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SOUTH EAST SCOTLAND REGIONAL SCOUT COUNCIL Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of South East Scotland Regional Scout Council	
Date:	15th January 2025
Time:	7.00pm
Location:	By Teams 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; Bruce Macdonald, Regional Treasurer, Andrew Wood, Regional Secretary; Martin Elliot Regional Lead Volunteer; Richard Callander, Lord-Lieutenant of Midlothian; and Stacey McKay, County Commissioner for Midlothian GirlGuiding, Gayle Kennie, Assistant County Commissioner, GirlGuiding East Lothian and Councillor Lezley Marion Cameron, Depute Lord Provost of the City of Edinburgh (part) together with over 40 members of the South East Scotland Regional Scout Council.
Questions	Because the meeting was held by Teams video conferencing the opportunity to raise questions in advance of the meeting was given. Two questions were received which were covered by the Martin Elliot (RLV) as part of review.
Agenda items	
1	<p><u>INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME</u></p> <p>The meeting was opened by Dick Allan, as Chair, who welcomed members and guests to the Annual General Meeting of the South East Scotland Regional Scout Council.</p> <p>Because the meeting was held by Teams video conferencing members were invited to show support for motions by a show of hands using the “thumbs up” facility within Teams or by showing their own thumb on screen.</p> <p>The Secretary confirmed that at least 20 members were present making the meeting quorate.</p> <p>The Chair advised that the Agenda would as set out in the papers previously made available.</p>
2	<p><u>APOLOGIES</u></p> <p>Apologies had been received from:</p> <p><u>GUESTS</u></p> <p>Roderick M Urquhart, WS, HM Lord-Lieutenant of East Lothian Karen Masterton, County Commissioner Girl Guiding East Lothian</p>

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	<p>Ian Montgomery, Battalion Secretary, Edinburgh, Leith & District Battalion, The Boys' Brigade Councillor Robert Aldridge, Lord Provost of the City of Edinburgh Graeme Luke, Chief Executive Officer, Scouts Scotland Gail Fox, County Commissioner, Girl Guiding Scottish Borders</p> <p><u>MEMBERS</u> John Naylor Karina Miller Diane Ross</p>
3	<p><u>GOVERNANCE TOPICS</u></p> <p><u>3a. Approval of Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on 21st November 2023</u></p> <p>The minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the South East Scotland Regional Scout Council held on 21st November 2023 by Zoom had previously been made available to members. The acceptance of the minutes as a true record of the meeting was proposed by the meeting Chair and seconded by Scott Goddard and agreed by the meeting.</p> <p><u>3b. Adoption of the model constitution from Scottish Variations from Policy, Organisation and Rules (SV POR)</u></p> <p>In line with the recommendation from Scout Headquarters, the Regional Trustee Board proposes the adoption of the model constitution from Chapter 5 of Scottish Variations from Policy, Organisation and Rules. A copy of this was available for review and inspection prior to this meeting. The acceptance of the recommendation was proposed by the meeting Chair and seconded by Robert Anderson and agreed by the meeting.</p> <p><u>3c. Note the Regional's financial year</u></p> <p>The Chair asked the meeting to note the Region's financial year is 1 April to 31 March?</p> <p><u>3d. Approval of appointed and community members of the Regional Scout Council</u></p> <p>The Chair asked the meeting to note that the Regional Scout Council can admit other people to membership but that at the moment it is not proposed to appoint any.</p> <p><u>3e. Agree the number of members that may be appointed to the Regional Trustee Board</u></p> <p>The Chair advised that POR states Trustee Boards should have a minimum of 5 and no more than 12 Trustees in total. This includes ex officio and co-opted Trustees and that the Regional Scout Council must agree the number of people to be appointed to the Trustee Board. The outgoing Trustee Board recommends that a maximum of twelve people are appointed. The acceptance of the recommendation was proposed by the meeting Chair and seconded by Andrew Beaumont and agreed by the meeting.</p> <p><u>3f. Agree the quorum for future meetings of the Regional Scout Council (excluding this AGM)</u></p> <p>The Chair advised that the Regional Scout Council must agree its quorum – the minimum number of Regional Scout Council members that must be present at Regional Scout Council meetings. The outgoing Regional Trustee Board recommends the quorum should be set at 20 people. The acceptance of the recommendation was proposed by the meeting Chair and seconded by Alastair</p>

	Elliot.
4	<p><u>REVIEW OF THE PREVIOUS YEAR</u></p> <p><u>4a. Regional Lead Volunteer's and Regional Chair's Review of Scouts in the South East Scotland Region</u></p> <p>The Chair invited Martin Elliot (RLV) and John Cannon (Regional Chair) to jointly present their Annual Review.</p> <p>John Cannon (Regional Chair) began the Review with the following report: -</p> <p>I am very pleased to say a few words as Chair, for the year ended March 2024 and you can see a summary of the year from a Trustee Board's perspective in the Trustees annual report.</p> <p>I can report, the year Mar 2023 – Mar 2024 was a very successful one and the Regional Strategy has been pivotal in how we approach our remit as a Trustee Board, supporting the goals of Growth, Inclusivity, Community impact and being Youth shaped. Martin will outline the key highlights of the year shortly in his annual review, however I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the Trustee Board, 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>My thanks also go to Bruce Macdonald & Andrew Wood and all the Trustees and other individuals who give their time to support us in these capacities, particularly those who hold other positions in the Region also. The Trustee Board meets every three months with the sub committees working hard in the background, 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 are governed by our Bylaws.</p> <p>As a Region we are very fortunate to have two outdoor centres, at Bonaly and Longcraig, that are also governed by our bylaws and as a board of Trustees we are very committed to support their plans to maintain and develop their infrastructure, together with the delivery of a progressive programme to our young people. In doing so, this requires a lot of people working together, led by Peter Casebow at Bonaly and Malcolm Leckie at Longcraig to make this a reality. Along with our staff members, our support teams (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.</p> <p>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>But just before handing over to Martin, I would just to like to acknowledge and thank Andrew Wood who is stepping down from his role as Regional Secretary tonight.</p> <p>Andrew joined the Trustee Board as Regional Secretary just over 4 years ago at the AGM in Oct 2020, our first on Zoom due to the restrictions placed on us by the covid pandemic. Quite an introduction! and he has played a significant role on the Board through some pretty challenging times but as a consequence, thanks to Andrew over these past 4 years we have significantly improved our Trustee meeting management and record keeping. I'd also like to thank Andrew for</p>

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all the support and guidance he has provided to the members of the Chair's committee and to me personally over these past few years. Andrew you will be sorely missed and on behalf of the Trustee Board, thank you again for all your efforts and commitment to supporting the Region as Regional Secretary.

John Cannon then handed over to Martin Elliot who gave the following report.

Martin Elliot introduced himself and thanked everyone for joining and giving up another evening for Scouting. It was great to see a wide range of volunteers from across the Districts and from experienced volunteers to some who have just joined this year.

2024 was a very successful year for the Region but also presented many challenges. The Great Orme Inquiry and prevention of future deaths notice arising from it added a substantial amount of work, but this work has highlighted the high level of safety already implemented within the Region. This has continued to be developed and improved. Many people have been involved in this but Martin Elliot particularly wanted to highlight the work of the District Lead Volunteers and Regional Learning Teams for the work they have done as well as Mike Treanor, Volunteer Development Lead, Bruce MacDonald, Permit Scheme Manager and Simon Innes, International Lead who have all done a huge amount to support the work that has been done over the last year.

The improved volunteer experience rolled out in 2024 most notably the new membership system was highlighted. Again, thanks to all across the Region who have worked to prepare the membership data for the new system and with its implementation.

Martin Elliot advised that a couple of questions had been submitted ahead of time.

Firstly - Who is taking the lead in Compliance under the new system. Martin said that there are two groups within the Region. (One) the Regional Compliance Group led by Mike Treanor and (Two) the Regional Go Live Support Team made up of volunteers from across the Region who have been working hard to support members as they get to grips with the new system.

Secondly - What is the role of the Regional volunteer lead for Transformation? Martin advised that this role was originally created a few years ago to help with Transformation and recognising that there will be further change in the future the role will be maintained, and Scott Goddard will continue to fulfil this role as we continue with the next stages of Transformation.

Martin asked that the meeting take a moment to remember those who have "gone home" in 2024. Several Groups have mourned the death of volunteers this year and in particular he wanted to mention two long standing supporters we lost – Lindsay Latta and Mike Grainger who gave a huge amount of support to our two centres and in Mike's case the Gang Show as well. In addition, the death of Andrew Sharkey former Chief Commissioner for Scotland came as a shock to many. The meeting took a few moments of silence to remember all those who had gone home.

We have continued to work towards our Regional Strategy of Growth, Inclusion, Youth Led and Community Impact. Great progress has been made with a number of reasons for celebration. At this point Martin shared a video highlighting these.

For the year ahead there are exciting plans and if Groups/Districts are looking for support they should reach out to Nacho and Amy the SSOs.

Martin closed his review by thanking all volunteers across South East Scotland noting that Scouting

would not be possible without them.

The Chair thanked the Regional Chair and the Regional Lead Volunteer for their review.

Receive and consider the Annual Report of the Regional Trustee Board including the annual Statement of Accounts

The Chair advised that the Regional Trustee Board has approved the Annual Report and Statement of Accounts and has received a report on the accounts from Whitelaw Wells as Auditors. No vote was required, and the Regional Scout Council was just asked to receive and consider the Annual Report including the annual Statement of Accounts.

The Chair then asked Bruce Macdonald, the Regional Treasurer to provide his comments on the Statement of Accounts.

The Treasurer advised that the accounting firm Azets drafted the accounts, and these were checked by him as Treasurer and the Finance Committee. Because of the grants we received for the projects at Bonaly and Longcraig and also some generous donations, our income exceeded the audit threshold of £0.5M so unexpectedly we had to carry out a full audit. This added considerably to the work involved and timings, so our accounts were later than usual and not able to be completed until December.

The audit was completed by Whitelaw Wells and no recommendations were made by them about our processes which was very reassuring and pleasing. Also, no significant changes were required except that the audit standards require a lot of extra reporting in the trustees' report. The trustees approved the accounts in December, and they were then submitted to the charity regulator OSCR just meeting statutory timescales.

Some key points noted by the Treasurer were-

The year to end March 2024 was another strong year for the Region with a surplus of £82k (previous year showed a surplus of £39k).

Bonaly performed well ahead of budget with increased income and a surplus of around £20k before projects and depreciation although Longcraig had a shortfall of about £3k. We were also helped by some generous donations to further enhance the facilities and were able to complete the upgrading of the toilet and shower facilities at both centres with the support of substantial grants from Sports Scotland. In the rest of the Region the surplus was £24k which arose partly because of the delay in recruiting the scouting support officer.

The balance sheet shows our tangible assets - which is mainly buildings and land - increased in value, mainly as a result of the enhancements we have made. During the year we moved much of our surplus assets into short term government bonds which give a very secure higher rate of return whilst we plan for the future.

As a result of a strong year, our financial position remains strong and we had net current assets of over £600,000 at the end of March 2024 (including investments). This will have reduced since then with the building works being finished.

The Treasurer thanked the finance teams at both centres and in the Region for helping run the finances in a very efficient manner.

The Chair noted that questions were sought in advance regarding the Trustee Annual Report, and

	<p>the Annual Accounts but none had been received. Questions were also invited from the meeting but none were received.</p> <p>The Chair thanked the Treasurer, Bruce McDonald</p>												
5	<p><u>MAKING APPOINTMENTS</u></p> <p>The Chair advised that this part of the meeting was used to organise the set-up of the Region until the next AGM. This would include the appointment of a Regional Trustee Board to oversee good governance for the Region over the next year.</p> <p><u>5a. Appoint the Regional Chair and Regional Treasurer, following their recommendation by the Regional Trustee Board</u></p> <p>The recommendation to the Regional Scout Council is that John Cannon should be re-appointed as Regional Chair and Bruce MacDonald re-appointed as Regional Treasurer. This was approved by the meeting.</p> <p><u>5b. Acknowledge the continuing appointment of the Regional Lead Volunteer by Scouts Scotland</u></p> <p>The Regional Lead Volunteer is appointed by Scouts Scotland and is an ex officio member of the Regional Trustee Board. The meeting was asked to acknowledge this to allow the continued appointment of Martin Elliot as Regional Lead Volunteer to be recorded in these minutes as a record of the Regional Lead Volunteer's appointment. This was noted by the meeting.</p> <p><u>5c. Appoint members of the Regional Trustee Board, following recommendations from the Regional Trustee Board</u></p> <p>The Chair explained that the recommendation to the Regional Scout Council is that the following people should be appointed as members of the Regional Trustee Board for the periods of time stated.</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Sue Timmins</td><td>3 years</td></tr> <tr> <td>Scott Goddard</td><td>3 years</td></tr> <tr> <td>Colin Orr</td><td>3 years</td></tr> <tr> <td>Jacob Wood</td><td>2 years</td></tr> <tr> <td>Steve Gamble</td><td>1 year</td></tr> <tr> <td>John Lunn</td><td>3 years</td></tr> </table> <p>In addition George Brightman, as Regional Youth Lead, is an ex officio trustee and remains in that role.</p> <p>The meeting approved these appointments and noted the continuation of George Brightman's appointment.</p> <p><u>5d. Re-appoint Regional President and Vice President</u></p> <p>At this point the Chair handed over to the Regional Chair.</p>	Sue Timmins	3 years	Scott Goddard	3 years	Colin Orr	3 years	Jacob Wood	2 years	Steve Gamble	1 year	John Lunn	3 years
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	<p>The Regional Chair noted that the Regional Scout Council appoints the Regional President and/or Vice President and advised that Dick Allen is proposed as President and John Bruce and Sir Michael Strang-Steel as Vice Presidents.</p> <p>The meeting approved these appointments.</p> <p>The Regional Chair then handed back to Dick Allen as Chair.</p> <p><u>5e. Appoint the Independent Auditor</u></p> <p>The Chair advised that the choice of independent examiner now needed to be considered. The Treasurer saw no reason to change from Azets who have done a competent job previously but had been unable to obtain a quotation from them and asked that the decision on the appointment is delegated to the trustees once a quote is received. The meeting approved this proposal.</p> <p><u>5f. Elect representatives of the Regional Scout Council to represent the Regional on the Council of The Scout Association</u></p> <p>The Chair advised that under rule 6.5 of Policy, Organisation and Rules, Regional representatives to the Council of The Scout Association need to be appointed last year the appointments of Martin Elliot (Council Member) and Roux Hanna-McNiven (Youth Representative) were made. As these appointments were for a period of three years no action was needed and the meeting was asked to note this for completeness.</p>			
6	<p><u>Closing Remarks</u></p> <p>The Chair thanked everyone for attending and formally closed the meeting.</p>			
<table><tr><td>John B Cannon Regional Chair</td><td>Martin Elliot Regional Lead Volunteer</td><td>Andrew Wood Regional Secretary</td></tr></table>		John B Cannon Regional Chair	Martin Elliot Regional Lead Volunteer	Andrew Wood Regional Secretary
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