

Minutes of COMMITTEE MEETING held at Munloch on Thursday 31st March 2022 at 5.30pm

1. WELCOME to Meeting

Present :- Alec Mutch, Geoff Potter, David Line, Peter Lawrence, John Ruickbie, Errol Levings, David Ross, David Hobson

APOLOGIES: - Cliff Sim, Alan Geddes, Nick Simpson

2. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held 5/2/22 were proposed as correct by EL and seconded by PL. It was agreed that in future the minutes (which were written by GP and then checked by AM before uploading to the HWC website and therefore available to all members to see) would no longer be on the Committee Meeting agenda for approval. Matters arising from the preceding meeting's minutes would continue.

3. Matters arising

None

4. Secretary's report

GP reported that the current membership stood at 58 members with a potential visitor and future member at today's meeting.

GP had received an estimate for a waste collection service from the Highland Council. A quote for the purchase of a 240 litre general waste wheelie bin and a monthly uplift had been made last week and a reminder sent 3 days ago. The Council had been informed that we only operated Club rooms and only had general waste for disposal and had no recyclable material. We are awaiting a reply.

There are currently 4 chainsaw approved users. Jeff Buttress, John Cheadle, George Burgess and David Hutcheson.

5. Treasurer's report.

AM presented the detailed report provided by CS which shows a good balance in the bank after recent expenditure on materials and equipment. Monies for the Club can be relayed to CS by Bill Munro.

6. Training manager's report

NS had provided a report which was presented by AM. See attached Appendix.

Training. DR said that the training was very well organised and the feedback on the first training session was very valuable. NS was thanked for his organisation. It was emphasised that good and safe working practices were the objectives of all the training.

7. Maintenance manager's report

JR presented a report on the progress of the workshop. See attached. The electrics were complete, the bandsaw was in the middle of the floor with and overhead supply. Volunteers were needed for painting (to be arranged at the following Club meeting).

1 Perspex screen had to be fitted and these would then be complete.

8. Hall committee update

JR reported that the Hall Committee had approved our tenancy of the additional workshop. The rent would be adjusted and this would be included in the imminent review.

Once access was gained to the Hall storeroom then the lighting would be completed in that room.

Information had been provided about the Club's electric supply and JR would progress the reallocation of the account to HWC.

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9. Covid update

The situation is still changing. Masks would be required until at least Easter. Sanitisers and the extractor fans would continue. When the guidance changes then masks would be recommended and the request for Members to stay away if they had any symptoms would continue.

10. Competitions update

NS had provided a paper which was presented by AM. See attached Appendix.

It was accepted that some liked competitions whereas others did not. AM requested that everyone digest the information, form an opinion and bring to the next meeting on 26th May 2022 or by reporting via email in advance.

11. Programme for 26th May

AM proposed and it was accepted that the meeting on 7th July for CS would be an informative Quiz. AM asked that all Committee members propose 2 questions each by 26th May. The 26th May meeting managed by AG would be lidded boxes.

12. Travel expenses for training personnel

The general opinion was trainers did not want expenses. AM requested all the Committee report their opinion by 26th May.

13. A.O.C.B.

JR had noted that the Playgroup which used the Hall would benefit from fundraising by the sale of a 3 tier cake stand. A design could be provided by AM and all Members would be requested to take part. This could be a collaboration or an individual effort.

14. NEXT MEETING

26th May at 6pm.

APPENDICES

HWC training team report for Committee 31/3/2022

NS

There has been a very good uptake with 8 beginners, 1 self-taught and 2 intermediate level club members applying for training.

Training team: Errol Levings, David Ross, David Hobson, John Ruickbie, Geoff Potter, Alec Mutch and Nick Simpson.

Dates of sessions and trainers/pupils – [attached below](#).

All members have accepted the dates on this rota.

When I am informed by a pupil that they cannot attend then I will offer their place to anyone who has written to me looking to swap. I do not have the time to canvass pupils to arrange swapping of sessions.

Most teaching will take place on alternate Thursdays but some teaching will take place on lathe 1 (NOVA) on club nights. I had intended that no teacher should need to teach more frequently than once per 4 weeks but demand is high at present so David Hobson and David Ross have volunteered to teach fortnightly until the pressures resolve.

Teaching Program: We are currently concentrating on beginners / early learners.

1. Every meeting will start with a safety briefing
2. Beginners: Start with bowl turning and move on to basic spindle work. We shall try to keep continuity of trainer/pupil. Progress and need for further training will be decided between trainer and pupil.
3. Intermediates: These members should ask for training on specific topics and the appropriate and willing trainer will be paired.
4. Tool sharpening: teaching may be limited until new sharpening station established.

Report from the first training night 10 March:

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1. A number of issues emerged around safety at work and the layout of the club room. These have all been acknowledged and have been resolved or are being resolved.

Quality control will be applied to the environment and not to judge or assess the quality/methods of teaching

I have asked John Ruickbie to be our 'Ofsted' inspector for the next session on 7th April.

2022		Trainee	Lathe	Tutors	Subject	Observers	
March	10	Darren Morrison	2	David Ross	Bowl on faceplate		
		Richard Sawicki	3	John Ruickbie	Bowl on faceplate		
		Tony Wilson	4	Alec Mutch	Bowl on faceplate	Nick Simpson	
		Alan Smith	5	Errol Levings	Sharpening	David Hobson	
March	24	No teaching					
April	7	Kathleen Line	1	Alec Mutch			
		Catrin Anderson	2	David Ross		John Ruickbie	
		Joe Webster	3	David Hobson		Geoff Potter	
		Susan Drew	4	Errol Levings			
		Craig Dixon	5	Nick Simpson		Barry Cumming	
April	14	Alan Smith	5	David Ross			
April	21	Darren Morrison	2	David Ross			
		Richard Sawicki	1	John Ruickbie			
		Tony Wilson	4	David Hobson			
		Barry Cumming	5	Geoff Potter			
		James Montgomery	3	Nick Simpson			
April	28						
May	5	Kathleen Line	1	Alec Mutch			
		Catrin Anderson	2	David Ross			
		Joe Webster	3	David Hobson			
		Susan Drew	4	Errol Levings			
		Craig Dixon	5	Nick Simpson		Geoff Potter	
May	12						
May	19	Darren Morrison	2	David Ross			
		Richard Sawicki	1	John Ruickbie	Unable to attend		
		Tony Wilson	4	David Hobson		Nick Simpson	
		Barry Cumming	5	Geoff Potter			
May	26						
June	2	Kathleen Line	1	Alec Mutch			
		Catrin Anderson	2	David Ross			
		Joe Webster	3	David Hobson			
		Susan Drew	4	Errol Levings			
		Craig Dixon	5	Nick Simpson		Geoff Potter	

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Competitions – report to HWC Committee 31/3/2022 Nick Simpson

Here are some of my thoughts about club competitions starting with the 2 most common turning competitions.

5. Open competitions judged by all members.
 - a. Upsides: These are run in many clubs and are popular. Everyone brings what they consider to be their best pieces made within a designated timeframe.
 - i. Entries are usually split into arbitrary categories of beginner, intermediate and experienced. Voting is usually by anonymous judging of 1st and 2nd favourites in each category by all members.
 - ii. There may or may not be a 'Show and Tell' element for the winners.
 - b. Downsides:
 - i. Judging by this method will always tend to revert to accepted norms to the detriment of innovation and creativity.
 - ii. Entries from non-winners tend to be dismissed and not discussed because of all sorts of constraints including lack of time; but for a particular member that entry may be a piece of work held with much pride.
 - iii. Tend to take up a whole meeting.
 - iv. Having an unlimited number of entries by an individual eventually leads many members to stop submitting.
6. Competitions with a specific topic. One or two judges.
 - a. Upsides: Everyone knows in advance what they are meant to create.
 - i. Different or modified topics can be tailored to experience levels.
 - ii. Judging criteria can be declared in advance
 - iii. Topics can be chosen to encourage precision, innovation and creativity.
 - iv. There should always be available discussion/feedback of the merits of every entry from a respected judge either in public or private.
 - v. Time must be set aside for this feedback but will not take up a whole meeting
 - b. Downsides:
 - i. Finding judges who are respected by the membership.
 - ii. These competitions should be built into the regular programme with ample advance notice of the topic for all members.
 - iii. Allocation of entry category is always subjective (see below)

Categories of experience.

This is a really difficult issue and one on which I am the least qualified to judge for HWC. I suggest the training group sit down and talk through the issues and then go through the membership list to allocate provisional status to each member. Members must have the right to challenge the category decision.

Movement between categories both up and down must be possible as happens in most sports. The names of the categories can be pejorative and must be thought out carefully.

Education and competitions:

For club competitions to have any value they must be accepted as a mainstream activity and supported by education.

Report on new workshop area

The new workshop has been cleared of all rubbish and the hall property moved to the cupboard under the stairs. We still need to fit the new padlock and hand over the keys to the hall committee. A light has been installed in the cupboard connected to the hall supply.

The hall committee will review our rent to include this room but I have been assured the increase will be minimal and it would be coming up for review anyway.

The new workshop is progressing with the new electrical supply installed and tested.

The wood rack has been moved and tidied up with the small pieces removed and some larger pieces laid out for members to take if they wish.

The internal electrics should be complete by Friday.

This leaves painting and bench building to be done and finally fitting out.

The hall committee meet on 30th March and I hope to get the information on the electrical supply provider to allow us to transfer it to the club.

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Four screens have been refurbished ready for normal club activities. One is still to be done but should be ready in time.

A lot of work has gone on in the club premises and I would like to thank the helpers for this assistance.

J R