

1st Owlsmoor Scout Group Annual General Meeting

7 July 2021 19:00 Zoom Meeting

Present:

Ian Ferguson (Chair)
David Clark (Vice Chair)
Andy Lowles (Group Scout Leader)
Niki Partner (Beaver Leader)
Jenny Lowles (Cub Leader)
Sue Ferguson (Treasurer)
Laura Binstead (Child Protection)
Zoe Gaskill (Parent Rep)
Cheryl Bentley (Parent Rep)
Clive Pearce (District)
Stephen Pope (District Chair)
Graham Thompson (District Commissioner)

+ 3 parents of the group.

Stuart Catlin
Paul Grinter
Debbie Wicks

Apologies:

Tracey Mortimer (Group Secretary)
Sue & Eric Johnson (District)
Pam Pearce (District)
Bob Wilson (District)

Minutes of 2020 AGM:

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the 2020 AGM.
The minutes were proposed by Ian Ferguson.
The minutes were accepted by those present by a show of hands.

Group Chairman's Report:

The 2020/21 Chairman's report was read to those in the meeting and will be made available for all parents on the website.

Group Scout Leader's Report:

The GSL report 2020/21 was read to those in the meeting and will be made available for all parents on the website.

Section Reports:

Beavers: The Beaver Leaders report 2020/21 was read on behalf of Nikki Partner by Andy Lowles to those in the meeting and will be made available for all parents on the website.

Cubs: The Cub Leaders report 2020/21 was read on behalf of Jenny Lowles to those in the meeting and will be made available for all parents on the website.

Scouts: The Scout Leaders report 2020/21 was read by Andy Lowles to those in the meeting and will be made available for all parents on the website.

Treasurer's Report and Statement of Accounts:

Group Statement of Accounts presented.

The full financial report will be published on the website.

Balance 1st April 2020: £10,931.52

Balance 31st March 2021: £15,450.98

Accounts are looking healthy.

Accounts have not yet been scrutinised. Accounts received and considered.

Appoint the Scrutineer

It is necessary to appoint a new Scrutineer. Trescal Limited (Financial Department) have been proposed. Final Confirmation required.

Proposal approved by a show of hands.

GSL's Nomination of Chairman:

The GSL proposed that Ian Ferguson should continue as the Group's Chairman, Ian accepted the proposal.

Approved by a show of hands.

Election and Approval of Executive Committee:

All current members of the Executive Committee agreed to stand for a further year.

Treasurer: Sue Ferguson

Secretary: Tracey Mortimer

Vice Chair: David Clark

Child Protection: Laura Binstead

Parent Representatives: Cheryl Bentley & Zoe Gaskill

Secretary: Tracey Mortimer

Proposed and seconded, approved by a show of hands

Treasurer: Sue Ferguson

Proposed and seconded, approved by show of hands

The remaining members of the executive committee were approved by those present by a show of hands.

Comments by District Commissioner or their representative:

Graham Thompson South Berkshire District Commissioner spoke a few words to those present.

Firstly, he endorsed the words of appreciation from the Chairman and GSL with regards to the continued support and commitment of the Leaders. He observed that the group has reacted really well in response to the covid restrictions and considerations.

He reported that the Census return shows that there has been a national decline of 22/23%. However, Berkshire's decline is approximately 18/19%. Since the Covid restrictions have started to relax the numbers are now increasing.

He also made a plea that the members and families of 1st Owlsmoor Scout Group utilise their network of friends, family and colleagues with the aim of increasing the number of individuals who are willing to support the Scout Group.

He advised that the Scout Association would be releasing updated guidance following the Governments latest announcement re the further lifting of Lockdown. This will be in place for the return of Scouting in September.

Wayne Partner was recognised with a Chief Scout 5year Service award

The meeting closed at 19:30 hrs

Appendices

- Appendix 1 Treasurer's Report
- Appendix 2 Chairman's & Section Reports
- Appendix 3 Trustee's Annual Report

Appendix 1 - Treasurer's Report

Member's subscriptions are much less than previous years due to Covid-19, but the group has benefited from grants totalling £5500.00 from Bracknell Forest Council as part of the Government Covid-19 grant schemes. Covid-19 also had an impact on the hut hiring revenue from the Brownies & Girl Guides.

1st Owlsmoor Scout Group

Registered Charity number 1064976

Bank Reconciliation Apr 2020 - Mar 2021

	<u>£</u> <u>DR</u>	<u>£</u> <u>CR</u>	<u>£</u>
Balance as at 01-Apr-20			10,931.52
Utilities	263.20		-263.20
Capitation	2,946.40		-2,946.40
District Camp		120.00	120.00
Donations		500.00	500.00
Charity Donations	20.00		-20.00
Computing	139.20		-139.20
Events	9.00		-9.00
Badges/activities	316.64		-316.64
Insurance	573.55		-573.55
Covid-19		5,413.75	5,413.75
Hut maintenance	408.18		-408.18
May Camp (2020) Refund	75.00		-75.00
Wings Day		15.00	15.00
Subs, joining fees		1,720.00	1,720.00
Hut hire (brownies/guides)		662.00	662.00
Gift Aid Claim (2017/18)		839.88	839.88
	<hr/> 4,751.17	<hr/> 9,270.63	<hr/> 15,450.98
Balance as at 29-Mar-21			<hr/> 15,450.98
VAR			<hr/> 0.00

Sue Ferguson
Treasurer 1st Owlsmoor Scout Group

Appendix 2 - Chair & Section Reports

Group Chairman's Report for 2020/21

To say that the past year has been different would be an understatement!

When face-to-face meetings were abruptly stopped in March 2020, our leaders quickly got to grips with the challenges of providing activities online for the Young People, and as a result of this, many badges across the three sections were awarded. With the return to face-to-face scouting, the challenge was to provide activities that took into consideration all government & scouting requirements, again our leaders rose to the challenge.

1st Owlsmoor Scout Group would not run as it does if it was not for the leaders that we have here, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them all for everything that they do.

I would like to thank the Exec Committee for all their support over the last year and would like to thank them in advance for being prepared to stand again for another term in office.

Please do continue to support the Exec Committee and your amazing leaders. Without these people, who give their time, for free, this group would not be the success that it is today.

What this group now needs is for some new parents to come forward and help, this can be something small like helping with some maintenance of the hut to being involved on a meeting night.

Ian Ferguson
Chairman 1st Owlsmoor Scout Group

Group Scout Leader's Report for 2020/21

As I write my 13th report as GSL of 1st Owlsmoor Scout group, I am sure we will all agree this has been a year that has brought challenges to the world we all live in and as affected us all both personally and professionally. Covid-19 certainly affected scouting in 2020 with us having to postpone our annual camp.

1st Owlsmoor scout group rose to the many Covid-19 challenges from running Covid safe activities in the autumn and ensuring the equipment and hut was covid safe. I would like to thank the leaders and executive committee for their continued support. I really appreciate the time & effort everyone puts into the group to make it the group it is today. However, we do need some new faces that can support us either as a non-uniformed or uniformed helpers, please let me or the leaders know!

Our objectives are in accordance with the objectives of the Scout Association. We are run by a group entirely of volunteers. It is our objective to make maximum available use of our facilities and appropriate off-site activities consistent with the Scouting Objectives.

Please remember that the sections can only flourish with adult support there to help and guide the children. The 'saying' many hands make light work, is so true!

Our total group leader to child ratio is 1 adult to every 9 children.

With your continued support, I look forward to another successful year ahead with 1st Owlsmoor Scout Group.

I have a plea. We require additional adult help, this can be in many ways:

- Helping on the evenings as a parent.
- Helping on our hut maintenance days. We have only two every year!
- Support via the executive (a couple of hours every few months)
- Come a long and join the adventure and support your Scout Group.

*Andy Lowles
1st Owlsmoor Group Scout Leader*

Beaver Leader's Report for 2020/21

I would like to thank the two Jenny's who run the evenings with me. This said we could always do with another pair of hands to help out on Colony evenings. As we now have 22 Beavers and a waiting list for those wanting to join!

Our numbers have grown once we came out of the covid restrictions. I am also pleased to say that we have once again welcomed some new families into the Beavers colony this year.

Niki Partner (Beaver Colony Leader)

Cub Leader's Report for 2020/21

I would like to thank King Louie (Jenny) and Dave Whitbread who brings their enthusiasm to scouting. This said we could always do with another pair of hands to help out on pack evenings.

Our numbers have maintained throughout the year and I currently have 18 Cubs in the pack. I am also pleased to say that we have once again welcomed some new families into the Cubs pack this year.

Jenny Lowles (Cub Pack Leader)

Scout Leader's Report for 2020/21

The past year has been a big challenge due to the Covid-19 restrictions.

I would like to thank Ian & Nick for their continued support and enthusiasm they bring to scouting.

Our numbers have decreased this year we currently have 14 Scouts in the troop.

However, we are short of a Scout leader and really do need some more help on Monday evenings, why not come along & see what we get up to?

Andy Lowles (Group Scout Leader)

Trustees' Annual Report 2020/21

This is the report from 1st April 2020 - 31st March 2021

Executive Committee Members and Charity Trustees

The Executive Committee comprises the following, those with an * by their names are also listed as Charity Commission Trustees:

Chair	Ian Ferguson *
Vice Chair	David Clark*
Treasurer	Sue Ferguson
Secretary	Tracey Mortimer *
Fundraising	Andy Lowles*
Child Protection	Laura Binstead
Nick Smith	Parent Representative
Zoe Gaskill	Parent Representative
Cheryl Bentley	Parent Representative
Janice Jones	Parent Representative

In addition, the following leaders are members of the executive committee:

Andy Lowles	Group Scout Leader
Jenny Lowles	Cub Leader

Structure, Governance and Management

The group's governing documents are those of The Scout Association and the group is a trust established under its rules which are common to all scouts. The trustees are appointed in accordance with the Policy, Organisation and Rules of the Scout Association.

The Group is managed by the Executive Committee consisting of the people listed above. The Charity trustees are, therefore, responsible for the running of the group in accordance with the applicable legislation relating to this type of charity.

Risk Control

The Executive Committee undertakes an annual risk assessment; these are continuously updated as required. We assessed the risk at our Scout Hut during the year and have undertaken significant maintenance activities, and have assessed our financial needs and through capitation fees cover the risk of injury to leaders, members, helpers.

Due to Covid-19, additional risk assessments have been conducted to ensure that all meetings comply with the current government and scouting requirements.

Objectives and Activities

Our objectives are in accordance with the objectives of the Scout Association. We are run by a group made up entirely of volunteers. It is our objective to make maximum available use of our facilities and appropriate off-site activities consistent with the Scouting Objectives.

Achievements and Performance

The individual leaders' reports provide some background on our activities, but it is worth highlighting that we have good membership in each of our Beaver, Cub and Scout groups which meet weekly during the school term time. Due to Covid-19, many activities were postponed or cancelled, including our annual May camp. The leaders provided online activities for the Young People to take part in, so as to maintain the scouting interest whilst face-to-face meetings were stopped.

Also worthy of note was that during the past year, awards were made to the following adults: -

- Sue Ferguson (Treasurer) – Chief Scout's Commendation for Good Service
- Laura Binstead (Child Protection) – Chief Scout's Commendation for Good Service
- Andy Lowles (Group Scout Leader) – Chief Scout's Award of Merit

Financial Position

Covid-19 has meant that we haven't been able to carry out our usual fundraising activities.

It is the group's policy to apply for grants that are available and suitable for the benefit of the group. These grants can be used to improve the facilities at the hut, for essential repairs of the hut, or for any other use as agreed by the Executive Committee.

A grant was made by Sandhurst Town Council for the sum of £500 to purchase axe throwing equipment so that we can provide another activity for the members of the group.

The group submitted an application to Bracknell Forest Council under one of the Government Covid-19 grant schemes and was awarded a total of £5550. This grant was used to offset the group's financial loss in membership subscriptions and hut hirings by the brownies & guides.

The group has also benefited from un-solicited donations from other bodies; these have been used to purchase equipment for the group's use.

Summary

We believe that we have run the group successfully through the year, despite Covid-19 restrictions, and hope that the children have enjoyed themselves. Our leaders have provided a variety of activities and there have been many achievements. At present the adult help is just about adequate but it is important that we continue efforts to recruit additional people and welcome new volunteers.

Ian Ferguson
Chairman, 1st Owlsmoor Scout Group