



1st Sandwell Scout Group

Annual General Meeting

Presentation of Year End Accounts and Reports for 2016

1st Sandwell Scout Group Annual General Meeting

St Bernard's Church Hall 19:00 Wednesday 6th June 2017

AGENDA

1. Welcome
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of Previous Meeting 18th May 2016
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

1st Sandwell Scout Group **Annual General Meeting** **18th May 2016**

Present: Brigitte Hatfield (Secretary), Chris Jones (GSL), Ed O'Neal (Assistant 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), Alan Dean (Treasurer), Shirley Wilson (Chairman), Toby Hatfield (Sectional Assistant), Carol Payton (Section Leader), Vanessa Hitchon (Exec Member), Matt Duggan (Assistant Section Leader), Julie Neil (Assistant Section Leader), Jason Cross (Assistant Section Leader) and parents / carers of young people from the group.

Apologies: Ben Hatfield (Sectional Assistant), Stephen Nixon (Section Leader), Nicola Dean

1. Welcome

A welcome was extended to all leaders, parents and young people in attendance and especially to Dawn Grice our District Commissioner. A presentation was made to Jen Shinner and Tracy Groom, both of whom are stepping down from their roles as Beaver leaders. Thanks were extended to them both for their sterling service and hard work over the years with the Beaver colony.

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

Kirsty Barlow proposed these be accepted as a true record.
Sarah Linley seconded

3. Section Reports

These were taken as read.

Jen Shinner proposed that the Beaver Scout report be accepted.
Tracy Groom seconded.

Richard Evans proposed that the Cub Scout report be accepted.
Ryan Wilson seconded.

Elaine Nixon proposed that the Scout report be accepted.
Sarah Linley seconded.

Reece Williams proposed that the Explorer report be accepted.
Ryan Wilson seconded.

4. Treasurer's Report

Group on a firm financial footing. Spending money on hut maintenance and equipment. Ability to do this is due to subscriptions and gift aid from those subscriptions. In addition we had some fundraising activities and we have also had some matched funding from these – in total therefore we are doing reasonably well. In terms of numbers we

haven't moved much in terms of numbers within the group albeit that some have moved through the sections.

5. Group Scout Leader's Report

Another busy successful year with some ups and downs and quite a few changes; Beavers Scouts have lost two valuable leaders, saying goodbye to Jenny and Tracy who have given many years of fantastic service. Fortunately after an appeal from me we have 3 parents stepping forward to join the team; Julie as Assistant Beaver Scout Leader and two more parents who are willing to be Sectional Assistants. Returning to our Group is Carol Payton who is taking over the role of Beaver Scout Leader. Carol is very experienced having been a Cub Scout Leader, an Assistant Scout Leader and an Assistant Venture Scout Leader. Beaver Scouts she has never done before but is up for the challenge. Jason is staying with team as is Sally, what would we do without them I dread to think. So a strong team going into the next year and we wish them well. Cub Scouts have also had their changes. Claire resigned in October last year and Kirsty agreed to take on the Leadership of the Cub Scout Team. This she has done very well and the team remains strong and very active. They have lots going on this year as it is the 100th Birthday of Cub Scouting, so I am sure you will join me in wishing them a happy birthday and I hope they enjoy all the exciting events which are going on. They are a very full pack at the moment and will soon be taking on 3 more young people from the Beaver Section, but very soon also waving goodbye to a few members who are moving up to the Scout Section.

Scouts another active year for them and with the addition of Ed to the team they are able to share the load. The programme being offered is varied and there is a good emphasis on Scouting skills. It was wonderful to see some of our Scouts join the District adventure to Switzerland and I look forward to more international experiences in the future.

Explorers a difficult year for them; unfortunately the Unit, as happens to many, had started to operate as a Youth Club rather than an Explorer Scout Unit. I had received some pressure from the District with regard to this, because of course this could not be allowed to continue and I had to intervene. Unfortunately this resulted in Dave Holland resigning and a lot of the Explorers leaving; some because they were 18yrs old and some because they did not want the structure of an Explorer Scout Unit. This was devastating for Lewis who had tried so hard to change the thinking. I make no apology for the action I took, our job is to provide Explorer Scouting and that is what we will do even with only two members. They are an excellent two members who are very loyal and determined to carry on. We are doing our best and will continue to do so whilst eagerly waiting for some more young people to join us from Scouts.

I would like to place on record my thanks to Dave Holland for the years of service which he gave to our Group.

Our Committee continues to be very hard working but very small. We do not need a large committee but another 3 or 4 members would be greatly appreciated. We have some challenges ahead mainly because our headquarters desperately needs replacing. It was meant to last 40 years and has now been up over 50 years. We have some ideas but not enough money or enough people to move them forward.

As I said at the beginning ups and downs but all in all a good year. We have a strong leadership team who continue to give their all and I thank them for this. We have a healthy bank balance and a fairly large group of wonderful young people so I think it is fair to say "Well Done" everyone and let's get ready to have more FUN and face the challenges ahead.

Our Founder Lord Baden Powell, when defending the siege of Mafeking faced 6,000 Boers, an 11 mile range gun and 94 pound shells. BP had 1,000 men, few guns and 7 pound shells, he was outnumbered and outgunned, but he never gave up and neither will we.

Christine Jones
Group Scout Leader

6. Election of Officers

The Chairman is a GSL nominated role and I am pleased to advise that S Wilson has agreed to continue as Group 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 Sarah Linley and seconded by Elaine Nixon. The post of Treasurer was proposed by Sarah Linley and seconded by Elaine Nixon.

7. Election of Executive Committee

Vanessa Hitchon has agreed to continue as part of the Exec. Committee. A request was made to all those present to consider whether they could step up to the committee.

8. AOB

Long service awards were presented by our District Commissioner to Kirsty Barlow (5 years) and Chris Jones (50 years).

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

Section Reports 2016

BEAVER REPORT 2016/17

The last year has seen the Beaver Section continue to grow and have lots of fun with friends.

During the year we have seen 6 Beavers move up to the Cub Scout Pack leaving us with a colony of 15. This coming year I would like to see our numbers grow even more so that we can continue to offer a full programme.

2016 saw the Beavers celebrate 30 years of Beaver Scouting and as part of the celebrations our Beavers joined the District for a summer BBQ, Halloween party and sleepover at Drayton Manor.

We continue to provide a varied programme with a different theme each week incorporating games, crafts and different skills. The Beavers have taken part in Tesco's Farm to Fork trail and have visited West Bromwich Fire Station, Dartmouth Park and the RSPB. We have had colony visits from PC Evans and Rhythmicity drumming group and have also been bouldering at Boulder Central and enjoyed a trip down the canal at Dudley for Christmas.

Our colony has also been represented at the District Cross Country competition and will be taking part in the District Sports Day on July 1st.

Awards wise the Beavers are continually working towards their challenges with most of them gaining the Teamwork challenge. Activity badge wise the colony has completed the Communicator, Cook, Creative, Explore, Navigator and Space badges as well as adding to their Nights away and Hikes Away staged badges.

We have exciting events planned for the rest of the year, including colony sleepovers at the Far Forest in July and a District Sleepover at Jitterbugs in September, an activity day at Beaudesert in July and a Christmas craft day in December.

Leadership wise, we have said Goodbye to Bobby who has been our regular parent helper for the last year. Bobby has been an asset to the colony and we wish him well for the future. We have also welcomed Reece onto our team and look forward to many years working together. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the whole team of leaders who give up their time so freely to run our colony. Without their support there would be no colony.

We look forward to the coming year and fun and friendships.

Carol Payton

BSL

Cub Scout Report 2016-17

The past year has been packed with new activities for the Cub Scout section and has seen many Cubs move onto Scouts, with new members joining us throughout the year. This has ensured our numbers remain high.

Last July saw us attend the Jungle Jam camp at Blackwell Adventure as part of the celebrations for the 100th anniversary of the founding of Cub Scouts. Our Cubs mixed with Cub Scouts from across the whole of West Mercia County and were wonderful representatives for 1st Sandwell. We had fantastic weather during this weekend and it was a camp that was absolutely packed with activities. Cubs had the chance to take part in climbing, swimming, glass-sledging, laser tag, zip-lining, crate-stacking and archery. All of this was in addition to inflatable obstacle courses, water slides, crafts and games across the campsite. With so much to do, it was no wonder that everyone was exhausted by the end of the weekend!

In September, we ran a special bat walk in connection with the Friends of Red House Park. This was a great chance for the Cubs to learn more about the nature that exists all around us and to use the "bat detectors" to locate different types of bats in the park.

In November, we had a visit from a drumming group who worked with the Cubs to create music using a variety of percussion instruments. The Cubs learnt about the importance of working as part of a team and listening to each other to blend their sounds together.

In December, we took some Cubs to Beaudesert Campsite to take part in their Big Christmas Kick-Off. Cubs had the chance to take part in different activities, like crate-stacking, Jacob's Ladder, climbing, archery, rifle-shooting and axe-throwing. They also met Father Christmas and enjoyed a Christmas Lunch. This was such a good day that we plan to take part again in 2017-look out for the letters!

Once again, the Cubs organised the annual Christmas Toy Service at the local church. They worked hard to rehearse their readings and performances and did themselves proud on the day. We had some lovely feedback and I know that the congregation really appreciate the effort that goes into preparing for this service.

So far this year, we have had visits to Pets at Home as part of the Animal Carer badge and a trip to Boulder Central so that the Cubs could work on a new physical skill as part of their Adventure Challenge Award. On both occasions, the Cubs were a credit to the Group and to themselves. All of these visits are in addition to the varied activities that the Cubs take part in every week at normal meetings, showing just how many opportunities there are in Scouting.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the whole team of leaders for working so hard to provide 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 (2016 – 2017)

It has been another successful year for the Scout Group. Numbers dropped dramatically, but a group of younger scouts have joined us from cubs which has led to a young but enthusiastic group.

This year we lost Sarah to 'maternity leave', although she is intending to join us at camp in the autumn and will, I'm sure, be back with us shortly. We 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, particularly with such a young group. We will be testing those skills when we go on camp which we have pencilled in for late summer/early autumn. 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.

Steve Nixon

Scout Leader

Explorer Scout Report 2016

Over the past year the Explorer Scout section has struggled with low numbers proving it extremely difficult to run the usual activities, that being said we have persevered and we can all agree that we have had an exciting year.

Although our numbers are low we have managed to keep hold of our previous members including ones moving up from the Scout section. This year we saw Reece Williams leave the section due to him turning 18, however, we are pleased to say that he is still with the group assisting with the Beaver Scout section.

Since the last AGM the Explorers have cultivated their knowledge in various topics from a pub quiz book and I am proud to say that we won the Districts Founders Day quiz in February; we are delighted to hold the Toilet Seat trophy for one year.

In June the Explorers attended the Strategy & Evolution Camp in Cirencester which hopes to become the successor to the famed Sun Run & Malvern Challenge. Here they volunteered on bases throughout the weekend to ensure that the Scouts attending had a great time, if numbers increase I aim to take them down to the Explorer camp.

For five years 1st Sandwell have completed the 40 mile Chase Walk. Some think we enjoy the pain; others call us insane, to one we agree. This year saw Shirley Wilson, Ken Hill, Reece Williams and James Wilson along with reoccurring members Ben Hatfield and myself; each gave a valiant effort in participating – hopefully we can stop now.

Currently our Explorers are undertaking the Young Leaders programme in conjunction with Mark Jones' group under the watchful eye of Chris Jones, so far the sections have completed three modules. We aim to finish this sometime this year and hopefully include them in 1st Sandwell's sections.

We have exciting events planned for the rest of the year, including a programme specifically designed around food; this plan has been previously run and is quite favourable; they will learn the basics of fine dining and pairing meals with drinks. Other programmes include a hike in Wales, blindfolded map reading and bouldering.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank both the Beaver Scout and Scout sections for allowing us to run either alongside them or briefly after due to leadership numbers, along with all volunteers who have helped in the past year. Your help is greatly appreciated and I hope that we haven't swayed you off from assisting in the future.

Lewis Tucker
Explorer Scout Leader

Treasurer's Report 2016

Summary

1st 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 51 young members aging from 6 years to 18 years old and 21 leaders & executive members (2016 census return). The youth membership of the group fell during 2016, but has now started to increase again.

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 2016 are provided in the form of a balance sheet appended to this report. The group made a significant increase in expenditure over income during 2016. This is in part due to one off exceptional costs and a slight reduction in membership numbers, but mainly due to increasing costs for; electricity, insurance and membership fees, payable to national Scout HQ for each member (this now accounts for 3 months of the subscription that you pay for each child).

To ensure that the group continuous to operate on a sound financial footing, the Group Executive and Leaders have made the decision to raise the annual group membership from September 2017, from £12.00 per month to £16.00 per month. This will be the first increase since 2013. We are continuing to work to ensure that the group provides Scouting that is accessible to all young people and provides a varied and exciting training programme.

Thanks to fundraising and donations by all members of the group, we have raised £112. In addition we have received £1,080 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.

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 £500.00 in 2016.

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 me to carry out the role of treasurer.

Alan Dean - Group Treasurer

