

**13<sup>th</sup> Maidenhead (Methodist)  
Scout Group  
Annual General Meeting**

5<sup>th</sup> October 2020 @ 8.00p.m.  
Held virtually via videoconference

## AGENDA

1. Welcome
2. Apologies
3. To approve the Minutes of the AGM held on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2019 and deal with any matters arising
4. The Group Scout Leader's review of Scouting of 13<sup>th</sup> Maidenhead
5. The Group Treasurer's overview of the Accounts for the financial Year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020
  - 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 2021/22
  - 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 UN-AUDITED Accounts 2019-20 13th Maidenhead (Methodist) Scout Group.**

The current situation due to COVID 19 makes it impossible for me to undertake a meaningful audit. Our auditor has retired and prior to retirement he was under shielding.

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 Events fund and for Action 4 kids. The rounders evening and the cardboard city project were especially successful.

Once again our income exceeds our expenditure by a small amount. The most notable expenditure item was Capitation which again equates to more than 50% of our subscription income.

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. There are still a small number of parents not in our gift aid programme.

The group carried forward to 2020-21 the sum of £5,386 (2018-19 £5,086). Our financial position is in line with I would expect at the year end. However, a note of caution as I write this in early April. The future is far from clear, Scouting is currently in lock-down with the date when normal service is resumed is not yet known.

Carried forward from 2018-19	£ 5,086
Income 2019-20	£12,706
Expenditure 2019-20	£12,406
<b>Carried forward to 2020-21</b>	<b>£ 5,386</b>

J. L. Simpson. OBE  
B. A. (Hons) C. Dip. A. F.  
Treasurer.  
03/April/2020

P S. Since writing the above COVID 19 has had a major effect on almost everything and clearly there is an impact on the current scouting year. Within the year reported above, 2019-2020, the only impact concerned eleven parents

who had made part payments for the WINGS adventure. I have retained this money which will be used against participation in WINGS 2021 or refunded as required.

	2019-20	INCOME	2018-19
GROUP FUND RAISING	2736		964
GIFT AID	1,160		997
SUBSCRIPTIONS	4,685		4,431
ACTIVITIES	716		1,242
CAMPS	2,311		2,860
PREPAID SUBS.	0		730
WINGS	1,100		0
JAMBOREE FUND	0		1,024
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>12,708</u></b>		<b><u>12,248</u></b>
	2019-20	EXPENDITURE	2018-19
CAPITATION	2,666		2,958
ACTIVITIES	1,959		2,305
SUBS. REFUND	440		37
INSURANCE	228		350
GROUP EXPENSES	398		455
CAMPS	2,395		2,269
JAMBOREE	0		1,354
BADGES/UNIFORMS	633		396
DONATIONS	520		500
FUNDS RAISED FOR CHARITIES	941		446
WINGS	1,890		150
CAPITAL GOODS	338		0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>12,408</u></b>		<b><u>11,220</u></b>
C/F from 2018-19		<b>5,086</b>	
plus income 2019-20		<b>12,708</b>	
less expenditure 2019-20		<b><u>-12,408</u></b>	
C/F to 2020-21		<b>5,386</b>	

## **2. Group Scout Leader's Report**

This has most definitely been a year of two very contrasting halves.

Firstly, 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 slightly lower than last year. At the time of writing we have just 3 Beavers, although there are several ready to start on the waiting list. This number has dropped significantly as many swam up to Cubs at the same time. If you have friends who have children of Beaver age who would like to try out Scouting, please do recommend us to them. Cubs and Scouts numbers are healthy with 20 Cubs and 24 Scouts.

The Beaver section has again run smoothly this year, despite seeing some changes. In July 2019 we bade farewell to Becky Shaw as she moved to another part of the country, but Elspeth Kinns and Alison Isherwood joined the team in May and September respectively. They were joined in January this year by Neil Isherwood. Together, with Young Leaders Marc Bediat and Owain Edwards, they run a tight ship.

Cubs started well with familiar activities such as Harvest festival, campfire and the Christmas Panto. The Cubs also paid a visit to Clara Court Care home in December where they read to and played games with residents. The Cubs behaved immaculately and the residents and staff really enjoy their company. After the Christmas holiday the Cubs took part in a debating evening and an environmental project that looked at recycling and waste. When COVID 19 struck and lockdown started many Cubs continued to engage with Scouting and Dan was sent evidence of badge completion. He received many pictures from Cubs marking VE Day which was lovely to see. The leaders also managed to ensure two Cubs were awarded their Silver Chief Scout awards before they moved on.

The section numbers have fluctuated over the year but, having started at a low base, now stand at a healthy 20, with a large number of Beavers swimming up to join the section this term. Dan Spiers, Peter Taylor and Sam Kinns make a very strong leadership team in Cubs and I am sure the section will continue to thrive under their leadership.

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. Sadly, Ian Kinns has decided that he wishes to step down from his role now, so I would like to thank him for his immense contribution over the past 17 years. The section numbers remained high, with around 20 Scouts regularly attending meetings.

Everything changed in early March as the COVID-19 pandemic swept through the country and, as we entered the national lockdown, the Scout Association halted all face to face Scouting. This meant we had to try to find new ways to engage with our young people at a trying time for everyone. We took a low-key approach to this as we felt that parents were confronted with significant new challenges in combining working from home with home schooling and did not want to place additional burdens on them as well. However, as reported above, there was good engagement during this time so thank you to all those who joined in. The pandemic lockdown had a significant impact as we had to cancel our family camp, planned for mid-June (now rescheduled for 19th & 20th June 2021), and the Windsor International Guides and Scouts Camp (WINGS) was postponed, along with numerous other events.

During the lockdown period Scouts HQ drew up a plan for the resumption of face to face Scouting, with 4 stages (Red, Amber, Yellow & Green). This started in early September with groups of up to 15, including leaders. Currently the readiness status is Amber and meetings are permitted both indoors and outdoors with up to 15 young people and 5 leaders. Social distancing must be observed at all times.

Our group is unique in Maidenhead District as we do not own our own Scout Hut. This has had some ramifications for us during the recent period as the group missed out on the Business rates relief payment of £10,000. However, Maidenhead District Scout Council has recognised our plight and has decided to donate the profits from the Scout Shop for the past two years to our group, which is worth around £2,000.00. We thank them and all the other local groups for their generosity. Looking to the future, High St Methodist Church remains closed until at least the end of October and possibly later, although we await the result of a Church Council meeting to discuss that. This means we cannot use it for meetings, or even to get access to our kit and other supplies and it seems unlikely there will be a Christmas Fair this year. For now section meetings will be outdoors or online, until half term. We are making plans for alternative venues for meetings after half term. Some other groups' huts are free on the nights of our section meetings so I am hopeful that we will be able to

reach agreements with those groups to use their venues for our section meetings. More news to follow about this when it is available.

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, or email Charles at [charles@thebergers.org.uk](mailto:charles@thebergers.org.uk).

**Charles Berger, Group Scout Leader**

### **3. Chairman's Report**

As I write this report, we are all living through perhaps the most unusual and challenging time of our lives, as a result of the Coronavirus. It is a real shame that we weren't able to hold the group's AGM at the same time as our bi-annual family camp as we had anticipated but I would like to make clear that this report covers the year from April 2019 to March 2020, so there was only minimal impact on the group during this period. Unfortunately, since then circumstances have been much more challenging and the outlook remains uncertain, but for this report we are focused on the year past.

Elsewhere in this booklet you will find reports on the highlights of the past year for the different sections in our group. One of the key roles of the Executive Committee is to ensure the financial viability of the group. As you will see from the report of our Treasurer, John Simpson, our current financial standing is relatively healthy and, as a result, we are not proposing any changes for subs next year.

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. 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

On a personal note, I have decided to stand down as Group Chairman at this year's AGM. I have been in the role for three years and with my children no longer participating in Scouting, I feel it is the right time to make a change. I have thoroughly enjoyed helping the group both as Chairman and before that as a member of the Executive Committee. If you believe that your children benefit from participating in Scouting, I would urge you to consider if there is some way in which you can support the group. There is a range of different roles that are needed and most do not require specific expertise or training. Your enthusiasm, a little bit of time and a willingness to make a difference would be hugely appreciated!

Thank you for your support of Maidenhead 13th in 2019/20.

**Ian Davies, Group Chairman**

**13th Maidenhead (Methodist) Scout Group**  
**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held Saturday 15th June 2019**  
**at Wokingham Waterside Centre, Reading**

**Welcome**

Ian Davies, as Chairman, welcomed all those present and described the outline of the meeting and the participation required by the parents in attending. Ian stressed the important contribution of the leaders and assistant leaders and asked all the parents to recognise their efforts with a vote of thanks. Ian went onto provide an update on the fundraising efforts of the group and urged parents to get in contact with him or the other members of the Executive Committee with their suggestions on the type of events they would like to see following the disappointment of having to cancel the Quirky Quiz. The Chairman also passed on his thanks to Lesley Haldane, who stood down during the year as membership secretary and to David Kinna who had decided to step down after several years of serving on the Executive Committee.

**Present**

Ian Davies, Chairman  
Charles Berger, Group Scout Leader,  
Matthew Edwards, Beaver Section Leader  
Raymond Lee, Beaver Parent Representative  
Charlotte Watson, Scout Parent Representative

Together with approx. 27 Parents with children as members of the Group, who were in attendance at the Family Fun Day. Ian confirmed that the date of the BBQ and Rounders Game would be Sept 13<sup>th</sup> and asked parents to save the date.

1. **Apologies** were received from John Simpson, Don Stimson, Dave Kinna, Dan Spiers, Ian Stimson and Becky Shaw
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 10th June 2018** as printed were approved with one minor change being required to a name which had been incorrectly recorded. The Chairman signed a revised copy of the minutes after the meeting took place.

#### **4. The Group Scout Leader's Review**

Charles Berger started his review by thanking all of the parents and volunteers for giving up their time to help run the Group, whether as leaders, members of the Executive Committee or in some other capacity. Charles paid tribute to the late Michael (Mick) Fursedon who sadly passed away earlier in the year. Mick had been a long term supporter of the group, most recently as a member of the Executive Committee and before that as a Leader. Charles reported that Mick's funeral had been a celebration of his life and had been attended by several members of the committee to show their respects.

Charles directed everyone to his written report for more information on the activities of the group over the course of the year.

Finally, Charles spoke about the rewarding nature of volunteering and encouraged all parents to consider helping out at four meetings as a trial, which would give them a great insight into how they could support the group.

#### **5. The Group Treasurer's Overview of the Accounts for the Financial year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019 - covered by Raymond Lee**

Ray Lee presented the Treasurer's report in the absence of John Simpson, who was unable to attend.

Ray highlighted the following points:

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

The report stated that a Balance of £5,086 would be carried forward for the current year (more than the previous year's figure of £4,058). Ray explained that this was a result of increased expenditure being more than offset by increased income with much of the variation to be explained by differences in timing for certain events and the pre-payment of more subs this year.

Ray took the opportunity to highlight the important contribution of Gift Aid as a form of income for the group (at nearly £1000 in 2018-19) and asked all parents to help the Group claim Gift Aid by completing the appropriate paperwork.

There was a question about the success of the Jamboree fund and whether there was an intention to continue to operate the Jamboree fund on an

ongoing basis. The Chairman explained that overall the fundraising for the Jamboree fund had fallen a little short of plan, mainly as a result of the cancellation of the Quiz evening planned for April. However, the shortfall in funding had been quite small as a result of fundraising by the District, which had exceeded expectations and the Committee had agreed to bridge the remaining gap by diverting a small amount from the Group account. On an ongoing basis the committee had agreed that it would be sensible to maintain the Jamboree fund and to dedicate a certain proportion of the group's fundraising efforts to the fund so that it would not start from zero for any future efforts.

The Treasurer's report was accepted.

Approved by Edward Wynne-Evans, seconded by Ger Taylor.

b) Approval of Donation to the Church.

Ray and the Chairman recommended that the annual donation to the Church remain unchanged at £500 following the increase to that amount approved at the AGM in 2018.

Approved by Stuart MacDowell, seconded by Mai Elam.

c) Approval of Annual Subscription for 2020/21

On behalf of the Executive Committee, Ray proposed that, following the increase agreed last year to annual subs, the amount for 2020/21 should remain unchanged at £105/£100/£90 for 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup>/subsequent children. Edward Wynne-Evans asked if the committee felt that the Group's obligations could continue to be funded without an increase. The Chairman replied that the committee believed that no increase was required.

Approved by Gianna Monastero, seconded by Edward Wynne-Evans

d) Appoint the Auditor/Independent Examiner

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

## 6. Appointments

a) The G.S.L. nominated **Ian Davies** as **Chairman** of the Group

- b) Election of Group **Secretary: Don Stimson**  
Proposed by Gwynneth Edwards, seconded by Doris Johnston
- c) Election of Group **Treasurer: John Simpson**  
Proposed by Stuart MacDowell, seconded by Andreas Knight

## **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 and be appointed.

On a show of hands the Meeting agreed.

Power to Co-opt for further members

### **b) Section Specific Representatives: Beavers, Cubs and Scouts Parents Representatives**

The Chairman confirmed that Charlotte Watson was prepared to continue to act as Scouts parent representative and Raymond Lee as Beaver parent representative, which were confirmed by a show of hands.

There was no nomination for Cubs parent representative

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

Beavers: Matthew Edwards declined to act as a member of the Executive Committee

Cub-Scouts: Dan Spiers

Scouts: Ian Stimson

## **9. Presentation of Awards**

### **The Stevens' Trophy**

On the recommendation of the Beaver Section Leader and the Group Scout Leader, the Executive Committee agree that the Stevens Trophy should be

awarded to Leo Lee. The trophy was presented by the Group Scout Leader who commended Leo on an excellent year in Beavers.

#### **10. Close of Meeting:**

No other business was raised.

The Chairman encouraged everyone to take part in the tombola and silent auction that was taking place and then formally closed the meeting at approximately 1.30pm .