



1st Sandwell Scout Group

Annual General Meeting

Presentation of Year End Accounts and Reports for 2017

1st Sandwell Scout Group Annual General Meeting

St Bernard's Church Hall 19:00 Wednesday 20th June 2018

AGENDA

1. Welcome
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of Previous Meeting 6th June 2017
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

6th June 2017

Present: Brigitte Hatfield (Secretary), Chris Jones (GSL), Ed O'Neal (Assistant Section Leader), Elaine Nixon, Lewis Tucker (Assistant Section Leader), Lynn Barlow (Assistant Section Leader), Jackie Stanton (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), Ben Hatfield (Assistant Section Leader), Stephen Nixon (Section Leader), Nicola Dean, Reece Williams (Assistant Section Leader) and parents / carers of young people from the group.

Apologies: Janet Savage (Exec member), Sarah Linley (Assistant Section Leader), Dawn Grice (District Commissioner), James Potter (Exec Member)

1. Welcome

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

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

Steven Nixon proposed these be accepted as a true record.
Lewis Tucker seconded.

3. Section Reports

These were taken as read.

Lewis Tucker proposed that the Beaver Scout report be accepted.
Julie Neil seconded.

Steven Nixon proposed that the Cub Scout report be accepted.
Elaine Nixon seconded.

Kirsty Barlow proposed that the Scout report be accepted.
William Neil seconded.

Ben Hatfield proposed that the Explorer report be accepted.
William Neil seconded.

4. Treasurer's Report

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 continues 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.

Lynn Barlow proposed
Lewis Tucker seconded.

5. Group Scout Leader's Report

Firstly many thanks to you all for being here this evening. You may not yet have had time to read the reports but when you do you will see that our leaders continue to offer a varied programme of activities each week and so provide good quality scouting.

The beaver scouts began after the last AGM with a new leadership team and one that has worked very well together. During 2016 they celebrated their 30 years of beaver scouting and had lots of fun doing so. You will see from their report that they are very active and are certainly putting the `out` in scouting, they seem to be all over the place and miss out on nothing. Well done to the new team on completion of a successful year.

The cub scouts were also celebrating a special year in 2016, in their case 100 years. They have enjoyed an action packed year including a fantastic county camp with almost the whole pack attending. Like the other sections they also had a visit from the drumming group

which was a great activity and something a little different. I was most impressed by the performances from all of the sections. `Britain's got talent` eat your heart out!

The scout section continue to provide fun activities as well as honing their traditional scouting skills. I have sampled some of the food they have cooked on open fires, sometimes wrapped in cabbage leaves and tin foil and I have survived so they are obviously getting it right. Our congratulations to Sarah on the birth of rose Elizabeth and to Stephen on the birth of Emily June. The Nixon family are certainly doing their bit for recruitment. Sarah is on maternity leave at the moment but we look forward to welcoming her back very soon.

The explorer scout section continues to struggle with small numbers but continue to meet most weeks. They are taking part in the young leader training courses, which I am currently running for Meriden explorer scouts, and are a credit to us on these occasions. I just wished the m6 was not always blocked on our return journeys. To their parents I can only apologise for their late return home. Congratulations to them on winning the district founder's day quiz. They are now the proud caretakers of the toilet seat trophy for the next 12 months.

You will see from the treasurer's report that we are going to raise the membership subscription in September. We did not take this decision lightly but we do have to be realistic. Our outgoings are exceeding our income and we all know this cannot be sustained indefinitely. We have compared our membership fees with many other activities that our young people do and we still charge considerably less. We trust you will agree that scouting is extremely good value for money.

Our very small executive committee continue to work extremely hard on behalf of our group and we thank them for their efforts. They are currently working with the local council to negotiate a new lease. They are also researching various types of buildings which would be suitable to replace our current HQ and are worrying about how we will finance it. If you or anyone you know have knowledge or experience of serious fund raising, applying for grants etc., then any help or advice would be greatly appreciated.

I am sure you will agree our leaders are amazing. They give up hours of their time, spend endless amounts of money on fuel, exercise great patience, and attend numerous compulsory training courses, all in the name of scouting. We live in an age of ever new technologies, we are people dazzled by machines. However we must remember there is still no machine that can soothe a young person's fears, that can encourage them to do the task they think they can't do, that can help them have fun as a beaver scout, that can take them on their first cub scout camp, that can teach a scout to light a fire and cook a meal, that can help an explorer scout reach the summit of a tough mountain. Our leaders can do all of these things and they do, week after week, month after month, that is what makes them extraordinary people. I would like to take this opportunity of asking you to join me in saying thank you to all of them for the time and energy they give to helping to make our young people tomorrows special men and women. Thank you to our leaders.

Christine Jones - Group Scout Leader
Group Scout Leader

6. Election of Officers

The position of Chairman is a nominated position by GSL. The tenure is currently under consideration as due to work commitments, our existing Chair.

Only one nomination has been received for the posts of Secretary (B Hatfield) and Treasurer (A Dean). The post of Secretary was proposed by Ben Hatfield and seconded by Elaine Nixon. The post of Treasurer was proposed by Steve Nixon and seconded by Jackie Stanton.

7. Election of Executive Committee

Vanessa Hitchon, James Potter, Janet Savage all agreed to stand again.

Kirsty Barlow proposed they be elected en bloc.
Lewis Tucker seconded.

A request was made to all those present to consider whether they could step up to the committee and help out.

8. AOB

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

Date for diaries: Saturday 21st October 2017 – bag pack at Tesco, New Square, West Bromwich. Please put date in your diaries and we will ask you to sign up for an hour or two a bit closer to the time.

Section Reports 2017

BEAVER REPORT 2017/18

This last year has been a mixed year for the Beaver Scout section. We have had some fantastic achievements but are now struggling with low numbers. During the year we have seen 9 of our Beavers move up to the Cub pack with another 3 on their way this summer. Our loss is definitely the Cubs gain and we wish them all the best as they continue their Scouting journey. However this has left our colony low on numbers and in order for us to continue to offer a varied programme we need to build our numbers back up.

On the positive side we have continued to progress with our challenge awards with many of our Beavers gaining their Adventure challenge and Outdoors challenge. Throughout the year Beavers have completed their Communicator, Disability Awareness, Global Awareness, Health & Fitness and Safety activity Badges as well as adding to their Nights away and Hikes Away badges. We have also awarded four Bronze Awards, this is a demanding award and to gain it Beavers need to put in a lot of hard work and effort. Congratulations to Bray, Evan, Jeevan and Amanpreet. We are so proud of them.

We continue to offer a varied weekly themed programme with games, crafts and activities. Over the year we have been visited by a paramedic, mini beasts and birds of prey and in turn the Beavers have enjoyed visits to Sandwell Park Farm, the RSPB and Beaudesert Scout Site. The Beavers have also had a colony sleepover at Far Forest and joined the rest of the district at a sleepover at Jitterbugs.

It is always good for our youngsters to meet other Beavers from around the district and county and our colony took part in the District Sports Day where we came away with several medals and they also attended the County STEM day. We have exciting times ahead with planned sleepovers and a visit to RAF Cosford, Climbing at Rock Up, an activity day at Beaudesert, a Garden Party and fun water night.

Thanks as always to Jason, Julie and Reece who give up their time so freely. Without their support there would be no colony. We look forward to the year ahead and to continued fun and friendships.

Carol Payton
BSL

Cub Scout Report 2017-2018

The past year has been a busy and exciting year for the Cub Scout section. We have had a large number of our Cubs go up to Scouts but we have also gained new members so our numbers are still looking good.

Last July we ran a sleepover and activity weekend for the Cubs which involved visiting Ackers Adventure. At Ackers we did some orienteering, tobogganing and bell-boating- luckily nobody fell in! The Cubs learnt about the importance of working together as a team in order to complete a series of races and challenges on the boats. We also did some backwoods cooking so the Cubs could learn about safe fire-lighting and cooking over an open fire-some parts were more edible than others!

Once again the Cubs planned and prepared for the annual Christmas Toy Service at the local church. They worked hard on their various readings and performances and were an absolute credit to the Cub Section. Many members of the congregation commented on how well they had done, how clearly they read and how smartly they were presented. The representative from the Salvation Army was very pleased with the generosity shown by the Cubs in bringing their old toys in to donate to children much less fortunate than themselves. It is very sad to know that this was the last time we will be doing the Toy Service now that the church has closed down as so many past and present Cubs will remember the pride felt in doing the service.

Some members of the Cub Section represented the Group at the annual District Quiz in March. Although we didn't win the event, we came a very close third place with only four points separating us and the winners. The Cubs showed a wide range of general knowledge and really did themselves proud against some older teams. We need to get revising now ready for next year!

In April, some members of the group were lucky enough to attend the County STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) Day that was held in partnership with the RAF. Cubs had the chance to test their engineering skills by completing a series of challenges, including making the tallest helicopter landing pad and the best rocket. Again, the Cubs represented our group well and worked hard on their designs. Maybe we will have inspired the scientists and engineers of the future!

All of these events go on alongside the varied weekly programme that recently has involved visits to Holly Wood Nature Reserve to work on the Naturalist badge, first aid training, road safety and home help. This really shows the many opportunities and activities available through Scouting.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the whole team of leaders for working hard to provide so many activities for the Cub Scout Section and to thank parents for being supportive of all the events we run.

Kirsty Barlow
Cub Scout Leader

Annual Scout Report (2017 – 2018)

It has been another successful year for the Scout Troop. Numbers have remained strong, and a large number of younger scouts have joined us from cubs.

Throughout the year we have continued to maintain a varied programme, blending fun activities with traditional scouting ones. Given the inexperience of our group, we have tried to develop scouting skills such as fire lighting and outdoor cooking. In March we attended camp, with 18 scouts signing up, and those skills were put to the test!

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, 68 activity badges have been achieved this year, including:

- Musician,
- Circus
- Joining In
- Emergency Aid
- Nights Away
- Martial Arts

We have recently moved up a number of our more experienced scouts to the Explorer section and so now we have a relatively young Scout Troop. We are therefore looking forward to an exciting 12 months ahead.

Steve Nixon
Scout Leader

Explorer Scout Report 2017

Since the last AGM the Explorer Scout unit status has changed dramatically. In our last report we stated that although numbers were low we could still manage and run a limited programme with three members. Unfortunately, in autumn of 2017 we dropped down to just one Explorer Scout and our efforts of recruiting more members from around the area were not successful it was with that we decided to put the 1st Sandwell Explorer section on hiatus.

However, we did not give up and although it took a while, we managed to reopen by merging some of the other Explorer Units throughout the district into one. We opened our doors in March 2018 and a few weeks later we took the name Earhart ESU, the unit is now run by Lewis Tucker and Ben Hatfield with additional support from other leaders when needed.

As a new unit we don't have much to report on this year although we will state that we have designed an exciting programme over the next few months and we that the Explorers equally find this exciting. That being said next week we will be attending the Strategy & Evolution Camp in Cirencester; this will be the second year Explorers from Sandwell will be attending the spiritual successor to the famed Sun Run & Malvern Challenge camp.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all who have assisted in any means over the last year, it has been hard 12 months; however, we have faced the difficulties head on and triumphed. 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 2017

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 27 leaders & executive members (2017 census return) (51 and 21 respectively 2016 census return). The youth membership of the group has remained the same during 2017.

The Group Executive Committee carries out management of the group's affairs. This committee consists of the Group Scout Leader and nominated and elected officers and nominated and elected members. All elected members are from parents of members and supporters of the Group. The executive committee members are also Trustees of the Group as required by the Charities Commission.

Accounts for the period January-December 2017 are provided in the form of a balance sheet appended to this report. The Group has a small operating surplus of income over expenditure for this period thanks mainly to fundraising activities; however, this can change as membership numbers fluctuate.

Thanks to fundraising and donations by all members of the group, we have raised £1,048. In addition we have received £1,103 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. In addition, following a sponsored walk over Cannock Chase we were able to make a donation to Children in Need of £320.00.

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 £180.00 in 2017.

Last year the Group Executive took the decision to raise the annual membership subscription to from £12.00 to £16.00 per month. This was reviewed by the executive throughout the year and the decision was made to be put on hold until September 2018; where the new membership subscription will now be £15.00/month, this will still be the first increase since 2013. A letter will be sent detailing our new Bank and payment details.

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

1st Sandwell Scout Group 2017

| INCOME | | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------|--|
| 2016 | | 2017 | |
| £ 6,450.00 | Subs | £ 5,812.50 | |
| £ 361.69 | Petty Cash | £ - | |
| | Fund Raising from | | |
| | Petty Cash | £ 1,048.31 | |
| £ 112.45 | Fund Raising | £ - | |
| £ - | Group Activities | £ - | |
| £ 539.80 | Donations | £ 180.00 | |
| £ 1,080.95 | HMRC | £ 1,103.56 | |
| £ - | Explorers Acc | £ - | |
| £ - | Scout Account | £ - | |
| £ 591.00 | Cub Account | £ 654.00 | |
| £ 255.60 | Beaver Account | £ 237.98 | |
| £ 85.00 | Neckers | £ 40.00 | |
| £ 9,476.49 | Total Income | £ 9,076.35 | |

Summary

| | |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| Opening Balance | £ 5,722.73 |
| Total Income | £ 9,076.35 |
| | £ 14,799.08 |
| Total Expenditure | £ 7,583.98 |
| Balance | £ 7,215.10 |
| Balancing figure | £ 10.80 |
| Closing Balance | £ 7,225.90 |

Savings, cash and Investments

| | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| Petty Cash | £ 1,578.55 |
| Deposit Account | £ 7,107.39 |
| Beaver account | £ 23.37 |
| Cub Account | £ 170.00 |
| Scout Account | £ 11.70 |
| Explorer Account | £ 196.55 |
| Total | £ 16,313.46 |

| Expenditure | | | |
|--------------------------|----------|-----------------|-------------|
| | | 2017 | 2016 |
| Cleaning | £ | 802.51 | £ 818.78 |
| Electricity | £ | 1,107.99 | £ 2,304.35 |
| Refuse | £ | 298.22 | £ 227.58 |
| Water Rates | £ | 20.52 | £ 92.09 |
| Rent | £ | 20.00 | £ 20.00 |
| Insurance | £ | 1,496.18 | £ 1,479.17 |
| Maintenance | £ | 360.00 | £ 197.32 |
| Training | £ | - | £ 40.00 |
| Equipment | £ | - | £ 2,488.05 |
| Badges/ Neckers | £ | 129.80 | £ 649.86 |
| Membership Subs | £ | 1,938.00 | £ 2,102.50 |
| Stationery | £ | - | £ 50.63 |
| Other | £ | - | £ 110.00 |
| Bank charges | £ | - | £ - |
| To Petty cash A/C | £ | - | £ 318.25 |
| To Beaver Account | £ | 608.04 | £ 483.60 |
| To Cub Account | £ | 360.50 | £ 1,409.01 |
| To Scout Account | £ | 148.00 | £ 100.00 |
| To Explorer Account | £ | 100.00 | £ 308.45 |
| To Group Activities | £ | 194.22 | £ 100.00 |
| Total Expenditure | £ | 7,583.98 | |

| | |
|-------------------|---------------------------|
| £ 1,492.37 | Income over expenditure |
| £ 317.67 | owing to Children in Need |
| £ 1,174.70 | Income over expenditure |

Signed Treasurer



20th June 2018

Signed Chair

20th June 2018