

# MINUTES

<b>Title</b>	Lowland Canals Key Stakeholder Group
<b>Date</b>	9 November, 2013
<b>Venue</b>	Seagull Trust Boat, Ratho
<b>Attendees</b>	<p>Martin Latimer, SC Board (Chair) (ML)          Geoff Aitkenhead, SC Board (GA)          Jim McLachlan, Forth &amp; Clyde Canal Society (JMCL)          Marion Preez, Spokes (MP)          David Morris, Ramblers Scotland (DMo)          David Mieras, Seagull Trust (DMi)          Ron Woods, Scottish Federation for Coarse Angling (RW)          Andy Carnduff, RYA Scotland (AC)          Ronnie Rusack, General canal interests (RR)          Alasdair Burns, SC Head of Marketing (AB)          Alasdair Smart, SC Waterway Manager (Minutes) (AS)</p>
<b>Apologies</b>	<p>Alistair McKenzie, Glasgow Watersports          Andrew Stephenson, Edinburgh Leisure</p>

	<b>Action</b>
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<b>1.</b>	<p><b>Introductions &amp; Agreement of Group's Remit</b>          ML opened meeting and welcomed all attendees.          Approval of previous minute. Proposed AC, seconded JMCL.</p> <p>Responding to initial concerns from RR; ML clarified role of Group was to be wide ranging to represent all parts of the canal community but small enough to be able to agree on actions and get things done. Not just a talking shop.</p> <p>Group Terms of Reference were agreed with inclusions from DMo and minor amends to first and last point. Amended Terms attached.</p>	
<b>2.</b>	<p><b>Overview/ feedback from Representatives</b></p> <p><u>AC, RYA Scotland</u>          Has talked to lots of boaters since inaugural meeting. Positive feedback.          Specific feedback concerning boating constraints re: transits (dredging and time constraints travelling through F&amp;C).          Consider extending operational hours through user operations. AS advised operations outwith normal operational hours was possible. SC to review communications and operations to assist boaters.</p>	AS

	<p>DMo, Ramblers Scotland          New Development Officer appointed (Glen Cross) with remit to widen engagement. SC to arrange to meet with him.</p> <p>National walking strategy being developed. Consultation due to start in January.          Commonwealth Games 2014. Potential to work with SC to deliver physical benefits legacy.</p> <p>Disadvantaged communities. Opportunity for canals to offer solutions. SC to communicate actions to date/ tie in with Commonwealth games legacy.</p> <p>RW, SFCA          SFCA very supportive of Groups' objectives/ principles.          Highlighted that boat passage was good for angling by stirring up silt (turbidity/ food distribution).</p> <p>GA, SC Board          Feedback on canal side wall maintenance and £3m commitment from SC Board to dredging across the network. Important to ensure money was ring fenced and that there was no waste. Additional support may be possible from Scottish Government. bank clearance and maintenance. Opportunity to work with volunteers.</p> <p>DMe, Seagull Trust          Depth issues often make it difficult to pass on the Union. Boats grounding.          Support from SC bank staff very good.          Wooden Spoon: round table discussion on opportunities to develop/ promote offer to schools and corporates.</p> <p>AS, SC          Update on winter maintenance works – check website for regular updates.          Initial phase of Waterspace Strategy due to report shortly. Further consultation on leisure, commercial and visitor moorings will then follow over the winter.</p> <p>RR, Canal interests          Concern that volunteer group may collapse.          Negative feedback re: perceived misuse of volunteer depth survey and lack of progress with Lochrin workboat refurbishment. RR to email issues to AS and copy to ML.</p> <p>Request to consider upskilling of volunteers and additional support from SC.          Events: Advanced planning required for future events (eg Helix opening). Josie Saunders/ AB to pull together events strategy and programme for 1 to 2 years hence.          ML requested monthly Director's report to Board on volunteering.          ML/ GA/ AS commented on importance of volunteers to keeping canals open.</p> <p>MP, Spokes          Round table discussion on upgrading of towpaths and horse riding issues.          MP producing plan for cycling strategy in Edinburgh. Co-ordinate with SC input to City</p>	<p>AS</p> <p>AS</p> <p>RR/ AS</p> <p>JS/ AB          Richard          Millar</p>
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	<p>of Edinburgh Council to look at conflict issues arising from increasing usage of towpaths.</p> <p>Gritting of towpaths: AS clarified that SC were generally responsible for gritting towpaths. We endeavour to keep clear/grit locations which we have identified as being priorities due to their heavy usage or proximity to major public services, medical or community facilities. However, SC cannot guarantee access and customers use at their own risk. All other areas will only be treated as resources allow.</p> <p>J McL. F&amp;C Canal Society Queried if navigation improvements could be made to co-ordinate with new Speirs Wharf. JMcL to forward suggestions via email to AS.</p> <p>ML, SC Board Website information available via "Customer Hub". Links required to Stakeholder groups.</p>	<p><i>MP</i></p> <p><i>JMcL</i></p> <p><i>AB</i></p>
<b>3.</b>	<p><b>Creating a shared canal culture</b></p> <p>ML presented. Links between SC, community groups and how we offer products, services etc to engage with our users. Information flow needs to be 2 way and website will be key. AB to present demonstration of website at next meeting. Everyone to look at Customer Hub and upload events. Feedback on process at next meeting.</p>	<p><i>AB</i></p> <p><i>ALL</i></p>
<b>4.</b>	<p><b>Brand development</b></p> <p>AB presented. Progress to date and rationale for how we want to present ourselves, create our personality and character. Must be varied and flexible to represent range of users, canals etc. Created in co-ordination with staff and users. Very positive feedback from Group. AC suggested SC logo should have a recognisable/ definable shape for identification. AB to consider.</p>	<p><i>AB</i></p>
<b>5.</b>	<p><b>Update from SFCA</b></p> <p>RW updated group on initiative to introduce Volunteer Rangers to the Lowland canals to address ongoing issues re: irresponsible behaviour. SFCA looking to engage a co-ordinator for recruiting/ training volunteers and develop links with key partners (police, local councils etc) SFCA has approached SC to support via hosting staff, payroll management etc. SFCA meeting with Steve Dunlop, 20 November.</p>	

<b>6.</b>	<b>Next Meeting</b> Date of next meeting: Saturday, 15 March 2014.1000 – 1200. Location: East Dunbartonshire Council Offices, Southbank Marina, Kirkintilloch (tbc)  All representatives requested to provide written reports 10 days prior to meeting; - Update on actions since last meeting - New business to be discussed  ML closed meeting and Seagull Trust thanked for their hospitality.	<i>ALL</i>
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## **Lowland Canals Key Stakeholder Group**

### **Terms of Reference**

- To encourage the enjoyment and understanding of the Lowland canals as an important part of the recreational, environmental and historical heritage of Scotland.
- To represent the full range of users of Scotland's canals
- To act as a respected and informed forum for Scottish Canals' management
- To influence thinking and monitor future strategy / actions among all parties
- To identify themes and issues while managing any conflicting goals and aspirations between different user groups and available resources.
- To stimulate action & engagement within each organisation's own member base
- To provide visible and meaningful representation of wider industry interests
- To provide a platform for high level engagement with other stakeholders, as and when appropriate and requested
- To enable Scottish Canals to have means of enhanced two-way communications with commercial interests