

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

10th September 2021 @ 7.30p.m.
Held at Holyport CC, Holyport

AGENDA

1. Welcome
2. Apologies
3. To approve the Minutes of the AGM held on 7th October 2020 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 2021
 - 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 2022/23
 - 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. Chairman's Report

As I write this report, we are all gradually moving back to some form of normality. To be clear, this report covers the period of April 2020 to March 2021. During the start of this period, the impact of the Coronavirus was really beginning to grip all our lives in unprecedented ways. Throughout which, the outlook has changed many times significantly affecting how we adapt and how we were able to provide Scouting activities for your children. Now that we are all moving to the "new normal", it is with great pleasure and relief that we can hold a face-to-face AGM once more.

In the other parts of this booklet, you will find reports from the different sections of our group on the highlights of the past year. You will see whilst we were not able to hold face-to-face activities, we continued to engage your children in practical and fun ways via the infamous Zoom calls. One of the key roles of the Executive Committee is to ensure the financial viability of the group. As you will find from the report of our treasurer, John Simpson, whilst our usual fundraising activities could not take place, our current financial position remains relatively healthy.

On behalf of the Group Executive Committee, I would like to express our gratitude and, I am sure, yours to our dedicated group of leaders, assistants and other adult volunteers. They have continued to provide rich and rewarding experiences for our children and young adults. Especially during the last year, adapting to the uncertainty, being creative in conducting online activities and adhering to all safety procedures upon the resumption of face-to-face meetings. None of which would have been possible without their dedication and commitment to 13th Maidenhead.

Since September last year, I have had the privilege to hold the position of Chairman of the Group. It has been a fulfilling time working alongside all the other volunteers in creating a special Scouting experience at 13th Maidenhead. I trust you and your children find the range of activities fun, educational and rewarding and I ask for your kind support for the group. There is a range of roles available, most of which does not request specific training. Your enthusiasm, a little bit of time and a willingness to make a difference would be hugely welcomed.

To conclude, we have many exciting activities to look ahead to, including the popular Family Campfire as well as the Christmas Fair in November. On behalf of the Executive Committee, leaders, assistants and other adult volunteers, we look forward to seeing you soon.

Thank you for your continued support of Maidenhead 13th in 2020/21.

Raymond Lee, Group Chairman.

2. Group Scout Leader's Report

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 12 Beavers, which is a significant increase on this time last year. In Cubs and Scouts numbers have dipped slightly due to attrition caused by the various Covid 19 lockdowns and the resulting lack of face-to-face Scouting. Currently we have 18 Cubs and 13 Scouts.

Over the course of this year we have moved in and out of Covid lockdowns which disrupted normal Scouting activities, including the Family Camp planned for mid-June (this event will now take place in 2022). In the spring we were allowed to resume face-to-face meetings but our usual venue of High St Methodist Church was still closed and therefore not available to us to use. However, we were able to come to arrangements with other groups in the district to share the use of their facilities and we are most grateful to the following groups for their support: 19th Maidenhead Scouts for allowing Beavers to use their hut, Bray & Holyport Scouts for allowing Cubs to use their hut. For Scouts we joined forces with the 18th Maidenhead Scout troop, based at Desborough Academy, to have joint meetings using their hut.

As we start the Autumn term we are expecting to be meeting at High St Methodist Church again but the details are yet to be finalised. Your section leaders will keep you updated about this. I am also pleased to report that the "Readiness Level" for Scouting in England has now moved to Green which means that it is much easier to plan and operate residential activities such as overnight camps.

The Covid-19 pandemic has had a significant impact, amongst other things, on the financial situation at High St Methodist Church. In recent discussions between the church and the Uniformed Organisations (our Scout Group and Brownies and Guides) the church has reiterated its wish to continue hosting our groups and generally supporting us and together we see this as a good opportunity to reboot a relationship which has somewhat stagnated in recent years. Fund raising is going to be a key part of this revitalized relationship, starting with the Christmas Fair in November, but the main event in 2022 will be a Gang Show to be held on Friday 20th and Saturday 21st May. This will involve people from the church, Scout Group, Brownies and Guides and there will be opportunities for people to perform in the production as well as help out backstage and front of house. More details will follow as plans are fleshed out but we want to raise awareness of this initiative within the group in advance.

In 2020 Maidenhead District Scouts very kindly agreed to donate the profits from the Scout Shop to our group as, unlike all the other local groups, we were not eligible for any of the Covid 19 related funding, such as Business Rates Relief, as we do not own our own hut. I am grateful that they have decided to do the same for the current year as well although the amount is somewhat lower than last year's due to the shop being closed due to lockdown. Nevertheless, we are very grateful for the continued support and generosity of the District Executive Committee and Commissioner.

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 helps to organise 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.

Charles Berger, Group Scout Leader

Alison Isherwood writes for Beavers:

The last year has been an eventful year with many adaptations to how the Beavers programme was delivered. Matthew and Alison provided weekly Zoom sessions, which we were pleased to see were attended by a regular contingent, despite the challenges we all faced by living our lives over Zoom.

The Beavers continued to work towards their Activity Badges, and we were delighted that four Beavers earned their World Challenge Badge. To mix up the online sessions, we managed to get a range of experts to join us including the RNLI, a dentist, and a shark expert from Diego/ Cape Town! We also did a range of crafting with surprising success, ranging from moon phase sliders, lumineers, science experiments, games, and food tasting.

Once we returned to face-to-face Scouting, the 19th Group were very kind in letting us use their hut. The outside area with campfire facilities allowed us to host two campfire sessions where all Beavers became marshmallow toasting champions! The Beavers did a lot of outside activities including some pioneering crafting where they made rafts from sticks and tested their load bearing capacity. One of the most popular sessions proved to be the science sessions - we will have to do some more over the coming year.

We managed two excursions: completing a town trail and we went pond dipping.

We were very pleased to recruit Beavers over the year, and welcomed five new Beavers over the summer term. We aim to continue this expansion so if you know any 6-8 year olds that might be interested please let them know about our colony!

This term we will continue to work towards the challenge badges as well as select activity badges. Fun excursions to expert include a fire station visit and bat walk.

Dan Spiers writes for Cubs:

I have sat here for quite a while now trying to think about what to write about the 2020/21 Scouting year. I think the best way to sum it up is that we all did our best to make the best of it! We had to deal with complete lockdowns, splitting the pack up to deliver face-to-face scouting and then a mad sprint to the end of the year where we were able to come together as a pack. I think the Cubs responded really well by taking part in Zoom calls, working on badges in their own time and understanding about the need to divide attendance at weekly meetings. I think they've all done superbly well and deserve a lot of credit.

All my favourite bits happened outside and included orienteering in Ockwells, hiking (especially along the Thames) and fire lighting/marshmallow cooking at Dorneywood. Despite the disappointment of not doing a camp I really enjoyed the activity day in July and I know the Cubs did too. My other favourite bit was awarding Cayde and Liam their Silver Chief Scout awards although it was sad to see them leave the pack. I am pleased that due to the good organisational work of Peter and Sam and the enthusiasm of the Cubs many more Silver awards will be handed out before the end of the Autumn term.

Finally, a big thank you to all the parents for ensuring that the Cubs turned up in the right place with the right kit, assisted with preparing for badge nights and those who helped out when Peter, Sam and I needed a bit of extra help. Looking forward to an adventure packed 2021/22!

Sam Kinns writes for Scouts:

Scouts have had another different year with lockdowns continuing and many activities that help make Scouting unique, like Whit Camp, not being allowed to happen. We've had the added change of merging with 18th Scouts and suddenly have a large number of new Scouts and Leaders to meet.

I'd like to start by thanking all the Scouts, leaders and parents for sticking with us in what has been a sometimes difficult year, and I hope they enjoyed what I'm sure has been a Scout year missing a lot of what brings you to Scouting in the first place.

We currently have thirteen Scouts, with six additional Scouts joining us regularly from 18th Maidenhead. We have three leaders and one young leader with one new section assistant hoping to start soon.

We've done a few things this year: Alex Hughes kindly ran an archery session for us, which the Scouts really enjoyed, we ran our traditional messy games with some COVID changes, which meant the usual controlled chaos didn't happen, but the Scouts still seemed to have a great time.

We spent the summer term trying to do as many activities we'd do at Whit camp as possible without the camping. We did fire lighting, put up a massive tent, wide games, knots, knife and axe and even managed a fish and chip walk.

Along with meeting face-to-face when we could, we were forced to return to Zoom meetings during the lockdowns. We tried very hard to keep the Zoom meetings varied and engaging. We had mixed success with activities like cooking popcorn with a candle leading to mainly burnt kernels and an online knot evening showing how essential being in 3D can be to learning. We had more triumphant evenings running activities that we can only do online. An Among Us evening was a joy even just for the leaders to watch and online escape rooms that entertained at least most of the Scouts.

Here's hoping that the upcoming program we have planned with more outdoors activities (including camping!) is as much fun as this year (at least most of the time), and we look forward to returning to a more normal Scouting program from now on.

3. Treasurer's Report of the UN-AUDITED Accounts 2020-21 13th Maidenhead (Methodist) Scout Group.

The situation due to COVID 19, which has now lasted for 12 months, makes it impossible for me to undertake a meaningful audit. Our auditor has retired and prior to retirement he was under shielding. COVID 19 has also impinged on both our income and expenditure but I believe we enter 2021-22 adequately funded in the short term.

A summary of income and expenditure for the year is attached. Our income for the year is still larger than our expenditure. Income from annual subscriptions is much lower than previous years, the Executive Committee having requested a 50% payment only in this financial year. A donation from District was very welcome, made as we do not own our own premises and hence we did not benefit from funding from UK Central government, whereas all other groups did.

Both our major annual fund raising events, Rounder's and the Church Christmas Fair were cancelled. Expenditure for the year was much lower. The most notable expenditure item was Capitation which again equates to well over 50% of our subscription income. As activities were curtailed for parts of the year our total expenditure is £7,700 lower than last year.

The financial viability of the group is dependent upon fund raising events, tax reclaimed from the Inland Revenue and annual subscriptions. Our income from Gift Aid next year, which is based on subscriptions this year, will be 50% lower.

This year our income is mainly made up from our previous years carry forward sum, a donation from District, the prior year Gift Aid claim and the balance of the refund from WINGS after I had repaid the parents.

We enter what I hope will be an active and satisfying year for our girls and boys. Financially we are carrying forward £8015. This will enable us to invest in some capital equipment, which is needed and hopefully, enable us to subsidise activities as we usually do.

J. L. Simpson. OBE
B. A. (Hons) C. Dip. A. F.
Treasurer.
06/April/2021

	2020-21	INCOME	2019-20
GROUP FUND RAISING/DONATION RECEIVED	1,710		2,736
GIFT AID	901		1,160
SUBSCRIPTIONS	3,104		4,685
ACTIVITIES	42		716
CAMPS	0		2,311
WINGS	1,520		1,100
TOTAL	<u>7,277</u>		<u>12,708</u>
	2020-2021	EXPENDITURE	2019-20
CAPITATION	2,323		2,666
ACTIVITIES	63		1,959
SUBS. REFUND	385		440
INSURANCE	238		228
GROUP EXPENSES	0		398
CAMPS	0		2,395
CAMPS REFUND	315		0
BADGES/UNIFORMS	0		633
DONATIONS	500		520
FUNDS RAISED FOR CHARITIES	0		941
WINGS COSTS AND REFUNDS	890		1,890
CAPITAL GOODS	0		338
TOTAL	<u>4,714.00</u>		<u>12,408</u>

C/F from 2019-20	5387		
plus income 2020-21 +write	7342		
back of £65			
less expenditure 2020-21	-4714		
C/F to 2021-22	<u>8015</u>		

13th MAIDENHEAD (Methodist) SCOUT GROUP
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held Monday 5th October 2020
by ZOOM commencing at 8.00.p.m.

Welcome Ian Davies, as Chairman, welcomed all those present who had supported the Group. He briefly outlined the Agenda procedure and highlighted some of the issues that would be dealt with – stressing importance of Voting when the need arose and showing support to the major issues detailed later in the Meeting.

Introduction ; Charles Berger (as Group Scout Leader)

Dan Spiers was thanked for continuing with Cub Meetings during the lockdown period of COVID 19- whilst respecting social distancing. 15 boys with at least 5 Leaders being present.

Cub Meetings would still be held outside until prevented from so doing by bad weather.

Talks were being held with Church representatives but until permission was granted for indoor meetings to be held, present arrangements would stand. Risk Assessments would need to be undertaken.

Options were being pursued with a possibility of using premises of 19th Maidenhead Scout Group at their Holmanleaze premises (SL6 8AW)

THE MEETING

Present Ian Davies (Chairman) Don Stimson (Secretary)
John Simpson (Treasurer) Dan Spears (Cubs)
Ian Stimson (Asst Scout Leaders) and Raymond Lee
Together with District Scout Commissioner Karen Hope
and approx 15-20 Parents

1. Apologies were received from Alex Hughes (Beavers)

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

3. Minutes of the A.G.M. held on 15th June 2019 as printed were approved and accepted without the need to change. Such were retained as true record waiting to be signed by the Chairman after lockdown had been lifted.

4. The Group Scout Leader's Review

Charles was thanked by all concerned. He 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 prior to the COVID 19 Lockdown period.

Mention was made of the Executive Meeting and a shortfall of persons willing to serve the Group. Urgent request for Volunteers generally to assist at Section Meetings.

5. The Group Treasurer's Overview of the Accounts for the Financial year ending 31st March 2019 - covered by John Simpson

(a) **Accounts** As a Charity the Accounts had been prepared but because of COVID 19 lockdown needed to be audited professionally.

Barry Hill had been unable to assist and had since retired so a change was needed.

It was stated in the Report that a Balance of £5,387 would be carried forward for the current year. This being sufficient to cover any foreseeable expenses for the current period of 2020. 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 without Questions.

(b) **DONATION** Approval of Donation to the Church.

John recommended that the annual donation to the Church remain at the existing £500. The recommend figure was accepted.

(c) **ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION** for 2021/22

John recommended that there was no need to increase the Annual Subscription rate for the Scouting year 2021/22 i.e. commencing 1st April 2021. This would remain at £105/£100/£90 for the 1st/2nd/and subsequent children. Agreed by show of hands.

(d) **AUDITOR** Appoint the Auditor/Independent Examiner

As mentioned previously the Accounts had not been audited by Barry R.T.Hill F.C.C.A and John was given authority to make enquiry to find an alternative suitably qualified person to continue. On a show of hands the Members agreed.

6. Appointments

(a) Ian Davies having been in the Role for three years had decided to stand down as Group Chairman. He was duly thanked for his support to the Group over that period.

The G.S.L. propose that **Raymond Lee** be nominated to the Role of **Group Chairman** . Seconded by John Simpson.

Raymond Lee accepted the position and undertook to carry out the remainder of the Agenda

(b) Election of Group **Secretary** Don Stimson
Proposed Charles Berger Seconded Ian Stimson

- (c) Election of **Group Treasurer** John Simpson
Proposed Ian Stimson Seconded Charles Berger

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

It was recorded that Charlotte Watson no longer wished to serve on the Committee. Thanks were expressed for her past services.

Including the present Officers as elected together with Ian Stimson as Quartermaster, the Meeting accepted that those persons be appointed

The Meeting agreed.

Power to Co-opt for further members

(b) Parent Section Representatives/ Co-ordinator ;

Beavers interests and Scout Rep - no names given to fill the posts. Charles briefly explained the Role, emphasising the need to cross link ideas with the parents as well as to the Executive Committee. An opportunity was offered to anyone present to speak with him at a later date.

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

Beavers (undecided) Cub-Scouts Dan Spiers Scouts Ian Stimson

9. Presentation of Awards

A. The Stevens' Trophy After considerable discussion, the Section Leaders members had agreed that the Award should be presented to Carys Edwards. She had shown her willingness to improve standards within the Cub Section- gaining the Silver Scout Award and it was hoped she would continue when moving up to the Scout Section.

In her absence the Meeting was advised that the Trophy would be presented to her in the immediate future.

10. Close of Meeting

Rob Harris, being in attendance, expressed his thanks to all the members of the Group for services rendered during the past year.

On a final Note; Karen Hope, offering her thanks for being invited to share in the Annual Meeting (her first of a series), emphasised the need to find volunteers to fulfil duties within the Group. The District were likewise experiencing similar difficulties. To volunteer to assist did not necessary mean that it was a requirement to wear the Scout Uniform.

The Chairman formally closed the Meeting at approx. 8.45 p.m.