



Dry Stone Walling Association of Great Britain  
Scotland Liaison Group

Chairman: Richard Love, 29 Bellevue Place, Edinburgh, EH7 4BS  
Secretary: Billy McCallum, 10 Declaration Way, Arbroath, Angus, DD11 5FB

**Minutes of the SLG Meeting held at the Elphinstone Hotel, Biggar at 11 am, Sun 8<sup>th</sup> Oct 17**

**Present:**

Richard Love SES (SLG Chairman), Billy McCallum CSB (SLG Secretary), John Riddick SWS, Nic Coombey SWS, Donald McInnes SES, Dave Taylor SES & Dave Barber from West of Scotland DSWA

**Apologies:**

Skye Branch, Linda Wilson SWS, Alison Shaw DSWA HQ and Kate Armstrong CSB

**Chairman's Welcome**

1. The Chairman welcomed all attendees and thanked everyone for their continued support. He outlined the Agenda items then the meeting began.

**Previous Minutes**

2. The Minutes from the previous meeting were discussed and the Chairman updated those present on the Aberdeen by-pass project. Unfortunately to date there had been no outright outcome. However, it was hoped that the DSWA would be able to put forward a best practice solution so that any future projects were carried out ensuring quality and specifications were monitored during the build process. With no other points it was agreed that the minutes from the last meeting should be accepted as a true record.

**Scottish Branches & WoS DSWA Updates**

3. Updates were given on the activities undertaken during the year:

a. **Central Scotland Branch** CSB ran three ordinary two day courses (Charge £85) which were successful although they still do not generate as many new members as they would like. There were two community projects: with the Black Watch Museum and Brighter Bervie which raised the profile of the branch and exposed both groups to walling. Turnout continues to be disappointing with 4 - 6 the normal. There were currently approximately 50 members in CSB with only a reshuffle within the Committee members at the forthcoming AGM in November. There is no Branch membership levy in place.

b. **South West Scotland Branch** SWS ran two courses (Charge £85) with the other planned course (in June) being cancelled. Consultation with Galloway Glens Landscape Development and NTS continues with plans continuing for a project / demonstration wall in 2019. The main effort for 2018 will be the DSWA AGM (50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary) in March with details being firmed up in the Winter W&D issue. Current Membership is 16 with no changes anticipated to the existing committee. There is a £5 Branch levy in place.



Dry Stone Walling Association of Great Britain  
Scotland Liaison Group

Chairman: Richard Love, 29 Bellevue Place, Edinburgh, EH7 4BS  
Secretary: Billy McCallum, 10 Declaration Way, Arbroath, Angus, DD11 5FB

- c. **South East Scotland Branch** SES planned three training courses (Charge £55) with one being cancelled due to lack of numbers. Friends of the Pentlands joint projects continue to be popular and although numbers are down events are still reasonably well attended given the branch size. Membership is approximately 30 and the Committee is likely to remain the same next season. There is no Branch levy in place.
- d. **Skye Branch** The branch were informed of the meeting however, a report was not received in time for the meeting. Nic Coombey explained that the branch is almost a one-man branch at present. It is hoped that that the branch will see some regeneration next season and it remains in contact with DSWA HQ who are supporting their endeavours.
- e. **West of Scotland DSWA** WoS ran three successful training courses (Charge £60) with 50 students taking part resulting in some new members to the group. Although a test date was set for the season unfortunately this was cancelled due to lack of numbers. However a Test Day is planned for next season (Apr - Aug 18). There are approximately 40 members with about half those active wallers. There are likely to be minor changes to the existing committee although this will be confirmed at their AGM. There is a £10 Membership in place and some members are also members of the DSWA.

### DSWA National Update

4. Richard Love gave a brief update on the progress within the DSWA HQ and highlighted the following:
- a. Mick Booth was remaining as Treasurer although not now a DSWA Trustee.
- b. The Heritage Lottery Funded Bursary project has been very successful with most students now at Level 3 standard and also qualified as DSWA Instructors. The intention was to roll the project out to a wider area when funding and plans were in place.
- c. He also mentioned that Lydia Noble was now a Trustee and given her youth was focusing on the social media aspect as well as supporting other projects.
- d. The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and AGM will be held at Gatehouse of Fleet on 3-5 March 2018 at the Cally Palace Hotel.
- e. The re-branding exercise to raise the profile of the DSWA was on-going and planned to coincide with the AGM/ Anniversary event. There are currently ten Trustees in place.



## Dry Stone Walling Association of Great Britain Scotland Liaison Group

Chairman: Richard Love, 29 Bellevue Place, Edinburgh, EH7 4BS  
Secretary: Billy McCallum, 10 Declaration Way, Arbroath, Angus, DD11 5FB

### Joint Branches Project

5. There were no potential projects highlighted during the meeting however, it was agreed that given the social aspect to such an event and the fact that with smaller attendances at branch events this would be a way of completing a larger project over one weekend and was still worthy of consideration if a suitable project came in to any of the branches.

### Gardening Scotland

6. The Gardening Scotland display (build weekend 25 - 27 May and event 1 – 3 June 18) will be firmed up later in the year once Alan Patrick (WoS DSWA) had confirmed the project and hopefully funding. Dave Barber asked that once details were confirmed that the SLG members would support the project if possible. It was highlighted that there had been some major changes with the event structure and that details for the 2018 event had still to be confirmed by the new management.

### Test Dates for 2018

7. The Chairman asked that any branches planning Test Days circulate the dates for inclusion in all programmes and hopefully allow any interested to consider a Test during 2018. WoS DSWA stated that their planned test day would have more chance of going ahead if the SLG branches used their site and date given the requirement to have approximately six students at a test day. All agreed that this would be the best method of getting a test day next season.

The meeting was adjourned for lunch. Dave Barber (WoS DSWA) left the meeting before the final agenda item.

### Separately Registered Branches in Scotland: Update and Discussion

8. The meeting discussed the progress the SLG committees had made with regard to the DSWA Trustee Proposal for them to de-register with OSCR and therefore mirror the structure of all the other DSWA branches. It was agreed, in broad terms, by all the SLG branches that the majority of the committee members were agreeable to recommend that their members accept the proposal. The overarching aim was to maintain a viable branch structure that would allow its members to promote walling and take an active part in projects where they wished to do so. To that end it was agreed that once all the SLG committees had agreed to support the proposal that the agenda item at the AGMs should mirror each other as much as possible to offer parity across the SLG. The CSB papers (already distributed to its members) would be made available to the other committees in the SLG for reference and to help ensure parity.

Decision: It was agreed that the SLG would include this proposal as an agenda item at their AGMs and the decision of their members would be passed to the Trustees who would then advise on the action required by the respective branch.



Dry Stone Walling Association of Great Britain  
Scotland Liaison Group

Chairman: Richard Love, 29 Bellevue Place, Edinburgh, EH7 4BS  
Secretary: Billy McCallum, 10 Declaration Way, Arbroath, Angus, DD11 5FB

## **AOCB**

9. Dave Taylor asked if there was any take up from DSWA members from other branches attending events on the SLG events programme. Most present could only recall one or two instances of other branch members attending events.

10. Nic Coombey raised the issue of ascertaining where the majority of trainees sourced details for courses in order to focus on this method to recruit more people on courses. However, it was obvious that there was no clear best method and probably a web search engine to the DSWA Branch programmes were where most attendees sourced their course dates and a venue to suit their requirements.

11. John Riddick asked the DSWA Trustees present if HQ had any intention of spending any of the contingency held. It was highlighted that the contingency held was being reviewed and the amount held in reserve may actually increase to afford a capital amount enabling the charity to function for at least six months.

12. Billy McCallum asked if there was any plan for DSWA Trustees to filter down some of the membership revenue to Branches – perhaps to raise awareness of the DSWA and address the falling membership. If a branch found a good method of increasing profile / membership it could be used by the other branches in their area. Nic Coombey made a note of the question and would feed this suggestion into the Trustees.

## **Date of Next Meeting**

13. It was agreed to hold the next meeting on Sunday 7 October 2018 at 11 am in the Elphinstone Hotel, Biggar. The Secretary was asked to send out a calling notice / agenda for the meeting and confirm the facilities with the hotel in September 2018.

14. The meeting closed at 2.20 pm.

Attachment:

Appendix 1: Ideas and Current practices in SLG worth considering across the other Branches



Dry Stone Walling Association of Great Britain  
Scotland Liaison Group

Chairman: Richard Love, 29 Bellevue Place, Edinburgh, EH7 4BS  
Secretary: Billy McCallum, 10 Declaration Way, Arbroath, Angus, DD11 5FB

Appendix 1

**Ideas and current practices in SLG worth considering across all Branches**

- An email to training course participants of future events during that season
- WoS DSWA auto-enrol students as members for 1<sup>st</sup> year – would this work for DSWA branches?
- A regular email / newsletter of events to members during the season – would this increase attendances
- Should Professional Fees (for Instructors) be set by DSWA or is this a branch decision based on professionals in branch and their specific circumstances (distance they travel etc)
- Would including a membership for a year in the training course fee help to increase membership?
- Would a Facebook page with branch updates / a gallery / links to DSWA web page for branches increase profile
- Ask at AGMs for any ideas to increase membership?