



# **1<sup>st</sup> Sandwell Scout Group**

## **Annual General Meeting**

**Presentation of Year End Accounts to 31<sup>st</sup> December  
2022 and Section Reports**

**1<sup>st</sup> Sandwell Scout HQ**

**28<sup>th</sup> June 2023**

# **1<sup>st</sup> Sandwell Scout Group Annual General Meeting**

**1<sup>st</sup> Sandwell Scout HQ Marston Grove Great Barr B43 5ED  
28<sup>th</sup> June 2023**

## **AGENDA**

1. Welcome
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of Previous Meeting 28<sup>th</sup> April 2022 (Attached)
4. Section Reports (Attached)
  - i. Beaver Scouts
  - ii. Cub Scouts
  - iii. Scouts
  - iv. Earhart Explorer Scouts
5. Treasurer's Report (Attached)
6. Group Scout Leader's Report
7. Approval of reports
8. GSL's Nomination and Election of Officers
  - i. Chairman (nominated by Group Scout Leader)
  - ii. Secretary
  - iii. Treasurer
  - iv. Executive Committee Elections (& GSL's nominations)
9. AOB
10. Presentations

## **Item 3**

### **Minutes of Annual General Meeting**

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Sandwell Scout Group** **Virtual Annual General Meeting** **28<sup>th</sup> April 2022**

**Present:** Nicola Johnson (District Commissioner), Brigitte Hatfield (Secretary), Chris Jones (GSL), Alan Dean (Treasurer), Shirley Wilson (Vice-Chair), Toby Hatfield (Sectional Assistant), Vanessa Hitchon (Chairman), Ben Hatfield (Section Leader), Mark Green (Exec Member), Graham Jones (Exec Member), James Potter (Exec Member), Adastra Fletcher (Sectional Assistant), Reece Williams (Assistant Section Leader), Ryan Wilson (Assistant Section Leader), Matt Burns (Section Leader), Kim Morgan (Assistant Section Leader), Adam Morgan (Assistant Section Leader) and parents / carers of young people from the group.

**Apologies:** Carol Payton (Section Leader), Jason Cross (Assistant Section Leader), Julie Neil (Assistant Section Leader), Nicola Dean, Lewis Tucker (Section Leader), Pam Samra (Group Communication Lead)

#### **1. Welcome**

A welcome was extended to all leaders, parents and young people in attendance and to Nicola Johnson as District Commissioner.

#### **2. Minutes of Last Meeting**

It was proposed that these be taken as a true record. Ben Hatfield proposed they be accepted as read and Shirley Wilson seconded.

#### **3. Section Reports**

These were taken as read and accepted as a true record. Graham Jones proposed that the section reports be accepted as a true record. Matt Burns seconded. These will be published on the website for all to read in detail and a letter emailed to all parents with a link to them.

#### **4. Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer thanked everyone for being here – without the support of parents/carers and leaders we couldn't function. On top of this, huge thanks to our GSL who has to co-ordinate all efforts of the section leaders and executive committee as well as filter down any communications or updates from Scout HQ.

A copy of the treasurer's report will be made available on our Group website for parents to view.

It was reported that we had changed the way in which we take payments to a method that enables us to keep track more easily of payments but also helps us to keep up to date with personal details. As parents you can keep this up to date yourselves – please do so.

There were no comments or questions raised on the treasurer's report.

Adam Morgan proposed that the treasurer's report be accepted as a true record and Graham Jones seconded.

## **5. Group Scout Leader's Report**

Only today, news has been published about the biggest surge of membership in scouting since the second world war. Whilst this is true, we do struggle with adult volunteers and clearly they are a key component of keeping a group going. Being an adult volunteer gives people the 'feel good factor' – you only need to ask any one of the leaders here. Please think about this and let us know if you or someone you know can help.

I also have a plea that you help us to reinforce the messages and skills that we give to our young people – we don't have dishwashers in tents so they all need to know these basic life skills!

Finally, I would like to leave you with a thought: The great architect Sir Christopher Wren, was walking around St. Paul's Cathedral whilst it was being built, watching the various men at work. None of them realised that this was the great architect himself, the mastermind whose plans they were working on. Wren stopped for a while to watch a stonemason and asked him what he was doing. "I`m chipping this block of stone" said the man, rather crossly. Then Wren stopped again, this time opposite the wood-carver who was working on one of the panels of the choir screen. "What are you doing" he asked. "I`m earning my living, that`s what I`m doing", he replied. Sir Christopher Wren then came upon another man, an unskilled labourer, sweeping up the dirt and chippings and again he asked him what he was doing. He answered "I`m helping Sir Christopher Wren build this magnificent Cathedral". He had the right idea, he knew he was part of something big, just as our Leaders know they are part of something big, they are helping to build tomorrow's generation, the future, something big. They can be justly proud of what they do.

Christine Jones  
**Group Scout Leader**

## **6. Election of Officers**

The position of Chairman is a nominated position by GSL. The nomination this year is Vanessa Hitchon to continue as Chair. Thanks to Vanessa for the last 12 months and for the 12 months to come.

Only one nomination has been received for the posts of Secretary (B Hatfield) and Treasurer (A Dean) and therefore it was proposed that they continue in these roles.

## **7. Election of Executive Committee**

James Potter, Shirley Wilson (Vice Chair), Graham Jones, Pam Samra and Mark Green have all agreed to stand again.

Ben Hatfield proposed they be appointed en bloc. Matt Burns seconded.

## **8. AOB**

## **Item 4; Section Reports**

### **Beaver Scout Section Report.**

**May 2022 /June 2023**

I am happy to say that the Beaver colony is flourishing. After the unsettled years of late we are now in a position whereby we are maintaining a constant 24 Beavers with any new members having to wait for a space. We currently draw from a number of schools and have a good mix of both older and younger members which will help to maintain our numbers as we move forward.

Awards wise, we continue to push on with the challenge awards with some of the colony completing their Adventure, Outdoors, Personal, Skills, Teamwork, and World challenges. Throughout the year Beavers have completed their Air Activities, Communicator, Cook, Digital Citizen and Digital Maker, Health & Fitness, Explore, Photographer, Safety, Navigator, and Time on the Water Activity badges as well as adding to their Nights Away and Hikes Away Badges.

Congratulations must go to Aizen, Balpreet, James, Noah and William for gaining the top award in Beavers, The Chief Scouts Bronze Award - this award is not easy and requires a great deal of determination and hard work.

We continue to try to offer a varied weekly programme with games, crafts and activities, and we always aim to make the most of the outdoors and try to get out as often as we can.

There have been many memorable nights, (some possibly for the wrong reasons.... Glitter, ice cream and ice ....).However highlights this year have included visits to the fire station and Inflata Nation, a circus skills evening, crossbow and mini golf taster sessions, a visit from Sarah's amazing animals and our annual water party.

The Beavers have also enjoyed a colony sleepover at Kinver Scout site with a dinosaur themed programme of activities, a group camp at Beaudesert where the Beavers had the opportunity to meet and work alongside the Cubs, Scouts and Explorers and joined the rest of the district at a sleepover at Ash End House Farm.

It is always good for our youngsters to meet other Beavers from around the district and county and this year our colony have taken part in the district Jubilee party, a county visit to RAF Cosford, the district digital day and Christmas carol service as well as district sports day.

Looking forward, we have a climbing session at Rock Up booked and we hope to be able to get out and about in the summer too.

Thanks as always to Reece for his continued support and to Eve &Priyanka our Explorer Scouts who have kept us going this last year as young leaders.- without them there would be no colony.

We look forward to the year ahead and to continued fun and friendships.....  
And more Leaders.....

**Carol Payton.**  
**Beaver Scout Leader.**

## **Cub Scout Section Report 2022-2023**

With an established team on hand with the additional support from Chloe joining we have been able to deliver a varied programme. The way the group tackle every activity and challenge has enabled us to award seven Chief Scout Silver awards since the last AGM.

Since the last AGM, as well as our regular meetings we have had an activity day at Beaudesert giving us the opportunity to do activities we couldn't do here. A sleepover and day out at Sutton Park, where some members were invested at the Jamboree stone. A group camp was then held at Beaudesert for a winter sleepover. We have also met up with other cub groups within the county recently with two district events.

During normal section meetings we focused on the challenge awards alongside the activity badges. The section has very recently worked together to create our 'Code of Conduct' which encapsulated the expectations of all involved in Scouting.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the team that continue to work hard in producing and delivering a varied programme for the cub scout section. I would also like to thank the other section leaders and Chris for their continued support.

**Matthew Burns**  
**Cub Section Leader**

## **Scout Section Report 2022 - 2023**

It has been another exciting 12 months for the Scouts at first Sandwell with a wide variety of programmes on offer and challenges to take on. The Section's numbers have fluctuated as some of our older Scouts moved up to Explorers or onto pastures new, while we have been delighted to welcome new faces from the Cubs and indeed from outside the group. We now stand at 15 young people and four leaders, but there's always room for new additions.

This year the Scouts have had the opportunity to try their hand (with varying levels of success) at making paracord bracelets, cooking their meals over open fires, hiking, map reading, learning to use axes and saws and even making wax melts for Mother's Day gifts. In addition to our normal Tuesday night programme, we have been on a group sleepover to Beaudesert in January and attended the District Sports Day this month.

Since the turn of the year, the Scouts have been predominantly working in their patrols, earning patrol points each week for their presentation, behaviour, teamwork and attitude. The points are totalled up at the end of each term to give a winning 'Patrol of the Term'. We have enjoyed seeing the Patrol Leaders take on the extra challenge and responsibility which comes with leading their teams in this friendly competition.

The Scouts will spend the Summer Term working towards their Outdoor Challenge award and at the end of June, some of us will be heading off to Kinver Scout Centre in Staffordshire for our second nights away experience of the year. We are hoping for some nice weather, which will give us the opportunity to do some real back-to-basics scouting including wide games, shelter building and hiking on Kinver Edge.

I have been incredibly lucky this past year to be able to rely on a team of volunteers who turn up every week with enthusiasm and new ideas to help give the young people of 1<sup>st</sup> Sandwell the best possible Scouting experience. I would like to place on record my sincere thanks to Jason, Kim and Adam for their continued fantastic support.

I look forward to leading the Scout Section for the next 12 months with anticipation for the many adventures we are sure to have.

**Ben and the Scout Leadership Team**

## **Earhart Explorer Scout Section Report 2022 - 2023**

Over the last year our young people have undertaken a varied programme of activities during their weekly section meetings, although I think it's safe to say that they didn't quite enjoy the taste of nettle soup.

The Explorer section has historically always been a small section and although a couple of our older Explorers have left our numbers remain at 8 members.

Last year the Explorers attended a familiar camp, Strategy and Evolution a multi-activity challenge hike consisting of 30 bases in Cirencester, this time joined by the Scout section. Whilst the weather on the Saturday wasn't the best, the two sections persevered and enjoyed the weekend as it was the first large scale camp they attended since covid.

During December the Explorers planned their own Christmas Camp; this consisted of heading into Birmingham for a couple of games of minigolf, (which some leaders still aren't salty about that they lost by one point) along with a session of ice-skating. In March 2023, the Explorers once again signed up to the Chase Walk, a 40-mile competitive walk, some managed to beat their previous checkpoint record with a couple managing to complete all 40 miles. Unfortunately, one member did have to cut their walk short by taking a detour to the hospital, she was in high spirits on the way (although this may have partly been due to the gas). Fortunately, the injury wasn't bad and didn't damper their viewpoint on participating in next years, we may have to have the emergency services on stand-by though.

In June we camped in Bethesda, North Wales – where we were joined by the Explorers from Odyssey ESU. The weekend consisted of the Explorers walking around Snowdonia National Park with the leaders acting as checkpoints for them. It was a learning experience for both the Explorers with their navigation work and the Leaders, as we assumed that they had learned certain terminology in Geography at school. The weekend ended with a short walk around Beddgelert on the Sunday before heading back home.

We would just like to take this opportunity to thank all who have helped us in any way over the past year, including parents, fellow leaders and of course the executive committee. We couldn't do it without you, and we are eager to see what the next year brings us.

Lewis

**Earhart Explorer Leader**



## **Item 5;**

### **Treasurer's Report for year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022**

#### **Summary**

1<sup>st</sup> Sandwell Scout Group is a registered charity, with all its income derived from; charitable donations, gift aid reclaimed from HM Revenue and Customs, fundraising and membership subscriptions. There are no paid officers, and all leaders and supporters provide their services on a voluntary basis.

The Scout Group as a trust owns the building, with the land being owned by Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council and leased to the Group. The group is responsible for all maintenance and running costs associated with the building and the land, along with all costs associated with providing Scouting to its members. In addition, the Group pays an annual subscription to the National Scout Association based on the number of members in the Group. For the National Scout Annual Census that takes place in January each year, we recorded in January 2022 forty-seven members and in January 2023 fifty-one, showing that the group is continuing to grow.

The Group Executive Committee carries out management of the group's affairs. This committee consists of the Group Scout Leader, nominated and elected officers & members. All elected officers & members are from parents/carers of young members and supporters of the Group. The executive committee members are also Trustees of the Group as required by the Charities Commission. Moving forward the Group executive committee members will be known as Trustees, this reflects the change from Executive Committees to Trustee Boards for Scout Groups.

Accounts for the period January-December 2022 are provided in the form of a balance sheet appended to this report. The balance sheet this year is in a slightly different format to last year's report, however, I have included notes to explain the differences. The main difference is that in this year's accounts is that the two bank accounts, operating and reserve, have been combined, resulting in showing an income over expenditure of £4,138.11. compared with an operating loss of expenditure over income of (-£44.32) in the last accounts.

This surplus is mostly due to grant funding that we have received that would normally have been shown in the reserve account. Our reserve account is not excessive and will only provide operational security for less than two years. The grant funding that we have received in 2022 because of COVID (£2,667.00) will not be repeated this year (2023). Once grant funding (£4,138.96) is removed from the accounts, our operating surplus of (£4,138.11) becomes (£0.85).

We are looking at additional funding to allow the group to continue to flourish and have started on a refurbishment programme for the HQ building, which we hope to progress this year.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents of members who have provided support to the Group and to ask for your continued support. Scouting at this level is only possible because of the time and effort provided by leaders and supporters of the Group. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all Leaders, Members of the Group Executive, and supporters for all their time, thus enabling me to carry out the role of treasurer.

**Alan Dean - Group Treasurer**

## 1st Sandwell Scout Group December 2022

INCOME			Expenditure						
	2021		2022						
£	2,776.99	Subs	£	10,419.45	Cleaning	£	1,000.00	£	600.00
£	1,075.00	Petty Cash			Electricity	£	1,703.42	£	696.99
		Transfer from			Refuse	£	148.61	£	177.69
£	1,500.00	reserve Account			Water Rates	£	-	£	-
£	1,334.00	Fund Raising	£	100.00	Rent	£	20.00	£	20.00
£	1,088.00	Group Activities	£	-	Insurance	£	1,820.38	£	1,721.18
£	607.35	Donations	£	4,773.85	Maintenance	£	1,040.84	£	630.21
		HMRC	£	-	Events	£	2,611.93	£	-
		Interest	£	105.95	Equipment	£	351.08	£	104.17
£	-	Explorers Acc	£	2,152.27	Badges/ Neckers	£	841.83	£	156.22
£	-	Scout Account	£	116.00	Membership Subs	£	2,668.44	£	1,582.00
£	-	Cub Account	£	638.00	Stationery	£	92.00	£	91.85
£	-	Beaver Account	£	1,226.00	WiFi	£	278.70	£	258.24
£	-	Neckers	£	5.00	Donations	£	1,200.00	£	-
		Utility Refund	£	894.59	To Savings Account	£	-	£	-
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>£ 8,381.34</b>	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>£ 20,431.11</b>		To Petty cash A/C	£	-	£	-
					To Beaver Account	£	250.00	£	240.00
					To Cub Account	£	200.00	£	-
					To Scout Account	£	130.00	£	-
					To Explorer Account	£	-	£	-
					To Group Activities	£	1,935.77	£	1,652.11
								£	495.00
					<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>£ 16,293.00</b>		<b>£ 8,425.66</b>	

ance

### Summary

Opening Balance	£	3,209.72	
Total Income	£	20,431.11	
		<u>£ 23,640.83</u>	
Total Expenditure	£	16,293.00	
Balance	£	7,347.83	
Balancing figure	£	-	Cheques not presented
<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>7,347.83</b>	Bank statement
<b>Savings cash and Investments</b>	£	25,540.79	
Petty Cash	£	491.46	

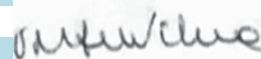
**£4,138.11** Incom over expenditure

Signed Treasurer



14<sup>th</sup> July 2023

Signed Chair



14<sup>th</sup> July 2023

<http://www.1st-sandwell-scout-group.org/wp-content/uploads/Annual-Report-and-Accounts-2022.pdf>