



**SOUTH EAST SCOTLAND REGIONAL SCOUT COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the 2020 Annual General Meeting**

Date:	13 <sup>th</sup> October 2020
Time:	7.00pm
Location:	By Zoom videoconferencing.
Present:	Andrew Sharkey, Chief Commissioner Scouts Scotland (part of meeting); Major Michael Williams, Lord Lieutenant of East Lothian; Susan Brown, County Commissioner for Edinburgh Girlguiding; Margaret Winter, Edinburgh Girlguiding; Dick Allan, President of South East Scotland Scouts; John Cannon, Regional Chair; Graeme Robertson, Regional Vice Chair; Bruce Macdonald, Regional Treasurer, John Bruce Regional Secretary; Martin Elliot and Simon Cocker, Deputy Regional Commissioners; Mike Treanor (Scouting Support Officer), Rob Whitelaw (District Commissioner Edinburgh North East), Richard Fairbairn (District Commissioner Midlothian), Hilary Cartwright, District Commissioner East Lothian, Judith Wood (District Commissioner Braid) and over 60 members and supporters of the South East Scotland Regional Scout Council.
Questions	Because the meeting was held by Zoom video conferencing the opportunity to raise questions in advance of the meeting was given however none were forthcoming.
Voting/Show of hands	Because the meeting was held by Zoom video conferencing members were invited to show support for motions by a show of hands using the “thumbs up” facility within Zoom.

**Agenda items**

<b>1</b>	<p><b><u>Welcome and Opening Remarks</u></b></p> <p>The meeting was opened by Dick Allan 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 of Scotland.</p>
----------	--

2	<p><b><u>Apologies</u></b></p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Countess Rosebery</td> <td>Mark Hesketh</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sir Michael Strang Steel</td> <td>Andrea Davison</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Andrew Green</td> <td>Annette Mackenzie</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rosemary Allison</td> <td>Russell Shoulder</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Margery Naylor</td> <td>Diane Ross</td> </tr> </table>	Countess Rosebery	Mark Hesketh	Sir Michael Strang Steel	Andrea Davison	Andrew Green	Annette Mackenzie	Rosemary Allison	Russell Shoulder	Margery Naylor	Diane Ross
Countess Rosebery	Mark Hesketh										
Sir Michael Strang Steel	Andrea Davison										
Andrew Green	Annette Mackenzie										
Rosemary Allison	Russell Shoulder										
Margery Naylor	Diane Ross										
3	<p><b><u>Approval of Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on 01 October 2019</u></b></p> <p>The minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the South East Scotland Regional Scout Council held on 01 October 2019 at 28 York Place Hotel, Edinburgh were agreed as a correct record. The minutes had been previously been made available to members. They were approved on the proposal of Graeme Robertson and seconded by Ian Harrower.</p>										
4	<p><b><u>South East Scotland Regional Scout Council Trustee’s Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March 2020</u></b></p> <p>John Cannon (Regional Chair) presented the following report: -</p> <p>The year to March 2020 had been another productive year for South East Scotland Region. The Regional Executive Committee members – who comprise the Trustees – have met regularly to ensure that there is appropriate governance and support for the Game of Scouting across the Region. In order to ensure the necessary oversight of the Region, five sub-committees (Finance, People, Risk, Estates and Facilities and Infrastructure) of the Regional Executive Committee (REC) the Regional Appointments Advisory Committee, and the Regional Chair’s Committee have also met regularly.</p> <p>This past year has also seen the benefits from the appointment of Mike Treanor as Scouting Support Officer and John Cannon thanked Mike for all he has done to support our Districts and Groups in areas such as leader recruitment and retention.</p> <p>John Cannon also thanked all the Trustees, the Regional Leadership Team and other individuals who have given generously of their time to support the work of the Regional Executive Committee and the delivery of the Game of Scouting during the year.</p> <p>Also thanked for their work throughout the previous years were John Bruce who was stepping down as Regional Secretary and Malcolm Cutt as Chair of the Finance Sub-committee.</p> <p>Although this is the Annual Report for the year to March 2020 it is difficult to stick to just what has happened before March 2020 and several things have happened since then that need to be mentioned: -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The death of Ken Thomson was a huge shock. A fund raised in his memory has reached over £3,250 and discussions are going on as to how to use this to benefit Young People;</li> <li>2. Coronavirus has been a significant challenge. It has caused a very difficult time for all outdoor centres and has highlighted that the existing operating model at Bonaly was not sustainable and a review of operations concluded that a new operating model was needed. This is being created under a Bonaly Leadership Team led by Peter Casebow</li> </ol>										

	<p>and we are confident that Bonaly has an exciting future ahead. John Cannon thanked all those involved for their understanding and professionalism. Scouting in South East Scotland Region is well placed to come through this and looking to the future the REC recognises the need to look to the future and necessary developments are taking place at Bonaly and Longcraig; and</p> <p>3. Margery Naylor has stepped down as Regional Commissioner. With Margery's leadership the Region has made huge strides and is more engaged than ever.</p> <p>John Cannon concluded his report by saying there are challenging times ahead, but we have a clear direction of travel.</p> <p>Bruce Macdonald (Regional Treasurer) then presented the following report:</p> <p>2019-20 was a tough year for the Region with a loss of over £200,000 as can be seen in the accounts. By last December we knew it was going to be a tough year especially with large losses at Bonaly – outdoor centres were struggling generally and Bonaly was no exception so the trustees agreed to conduct the review as John has already mentioned.</p> <p>The year ended up worse than expected at both Bonaly and Longcraig because the impact of Covid19 meant we had to shut down in March and we also had to refund deposits covering this year. The £200,000 loss included a £144,000 loss at Bonaly – some of that is one-off capital expenditure to improve the centre. We also funded a Scouting Support Officer who has provided invaluable support to scouting in the Region in these difficult times. The loss also included a £22,000 fall in the value of our investments (as a result of stock-market falls because of Covid19) although this loss will have reduced since then.</p> <p>In spite of this, our financial position remains strong. We have net current assets of over £800,000 at the end of March. Since April, our Centres have been closed and we have lost income from our busiest months. Although the Job Retention Scheme will have helped us, we have been paying staff during this period.</p> <p>This year is going to be very tough as well. However, we are still in a strong position and can look forward to the future with optimism when hopefully we can open up fully next year. The opportunity to ask questions was given however none were forthcoming.</p> <p>John Cannon proposed the adoption of the Trustees Annual Report and Accounts. The motion was seconded by Bruce Macdonald and the meeting gave its approval.</p>
5	<p><b><u>Election of Office Bearers and Executive Committee for 2020-21</u></b></p> <p><b>Appointment of Office Bearers of the Regional Executive Committee</b>  The Acting Regional Commissioner Simon Cocker nominated John Cannon for the role of Regional Chair and Graeme Robertson for the role of Regional Vice Chair.  John Cannon then proposed the appointment of Bruce Macdonald as Regional Treasurer and Andrew Wood as Regional Secretary. Martin Elliott seconded these appointments.  These nominations were also approved by those present at the meeting.</p> <p><b>Appointment of Members of the Regional Executive Committee</b>  The four elected members are eligible to stand again and as there have only been four nominations for the role of elected members of the Regional Executive Committee they have</p>

	<p>been appointed unopposed. They are: Mark Hesketh, Alistair McNeill, Andrew Penker and Euan McFadzean.</p> <p>The Regional Commissioner nominated Margaret Winter, John Lunn, Andrew Green and Simon Innes as the nominated members of the Regional Executive Committee.</p> <p>The Regional Executive will also co-opt the following people to serve on the Committee. They are Steve Gamble, Simon Cocker, Martin Elliot and Edward Baker-Gray.</p> <p>These appointments were all approved by those present.</p> <p><b>Appointment of member and youth member to the Council of the Scout Association</b> Nominations to attend the UK Council meetings were not available and those present agreed that this matter could be resolved by the Regional Executive Committee at their next meeting on the 10th December 2020.</p>
6	<p><b><u>Approval of Independent Examiner/Auditor</u></b></p> <p>Bruce Macdonald, the Regional Treasurer, proposed the appointment of Azets UK (formerly named Scott Moncrieff) as the Regional Independent Auditor. The proposal was seconded by Edward Baker-Gray and approved by the meeting.</p>
7	<p><b><u>Regional Commissioner's Report and Presentations</u></b></p> <p>Simon Cocker and Martin Elliott gave the following report: -</p> <p>Simon referred to the Annual Report and expressed the hope that everybody had had an opportunity to read through it as it provides a great deal of information about the range of activities throughout the year and hard work done by our volunteers to provide them. If not, it was available on the website and on request by email. He thanked all who had worked to put on Scouting activities throughout the year – especially the innovative and inspired ways Scouting has been provided during Coronavirus.</p> <p>Martin then noted that it should have been Margery Naylor (Regional Commissioner for the last three years) delivering the Report, but she has stepped down due to ill health. They wanted to pay tribute to what she had done. She leaves the Region in a strong position and we all wish her well and a speedy recovery.</p> <p><b>Andrew Sharkey (Scouts Scotland Chief Commissioner) was then invited to address the meeting.</b></p> <p>Andrew opened thanking everybody for all that they had done over the past year for Scouting in South East Scotland Region. In particular he wished to thank Margery Naylor for the incredible job she has done over the past three years.</p> <p>The Annual Review videos clearly showed that we had a great year with Scouting as we knew it at the beginning, but we should not pine for what may have gone. We should look forward to the future. We have moved to some face to face Scouting and this is very powerful for young people who just need to be young people. Something as simple as lighting fires and cooking your own food is very good for their mental health.</p>

	<p>It was phenomenal to see how much Scouting was going on and we should stick with it. Scouting is a force for good and now young people need it more than ever.</p> <p>Andrew concluded by again thanking everybody for everything they have been doing over the past year for Scouting in South East Scotland Region.</p>	
8	<p><b><u>Vote of Thanks</u></b></p> <p>A vote of thanks was then proposed by Simon Innes for all who had contributed to Scouting in the Region throughout the year and to those participated in the review and AGM this evening, our distinguished guests and the members of the Region who had contributed to the success of the evening.</p> <p>The Chair thanked everyone for attending and formally closed the meeting.</p>	
<p><b>John B Cannon</b> Regional Chair</p>	<p><b>Simon Cocker</b> Acting Regional Commissioner</p>	<p><b>Andrew Wood</b> Regional Secretary</p>