

1st Maidenhead (Mid-Thames) Sea Scout Group – Minutes of AGM held on Sunday 15th May 2011 at Longridge

Present

Mike & Elizabeth Hogg, Bryan & Evelyn Barnard, Kevin & Elaine Stanley, Wayne Davie, Annette Edwards, Robin Denman, Catherine & David Oliver, Tracey & Bruce Richardson, Rachel & Bob Volpe, Caron & Keith Wheeler, Rahoul & Ranu Varma, Alison Matthews, Daniel & Julia Flynn, Sarah Renton, Mark Butcher, John Davies, Sarah & Collin Goodhew, Sam & Mark Stockdale, Michelle Nelson, James Edmundson, Tony Scavetta, Jackie & Dave Haines, Nigel Bevan (DC)

Apologies for absence

Passey family, Giljam family, Marshall family, Caroline Street, Alison Cadinouche

Chairman's welcome

Chair Robin Denman welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for coming.

Annual Report

Robin picked out some key points from the Annual Trustees Report (copies had been distributed to those present):

- There have been a number of changes to Trustees since the last AGM: Wayne Davie took over from Mike Hogg as Group Scout Leader at the beginning of September 2010 & Robin Denman became chair on 16th November. David Oliver became Treasurer in July & Irina Woodford stood down from the Committee in May.
- Robin gave particular thanks to Mike Hogg (more on that later) and Irina Woodford for their contributions.
- He said it had been a year of change & also a very positive year. The group would always benefit from more help from its members – maintaining the HQ is a big job & Wayne Davie and Bryan Barnard in particular have put a lot of time into this. If anyone would like to help out with that or anything else the group does, either on an ongoing basis or for a one off event, you would be very welcome – please speak to a leader or anyone on the committee.
- Robin mentioned that the group is now in a better financial position than before & a grant from the Berkshire Community Foundation for a new water heater was particularly welcome. We are also about to buy a new trailer, which is needed to get equipment to camps and elsewhere and we are continuing with ongoing tent replacement.

Group Accounts

The Treasurer, David Oliver, presented the Accounts for the year ending March 2011. He highlighted some key points:

- Of the money coming in from subscriptions, roughly a third is paid to district as capitation, half of the rest goes to Longridge and the remainder is taken up by Insurance. So fundraising is vital for any other costs we have to meet.
- Gift Aid is a valuable source of income – we have recently received approx £3,200 gift aid rebate to cover the last two years, so it is really important that anyone who is eligible for Gift Aid & has not yet completed the form does so.
- If parents pay subs by Standing Order it reduces admin & time spent chasing for subs considerably – so please do so if you can
- The 100 club has now been formally disbanded and after all members were contacted to ask if they wanted any money returned, the remaining money in the fund has now been added to Group funds
- Thank were given to Alison Matthews for making herself available as the Independent Examiner and to Catriona Lambeth for her time and patience with regard to the handover

Elizabeth Hogg proposed that the Accounts should be approved; Bryan Barnard seconded & passed unanimously.

Group Scout Leaders Report

Wayne Davie thanked everyone who had helped over the year, including Catherine & David Oliver, Rachel Volpe for organising a great Christmas Fayre, Caron & Keith Wheeler for organising and running Bag Packing which has been an excellent fundraiser & David Howell for training the Scouts in Sailing on Wednesday evenings.

Section Reports

Beavers: Elizabeth Hogg reported that though the section had limited numbers at the beginning of the year, there are now 18 Beavers – 5 will soon move to Cubs, but 2 more are due to join. Anna Wheeler will also shortly be joining the section as a Young Leader. The section still desperately needs an Assistant Leader. A large number of badges have been completed over the year and most young people achieve the Chief Scout's Bronze award before moving up to Cubs.

Cubs: Wayne Davie said it had been a good year. There are currently 29 Cubs in the pack and he thanked Annette Edwards for her sterling help. Highlights of the year had included the District Hike, the Swimming Gala, the Swimathon, a visit to Paultons Park jointly with Beavers and Summer activities at Longridge.

Scouts: Kevin Stanley reported that the section had led the group camp to Lochgoilhead in the Summer. David Howells has continued to teach sailing on Wednesdays and also led a sailing trip to Rockley. One member (Anna Wheeler) is attending the Jamboree in Sweden this year and another (Ella Guerin) is taking part in Project Uganda and will visit the country this Summer. If anyone would be interested in becoming an Assistant Scout Leader, Kevin would love to hear from them.

Explorers: Bryan Barnard thanked Kevin, Wayne and Elaine for taking the Explorers to summer Camp. The focus of the section had particularly been on working to the Duke of Edinburgh award – including a practice expedition on the coldest night of the year and the actual expedition on the

second coldest! Mike Hogg became Assistant Explorer Leader when he stepped down as GSL and his help has been much appreciated.

Approval of nominations

GSLs nominations for Group Council: Wayne proposed Peter Prior, Elsie Watson, Jo & Colin Dorgan, David Hanchet & the Commodore & Secretary of Maidenhead Sailing Club. All were agreed.

Wayne Davie nominated Robin Denman as Chair of the Group Executive Committee.

Members of the Group Executive committee:

Catherine Oliver as Secretary – proposed by Bryan Barnard, seconded by Alison Matthews
David Oliver as Treasurer – proposed by Kevin Stanley, seconded by Elizabeth Hogg
Rachel Volpe & Tracey Richardson – proposed by Bryan Barnard & seconded by Annette Edwards
Alison Matthews agreed to continue as Independent Examiner of the Accounts – proposed by Kevin Stanley & seconded by Elaine Stanley
All nominations were agreed unanimously.

Subscriptions

Robin Denman said that, in order to keep membership of the Group as accessible as possible to everyone, the Group Executive Committee had agreed that Subscriptions would remain at the current levels (£30 pa for Beavers, £40 pa for Cubs, Scouts & Explorers)

District Commissioner

The District Commissioner, Nigel Bevan, spoke for a few minutes & awarded some badges & certificates. He welcomed Wayne Davie as GSL and passed on his particular thanks to Mike for the 20 years he had spent as GSL of the group. He stressed how important it is for as many people as possible to get involved with helping the group – even a very small amount of time can be very valuable – for instance if someone could help out at every other section meeting, they could pair up with another parent who could do the same.

Nigel mentioned that there are 30,000 young people in the UK who would like to join a Scout Group but cannot because of a lack of volunteer adults – the Scout Association is looking at how they can attract more adults into scouting.

Nigel also said that the District have recently been given £40,000 and are planning to use this to set up 3 funds – one to train leaders so they can lead a greater variety of activities, one to help fund trips abroad & activities with an international theme & one to develop scouting in Maidenhead.

Presentations

Nigel Bevan presented a Bronze Chief Scout's award to Sam Davies and badges to a number of other young people.

Robin then thanked Mike Hogg warmly for the enormous contribution he made to the group in his 20 years as Group Scout Leader – and the contribution he continues to make in his role with Explorers. Robin presented Mike with an engraved travel clock and some Cotswold vouchers on behalf of the whole group.

This was the end of the formal business of the AGM. Many of those attending (both adults and young people) then took the opportunity to have a session of kayaking or canoeing. Thanks to Nicolette and Rob for leading the sessions.