



1st Sandwell Scout Group

Annual General Meeting

**Presentation of Year End Accounts and Reports for
2019**

Virtual Meeting Held On-Line

16th July 2020

1st Sandwell Scout Group Annual General Meeting

**1st Sandwell Scout HQ Marston Grove Great Barr B43 5ED
16th July 2020**

AGENDA

1. Welcome
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of Previous Meeting 4th June 2019 (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. Approval of reports
8. Election of Officers
 - a. Chairman (nominated by Group Scout Leader)
 - b. Secretary
 - c. Treasurer
9. Executive Committee Elections (& GSL's nominations)
10. Statement re Covid-19 and Scouting
10. Date of next meeting (New Group Executive)

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes of Annual General Meeting

1st Sandwell Scout Group

Annual General Meeting

4th June 2019

Present: Brigitte Hatfield (Secretary), Chris Jones (GSL), Elaine Nixon (Assistant Section Leader), 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 (Chairman), Matt Duggan (Assistant Section Leader), Ben Hatfield (Section Leader), Stephen Nixon (Section Leader), Mark Green (Exec Member), Sarah Linley (Assistant Section Leader), Reece Williams (Assistant Section Leader), Ed O'Neal (Assistant Section Leader), Jason Cross (Assistant Section Leader) and parents / carers of young people from the group.

Apologies: Dawn Grice (District Commissioner), Nicola Dean, James Potter (Exec Member), Graham Jones, Julie Neil (Assistant Section Leader)

1. Welcome

A welcome was extended to all leaders, parents and young people in attendance. It was lovely to see so many people in attendance given the weather.

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

It was proposed that these be accepted as a true record.

3. Section Reports

These were taken as read and accepted as a true record. It was noted that the Cub Scout section report contained in the copies available on the night was incorrect and will be updated online (and in hard copy form next Wednesday).

4. Treasurer's Report

Accounts for the period January-December 2018 are provided in the form of a balance sheet appended to this report.

The Treasurer explained that the Group is financially stable and that the increase in subscription fees was necessary to maintain that stability. We changed our bank account this year which will help us to keep better control of our finances and allowing us access to

internet banking. The change may have caused some disruption in terms of standing orders but hopefully any of this has now been resolved.

The income and expenditure has been higher this year because more group activities have been incorporated into these accounts, rather than individual section accounts.

A copy of all of the section reports will be available on our Group website and we will email a link to all parents that we have an email address for on our records. If you believe that we have an incorrect email address (or indeed that we don't have your email address), please let us know during the course of this evening.

Shirley Wilson proposed that the report be accepted.

Lewis Tucker seconded.

5. Group Scout Leader's Report

The following report was presented to the meeting in written form:

Looking at our Section reports it is clear that there 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.

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.

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 Lewis Tucker. The post of Treasurer was proposed by Brigitte Hatfield and seconded by Ben Hatfield.

7. Election of Executive Committee

James Potter, Shirley Wilson and Mark Green have all 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 including 3 Chief Scout Silver Awards to Marissa, Leo and Joe from the Cub Section.

A presentation was given by the Explorer Unit regarding Scouts Against Malaria.

The GSL then gave a short talk on adult volunteering and the need for additional leadership (with the Cub Scout leadership team due to step down in September of this year).

Section Reports 2019

Beaver Scout Section Report.

2019/2020

As we hit lockdown our Beaver Colony numbers were at 13, having just sent 5 up to Cubs with more on the way in the coming months. Our loss is definitely the Cubs gain and we wish them all the best as they continue their Scouting journey. However, this does mean that when we return to face to face Scouting we will need to look at recruiting to bring our numbers back up to strength. Leadership wise we are pleased that Reece has returned to the fold, and his commitment has been second to none, even spending his 21st birthday climbing with the Beavers!

Awards wise, we continue to push on with the challenge awards and I am pleased that as a colony, every single challenge badge has been awarded this year. (Adventure, Outdoors, Personal, Skills, Teamwork and World challenges). Throughout the year Beavers have completed their Creative, Disability Awareness, Explore and Gardener Activity badges, as well as adding to their Hikes Away and Navigator Badges. We also have a first for the colony with the award of a Sailing Activity badge and 6 Peer Leadership Awards achieved. Congratulations must also go to Ralph and Rosalie 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, ice, chocolate and water.). However highlights this year have included visits from Rhythimicity – a drumming duo and from Adam, a paramedic who managed to keep the Beavers enthralled for a full 90 minutes. We have also enjoyed an activity day at Beaudesert Scout Site, Climbing at Birmingham Bouldering Centre and a visit to Sutton Park where we played crazy golf and learnt all about the history of Scouting and the park. This year, the Beavers supported our local food bank at St Bernard's Church as their community project. They all worked extremely hard and put on entertainment for their families and other Scouters in the group. We managed to provide a phenomenal amount of food, so much in fact that several journeys had to be made to transport it all. Thank You to everyone who supported.

Unfortunately, this year our colony sleepover had to be cancelled due to the recent pandemic, but we do hope to be able to get the Beavers away as soon as we are up and running again, as this is an integral part of the award scheme, without which, Beavers cannot gain their Chief Scouts Award.

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

We look forward to a return of face to face Scouting and to renewed fun and friendships.

Carol Payton.
Beaver Scout Leader.

Cub Scout Report 2019-2020

This has been a year with a lot of change and disruption that the section has dealt with very well. Since taking over the section with a new group, leading the cubs has been a huge learning curve but we have enjoyed the process. The section attendance has been good, meaning most in the pack have worked well and thoroughly deserved the badges they have gained.

Since the last AGM, we attended the 'Destination Space' event at Birmingham Think Tank run through our partnership with the RAF. Creating an interest in the future of Space travel and the important role the UK has in this exciting field. Through demonstrations, superb presentations and hands on practical sessions the next generation of scientists, engineers and possibly astronauts may have been created. There had been camps planned for later on in the year, sadly these were cancelled due to the pandemic that also prevented regular group meetings. However, The Scouts adapted, to provide the ability to scout from home with the introduction of the 'Great Indoors' to engage with our sections.

During normal section meetings we focused on the challenge awards alongside the activity badges. The section also 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 Matt, Toby and Ryan (while he was with us) that continue to work hard in producing and delivering a varied programme for the cub scout section. I would also like to mention Chris and Nic that continue to support this very new leader team without your patience and know-how we really couldn't have done it without you!. Thanks also to the parents for your continued support.

Matthew Burns

Cub Section Leader

Annual Scout Report (2019 – 2020)

It has been another successful (part!) year for the Scout Group. Numbers have remained strong. Our current membership stands at 26.

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 July at Beaudesert and the Scouts demonstrated their skills in fire lighting, shelter building and camp cooking, as well as taking part in a raft building exercise. We had hoped that it would provide them with an opportunity to cool off in the lake, but in fact turned out to be the only window of dry weather for the whole weekend. The scouts however performed admirably, lighting their own fires in spite of the weather, and remaining upbeat.

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, 32 activity badges have been achieved this year despite the year being cut short, including 'Astronautics' and 'Joining In'.

On 29 February the group attended the Destination Space event at the Thinktank in Birmingham. The event, paid for by the RAF and hosted by the Thinktank staff, gave the Scouts an insight into the space industry.

On Thursday 23rd April 2020 2 leaders, 21 Scouts and 1 cub joined in "Clap for Carers" on St George's day in their uniform on their doorsteps. It was fantastic to see the Scouting community come together in a show of unity, despite the state of the national lockdown.

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 2019

It is now just over two years since the inception of Earhart Explorers, over the last year our numbers have fluctuated but needless to say we are still going strong and we are delighted to have such a thriving unit, as it benefits not just our Explorers, but 1st Sandwell as a whole. One of our members left to join the Army and we like to think those nights using maps and compasses will come in hand – even if there was some difficulty pulling the pin out of the fire extinguisher!

Over the last year our young people have undertaken a varied programme of activities, at the last AGM they presented a topic around the scout-based charity 'Scouts Against Malaria' other nights included cooking over open fires and talking about global issues.

Last June we travelled down to Cirencester for the 'Strategy and Evolution' this is the second time we've gone down and is well received with the explorers and may become a regular for us. This was followed in September with the 'Explosion Festival' which ended in a bang and in December with our Christmas camp, at our HQ. since March scouting activities have been put on hold but that hasn't stopped us from getting together virtually and are looking forward to county's Great Summer Challenge.

In addition to our weekly program and weekend camps, we again tortured ourselves in this years '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 - particular congratulations go to Luis, Evie, Ayiesha and Mark from the scout leadership team 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 are eager to get back to scouting post COVID-19 at 1st Sandwell.

Earhart Explorers Leadership Team

Item 5;

Treasurer's Report for 2019

Summary

1st 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. During 2019 the Group, including Earhart Explorers, consisted of 64 young members aging from 6 years to 18 years old and 27 leaders & executive members (2018 census return) (64 and 21 respectively 2018 census return). The youth membership of the group has remained the same as 2018 during 2019 with small increase in leaders and supporters.

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.

Accounts for the period January-December 2019 are provided in the form of a balance sheet appended to this report. The Group has a small operating surplus of expenditure over income for this period. Thanks to the increase in the number of members and their subscriptions we have been able to invest this into a savings account to be used as a reserve for future years.

Thanks to fundraising and donations by all members of the group, we have raised £2,406. In addition, we have received £1,587 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 can 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 2019.

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

Item 6; Group Scout Leaders Report

GROUP SCOUT LEADERS REPORT 2019

The year 2019 has been another successful year for our Group, although particularly challenging in some ways. Our finances are healthy, and our Headquarters are well maintained, thanks to our hardworking Executive Committee. You will see from our section reports that our membership numbers have remained good and the activities undertaken have been very varied with our young people gaining a vast number of activity badges covering an amazing range of subjects, as well as working towards their Challenge Awards. All sections have enjoyed Sleepovers and Camps, where again they took part in lots of exciting activities. These residential experiences are so important not only because of the new skills learnt but also the valuable lesson of learning to live without all the mod cons and technical equipment that they are used to, learning to think for themselves and to stand on their own two feet and be independent. All part of the `Skills for Life` philosophy that we are renowned for.

One of the challenges we had to face in September 2019 was to find a new team to lead the Cub Scout Pack. Kirsty, Matt, Lynne and Jackie decided it was time for them to step down. We presented them with `Thanks` Badges and gifts at the beginning of September. They have done a wonderful job leading the Cub Scout Pack on many adventures and we thank them most sincerely. It is always sad when leaders decide to leave and finding replacements is never easy. I am sure that all of our Parents want to see the Group continue, but do not necessarily want to be leaders. However, we had to find new Leaders and we did.

Matt Burns and Matt Cross took over leadership of the Pack from the second week in September, and despite the fact that at that time they had never Scouted before, they are still with us and doing a fantastic job. It has been a huge learning curve for them, and they would like more help and deserve our support, so please consider volunteering. Nicola Dean and I have supported them every week during this time despite the fact that we both live about 30 miles away. Although it is part of my job description, it is not part of hers, and she deserves a huge `Thank You`. More help is definitely needed, I am just waiting for your phone call.

CONGRATULATIONS - A big round of applause must go to:

Ralph and Rosalie, Beaver Scouts, have gained the top Award the Chief Scouts Bronze Award.

Luis, Evie and Ayiesha, the Explorer Scouts who completed the 40-mile endurance event, `The Chase Walk` and also Mark Postlethwaite one of our Scout Leaders.

Chloe Postlethwaite, who has been selected to go on the County Expedition to Iceland. Very well done to all of you, enjoy your successes and the challenges to come. We are very proud of you and you should be justly proud of yourselves.

My thanks as always go to our Leadership Team and our Group Executive Committee they give 100% and are `Simply the Best`. Without them the Group could not continue to offer great Scouting to all our young people. Thank you also to the parents who give their support to all our efforts and to our young people who manage to put a smile on our face week after week.

Chris Jones. Group Scout Leader.

1st Sandwell Scout Group 2019

INCOME		Expenditure	
2018		2019	2018
£ 6,614.50	Subs	£ 10,006.00	£ 768.00
£ -	Petty Cash	£ -	£ 1,200.17
£ 2,406.55	Fund Raising	£ 435.00	£ 331.70
£ 592.00	Activities/Camps	£ 3,743.50	£ 21.66
£ 195.00	Donations	£ 135.00	£ 20.00
£ 1,452.85	HMRC	£ -	£ 1,614.78
£ 0	Interest	£ -	£ 760.75
£ 50.00	Explorers Account	£ -	£ -
£ 245.00	Scout Account	£ -	£ 965.60
£ -	Cub Account	£ -	£ 262.74
£ -	Beaver Account	£ 150.00	£ 1,804.00
£ 20.00	Neckers	£ 40.00	£ -
£ 11,575.90	Total Income	£ 14,509.50	£ 11,628.56
Total Income		Total Expenditure	
		£ 2,175.50 income over expenditure	
Summary for Bank Statement			
Opening Bank Balance 2019		£ 11,171.43	
From old Account		£ 1,802.99	
Total Income		£ 14,509.50	
Total for Year		£ 27,483.92	
Total Expenditure		£ 12,334.00	
To Instant Access count		£ 8,000.00	
Balancing figure		£ - Cheques not presented	
Total for Year		£ 20,334.00	
Closing Balance Main Account		£ 7,149.92 Bank Balance 31st December	
Petty Cash		£ 1,175.76	
Instant Access Account		£ 8,000.00	
HMRC Gift Aid		£ 1,587.24	
Interest		£ 53.15	
Bank, cash and Investments		£ 17,966.07	
		<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p style="text-align: center;">Signed Treasurer</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Alan Dean</p> </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p style="text-align: center;">Signed Chair</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Vanessa Hitchon</p> </div> </div>	
		<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"></div> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p style="text-align: center;">4th June 2020</p> <p style="text-align: center;">4th June 2020</p> </div> </div>	