

2nd Orpington Scout Group

Annual General Meeting Minutes

Saturday 14th July 2018

Attendance

Fiona Wilson – Chair
Karen Smurthwaite - Group Scout Leader
Steve Goswell – Treasurer
Alison Kavanagh - Secretary

Gary Peppiatt - District Commissioner
Duncan Hellicar – Explorers Scout leader
Martin Howell – Explorer Scout leader
Graham MacKenzie – Ransoms Scout leader
Kath Misslebrook – Ransoms Assistant Scout leader
Sheradan Cook – Ransoms Assistant Scout leader
Alex Walton – Bears Scout leader
Matt Million – Bears Assistant Scout leader
Mark Hudson – Panthers Cub Scout leader
Jason Price – Wolves Cub Scout leader
Mick Strange – Disney Beaver Scout leader
Samantha Strange – Disney Assistant Beaver Scout leader
James Polson – Disney Beaver Scout leader
Tara Mendez – Kiwi Beaver Scout leader
Katie McKenzie – Kiwi Assistant Beaver Scout leader
Alex Price - Young Leader

Fiona Whitney
Niki Greene
Jade Hall
Amba Golding
Nicola Miles
Paula Goswell
Joanna Parys
Mr & Mrs McKwen
Andrea McLean
Darren Kavanagh
David Cant
Matt Million

Apologies:

None



1. Welcome and introductions

Fiona Wilson welcomed everyone to the AGM, introduced the Executive Committee and welcomed Gary Peppiatt - District Commissioner.

2. Review of previous minutes

Copies of the minutes from last AGM on 1st July 2017 were circulated and reviewed. No changes were made. These were approved.

3. Section Reports

Brief reports were provided by:

Beavers - Disney

James Polsen advised that there are eighteen Beavers in the section with three leaders and two regular helpers. A total of 309 badges had been awarded this year including a number of Chief Scout Bronze Awards. Over the past year the beavers have had some wonderful experiences including climbing and archery as well as trips to Kidzania, the panto in Sevenoaks, birds of prey and Sea Life France. Thanks for this go to Mick and Sam Strange. James has recently been awarded his nights away permit in preparation for more adventures next year.

Beavers - Kiwi

Katie McKenzie confirmed that there are now twenty-one Beavers made up of sixteen boys and five girls with five more children starting in September and October. Six children will be going up to cubs over the summer/beginning of the winter term so there will be a few spaces available then. Over 200 badges have been awarded this year of which seven have been the Chief Scout Bronze Award. The section has managed to fit in a sleepover away from the hut every term – although the last was during the snow! Activities undertaken have included soap carving, junk modelling, aboriginal art, nerf gun night, cook badge, hiking in High Elms, a mini beast hunt and the musician stage one badge (with the help of over twenty kazoos). Next term will involve a sleepover at Frylands, a visit to All Saints Church, climbing at Bears Wood, the air activity badge and team games. The section also hopes to undertake a community impact project.

Cubs – Wolves

Jason Price advised that the section ended the year with thirty members consisting of twenty-six boys and four girls. A further five are due to come up from beavers. There has been a large number of activity badges awarded and a number of cubs are close to their Chief Scout Scout Award. Activity badges over the year have included: backwoods cooking, fire lighting, athletics, cyclist, home safety, road safety, personal safety, chef, first aid, local knowledge, photography, world faith and communicator. The section has also held two joint camps with Panthers as well as joint nights with scouts and beavers and a visit to a mosque. Thanks go to the parents every week for getting their children to the many places that the group goes as well as to the team of leaders: George, James and Alex for their help and support over the past year.

Cubs - Panthers

Mark Hudson advised that there were currently thirty in his section with several due to move up to Scouts and join from Beavers. Over the past year 390 activity and challenge badges were awarded with three Chief Scout Silver Awards. A winter and summer camp has been run with forty-five cubs in attendance at the summer camp. During the year there have been two previous members of 2nd Orpington helping to carry out Duke of Edinburgh Awards. One is doing part of her young leader's qualification with the section also. Activities this year have included: a visit to the fire station, archery and athletics at Downe Scout Camp, a mosque visit, tobogganing and a night hike for the last week.

Scouts - Ransoms

Sheradan Cook noted that the section had started the year with fourteen scouts but had finished with twenty-two on OSM. Over the year there had been activities such as swimming, the mechanics badge, slime night, nerf gun fight and scuba diving with attendance at the Scarefest event at Gilwell planned for October. Sheradan had also gained his nights away license and there are lots more activities planned next term.



Scouts - Bears

Alex Walton confirmed that there were twenty-three members in the section with moves out of the troop this year only due to location moves or to join either our or other Explorer units – a real credit to the troop. Over the year there have been four Chief Scout Gold Awards. Activities over the year have included: trampolining, kayaking, clay shooting, three camps, horse riding, a PlayStation tournament, a virtual reality world created in the hut, fund raising for an equestrian charity and the internal trip to Sea Life France with Disney Beavers. The scouts have also achieved many things in their own time – representing 2nd Orpington at a campfire circle and Jamboree in India as well as volunteering and other personal achievements in sport, drama, dance and horse riding. Thanks from the leaders go to the parents who have supported the troop through coffee evenings, family curry night, hikes and fundraising efforts. Alex also thanked Karen as GSL for her support and looked forward to a greater degree of collaboration between the two scout sections. Alex will transfer to 9th Grantham this year and joint camps are already in preparation to sample some of the activities and approaches in other districts. The section looks forward to the challenges of the next year and hopes that the strong foundation built by Alex will be taken forward with Matt Million.

Explorers

Martin Howell advised that the unit was now up to fourteen members with more due up from Scouts in the next year. Over the year a joint summer camp had been held with the Scouts – and leaders are particularly proud that all meals were cooked over the open fire, regardless of the level of damp and rain. Over the summer there are plans for a canal barge trip for a week. Congratulations go to all Explorers who completed their Young Leader training with most encouraged to complete their training or support the unit in other ways, one member has been supporting the Quarter Master team in helping towards the maintenance and upkeep of the building, grounds and equipment.

4. Group Section Leader's Report

Karen Smurthwaite advised that the group now had 150 young members on roll with 7 sections (every evening at the hall has some form of scouting running) including Explorers which made 2nd Orpington one of the biggest groups in the district. Due to the demand the group are looking to open a third cub pack in 2019.

Thanks to the many leaders, young leaders, volunteers and executive committee members who already do such much to help the group and the many fantastic activities they run but the group will always fully support any further volunteers who would like to join in. To help run so many activities – particularly those off site – there needs to be at least three leaders per section.

5. Andrew Ballantyne Award

In memory of Andrew Ballantyne, a 2nd Orpington Scout who sadly passed away at a young age, money donated by his family to the Group in remembrance of him has been used to present an annual Friendship Award. This award is given to the Scout within each section who has followed the rules of Scouting and gone above and beyond what is been expected in showing kindness to others.

This year the winners from each section were:-

Charlie McSweeny of Disney Beavers

Kayden Hall of Kiwi Beavers

Titus Kennedy of Wolves Cubs

The overall winner of the Andrew Ballantyne award was made to Titus Kennedy

6. District Commissioner Comments

Gary Peppiatt noted that the group had had a fantastic year and were heading to be the biggest group in the district. As part of this there have clearly been incredible achievements over the year that has only been possible through the hard work of all the leaders, young leaders, volunteers and executive committee. Gary commented they are all a credit to Scouting and to the Bromley district and encouraged the group to keep up their efforts as the badges being achieved is incredible. In particular credit goes to Karen as GSL. Gary also thanked all the young people who continue to help the group and grow Bromley district.



Awards

The following awards were given:

Chief Scout five year service award – Steve Goswell

Chief Scout five year service award – Tara Mendez

Wood beads and membership to the 1st Gilwell Scout group – Katie McKenzie

Award for outstanding service to Scouting – Duncan Hellicar

For leaders moving on:

Alex Walton and his wife Liz received a gift from the group with thanks for all the effort, time and support they have given 2nd Orpington and we wish them all the best in Grantham.

Steve Goswell is stepping down as treasurer and received a gift from the group to say thanks. A gift of flowers was presented to Gloria Goswell for putting up with leaders knocking at the door at all hours to deliver receipts to Steve.

7. Chair's Report

Fiona Wilson thanked all the leaders, on behalf of all the parents, for the time and effort they put in. Each section has a healthy membership due to the leadership team putting on an amazing, interesting and varied programme.

Over the year there have been three executive committee meetings that bring together the committee, parents and the leadership team to make decisions to keep the group running smoothly. It has been especially good to see more parents attend these meetings and thank them for their contributions. The meetings are open for all parents to attend and welcome you attending to hear about what is happening in the colony, packs and troops.

Over the year the committee has made a number of decisions to invest in the hut and grounds. There has been a general tidy up and removal of rubble and rubbish at the site, the large hedges have been cut back and other general gardening has been done. Thanks went to Mark Hudson for organising this. Going forward some kit will be purchased which will allow more regular maintenance to be done – any volunteers who would be available and willing (or who can nominate others!) to do this would be appreciated.

Special thanks go to James Polsen for organising internet access at the hut for group activities.

Through Tara Mendez, Dignity Funerals has been kind enough to donate a new projector for the hut which will make it easier to show films during sleepovers and for use during other activities.

Progress has been made in finding a commercial gas engineer who will be able to improve the heating available in the Explorer meeting room.

Fundraising efforts this year have not been as successful as previously. A race night in November raised £237 but was not as well attended as previous years. Any feedback about the event and what could be done differently for future fundraising events would be appreciated.

An open day was held in May this year for the first time with each section running an activity. Thanks go to all those who attended and had a great time – even in the pouring rain – and the leaders for making this a fun afternoon.

Thanks again go to Steve Gosling and Alex Walton who are moving on this year.

8. Treasurer's Report

The Group current account holds £24,899.56 as at the time of reporting. This is an increase from last year but includes pre payments for a number of trips planned. Fundraising efforts through events and hall hire/jumble sales have raised £1,200 and £3,200 has been spent on general building maintenance and improvements to the lighting, doors and grounds. This year £11,800 was spent on trips, camps and other activities outside of the hut – an increase since last year. The use of the online payment system continues to make it easier for parents to pay for subscriptions and events, and although this costs us 6% it is felt that this



is a good investment for the ease of use and for the reduction that we have seen in overdue subscriptions. The group is in the process of changing the bank account from CAF to Lloyds but this should hopefully progress with no disruption to parents.

9. Executive Committee Membership

Appointment of Treasurer, Secretary and Chair:

Fiona Wilson continued to be appointed as Chair by Karen Smurthwaite

Alison Kavanagh was nominated and seconded to remain as Secretary

Karen asked if the attendees knew any individuals who would be willing to step into the role of Treasurer as Steve Goswell was stepping down. There were no volunteers.

Section leader membership:

All section leaders were confirmed with the exception of Alex Walton who was stepping down and being replaced by Matt Million.

10. Any other business

Alex Walton raised that there had recently been a change to the Policy, Organisation and Rules (POR - which define the structure of Scouting) which would change the appointment process to the Executive Committee and the individuals who can take on roles in a Group Scout Council. Alison Kavanagh agreed to review this and raise with Karen Smurthwaite for further discussion and implementation.

No other matters were raised.

Fiona Wilson thanked everyone for coming and the meeting concluded at 7.40pm