

**13th Maidenhead (Methodist)
Scout Group
Annual General Meeting**

Saturday 15th June 2019
Wokingham Waterside Centre
Reading

AGENDA

1. Welcome
2. Apologies
3. To approve the Minutes of the AGM held on 10th June 2018 and deal with any matters arising
4. The Group Scout Leader's review of Scouting of 13th Maidenhead
5. The Group Treasurer's overview of the Accounts for the financial Year ending 31st March 2019
 - a) Approval of the Accounts
 - b) Approval of donation to the Church for the use of the premises etc, recommendation of £500.
 - c) Approval of the Annual Subscription for 2020/21
 - d) To appoint the Auditor/Independent Examiner
6. Appointments
 - a) To approve the Group Scout Leader's nomination of the Group Chairman
 - b) Election of the Group Secretary
 - c) Election of the Group Treasurer
7. Group Scout Council
To note the Group Scout Leader's nominations (if any) to the Group Executive Committee
8. Election of the Group Executive Committee
 - a) Ordinary Executive Members
 - b) Parent Section Representatives
 - c) To confirm if the Beaver, Cub-Scout and Scout Leaders wish to act as Members of the Group Executive
9. Presentations
 - a) The Stevens' Trophy
10. Close of Meeting

1. Treasurer's Report of the audited Accounts 2018-19 13th Maidenhead (Methodist) Scout Group.

A summary of income and expenditure for the year is attached. The Executive Committee decided to continue to subsidise, where possible, the activities and camps during the year. The accounts reflect a very active year, especially the commitment to raising money for our Jamboree fund.

Once again our income exceeds our expenditure by a small amount. The most notable expenditure item was Capitation which now equates to more than 50% of our subscription income. However I expect this percentage to fall with the advent of new subscription levels next year.

The financial viability of the group is dependent upon fund raising events, tax reclaimed from the Inland Revenue and annual subscriptions. The Membership Secretary is to be congratulated in ensuring subscriptions were collected and we were able to maximise our Gift Aid income. This situation has been continued by our new membership secretary, Becky, after the resignation after many years in post of Lesley.

The group carried forward to 2019-20 the sum of £5,086 (2017-18 £4,058) Included in this sum are £730 subscription paid in advance, Family Day prepayments and various other event prepayments. The group made no capital purchases during the year. It will be necessary to make capital purchases in 2019-20.

At the Annual General meeting in 2018 it was agreed that subscriptions would be increased in 2019-20. The necessary documents have been sent to parents to enable them to pay by standing order, the Groups preferred method of payment.

Our financial position is in line with our expected expenditures. The increase in income expected from the rise in annual subscriptions will enable capital goods to be purchased.

Carried forward from 2017-18	£ 4,058
Income 2018-19	£12,248
Expenditure 2018-19	£11,220
Carried forward to 2019-20	£ 5.086

J. L. Simpson. OBE
B. A. (Hons) C. Dip. A. F.
Treasurer.
15/April/2019

	2018-19	INCOME	2017-18
GROUP FUND RAISING	964		905
GIFT AID	997		945
SUBSCRIPTIONS	4,431		4,467
ACTIVITIES	1,242		1,524
CAMPS	2,860		1,972
PREPAID SUBS.	730		270
WRITE BACK INCOME	0		20
JAMBOREE FUND	1,024		271
PRE PAYMENTS	0		405
TOTAL	<u>12,248</u>		<u>10,779</u>

	2018-19	EXPENDITURE	2017-18
CAPITATION	2,958		2,460
ACTIVITIES	2,305		2,074
SUBS. REFUND	37		230
INSURANCE	350		124
GROUP EXPENSES	455		368
CAMPS	2,269		2,320
JAMBOREE	1,354		0
BADGES/UNIFORMS	396		469
DONATIONS	500		430
FUNDS RAISED FOR CHARITIES	446		208
DEPOSITS PAID (2018-19 WINGS)	150		440
CAPITAL GOODS	0		560
TOTAL	<u>11,220</u>		<u>9,683</u>

C/F from 2017-18
plus income 2018-19
less expenditure 2018-19
C/F to 2019-20

£
4,058
12,248
-11,220
5,086

2. Group Scout Leader's Report

Another Scouting year has sped by in no time at all.

I would like to give thanks from the Executive Committee and the parent body to all the leaders who work so hard to provide the young people with the Scouting that they enjoy so much. All of them are volunteers who freely give up their time to Scouting and we should all be grateful to them for this. In return the leaders all thank the parents who actively support them at section meetings.

Group numbers are roughly the same as last year. At the time of writing we have 16 Beavers, 17 Cubs and 24 Scouts. Beavers and Cubs have dipped slightly, which is hopefully just a cyclical dip and will pick up again soon.

The Beaver section has again run smoothly this year, which is testament to the fine efforts of Matthew Edwards and Rebecca Shaw and Young Leaders Marc Bediat and Owain Edwards. Sadly Matthew Bassett has had to give up working with the Beavers for now and Rebecca Shaw is leaving us at the end of the current term. I thank them both for their contribution to running the section and we will miss both of them. This leaves us light in leaders in the Beaver section, but I am optimistic that we can plug these gaps in time for September.

Alex Hughes stood down from leading the Cub section in July 2018, but Dan Spiers stepped up to take over from him and Peter Taylor joined the section as Assistant Leader in September. Along with Sam Kinns I believe we have a very strong leadership team in Cubs. The section numbers have dipped somewhat this year as several Cubs joined Scouts in September but there were not many Beavers to replace them.

The Scouts section has had another good year. Sam Kinns continues to develop as a leader and is now doing the majority of the work of running the section meetings and admin. Ian Kinns and Ian Stimson continue to provide great support and I help as and when required, along with Luke Crisford. The section numbers are the highest I have seen since my involvement with the group, and we regularly have around 20 Scouts at each meeting.

Lesley Haldane stepped down from her role as Membership Secretary in October 2018 and I thank her very much for the fantastic job she did over a number of years in ensuring that subs were collected, annual censuses completed and as many families as possible completed Gift Aid forms for their subs. Gift Aid is a significant contributor to our funds for very little effort so I

would ask anyone who is a UK taxpayer and has not completed a form for our group to do so. We will have forms available at the Family Activity Day.

Becky Shaw took over the membership administration from Lesley and, although she is not able to continue helping with Beavers, she will continue in this role for the time being.

We received some sad news in late March this year when Michael (Mick) Fursedon passed away after a battle with Pancreatic cancer. Mick was involved in the group for many years and did many jobs for it, including driving the van for camps, helping at fund raising events and producing the AGM booklet each year. Most recently he was our link to High St Methodist church for organising the Christmas Fair and he spent many hours over the years building Santa's Grotto. He was immensely practical and one of those people whom you could rely upon to get things done with no fuss. He always had a friendly demeanour with a smile on his face and enjoyed a laugh and a joke. We will miss him very much.

With Mick's passing, Becky Shaw moving out of the area and David Kinna stepping down, we find ourselves short of a few people on the Group Executive Committee. If you are interested in helping to ensure the smooth running of the group, please see below for details of how you could get involved.

There is no escaping the fact that everything that takes place within our group happens due to someone volunteering to do it. Compared with the recent past our section leadership teams are healthier than they have been, although there are still some gaps to fill. I would ask anyone who is interested in helping to take part in a four week challenge, where they attend a section's meetings for 4 weeks and take an active part in planning and running activities during that period. If you are not convinced of the value of Scouting before that, you will be by the end.

If a leadership role is not for you then there is always the Group Executive Committee instead. This body exists to ensure the group meets its obligations as a charity and to support the leaders in making everything run smoothly. It also organises fund raising events such as the Christmas fair.

I firmly believe that it is the family, rather than the young person, that joins the Scout Group and almost all of the existing leaders and assistants are, or have been, parents of children in the group. Therefore, it is natural to turn to the parent body for new blood, although we are exploring other avenues as well. To ensure the long-term future of the group it is vital that we continue to strengthen our existing leadership team and my objective is to build a small team of leaders

and assistants for each section so that the work is shared around and we do not depend on the same individuals running meetings week in, week out.

Scouting provides many opportunities for adults as well as children and the level of commitment can be tailored to what the individual is able to give. If you are interested in helping out in the group please speak to Charles, or any of the other leaders, at Family Activity Day or email Charles at charles@thebergers.org.uk.

Charles Berger, Group Scout Leader

3. Chairman's Report

On behalf of the Group Executive Committee, I would like to pass on our thanks and, I am sure, yours to our dedicated group of leaders and assistants and other adult volunteers who enable the group to provide such a wonderful range of activities for our children and young people.

Elsewhere in this booklet you will find reports on the highlights of the past year for the different sections in our group. My report will focus primarily on our fundraising efforts. One of the major roles of the Executive Committee is to ensure the financial viability of the group. You will remember that at the AGM last year, we agreed an increase in the membership subs for the group this year. As you will see from the report of our Treasurer, John Simpson, the current financial standing of the group is in line with our expectations. I am sure as parents you will be pleased to know that as a result we are not proposing any changes for subs next year.

The preference of the Executive Committee is to hold our subs as low as possible and to use fundraising efforts to cover any further requirements. I am pleased to say that our major focus over the past year, supporting the Jamboree Fund, has been successful, although we ended up raising slightly less than we would have hoped. This was primarily because we had to cancel the Quiz Night that we had planned for just after Easter this year due to a lack of interest. I appreciate that there are many demands on your time and on your wallets, so please help us by letting me or other members of the committee know if you have any other ideas for fundraising events or activities that you think would be widely supported. The good news is that our organising team managed to secure a number of excellent raffle prizes for the quiz night that I hope we can use to great effect at another occasion later this year.

As parents, I hope you will already recognize the benefits that Scouting can create for your children. None of this would be possible without the commitment and enthusiasm of the volunteers who give up so much of their time not only to run the activities but also to prepare and plan for them. Charles Berger, our GSL, has paid tribute in his report to the contribution of the late Michael (Mick) Fursedon, who sadly passed away earlier this year. On behalf of the Executive Committee, I would like to pass on our condolences to Mick's family and celebrate his contribution to the group. It also would be remiss of me not to recognize and convey our sincere gratitude to Lesley Haldane who stepped down as Membership Secretary after many years of service.

This year, I am one of our Executive Committee members, David Kinna has decided to step down. I would like to thank David for his contribution and support, which will be sorely missed. This means that we will be seeking further parent volunteers to join the committee. Personally, I have found it a rewarding and enjoyable experience to serve on the committee and support the work of the group and I would encourage all of you to consider whether it is something you could do. It is not a large time commitment, with the majority of the effort being five to six meetings per year and potentially a little bit of additional support on top of that. Being a committee member requires no particular experience or expertise other than enthusiasm for the group and a willingness to lend a hand. I hope you will consider whether this is a role you can undertake. Please let me, Charles or any other members of the committee know if you have any queries about the role.

Regardless, I thank all of you for your ongoing support. I would welcome your suggestions on how we can improve engagement with parents, so please feel free to contact me directly at iancdavies@gmail.com or simply come and chat with me at some point today.

Ian Davies, Group Chairman

4. Beavers Section Report

At Beavers - We are running at about two thirds capacity. This is mostly due to a reduction in the number of full time adult leaders with Matthew Bassets departure, which meant we could not take a full intake this year (we need an adult for every 6 children on many activities for safety guidelines). We have been running the last few terms with 2 Adults and occasional help from some parents but cannot go to our full 24 count without 4 adults (over 18) being present for numbers. It is also now time to say goodbye to Becky, who is moving up to Leeds over the summer months, which means we will be down to just 1 warranted leader for the section.

With Rebecca and Matthew helping as official leaders, the planning workload was been spread out which has enabled us to get a lot more adventurous, and they both contributed some very good ideas and events. I wish to take this opportunity to pass my thanks for their time with us.

As a result of Becky moving on, we now have three leader/helper spaces needing to be filled by parents (or other adults). If you can help us on the Thursday evening for 1 hour (6-7pm) every week (or two), not committing to any time beyond that – can you let us know, as regular helpers actually work out a lot better than parent rotas.

We do have 2 full time young leaders helping run the evenings with us, Marc and Owain. As they are under 18 they do not count towards adult ratios, but are a great help in ensuing the evenings run smoothly. This means that any new adult helpers can join in the fun as well and will not be in the deep end.

Our recent torch and welly walk, included for the second year running, some Bat Watching (for those near the front at least), as we timed our walk to match when all the bats were out along the river. (Yes – We know where to find Bats in March!).

Beavers has a diverse set of activities, with us due to get out a bit in the sunshine over this latest term. We are balancing evenings counting towards Challenge Badges with evenings based solely about having fun or doing something different. The program guide from Scout HQ has a strong outdoor activity bias, which we find difficult due to the ages and timing of Beavers and the fact that we don't work in a hut with a garden where we can light fires or put up tents.

I believe we are finding a good balance where the children are having fun, learning, and doing new things, all stretching their abilities.

Our Beaver attendance at our Parade services, scout cake sales, and other occasional non Thursday slots has been very poor, which has directly affected the challenge badges given, and therefor the number of Chief Scout Bronze awards given. It is now quite difficult to gain the Bronze award,

Beavers going to the Family Camp and AGM events will find various outdoor adventurous badge activities happening, which unfortunately we are unable to compete elsewhere in our beaver program – so those at not going to any Camp or AGM may end up with a number of key badges missing at the end of their time with us. As such – I strongly encourage all Beaver parents to do their best to help the Beavers attend these occasional activities.

The group Facebook site is being updated with pictures of our adventures, and lots of smiley beaver faces - and I encourage parents and helpers to continue to post there for the group to see.

Merlin (Matthew K-L-Edwards), Beaver Scout Leader

5. Cubs Section Report

I am happy to report another good year for the 13th Maidenhead Cubs section. It was with sadness that we said goodbye to our Leader Alex at the end of last year. The running of any Scouting section involves a lot of organising behind the scenes and Alex was a whiz at it. I didn't realise just how much until I stepped into his shoes in September last year. Luckily he was a good teacher so I feel like I've maintained the standards. I've also had Sam to assist who continues to be the real core of our leadership team. His Scouting knowledge is invaluable and we wouldn't deliver an exciting and varied programme without him. Sam and I were also joined by Peter who came to a leadership role as I did through a son in Beavers. Peter brings lots of knowledge of the great outdoors and has recently passed the initial training to being a fully qualified leader.

The Cubs have had a busy year so far. A visit to BCA zoo, a talk from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, learning about Project Africa and getting involved in the World Jamboree; and of course all the hikes, map reading, sports and sno-tubing we all love to do. This year's camp at Marion's Meadow was a massive success. The Cubs learnt about shelter building, wood chopping, camp gadget making, first aid, makeshift stretchers and emergency signals as part of their Scouting skills. They also took part in archery, rock climbing and of course backwoods cooking. I'll have plenty of challenge badges to hand out as a result!

The section has been quite small this year due to many leaving Scouting or moving up to Scouts. We haven't had many swim ups from Beavers but that will change soon. As we have capacity I would urge your Cubs to reach out to their friends who may want to join our group. They won't be disappointed.

I am very pleased at the number of Silver Chief Scout awards that we are going to be giving out by the end of the school year. Peter, Sam and I pride ourselves on the fact you have to earn every badge so all parents can be very proud of their Cubs as should the Cubs themselves!

Dan Spiers, Cub Scout Leader

6. Scout section report

The scout section is doing very well as we have about 20 scouts attending meetings on a regular basis.

We have five leaders who volunteer and give up their time. This sounds good, but one is unable to attend most meetings, one can attend less than half the meetings and another is Charles the GSL. We also have nobody who is willing to be the main Scout Leader.

What have we been up to this year?

All the scout leaders believe that outdoor skills and activities are a core part of what makes scouting special. On our recent Whit Camp it was a pleasure to see the scouts using knives, saws and occasionally axes to get jobs done and to create things. One of the main items they enjoy making is a wooden woggle. This camp also provided us with an unusual activity – repairing a bridge – as well as the more usual activities of cooking on a wood fire and collecting wood and cutting the wood to size that this requires. There were plenty of games, wide games and racing the chariots they made themselves as a pioneering challenge.

We have been working on a few more badges. The local St John's group ran two evenings which resulted in all those that attended earning the Emergency Aid Stage 3. Our astronomy badge was less successful. Only one scout that attended the evening has made the telescope (from a kit we sold on the evening) to earn the badge. The evening was run by Maidenhead Astronomy society and was very successful with clear skies – almost as if we'd planned it!

We have a wide game, a hike and a night out most terms and we try to support all the district events. We were the only troop at the last District Soap box derby, other than the hosts, who entered teams.

On a recent hike we walked from Eton Wick to Braywick Car park. It was a very dark night, but the weather was perfect and we had a great time. We hardly saw anyone for the entire hike neither on foot or in cars.

Ian Kinns, Assistant Scout Leader

13th Maidenhead (Methodist) Scout Group
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held Sunday 10th June 2018
at Phasels Wood Campsite, Hemel Hempsted

Welcome Ian Davies, as Chairman, welcomed all those present who had supported the Group by joining in the activities of the Family Camp. He briefly outlined the Agenda procedure and highlighted some of the issues that would be dealt with – stressing importance anticipated from those present in commenting where necessary and showing support to the major issues detailed later in the Meeting.

Present Ian Davies (Chairman) Don Stimson (Secretary)
John Simpson (Treasurer) Matthew Edwards (Beaver Leader)
Alex Hughes (Cub-Scouts) and Ian Stimson (Asst Scout Leaders)
Together with District Scout Commissioner Graham “Fox” Parkins and approx. 25 Parents with children as members of the Group, who were in attendance at the Family Camp

1. Apologies were received from Mike Fursedon, Dave Kinna, Dan Spiers as well as Charles Berger (SGL) due to ill health whilst at the Camp

2. Agenda A booklet had been circulated immediately prior to the Meeting setting out the Agenda together the Treasurer’s Report. Reports of the Group Scout Leader and Chairman, as well as those of the Individual Group Sections and also the Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting.

3. Minutes of the A.G.M. held on 19th June 2017 as printed were approved without the need to change and duly signed by the Chairman as a true copy.

Mention was made of Marc Bediat being selected by the County to attend the 2019 Scout Jamboree in West Virginia and some of the Fundraising Events that would be held to support his involvement. An overall Fund would be created to not only record funds for the Jamboree but also to include other monies that could possibly assist future members of the Group should they be selected.

Mention was made of a Fund Raising Event to be held on Friday 7th Sept 2018 at St Piran’s School 6-8.p.m. – possible Barbecue and Rounders Match.

4. The Group Scout Leader’s Review

Graham Parkin highlighted some of the points recorded in the written report given by Charles Berger re-iterated points mentioned in the written Report and expressed thanks to Leaders of the Sections, who had successfully managed to continue working with the boys throughout what had been a difficult year.

a. Congratulation to Marc Bediat in being selected for the 2019 Jamboree

- b. The Cub-Scout Section for taking part in the District Cooking Competition
by winning 1st place and 3rd third place
- c. The forthcoming loss of Alex Hughes as Leader having completed 3 or more years with the Section and given excellent service.

Scout Shop: Following closure of the shop earlier this year, new volunteer Managers had been found and as at 6th September 2018 the shop would reopen. Arrangements were in the hands of the District Treasurer Alan Abrahamson (an ex-member of our own Executive Committee) to organise the manner in which profit funds would be allocated to the participating Groups

5. The Group Treasurer's Overview of the Accounts for the Financial year ending 31st March 2018 - covered by John Simpson

(a) As a Charity the Accounts had been prepared and duly audited professionally by Barry Hill

It was stated in the Report that a Balance of £4058 would be carried forward for the current year (slightly more than 2016-17 £2,962). John explained that there had been little or no expenditure for major items of equipment and as far as he was concerned the funds were in a healthy condition. His Report was accepted Approved by Edward Wynne-Evans- seconded by Becky Shaw.

(b) The Jamboree Fund would be operated within the Accounts and "Ring Fenced". Any monies raised would be credited to the Jamboree Fund for use by any member, now or in the future, nominated to attend a Jamboree. An explanation was given as to how the HMRC revised Gift Aid facilities would be dealt with regards to donations of under £20

(c) Approval of Donation to the Church.

In view of increasing costs involved in providing the Group with the facilities of Equipment Storage and use of rooms during the year John recommended that the annual donation to the Church be increased from the present sum of £400 to £500. Whilst not fully paying what may be considered as a "commercial rate" the recommended figure was accepted.

Approved Gwyneth Edwards Seconded Edward Wynne-Evans

(d) Approval of Annual Subscription for 2019/20

John recommended that there was a need to increase the Annual Subscription rate for the scouting year 2019-2020 i.e. commencing 1st April 2019.

Capitation, based upon membership on 2nd January 2019 would no doubt be increased and take approx. 50% of the monies received. It was also likely that new items of equipment would be purchased.

Recommended be increased from £90/£80/£75 for 1st/2nd/subsequent children) to £105/£100/£90.

Approved Ian Elam, seconded Alex Hughes

(e) Appoint the Auditor/Independent Examiner

The Accounts had been audited since 2001 by Barry R.T. Hill F.C.C.A and John wished this arrangement to continue. On a show of hands the Members agreed.

6. Appointments

- a) The G.S.L. through communicated with Graham Parkin nominated **Ian Davies** as **Chairman** of the Group
- b) Election of Group **Secretary** Don Stimson
Proposed Julia Stimson Seconded Edward Wynne-Evans
- c) Election of Group **Treasurer** John Simpson
Proposed Ian Elam Seconded Alex Hughes

7. Group Scout Council

Noted that ALL parents are members of Group Scout Council. 20% of those possibly attending the General Meeting be deemed to be a sufficient Quorum by which the Council could conduct appropriate business.

It was noted that there were NO nominations made by the G.S.L of persons wishing to join the Group Executive Committee.

8. Elections to the Executive Committee

a) Ordinary Executive Members

Including the present Officers as elected together with Ian Stimson as Quartermaster the Meeting accepted that Mike Fursedon, Catherine Watson and David Kinna be appointed.

On a show of hands the Meeting agreed.

Power to Co-opt for further members

b) Section Specific Representatives: Events Co-ordinator ; Beavers interests and Scout Rep

No names given to fill the posts but the Chairman offered the opportunity to anyone present to speak with him at a later date.

c) To confirm if the Beaver, Cub and Scout Leaders wished to act as Members of the Group Scout Executive

Beavers: Becky Shaw
Cub-Scouts: Dan Spiers
Scouts: Ian Stimson

9. Presentation of Awards

The Stevens' Trophy

After considerable discussion members of the Executive Committee had agreed that the award should be presented jointly to Joe and Charlie Sampson. The two boys in addition to supporting the group in many ways had raised monies for Charity. In their absence the Meeting was advised that the Trophy would be presented to the boys in the immediate future

On a final Note: Graham Parkins expressed his appreciation to the work undertaken by Charles Berger in the running of the Group, the success of Marc Bediat in attending the 2019 Jamboree which in itself would be a life charging experience and the efforts to be made by the Group in raising £2,200 or more to assist with the costs of attending the Jamboree.

Marc Bediat spoke for a few moments explaining how the selection had been arranged and the events in which he had been involved. He briefly gave some ideas he had for raising monies and introduced a "Designed Woggle" that he was offering for sale.

The Chairman formally closed the Meeting at approx. 1.45 p.m.