

Eilean Eisdeal Directors' meeting minutes
23rd July 2022

Present: Jess Hill, Lynn Noble, Rob Grigg, Rob Hadfield, Sam Payn, Jackie Inch, Iain McDougall
Agenda – World Stone Skimming Championships 2022

- Iain Provided a summary of the progress updates that Sam had provided periodically on SS status of activities and expressed concern that the situation had deteriorated without warning from having 20 volunteers available in April to having to discuss cancelling the event in July. Wanted Sam to explain how she had allowed this to happen.
- All In a heated reaction, a number of other directors countered that the agenda of this meeting was to make a decision on whether the SS could proceed rather than hold a review on what went wrong and whose fault was it. Decision made (not supported by Iain) to focus discussion only on the decision to proceed or not.
- Jess Has spoken with the Scottish Land Fund (SLF) who helped EE buy the quarry to find out our liability to the SLF if we do not hold Stone Skimming (SS) this year. Elyn Zhang, who was our contact there but is leaving next week to work at HIE, stated that we are 100% not liable to repay if there is any interruption in holding SS. The purchase went forward in good faith, and only if we sold the quarry would we have to apply to SLF to retain the funds. Elyn asked Jess if the quarry was a financial liability for us and Jess assured her it is not.
- Iain Emphasised that we should be aware that SLF does have discretion to ask for repayment of funds and we only have the word of one employee, who is leaving, regarding our liability.
- Jackie Pointed out we should be aware of some of the other commitments EE may have, i.e. to people who have made travel and accommodation arrangements, and also to the band we have booked.
- Sam Said she was sure that the band would be willing to be flexible on a date.
- Jackie Financial analysis of fundraising does not include Arts funding figures.
- Jess Over time sponsorship has reduced
- Lynn In the early days so much stock/goods was received in sponsorship that it could not all be used up on the day. If the event had been at the start of the season it would have been useful stock for the season.
- Jackie The SS income after expenses is around £4,500 - £5,000
- Jess We live in a fundamentally different world after covid and sponsorship is unlikely to be so generous in the future.
- Iain Could equally produce a set of figures which refute Jackie's which are a damn good indicator of what we should be doing. SS is an integral part of the island for over 30 years, and it benefits a far wider area than just the island. Every business in the area makes money out of SS (Jess commented that Seafari did not).
- Jackie What is required to make SS happen?
- Jess Would rather not run it than run it badly.
- Iain Agreed
- Raised the subject of Sam's background, previous directorships of an online news business and a village hall, and a previous job as clerical assistant stating that "it is

all online at Companies House” and that clearly she does not have the experience to run the event. Wanted to review the errors that Sam has made.

Rob H, Jess, Jackie Disagreed, stating that the point of the meeting was to review what to do next. Clearly lessons should be learned from this year for the future, but this meeting was to make a decision on SS 2022.

Iain Commented that “World Stone Skimming Championship” is a copyrighted phrase. Mellon owns the copyright.

Jackie Suggested we go round the table and ask each director whether the 2022 event should go ahead.

Rob H No, SS 2022 should not go ahead.

Jess Better to cancel than run badly. Should we change the date of the gig by the band, or keep it as people will be here anyway.

Jackie Better to cancel SS 2022. Go ahead with the band on the same weekend to reduce criticism.

Lynn Probably best to cancel SS 2022, but keep the band gig.

Rob G We can't hold it, we don't have time to organise it. Back to basics to rebuild it for next year. Have the band gig.

Iain Abandon SS for this year. Band gig on a different weekend so as not to confuse people.

Sam Cancel SS 2022. It is not feasible that the finances of EE are so heavily dependent on one event.

Iain Let's not forget the significance of SS for many local businesses. We would be foolish to rob them of that chance.

Jackie We need to agree on the reason for cancellation

Rob H Suggested a draft which after some discussion was agreed by all as follows:

“Due to the continuous and continuing impact of Covid on the organisation, we have had to cancel this year's stone skimming event.”

Action: The following need to be contacted:

Website, Oban Times, EE members, Islanders Facebook group and pages, Media (**Iain** will speak to those he has already dealt with), Holiday cottage owners (probably all either EE members or on Islanders' Messenger group). Sam will do as much as she can before she goes on holiday on Tuesday.

The band – **Sam** will contact them

Jess Commented that it has not been an easy decision and thanked everyone for their input.

Jackie and Rob H Thanked Sam for her efforts

Postscript: The museum is unable to make or receive calls when the card machine is in use. BT have sent out 2 line splitters which have been tried without result. Rob H to take a look and see if he can identify the problem. Iain to complain to BT as if they are not providing broadband they should be paying a penalty for each day of no service.