AA Edinburgh and Midlothian Intergroup

Minutes of Meeting on 24 September 2026

Date & Venue: 24 September 2026 at St Catherine's Convent

Preamble & Traditions: Christine read The Preamble and Catherine 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)	Sharon (GSR St Catherine's)
	Dave (Secretary)	Tom (GSR Willowbrae)
	Steve (Treasurer)	Sam (GSR EPP)
	Graeme (EComm)	Cheryl (GSR COTGS Step 11 Group)
	Moira (Prisons LO)	Mark (GSR Stockbridge Monday)
	Catherine (GSR Holy Corner Thursday)	
	Christine (Observer)	

Apologies: Chris (GSR COTGS Tuesday), Steven (Archivist), Jason (GSR Seaside Serenity), Ewan (Health LO), Brian (GSR Palmerston), Tam (GSR Edinburgh 1st), Lesley (GSR Portobello Sunday), Grace

Minutes of Previous Meeting: Accepted without amendment

Actions From Previous Meeting

1. Moira to investigate the potential to get Roundabout magazine into prison libraries. **Ongoing**
2. Moira to develop a leaflet to publicise the PLO role and encourage volunteers for prison service work across EMLI. **See later agenda item**
3. Dave to contact Dougie with a view to taking forward the St Augustine's talk. **Completed. Talk arranged for January**

4. GSRs to actively promote these roles to their groups and seek volunteers for all related roles. **Ongoing**

5. George, Steve and Dave to work together to actively recruit a Fellow to the TLO role. **Completed. See later agenda item**

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. **Completed. New campaign is in place, paid for with new artwork and Scottish helpline contact number.**

7. Dave to add Edinburgh Convention to next meeting's agenda. **Completed**

8 George and Brian to discuss Edinburgh Convention prior to next meeting. **Completed. See later agenda item**

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. **Completed. Positive feedback received. Meeting agree to 'go live' with job roles in a consistent format. Action point 1: Dave to finalise documents and liaise with Graeme to publish them.**

10. Graeme to share link to the app on the WhatsApp Group Chat. **Progressing**

Vacancies / Liaison Roles

Cheryl announced that she and Lesley had discussed taking on the role of Telephone Liaison Officer in a joint capacity. Cheryl gave a synopsis of her own background in AA and, in Lesley's absence, a summary of Lesley's AA experience. Both candidates have a significant length of sobriety and have a history of conscientious and capable service, and regular attendance at meetings. George proposed their joint appointment to the TLO role and this was unanimously accepted by the meeting.. Unanimously accepted. **Action point 2: Cheryl and Lesley to liaise with Graeme to organise aamail email addresses.**

Tom was confirmed as Regional Liaison Officer at the last meeting. **Action point 3: Tom to liaise with Graeme to organise an aamail address.**

Current service positions are confirmed as:

Position	Incumbent	AAmail address	Notes
Chair	George	Chair.edinburgh@aamail.org	
Secretary	Dave	Secretary.edinburgh@aamail.com	
Treasurer	Steve	Treasurer.edinburgh@aamail.com	Rotating out November
Ecomm	Graeme	Ecomm.edinburgh@aamail.org	
Health LO	Ewan	Health.edinburgh@aamail.com	
Prisons LO	Moira	Prisons.edinburgh@aamail.org	
Region LO	Tom	TBA	

Position	Incumbent	AAmail address	Notes
Telephone LO 1	Cheryl	TBA	
Telephone LO 2	Lesley	TBA	
Archivist	Steven	N/A	
Roundabout LO	Moira	N/A	

Continuing Vacancies

- Public Information LO
- Armed Services LO
- Justice LO
- Young People's LO
- Employment LO
- Literature Secretary

There has still been no-one offering to take on the role of Treasurer from November. George reiterated his request that everyone at the meeting should take back to their groups the need for this post to be filled. Steve reaffirmed that the post was not an onerous one in terms of time commitment and that no specialist accounting skills were required.

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. All liabilities have been covered and there remains a prudent reserve of c.£2,500. No other major expenses are anticipated before the end of the year. No questions arose.

2. **Prisons**
   Moira had submitted a written Prisons report, which had been circulated. The Saughton meeting continues to run on Fridays with regular ongoing attendance. Shares are arranged for most weeks but Moira is hopeful of increasing the pool of volunteers for prison service. Moira is also working to develop a flier to publicise the prison role and is seeking volunteers to take the message to groups. She is yet to receive her Disclosure approval and Personal Protection Training but is chasing these up. A draft leaflet for recruiting sharers had been produced with Graeme, distribution channel to be decided (see below).

3. **Archivist**
   Steven had tendered his apologies but had previously reported that his collaboration with Graeme continues as they develop an archive website modelled on examples elsewhere. He is following up on material pertaining to Edinburgh which he believes is held in Glasgow and will investigate some interview material from older members.

4. **Health**
   Ewan had submitted a comprehensive health report which had been circulated.

   Ewan outlined progress in developing AA's links with health and recovery services in Edinburgh. He is attending the national Annual Meeting of Regional Health Officers to exchange ideas and make useful contacts. He has also spoken with members in Dundee and Glasgow to learn from their experience of working with the NHS and third-sector organisations.

The next step is to approach Edinburgh Alcohol & Drugs Partnership, LEAP and Castle Craig to explore opportunities for collaboration and establishing regular AA meetings within health or recovery settings. He also plans to recruit volunteers to run such meetings, potentially building on the existing Ritson Clinic group.

Finally, his report highlights the potential to work with GPs, possibly by building on Glasgow's work with the Royal College of GPs and existing NHS networks.

5. Region

The region report was presented jointly by George and Tom.

- The regional telephone service had reported for the last six months a total of 4,195 calls with an answering rate of 87%.
- The Regional Health Liaison role is currently vacant. Any fellow with an interest in taking on this role should contact an Intergroup or Region member.
- The last Region meeting held a vote on whether to introduce chips or cards which the helpline could give to people seeking help. The result was inconclusive and the Region /Chair is taking this forward.
- There remains a lack of clarity over the allocation of /Regional delegates to conference following the dissolution of Scotia Region. Watch this space!
- Region has discussed the use of ?WhatsApp and the implications for anonymity and the potential for abuse. This may= have implications of the wider use of WhatsApp. Watch this space!
- Forth Valley and Lanarkshire Intergroups have yet to decide which Region they will request to join following the dissolution of Scotia Region.

4. Group Reports

- Sharon reported that St Catherine's continues to enjoy good turnout with regular attendance from LEAP.
- Sam said that EPP is noy wholly on line with three meetings per week, however with service positions currently in flux this may reduce to two meetings per week.
- Mark reports good regular attendance at Stockbridge with a LEAP presence most weeks
- Moira advised that the Corstorphine meeting had extended from one to one and a half hours and had a presence from LEAP most weeks.
- From Cheryl the Friday Step 11 group includes a silent meditation and regularly has an attendance of 20 to 25 Fellows.
- Tom reported that the Willowbrae meeting continued to be well attended and that there were normally three attended from LEAP. He added that he would, from next week, be opening a new meeting at Waster Road on Thursday evenings.
- Catherine stated that the Holy Corner Thursday meeting tended to be better attended in the summer but continued with good numbers all year round.
- Moira said that the Dower House group had lower numbers than previously but had a LEAP attendance almost every week.
- Dave said that the Happy Wednesday Zoom meeting had normally between 10 the 15 attendees with two regular Fellows being based in the US.
- Graeme advised that Edinburgh 1st had good regular attendance.

Matters Arising

1. **Filling of Treasurer Role From November**
   There has still been no-one offering to take on the role of Treasurer from November. George reiterated his request that everyone at the meeting should take back to their groups the need for this post to be filled. Steve reaffirmed that the post was not an onerous one in terms of time commitment and that no specialist accounting skills were required. [I make no apology for the repetition!] **Action point 4:– George to liaise with Steve on further publicity towards filling the post.**

2. **Edinburgh Convention 2027**
   George has been in touch with Brian to suggest a small WhatsApp group to progress arrangements for the 2027 Edinburgh Convention. It has been agreed that initially the group consist of: Brian, George, Graeme, Cheryl. Additional sub-committee members can be co-opted onto this group as required. **Action point 5: Brian, George, Graeme, Cheryl to take forward Convention 2027**

3. **School Talks Programme**
   Following an action point from last meeting Dave had contacted Dougie who had agreed to take forward the requested talk at St Augustine's. This has now been arranged for January. There have been some Fellows who have expressed an interest in taking part in the school talks programme and Dougie has set up a WhatsApp group of interested Fellows. He intends to hold a Zoom meeting for all concerned at the beginning of October.

4. **Response to Interview Request**
   Dave advised the meeting that he had received, via GSO, a request from a Netherlands based journalism student, Dong-Soo Kampjes, to interview a representative or experienced member of AA based in the Edinburgh area. Dong-Soo had also asked if it would be possible for them to attend an open AA meeting while they were in Edinburgh between 6 and 10 October. They emphasised that they had the utmost respect for the core principles of AA and would strictly adhere to our guidelines and maintain complete confidentiality.

   After some discussion, the meeting agreed that there was no contra-indication to responding positively to the request for an interview and to inviting them to a meeting. Tom agreed to respond to the journalist along these lines and Dave said that he would forward the email chain to Tom. **Action point 6: Dave to forward the email chain to Tom. Action point 7: Tom to respond to Dong-Soo Kampjes**

AOCB

1. **Flier**
   The meeting discussed creating a coordinated publicity leaflet to promote various AA activities including health, prisons, and general outreach, George suggested a small team including himself, Cheryl, Ewan, Graeme and Dave working in conjunction with Moira who is developing the prison aspect of a similar / combined flier. **Action point 8: George to set up publicity flier working group.**

2. **Health Role**
   Catherine noted that she would be happy to contribute to Ewan's development of the HLO role and this was gratefully accepted by the meeting. **Action point 9**. **Dave to facilitate communication between Catherine and Ewan.**

The meeting closed with The Serenity Prayer.

Date of Next Meeting: 26th November 2026

Summary of Action Points

1. Dave to finalise documents and liaise with Graeme to publish them.
2. Cheryl and Lesley to liaise with Graeme to organise aamail
3. Tom to liaise with Graeme to organise an aamail address.
4. George to liaise with Steve on further publicity towards filling the post
5. Brian, George, Graeme, Steve to take forward Convention 2027
6. Dave to forward the email chain to Tom.
7. Tom to respond to Dong-Soo Kampjes
8. George to set up publicity flier working group.
9. Dave to facilitate communication between Catherine and Ewan.