



**British Waterways Scotland  
Scotland Group**

**Minutes of Meeting held on 7th December 2001 at 0930 hours  
In The Council Chambers, West Dunbartonshire Council,  
Roseberry Place, Clydebank**

**Present:** Campbell Christie, Chairman  
George Greener  
Neil Butler  
Stewart Sim  
Jim Stirling  
Patricia Rettie (minutes)

Minute	Subject
	The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming those present.
SG25	<p>Apologies</p> <p>Apologies were given for Jane Karwoski (clashed with her wedding); Arthur McCourt; Ian Darling; Ken Collins &amp; Paul King who is now no longer a BW Board Member.</p> <p>GG made the point that the BW Scotland Group is now established and well known to the Parliaments and ministers. Processes have been discussed for attracting appropriate members and now is the time to turn this to a positive action as it coincides with the appointment of the New Minister for Transport, as she will want to know how the Group works, what it is achieving, how it generates interest. GG believes that this is within the remit of the Chairman and he will provide whatever facilitation is necessary.</p> <p>JS said he was looking to develop the Group with a focus on strategic roles for its members. The role of the Group would be to fully apply its individual and collective resources, expertise and knowledge to help with the conceptualising, enhancing and developing the longer-term corporate vision of BWS business. To act as steward of the organisational development of BW Scotland – guiding and supporting us towards where we want to be in 5 years, 10 years and even 20 years from now. To assist with the appropriate prioritisation and interpretation of BWS Values to ensure these are an intrinsic part of business growth over time.</p> <p>The Chairman and JS will be looking at all these issues and will bring to the March meeting specific proposals and timescales for action immediately following that meeting to ensure any new members are in post by summer and in advance of the next Annual Meeting.</p>

SG26	<p>Minutes of Previous Meeting &amp; Matters Arising</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 20th June 2001 were approved and agreed. Minutes of these meetings are available on the <a href="http://www.scottishcanals.co.uk">www.scottishcanals.co.uk</a> website.</p> <p>The Access Bill has now been published in draft. A copy will be sent to BW in due course. JS will discuss the Bill with Nigel Johnson.</p> <p>As a general reference to Scottish legislation, a flow chart of how to approach each new piece of legislation has not yet been finalised, but is being progressed.</p>
SG27	<p>British Waterways Scotland Priorities</p> <p>At present BW Scotland is working on the preparation of Business Plans.</p> <p>Our aim is to ensure that works which are most important from Scotland's asset management point of view are carried out, whilst at the same time recognising the importance of focussing on The Millennium Link from a business perspective, together with achieving reliability on the Lowlands.</p> <p>GG noted that devolution is a good thing for Scotland and issues of how we plan and prioritise now become more transparent and not simply a rubber stamp exercise. SS sees this as a building block for the Waterways and a way in which it can generate income and incorporate matters of social inclusion, etc and that it should be built into Scotland's Business Plan and presented to the Scottish Executive.</p> <p>JS sees the establishment of The Millennium Link as a well looked after and maintained waterway as an overarching priority. To achieve this BW must keep the community involved and deliver what it has promised. Clear output targets should be given and BW must establish a robust method of registering the cause of complaints and dealing with them. This must include matters of stewardship, clear water, people feeling safe and increased numbers of boats going through.</p> <p>BW should be the best water space managers in Scotland.</p> <p>The Caledonian Canal should be developed as a business concept and there is now a good manager in place who recognises this, together with an understanding of customer expectations.</p> <p>Alongside these would be commercial developments and partnerships. Examples would be the potential Joint Venture with East of Scotland Water involving the supply of grey water to Grangemouth; the development of telecomms mast sites along the canals.</p> <p>BW must look at initiatives for generating income. The Scottish Executive grant should be seen as broadly based across portfolios rather than just transport.</p> <p>CC made the point that there is a need to promote The Millennium Link as</p>

	<p>being a great idea and that the Falkirk Wheel sets a standard, but this must translate to all areas of the business. The Wheel must be managed well and the media must see success and excellent management. The Scotland Group should assist British Waterways management in this.</p> <p>GG wants to see further development of the process for prioritising and delivering what we say we will deliver.</p> <p>SS responded by saying that if we cannot achieve because of lack of resources, then resources should be made available in order that we get it right before moving on to other schemes. He believes that all operational aspects of The Millennium Link must be in place, even if it means stopping something else in order to achieve this and this may not necessarily be something in Scotland.</p> <p>JS then distributed a document issued by the Westminster Scottish Affairs Committee containing the submissions of our partners. This gives an opportunity to add impetus to our work with our partners, whilst gaining a flavour for what others are looking for from The Millennium Link on and beside the water. Scottish Enterprise has overall responsibility for economic development. The Scottish Affairs Committee visited various points along the canals, where the foundation for job creation and economic development is being laid.</p>
SG28	<p>The Falkirk Wheel - Success Measures</p> <p>JS began by stating that he sees the Falkirk Wheel as a potential icon and asked the Group how, in a few years, we would judge the bigger picture of success.</p> <p>NB replied that if in 5 years we see featured in worldwide press and publications The Millennium Link and the Falkirk Wheel, that is a tangible result and how people view Scotland and how we see ourselves. He compared it to the 'Glasgow Smiles' campaign.</p> <p>GG said if we do not achieve what we have discussed here today we would not achieve iconic status.</p> <p>NB referred to the Glasgow Science Centre as an example of a modern icon. The Wheel is unique and an engineering marvel, but it is how we build upon it that will make the difference. We must take care to only say what is true. The image should go around the world and come back again, if it does not, why not? Whatever underpins the Wheel must be deliverable.</p> <p>SS asked whether we should be looking for international prizes to raise the profile of the Wheel.</p> <p>JS stated that a programme for this has been started all awards are being looked at. We should also be looking to have it mentioned in the Queen's broadcast for 2002.</p>

SG29	<p>Visitor Centre</p> <p>JS informed the Group that The site would be handed over on 29<sup>th</sup> December 2001, the fit out of the shop and café will take place in January 2002, Open to public in the spring, and the Royal Opening will take place on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2002.</p> <p>Following on from a Job Fair held in Falkirk, where around 500 people turned up, 30 plus staff will be recruited and be starting in the Visitor Centre in January 2002 in order that they are well in place by the opening.</p> <p>It is anticipated that the main contract joint venture will be off site in January, and BW will carry out further landscaping works to ensure that the site is ready for March. These works have been budgeted for and a contractor appointed.</p> <p>There will be 2 amphibious vehicles, initially, with a further 2 to follow. In the interim more traditional boats will be used.</p> <p>A detailed check list for the Visitor Centre is to be available for the next BW Scotland Group Meeting in March. May hold this meeting at the Visitor Centre.</p>
SG 30	<p>Royal Opening</p> <p>A draft programme has been approved by the Palace.</p> <p>CC raised the question of an event following on from the Royal Opening, which would involve more of the local community and link in to the ‘Big in Falkirk’ week. He was concerned that the Royal Opening would largely involve the ‘great and the good’, and failure to involve larger numbers of the public would be a mistake. Such an event could be held on the Friday evening, immediately after the Royal Opening or preferably on the following day (the Saturday).</p> <p>JS was asked to produce a paper for the January Board Meeting.</p> <p>*Subsequent to meeting British Waterways Executive decided to include Falkirk with all other openings and a comprehensive paper will go to January Board with significant input from JS.</p>
SG31	<p>AOB</p> <p>There was no other business.</p>
SG32	<p>Dates for 2002 Meetings</p> <p>6<sup>th</sup> March; 20<sup>th</sup> June &amp; 30<sup>th</sup> October.</p>