



University of Leeds Speleological Association

Annual General Meeting held at University of Leeds School of Earth and Environment on 23rd March
2023

Attendees in person

Mike Butcher	President
Michael Brigham	
Lyndon Easterbrook	Ordinary Committee Member, CNCC Representative
John Holloway	Secretary, CNCC Representative
Larisa Onoufriadi	
Adam Pearce	
Alice Shackley	
Chris Williams	Treasurer

Attendees online

Ane Appelt	
Adam Baldock	Vice President
Kristian Brook	Editor
Ben Chaddock	
Dinny Davies	
Adam Erskine-Jones	Training Coordinator
Mike Fearn	Ordinary Committee Member
Janey Gregory	
Lea Giguère-Richards	
Genevieve Hedges	
Nadia Raeburn-Cherradi	



Luke Stangroom

Rachel Turnbull* Ordinary Committee Member

Nicola William Distribution and Sales Officer, Conservation Officer

* Joined at 18:23

Meeting started 18:18

Declaration of any proxy votes

No proxy votes were declared.

Matters arising from the last AGM

Mike Fearn: There was an email that a website was up and running with a rantbook in place.

Mike Butcher: I'd encourage everybody to use it.

Alice Shackley: I managed to write a rant.

Reports

President (Mike Butcher): I have only been president for a few months so this is a relatively short report. Everything is ticking along nicely. We have had two committee meetings. We have a Malham weekend coming up. I'd like to promote the ULSA holiday. There is an email with a Doodle poll, so have a look if you'd like to come. We have space for eighteen people, and everything is booked. The calendar is up and running on the ULSA website.

Secretary (John Holloway): There was no ULSA secretary before as it was a LUUCaS position. The new constitution is not very prescriptive, which gives me leeway to do things my own way.

Treasurer (Chris Williams): The money for the Dinnermeet is in, which will quickly go out. We have around £360 in membership this year. For outgoings, we have the ULSA website domain and provider fees, which were partly paid for by a donation from some ULSA members.



Training coordinator (Adam Erskine-Jones): This has mostly been running training sessions with the student club. We haven't really had any sessions with too many students. We have a lot of experienced people who don't need to be there with not enough people to train. Kristian Brook delivered a review of rescue techniques.

Kristian Brook: That will not stand!

Adam Erskine-Jones: I'd like to get more involvement with rescue techniques as Kristian had to haul some freshers in Gaping Gill. Kristian is going away in a bit so we might need to find someone else.

Mike Butcher: There are plenty of members with rescue techniques experience.

Michael Brigham: Can we have scheduled sessions that focus on specific things, advertised a couple of weeks in advance?

Lyndon Easterbrook: It is on Tuesdays and Fridays? There was talk of Tuesdays being for beginners with advanced training on Fridays.

Adam Erskine-Jones: We don't know who will turn up in advance, so we don't know what we'll be dealing with.

Nadia Raeburn-Cherradi: We could plan special sessions in advance. I wouldn't worry about catering for whoever turns up.

Alice Shackley: Trying to organise that in a couple of months would be ideal.

Larisa Onoufriadi: There is no access to the wall at the end of term.

Nadia Raeburn-Cherradi: Some older members don't want to turn up just to teach SRT, but would be happy to turn up for specialist sessions.

Mike Butcher: We might be able to extend it if necessary. Maybe we prioritise the stuff that requires the climbing wall first. I'd like to do a theory-based leadership session.

Meets Coordinator (Simon Jepps) not present.

Mike Butcher: It's pretty much what's in the email he sent a while ago.

Librarian (Adam Aldridge) not present.

Lyndon Easterbrook: About six months ago, they said ULSA members can borrow up to ten items from the ULSA library. You need to show a membership card. You don't have to be a student.

Conservation officer (Nicola William): Since the last AGM, there is nothing too different, except for the conservation talk. For next time it would be nice to organise it at a time when the students would be available. We have to set a date for the actual conservation trip.

Distribution and sales officer (Nicola William): Since the last AGM we sold two surveys, but that's about it.

Photographer vacant.



Editor (Kristian Brook)

Mike Butcher: Kristian, do you want to ramble on for a bit?

Lyndon Easterbrook: I'm not having that! I think the newsletters so far have been very good. The format is very good.

Written report received later from Kristian:

Publication of a semi regular newsletter has restarted. After an initial joke one was sent out the membership pulled out their collective fingers and actually sent me some stuff to publish seriously. Articles continue to be sent in for the news letter and one will be written soon enough.

If I get bored enough I may even think about a review. But treat that idea with two amount of doubt it deserves

Kristian Brook

ULSA Editor

Webmaster vacant.

Ordinary committee members (Rachel Turnbull, Lyndon Easterbrook and Mike Fearn)

Rachel Turnbull: Thank you to Rose for all the years of doing membership. We have 125 members, 68 of which are students.

Mike Butcher: Well done Rachel and Chris.

Lyndon Easterbrook: The Dinnermeet was remarkably smooth to organise. People responded to emails. There are various raffle prizes, from Inglesport, Starless River et cetera. More prizes are welcome. Bring cash for the raffle.

John Holloway to chase Adam Aldridge, Kristian Brook and Simon Jepps for reports

Election of committee members

President: Mike Butcher. All in favour.

Secretary: John Holloway. All in favour.

Treasurer: Chris Williams. All in favour.

Training Coordinator: Adam Erskine-Jones. All in favour.

Meets Coordinator: Nadia Raeburn-Cherradi and Simon Jepps. Proposed by Mike Butcher, seconded by Alice Shackley. One vote against, one abstention, all others in favour.

Librarian: Adam Aldridge. All in favour.



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

Photographer: Ane Appelt. Proposed by Nadia Raeburn-Cherradi, seconded by Michael Bringham. All in favour.

Alice Shackley: It would be nice to see more photos on the Instagram page.

Ane Appelt: Yes, I can work with that.

Editor: Kristian Brook. All in favour.

Webmaster: Michael Bringham. Proposed by Mike Butcher, seconded by Nadia Raeburn-Cherradi. All in favour.

Conservation Officer: Nicola William. All in favour.

Ordinary Committee Member: Mike Fearn. All in favour.

Ordinary Committee Member: Lyndon Easterbrook. All in favour.

Ordinary Committee Member: Rachel Turnbull. All in favour.

Election of CNCC representatives

CNCC Representative: John Holloway. All in favour.

Lyndon Easterbrook: It's important to have student clubs represented on the CNCC. I'm standing down because I feel I've done my bit.

Dinny Davies: I make no commitment, but I'm happy to vote on ULSA's behalf if I'm there.

Alice Shackley: It would be good to get two committed people.

Rachel Turnbull: I propose Luke.

Luke Stangroom posted a laughing emoji online.

Rachel Turnbull: Aren't there hybrid meetings?

Lyndon Easterbrook: Yes, and the sound quality at Clapham is good.

CNCC Representative: Luke Stangroom. Proposed by Rachel Turnbull, seconded by Nadia Raeburn-Cherradi. One abstention, all others in favour.

CNCC Representative: Dinny Davies. Proposed by Mike Butcher, seconded by Alice Shackley. All in favour.



ULSA surveys

Mike Butcher read out the proposal.

Lyndon Easterbrook: Are you proposing not to put the FOUL and Hammer surveys online?

Mike Butcher: We would put them online, but the question is whether we print and sell hard copies of those as well.

Alice Shackley: I think this is a good idea. I don't think anybody goes out surveying with the expectation that it ends up behind a paywall. As not many are sold, and maybe more would be, I don't think we'd lose a massive revenue stream.

Lyndon Easterbrook: I think this is a well rounded and well written proposal, covering the points discussed in the last committee meeting.

Mike Fearn: How much revenue do we actually get from survey sales?

Chris Williams: Pre covid we sold about fifty pounds worth per year to Tony Seddon. A reasonable amount of that was Journal II.

Mike Fearn: There's no significant financial risk then.

Chris Williams: The decision will be whether we print the more recent stuff.

Mike Butcher: We could keep one for archiving and print more on demand.

I propose the ULSA collection of surveys (past, present and future) are made freely available on our website for people to use for caving purposes. These will be downloadable PDFs, watermarked throughout with a note suggesting a donation to the club and where un-watermarked hard copies can be purchased. Hard copies will still be sold for those wanting them as a nice posters. It is my hope that this will increase the usage of the surveys, celebrate the clubs contribution to surveying, and potentially increase the revenue stream from surveys for the club. It will also make good use of the new website, potentially helping to fund it.

The club may also want to consider whether we should print and sell hard copies of the recently completed surveys not yet printed (namely FOUL Pot and Hammer Pot).

Proposed by Mike Butcher, seconded by Alice Shackley. All in favour.

Mike Butcher: We can decide how many FOUL and Hammer surveys to print.

Alice Shackley: I'm happy for the committee to discuss this.

Chris Williams: I can print the odd one.

Alice Shackley: Kristian Brook suggested flogging some at Northern CHECC.

Kristian Brook: I'll take a selection up. I can collect money in cash or bank transfer.



Constitutional amendment

The constitution requires that the members standing for President, Secretary and Treasurer provide notification one week in advance of the AGM, and that this is published in the agenda. However, the constitution also requires that the agenda is published two weeks in advance of the AGM.

To correct this anomaly, I propose that the current part of the constitution:

6.4 To stand as a candidate for one of the three Core Officers positions (President, Secretary, Treasurer) notice must be given to the secretary at least seven days before the AGM and shall be included in the agenda.

Is replaced with the following:

6.4 To stand as a candidate for one of the three Core Officers positions (President, Secretary, Treasurer) notice must be given to the secretary at least fourteen days before the AGM and shall be included in the agenda.

Proposed by John Holloway, seconded by Lyndon Easterbrook. All in favour.

Any other business

Mike Fearn: For information, if you've not read the emails, I've changed the settings so we now have a sub group for the committee. I'm missing email addresses for Nicola William, Adam Erskine-Jones and Adam Baldock.

John Holloway to send Mike Fearn a list of committee members

Chris Williams: Do we have a preferred method of communication with the club? Not many people are on the email group.

Michael Bringham: Can the secretary repost stuff to Whatapp et cetera?

Mike Fearn: If Rachel has a list of student emails, I can email them asking to join.

Michael Bringham: Is there an issue with GDPR?

Alice Shackley: Possibly. We probably don't have explicit permission.

Mike Fearn: I could add a student as moderator to add people and validate membership requests.

Rachel Turnbull: I'm happy to be moderator.



Lyndon Easterbrook: Has somebody up to now put things on Facebook and Whatsapp?

Mike Butcher: Yes, but Whatsapp isn't the best platform and people can miss things on Facebook.

Alice Shackley: Can the students ask new members whether we can add them to the IO group?

Mike Fearn: The system sends out an invitation. If they decline, they decline.

Rachel Turnbull: The students can advertise it to the students.

Lyndon Easterbrook: In two years' time, it will be the sixtieth birthday of ULSA. Do we want a Dinnermeet and a celebration, or to combine them? We want to involve as many older members as possible. I have contact with members who set the club up in 1965. Maybe we'd want to have it in June or July. I'm putting it out there to start thinking about it. Dinnermeet is normally organised at committee level.

Alice Shackley: I think it would be best to combine them.

Nadia Raeburn-Cherradi: I think as a big event, just one makes sense.

Mike Butcher: Twelve months should be enough time to organise.

Lyndon Easterbrook: I'm thinking of the Yorkshire Dales Guides barn, Hornby Laithe Bunkhouses or the Dalesbridge. We have eighty people coming along just for this year's dinnermeet.

Mike Butcher: I was asked by Tim Williams to ask which ULSA logo we would use. There was a discussion about it being on the merchandise. I wanted to get feelers on how people feel about it.

Lyndon Easterbrook: This was at the 2019 AGM. It was decided that the dangly man would be on official documents and anything could be used on merchandise.

Michael Bringham: I think the current merchandise just revises the previous design just to keep things simple. The people who organise it might not know the complexities.

Alice Shackley: There wasn't much discussion for this round of merchandise. I think the current situation works well. Maybe we should have a discussion next time before ordering. In the future it would be good to have more thought and time put into the merchandise.

Luke Stangroom: Will there be sixtieth anniversary merchandise?

Alice Shackley: I was just thinking about it.

Lyndon Easterbrook: It all kicked off when things appeared with a mountain logo on.

Mike Butcher: We'll be happy with the status quo, but have a bit more consultation for merchandise. The Rab clothing doesn't really lend itself to the traditional logos.

Meeting ended 19:37



Summary of specific action items

Individual(s)	Action item
John Holloway	Chase Adam Aldridge, Kristian Brook and Simon Jepps for reports
John Holloway	Send Mike Fearn a list of committee members