

4th Epping Forest South (Bancroft's School) Sea Scout Group



Charity Registration Number 1037676

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 11th. June 2022

This meeting took place during the Family Activity Day and Camp held at Fairmead camp site.

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming the larger number than usual of parents present, and particularly our guests the District Chairman Steve Fothergill and the District Commissioner Colin Wreyford.

Apologies for Absence had been received from the headmaster Simon Marshall, Prep School Headmaster Joe Layburn, the Bursar Lionel Green, Roy Francis, Jon Groom, Steve Thirsk and Paul Still.

Minutes of the previous AGM had been circulated earlier by email and were also available in printed form on notice boards at the Camp. The adoption of these was proposed by Mel Knight, seconded by Colin Wreyford and accepted unanimously.

Matters arising from the minutes. None.

Chairman's Report. John Hasselgren explained that, in order to keep the meeting short, all reports which were not normally put to a vote were available in print on the notice boards. His report, stating that he felt the Group was being well run and was financially sound, was also there and he limited himself to congratulating the team of Cub and Scout Leaders on the time and effort they put in to run the Group and new events such as this Camp. This was greeted with a round of applause.

Treasure's Report. Sadly the Treasurer Paul Still was unable to be present due to his need to look after his wife following surgery. However the accounts had been produced and inspected, and were available on the notice boards for all to see. The Chairman briefly explained the accounts which showed for the Financial Year ended 31st. March 2022 an income of £25,970, including Gift Aid which parents were encouraged to sign up for, and an expenditure of £24,199, giving a surplus of £1770. These figures are higher than those for the previous couple of years due to the easing of restrictions imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic. The balance sheet showed the Group's cash assets being £45,042. However, it was noted that since the date of these accounts a fair amount of money had been expended buying equipment, including the tents in which some of the parents would be sleeping that night. The adoption of these accounts was proposed by Mr. Punit, seconded by Beryl Sharma and carried unanimously.

Section Reports. These had been posted on notice boards for those attending the meeting to read during the Camp. The Group Scout Leader, the Scout Leader and the Cub Scout Leader

had all produced reports detailing the activities over the past year and an idea of future events being planned. A precis of each is shown below:

Group Scout Leader: Stephen Young told of the problems caused by the pandemic at Summer Camp last year in the New Forest with regular lateral flow testing both before and during the week, and a double transport system to cope with Scouts coming out of quarantine one day into Camp. After this the Group started slowly to get back to normal, once regular face to face meetings became possible. Winter Camp enabled the Cubs to spend some time with the Scouts to get an idea how things would be when they move up. Both sections, Cubs and Scouts, have been able to return to Fairlop Outdoor Activity Centre for Summer boatwork, made possible by the actions of the Leaders who fought against its closure. The Leaders have also been busy making links with other Groups in the District, and running a Sea Scout Regatta which included two other Groups. The future poses a challenge in that so many youngsters wish to join us that we are unable to accept them all. Consideration needs to be given to the possibility of running a second Scout Troop on a separate evening, although this would need several additional Leaders to be recruited. We also need to recruit additional members to our Executive Committee, there being currently no Secretary and it would be useful to have a parent of a current Cub or Scout as a Trustee.

Cub Scout Leader: Beryl Sharma reported that she had a register of 41 Cubs, but transferred 12 to the Scouts. Currently there are 33 Cubs with 14 on the waiting list. The Pack is being run by two full time Leaders. They are assisted by 5 Young Leaders, 1 Assistant Section Leader and 2 Section assistants, all of whom are likely to move on with time, although it is hoped new people will take up these roles. The older Cubs attended an overnight camp at Tolmers and were able to undertake the Outdoor Challenge Award. The Pack were able to attend Winter Camp with the Scouts at Thriftwood and, although they mostly had their own programme, those due to move on joined the Scouts during this event. The weekly programme shows a variety of activities, one of which was Circus Skills, with rumours of Akela riding a unicycle! Seven Cubs have been awarded the Chief Scout Silver Award and there are a further 99 badges due to be awarded.

Scout Leader: Matthew Balchin's report emphasized one of our difficulties by listing 66 Scouts, none having dropped out when they became old enough to join the CCF. The list also shows that about ten were recommended to either remain with, or to join, another Group due to lack of capacity. To run this we have three Young Leaders, being led by seven or eight term-time Leaders, with five additional camp leaders (either retired or at university). 2021 Summer Camp, one of our largest by number, was held in the New Forest in hot weather, with a violent storm on the final night. During late Summer and Autumn several days afloat helped make up for lack of boating time due to the pandemic. Several of the older Scouts completed the Chief Scout Gold Award expedition in Epping Forest, camping out overnight. New joiners that we hadn't met as Cubs were welcomed into the Troop and a series of activities were undertaken on Thursday evenings. Assistance was given at the Redbridge Food Bank, but sadly Covid put paid to plans for an overnight stay at the Secret Nuclear Bunker in conjunction with the 36th. Troop up the road. Spring term activities were described before moving on to the current term. At Easter we ran a mini regatta with the 36th. EFS and 4th. Leytonstone, at which the events included sailing, dragon boat racing and boat trailer

racing. After this we got back to kayaking, canoeing and sailing; unfortunately the Covid pandemic means that there is less experience amongst the Scouts due to lack of time afloat.

Election of Committee. Chairman John Hasselgren explained the Scout Association Rule whereby, although the meeting is able to propose most members of the Executive Committee, only the Group Scout Leader is able to nominate the Chairman. He then stood down, explaining that he had no wish to have anyone wondering how to get rid of him. Stephen Young, GSL, the re-proposed John as Chairman. The meeting accepted this.

John then listed the existing Committee who are all Trustees of the Group. They consisted of the Treasurer Paul Still, Stephen Young (GSL), Matthew Balchin (SL), Mel Knight (ASL), Beryl Sharma (CSL) and John himself. Two other Trustees, Steve Thirsk (ASL) and Roy Francis (Adult helper) had expressed a wish to stand down as Trustees, but to retain contact with the Group. Asking if there were any parents present who would wish to join the Committee, and explaining that the role of Secretary was vacant, John asked for a proposal that all those listed above, with the exception of the two standing down be re-elected. This was proposed by Colin Wreyford and seconded by Mr. Jonathan Williams and carried unanimously.

Any Other Business. There being none the meeting was closed in good time for dinner.

Post meeting note: After the meeting Mr. Jonathan Williams approached the Chairman to ask for more details of the implications of becoming a Trustee. He then agreed to join the Committee. A quick meeting of those Trustees present agreed that this offer be accepted and Jonathan Williams was co-opted as a Trustee. Paul Still, not present, agreed by email.

John Hasselgren,
Group Chairman.

18/06/2022