

## **SOUTH EAST SCOTLAND REGIONAL SCOUT COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of South East Scotland Regional Scout Council held on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2017 at the Headquarters of Girlguiding, Edinburgh, 33 Melville Street, Edinburgh**

### **Present:**

Graham Haddock, Chief Commissioner for Scotland; Susan Brown, County Commissioner, Edinburgh Girlguiding; Ian Montgomery, Battalion Secretary, Boys Brigade; Lt Col Richard Callander, Vice Lord Lieutenant of Midlothian; the Regional Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary and Commissioner, and over 100 members and supporters of the South East Scotland Regional Scout Council.

### **Welcome:**

The meeting was opened by the Regional Chairman, Mr John Teasdale, who welcomed everyone to the Annual General Meeting of the South East Scotland Regional Scout Council and the Annual Review of Scouting in the South East Region, Scotland.

### **Apologies:**

Mrs Jane Ramage, Regional Secretary, read out the following list of apologies: David and Catherine Burns; Sir Michael Strang Steel; J Douglas Allan; Steve Hall; Frank Ross, Lord Provost; Michael Williams; Mark Hesketh; Ian Hunter; Graeme Scrimgeour; Tony Reid; Helen Wootton; Steve Gamble; John Bathgate; Emma Lyon; Anne Hughes; Susan Ross; Katie Docherty; Sir Robert Clerk; Isabel McNab and Graham Coulson

### **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting on 27 September 2016:**

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the South East Scotland Regional Scout Council held on 27 September 2016 at The Royal Blind School, Canaan Lane, Edinburgh were agreed as a correct record. The minutes had been previously circulated to members of the Scout Council. They were approved on the proposal of Andrew Green, Chairman of East Lothian District, and seconded by Diane Marshall, Deputy Regional Commissioner.

### **Annual Report and Accounts for South East Scotland Regional Scout Council for the year ended 31 March 2017:**

The Chairman then asked Colin Hyslop, Regional Treasurer, to comment on the accounts which had been previously circulated to members of the Scout Council.

Colin stated that this year's accounts have been independently examined and a signed set of accounts will be available once OSCR has verified them and a copy can be provided on request.

He stated that our surplus before any revaluation on assets or gains on investment for the year was £57,892. This includes a legacy from Miss Smart [£62,805] which the Executive has designated to the SESRSC Development plan, 2017/22. Our operational surplus was £3,907 against an approved budget of £3,852. Once again the Executive has approved an operational budgeted surplus for 2017/18.

The Executive Committee had agreed that our accounts should show Valleyfield Street as asset on our Balance Sheet and a consequence of that decision is that we had to have our property at Bonaly revalued. Valuations can be seen at note 13 on page 22 of the accounts.

A breakdown of the income is recorded as Note 4 on page 17 of the accounts. However, the following data provides a breakdown of users of our facilities and accommodation excluding holiday programme at Bonaly [£27,167]

SESRSC Scouts	27.69%
Schools	19.26%
UK Scouts	17.49%
Corporate Groups	15.59%
Other Youth Organisations	9.15%
Charities & Community Groups	7.63%
World Scouts	3.19%

Details of the expenditure are contained in notes 5 to 11 on pages 18 to 21 of the accounts. The depreciation charge shows an increase from 2015/16 of £15,430 which is due to the inclusion of Valleyfield Street as an asset and the revaluation of land and buildings at Bonaly.

Colin took the opportunity to thank all staff at Bonaly, members of the Finance Committee, members of the Executive and all those who had helped and supported him during the year. He invited questions from those present; however none were raised.

The Chairman proposed the adoption of these accounts, the motion was seconded by the Treasurer and the meeting gave its approval.

#### **Appointment of Office Bearers:**

The Regional Commissioner nominated John Cannon, as Regional Chairman. She also sought approval for the election of Colin Hyslop as Regional Treasurer and John Bruce as Regional Secretary.

These nominations were proposed by Graeme Robertson, Deputy District Commissioner of Craigalmond, seconded by Douglas Allan, District Commissioner of East Lothian and accepted by those present at the meeting.

### **Election of Members to the Regional Executive:**

The proposed elected members to the Regional Executive are Graeme Robertson, Deputy District Commissioner, Craigalmond; Steve Gamble, District Chairman, Braid; Andrew Green, District Chairman, East Lothian and Douglas Allan, District Commissioner, Borders

These appointments were proposed by Diane Marshall, Deputy Regional Commissioner, seconded by Colin Hyslop, Regional Treasurer and approved by those present.

### **Nomination of members to the Regional Executive:**

The following people were nominated as members to the Regional Executive: John Lunn, Honorary Legal Adviser, Margaret Winter, representative from Girlguiding, Edinburgh, Brian Muir and Jill Barrow. These appointments were approved by those present.

### **Delegates to the Scottish Council of the Scout Association**

The Region can appoint three further members to this body as well as the Regional Commissioner, Deputy and Assistant Regional Commissioners and the Regional Chairman, who are ex-officio members of the Scottish Council of the Scout Association. The three so nominated are Dick Allan, Regional President, John Bruce, Regional Secretary and Colin Hyslop, Regional Treasurer. The meeting agreed all the above nominations.

### **Appointment of member to the Council of the Scout Association**

Margery Naylor, Regional Commissioner, nominated Diane Marshall, Deputy Regional Commissioner, to be the elected member to the Council of the Scout Association. This was approved by those present.

### **Appointment of Regional Independent Auditor:**

The Chairman proposed the appointment of Scott Moncrieff as Regional Independent Auditor. The proposal was seconded by Margery Naylor, Regional Commissioner and agreed by all present at the meeting.

### **Address by the Retiring Chairman, Mr John Teasdale**

John stated that he had enjoyed his role as Regional Chairman over the past 3 years. He had been supported by a strong team and noted that Albert Jaster who had brought a wealth of experience with Young People was standing down as Vice Chairman. Jane Ramage who had started her Scouting career in 1966 as an assistant Cub Scout Leader had also held the positions of District Commissioner, Assistant County Commissioner and County Secretary in Midlothian was also standing down from her role as Regional Secretary but would be continuing to support the Regional Archive team. He thanked Jane for all her support and presented her with a bouquet of flowers.

## **Report by Margery Naylor, Regional Commissioner**

Margery described her appointment process which included a 2 hour interview with the Chief Commissioner and a formal interview by the Scottish National Appointments Committee. She had been challenged in her new role by Graham to encourage the “Game of scouting” as Baden Powell had called it. She believed her role is to support the 2000 leaders and adults by promoting activities for our 7000 young members which will develop their potential through adventurous activities and community engagement.

Graham had also challenged Margery to recruit more young people into the Regional Leadership Team. She added that she had already begun the process by asking many people to join the Team and help develop Scouting in the South East Region.

Margery explained that she was “still reeling from the volume of work that has landed in her lap” but would achieve these goals with support from everyone. She had been enthused by the recent visit to the Midlothian District AGM where she heard about the great work their leaders were achieving with young people. She added that we would see more of this in the Annual Review which would be led by Diane Marshall, one of the two Deputy Regional Commissioners.

She recognised the work and support given by Diane and Graham during the period 1<sup>st</sup> January to 30<sup>th</sup> August this year to promote Scouting in the South East Region. She thanked them for all their efforts and achievements during that time.

Looking forward, she stated how much she appreciated John Cannon’s willingness to stand as Regional Chairman. Everyone who had spoken to her since his proposed appointment had become known commented that he was a “very enabling person” so she anticipated a very positive future for Scouting in the South East Region.

Margery invited Diane Marshall to give a report on the Region’s achievements over the past year.

## **Annual Report of South East Region by Diane Marshall**

South East Region continues to be in good heart. This report reflects the activity within the Region from October 2016 to September 2017. It has been a busy and challenging period. In their role as acting Region Commissioners Diane and Graham thanked all those who have made a positive contribution to supporting the work of the Region, Districts and most importantly within the Groups.

All 7 districts have continued to provide exciting opportunities for our young people. Outdoor activities have featured heavily with camping and residential experiences still a firm favourite.

It is important to reflect on the work of our Assistant Regional Commissioners and Regional Advisers - Brian Morrison, Adam Bennet and Martin Browne, Kirsty Ireland and John Buchanan over the past year. Our communications strategy continued to be very successful under Brian’s leadership and Adam and Martin moved the youth involvement agenda forward at a steady pace. John created a number of opportunities for the Explorer scout section, where some young people have had an opportunity to do some training to gain activity permits. John also engaged with the Network. Kirsty, along with John and Brian, successfully supporting the roll out of the Young Leader training programme.

The District Commissioners, Douglas Allan, Mark Hesketh, Rob Whitelaw, Jenny Tait-McGillivray, Neil Hogg and David Colley, continued, with the help of their teams, to support and enable scouting to happen for many young people and adults within the Region. Again, reflecting on their work, it is fair to say that the District Commissioners have had some challenges, but equally some real highlights, over the past year.

Beaver Scouts celebrated their 30<sup>th</sup> Birthday in 2016. It was hard to believe where the first 30 years have gone in the Scouting experience of our younger members. Districts held various sleepovers and events to mark the year Fun days, sleepovers, trips to Dynamic Earth and Deep Sea World all featured in the many events that made it a busy but great year to celebrate.

Cub Scouts - To be able to say "I was part of that" is a special memory which will last with everyone for a long time to come. 100 years of Cub Scouting was celebrated in packs, Districts, Region, Scottish and UK level. Weekend camps and special outings formed a large part of the celebrations with all Cubs past and present being invited to renew their Promise on Friday 16th December at 19.16. A very special moment in time and a memory to share with future generations.

Scouts - Over the summer months international trips were a very important part of the Scout programme. The Region had welcomed Scouts from Germany, Italy, France, Holland and Belgium. The South East Region Scouting had ventured to Denmark, Switzerland, Belgium, Iceland, Guernsey, Northern Ireland and England making International friendships and connections that will last forever.

Explorer belts are a great way for young people to see parts of the world at the same time as completing their award. South East Region were very lucky to have had several young people undertaking their Explorer Belts.

The Tattoo under the continued leadership of Sue Liddle, Neil Gowans and Suzanne Riddoch, South East Region Explorers and leaders provided a high profile, selling tattoo merchandise on the castle esplanade. This was a unique opportunity to be a part of Edinburgh's International Festival.

The Gang Show continued to entertain its wide audience. Last year the Cubs had a special 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday item which was enjoyed by the Cubs and all who attended.

Outdoor activities continued to be a huge part of Scouting with a wide variety of badges on offer through being outdoors. A small group of Explorers recently undertook and completed a youth permits training scheme learning new skills in high ropes, bush-craft, archery, slack line, orienteering. Thanks to John Buchanan who had been the driving force and to Julie Browne who had given lots of her time and skills to getting the permits off the ground.

Across the Region the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme continued to thrive and provided our young people with new challenges and life skills.

Scouting is successful due to the dedication of our leaders and supporters, who are all volunteers. Their time, talents, skills and sense of humour make them a real asset to this Region. She stated that we don't say 'Thank you' enough to our leaders. However, at this point in our annual report it is important and essential to record our thanks to everyone who has given so much over the last Scouting year.

Diane stated that it had been a privilege for herself and Graham to have been Acting Regional Commissioners over last 8 months. The roles have been challenging, rewarding and at times enlightening. She expressed her thanks to everyone within the Region for their support.

Finally, she congratulated Margery Naylor on her appointment as Regional Commissioner and took this opportunity to wish Margery well over next 5 years. She believed that Margery would bring new energy and a fresh direction to South East Region.

### **Address by Graham Haddock, the Chief Commissioner for Scotland**

Graham Haddock, the Chief Commissioner for Scotland, addressed the meeting and talked warmly about his time as a leader in Edinburgh as a GSL in Waverley District and an ADC in Liberton District. He said that it was a pleasure and privilege to return to the city. He recognised that there have been a number of challenges over the past 8 months whilst he sought to appoint a new Regional Commissioner and he expressed his sincere thanks to Diane Marshall and Graham Coulson for their efforts in managing the Region during this period. He also thanked John Teasdale, who along with the Region's President, Dick Allan, and Vice President, Ken Thomson, had helped to appoint Margery Naylor in this role. He believed that Margery had the passion and skill set to take the 'game of Scouting' forward in the years ahead.

Graham also noted that the 'business of Scouting' had been challenging for the Regional Executive Committee. He was very pleased that John Cannon had accepted the role of Regional Chairman and he knew that John would support Margery to achieve a balance between the 'game and business of Scouting'.

He was proud to announce that at the UK National Conference, Summit 17, held in April this year it had been recognised that the South East Scotland Region had achieved the second highest growth in percentage terms in the UK. He then presented Margery Naylor with a trophy and certificate in recognition of this achievement.

The Chief Commissioner talked about the future of Scouting. He noted that in Scotland we had achieved a 35% increase in numbers since 2007. He stated that Youth Involvement is a vital part of our growth and development and expressed the view that we need to 'empower young people to take up key roles – even if it means that they fail initially'. It is important that we encourage young people to take responsibility and drive Scouting forward.

He said that Scouting had indeed made a positive impact on local communities and that the expanded Scottish HQ team included two new local development officers who had made an early success in opening a new Group in Scotland's most deprived community.

The three key areas which the new national strategy emphasised are Programme, People and Perception. Graham believed that our support for adults in Scouting had not been as good as it could have been, and suggested we needed to simplify and refocus the adult training to help new leaders and change the bureaucratic approach that inhibits development. The public perception of Scouting had improved but we needed to do more to overcome the lack of knowledge about Scouting in our communities.

Graham announced that he is due to retire in July 2018 and his final duties will be performed at the Blair Atholl International camp. He stated that it had been a great privilege to hold the position of Chief Commissioner and had enjoyed 'most of it'. He thanked everyone for their efforts to deliver quality Scouting in every part of the Region.

The Regional Commissioner invited Graham to present a number of long service awards. These included a 50-year certificate to Ken Thomson, a 40-year certificate to Michael Grainger and 30-year certificates to Jane Ramage and David Colley.

### **Recognition of the achievements of John Teasdale by the Regional Commissioner**

Margery thanked John Teasdale for his efforts and energy that he had invested in the Region during his three years as Chair of the Regional Executive Committee. Although this was not a high profile role it is an essential one which she recognised was not easy to carry out. It involved what we call the business side of Scouting, worrying about the finances, managing the staff and working hard to ensure our centres are well run and provide an excellent service for young people.

Margery summarised John's career started in 1972 as an Assistant Scout Leader in South London before moving on to become a Scout Leader in Nottinghamshire which he remembers as the best role he ever had in Scouting. John became a Group Chairman in West Yorkshire followed by District Commissioner, Assistant County Commissioner and then County Commissioner which he undertook for 3 years before becoming the County Chairman in West Yorkshire. After moving to Scotland, he joined our Executive and was appointed Chair 3 years ago.

She described John as a man with a Scouting past who can retire knowing that he has greatly improved the functioning

of our Regional Executive Committee. His many achievements include leading a strategic review of the Region's operations, strengthening the governance, finances and establishing a risk assessment committee which is currently working on a risk management audit. John took great pride in running efficient meetings, always starting and finishing on time. He has established a Board comprised of many people with just the right skills and experience we need.

She thanked John on behalf of the Region and wished him a happy retirement noting that he was already busy with other organisations such as Gorgie Farm and Rotary. Margery presented John with a gift.

### **Vote of Thanks by Margaret Winter, County Commissioner for Girlguiding Edinburgh**

Margaret had served on the South East Scotland Regional Executive since December 2016. She had welcomed the joint ventures between our two organisations and agreed that we should refer to the "Game" of Scouting and Guiding. Margaret thanked everyone involved in the delivery of Scouting within the Region and emphasised that volunteering is to "give freely of your talents". She noted that Margery Naylor was a Queen's Guide and wished her success in her new role. Margaret concluded by thanking everyone for attending the meeting tonight.

## **Annual Review**

Diane Marshall introduced a review of the International experiences enjoyed by Scouts and Explorer Scouts from South East Region. This had been produced by the young people themselves and consisted of a sequence of photographic records with appropriate sound tracks. It was entitled 'Boats, Trains and Planes'. It covered the ten European Cities visited throughout the year. She thanked Brian Morrison for his work to collate and present these.

John B Cannon

Regional Chair

Margery Naylor

Regional Commissioner

John R Bruce

Regional Secretary