

# Woodcraft Folk DFs

## Althing 2022 Minutes

23rd & 24th August 2022, Borth



“... send people to Wales and all kinds of scary places...” - Ray M-V

Present: Ray; Thomas; Emma B-V; Erik; Mia; Sam M; Delilah; Joe; Emma D; Esme (part meeting only); Sam S; Iz; Carmen; Tyler; Paul; Noah; Parker; Eunice; Sophie; Rachel; Nell; Sven; Lilly; Amelia; Eedie; Alison; Nuala; Ethan; Jack Brown (observer, part meeting only)

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## 0 Introductions

Ray took the chair and welcomed everyone to Althing. This is the first Althing held in person since 2019 due to the COVID pandemic.

The meeting began by going around the circle allowing everyone to introduce themselves. Everyone was asked to say their name, pronouns and what sandwich you would be.

Ray and Delilah ran through the hand signals which would be used to aid discussion.

It was announced that everyone was free to come-and-go from the meeting as needed, this was especially applicable to those on cooking clans & those with other responsibilities within the camp. Where people have left and joined the meeting, this has not been recorded in the minutes.

## 1 Ratification of Althing 2021 minutes

The minutes were approved.

## 2 Committee Reports

*Note: In advance of Althing, anyone holding a Committee or Non-Committee role was contacted and asked to prepare a report which answered 7 questions. Some questions are not applicable to all roles.*

### 2.1 Activism (Delilah Wallbank)

#### **What have you done in the last year?**

- The main thing I have done for activism in the last year has been to be a part of the youth board organising the National Co-operative Youth Summit
  - As part of this I went to bi weekly meetings from May to July and gave input on decisions such as where to hold the summit and who to invite
  - I also attended the summit and spoke about woodcraft and the DF movement
  - A position on this board remains open and can be passed on the next activism rep so woodcraft can stay involved in further youth summits
- I also organised for a workshop on climate change to be held at spring awakening and am planning to run a workshop myself on the alternative possibilities of housing at DF camp

**Is there anything which you would like to have done which you didn't manage to do in the year?**

- I started making a guide to getting involved in activism at university but did not finish it, this could be a task for a future activism rep to complete and update
- I also attempted to keep up to date with various protests and actions happening around the UK and pass these on to the comms rep to share this would be another good thing to continue
  - I was also posting them in the DF discord

**How did your handover go?**

- I continued this role from last year

**How are you feeling about the role?**

- This was a secondary role for me as most of my time was spent on organising events

**If your role continues into the next year, what do you want to do with your role?**

- N/A

**Anything you've found difficult which you would like to review?**

- Not really other than being overwhelmed with multiple roles

**Anything else you would like to add?**

- I think this could be a one year role

## 2.2 Chair of Committee (Ray Maynard Vesely)

**What have I done?**

I have facilitated things and monthly meetings throughout the past year, importantly trying to make sure that business still goes underway even though we aren't doing in person business events anymore. I attended a general council meeting and I would like to think in the past year our relationship with general council has strengthened. And I hope this made an impact when it came to common ground.

**Is there anything I didn't manage?**

I was hoping to get some more smaller events going, we had valentines hostel I suppose though but that was because a major event was cancelled. I also think I haven't been the best when it comes to being organised.

**How did the handover go?**

The handover at the beginning of the year was a little rocky but it all worked out alright, I just hope the next one is smooth

**How am I feeling about the role?**

I feel like I have really settled into the roll and committee as a whole have done an amazing job making sure we bounced back from covid stuff. I actually feel like I have stepped up to doing certain things I wasn't ready to at first and am very glad that I did.

**How would I like the role to continue?**

I like the fact that we have been quite adaptive and I hope that we basically do more as a movement and committee as a whole kinda expands forwards in the coming years

**What did I find difficult?**

At the moment I am anxious about the upcoming df elections and am worried we may not have enough people on committee to achieve our goals for next year. I also feel that, for factors completely out of our control, although we have done incredible work rebounding from covid in practical terms, I am concerned we may have suffered when it comes to the long term organisation things such as where certain items are, how can we ensure the next generations of committee are able to take over, the budget, oh god

**Anything I'd like to add?**

I feel like I have really settled into the roll and committee as a whole have done an amazing job making sure we boun

## 2.3 Communications (Niamh Pragnell Toal)

In the previous year we paid for a week of sponsored posts to promote DFs to this who maybe not already in woodcraft. This has paid off over the past year as we gained about 150 followers in the week time span.

We also had a great response from DF camp and many new DFs messaging and paying for memberships through this post.

Unfortunately after camp we lost the momentum as WW was cancelled but it was okay as we still sat above 600 followers and had the usual post interaction. All has been fine and running well, one concern is the amount of content to create and keep up with the change in demand and the ways of the platform but that can be eased with help. Our most popular method is Instagram and I don't really see that changing apart from more info and focus on the website

We gained followers again through CG and I hope we continue to engage the older venturers and encourage them up. Over the past 90 days we've gained 44 followers which is fab but needs to be taken swiftly and the new comms rep should do nothing short of spam the insta to continue the growth.

I've had a great time with ups and downs but absolutely love the pants off of everyone in DFs and I'm so excited to see where it goes next.

Blue skies and peace out babyyyyy,  
Niamh

## 2.4 Events (Delilah Wallbank)

### What have you done in the last year?

- This year I ran three social events, one on line thing and two things during events
- The year started with winter wonderland, which looked to be a big event with 75 people booked, however as we came closer to the date of camp the organising team had to make the hard decision to cancel the camp over worries about the increasing spread of covid 19
  - I believe this was the right decision at least partially because I myself caught covid on christmas and know of others within DFs who also had it at this time
  - However cancelling this event did mean a loss in momentum that had come about due to the summer before's successful DF camp
- In February me and Eric in the shadow events role organised a valentines hostel in a cheap, small scout site near Manchester
  - I mostly left the organisation of this to Eric as I was in the Netherlands at the time and also so that he could get some experience in the events role
  - We also tried to organise an in person thing but did not in the end over worries about finance and due to not finding a site in time
  - Valentines hostel originally had 27 people booked but there were many last minute cancellations which meant that in the end only around 15 people came
    - Additionally there was an issue with the bank information on the booking form meaning the money was transferred into an old bank account of DFs
    - This meant that Valentines hostel did not make the profit we had expected and also led to the decision to make a change to the cancellation policy to avoid loss of money in the future
- An online thing was held in March where the change to the cancellation policy was discussed and voted on
- In April we held spring awakening at Bramhope Scout camp in Leeds, 28 people came
  - This event was also run very close to the budget limit as the site was quite expensive but it was chosen in an attempt to save the deposit we had paid on it for the cancelled winter wonderland
  - At this event we ran a mini thing and also had an external workshop from Boundless Theatre
- Finally, at the end of August we are running DF Camp combined with Allthing in an attempt to save money
  - DF camp is being held in Borth as it has been a long time since any DF events were held outside of England
  - The bookings for DF camp are very low (around 20 for the full week), this may be due to the later dates and also the fact that common

ground was held earlier in August meaning that many DFs do not have the money or energy for another camp

- About a quarter of the people booked for DF camp are entirely new members of Woodcraft
- It is likely that DF camp will make a loss, hopefully this can be made up for with a big winter wonderland next year due to the increased awareness of DFs created at common ground
- I also was trained in running DBS checks which was very useful for organising events and I would suggest that at least two people on committee should be able to do this going forward

**Is there anything which you would like to have done which you didn't manage to do in the year?**

- Many of the documents in the events drive need to be edited and updated including all of the events guides
- Additionally it would be helpful to turn the events guides into web pages rather than having to copy and paste them into new folders every time we have a new event

**How did your handover go?**

- My handover was very limited as I had had no experience as shadow events and was living in a different country when I took on the role
- There was also a general lack of committee handover in that a group chat for committee was not made until around october

**How are you feeling about the role?**

- I feel that I have mostly been treading water in this role rather than making any real changes I hope that future events reps will be able to move forward more than I have

**If your role continues into the next year, what do you want to do with your role?**

- N/A

**Anything you've found difficult which you would like to review?**

- Contacting DFs
  - We need a more efficient way to contact DFs, instagram and facebook posts only reach the members who already know about us and come to camps if we could access a mailing list of all DFs we could spread the word about our upcoming events much more easily
- DBS and Membership checks
  - Currently we have to go through central woodcraft to do this which is time consuming and drawn out process it would be much easier if we could access these databases ourselves

**Anything else you would like to add?**



## 2.5 Even Lay Member (Alison Thompson)

Not done too much. I helped with some of the Google Workspace Migration

## 2.6 Odd Lay Member (Iz Costello)

### **What have you done in the last year?**

Been on shift as a Committee member for multiple camps. Helped out making leaflets and posts for the Instagram, writing up things. Since I've got memory problems it's hard to remember odd jobs and that. (Haha odd jobs I'm the odd lay member)

### **Is there anything which you would like to have done which you didn't manage to do in the year?**

Just generally help more and actively reaching out to people who could possibly need help. I tended to wait for someone to come to me or ask in the committee chat.

### **How did your handover go (if applicable)?**

N/A

### **How are you feeling about the role?**

Feeling good, I think it suits me to help people without something super consistent to focus on.

### **If your role continues into the next year, what do you want to do with your role?**

As I said before just help more and reach out to people more.

### **Anything you've found difficult which you would like to review?**

I suppose the reaching out part.

### **Anything else you would like to add?**

Nope

## 2.7 MEST-UP Coordinator (Katie & Lucy)

### **What have you done in the last year?**

- Run MEST-UP at common ground
- Sorted out training lots of new reps
- Created resources, both for our volunteers to have brief guides to essential things, and for us to be able to explain what MEST-UP do to others
- Helped run a central woodcraft session about consent and boundaries for children

### **Is there anything which you would like to have done which you didn't manage to do in the year?**

- Have more of a presence at DF events, which didn't happen due to neither of us being able to attend them and very few of our reps being there

**How did your handover go (if applicable)?**

- Katie handed over to Lucy who was in the shadow role and she did a fantastic handover to make sure we could take equal parts of the coordinating role

**How are you feeling about the role?**

- Much more positive after common ground, knowing that there are a lot of people who can take MEST-UP forward

**If your role continues into the next year, what do you want to do with your role?**

- n/a

**Anything you've found difficult which you would like to review?**

- Communication with central, esp those running common ground - took a very long time for them to respond to us in some instances, and they were expecting a lot more from us than we thought was reasonable

**Anything else you would like to add?**

## 2.8 Outreach (Carmen Mallinson-Pocock)

I haven't done loads apart from some socialising with other districts. At Common Ground, I did some socialising with the Red Falcons.

This role hasn't been filled prior to me which has made it difficult to know exactly what to do.

## 2.9 Safeguarding Representative (Kat Sloboda-Bolton)

No report submitted.

## 2.10 Secretary (Thomas Boxall)

**What have you done in the last year?**

- Started from scratch after a non-existent handover
- Organised and minuted committee meetings
- Prepared paperwork and agendas for Althing 2022
- Scoped, planned, executed and reviewed the successful migration of the Google Workspace
- Produced training documents on how to use the Google Workspace
- Started a DF Committee intranet/ handbook

**Is there anything which you would like to have done which you didn't manage to do in the year?**

- Work more on the Committee Intranet/ handbook

**How did your handover go (if applicable)?**

- After using multiple people to get in touch with the previous secretary, I got sent mystery usernames and passwords.

**How are you feeling about the role?**

- I've enjoyed it but feel it is time for me to move onto bigger things.

**If your role continues into the next year, what do you want to do with your role?**

- N/A

**Anything you've found difficult which you would like to review?**

- N/A

**Anything else you would like to add?**

- I've really enjoyed my time on committee and will be sad to see this role go!

## 2.11 Shadow Treasurer (Joe Walker)

1. In the last year I have received some training from the current treasurer, I took payments

from DFs on both DF camp and winter wonderland and made note of people's attendance, I

logged into the DF bank account and deposited money from camps into it

2. I would've liked to spend more time learning how being treasurer works

3. I'm fairly confident about my role, there are lots of people who came before me who I can

reach out to if I need help

4. If I am elected treasurer I want to keep DFs afloat and hopefully make our books clean so in

a few years we may be able to apply for grants, additionally I could talk to woodcraft central

and ask them to get grants which they could then spend on us

## 2.12 Treasurer (Kat Sloboda-Bolton)

No report submitted.

## 2.13 Training Representative (Isla Douglas)

**What have you done in the last year?**

Hey! I am the training rep for DF Committee! I have organised training for first aid for some DF's during covid within their own areas of the country as well as at a DF camp in order for camps to go ahead with the reassurance of knowing there is enough people first aid trained if anything were to go wrong.

In the run up to Common Ground I recruited lots of young people, old and new to DFs to be trained as MEST UP in order to have a very much needed MEST UP presence at the camp whether it be to provide a safe space, mental health support, sex education, free period products or workshops. I attended meetings

on zoom where we made a plan for what MEST UP would look like at Common Ground and then helped facilitate some of the workshops at the camp including the Finding Your Voice workshop where there was lots of shouting in a field! I also led a consent training workshop in Glasgow for venturers before they went to Common Ground to ensure the knowledge was there and built upon at camp.

**Is there anything which you would like to have done which you didn't manage to do in the year?**

Get more tech savvy with the folders etc... now that they have been moved to the new google drive haha.

**How did your handover go (if applicable)?**

Not happened yet, this report is due before Allthing :)

**How are you feeling about the role?**

It's been a lot of work at times but great to be part of a team with different members of DF Committee over the past two years and hopefully gaining lots of new members after Common Ground!

**If your role continues into the next year, what do you want to do with your role?**

I am hoping to stand as a lay member in order to help where needed across DF Committee more generally :)

**Anything you've found difficult which you would like to review?**

I was going to say the files etc... but now they've been moved to the new google drive so hopefully it will be clearer to find records from previous DF committee members :)

**Anything else you would like to add?**

DFs are such a great organisation which is fully run by its own members (the young people) and I really hope to see a growth in numbers and working towards the next vcamp to show the venturers what we are all about! If anyone is interested in finding out more about DFs or DF Committee I'm happy to talk more informally about it anytime :)

Isla :)

## 2.14 Chair Carer (Alison Thompson)

I have kept the chair safe. Unfortunately it hasn't made it to all events as I, myself, haven't been able to make nor has anyone from my district who could have taken it on my behalf.

## 2.15 Accessibility (Biff Pearson)

No report submitted.

## 2.16 Web Fairy (Thomas Boxall)

### **What have you done in the last year?**

- Updated the website from time to time
- Setup auto updating on the website
- Tidy up subdomains
- Monitor content on the website and update where applicable
- Change the theme on the website
- Removed some unnecessary Wordpress plugins which were slowing down the website loading - it now loads much better

### **Is there anything which you would like to have done which you didn't manage to do in the year?**

- Updated more content on the website
- Added more content to the website to make it more of an information hub

### **How did your handover go (if applicable)?**

- After using multiple people to get in touch with the previous web fairy, I got sent mystery usernames and passwords.

### **How are you feeling about the role?**

- Worried. There are lots of difficult points with this role, most of which revolve around the domain being paid for and updates being made to the website, hence the motion (22-01)

### **If your role continues into the next year, what do you want to do with your role?**

- N/A

### **Anything you've found difficult which you would like to review?**

- N/A

### **Anything else you would like to add?**

- Nope.

## 2.17 First Aid Fairy (Niamh Pragnell Toal)

No report submitted.

## 2.18 Venturer Committee and Venturer Camp Liaison (Carmen Mallinson-Pocock)

No report submitted.

## 2.19 General Council Rep (Even) (Delilah Wallbank)

### **What have you done in the last year?**

- I have attended several but not all general council meetings and attempted to actively participate in them
- I was not able to attend in person meetings due to living in the netherlands

### **Is there anything which you would like to have done which you didn't manage to do in the year?**

- I would have liked to take up some more active roles in GC but did not have time due to also being events rep on DF committee

### **How did your handover go?**

- I continued this role from last year, but this year I actually got emailed when there were GC meetings which was helpful
- There was also a general lack of committee handover in that a group chat for committee was not made until around october

### **How are you feeling about the role?**

- I think that it is very good that there are places on GC reserved for DFs and I felt like there was space for DFs to have a say in the way woodcraft is generally run

### **If your role continues into the next year, what do you want to do with your role?**

- N/A

### **Anything you've found difficult which you would like to review?**

- At the beginning of my term I found it difficult to find out when the meetings were but this became a lot easier once I received my woodcraft email address

### **Anything else you would like to add?**

## 2.20 General Council Rep (Odd) (Thomas Boxall)

### **What have you done in the last year?**

- Attended GC meetings in person and online
- Engaged with GC members about DFs
- Provided a DF point of view at GC meetings
- Attended additional meetings in my link area of GC

### **Is there anything which you would like to have done which you didn't manage to do in the year?**

- I would have liked to engage more in meetings early on in the year to make sure DFs voice was always heard

### **How did your handover go (if applicable)?**

- Slow. It was a few months between Althing and being contacted by Aggie

### **How are you feeling about the role?**

- I'm loving it. I really enjoy being on GC and representing DFs while I do so

**If your role continues into the next year, what do you want to do with your role?**

- More of the same. However, making sure that the voice of DFs is always heard.

**Anything you've found difficult which you would like to review?**

- N/A

**Anything else you would like to add?**

- N/A

## 2.21 London Liaison (Carmen Mallinson-Pocock)

What I could do this year was restricted due to COVID. I organised 2-3 meet ups/ social events for DFs in London.

## 2.22 Shadow Events (Erik Ruder)

I organised Valentines Hostel. I am relatively prepared to step into the Events role. I had a site for Winter Wonderland lined up, however I need to look for a different site because it is in an inaccessible part of the country.

The meeting is happy that DF Committee aren't wasting time and are actually doing things.

# 3 Finance Report

*Note: In the absence of the treasurer, the shadow treasurer delivered a finance report.*

We have just over £11,000 in the bank account. £10,000 of this must be kept in the account as reserves. When I asked why, I was told that this is the minimum needed to be a 'financially viable organisation'.

At this event, we should be making just under £3,000 from participants. We might break even or lose about £400 depending on a few things.

Everyone was encouraged to do fundraising and Joe requested that it was investigated if DFs would be able to obtain the funds raised by the DF Cafe at Common Ground.

*Action #1: Ray to speak to General Council about getting money raised by DF Cafe at Common Ground.*

## 4 Motions

### 4.1 Motion 22-01 (Web Fairy Role)

**Proposed By** Thomas Boxall

**Seconded By** Alison Thompson

**BODY** This Althing will dissolve the role of Web Fairy and delegate the tasks of the role to a relevant member of Folk Office Staff.

**RATIONALE** The role of Web Fairy has been a point of discussion for a number of years. In recent years inadequate training and knowledge of the role holder resulted in the loss of a web domain, resulting in un-planned financial expenditure and loss of data. Furthermore, this amplified the stress of migration of the Google Workspace which; had the domain still been available, we would have been able to use an automated tool which would have saved time and human interaction. The scope of the role is extremely narrow, the current responsibilities of the web fairy are to ensure the website is paid for and intervene with automatic updates where necessary. However when something goes wrong with the website, it is their problem to solve - hence an understanding of the way it works is useful.

Delilah opened the questions by asking if the handover to Folk Office staff could be done in a way such that a DF could take over if they wanted to. Ray questioned if the front end content management system (Wordpress) could be managed independently of the back end hosting platform.

Delilah asked who is currently responsible for the maintenance of the content on the website. Thomas answered that the whole of committee have admin logins and can edit content.

Delilah made the following proposal, seconded by Ray.

*Amendment: Keep the role in the constitution and make it such that a DF could take over if there is someone passionate to.*

The amendment passes.

The meeting moved to take a vote on the motion.

For: 25; Against: 0; Abstain: 1  
Motion passes



## 4.2 Motion 22-02 (Accessibility Representative Term Of Office)

**Proposed By** Thomas Boxall

**Seconded By**

**BODY** This Althing will clarify the term length of the accessibility representative as two years in the constitution

**RATIONALE** The current iteration of the constitution does not state the term of office length for the accessibility rep. To keep the accessibility representative in line with other DF Committee roles, two years is the suggested term length.

A question was asked about how long the role is currently. It is currently not stated in the constitution how long this role is for.

A direct point was raised that it would make more sense for it to be a one year role (rather than two years) as the vast majority of non-committee roles are one year. This being a supervisory role aligns better with non-committee than committee roles.

The following amendment was made by Delilah, seconded by Sam M.

*Amendment: Change the motion so that it is for one year rather than two.*

Delilah provided context on the previous person who held this role. They held the role for four years in total, running with a different person each year. The current person hasn't done anything this year.

A question was raised about if there is a limit to the number of times that a person could run for the role. The answer to which is no.

The amendment was accepted.

The meeting took a vote on the motion.

For: 22; Against: 0; Abstain 1  
Motion passes

## 4.3 Motion 22-03 (IC 2020 to CC 2025)

**Proposed By** Thomas Boxall

**BODY** This Althing will rename the position of Common Ground (International Camp 2020) Board Representative to Centenary Camp 2025 Board Representative

**RATIONALE** Common Ground has now happened. The next event of that scale will be the national camp in 2025. The current organisers of the camp, Izzy Stewart and Jack Brown are keen for there to be a DF rep on their organising committee.

Thomas clarified the abbreviations IC and CC as International Camp and Centenary Camp respectively.

A question was raised asking if we had a Common Ground board representative. The answer was that we did for a period of time however more recently it was un-filled.

Another question was raised about the fact that this role is not up for elections this year. It was answered that we don't need it this year.

Another question was raised that we could make the role a permanent generic role rather than a camp specific role as this will prevent us needing to change the constitution frequently. It was answered that we could and the following proposal was proposed by Alison and seconded by Delilah.

*Amendment: Rather than making the role camp specific, call it 'Big Camps Rep' as this will encompass any big camps.*

Amendment passes.

The meeting moved to take a vote on the motion.

For: 19; Against: 1; Abstain 2  
Motion passes

## 4.4 Motion 22-04 (Change minutes retention length)

**Proposed By** Thomas Boxall

**Seconded By** Sam

**BODY** This Althing will change section A.3.2.2 to “The minutes of Committee meetings must be kept for at least seven years from the date of the meeting, resolution or decision.”

**RATIONALE** This change should be made to bring the DF constitution in line for financial and audit requirements.

Thomas was asked the reasoning for this motion. He responded with it is a financial and audit requirement.

The meeting moved to take a vote on the motion

For: 15; Against: 0; Abstain: 0  
Motion passes

## 4.5 Motion 22-05 (The role of the secretary)

**Proposed By** Thomas Boxall

**Seconded By** Erik Ruder

**BODY** This Althing will add section B.1.10 which clarify the role of the secretary and the powers that they hold. The section will read as follows:

*B.1.10 Role of the Secretary*

*The role of the secretary is to ensure that the written records of the movement are accurate and that the governing documents are enforced where applicable.*

*B.1.10.1*

*In order to carry out their role, the secretary has the power to merge previous years changes to the constitution into the next version which they produce. This may, for example, encompass changes which should have been made by a previous secretary but were not. Any changes to be made must be clearly identifiable as a change which needs to be made from minutes of an Althing.*

*B.1.10.2*

*The secretary is responsible for the maintenance of the following documents*

*a. The DF Constitution;*

*b. The DF Democratic Procedures; and*

*c. The minutes of previous meetings as described in section A.3.2.2.*

**RATIONALE** Previous secretaries allowed their duties to lapse, resulting in documents not being updated. This clause will allow for those documents to be updated.

A question was raised regarding if this clause would give the secretary the powers to overrule previous decisions. It was answered that it wouldn't as the secretary would have to evidence changes to the constitution with minutes of previous Althings, as stated in the clause.

The meeting moved to take a vote on the motion.

For: 15; Against: 0; Abstain 0  
Motion passes

## 4.6 Motion 22-06 (Improving wording for clarification)

**Proposed By** Thomas Boxall

**Seconded By** Erik Ruder

**BODY** This althing will change section A.2.1 of the constitution so it reads:  
*A.2.1 Becoming an Individual Member*  
*An Individual Member of the DF Movement shall be a person who has paid the annual subscription laid down from time to time by the Annual Conference of the Woodcraft Folk and signed up to the Aims, Principles and Programme of the Woodcraft Folk and:*

- a. is aged between 16 and 20 inclusive; or*
- b. has taken on specific responsibility for the DF Movement or been elected on a committee, and is aged between 21 and 22; or*
- c. is the Treasurer of the DF Movement aged 23.*

**RATIONALE** The current wording is excessively complicated and is inaccurate. The new proposed wording simplifies this

A question was raised about what the change is exactly doing. Delilah answered that the motion is removing the common elements between the current wording.

It was questioned what 'Section A' is. It was explained that this is the rules delegated by General Council to individual branches, in this case the DF Movement. Generally we are unable to modify this section without expressed permission in writing from General Council however, this year we are able to make minor cosmetic changes.

The conversation went on a tangent. Tangent to resume as part of Motion 22-11 discussion.

The meeting moved to take a vote on the motion.

For: 17; Against: 0; Abstain: 1  
Motion passes

Delilah took the chair.

## 4.7 Motion 22-07 (Reduced Activism Term)

**Proposed By** Delilah Wallbank

**Seconded By** Erik Ruder

**BODY** This Althing will reduce the term of office length of the Activism Rep on from two years to one year.

**RATIONALE** This role while very important does not require the same level of continuity and training as other two year roles on committee by reducing its term from 2 years to 1 it allows more people the chance to showcase their knowledge of activism and also stops the role stagnating. If someone feels they need more than one year to achieve their goals they can run for activism again.  
This would mean changing the constitution but would simply put activism in the same category as other 1 year primary roles such as the chair position

The meeting moved straight to a vote on this motion.

For: 17; Against: 0; Abstain: 0  
Motion passes

## 4.8 Motion 22-08 (DBS Training)

**Proposed By** Delilah Wallbank

**Seconded By**

**BODY** This Althing will ensure that at least two members of DF Committee are trained to approve DBS applications of members; one of the trained members should be on the events team.

**RATIONALE** Due to the high need for DBS checks within DFs relying on central woodcraft often takes to long and reduces the safety of our camps. To make it easier for young people to get the DBS checks they need they should be able to go through DFs rather than try and deal with the bureaucracy of central woodcraft. DFs already has its own code for DBS checks so all that needs to be done is introduce a policy where to members of committee are chosen at old new to be trained

on giving DBS checks for the coming year.

A question was raised about whether you have to show the documents in person. It is currently unknown about this however during the pandemic, verifiers were able to see documents and verify the DBS application over Zoom then eventually see documents in-person.

It was then questioned whether a person has to hold a specific DBS per organisation. The answer was yes, you do as it says the organisation name on it. It was then questioned what the training is like. Delilah answered that you do a Zoom call with someone where they will give you the secret codes, tell you what to tick and what you need to know about the documents.

Delilah said that people at Old/New would need to volunteer for this training.

The meeting moved to take a vote on the motion.

For: 17; Against: 0; Abstain: 0  
Motion passes

Ray took the chair again.

## 4.9 Motion 22-09 (Resource Fairy)

**Proposed By** Ray Maynard-Vesley

**Seconded By**

**BODY**

**RATIONALE**

*Motion text pending.*

Is the purpose of this role is to act as glue between other roles? Yes

Does the Resource Fairy need to keep track of equipment and store it? Nope, just keep track of it and work out logistics to get it to events.

We should make it a secondary role rather than non committee role. The meeting agreed with this and if it was then it would be able to have expensed travel.

It was questioned if we could just give these tasks to someone on Committee as it is currently just maintaining a spreadsheet. This was answered that if we had a single person then it makes everyone's lives easier and the role might grow into tracking things like craft materials.

Committee members clarified the difference between Committee & Non-Committee roles for the benefit of those who didn't know.

Conversation diverges into technicalities of the two Laymembers taking on the role in addition to lay member duties. The outcome was that a lay member could

run for it as a secondary role however resource tracking would not be a primary responsibility of a lay member.

For the benefit of people joining the discussion halfway through and those who got confused with the lay member discussion, the role was clarified as: to maintain a spreadsheet of where things are in the country that belong to DFs. They may also need to organise logistics of transporting equipment to events. Eventually their role may expand into managing wholesale accounts and ensuring KPs for events have access to these. A point was raised that the benefit of using wholesalers should be analysed verses using a supermarket before putting lots of time & resources into setting up wholesale accounts.

The point was raised that it could be a committee role because we might be able to get equipment off of closing down districts. If we did this, we would need to pay money for storage and transportation of the equipment.

The conversation was diverging again, lets wrap up and take votes.

For the first year at least, make it a secondary role then we can change it to a committee/ non-committee in the future.

Laymembers should have access to the spreadsheet.

Delilah summarised this into the following amendment. Thomas seconded the amendment.

*Amendment: amend the motion such that the role is a secondary role on DF Committee.*

The meeting moved to a vote on the amendment.

For: 18; Against: 1; Abstain: 1.

Amendment passes

The meeting moved to take a vote on the amended motion.

For: 18; Against: 0; Abstain: 2

Amended motion passes.

Delilah took the chair once again.

## 4.10 Motion 22-10 (Welsh & Scottish Liaisons)

<b>Proposed By</b>	Delilah Wallbank
<b>Seconded By</b>	
<b>BODY</b>	Change the constitution to add Welsh and Scottish Liaison in the same category as London liaison
<b>RATIONALE</b>	We are a UK wide movement but we are not always accessible to people who live outside England. Having Welsh & Scottish liaisons can help us to keep a better track of term dates outside England.

Delilah introduced the motion and provided some additional context: we did agree a vote to have a Scottish Liaison at Althing 2019 however there is no evidence of this in the constitution, so we will progress with the motion as planned.

It was questioned whether these roles would be a Committee or Non-Committee role. It was answered that they would both be non-committee, therefore not expensed to come to Things.

It was questioned whether these roles would be entitled to the grey area. The agreed answer was that they would as they are 'a role of responsibility'.

A potential accessibility issue was raised in that if the Things are held a long way from where the rep is based it may be difficult/ expensive for the reps to attend. It was directly responded that the constitution states where the Things should be held in each year, these locations rotate around the country.

It was proposed that we also have a Manchester liaison as there are lots of Manchester DFs.

This was responded to by Ray who said that we will have a conversation about regional DF activities tomorrow.

It was questioned whether Venturer Committee still exists and whether we have a Venturer Committee & Venturer Camp liaison. It was answered that Venturer Committee died out during the pandemic however there are people who want to bring it back. We do have a Venturer Committee & Venturer Camp liaison currently elected and the role is up for election again tomorrow.

It was then questioned whether we should also have a North and South liaison as in some cases the Exeter DFs have to travel as far as Scottish DFs to attend events. Delilah responded that if more DFs went to Things then the event locations would be able to be divided up a bit more equally.

For clarification: the role of the liaison is not just pressuring people to come to events, it is connecting people and getting them together.



It would be bad if we had lots of regional roles filled but not the roles which are required to make DFs function.

It was questioned what the point of having regional reps are where they are not on Committee therefore they can't be expensed to come to things. We should be looking to make the liaisons Committee roles aspirationally but this financially can't happen this year. For now we need to prioritise getting them as roles then we can work out if they are better placed as committee/ non-committee later.

Further information was provided to the earlier proposed amendment: Tyler and Paul have been elected as District Coordinators for Manchester Woodcraft. They start in the role later in the year.

Tyler proposed his amendment formally.

*Amendment: Add a Manchester Liaison to the motion.*

The meeting took a vote on the amendment:

For: 13; Against: 8; Abstain: 0.

After consulting the Democratic Procedures, which do not state the quorum required for an amendment to a motion. Thomas took the decision that it was a majority required to pass an amendment.

Amendment passes.

The meeting moved to take a vote on the amended motion.

For: 18; Against: 2; Abstain 1

Amended motion passes

## 4.11 Motion 22-11 (Running for Committee at 21)

**Proposed By** Delilah Wallbank

**Seconded By**

**BODY** People should be able to run for Committee when they are aged 21. This would require changing section B of the constitution to specify that you can run at age 21.

**RATIONALE** The constitution currently states that a DF member is any member of woodcraft aged between 16 and 20 or any one who takes on a specific responsibility for DFs and is aged

between 21 and 22 or is the treasurer aged 23. This implies that members of DFs can run for committee when they are 21 but this is not specified elsewhere in the constitution. Having older members on committee helps to contribute to continuity over generations and thus is in general good for the DF movement.

It was questioned whether this would allow a 21 year old to run for a two year role. This should not be allowed so the constitutional amendment should specify this.

It was questioned whether allowing a 21 year old to stand for committee applies to those currently on committee only or any 21 year old. Thomas had spoken to Debs (Woodcrafts CEO) earlier in the morning, this clarified that anyone aged 21 could run for a role.

It was suggested that this was agreed upon because we need people to stand for roles.

It was highlighted that you would have to be at an Althing to stand for a role. This is the last Althing where we could have an issue of a 21 year old who isn't in a role of responsibility attending because of the Covid Clause.

It is quite intimidating for a 16 year old to see a 22 year old at an event. We could make it such that there are a certain number of spaces on Committee for younger DFs. A direct point was raised that this is what General Council do.

The grey area was clarified.

It could be good if a 17 year old and 21 year old to cooperatively share a role. DFs have a problem with age cliques and this would help to break down the clique-ness.

The older person would support the younger person.

A potential proposal was suggested: if you're 21 and running on your own and if there are other younger people running then the old person gets discounted, however if a 21 year old runs with younger people together then they are allowed to stand.

The meeting generally likes the idea of roles being shared between older and younger people.

It was suggested that this problem might be best solved by common sense rather than being explicitly stated. It can then be fixed if it becomes a problem.

The following amendment was proposed.

*Amendment: Those who are aged 21 or over and running for a role, should be encouraged to run alongside someone aged 20 or under.*

This amendment is still only applicable to those who currently have roles.

The meeting took a vote on the amendment.

For: 22; Against: 0; Abstain: 0

Amendment passes.

The meeting moved to take a vote on the amended motion.

For: 22; Against: 0; Abstain 0

Amended motion passes

## 5 “National Camp 2025” Workshop

DF Committee would like to thank Jack Brown for attending in person and running this workshop.

End of business for Tuesday 23rd.

Business resumes Wednesday 24th at 10am.

## 6 Hustings

Nominations for 2022-23 Committee and Non-committee roles were closed. The list of roles remaining to be filled can be co-opted after Old/New.

The list of roles was read out and one-by-one each person standing gave their short hustings speech. Notes were taken from these speeches and later transcribed into sentences by the secretary.

### 6.1 Activism

#### **Paul**

I thought it would involve emailing MPs or making social media posts, but after speaking to the current rep, I found out that it involves going to national Co-op meetings and representing Woodcraft. I have a Zoom account and am an active listener. I'm not sure what to say at the Co-op meetings yet but I will make sure to say things that need to be said and hear things that need to be heard. I will make our voices heard and report back on whatever is going on with the Co-op movement and Woodcraft.

## 6.2 Chair

### **Delilah**

I have been on Committee as Events and Activism rep for the last two years and I still believe I have a lot to contribute. I have experience chairing meetings inside and outside of Woodcraft and I have a good working knowledge of DF hand signals and our constitution. I have access to an unlimited Zoom account through my university and I have been on Committee for the last two years so I have a good working knowledge of supporting committee. I know the constitution and our policies well and I am interested in making sure they are followed through to the extent that we are able to depending on the circumstances.

## 6.3 Communications

### **Tyler and Tallulah**

Delivered by Tyler as Tallulah was unable to attend in person.

I have a question for you: How many times on a DF event have you picked up the mannerism of another DF? I want to put these mannerisms to good use on social media. I successfully took over the DF instagram account at spring awakening. Tallulah is doing a media course at university so it is hard for her to screw it up. We will pioneer DFs into a new era of social media, it will be changing times.

Question: What is the plan for the DF Wikipedia page, for context it is being maliciously edited. Tyler answered with: I have a motion, we will sort it out.

Another question: What's your plan for the DF TikTok? Tyler answered with: I'm not sure if we are compatible with the platform, and I have a TikTok problem. I am workshopping ideas to see if we are compatible with the platform. Tyler asked a question to the room: Do I manage the little blog posty things on the website. Thomas answered with: yes and the whole website.

## 6.4 Events

### **Erik & Ray**

Erik began the joint speech. I was shadow events last year, therefore I have experience from doing events. During my time in the shadow role, I was able to understand more about DFs and how it works. I have lots of free time as I am going into my second year of university and I'm not doing a proper subject. I have the ability to work on events starting from the ground up, working on it ahead of time and at the event. I am good at getting my hands dirty, delegating tasks and being part of setup and takedown teams. I would be a good joint events rep as it depends on previous experience and I can be part of good teams.

Ray continued the joint speech. I was chair of committee last year so I had an involvement in organising events. No-one died on any events. I want to make events as big and as well facilitated as they can be. We might be able to have things again. Question: What is the theme for Spring Awakening? Ray answered with: that information is on a need to know basis currently.

## 6.5 Fundraising

### **Ethan**

I would work with the General Council reps to give us more funding. This would be used to subsidise travel for committee for business events. I will aim to re-contact Workers Beer and investigate us working together again as well as working on other little fundraisy things.

## 6.6 Laymember

**Isla** [full speech submitted and read out on behalf as unable to attend]

Hey!

I'm Isla and I am standing to be a lay member for the new DF Committee! I'm afraid I can't be at Althing in person but I am with you in spirit :) Over the past two years I have worked on DF Committee as the training representative, working to train DF's in first aid both as a group at a camp but also individually in their own areas during stricter covid rules to allow for safe camps to go ahead :)

I also worked to ensure there was a MEST UP presence at Common Ground, attending planning meetings and recruiting young people to be trained, allowing us to provide free period products, mental health support, sex education and facilitate workshops at the camp. I am caring, hard working and honest and absolutely love woodcraft folk and would really love to continue to help DFs grow and flourish. I am standing to be a Laymember this time as I would like a more general role to be able to help people in different areas within DFs. I am currently a disabled student at Glasgow University studying Law, hoping to go into human rights. I have balanced this with two part time jobs (we love being a skint student:) whilst in my previous role and I will continue to do so. I am a member of the Scottish Youth Parliament and Glasgow Youth Council, representing young people in many capacities and would continue to do so if re elected, taking any concerns to the Committee and working as a team to try and help where we could. If I think a job is too big I will offer help or ask for more help, something I very much love about DFs, no matter the situation there is always someone to help :)

Hope you all have fun at DF camp!

Isla x

## 6.7 MEST-UP

### **Sam**

Hello! My name is Sam and I would love the opportunity to be the next MEST-UP representative. Woodcraft has been a big part of my life since I was 11 years old and has helped me through many difficult times in my own life, which is why I would love the opportunity to give back and help others the way Woodcraft has helped me. Mental health can be something that people can really struggle with on camp, being away from their normal routines and familiar environment, and I

want to be able to help create a safe place for people to talk through their difficulties, or just be a shoulder to cry on. As a queer, polyamorous, non-binary with mental health difficulties of my own, I have a TON of personal experience with many different subjects that people may struggle with, and I have also been trained in MEST-UP by the lovely representatives that came before me. Volunteering with MEST UP at Common Ground was a beautiful experience and I would love to continue that on. Thank you so much! [full speech submitted after hustings]

## 6.8 Secretary

### **Sam M**

I have been in Woodcraft since I was very young, it has helped me grow loads as a person. Only recently, I have come back after a short break. During that break, I realised what a great impact it had on me. Now, I prefer to help, giving a sense of community. I want to help give back what Woodcraft has given to me. I love working my arse off and am very willing to do late nights to finish things. Question: How quickly can you type. Answer: Fairly quickly, I can touch type as I learnt it at a young age. Question: How available are you to come to things? Answer: very available.

## 6.9 Shadow Treasurer

### **Emma B-V**

I am very quiet but quite logical. I have been in Woodcraft since I was 15 and would like to be more involved. It is interesting to learn about finance and I want to use it to help DFs. I'm not very good at public speaking!

## 6.10 Training

### **Carmen**

I want to help out with DF Committee. I have nothing lined up this year. I am currently the outreach representative. Knowing that Isla is running for Laymember, makes me feel pretty comfortable to learn ropes. I enjoyed the first aid training which I did. It is good to keep Woodcraft functioning.

## 6.11 Treasurer

### **Joe W**

I have been Shadow Treasurer for the last year. I am also kinda acting as the treasurer at the moment as the Treasurer is in Australia and cannot access the bank account. In the last year, I have collected money at events, done transfers of money, accessed the bank account and I can do plus and minus. I will aim to keep the books clean so that we can apply for grants in the future as well as stop us going broke.

## 6.12 First aid fairy

### **Emma D**

I am first aid trained and have my own car, so I can transport the first aid kit around the country to events. I work in an outdoor centre and can quite happily spend all day sorting multiple first aid kits so one for Woodcraft is easy! Question: What are your three favourite items in a first aid kit? Answer: sticky plaster; micropore tape and antibacterial wipes.

## 6.13 Venturer Committee & Venturer Camp Liaison

### **Carmen**

When I was the right age, I was on Venturer Committee for two or three years. It is a really good thing that has died, I want to bring it back and will find people to help do that. I will work to get some funds from central Woodcraft, as it would be a real shame if it did die. I have been to the last three venturer camps, helping to organise them whilst on Committee and gaining experience of what it is like to be a venturer on events whilst a venturer at events. I understand the functional things on events and how to mediate between DFs and Venturers when running camps. I also want to work to recruit Venturers into DF things.

## 6.14 GC Rep

### **Ray**

At Common Ground, I ran the DF cafe and raised about £4000. I want it for DF Committee. General Council love me. I went to two meetings last year. I am willing to go to more General Council meetings. In the previous year, DF Committee's relationship with General Council has strengthened. I want to work to strengthen it even more.

## 6.15 London

### **Carmen & Eedie**

Carmen began: I have been in this role for one year already but I didn't get to do as much as I wanted with it due to Covid and personal circumstances. I have lots of ideas. In the last year, I have established myself with a few districts and have been in communications with them. I also know a number of London districts very well including the leaders of them.. I would like to run events in London for London and surrounding districts. London is in the middle of places transport wise so I want to link groups in London to groups outside of London. Eedie took over: It would be nice to be more involved in London DFs so at meetings I know what to say. I think there are lots of DFs in London who don't know each other who aren't involved in central Woodcraft. Eedie will kick Carmen into doing things. Their leaders are on London region committee.

## 6.16 Sustainability

### **Sam S**

I care about the environment and being as sustainable as possible. I want to look into ways to make DFs more sustainable. I will work with the resource fairy to reduce wasting products at the end of an event where they could be stored and used at the next. Question: What do you want to change? Answer: I want to reduce food waste at events and make transport better.

## 6.17 Big Camp Rep

### **Jo M**

My main aim in this role is to relay ideas from as many dfs as possible to the organisers of big camps and represent DFs. It is important for us, as the only genuinely youth run part of Woodcraft, to have a say in how national and international camps are run. I enjoyed the workshop yesterday with Jack Brown. It will be really interesting to see some of the process of organising camps.

## 6.18 Welsh Liaison

### **Ethan**

I am the only welsh person here, this is sad as we are in Wales. I will get at least five Welsh people to come to Winter Wonderland.

## 6.19 Manchester

### **Sam S**

I'm not from Manchester but I'm a mancunian at heart. I love the city. I think Manchester DFs are growing more at the moment and want to get them involved in camps and meetings. Question: What is your favourite part of Manchester? Answer: Salford. Question: What kind of events will you run to keep the Manchester DFs together as a group? Answer: Silent Discos.

### **Tyler**

I love London; I would buy a t-shirt saying that. However, there's only so much love to go around and Manchester needs saving. I will take all the presence out of London and go to Manchester and liaise on it. In a few weeks, I will be co-district coordinator for Manchester, this will enable me to pass information directly to the DFs and I will already be organising events in Manchester as district coordinator, it will be simple for us all. I will get t-shirts saying I heart MCR for all and organise trips for Londoners to come to Manchester and see the city. I have beef with the mayor of Manchester. Manchester DFs are slowly multiplying, giving a better north-south DF ratio. Question: How much boost do you want for the Manchester DF numbers? Answer: By Winter Wonderland, I would like to bring a maximum of 3 new Mancunians. I am to keep bringing more Manchester people to events. Question: Who is the mayor of Manchester? Answer: depends on timings. I have



beef with all of them. The Lord Mayor closed a shortcut at my job. Question: What is your recruitment strategy? Answer: I know there are a lot of people in Manchester. I am working on a regeneration plan for Manchester Woodcraft. I aim to draw everyone back together and to fix the Elfin to Pioneer to Ventures (and keep them in Venturers) to DFs pipeline. I will be liaising with the surrounding area (Greater Greater Manchester).

**Carmen**

I am only running to throw a rock in Manchester's idea to have a Manchester liaison. I understand why Tyler has just invited us all to Manchester but I think they need to get out a bit more. If I get elected as London liaison, I would like to work with whoever ends up as Manchester Liaison.

**Sven**

I'm only running because there were two non-Manchester people running and felt bad that Tyler is the only Manchester person running. I can give Tyler lots of contact information for Venturers as I have family who are Venturer aged.

## 6.20 Accessibility

**Emma D & Esme**

Emma D delivered the hustings as Esme had already gone home. Through work, I work with lots of young people who have physical disabilities. I am used to adapting activities and spaces which are meant for able bodied people to use to be accessible for all to use. Esme is neurodivergent and can bring experience of accessibility issues and resolutions from school. I am also making use of the new motion here, where older people are encouraged to run with young people.

## 6.21 Zine

**Iz**

I am an illustration student. I have lots of ideas to share things which DFs have done.

# 7 Open Space

Two open space conversations were held. Each with a different set of outcomes.

## 7.1 Support from national Woodcraft

Thomas led a conversation around what support we would like to receive from Woodcraft. The outcome of this open space was a paper which will be submitted to the next in person General Council meeting.

## 7.2 Supporting local & regional DF groups

Ray led a conversation about ways in which we can support local DF groups to grow.

# 8 Election Results

Voting was held via a Google Form which was open for just over a week. Information on how to access this form was published on the DF website and DF social media platforms.

## 8.1 Committee Roles

Activism: Paul  
Chair Of Committee: Delilah  
Communications Rep: Tyler & Tallulah  
Events Rep: Erik & Ray  
Fundraising Rep: Ethan  
Laymember: Isla  
MEST-UP Coordinator: Sam  
Secretary: Sam M  
Shadow Treasurer: Emma B-V  
Training Rep: Carmen  
Treasurer: Joe W

## 8.2 Non-Committee Roles

Zine Coordinator: Iz  
First Aid Fairy: Emma D  
Venturer Committee & Venturer Camp Liaison: Carmen  
General Council Rep: Ray  
London Liaison: Carmen & Eedie  
Sustainability Rep: Sam S  
Big Camps Rep: Jo M  
Welsh Liaison: Ethan  
Manchester Liaison: Tyler

## 8.3 Supervisory Roles

Accessibility Rep: Esme & Emma D