



University of Leeds Speleological Association

Annual General Meeting held at HEART, Headingley on 8th December 2022

Attendees in person

Adam Aldridge

Adam Baldock Vice President

Mike Butcher Training coordinator

Ben Chaddock

Lyndon Easterbrook President, CNCC Representative

Adam Erskine-Jones

Lea Giguere-Richards

Miriam Gundelsweiler

Genevieve Hedges

John Holloway Meets & Minutes Secretary, CNCC Representative

Si Jepps

Larisa Onoufriadi

Ian Peachey

Alice Shackley

Luke Stangroom

Mark Taylor**

Bradley Tyson

Aurora Wang

Chris Williams* Treasurer

Attendees online

Sam Allshorn

Nat Dalton

Dinny Davies

Mike Fearn Ordinary Committee Member



Brendan Hall

Ian Hodge

Sarah Parker

Anna Robins

Rachel Turnbull***

Nicola William Distribution Officer, Conservation Officer

Tim Williams*

Apologies for absence

Michael Brigham

Nadia Raeburn-Cherradi (Editor)

Laura Haynes

Jon Haynes

Marion Holloway

David McCausland

Rose Wilson (Ordinary Committee Member)

Ann Barber**

Proxy votes declared

Bradley Tyson for Michael Brigham

Lyndon Easterbrook for Henry Hays

Luke Stangroom for Nadia Raeburn-Cherradi

Adam Baldock for Adam Pearce

Ian Peachey for Rob Watson

Anna Robins for Ben Chalmers

John Holloway for Marion Holloway

Si Jepps for Rose Wilson, Ben Young, Helen Young and Matty Shallcross.

* Arrived during the reports part of the meeting



** Not a current ULSA member so no counting vote.

*** Left before the end and gave proxy to Si Jepps

Meeting started 19:36

Acceptance of minutes from the last AGM (September 2020)

Proposed by Rachel Turnbull, seconded by Ian Peachey. One abstention, all others for.

Matters arising from the last AGM

Lyndon Easterbrook: We withdrew from the CSCC, made a donation of £220 to UWFRA in memory of Barry Greenwood and made a donation of £220 to CRO in memory of Richard Vidler.

Reports

President (Lyndon Easterbrook): I'm standing down at this meeting. We had a successful dinnermeet at short notice. The September gathering in memory of Richard Vidler was a success, with mines visited etc. Otherwise, I haven't been up to much.

Rachel Turnbull: That was an excellent weekend.

Secretary not present.

Treasurer (Chris Williams) not yet present. Report read out by Lyndon Easterbrook (see appendix)

Sam Allshorn: Is it possible, in future, to make sure that there isn't cross subsidisation of the dinnermeet?

Ian Peachey and Simon Jepps: That's the point.

Sam Allshorn: If the dinnermeet makes that much of a loss, it needs to cost more.

Lyndon Easterbrook: You have to guess how many people are coming. Over the last four or five years, bigger losses and profits have been made on dinnermeets. Perhaps the dinnermeet should have its own account so that surpluses can be spent in future years.

Ian Peachey: You have to tell people the cost beforehand.

Lyndon Easterbrook: It's a balancing act. Going forward, maybe we should look at the dinnermeet being able to fund itself.



Meets and Minutes Secretary (John Holloway): I organised some trips; some were rained off and some weren't. There was a recent successful trip to White Scar Cave.

Librarian vacant.

Distribution Officer and **Conservation Officer** (Nicola William): We sold four surveys and one journal. I have a few ideas for the upcoming year. There has not been much conservation over the last year due to the reduced amount of caving. We could do a community conservation project. We can discuss this at a meeting at some point.

Lyndon Easterbrook: We could get CNCC funding.

Nicola William: Kay Easton (CNCC Conservation Officer) emails out conservation projects.

Ian Peachey: It might be worth pushing them out to the ULSA group.

Editor not present. Alice Shackley: Nadia did do some work from Canada.

Webmaster vacant. Lyndon Easterbrook: There is an agenda item.

Photographer vacant.

Training Coordinator (Mike Butcher): Training has been going reasonably well. Adam Erskine-Jones has been helping on the LUUCaS side. We have changed to 7-9 on Tuesdays, as well as Fridays 8-10.

Adam Erskine-Jones: A lot more people turn up on Tuesdays. On Friday nights people have other things on. There were first aid sessions at the Pennine Hut and the YSS last semester.

Adoption of new ULSA constitution

Lyndon Easterbrook: Hopefully we won't spend too much time talking about this. The process started a couple of years ago. The draft presented now is the seventh or eighth draft, based on various people's input and reference to other clubs' constitutions. Does anyone have anything they want to discuss?

Mike Butcher: I'm not sure the quorum of 30% is low enough when we have so many student members.

Lyndon Easterbrook: If we reduce the quorum...

Luke Stangroom: Is there a way of splitting the quorum between students and older members?

Alice Shackley: We have twenty to thirty membership cards for students we don't know and who never come to meetings.

Simon Jepps: Could we classify membership?

Ian Peachey: Maybe we should classify 'active members' as those who have caved three times in the last year!

Rachel Turnbull: Is it really an issue?



Simon Jepps: I don't think I've ever been to an AGM that has been quorate.

Nathanael Dalton: We should avoid a two-tier membership system. We should keep the quorum at equal to the number of committee positions.

Ian Hodge: I don't think only the committee should be the quorum.

Simon Jepps: How about the committee doubled plus one? This would allow a new committee to take over.

Mike Fearn: All previous AGMs were held at the dinnermeet, so quorum shouldn't have been an issue. Maybe it should be defined as a fixed number, such as ten or twenty, or whatever feels right.

Nathanael Dalton: We should avoid percentages and two-tier membership.

Mark Taylor: How about double the number of filled positions on the committee plus one?

Ian Hodge: That could be a very small number and allow a takeover of ULSA.

Dinny Davies: How about twenty?

Lyndon Easterbrook: Twenty five? Filled committee positions are about fifteen.

Dinny Davies: You struggle to get twenty because people aren't interested, and twenty is enough to prevent a coup.

Ian Peachey: We have no hut and only £2000 in our account.

Simon Jepps: Matty Shallcross says thanks to the people who put the constitution together. He says there wasn't enough notice for this AGM. Maybe a month's notice would be better.

Sam Allshorn: There is no accurate list of current members, so it doesn't matter. Required notice could affect a Special General Meeting in an emergency. Everybody has had a chance to comment before this meeting.

Dinny Davies: I already commented eight months ago.

Simon Jepps: The new constitution requires one month's notice for an AGM, but not for other meetings.

Sam Allshorn: I would like to see a very great deal of care and that people check what is contained in section nine.

Alice Shackley read out section nine.

Ian Peachey: That sounds quite reasonable. We had an issue at Mendip a few years ago.

Sam Allshorn: This could affect a large number of the new committee.

Simon Jepps: There is a procedure to follow to resolve things.

Mark Taylor: The only sanction mentioned is permanent exclusion.

Ian Peachey: We don't normally throw people out of the club for the kind of thing that happened at Pennine Hut.

Mark Taylor: This relies on people being nice to each other.



Alice Shackley: This only talks about club consequences, not supporting people.

Rachel Turnbull: There are no other sanctions mentioned in the constitution. They should be decided by the committee.

Lyndon Easterbrook: 9.3 discusses informal resolution; 9.5 discusses exclusion.

Alice Shackley: It doesn't sound like there are any issues.

Lyndon Easterbrook: The new constitution can require one month notice for an AGM, with an agenda provided fourteen days before the meeting.

Sam Allshorn: What about 8.1.1?

Lyndon Easterbrook: I removed that section and told you.

Proposal to accept the new constitution with the following amendments:

- 7.2.2 One month's notice required for AGM, with agenda fourteen days before
- 7.2.3 Quorum for an AGM shall be twenty one members
- 7.3.4 Quorum for an SGM shall be twenty one members

Proposed by Alice Shackley, seconded by Lyndon Easterbrook. One vote against, all others in favour.

Lyndon Easterbrook: Now only two proxies are allowed per person.

Election of committee members

President: Lyndon Easterbrook is standing down.

Mike Butcher: I'm keen to take on the role and would consider it an honour. I have a lot to contribute. I live in Leeds, am an active caver, and have a good reach across the club.

Sam Allshorn: Leadership comes in many forms. I'd like to thank Lyndie for his leadership. I would have voted for Lyndie today.

Simon Jepps: Everyone is very grateful. Thank you so much, Lyndie.

Lyndon Easterbrook: When I was elected, Sam said 'We're fucked.'

President: Mike Butcher. Proposed by Lyndon Easterbrook, seconded by Rob Watson. One vote against, all others in favour.

Secretary: John Holloway. Proposed by Ian Peachey, seconded by Rachel Turnbull. All in favour.

Treasurer: Chris Williams. One vote against, two abstentions (out of the room), all others in favour.

Training Coordinator: Mike Butcher: This is a coordinator role, so they don't have to do all the training themselves

Lyndon Easterbrook: This changed from Training Officer a few years ago.



Training Coordinator: Adam Erskine-Jones. One abstention, all others in favour.

Meets Coordinator: Lyndon Easterbrook: Nadia was interested but is unable now. Is anyone interested?

Alice Shackley: I'll consider it, but not stand right now.

Various members suggested others.

Meets Coordinator: Simon Jepps. Proposed by Rachel Turnbull, Seconded by Chris Williams. One against, one abstention (out of the room), all others in favour.

Librarian: Adam Aldridge. Proposed by John Holloway, seconded by Mike Butcher. One abstention (out of the room), all others in favour.

Distribution and Sales Officer: Nicola William. All in favour.

Photographer: vacant.

Editor: Kristian Brook. Proposed by Mike Butcher, seconded by Alice Shackley. All in favour.

Webmaster: Left to website proposals later in meeting.

Conservation Officer: Nicola William. All in favour.

Ordinary Committee Member: Mike Fearn. All in favour.

Lyndon Easterbrook: Rose Wilson is standing down. We owe a great deal of thanks to Rose for the work done over the years on sorting membership.

Ordinary Committee Member: Lyndon Easterbrook. Proposed by Rachel Turnbull, seconded by Mike Fearn. All in favour.

Nathanael Dalton expressed his thanks to Rose using the Zoom chat function.

Ordinary Committee Member: Rachel Turnbull. Proposed by Dinny Davies, seconded by Sam Allshorn. All in favour.

CNCC Representative: Lyndon Easterbrook. One abstention, all others in favour.

CNCC Representative: John Holloway. One abstention, all others in favour.

Pennine Hut Response

Adam Baldock: The actions are now agreed with the Union and University.

Bradley Tyson: LUUCaS is now under supervision, and club members will be expected to know how to behave on trips.

Sam Allshorn: ULSA was also implicated in an incident in Gaping Gill in 2016.

Simon Jepps: Perhaps the committee should make a statement to the club about the use of fireworks.



Bradley Tyson: We have prepared a statement for future meetings. We do need ULSA members to lead trips.

Mike Butcher: Lincoln has been suspended from student activities.

Adam Baldock: The total cost is estimated at around £720.

Lyndon Easterbrook read out the proposal in the agenda.

Simon Jepps: This is at the informal resolution stage. ULSA are the net for if the informal resolution doesn't work.

Lyndon Easterbrook: Lincoln has offered to pay for the damage he caused.

Alice Shackley: I second what Si said. We don't need to debate specifics in this meeting.

Sam Allshorn: I propose to allow the committee to use the Watty funds funds to potentially make up any financial gap, so the student club is supported through ULSA. The student club is important to ULSA.

Lyndon Easterbrook: That is for the committee.

Chris Williams: That would be a change to what the Watty fund is for.

Mark Taylor: Watty was a great supporter of the student club.

Mike Butcher: The student club has a fair amount of money.

Tim Williams: The money in the Watty fund was collected by me. I think we need a bigger discussion in the club about what we use the money for. He was keen on the connection between the clubs, but it needs a bigger discussion.

Alice Shackley: Mike Butcher has been helping as well.

Rachel Turnbull left the meeting, making Simon Jepps her proxy.

High Birkwith access response

Proposed by Lyndon Easterbrook, seconded by Mark Taylor. Two abstentions (out of the room), all others in favour.

Award from the Watty fund to Ian Peachey

Ian Peachey: I got somebody else to pay for the cas bags, so I don't need it. Thanks, though!

Sam Allshorn: I won't withdraw the proposal. I believe Ian's contribution should be recognised.

Ian Peachey: There might be a project in a while that needs some money, but not yet.



New book for the Paul Pot award

Lyndon Easterbrook: We'll mark this as a committee issue.

Website proposals

Mike Fearn: A website is up and running which can be used on an interim basis. I'm not putting a rant book up. Committee members can be granted access to update it.

Lyndon Easterbrook: Do we want to move to a site where we pay someone to look after it?
Jon Haynes suggests this would be the best way to go.

From email:

I'm very happy with whatever is decided on the website front. The discussions going round on email at the moment seem sensible in terms of realising that the maintenance burden on individuals over time - given the increasingly hostile nature of the internet - is unsustainable and the cost of subscribing to a third party service for your website is probably the way to go.

Tim Williams: We should have a historic web presence that includes content that has been previously posted.

Ian Hodge: I'm worried that a lot of rants from the website prior to the WordPress version are lost, so we have a rantbook up to 2001 then nothing up to 2022.

Tim Williams: We propose that we pay the first year's fees as long as the club will cover it going forwards.

Chris Williams: We could increase membership fees, maybe either to £10/£15, or make everyone pay £10.

Mike Fearn: I support the offer stated by Tim Williams. I would like to see a plan in place to ensure the software is kept up to date.

Ian Hodge: We would pay for the management of the website.

Mike Fearn: It's £240 for a managed site with plugins.

Ian Hodge: It's £75 - £95 per year.

Brendan Hall: Why don't we use WordPress hosting?

Ian Hodge: WordPress was the most expensive host we found.

Nathanael Dalton: A managed server is a really good idea. We should do this.

Lyndon Easterbrook: We'll move to a managed website, and leave it to Ian Hodge, Mike Fearn, Brendan Hall, Jon Haynes etc. to look at.

John Holloway: Who will be webmaster?



Chris Williams: Maybe we should leave it to an AGM in March.

Lyndon Easterbrook proposed that option 1 be progressed, seconded by Tim Williams. All in favour.

Dinnermeet

Lyndon Easterbrook: Based on contacts with various places, I suggest we go for the Crown in Middlesmoor on Saturday 25th March.

Tim Williams: You've done a great job in researching for the dinnermeet.

Luke Stangroom: What is the accommodation there?

Lyndon Easterbrook gave an overview.

Any other business

Lyndon Easterbrook: I'll be sending out an email about working at Glastonbury Festival shortly. You can talk to me or Mike Butcher afterwards about it.

Date of next AGM

Alice Shackley: When are we having the next AGM? This format is very accessible.

Ben Chaddock: This time of year is very busy for students.

Alice Shackley: March would be good with this format.

Lyndon Easterbrook: We'll say Thursday 23rd March at a venue with online access.



Appendix

ULSA Account = £2,616.24

Watty Fund = £568.33

2022 Year

	Incoming	Outgoing	Difference
ULSA Membership	£330.75	£0.00	£330.75
BCA Insurance	£1,117.00	£1,131.00	-£14.00
BCA Membership	£0.00	£53.00	-£53.00
Dinnermeet	£387.00	£460.00	-£73.00
Dinnermeet Raffle	£135.00	£135.00	£0.00
Surveys	£10.40	£0.00	£10.40
Library	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Accommodation	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
T-Shirt	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Mug	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Surveying	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Prizes	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Watty Fund	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Misc	£7.00	£69.00	-£62.00
Overall	£1,987.15	£1,848.00	
	Activity In-		
	come	139.15	
	Check	139.15	