



1st Sandwell Scout Group

Annual General Meeting

Presentation of Year End Accounts and Reports for 2018

1st Sandwell Scout Group Annual General Meeting

**1st Sandwell Scout HQ Marston Grove Great Barr B43 5ED
4th June 2019**

AGENDA

1. Welcome
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of Previous Meeting 20th June 2018 (Attached)
4. Section Reports (Attached)
 - a. Beaver Scouts
 - b. Cub Scouts
 - c. Scouts
 - d. Explorer Scouts
5. Treasurer's Report (Attached)
6. Group Scout Leader's Report (Attached)
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
20th June 2018

Present: Brigitte Hatfield (Secretary), Chris Jones (GSL), Elaine Nixon, Lewis Tucker (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 (Section Leader), Stephen Nixon (Section Leader), James Potter (Exec Member), Mark Green (Exec Member), Sarah Linley (Assistant Section Leader), Reece Williams (Assistant Section Leader) and parents / carers of young people from the group.

Apologies: Dawn Grice (District Commissioner), Ed O'Neal (Assistant Section Leader), Nicola Dean,

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.
Steven Nixon seconded.

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

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

Ben Hatfield proposed that the Explorer report be accepted.
Ryan Wilson seconded.

4. Treasurer's Report

Accounts for the period January-December 2017 are provided in the form of a balance sheet appended to this report. There was a proposal made last year to increase subs and while we took the decision to defer this increase last year, a letter will be coming out to that effect this September, raising the subs to £15 per month.

Raised money via sponsored walk for children in need (certificate in scout HQ).

GDPR regulations – cannot rely on electronic means of issuing our privacy statement but there will also be a hard copy circulated over the next few months.

Finances in order

Graham Jones proposed
Stephen Nixon seconded.

5. Group Scout Leader's Report 2017

Before I start my GSL report, like to extend our congratulations to Satveer Bungar who has been awarded an MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours list for services to Corporate Finance.

Many thanks to you all for being here tonight. You may not have had time to read the section reports yet but when you do you will be able to see that good quality Scouting is still being delivered at the 1st Sandwell Scout Group.

Beaver Scouts have been very busy gaining lots of Badges and special congratulations must go to Bray, Evan, Jeevan and Amanpreet, who gained their Chief Scout Bronze Award, which is the highest Award a Beaver Scout can gain. As well as their badge, they were presented with a Certificate signed by our Chief Scout Bear Grylls. Well done. The Beaver Scouts have been on lots of outings and attended events outside their normal Colony meetings and had 3 sleepovers and I think it is fair to say they are definitely putting the `Out` in Scout. Numbers need boosting but Carol and I have already discussed recruitment actions for September.

With Cub Scouts this again lots going on and good numbers in the Pack. I am amazed that no one fell in when they were Bell-boating but am very relieved. As to their cooking on open fires, I understand that sometimes their efforts are not quite as good as we would like, but charcoal is good for them! Anyway what could be better than lighting a fire yourself and cooking something you can eat regardless of its state; they probably thought it was wonderful.

Scouts – there are good numbers in the troop having had so many go up from Cubs. It was fantastic that such a good number attended the camp in March, and great weather as well which makes a change. 68 Activity badges gained, well done everyone. I notice that one was the Martial Arts badge so we had better look out. I can also confirm that their cooking is not bad as I witnessed them making shortbread and it smelt delicious and tasted good too.

The Explorers stopped operating for a while because numbers were so low. However in March we reopened with 9 members and Lewis and Ben leading this section. They have chosen their own Unit name, Earhart, as they are encouraged to choose the name of an explorer. They have also chosen their neckerchief, navy blue with a pink border, can't wait to see this. As an Explorer Scout Unit they are attached to our Group but come under the umbrella of the District therefore they can wear their own Group neckerchief if they have come from another Group and also their Unit neckerchief. There is an exciting programme planned for the rest of the year and they are off on their first camp at the end of the month. An exciting adventure camp in Cirencester. This will be their first camp as a Unit, their maiden voyage so to speak, and I am sure you will join with me in wishing them well. Lewis and Ben are full of enthusiasm and this is being passed on to the Explorers. We did have some concerns because most of these young people came from another Group but so far all is well. Lewis and Ben have completed their own Scouting journey with our Group and it is great to see them pass on the skills they have gained to these new young people. Good Luck in the future to this new Section and may they have many more adventures.

Our Group Executive Committee continue to work very hard on our behalf. We took the decision last year to raise the subscriptions but for various reasons deferred doing it. This will definitely be implemented this coming September in order to keep our finances stable, to be able to continue to maintain our HQ and our equipment and offer the standard of Scouting we have always provided. I believe it is still excellent value for money. The Committee have faced many challenges over the last 12 months. The Church closed and there is some uncertainty over the ownership of the car park which is taking a huge amount of time researching documents dating back to the late 1920's early 1930's. We are also continuing our dialogue with the local authority regarding our lease and the possible inclusion of the extra land, which borders our drive, in that lease. Then there is the ongoing dilemma with regard to the replacement of our HQs, which of course we can do nothing about until the lease is sorted. Last but not least are the new GDPR regulations which are driving us all mad and of course are the responsibility of our Executive to ensure that we comply. You will be hearing more about this in the coming weeks. They have faced all these challenges and responsibilities with diligence and dare I say enthusiasm and I cannot thank them enough. Their numbers are small and I am sure they would welcome new members who are willing to help them tackle some of these issues.

With a strong leadership team who give so much to our young people and our dedicated Executive Committee we have much to be grateful for and they deserve our heartfelt thanks.

When our Chief Scout Bear Grylls was asked about his thoughts on being Chief Scout he said:

“To be Chief Scout was his ultimate role, it was one of his proudest moments when he became Chief Scout. He said he was inspired by 40million Scouts who:

Made him proud. Were Adventurous. Worked in teams. Had moral values. Had determination. Smiled.

He said Scouts were his shining light.”

I hope that all of you here tonight, whether a parent, or a leader, will be equally inspired by our young people and be proud of all that they have achieved and all that we hope they will achieve in the coming year.

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 as Chair and Shirley Wilson as Vice 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 Elaine Nixon and seconded by Stephen Nixon. The post of Treasurer was proposed by Steve Nixon and seconded by Sarah Linley.

7. Election of Executive Committee

James Potter and Mark Green have both agreed to stand again.

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.

Section Reports 2018

Beaver Scout Section Report. **2018/2019**

Currently the Beaver Colony stands at a very healthy 23. However, we cannot be complacent as there are 5 due to move up to Cubs this coming term. So as always, we are looking to strengthen our numbers in order to maintain our current membership. Leadership wise we are missing Reece as he can only spend a limited time with us whilst he is away at University, but we extend a warm welcome to Ryan who has joined us fresh from Explorers.

Awards wise, we continue to push on with the challenge awards with some of the colony completing their Adventure, Personal, Teamwork and World challenges. Throughout the year Beavers have completed their Air Activities, Cook, Explore, Global Awareness, International, Photographer and Space Activity badges as well as adding to their Nights Away and Hikes Away Badges. Congratulations to Matthew on 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 offer a varied weekly programme with games, crafts and activities. 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 a visit to the MAC Theatre to see a 'Spectacular Science Show'. An Activity Day at Beaudesert Scout Site, Climbing at Rock Up, a visit to Safeside Fire Station, and a Circus Skills Evening.

In November the Beavers ran a Children in Need fundraising night. They all worked extremely hard and raised an amazing £77.18.

The Colony has also had a couple of sleepovers at the HQ incorporating visits to RAF Cosford where we were able to watch the rehearsals for the Air Show the following day and a visit to Thinktank. We also had a Beaver and Cub sleepover at Peckwood where the Beavers had the opportunity to meet and work alongside the Cubs.

District wise this year the colony have taken part in Armed Forces Day and The annual Cross Country Competition, which I am very proud to say, we won. Our team beat off all the completion and not only did we gain individual 1st and 3rd places we won the overall team trophy. A Huge well done and thank you to Adam, Christian and Owen.

Looking forward, we have more exciting activities planned, including a sleepover at Kinver Scout site, an activity day at Beaudesert, a fun water night and World Chocolate Day.

Thanks as always to Jason, Julie, Reece and Ryan without whom there would be no colony.

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

Carol Payton
Beaver Scout Leader

Cub Scout Report 2018-19

We have had another packed year in the Cub Scout section. We have had a lot of stability in numbers this year which has meant that we have been able to work towards some more challenging badges that take more time to complete.

Since the last AGM, we have held a weekend camp at Woodlands Activity Centre where the Cubs experienced a variety of activities including an assault course, zip wire and canoeing. The instructors for the canoeing were great at helping everyone to improve their skills and understand how to develop further. The weather was fantastic and I think most of the Cubs were happy to jump in the lake at the end of the canoeing just to cool down! We invited the Scouts to join us for this camp and those that did were a credit to their section. Many of the Cubs also attended the camp run by the Beaver section in September and had a great time so thank you to the Beaver leaders for offering this to them.

The Cubs have been making the most of opportunities to get out and about. In September, we attended a bat walk in Red House Park and had fun using the bat detectors and learning some interesting facts about bats. A group of Cubs attended the County STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) Day that was run through our partnership with the RAF and they worked in teams to create powered satellites and parachutes for space travel. This was designed to inspire the next generation of scientists and engineers and open their eyes to all the possibilities available during a career in STEM. Although we didn't win the event, there was lots of good teamwork and everyone had fun testing their designs, especially trying not to smash their eggs during the last challenge.

During normal section meetings, we have been working towards a number of badges including first aid, pioneer, navigator, air activities and athletics. This shows the huge variety of activities available at Cubs, with a mix of traditional Scouting skills and more modern skills that will help to prepare Cubs for the future. In addition to this, we are pleased to be able to award a number of Chief Scout Silver Awards to some of our older Cubs. This is the highest award that can be given in the Cub Scout section and represents a lot of work and commitment from the young people receiving it-well done to them all.

We are now planning for our summer camp at Beaudesert Activity Centre, with lots of adventurous activities planned, including tomahawk throwing, a challenge course and a caving simulator. Hopefully the weather will be as kind to us this year as it was last year!

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 (2018 – 2019)

It has been another successful year for the Scout Group. Numbers have remained strong, and a large number of scouts have joined us from cubs, as well as through word of mouth. Our current membership stands at 23.

Throughout the year we have continued to maintain a varied programme, blending fun activities with traditional scouting ones. Given the success of our camp last year, we recreated it in October at Beaudesert and the Scouts demonstrated their skills in fire lighting, shelter building and camp cooking.

We are intending to run another camp early in the summer holidays to hopefully enjoy some camping in the sun!

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

- Martial Arts,
- Emergency Aid
- Joining In
- Musician
- Nights Away
- Nautical Skills
- Time on the Water

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the team of leaders for working hard to provide so many activities, attend weekly despite demanding work and family commitments, and sacrificing their own time with their families to provide such a high quality scouting programme.

Steve Nixon

Scout Leader

Explorer Section Report 2018

Around 18 months ago, the decision was taken to suspend the running of the Explorer Scout section at 1st Sandwell due to low participant numbers. It is now just over a year since we took over the running of the section with a completely new group of young people and we are delighted to say that not only have we managed to keep the unit going, but we have increased our number to 10 Explorers. Needless to say that we are delighted to have such a thriving unit, as it benefits not just our Explorers, but 1st Sandwell as a whole.

In the last 12 months our young people have undertaken a varied programme of activities, attempting everything from poetry to cooking over open fires and escaping from an 'Escape Room'...some of these were more successful than others!

Last June we travelled down to Cirencester to attend our first camp as a unit; 'Strategy and Evolution'. This was followed in December by our first unit Christmas camp, at our HQ. At the end of this month, we will once again be going to 'Evolution' and we are very much hoping for some of the same excellent weather and exciting activities we enjoyed last year.

In addition to our weekly program and weekend camps, we also entered a team in this year's 'Chase Walk', a 40 mile endurance race across Cannock Chase, during which participants have to navigate their own route and carry all their own kit. The Explorers entered into the spirit of the event and all of them gave it their best shot. Unfortunately, not all of them were able to finish, but this has only increased their resolve to have a second attempt next year, which is a perfect demonstration of their enthusiasm. Particular congratulations go to Grace and Ayeisha who completed the entire route. We are very proud of their achievement.

We would just like to take this opportunity to thank everybody who has 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 look forward to another successful year of scouting at 1st Sandwell.

The Explorer leadership team.

Item 5;

Treasurer's Report for 2018

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. During 2018 the Group, including Earhart Explorers, consisted of 64 young members aging from 6 years to 18 years old and 21 leaders & executive members (2018 census return) (44 and 27 respectively 2017 census return). The youth membership of the group has increased by 31% during 2018.

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 2018 are provided in the form of a balance sheet appended to this report. The Group has a small operating deficit of expenditure over income for this period. Thanks to the increase in the number of members this has been minimised, going forward into 2019 the increase in membership subscriptions should give us a working surplus by the end of the year.

Thanks to fundraising and donations by all members of the group, we have raised £2,406. In addition we have received £1,452 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 Vice Chair Shirley Wilson has been in the forefront in this, benefiting the group by £195.00 in 2018.

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

Item 6; Group Scout Leaders Report

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, JUNE 2019

Looking at our Section reports it is clear that here has been plenty going on in our Group over the last 12 months.

The Beaver Scout Challenge Awards list is impressive and I would like to add my congratulations to Matthew Neil on gaining his Chief Scout Bronze Award. Their outings have been many and varied and I can personally testify that the `Spectacular Science Show` at the MAC Theatre, was indeed spectacular. How would they remain interested for an hour at a Science Show, I wondered, but they did and their behaviour was a credit to the Colony. The joint sleepover at Peckwood with the Cub Scouts was very successful and I would like to thank the `cook` team, Nicola, Alan and Graham, and Ben and Lewis who supported the Beaver Scout Leaders and myself. Without them this weekend would not have been possible.

The Cub Scouts had a very successful weekend at Woodlands, with spectacular weather. What a pleasant change to have to worry about sun cream rather than waterproofs. Some of the Scouts joined the Cubs for this weekend and they all had a great time and got on well together. Congratulations to Kirsty who also managed to pass the assessment for her Nights Away Camping permit at this weekend. The STEM day was excellent and I was proud to see our Cub Scouts persevering with the tasks themselves with their leaders looking on, rather than doing it for them, as was happening in some cases. Maybe we have some future Scientists in the making! The Section have worked towards a varied mix of badges and again my congratulations to all those who have gained their Chief Scouts Silver Award.

The Scouts have obviously been working hard, what a fantastic number of badges they have achieved and again a very varied range of badges. I am delighted that they are planning a camp early in the summer holidays and I sincerely hope that they do get sunny weather. They have experienced some really tough weather at camp in the past with lots of rain, however they have coped and are probably better campers as a result. Camping in the sunshine is easy; camping in the rain takes a bit more effort.

The Explorer Unit has now been operational for just over 12 months and I am happy to say it has been a very successful 12 months. The numbers have grown, the programme has been varied and there have been several outings, camps and hikes. The 40 mile Chase Walk is very challenging and there were lots of practice hikes and work on their navigational skills before the event. Congratulations to Grace and Ayeisha who completed the full 40 miles and were in surprisingly good spirits when they got to the end. They have more camps planned for this year and hopefully Ben and Lewis will also be able to complete all that is needed for their Nights Away Camp Permit.

The Leadership team in each Section have done a wonderful job this year, giving up an enormous amount of time not only for Section meetings but also for all the planning that goes into those meetings, camps and outings. Without these dedicated Leaders there would be no Scouting at 1st Sandwell and they deserve all of your thanks and appreciation. Well done and Thank You.

Our Executive Committee work tirelessly to manage our Finances and our Headquarters. They may be small in number but they are big in commitment and enthusiasm. This year they have worked on Bag Packs, Headquarters cleaning, and the Bonfire Party, as well as coping with all the usual administration, including GDPR and all the implications this has had for the Group. My grateful thanks to them all, it is very much appreciated. Any Parents who would consider joining our committee would be very warmly welcomed.

I think it is fair to say we have had another successful year, with good Scouting being offered to our young people. Our Founder Lord Baden-Powell said that Scouting gave young people something which could not be provided in the classroom, this is still true today. We have some challenges ahead if we wish to continue to do this but I am sure that with your support we can continue to offer the good Scouting that 1st Sandwell has always provided.

Chris Jones.
Group Scout Leader.

1st Sandwell Scout Group 2018

INCOME			
	2017		2018
£	5,812.60	Subs	£ 6,614.50
£	-	Petty Cash	£ -
£	1,048.31	Fund Raising	£ 2,406.55
£	-	Group Activities	£ 592.00
£	180.00	Donations	£ 195.00
£	1,103.56	HMRC	£ 1,452.85
£	-	Interest	£ -
£	-	Explorers Acc	£ 50.00
£	-	Scout Account	£ 245.00
£	654.00	Cub Account	£ -
£	237.98	Beaver Account	£ -
£	40.00	Neckers	£ 20.00
£	9,076.45	Total	£ 11,575.90

Summary

Opening Balance	£	13,274.18	
Total Income	£	11,575.90	
	£	24,850.08	
Total Expenditure	£	11,628.56	
Balance	£	13,221.52	
Balancing figure	£	200.00	Cheques not presented
Closing Balance	£	13,421.52	Bank statement

Savings cash and Investments

Petty Cash £ 478.60

Total £ **478.60**

Expenditure

	2018		2017
Cleaning	£ 768.00	£	802.51
Electricity	£ 1,200.17	£	1,107.98
Refuse	£ 331.70	£	298.22
Water Rates	£ 21.66	£	20.52
Rent	£ 20.00	£	20.00
Insurance	£ 1,614.78	£	1,496.18
Maintenance	£ 760.75	£	360.00
Training	£ -	£	-
Equipment	£ 965.60	£	-
Badges/ Neckers	£ 262.74	£	129.80
Membership Subs	£ 1,804.00	£	1,938.00
Stationery	£ -	£	-
WiFi	£ 332.94	£	-
Donations	£ 320.00	£	-
To Petty cash A/C	£ -	£	-
To Beaver Account	£ 300.00	£	608.04
To Cub Account	£ 100.00	£	360.50
To Scout Account	£ 250.00	£	148.00
To Explorer Account	£ 600.00	£	100.00
To Group Activities	£ 1,976.22	£	194.22

Total Expenditure **£ 11,628.56** **£ 7,583.97**

-£52.66 Expenditure over income

Signed Treasurer



4th June 2018

Signed Chair

4th June 2018