

SOUTH EAST SCOTLAND REGIONAL SCOUT COUNCIL Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of South East Scotland Regional Scout Council															
Date:	10 th November 2022														
Time:	7.00pm														
Location:	By Zoom videoconferencing. The Chair advised that the meeting would be recorded and no objections were received to this.														
Present:	Dick Allan, President of South East Scotland Scouts; John Cannon, Regional Chair; Simon Innes, Regional Vice Chair; Bruce Macdonald, Regional Treasurer, Andrew Wood, Regional Secretary; Martin Elliot Regional Commissioner; Kirstie Armsworth (Scouting Support Officer), Lindsay Devin County Commissioner for Edinburgh Girlguiding; Margaret Winter, Edinburgh Girlguiding; Stacey McKay, County Commissioner for Midlothian Girlguiding and over 20 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. No questions were received.														
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															
1	<p><u>Welcome and Opening Remarks</u></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.</p>														
2	<p><u>Apologies</u></p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><u>Members</u></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><u>Invited Guests</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Andy Beaumont</td> <td>Professor Sir Hew Strachan, FBA, FRSE</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Keith Bryce</td> <td>Gail Fox, Girl Guiding Scotland</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dylan Lynch</td> <td>Councilor Robert Aldridge</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bill Ramsay</td> <td>Duke of Buccleugh and Queensberry</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bruce MacDonald</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Graeme Robertson</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	<u>Members</u>	<u>Invited Guests</u>	Andy Beaumont	Professor Sir Hew Strachan, FBA, FRSE	Keith Bryce	Gail Fox, Girl Guiding Scotland	Dylan Lynch	Councilor Robert Aldridge	Bill Ramsay	Duke of Buccleugh and Queensberry	Bruce MacDonald		Graeme Robertson	
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3	<p><u>Approval of Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on 14th October 2021</u></p> <p>The minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the South East Scotland Regional Scout Council held on 14th October 2021 by Zoom were agreed as a correct record. The minutes had previously been made available to members. They were approved on the proposal of Simon Innes and seconded by Judith Wood.</p>
4	<p><u>South East Scotland Regional Scout Council Trustee's Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March 2022</u></p> <p>John Cannon (Regional Chair) presented the following report: -</p> <p>I am very pleased to present the Chair's report for the year to March 2022 and you will see I have summarised the year from a Regional Executive's perspective in the Trustees annual report.</p> <p>I can report, the year Mar 2021 – Mar 2022 was a very rewarding one and my thanks go to all Trustees and other individuals who give their time to support us in these capacities, particularly those who hold other positions in the Region also.</p> <p>The Regional Executive returned to quarterly meetings, rather than monthly as the restrictions imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic were removed. The sub committees have met regularly also, allowing the Executive meetings to be really focused.</p> <p>I should add, the sub-committees also have members who are not Trustees but whose role is to provide valuable professional knowledge and we are indebted to their contribution. It is important to state that the role of the sub-committees and Leadership teams are governed by our Bylaws, supported by further Regional Executive Committee decisions and ultimately all decision making remains vested with the Trustees. If anyone would like more detail on the Constitution or Bylaws please contact Andrew Wood, Regional Secretary.</p> <p>The Regional Strategy is pivotal in how we approach our remit as an Executive Committee and this year the REC and RLT felt it important to review this in light of all the disruption and changes faced in the past couple of years to make sure it remains relevant. Steps are now in place to bring this to life and this included both a workshop attended by both members of the RLT and REC as well as a Region wide webinar held at the end of October.</p> <p>On behalf of the Regional Executive I'd like to thank Martin Elliot and all on the Regional Leadership team for their leadership in delivering such an aspirational and high standard of scouting in South East Region.</p> <p>I'd also like to acknowledge and thank Kirstie Armsworth for all she has achieved in her role as Scouting Support Officer, bringing her experience and expertise to the Region and for all the support she gives to Groups, Districts and to the Region as a whole, and notably Martin himself. I know from the ambitious strategy there is still much to do, particularly in growing our volunteer numbers, but I am encouraged by Kirsty's enthusiasm, creativity and focus to make this happen.</p> <p>As you will all be aware, a key part of our strategy is the programme and we all know how important the outdoors and adventure is to delivering that.</p>

As a Region we are very fortunate to have two outdoor centres, Bonaly and Longcraig , so it has been very pleasing to see that in this past year both of these centres have benefited from the lifting of restrictions and our young people beginning to return to make use of the facilities on offer.

As part of our commitment to support these Centres, work to improve the infrastructure at Bonaly has continued to develop and this includes a significant facelift of the Chalet accommodation thanks largely to the ASU that are there every week and also a key development has been the provision of “hobbit” style huts which will be primarily for use by younger age ranges, although all sections are welcome to book them.

I would like to add that this new facility has been made possible by a generous donation from Alison Thomson in memory of her late husband, Ken Thomson, who was well known to many of us in the Region. I know Ken very much enjoyed spending time at Bonaly and we are very grateful to Alison for this donation and look forward to seeing the huts being used in the coming months ahead. They are actually being used for the first time in early December and will be known to all as “Ken’s den”

Plans to develop a modern amenity hub at Bonaly and upgrade the showers and toilets at Longcraig are still very much a priority next year and significant external funding has now been sourced to help meet the cost of these projects thanks to the work of the volunteer Leadership teams at both Centres and the Regional funding committee. My thanks go to all who have been involved in progressing these projects so far and we look forward to these coming to fruition very soon.

Before finishing, I would just to like to acknowledge and thank Edward Baker Grey who is stepping down from the Executive committee tonight. Edward joined the Executive Committee 3 years ago and has played a significant role on the REC and the Finance committee using his skills and knowledge to great effect, helping improve and streamline the analysis of our monthly and quarterly accounts.

In conclusion, the year 21/22 has seen a lot of positive things happening. We continue to have a clear direction of travel illustrated through our updated Regional strategy, we have strong leadership across the Region and in our Districts and we have a very committed group of leaders and supporters delivering fantastic scouting to our young people.

Bruce Macdonald (Regional Treasurer) was unable to attend the meeting but in his absence the meeting chair read out the following report on his behalf:-

The accounting firm Azets drafted the accounts and were checked by the Treasurer and our Finance Committee. The trustees approved the accounts in September and then they were approved by the independent examiner, also from Azets (in Glasgow).

Here are some key points –

- The year to April 2022 continued to be a hard year for the Region with a deficit of £45k (previous year showed a deficit of £32k). This was partly because the income from our centres was low because of Covid 19.
- The deficit at Bonaly was around £24k and in addition around £35k was spent on project work to help improve the facilities there. The deficit at Longcraig was around £10k. These deficits were partly offset by some generous donations of £64k to further enhance the facilities. In the rest of the Region the deficit was £12k which included

	<p>support provided by the scouting support officer,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our investments continued to do well with a gain of £8k and although we moved into less volatile investments, that gain has since reversed because of the war in Ukraine. • In spite of being a difficult year for our centres, our financial position remains strong and we have net current assets of over £600,000 at the end of March. This will enable us to support our plans to upgrade the toilet and shower facilities at both centres in 2023. • This year, since April, both centres have been running almost at capacity and we are expecting to run at a surplus, notwithstanding the substantial increases in energy costs. <p>Finally, we would like to give our thanks to the finance teams at both centres and in the Region for helping run the finances in a very efficient manner.</p> <p>John Cannon proposed the adoption of the Trustees Annual Report and Accounts. The motion was seconded by Colin Orr and the meeting gave its approval.</p>
5	<p><u>Election of Office Bearers and Executive Committee for 2022-23</u></p> <p>Appointment of Office Bearers of the Regional Executive Committee</p> <p>The Regional Commissioner Martin Elliott nominated John Cannon for the role of Regional Chair and Simon Innes for the role of Regional Vice Chair.</p> <p>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>Appointment of Members of the Regional Executive Committee</p> <p>Of the four current elected members, Andrew Penker was not eligible for re-election as he has come to the end of his three year term. Existing elected members Scott Goddard, Colin Orr and Sue Timmins have indicated they are willing to stand again and one other nomination, of Struan Fairweather, have been received. As there have only been 4 nominations for the roles of elected members of the Regional Executive Committee they have been appointed unopposed.</p> <p>The Regional Commissioner nominated Margaret Winter and John Lunn as the nominated members of the Regional Executive Committee.</p> <p>The Regional Executive will also co-opt Steve Gamble and Andrew Penker to serve on the Committee.</p> <p>These appointments were all supported by those present.</p> <p>Appointment of member and youth member to the Council of the Scout Association</p> <p>Nominations to attend the UK Council meetings of Martin Elliott (Council Member) and Roux Hanna-McNiven (Youth Representative) were made and supported by the meeting.</p>

6	<p><u>Approval of Independent Examiner/Auditor</u></p> <p>Bruce Macdonald, the Regional Treasurer, proposed the re-appointment of Azets UK as the Regional Independent Auditor. The proposal was seconded by Judith Wood and approved by the meeting.</p>	
7	<p><u>Regional Commissioner’s Report and Presentations</u></p> <p>Martin Elliott highlighted that it was great that many Scouting events that could not be run recently because of Covid had returned such as the Edinburgh Gang Show. Many of the young people were involved in the Gang Show for the first time and were great ambassadors for Scouting. There had been many recent challenges including Covid, the cost-of-living crisis and the death of our Parton Her Majesty the Queen and all members were thanked for rising to those challenges. He also reflected on the legacy left by our previous RC Margery Naylor who had been a brilliant ambassador for Scouting and was greatly missed. Martin said we could look forward to exciting times ahead – the Regional Strategy will support Groups and Districts, with some ambitious goals and provide the support and tools to deliver these. Thanks were also given to the Scouting Support Officer, Kirstie Armsworth on recruiting new volunteers and working to improve the volunteer experience. All those who have received good service awards were also thanked along with the Awards Committee chaired by John Bruce. Thanks were also given to all members for their endeavours and support.</p>	
8	<p><u>Vote of Thanks</u></p> <p>A vote of thanks was then proposed by Scott Goddard for all who had contributed to Scouting in the Region throughout the year and to those participated in the AGM this evening, our distinguished guests and the members of the Region who had contributed to the success of the evening.</p>	
10	<p><u>Meeting Close</u></p> <p>The Chair thanked everyone for attending and formally closed the meeting.</p>	
<p>John B Cannon Regional Chair</p>	<p>Martin Elliott Regional Commissioner</p>	<p>Andrew Wood Regional Secretary</p>