

**Stroud Valley Scout Group Annual General Meeting**  
**Monday 22 June 2020**  
**Meeting held virtually by Zoom**

**Present**

Luke Inder – Chair  
Anne-Marie Delrosa – Treasurer  
John Jones – Acting Group Scout Leader  
Sammy Peters – Beaver Leader  
Victoria Stone – Beaver Leader  
Paula Brown – Meetings Secretary  
Aaron Young – Assistant Scout Leader  
Heidi Wilkes - Parent  
Grace and Robert Bermingham - Parents

**Apologies**

Simon Jones – Scout Leader

**Minutes of Annual General Meeting 2019**

Minutes of the AGM for 2018-2019 financial year were approved.

**Acting Group Scout Leader's Report 2019-2020 – John Jones**

The 12 months just gone finished in lockdown and into strange times. The group has had its problems over the last 12 months. We have struggled to organise fundraising events which the Parents wanted to participate in which has been disappointing, and we therefore need to look at what we organise. The Bar-B-Que and Firework night were the only ones which went ahead.

**Beavers**

Numbers have remained stable and active. We are healthy for Leaders as both Ella and Andrew have become 18 this year and although Ella is due to go to Uni we are still strong.  
A big thanks to Sammy, Victoria, Ella and Andrew for all their work over the year.

**Cubs**

Leader wise we are very weak as we have to have two leaders over 18 at every meeting with one over 21. We had myself, Ashley, Jack at the beginning of the year. Unfortunately Ashley and Jack have had to take a step back due to career changes although both have offered to help with activities. Lucy volunteered early this year and is now over 21, but is still learning herself at the moment.

So we need some adult leaders urgently as I am not getting any younger. Laurie and Tom have both turned 18 this year which has been a big bonus.

A big thanks to Ashley, Jack, George, Aaron, Lucy, Laurie, Tom, Josh, Ruby, Daniel, Lewis and Flynn for their support

**Scouts**

We lost a few Scouts in October as they were 14, which is the finishing age. We were fortunate that the majority received the top Gold award.  
Eve stayed on to become a young Leader. And Jack is now over 18.  
A big thanks to Simon , Kai, Aaron, Jack and Eve.

## Committee

The Group and myself are so blessed to have Luke [Chairman] and Anne-Marie [ Treasurer]. They continue to work so hard on getting plans done, meeting Tree surgeons, hiring out HQ and raising funds.

Thanks also to Paula and Claire who have helped out doing the Secretary work with Luke and Anne-Marie.

We really need some fresh blood to support and help us.

If you are interested or know somebody who might be interested in becoming a Leader or Committee member please give me a ring 07580703508.

Please we are a Charity and the Group really belongs to the community, we have no paid personnel we are all volunteers. I would like to retire by this time next year so please try and help.

## **Chairpersons report 2019-2020 – Luke Inder**

Welcome everyone. It has been a rather strange end to our year. For an organisation that is based entirely around contact with one another and being together, it is very hard to feel so detached and physically distanced from each other. I hope you have stayed well, both physically and mentally through these very challenging and unprecedented times. We will look forward to seeing you all as soon as it is safe to do so.

### Committee Role

For those not familiar with the role of the committee, we are involved in the finance, maintenance and safe running of the centre and the scout group. This will range from keeping and presenting accounts over the year, organising insurances, repair work and maintenance to the building, its contents and the site as a whole. We work closely with the leaders and meet regularly over the year to discuss all these items.

### Thanks

Thanks to all parents over the last year for your continued support across all the activities and fundraising events that we have been involved in.

Thanks to all our leaders. They put a huge amount of time in to give our children the opportunity to be part of the scouting organisation. Your work is hugely appreciated by all the children and parents. We are of course sorry to hear that Simon is stepping down from a leadership role but hoping he will stay involved with the group.

Thanks to the committee members. There is a huge amount of work that goes on behind the scenes particularly with the maintaining of the site and the hut but also in the organisation of the regular and ad hoc hall bookings that support us financially. This enables us to keep subs to a minimum for all the cubs and scouts. Without these bookings funding would have to be found elsewhere. We have a really good team within the committee who work really well together. We are however always looking for additional support from parents or carers.

### New members/ Helpers/ leaders

The areas that we would be most keen to find additional support for are:

- General assistance in support of fundraising activities. Perhaps a parent group specifically looking at helping organise and run fundraisers.
- Support to our treasurer so that she can focus on funding for the new build/ Refurb.
- Support in admin roles associated with the renting out of the hall and secretarial roles.
- Chairperson. I am looking to step back from this role over the next year.
- Developing a site maintenance role, to coordinate larger projects and undertake minor works.

#### Fundraising

We have organised several fundraising events over the year. Some have been well attended, but several planned events have had to be cancelled due to lack of response. It is unclear why interest has been minimal for some events, but it would be good to get a team together to really get parents involved in future fundraising.

#### Site maintenance

As you can imagine the grounds do take a considerable amount of maintenance. This year is looking to be particularly expensive due to work required to the trees within the grounds. Ash die back has been identified and other work recommended to make the trees safe. 7 trees need to be removed/ felled as part of this ongoing maintenance and others need some minor works. You will certainly notice a change to the landscape with these trees removed, but it is necessary to keep our users safe. On the plus side we will have plenty of wood for those campfires. We will also leave some wood on site, creating nice habitat space for wildlife!

#### New build/ Refurb option

We have now secured planning permission for a hall refurbishment. We will be pursuing funding for the scheme over the coming year. It is hard to know how funding will change given the current climate, but fingers crossed, we may be able to access some financial support to see improvements made. As ever, any support you can offer is always appreciated.

Visit our website:

<https://www.stroudvalleyscouts.org.uk/>

The website is a great resource for parents and helpers. See all the most up to date information on events, fundraising and site development.

#### Further ambitions for the coming year

Our ambitions for the coming year will be very much focused on:

- 1) Pursuing funding towards the refurbishment work.
- 2) Section support/ development/ expansion, particularly in finding additional adult helpers/ Leaders.
- 3) Fully implementing the roll out of Online Scout Manager across all sections. This has progressed well and will be easier to implement when we have the Wi-Fi up and running.
- 4) Look at potentially developing areas of the site for food growing, Habitat development, Additional fire pits and maintaining some 'wild areas'.

Thank you everyone for attending our AGM. We have a really great group of children, parents and leaders that make Stroud Valley Scouts a really exciting and special organisation to be part of. If you have any questions or queries now or over the coming year please feel free to approach any of us at your convenience.

## Treasurers Report 2019-2020 – Anne-Marie Delrosa

The accounts for year ending 31 March 2020, have been independently examined by our accountant David Richardson. He has signed off on the accounts. However, I currently have a query about an adjustment made in the previous year's accounts which is causing an issue in this year's. It is only a matter of £1.32 but I need to resolve it to make sure we have correct accounts for this coming year. The query is currently in with David. I will circulate the signed accounts once this has been resolved and submit these to District who has requested them.

### Section Income and Expenditure

Both Beavers and Cubs spent more this year (as they did the previous year), than income received. This needs to be monitored for future as this will be eating into reserves in the bank balances.

	Inc	Exp	Difference
Beavers	770.50	913.69	-143.19
Cubs	7,363.40	7,579.31	-215.91
Scouts	2,744.87	1,903.18	841.69

Capitation costs for the year were £3604.

### Hall Hire

Hall hire Income was buoyant until we went into lockdown. However as that only happened in March it has had a negligible effect on the year end. In total hall hire income for 19/20 was £8150.42 (the odd amount is due to wayleave on the telegraph pole). Just over half this amount is from Marah Trust. 18/19 hall hire was £7238.92.

### Utilities, Insurance and Premises Expenditure

This includes water, electricity, gas, buildings insurance, cleaning, waste collection and for this year a considerable sum on maintenance and decoration. Total costs were £13,600.31 in comparison to £4,535.26. Cleaning and waste service costs both increased in 19/20. However, we are likely to see a reduction in these costs in this financial year.

### Other Income and Expenditure

Other expenditure this year included web hosting and Online Scout Manager (OSM) and over £2000 relating to fees for refurb project and planning app. We had grants from Leslie Sell and Stroud District Council which went towards the redecoration project. We also claimed £774 in Gift Aid. Fundraising activities included Summer BBQ and Fireworks. Please note that the Scout's sponsored walk will appear in next year's accounts as money not banked until after end of financial year.

### Changes to Bank Accounts

Beavers have closed their bank account with Nationwide and are now part of the main Group accounts. Only Cubs maintain their own separate bank account.

All sections now have debit cards for their accounts to try and reduce the amount of cash required and to remove any issues with reimbursing expenses.

Only Scouts are currently using OSM. It is hoped that during 20/21 financial year that Beavers and Cubs will move to OSM. This won't happen fully until broadband is installed.

#### Conclusion

The Group's total funds for all sections at the end of the year was just over £5600. This puts us in quite a strong position. However, the suspension of scouting and all other activities that will have used our centre will have a knock-on effect, counter-balanced by receipt of the retail, leisure and hospitality grant. We will still need to manage funds carefully over this next financial year as expenditure relating to premises will still continue.

The AGM accepted the Treasurers Report and Accounts.

#### **Beavers section – Sammy Peters and Victoria Stone**

Last year we had 12 Beavers and 4 moved up to cubs.

This year I have 9 beavers with 1 moved up to cubs and 2 due to move up.

I have 10 on the waiting list, 2 to join Beavers when they are ready. And the others are not yet old enough.

One Beaver (now in cubs) received their Bronze award.

Last year we did District Beaver Bounce, den building at Penwood, camp at Cranham with cubs. Three beavers attended the camp and gained their badges.

Beavers made two films for their digital maker badge and also did a shadow puppet show for Christmas.

This year, we did bring a friend and they went to Go Bananas.

We've had the police visit to talk to them about safety and we've had an engineer from the RAF to talk about air activities.

Two beavers attended the virtual 'We will survive VE day camp', which also made a video for the website. Also there is the 'World Jambowlree competition' that any section can join in with, information is on the website.

I have been doing YouTube videos so beavers can gain badges whilst in lockdown.

We had our first virtual investiture in April, and we have been doing Zoom meetings fortnightly.

#### **Cubs section – John Jones**

Also see Group Scout Leader's report above.

Over the 12 months our numbers have dropped as we only have one Beaver Colony feeding two Cub Packs. We have not had as big an intake from outside and due to the leader problems I have mentioned in the Group Scout Leaders Report this was not a bad thing.

We held two camps, one at HQ, going to South Cerney for Water Activities. And the second at Cranham. Both were enjoyable and the Cubs were really well behaved.

The Cubs have earned a lot of Badges and we had 8 Cubs who earned the Silver Award the highest award in Cub.

### **Scouts section – Simon Jones (read in his absence)**

The scout troop has about 12 scouts, prior to lockdown, with hopefully a few more joining when we start back up.

Over the past year we have been active with camps and also with fundraising for the group. Strategy would have been the final camp of the year. Over the next year we hope to keep this going although this is dependent on a leader gaining the nights away permit.

We also had 8 Scouts gain the Gold Award, which is the highest award available to Scouts.

As you are aware I am stepping down as scout leader in July, I would like to thank the committee for all their hard work and wish continued success for the group in general.

### **Nomination and Election of Committee Members for the year**

**Chairperson:** John Jones nominated Luke Inder, seconded by Paula Brown.  
No other candidates, re-election unopposed.

**Treasurer:** Luke Inder nominated Anne-Marie Delrosa, seconded by Sammy Peters  
No other candidates, re-election unopposed.

**Meetings Secretary:** Luke Inder nominated Paula Brown, seconded by Anne-Marie Delrosa.  
No other candidates, re-election unopposed.

**Bookings Secretaries:** This post is currently vacant, though Heidi Wilkes expressed an interest in doing this. Luke Inder to follow up with Heidi.

### **Any Other Business**

No other business was discussed.