twelve-steppers as appropriate,
- Twelve-steppers provide direct personal support to newcomers. In the light of recent safeguarding concerns twelve-steppers no longer conduct home visits.
- Responders are organised in shifts during which time they are responsible for accepting calls on their personal phone numbers.
- There are quarterly meetings in Scotland (three x Zoom and one in person (Perth, September)) which the TLO would be expected to attend.

Davie said that he would provide or arrange all training for any new TLO in EMLI and would provide mentoring and back-up as required. A priority for any newly appointed TLO would be to review and update the current list of responders and twelve-steppers and actively recruit new Fellows into those posts by direct contact with GSRs and groups.

Davie said that sobriety requirements of TLO, responder and twelve-step roles were all one year, that he would be happy to have an informal chat with anyone who may be interested in any of these roles, and would be happy for George to pass on his contact details for that purpose.

Davie reiterated the importance of the TLO, responder and twelve-stepper service positions and urged the meeting attendees to promote these positions to their groups. **Action point 4: GSRs to actively promote these roles to their groups and seek volunteers for all related roles. Action point 5: George, Steve and Dave to work together to actively recruit a Fellow to the TLO role.**

3. Continuation of Trams Campaign

Steve has obtained costings from TFE for continuation of the trams campaign. We have been quoted £5,388 for a further year, which is the same as last year and was regarded by the meeting as good value. There would be an additional fee of about £100-£200 for the creation of new artwork should we wish to do this. It was agreed that we should renew the campaign for a further year with new artwork to enable replacement of tired posters. Davie suggested that the posters show the Scottish helpline phone number rather than the national one, and this was agreed by the meeting. **Action point 6: Steve to take forward renewal of the campaign with TFE and liaise with Graeme regarding provision of new artwork and adoption of the Scottish helpline phone number.**

Steve also reported that bus advertising had been contracted to a national advertising firm in London who required submission of personal details to take forward any enquiry. The meeting agreed that there was no need to take this any further given the expected high cost of any bus campaign.

4. Update on Integration With East of Scotland Region

Our integration with EoS Region is now complete. George, Steve and Dave attended the last Regional meeting in Perth and were warmly welcomed along with representatives of Borders and East Lothian (BELI). George will be at the next two Regional meetings in Perth, and it is likely that Tom will also attend. Steve has already made the first payment to Region, and both Davie (RTLO) and Alison (EoS Region Chair) had been invited and were in attendance at this meeting. George said that he looked forward to a close working relationship with Region going forward.

5. Edinburgh Convention 2027

The meeting agreed that following the success of this year's convention a further one be held in 2027. Brian said that he is willing to take this forward and that he is looking at a potential date of 3 April. Cheryl thanked Brian for the success of this year's meeting and suggested that a sub-committee be appointed to take forward next year's event. This was agreed by the meeting and detailed discussion of the arrangements would commence at the September meeting. In the meantime George and Brian would discuss how best to take forward convention organisation for next year. **Action point 7: Dave to add Edinburgh Convention to next meeting's agenda. Action point 8: George and Brian to discuss prior to next meeting.**

AOCB

1. Role Profiles and Service Commitment

Dave has now completed draft profiles and service commitment estimates for all service roles. He proposed that he share these with the Intergroup community and offered to receive and collate feedback for discussion at the next meeting. This was accepted by the meeting, and it was suggested that the draft documents be placed on a not publicly visible partition of the web microsite. **Action point 9:**

2. Meeting Apps

Graeme advised that the Android FindAMeeting App had now been approved and is available for download from the Play Store. Further work is needed on the Apple app and Graeme is taking this forward. **Action point 10: Graeme to share link to the app on the WhatsApp Group Chat.**

3. Storage Space

Brian advised that he had secured storage space at Palmerston and that anyone holding AA paraphernalia could utilise this. They can contact Brian if they have any such material.

The meeting closed with The Serenity Prayer.

Summary of Action Points

1. Investigate the potential to get Roundabout magazine into prison libraries,
2. Develop a leaflet to publicise the PLO role and encourage volunteers for prison service work across EMLI.
3. Dave to contact Dougie with a view to taking forward the St Augustine's talk.
4. GSRs to actively promote these roles to their groups and seek volunteers for all related roles.
5. George, Steve and Dave to work together to actively recruit a Fellow to the TLO role.
6. Steve to take forward renewal of the campaign with TfE and liaise with Graeme regarding provision of new artwork and adoption of the Scottish helpline phone number.
7. Dave to add Edinburgh Convention to next meeting's agenda. Action point 8: George and Brian to discuss prior to next meeting.
9. Dave to liaise with Graeme to place documents in an appropriate location and forward the 'hidden' url inviting feedback/comments from IG members in time for the next meeting.
10. Graeme to share link to the app on the WhatsApp Group Chat.