

District AGM started at 2.15pm

Stella Introduced the meeting – question over if we were quorum but all agreed ok to continue

Apologies

Jo Alflatt
Jill Goodlal
Louise Clamop
Malcom Cardill
The Austens
Alan Leader
Dave Moore
Sue Harris
1st Newhall

In attendance:

Acting District Chair (Jacqui Storer)
District Lead Volunteer (Stella Greenwood)
District Treasurer (Robert Anderson)
Richard Trevena
Dave Calvert
Amy Booth
Lance Booth
Lucy Mansfield
Tom Petcher-Ellison
Dan Ramsden
Gerry Griffin

Chairs Welcome Speech (paraphrased)

Thank you for turning out on this glorious day.
Thank you for your time and work... Scouting wouldn't exist without you.
Your commitment is evident by you being here today

Our county relies heavily on volunteers to keep it going.

The vast majority of children start in scouting, developing character, skills and fosters a wide understanding of life of the differences they can make.

The benefits of scouting have been articulated over the decades:
Help everyone participate to have fun
Learn new skills
Explore new opportunities

With your encouragement young people have satisfaction and pride whilst achieving their badges.

You are part of something that can revolutionise those young people.

Finished with a thank you for all of what we do, especially with some of the changes that aren't going to plan.

Thank you again for the very goodwill you all do, as you all care.

Governance

Previous minutes – Approved by all present. Show of hands with consensus.

EGM – District were going to hold an EGM to appoint District Chair, but Jackie volunteered and took on the Acting role in January.

Proposal for full appointment at this meeting.

Adoption of the Amended Constitution

Stella read through this - Accepted by all present.

The quorum for a meeting of a District Trustee Board is one third of the Trustees (ex officio plus appointed plus co-opted) plus one.

Chair raised a question about how we felt about being able to attend the AGM via video links. Comments passed to try to see if it can increase attendees.

Discussion ensued around location where suitable technology exists e.g. wifi

Noted that the District Financial Year End 31st December

Approve appointed and community members of the District Scout Council

None at present – looking for members of the public that are pro scouting e.g. Councillors etc.

Agree the number of members that may be appointed to the Trustee

Board – We approved 7 last year and are currently on 5.

Agree the quorum for future meetings of the District Scout Council (excluding this AGM)

Small discussion held but agreed this was to be kept to 10.

District Lead Volunteers Report 2025

As you will be aware by now, this will be my last AGM report as Lead Volunteer for South Derbyshire Scouts. It has been a privilege to serve as District Commissioner / District Lead Volunteer for the last two and a half years.

The past year has seen some challenges for the District and for Scouting as a whole. The new ways of working and especially the new membership database have taken some getting used to – to put it mildly. We have all felt the frustrations of trying to understand these changes, but I trust that, working together as a District, we can move forwards with hope and confidence.

Despite the difficulties faced, Scouting has continued to flourish across the district and the sectional reports show some of the exciting events that have taken place. I would like to thank all our leaders, helpers and team members for their continuing efforts week in week out to provide our young people with skills for life.

Our census figures show another small increase in total membership which now stands at 799 (up 15 on last year!). This shows that we are holding firm in a difficult environment. Our Adult numbers are also up by 11 on last year and have now risen above the 2020 figure showing that we have regained volunteers post Covid. However, we still have long waiting lists of young people who could experience Scouting if we have the adult leaders to support.

My highlights of the year include:

- Attending the celebration of volunteering at Derby Cathedral
- Visiting section meetings, and presenting adults and young people with their awards
- Visiting camps and events
- Watching the parade of young people through Swadlincote on St Georges day

But most of all, I love seeing young people develop and grow as they move through the sections and develop in confidence and skills. It is especially good to see young people grow into leadership roles.

I had hoped by now to be able to introduce the new Lead Volunteer for South Derbyshire. The process has been delayed by events beyond our control. Applicants for the role have been interviewed but no appointment has been made. As I am due to step down at the end of July, the County Lead Volunteer has agreed to a temporary Acting District Lead to be appointed to work with our District Team to continue the great Scouting that is going on in South Derbyshire. A formal announcement will be made in the next few days. I may not be staying as Lead Volunteer, but I am not going far and I hope to continue to support South Derbyshire Scouts in different ways in the future. I

believe we will get a new District Lead in place soon and I am sure South Derbyshire will continue to flourish and do what we do best to help young people gain skills for life.

BEAVERS

The Beavers within the district have been very busy with hikes, camps and community work.

Some Beavers have visited fire stations and had visits from PCSOs to talk about safety and community projects.

They have had camps at Willesley, Gullivers Kingdom and even sleepovers at their HQs. Other adventures include, hikes around the local areas, for example, Eureka park, Rosliston, Albert Village, Beavers also attending forest school and braved the water by kata canoeing at Conkers waterside.

I have also seen a lot of outdoor projects of gardening and protecting wildlife, so well done.

This all contributed to the 100s of badges and Chief Scout Bronze Awards earned this academic year.

CUBS

The Cubs this year have been busy with adventures of skiing, Oligopoly, sponsored hikes, kata canoeing and rock climbing at alter rock, Derby.

They have earned nights away badges at Kibblestone and Spring bank to name a few.

With this said badges of local community work and projects and visiting places of interest have been awarded as well as badges earned from activities done at home.

The Cubs have worked hard this year with a lot of Chief Scout silver awards being awarded to the young people.

Phoenix ESU annual report 2024-25

The unit continues to grow with around 26 members in total. We have celebrated around 6 18th birthdays in the last 12 months.

The unit have attended multiple residential experiences including Hesfest at Hesley Wood in July 2024, the Derbyshire Wayfarer challenge in October and a chilly challenge in February at Drum Hill, and Im a Scout Get Me Out of Here in June.

We did 2 weeks of work at Moira Furnace in the summer, weeding and rejuvenating the path around the engineering works. Members also helped out with the car parking at the Canal Festival, which was much appreciated, and they did a great job, parking over 1500 cars in 2 days. Their work has been praised by members of the Ashby Canal Trust.

The annual cheese rolling and swimming in the Dove was well attended and enjoyed by our new members. Try NOT doing it!! And there will be a mutiny.

January saw Ed's Big Quiz of the Year, first time making morse code with golf balls! We have also been bowling, roller skating, doing wide games and general scouting activities such as backwoods cooking, orienteering, pioneering, debate nights: the last one with 3 local councillors discussing local issues of the youth around South Derbyshire. Unit members have organised and run the programme once a month, attaining their You Shape and Lead awards.

A great night in March with Mafeking having a Casino Night, good to see the YP dressed to the nines, with mocktails and pretend money.

We are looking forward to attending the Kernow International Jamboree in Cornwall at the end of July.

As always, none of this could be achieved without the help and dedication of Connor, Edward and Edward and the enthusiasm and support of the members and their parents. Grateful thanks also go to Dave Harvey and Joy Parfitt for standing in when needed, often at short notice and always with a smile.

June 2024 – June 2025

Activities:

- Clay Target Shooting
- Kart Racing
- Dusk to Dawn, Peak Moorlands
- Casino Night (hosting Phoenix ESU)
- Dragons Den
- Kinder Extreme
- National Memorial Arboretum
- York Christmas Markets
- Ice Skating
- Easter Egg

Support for Awards:

- Backpacking weekend, Staffordshire Moorlands
- Backpacking weekend, National Forest

Activity Badges:

- Global Issues
- Emergency Aid
- Paddle Sports

Media:

- Website established
- Instagram account established
- Parents survey
- Parents WhatsApp Group established

Mafeking Exec Committee:

- Leadership team of 7 Explorers
- QM Role: Asset register established
- Social Media Manager Role: Supervised online content
- Objective: You Shaped Scouting

Unit Size:

- 22x Explorers (+8 YoY growth)

Leaders:

- Kevin Bull, Jo Bull, Dave Moore, Josh Nelson

Finances:

- Audited, with growth in financial reserves
- Successful grant applications EMA / Leslie Sell Trust



June 2024 – June 2025



 EXPLORERS

June 2024 – June 2025



Treasurers Report

The accounts are produced under national scouting guidelines.

Please note these are a little bit distorted due to the Kanderstag International Camp finances running over multiple years.

The results for the year show a surplus of £7059.

Various other figures were covered and explained to those present.

Robert then opened up to the room asking for any questions.

Q. Daniel Barnes queried a few different elements on which income and expenditures were included in the top line set of accounts.

Missing lines included District Air Rifles/Archery – they hold cash but this doesn't show on the accounts.

It was discussed how this in effect doesn't show a true set of financial records at the top level and this needed to be revisited.

Q. Why has the hardship fund balance available dropped, even though the money hasn't been utilised? Robert explained this was an internal account adjustment due to not being claimed.

Q. Why do the accounts show the Kanderstag income and expenditure with a £30k surplus? Robert explained it was how it had been accounted for.

Q. Why groups are paying a large amount of capitation to district and still not getting anything in return (circa £4500). Stella explained this has been discussed at District Trustee Meetings – they are looking at this to ensure it is fair going forwards – either events being run or a reduction to this cost.

The preference is running events! Just they need the team to do this.

Q. On the basis we haven't had any events for the last 2 years does that mean we won't be paying a capitation levy to district this year, on the basis the district bank balance has risen £2700 in 2023 and £4500 in 2024? Stella advised yes we will still be paying a capitation charge this year – District has run St Georges day events, mileage costs and leaders weekends.

Q. Robert asked Daniel what county provides for it's capitation cost? County Support Teams, Training Courses, Events to name a few. The point being we aren't getting anything at all apart from the district bank balances rising – if district had assets to maintain e.g. a building then this would be understandable, but you don't.

Stella also added that for continuity they levy was being kept in place and the district is committed to ensuring events and activities take place but that this question is one that is valid and might need revisiting.

Q. What is the district financial reserves policy? To keep at least a years worth of capitation income in reserve.

Q. Robert asked if these accounts would be approved by those present in the room. The accounts weren't approved by the room due to the missing data. Robert is going to take the information away and will then send out the updated accounts via email to Group Scout Council/Trustee Board for approval.

Q. Is there any plan to get the explorer sections/district onto Online Scout Manager so you can start claiming gift aid and secondly help make Roberts life easier by using the accountancy tool? Stella advised yes the goal will be to do this.

Appointments

Stella proposed **Jackie Storer** to be formally appointed for 3 years – Approved by the majority of people present with a show of hands.

Treasurer – Was appointed last year for 3 years.

Dave Moore has expressed a desire to resign next year.

Jo Alflatt was appointed as a Trustee last year but this appears to have been missed on minutes – this was for 3 years. She was therefore appointed as Trustee by the majority present as a reconfirmation.

District Vice President – Malcolm Cardill was appointed as District Vice President for 3 years – All present agreed (role doesn't come with voting rights – this is a ceremonial role).

Accounts Scrutineer – Carol Rosser re appointed

Nomination to County Scout Council – Ignored – this wasn't fully understood and SG was going to investigate what the role(s) really mean – it was assumed it was Stella's back up but clarity required.

Closing remarks/Presentations

Stella presented two certificates:

One for 5-year Service Award to Robert Anderson as District Treasurer

Twenty-year service to Richard Trevena

Stella and Jacqui thanked all those present and then a small discussion took place around the following...

Other Items

Current vacancies:

District Trustees -

District Sectional Leads – Squirrels & Cubs

Group Lead Volunteer – Willington & Rosliston Seales & Linton

Event Leads – Anyone that wants to run an event –

Leaders Social

15th August 6-9pm

BBQ, Buffet, Drinks – Invitation via Eventbrite Link

Can bring your own children.

Meeting finished at 15:35