

Actions from LUCS Committee on 1/4/25			
Resp	Section	Action	Status
DS	6.1	Communicate decision to proceed with Victoria	
DS	6.1	Instruct DME that we accept revised quote for weld repairs	Closed
MS	6.1	Request Phut Phut to update their quote for inflation, remove solar panels and to provide options for 3/4/5 batteries to be able to spread costs if required	
PL	6.2	Check Roseann training progress	
GS	6.2	Investigate a means of safe tying up alongside St Michael in case of no assistance	Closed
PL	6.2	Inform all drivers of 8 passenger limit	
RR	6.2	Look at a quick paint touch up / pimp up of Roseann before first operations	
AE	6.2	Discuss with Gordon best means of ensuring additional person always present to assist	
RR/MS	6.3	St Mags. cooling tank final solution to be detailed	
DS	6.5	Chase up MCA for response to email of 4.3.25 regarding medical self assessment and St Magdalene exemption from annual dry docking	
GS	6.5	Conditional on response from MCA - Update LUCS SMS to reflect change to self-assessment medical	
DS	6.5	Conditional on response from MCA Inform BMLs of change to self assessment medical fitness	
GS	6.6	When GS calls Police as per BML meeting action -clarify preferred method of stating geographic location	
GS	6.6	Update SMS with changes to emergency exercise requirements	
GS	6.6	Revise and publish the 2025 exercise programme	
GS	6.6	Recruit Steve and Derek as additional exercise coordinators /observers	Closed
PL	6.6	Attempt a first draft at a passenger incident statement card-(consult AM and MS)	
GS	6.7	Notify MCA and book out of water and in water inspections	
GS	6.7	Inform Blackhanders of dry dock dates	Closed
DS	6.7	Tow 2 battery boats out to Edinburgh in June	
PL	6.7	Discuss posting feedback on Facebook with marketing team	
GS	7.1	Arrange tidy up of the yard before 50 th	
AE	7.1	Repair canal centre sign before 50 th	
PL	7.6	Discuss Victoria sponsorship options with Ian	

Minutes of the LUCS Committee Meeting

1st April 2025

Tea Room

Present: Chair David Shirres (DS) welcomed:

David Morrow (DM), Doug Scott (DSc), Mike Smith (MS), Ronnie Reis (RR) ,Graeme Simpson (GS)
Peter Lewis (PL) and Andy Eaglesfield (AE).

Apologies were received from Ian Gray (IG).

1. *Chairman's Welcome and Apologies for Absence.*
DS welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. *Approval of Previous Minutes and Outstanding Actions*
Minutes approved by PL, RR.

General yard costs have now been removed from Victoria project costs. LUCS booklet confirmed at printers.

Pete still to allow for cost comparison with previous years.

Meeting with council still to take place regarding lamppost signage to basin-Mike

Young visitors' activity booklet still to be drafted by Andy

LUCS DPA account set up but still to be tested by Graeme

3. *General Management*
 - 3.1. Dates of future committee meetings
1st May 2025
3rd June 2025
 - 3.2. No other general management issues

4. *Marketing (limited as Ian not present)*

- 4.1. Marketing Strategy
- 4.2. LUCS Booklet

5. *Membership*
 - 5.1. Attracting Volunteers
2 new members on board.
 - 5.2. Any Other Membership Issues

6. *Boats*

- 6.1. Victoria Project Report

Tunnel has been repaired and strengthened since the storm damage. Hull almost stripped out and ready for weld repairs with exception of some clearance required within cabin area. A revised quote has been received from DME in response to the detailed scope refinement

following the hull sample. Quote has now dropped from £48K to £16K. Total repair costs now circa £44K vs £58k replacement cost with 5% contingency. Cash flow forecasts done based on last year. Noted that electrification is still the right direction and eventual banning of diesel engines on the canal is foreseeable. Victoria anticipated to be back operational by August potentially. Decision is affordable. Unanimous agreement to proceed with Victoria refurbishment and electrification.

- Communicate decision to proceed with Victoria-**DS**
- Instruct DME that we accept revised quote for weld repairs – **DS**
- Request Phut Phut to update their quote for inflation, remove solar panels and to provide options for 3/4/5 batteries to be able to spread costs if required. -**MS**

6.2. Roseann Driver Training and Operations

Training is still ongoing carried out by Stuart and Steve. General consensus has been that with bow passenger loading, single handed operation is tricky as the driver needs to leave the engine tiller. It is safer to have an extra pair of hands at the quayside to assist with tying up to avoid the driver having to leave the position at the outboard. Noted that guidance from the boat owners is no more than 8 passengers for comfort and safety.

- Check training progress -**PL**
- Investigate a means of safe tying up alongside St Michael in case of no assistance-**GS**
- Inform all drivers of 8 passenger limit-**PL**
- Look at a quick paint touch up / pimp up of Roseann before first operations -**RR**
- Discuss with Gordon best means of ensuring additional person always present to assist-**AE**

6.3. Winter Work St. Magdalene, St Michael and Leamington

Work generally complete for St Michael and Leamington. Leamington stern tube repairs seem to be effective so far. One side of Leamington is still to be painted. St Magdalene cooling repairs have not been successful. The thermal paste appears to be ineffective. The recovery plan is to remove one side of the plates and fillet weld to the deck, allowing the cooling water to be in direct contact with the hull.

- St Mags. cooling tank final solution to be detailed -**RR and MS**

6.4. Use of St Michael at Falkirk Wheel

Some Scottish Canals staff were trained on St Michael by LUCS trainers, but Scottish Canals are reticent to use the LUCS boat for a number of reasons. Currently it seems likely that St. Michael will only be at the Falkirk Wheel for two weeks from 30th April which she will operate for a period of 8 days driven by LUCS BMLs only.

6.5. MCA Exceptions: Medicals and Dry Docking

DS wrote to MCA on 4.3.25 advising that LUCS will move to a self-certified medical fitness system unless MCA can find a definite legal requirements for an ML5 medical. No response to date, so LUCS proceeding with a system similar to the over 70 driving questionnaires.

- **DS** to chase MCA for a response email of 4.3.25. Unless MCA can advised of legal requirement for medical certification for boatmasters:
 - Update LUCS SMS to reflect change to self-assessment medical -**GS**
 - Inform BMLs of change to self assessment medical fitness -**DS**

MCA were also requested if St Magdalene could be exempted from the annual dry dock requirement on the basis of low risk. Request has been handed to their technical team with no response yet.

6.6. BML Meeting / SMS

Note that annual BML meeting was held on 27/3 and a number of actions were recorded and some items required to be brought forward to the committee:

a/ Proposed change to definitions within SMS to include Drills, Table Top Exercises , Exercises and Major exercise with commitments per year for

1 Drill per month in season

1 Desktop Ex per season

2 Exercises per season

1 Possible major exercise every 5 years subject to emergency services willingness

- When GS calls Police as per BML meeting action -clarify preferred method of stating geographic location -**GS**

b/Remove the requirement to exercise with members of the public on board. Exercises to be carried out with volunteers role playing public to avoid unnecessary risk to public.

c/More regular focus on practical drills including man overboard and boat emergency stop and evacuation to towpath.

A draft exercise programme for 2025 was presented. Above changes were supported by Committee although accepted as being challenging.

- Update SMS with changes to emergency exercise requirements -**GS**
- Revise and publish the 2025 exercise programme -**GS**
- Recruit Steve and Derek as additional exercise coordinators /observers -**GS**

d/ An issue raised at the BML meeting was about the stress put upon a skipper on an occasion when a return trip from the Falkirk Wheel was first delayed and then cancelled. The passengers were very unhappy and the skipper was left on their own to deal with it. There was a suggestion to have some preprinted cards for such occasions to be able to take the heat out of the situation by providing details on how a complaint can be made, refund sought, compensation etc.

- Attempt a first draft at a passenger incident statement card-**PL to consult AM and MS**

6.7. Any Other Boat Issues

Note Ronnie has now booked dry dock as below. Small saving made on booking as charged at £500 per week, rate now increased to £550.

St Magdalen – 13th to 20th Sept

St Michael – 27th Sept to 4th Oct

- Notify MCA and book out of water and in water inspections- **GS**
- Inform Blackhanders of dry dock dates - **GS**

Note that 2 of the battery powered boats will be donated to the Edinburgh canal Society complete with all electric motors and batteries .

- Tow 2 battery boats out to Edinburgh in June -**DS**

Noted that some very positive feedback has been provided on the first afternoon teas cruise of the season. Some discussion on how to use this feedback in useful way.

- Discuss posting feedback on Facebook with marketing team -**PL**

7. *Other Projects and Events*

7.1. LUCS 50th

Confirmation has gone out to attendees. Some tidying up required just before event. Museum boards are due soon. The U66 hull is now in place. A brass plaque is ready and Craig is making a backing board for it. Catering has been organised by Lynne and is in hand. Edinburgh Model Boats will be present on the 12th April.

- Arrange tidy up of the yard before 50th -**GS**
- Repair canal centre sign -**AE**

7.2. 24th/25th May Revolution festival at Falkirk Wheel

7.3. M8 Bash 6/5/25

St Magdalene and St Michael will attend this event. Mooring at the M8 bridge is tight.

7.4. 20th-23rd June Edinburgh Canal Festival

St Michael will be present, Volunteers required to take boat out and back and also to man the boat as a publicity stall while in Edinburgh.

7.5. Website Revision

7.6. Any other Issues

Discussion on sponsorship. Possibility of selling sponsor advertising space on Victoria.

- Discuss Victoria sponsorship options with Ian -**PL**

8. *Promoting Heritage*

8.1. Museum Initiatives

8.2. Any Other Issues

9. *2025 Season*

9.1. Season Priorities

Primary focus currently on the 50th event and opening day.

10. *Health and Safety*

10.1. Accidents and Incidents

None to report

10.2. Any other issues

Nothing to report

11. *Any other business*

None arising and meeting closed

Previous Actions

Actions from LUCS Committee on 1.3.25		
DS	3.1	DS to stand down from Chair at the end of this year
All	3.2	Next committee meeting 1 April 2025 1 May2025
All	3.2	Update Articles of Association after the end of the season
PL	4. Treasurers	Cost of Yard clearance should not be costed to Victoria – rather general.
PL		It would be worth issuing a note showing how this financial period compared to previous years.
IG?	5. Marketing	Put email sign up form on website
IG?		Strengthen the Donations page on our website
IG/PL?		Poster to go up in Burgh Halls liaise with Tom Conn
IG/PL?		Posters to be developed and issued to High Street properties to advertise opening weekend
MS		Directional signs in Linlithgow to be progressed with Tom Conn
IG		Ian to speak to Douglas to continue the website update
AE		AE will produce an Activity booklet for visitors – aimed at our younger visitors
DS		Produce draft of A5 LUCS information booklet
All		Consider social event to gather ideas to recruit younger volunteers
DS	6. Boats	St Michael dates for Falkirk wheel and SC support to be determined
DS		
AE		Update existing Victoria quote once quote received from Coastal Marine.
RR		Determine success of new cooling tanks in St Magdelene
John Kerr/IW?		Put Leamington back in the water
RR		Get Colin G's engine running
PL		Insurance for Roseann for town trips
DS		Check if Scottish Canals will provide crew for St Michael on Falkirk Wheel trips
DS		Contact BMLs regarding covering Falkirk Wheel trips
GS		Send out invites to BMLs' meeting and organise emergency exercises
DM		Set up LUCS_DPA user on Microsoft 365
Various	9. Events	See 9.1 section on Anniversary Party
all		Decide what is happening on April 12th