



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Odiham District Scouts

Sunday 14th May 2023, 14:00

The Key, Elvetham Health, Fleet

Note: the key section reports and accounts were circulated by Jane Penny before the meeting along with the Agenda. These should be referred to in conjunction with these Minutes.

1. Present and Apologies

Nick Somerville (Chair), Jane Penny (Sec), David Millen (DC), Sarah Napier (Treasurer), Peter Knott, Charmian Hickman, Jeremy Styles, Mark Medler, Kirsty Hodge, Graham Read, Rob Shrubsall, Sarah Shrubsall, Anna Burns, Anne Lovegrove, Jannette McElarney, Sue Carroll, Chris Dorn, Trevor Smith, Sam Hodge, Riley Eddiford, Douglas Millard, Sarah Napier, Alexandra Yates, Sam Yates.

Apologies: Sir Euan Calthorpe, Paul Hedges (DCC)

2. Chairman's Welcome & Report

Nick introduced the meeting and presented his report.
Big thanks to all involved in Scouting – leaders, volunteers, Exec Committee, District - for their service.

3. Approval of 2022 AGM Minutes

Proposed by Chris Dorn, Seconded Sarah Napier, no objection – approved.

4. District Commissioner's Report

Report presented by David Millen.

This is my second report as DC. It has been another busy year for the District. We have been striving to deliver against plans made in 2021 for Bigger, Better and Funner scouting. Results have been mixed:



Bigger. We actually reduced in size in 2022. Network has shrunk, no more Squirrel Dreys were opened and a complete colony closed in one group. The District had 1034 Young People in Jan 22 but had dropped to 1015 by Jan 23, a loss of 19.

Better.

- Our District Recognition Event in Jan 22 at 2nd Odiham was very well attended and the DRE in May at 101st Church Crookham likewise. The DRE in September in Calthorpe Park was poorly attended, somewhat embarrassingly as Paul Bell, our County Commissioner, was our VIP. We nevertheless applauded effort, service and achievement of young people and adults at each one.
- In March we held the first 'QM Swapshop' for the QM in each Groups to meet each other and consider sharing equipment rather than buying stuff that will spend months sat on the shelf;
- Also in Spring we held our first 1-hour online Exec Committee Symposium for all group Chairs, Treasurers and Secretaries so they can share solutions to common problems. Very useful hour. (Next is on Thu 5 Oct).
- Progress was made by our 3 District Activity Leads - Brian Biffin (DAL paddlesports) held a course on Sat 24 Sep; Alex Furneaux (DAL archery) has developed new instructors; Doug Millard (DAL shooting) has increased the number of shooting instructors.

Funner.

- Community collaboration with the Lions (Special Needs Funfest, Fireworks), RBL (Poppy Appeal), Fleet Pond Society and Hart Foodbank have helped scouts complete the World Challenge badge, sections to make progress on all sorts of badges and scouting to raise its profile while doing good for others. Three scout families are to be recognised by the RBL for their support on Armed Forces Day 2023 for their contribution, while 3 Groups (1st, 6th, 100th) are set to receive certificates for their 10 Years of support to the Poppy Appeal.
- Group 23 has helped collaboration between families of the 30 young people and 3 adults heading next year either to the WSJ in Korea or to Project 23 in Europe. Working as a team is so much more effective.

There is clearly more to do to achieve all the targets in the District Development Plan but, overall, Odiham District is sound and is improving each month thanks to the efforts of the District leadership team which includes all the GSLs and the District Executive Committee.

I am immensely proud of the massive contribution by scouting to the **Queen's Platinum Jubilee** celebrations in Odiham, Crondall, Church Crookham and Fleet. Scouts (Group 23) organised a 10 mile and a 30-mile cycle ride and a 5km Fun Run; groups offered tables and benches to street parties everywhere; the 26th Sea Scouts and Brian and Anne Biffin helped plan and deliver an afternoon of fun activities on Basingstoke Canal; turnout from scouting at the Fleet Jubilee Parade was huge and Explorers marked out the parade area in the park; stalls and activities offered fun and entertainment to the public. Every group and unit was involved, over £7500 of funds were raised, adults came forward to volunteer and we visibly served the community. A huge thank you to all who were involved.



The recent Coronation Celebrations showed just how much positive contribution Scouting can make to the wider community and is sure to attract funding which will allow us to support activities and expeditions for many more YP. My thanks to all who contributed time and effort.

With celebrations over, I am focussing on **growth**. There are around 500 young people on our various waiting lists and I will do all I can to support Groups to create additional sections with new volunteers. My vision is that, by Census Jan 2026, Odiham District will be 50% bigger than it was at Census Jan 2021 (947 YP). So the target is 474 more, or a total of 1421 (406 more than now). I welcome all your support in that endeavour.

5. ADC Reports

5.1. Squirrels

Anna Burns (District Squirrel Lead) – 100th EH drey going well, opened new drey at 29th. 28th, 101st and 2nd have enough young people on waiting list to start another drey.

5.2. Beavers

No ADC Beavers, no report..

5.3. Cubs

Refer to report presented by Jannette McElarney.

5.4. Scouts

Graham Read – It was good to see scouts back together again face to face, back camping after the covid lock downs. I was pleased to help a few sections with camps where a leader with camp permit was required. I think we're still getting back in the swing of camps etc. Last year Douglas, Catherine and I took a group of explorers to Kandersteg as part of the Hampshire organised Swiss2020. I've been pleased to have sorted the Army land access for all sections, groups are back making good use of this again. [Graham Read to scan and send formal approval letter to County – confirmed done].

5.5. Explorers

Refer to report presented by Doug Millard.

5.6. Network

No report.

6. Group 23 (WSJ and Project 23) Report

Sam Yates, Sam Hodge and Riley Eddiford spoke about WSJ and Project 23:



30 young people and 3 leaders from Odiham district are part of Group 23.

10 young people and 2 leaders from Odiham district are attending WSJ July/Aug 2023.

They have attended prep camps to get to know everyone in the units.

WSJ = 50,000 participants from 172 counties.

Lots of fundraising activities have taken place to assist with the £4045 cost per person.

7. Updates from District Activity Leads

7.1. Archery

On behalf of Alex Furneaux, DAL for Archery, who was delivering archery instruction elsewhere, the DC passed on his update to the AGM. Alex is keen to train up more archery instructors and would like to see 2 per Group, or maybe more for large groups with more than 3 sections. This will allow beavers, cubs and scouts to enjoy archery more frequently. He is going to discuss with District the feasibility of holding equipment at District level which sections can use for local events. Alex also intends to organise archery competitions between sections, and maybe a mixed team from each Group, to further increase participation in the sport. Anyone who would like to find out more about becoming an Archery assistant instructor is welcome to contact him. There is no requirement to be a uniformed leader to teach archery – Alex is a non-uniformed Skills Instructor and enjoys passing on his passion for the sport to adults and young people alike.

7.2. Paddlesports

On behalf of Brian Biffin, DAL for Paddlesports, who was unable to attend the AGM, the DC informed the AGM that Brian had led a Kayak Supervisors course last year and another this year. Brian's aim was to create a cadre of paddlesport supervisors so that sections could make better use of the canal and the several lakes around Fleet. Sessions were being run jointly with Bramshill District and were being assisted by Basingstoke Canal Canoe Club in terms of the loan of craft. The District should consider the feasibility of generating a pool of equipment for use by half sections (say 2-3 adults and 8-12 young people) or whether it may be more efficient to hire from providers or reach an arrangement with BCCC. Many young people go on to enjoy kayaking and canoeing long into their adulthood and Brian is keen to give a taster to all young people and further development to those who wish to continue the sport.

7.3. Shooting

Doug Millard reported that Odiham District has approx. 12 qualified shooting instructors. A shooting event took place as part of the Coronation celebrations – over 75 people took part. There is a District Shooting Club and a Scout squad is due to attend the Junior International Event.



8. DC's Nomination of the District Chair

Nick Somerville has been district Chair for 8 years and is stepping down from the role. He has kindly offered to stay on as Chair for a few more months, and will assist in the handover to the replacement Chair. Anne Lovegrove will be stepping into the Chair role from Sept. We send her a warm welcome and look forward to us all working together.

9. Treasurer's Report & Acceptance of the Statement of Accounts

Refer to report presented by Sarah Napier.

Auditor currently has the accounts, and these are subject to his final approval.

Sarah will email all AGM attendees when auditor report has been received, including any comments.

A request to the current auditor will need to be sent for their appointment as auditor for the 2023 accounts.

Accounts as presented, were approved - proposed Anne Lovegrove, seconded Chris Dorn.

10. DC's nomination of Members of the Executive Committee

The DC advised that Anne Lovegrove, currently GSL 26th Fleet Sea Scouts had accepted his offer to be the Chair of Odiham District in September, by which time she will have stood down from her GSL role. The AGM welcomed her to her new role.

11. Election of Members of Executive Committee

Scouts UK requires all District and Group Executive Committees to transform themselves into Trustee Boards in the coming months. Ex Officio members (DC, DDC, DESC) will remain members of the Trustee Board. Elected members (Sec, Tres) will also migrate to the TB. The DC and Chair (Anne Lovegrove) will work with the Sec and Tres to determine the best shape and size of the TB and how the Exec Committee responsibilities and membership will be adjusted to fit. Their recommendations will be shared with the Exec Committee for approval. In the meantime, the following Committee members have kindly agreed to continue in role: Jane Penny, Sarah Napier, Chris Dorn, Mark Medler, Jeremy Styles, Graham Read and Sue Carroll.

Proposed Rob Shrubsall, seconded Jannette McElarney.



12. Deputy County Commissioner's Closing Remarks

Peter Knott, Deputy CC, stated that Hampshire is the biggest Scouting county in the county. He thanked Sam, Riley and Sam for their presentation on Project 23 and WSJ. He also thanked EVERYONE for all their hard work and efforts in Scouting.

13. Chairman's Closing Remarks

Nick Somerville thanked everybody for attending and for all their help this year.

He wished Riley and both Sams a wonderful trip and looks forward to hearing about it later in the year.

14. Date of Next Annual General Meeting

Provisionally set for Mar 2024.

<ends>