

# DRAFT

<b>SOUTH EAST SCOTLAND REGIONAL SCOUT COUNCIL</b> <b>Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of South East Scotland Regional Scout Council</b>	
Date:	21st November 2023
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; 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.
<b>Agenda items</b>	
1	<b><u>Welcome and Opening Remarks</u></b>  The meeting was opened by Dick Allan who welcomed everyone to the Annual General Meeting of the South East Scotland Regional Scout Council.
2	<b><u>Apologies</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fiona Hamilton</li><li>• Diane Ross</li><li>• Kirstin Worsley</li><li>• John Buchanan</li><li>• Debbie Elliott</li><li>• David Roy</li><li>• Barry Donald- Hewitt</li><li>• David Roy</li><li>• Michael MacLean</li></ul>

# DRAFT

3	<p><b><u>Approval of Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on 10th November 2021</u></b></p> <p>The minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the South East Scotland Regional Scout Council held on 10th November 2022 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><b><u>South East Scotland Regional Scout Council Trustee's Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March 2023</u></b></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 2023 and you will see a summary of the year from a Trustee Board's perspective in the Trustees annual report. (You will note a change in name from REC to Trustee Board as this comes into effect now and I'm keen we use the updated language. This is part of the Transformation changes that are underway, and I know there have been initial briefings in Districts in the last couple of months to understand this better. There will be more to come on this, in the early part of next year.)</p> <p>I can report, the year Mar 2022 – Mar 2023 was a very successful one culminating in a 15-year celebration of the Region at the EICC on 26<sup>th</sup> March. This was a great opportunity to reflect on all that has been achieved over the past 15 years but also a chance to look forward too.</p> <p>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 Trustee Board meet every three months, and the sub committees have met regularly also, allowing the Board meetings to be really focused.</p> <p>I should add, the sub-committees such as Finance and Risk 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. 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>Having attended the celebration event, it was clear to see that we've seen a lot of change over the past 15 years as a society but what remains constant is that Scouting continues to have a place for young people and the fact our programme now provides for ages from 4 to 25 says a lot about how progressive we are. Our vision remains to prepare more young people with skills for life.</p> <p>The 2022-2025 Regional Strategy is therefore pivotal in how we approach our remit as a Trustee Board, supporting the goals of Growth, Inclusivity, Community impact and being Youth shaped. More of which to come a bit later.</p> <p>The role of SSO has been an important aspect of achieving key aspects of the strategy and I'm delighted we have been able to fund such a role for a few years now and on behalf of the Trustees I'd like to thank Kirstie Armsworth for all she achieved, bringing her experience and expertise to the Region and for all the support she gave to Groups, Districts and to the Region</p>

## DRAFT

as a whole, and notably Martin himself.

With Kirstie, having now stepped down, I'm pleased to say that the Trustees were unanimous in agreeing to continue funding a similar support role to our volunteers this coming year for the Region.

I'm also delighted that we will continue to set aside funds specifically to support inclusion initiatives given the importance placed on this in our strategy.

On behalf of the Trustee Board, 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.

As a Region we are also very fortunate to have two outdoor centres, at Bonaly and Longcraig, that are perfectly placed to support the delivery of our progressive programme to our young people.

As a board of Trustees we are very committed to support these Centres, but recognize in doing so requires a lot of people working together to make this a reality. Our ASUs at both Centres continue to work tirelessly week in week out to do just that, and on behalf of the Trustees I would like to thank them for all that they do.

I mentioned last year we had plans to develop a modern amenity hub at Bonaly and upgrade the showers and toilets at Longcraig and I'm delighted to say that both projects have come to fruition during 2023, with completion of both expected by the end of this calendar year. Both of these projects could be described as transformational as we will now have facilities that are fully fit for purpose, are accessible and will truly enhance the experience of all making use of these Centres.

My thanks go to everyone involved in delivering these projects, with too many people to name, but captured best by seeing what teamwork can do - our staff, our volunteer leadership teams, our ASUs and our Trustees. I know the hours of work that have been involved to do this, but we can be rightly proud of what's been accomplished.

We look forward to a more formal opening of these new facilities in the early part of next year.

Before finishing, I would just like to acknowledge and thank Simon Innes, Andrew Penker and Margaret Winter who are all stepping down from the Trustee Board tonight.

Simon joined the Trustee Board 3 years ago and has played a significant role on the Board. As well as agreeing to be vice chair, Simon took a lead in managing our Risk committee and providing his professional expertise as a Structural Engineer to both projects at Bonaly & Longcraig. Simon's willingness to step in and make things happen have been hugely valued by all on the Board and I'd also like to thank him for all the support he has given me personally.

I knew Andrew professionally from my involvement in Business Excellence and Human Resources and asked him to join the Board in 2019 to provide expertise and direction for managing our people. As an ex-scout, Andrew has thrown himself into this wholeheartedly and has been an incredible help to us particularly during the covid pandemic. His advice has been invaluable during a challenging time and would like to thank him especially for his

# DRAFT

	<p>commitment and willingness to get stuck in.</p> <p>Margaret has been on the board as Girl Guiding representative since 2016, so 7 years and has been an ever-present member bringing her considerable experience, often acting as a valuable sounding board. I'd like to thank Margaret for all her help and support over these years and for demonstrating such a personal commitment to our Board, it has been truly appreciated.</p> <p>In conclusion, the year 22/23 has been extremely positive. We are growing our membership and continue to focus on the other key goals of our strategy – being youth shaped, inclusive and making an impact in our communities. My final thanks are to all the leaders and supporters across the Region; in our Districts and Groups as we simply couldn't deliver such fantastic scouting to our young people without you.</p> <p>John Cannon then handed over to Bruce Macdonald (Regional Treasurer) who made the following report:-</p> <p>The accounting firm Azets drafted the accounts and they 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).</p> <p>Some key points from the accounts were –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The year to April 2023 showed an improved financial position for the Region which was significantly better than expected with a surplus of £63k generated (the previous year showed a deficit of £45). This was largely due to improved trading conditions at our outdoor centres with groups keen to get out after the lifting of the restrictions from the pandemic, and our performance was.</li><li>• The surplus at Bonaly was about £17,500 before projects and depreciation although Longcraig was down about £4,000 which was not helped by increased energy costs. In addition, we continued our investment at both centres spending over £76,000 over the year.</li><li>• Overall, our finances remain in a strong position with net current assets of approximately £750,000 at the end of March which will continue to allow us to support and complete the projects to upgrade the toilet and shower facilities at both our centres with support from Sports Scotland.</li></ul> <p>Bruce MacDonald thanked 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><b><u>Appointment of Office Bearers and Executive Committee for 2023-24</u></b></p> <p><b>Appointment of Office Bearers of the Regional Trustee Board</b></p> <p>It was noted that Martin Elliott as Regional Lead Volunteer/Regional Commissioner continued as an ex-officio member of the Regional Trustee Board.</p> <p>The Regional Lead Volunteer, Martin Elliott nominated John Cannon for the role of Regional</p>

# DRAFT

	<p>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.</p> <p>These Office Bearer appointments were approved by those present at the meeting.</p> <p><b>Appointment of Members of the Regional Executive Committee</b></p> <p>The three current elected members, Scott Goddard, Colin Orr and Sue Timmins indicated they are willing to stand again. In addition, current co-opted member, Steve Gamble, has been proposed as an elected member. As there have only been 4 nominations for the roles of elected members of the Regional Executive Committee they were appointed unopposed.</p> <p>Nominated Member, Margaret Winter had intimated she was standing down and would not be seeking re-nomination. The Regional Commissioner advised of his nominations of John Lunn and Jacob Wood as the nominated members of the Regional Executive Committee.</p> <p>Co-opted member Andrew Penker and nominated Vice Chair, Simon Innes have confirmed they were standing down and would not be putting themselves forward for re-appointment.</p> <p>These appointments were all supported by those present.</p> <p><b>Appointment of member and youth member to the Council of the Scout Association</b></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> <p>These appointments were supported by those present.</p>
6	<p><b><u>Approval of Independent Examiner/Auditor</u></b></p> <p>Bruce Macdonald, the Regional Treasurer, proposed the re-appointment of Azets UK as the Regional Independent Auditor. The proposal was seconded by Scott Goddard and approved by the meeting.</p>
7	<p><b><u>Regional Commissioner's Report</u></b></p> <p>Martin Elliott highlighted the continued recovery from the effects of Covid with increased numbers of Scouting events taking place and increased participation.</p> <p>Martin said that with the implementation of Transformation and the Regional Strategy we could look forward to exciting times ahead. The Regional Strategy has ambitious goals and the Region will continue to support Groups and Districts, with the support and tools to deliver these.</p> <p>Thanks were also given to the Scouting Support Officer, Kirstie Armsworth who had stepped down during the year for her work 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</p>

# DRAFT

	members for their endeavours and support.	
8	<b><u>Vote of Thanks</u></b>  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 AGM this evening, our distinguished guests and the members of the Region who had contributed to the success of the evening.	
10	<b><u>Meeting Close</u></b>  The Chair thanked everyone for attending and formally closed the meeting.	
<b>John B Cannon</b> Regional Chair	<b>Martin Elliott</b> Regional Commissioner	<b>Andrew Wood</b> Regional Secretary