



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

## **Annual General Meeting**

### **Presentation of Year End Accounts and Reports for 2015**

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

**St Bernard's Church Hall 19:00 Wednesday 18th May 2015**

## **AGENDA**

1. Welcome
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of Previous Meeting 13<sup>th</sup> May 2014
4. Section Reports
  - a. Beaver Scouts
  - b. Cub Scouts
  - c. Scouts
  - d. Explorer Scouts
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Group Scout Leader's Report
7. Election of Officers
  - a. Chairman (nominated by Group Scout Leader)
  - b. Secretary
  - c. Treasurer
8. Executive Committee Elections
9. Any Other Business (notice to have been given beforehand)
10. Date of next meeting (New Group Executive)

# **Minutes of Annual General Meeting**

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

**13<sup>th</sup> May 2014**

**Present: Shirley Wilson (Chairman), Brigitte Hatfield (Secretary), Chris Jones (GSL), Alan Dean (Treasurer), Dave Holland (Section Leader), Sarah Linley (Assistant Section Leader), Elaine Nixon, Lewis Tucker (Assistant Section Leader), Claire Evans (Section Leader), Jen Shinner (Section Leader), Janet Savage (Exec member), Tracy Groom (Assistant Section Leader), Kirsty Barlow (Assistant Section Leader)**

### **1. Welcome**

A welcome was extended to all parents and young people in attendance.

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

These were read and agreed as a true record of the previous year's meeting.

N Dean proposed they be accepted.  
D Holland seconded.

### **3. Section Reports**

These were taken as read.

S Linley proposed they be accepted.  
E Nixon seconded.

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

Alan thanked the parents for their continued support and said that the group was financially sound, thanks in part to everyone's efforts in fundraising. He said that he would answer any questions on the accounts either now or at the end of the meeting.

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

I think I can safely say that 2015 was another successful year at 1<sup>st</sup> Sandwell Scout Group with a small increase in the numbers of young people joining us.

In the Beaver Scout section we now have four regular leaders and have recently persuaded another parent to join us as an assistant leader. You will see from the Beaver Section report that there is plenty going on with a very varied programme thanks to an enthusiastic team of leaders.

The Cub Scout Section continues to thrive also with a very varied programme and lots of activity badges being gained.

The Scout section is offering good quality scouting with the team offering a good solid programme.

Explorer Scouts are now being run by Dave Holland and Lewis Tucker and continue to offer a variety of activities.

I think this all speaks for itself, we have a hardworking, dedicated team of leaders who are giving good quality Scouting to your young people. They deserve our thanks and our support.

Headquarters maintenance has always been an issue but this is being greatly helped at the moment by the community payback team.

Finally I would like to take this opportunity to give my thanks to all of those people who have helped us over the last 12 months. You will see from the reports there have been many. And also a huge thank you to our superb leadership team; their enthusiasm and commitment continue to make our Group the success it is. Please give them your support at every opportunity.

## **6. Election of Officers**

The Chairman is a GSL nominated role and I am pleased to advise that S Wilson has agreed to act as chair again for the forthcoming year.

Only one nomination has been received for the posts of Secretary (B Hatfield) and Treasurer (A Dean). The post of Secretary was proposed by Claire Evans and seconded by J Shinner. The post of Treasurer was proposed by E Nixon and seconded by P Malin.

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

There was a general call for parents who were interested in becoming part of the group committee to speak to Chris at the end of the meeting

## **8. AOB**

There was then a presentation to all sections of various badges earned.

## **1. Date of next meeting**

TBC

## Section Reports 2015

### BEAVER REPORT 2015

The Beaver Section has continued to go from strength to strength and have lots of fun.

We presently have 12 Beavers. The Leadership Team at Beavers is about to change as Jen and Tracy leave the Group due to work and family commitments.

We would like to thank all the Beavers for the fun times and the parents for all their help and support. Special thanks to Paul and Mike for always stepping in when needed, and Gerry and Ben who we have had lots of laughs with. We would also like to thank Sally and Jason who have given up so much of their time to help run the Group. We have really enjoyed our time with the Group and have made friends for life in each other and we hope the same goes for the Beavers. We have a new Team in place to take over the Group which is great and we wish them all the best for the future. Sally will also be leaving shortly but Jason will continue as part of the Team.

Most of the Beavers completed their Explore badges and Communicator badges in the last 12 months and are working towards various other new badges. We had a visit from Pets at Home who bought a rabbit and guinea pig to meet the Beavers in November which the Beavers loved and hopefully, by the time of this meeting, we will have just been to a Pets at Home store to see even more pets and learn how to look after them.

We continue to provide a varied programme with a different theme each week, such as Cake Night to tie in with the Great British Bake Off where the Beavers helped make a flapjack, made their own sandwich and tried different types of bread. Burns night where they tried haggis and played toss the caber, and St David's Day where we made daffodils using straws and cup-cake cases, dragons using egg boxes and tried tiffin, welsh rarebit and welsh cakes.

We attended the Group Camp in October at Beaudesert. It was dry but cold but the Beavers coped very well and had lots of fun. We also went to Portway Climbing Wall in Oldbury recently which was very good value and good fun. The Beavers really went for it and some even got to the top of the walls.

For Christmas, we visited the Snowdome in Tamworth and played in real snow. We went to a show with Santa and saw reindeers. We then had a Wimpy and played in the Castle grounds.

The Beaver Section is continuing to grow and have lots of fun. We will miss our Beavers and will pop in to see them from time to time. We wish the Beavers, the new Team and the Group all the very best.

## Cub Scout Report 2015

The past year has been a very busy one for the Cub Scout section with lots of activities and plenty of badges being earned. We have had a number of new Cubs join us throughout the year, putting our numbers at around 28-our highest for some years.

Last July we went on camp to Alfrey Activity Centre in Warwickshire where the Cubs took part in a variety of activities, including climbing and abseiling, using the inflatables and completing their Athlete badge. There were a lot of very brave Cubs who completed the assault course in record time-many of them going back again and again! The Cubs also got to use some pioneering skills to do backwoods cooking, with mostly edible results.

Some of the Cub Pack attended the Group camp at Beaudesert in October where they tried lots of new activities, such as crate stacking and shelter building, and were able to mix with members from all of the other sections. For some of the Cubs it was their first time sleeping in a tent so this was a big source of excitement for them. Again, the weather was good for the time of year and the Cubs who attended had a great time.

In December, the Cub Scout section once again did the Toy Service at St Bernard's Church. The performance was very enthusiastically delivered and the Cubs did themselves proud. The gifts they produced were well received by the members of the congregation, many of whom commented on how much they always enjoy the service performed by the Cubs.

2016 marks the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Cub Scouts and so is a year of celebration for us. Already we have taken part in special events to celebrate this, with others planned for the rest of the year. In March some of the Pack joined other Cubs from around the District for a Fun Day in Sandwell Valley. We followed an orienteering trail, played tracking games, completed a local history quiz and used the play area. At the end of the day, over 100 Cubs and leaders all renewed our Promises together.

In April some Cubs attended a special showing of the Jungle Book story at West Bromwich Odeon, to remind ourselves of the story on which Cub Scouts is based. It was a fun event that brought together Cubs and leaders from all over the District.

Recently, we have been working on our Faith badges which has involved trips to a local Church and a Sikh Gurudwara. On both visits, the Cubs have behaved perfectly, showed a great deal of respect and learnt about different religious beliefs. Celebrating diversity in our Pack and the local community is an important part of being a Cub Scout.

We have exciting events planned for the rest of the year, including a County Camp at Blackwell in July to continue our celebration of 100 Years of Cub Scouts. In September we are planning a trip to Warwick Castle for the Cubs100 Takeover Day where there will be a range of activities planned to ensure that the Cubs have a brilliant day.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the whole team of leaders who give up so much time to plan and run so many activities for the Cub Scout Section and to thank parents for being so supportive of the events we run.

Kirsty Barlow

Cub Scout Leader

## **Annual Scout Report (2015)**

It has been another successful year for the Scout Group. Numbers have remained strong, and a group of younger scouts have joined us from local cub packs.

This year we have welcomed Ed to the leadership team. Some of you may already know of him, as his son is in Cubs and he has been a very enthusiastic new addition to the team! Ed has now completed his first stage of leadership training, and is now working toward his 'wood-badge'. We do appreciate help from parents in any capacity, and if any parents would like to become more involved, please speak to one of your group leaders.

Throughout the year we have continued to maintain a varied programme, blending fun activities with traditional scouting ones. We have tried to develop scouting skills such as fire lighting and outdoor cooking. We will be testing those skills next month when we go on camp, and I am delighted to say that we have had far more interest in camp this year, with 14 of our 16 scouts signing up! We have also worked on developing a programme that will assist the Scouts to obtain more Activity Badges, and most scouts have attained more than one badge in the last 12 months. Indeed, we have this year awarded:

- 3 x Stage 2 Swimmer Awards
- 8 x Stage 3 Swimmer Awards
- 12 x Emergency Aid 1
- 11 x Emergency Aid 2
- 10 x Pioneering
- 7 x Hikes 1
- 6 x Hikes 2
- A number of Nights Away badges, but with an honourable mention for Katie, who received her 20 Nights Away Award.

Last summer saw some of our scouts go to Switzerland to take part in a week of activities including Kayaking, zip-lining and swimming amongst other things. They reported that it was a great experience, and hopefully we can encourage more of our scouts to take part in foreign adventures.

We have recently moved up a number of our more experienced scouts, and so do have a relatively young scout group. We are therefore looking forward to an exciting 12 months ahead.

Steve Nixon

Scout Leader

## Explorer Scout Report - 2015

Before going any further I would like to thank all parents, leaders and Explorers who have contributed to the Unit over the past year in anyway, your valued help has been much appreciated and I hope we can rely on you in the upcoming months.

A vast amount has changed over the last year; the main being that Dave Holland has left 1st Sandwell after 10 years, his support has been valued and we wish him luck in the future.

Therefore I have taken over leadership for the unit with the assistance of the ever reliable Group Scout Leader Chris Jones. Numbers have dwindled since 2014, as of December 2015 we are currently operating with two Explorers each week and are awaiting for the older Scouts to move up, however we have been reaching out with other Units across the district and working alongside them.

Activities over the last year have included; archery, swimming, fire lighting, knot work and cooking to name a few.

We have always tried to maintain a varied programme every week, planning is mainly done by the Explorers termly with some input from leadership. We have had several outings, including visits to RedPoint Climbing Centre and Boulder Central. The traditional Christmas camp was held on the second week of December and consisted of going to Star City.

We look forward to the coming year and are excited to see what it brings us.

Lewis Tucker  
Explorer Scout Leader



## **Treasurers Report 2015**

### **Summary**

1<sup>st</sup> Sandwell Scout Group is a registered charity, with all of 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. The Group consists of 74 young members aging from 6 years to 18 years old and 13 leaders (2015 census return). The membership of the group remains broadly the same as the previous 12 months.

The Group Executive Committee carries out management of the group's affairs. This committee consists of the Group Scout Leader, Section Leaders, and nominated and elected officers and nominated and elected members. All elected members are from parents of members and supporters of the Group.

Accounts for the period January-December 2015 are provided in the form of a balance sheet appended to this report. The Group is now on a financially sound footing. This means that for the day to day running costs of the Group are met by the member's subscription payments. In addition, thanks to fundraising by all members of the group, we have raised £563. In addition we have received £1,075 from HMRC in the form of Gift Aid on member's subscriptions; this will be an ongoing receipt each year as long as the scheme continues. We have received a one off grant of £3,000 from INTERSERVE. This will now be moved to our reserve fund pending the identification of a suitable project. New tents have been purchased this year with tables and camping equipment been identified for purchase in 2016.

Each year members of the group are able to raise funds from schemes that their employers operate; this is in the form of matched fundraising from events that they organise, matched giving and one off donations. Our Chair Shirley Wilson has been in the forefront in this, benefiting the group by over £300.00 in 2015. In addition we have an account at [easyfundraising.org.uk](http://easyfundraising.org.uk) where the group benefits from purchased made through the site.

We 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 of their time, thus enabling us to carry out the role of treasurer.

**Alan & Nicola Dean**  
**Group Treasurers**

## 1st Sandwell Scout Group 2015

	Income		Expenditure	
	2015	2014	2015	2014
Subs	£ 9,932.00	£ 9,485.29	£ 785.77	£ 1,020.00
	£ -		£ 1,048.29	£ 1,060.48
	£ -		£ 275.85	£ 267.54
Fund Raising	£ 563.10	£ 1,509.61	£ 95.18	£ 92.26
Group Activities	£ -	£ -	£ 20.00	£ 40.00
Donations	£ 3,000.00	£ -	£ 1,350.83	£ 1,340.41
HMRC Gift Aid	£ 1,075.48	£ 936.48	£ 819.21	£ 80.97
Interest	£ -	£ 380.00	£ -	£ 35.00
Explorers Acc	£ -	£ 170.97	£ 1,062.00	£ -
Scout Account	£ -	£ 328.00	£ 255.75	£ 304.77
				Badges/ Necker's
				HQ Membership
Cub Account	£ 1,299.36	£ 405.55	£ 2,700.00	£ 2,072.00
Neckers	£ 50.00	£ 135.00	£ -	£ -
			£ 139.00	£ 25.00
			£ -	£ -
			£ -	£ 386.41
			£ 300.00	£ 805.70
			£ 470.00	£ 669.60
			£ 5.93	£ -
			£ 100.00	£ 227.76
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>£ 15,919.94</b>	<b>£ 13,350.90</b>		
			£ 1,647.25	£ 100.00
			£ -	£ 6,000.00
<b>Summary</b>				
Opening Balance	£ 4,701.00			
Total Income	£ 15,919.94			
	<b>£ 20,620.94</b>			
Total Expenditure	£ 11,075.06			
Balance	£ 9,545.88			
Balancing figure	£ -	Cheques not presented	<b>£ 11,075.06</b>	£ 14,527.90
<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>£ 9,545.88</b>	Bank statement		
<b>Savings cash and Investments</b>				
Petty Cash	£ 314.85			
TSB Saving Account	£ 7,107.39			
<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 7,422.24</b>			

Signed Treasurer

18th May 2016

Signed Chair

18th May 2016