



12th/14th Battersea Westside Scout Group, Annual General Meeting 2023

St Luke's Community Hall, Ramsden Road

16th May 2023, 7pm

1. Welcome and Introduction

It was noted that Lead Volunteer, Andrew Hawkin, is acting LV as he is also a section leader.

2. Apologies for absence

- a. Sandra Flashman
- a. Shauna Corke
- a. Tom White
- a. Amanda Thomas
- a. Peter Hapgood
- a. Richard Leoni

3. Minutes of AGM held on Wednesday 27th September 2022 to be agreed by the meeting

Minutes were agreed by the group.

4. Group Scout Leader's Report

The Lead Volunteer (Andrew Hawkin) is very proud of what is happening amongst sections- the groups are delivering scout association aims.

Easter camp had 50 attendees and many adults invested.

There are about 130 youth members across 5 sections. Waiting list is comfortable but not overfull at present; 20 on waiting list due to join beavers/cubs in next year and a further 10 who are aged 4. There is a large waiting list for scouts but don't have capacity; this is being made clear on the website.

New website launched with a link for people to sign up to the group. There is also a members page containing useful links (eg to badges) at the bottom. If people need help with signposting they were asked to get in touch. A new Instagram account has been set up with a first "Ad" post from "Balham Newsie" account.

LV noted that the biggest change is within the scout association, with the move from executive committees to trustee boards, in order to align with charity commission guidance. There has also been a move from formal hierarchy leadership group to volunteer teams. This allows for more flexibility with tasks, thereby easier for people to join a section group as a leader or as part of the volunteer team in support roles. The current available roles have descriptions on the website. It was pointed out that 18-25 year olds can be included on trustee board.

He reported that Governance challenges for the year ahead include a risk register being put in place and section level budgeting to help leaders.

Andrew thanked section leaders for all their hard work over the year. Awards were given on camp to Mark Palmer for 5 year service and Christina Wright (previous GSL) with a county award. The group also has young leaders supporting sections. Thanks was given to adults who supported on Easter camp- particularly Angela who led all the cookery.

Thanks also given to trustee board- Anthony, Oli and Fran. Andreas, the previous treasurer, given a special mention.

Parents who have signed up on rota to help were thanked. This is especially needed at the moment as the group needs more leaders to help run groups. The group was asked to provide help where possible in order to enable the groups to continue to run.

New volunteers were thanked: Padraig Cronin at St Luke's Beavers, Keserie Leoni at St Luke's Cubs, Ian Bullock at Scouts. Emily Pickett, David Bercovici and Oli Hemming were invested on camp.

Thanks was given to new people behind the scenes: Marianne Haggstrom (data controller), Richard Leoni (training and development), Chris Pearce (admin support), Mark Slater (Sys admin).

Andrew explained that we have lost several of our best leaders- notably Craig who has moved to Berlin. The group is consequently in a vulnerable position and a plea for support was given. Help is needed in these areas: lead volunteer, scout leader as the current scout leader is also the lead volunteer (this can be done as a team), assistant leaders. The group also needs support roles which are available on the website: marketing lead and Trustee Board members. Parents were asked to offer help with specific tasks – and to get in touch if they have any specific skills that could support the group.

5. Treasurer's Report

The treasurer explained the following:

Subs remain at the same level £35 per person per term. Subs have been at the same level since 2017/18

Subs raise about £12k per annum and further income comes from the Alexander Fund and other bodies.

Expenditure is focussed on activities as building does not need to be rented.

Other key sources of income include tax reclaim which is in progress for this year.

Last claim was processed in 2022 and the group has up to 3 years to reclaim from HMRC.

The treasurer encouraged parents to tick gift aid as this is worth up to £5k a year.

The Scouts membership fee, known as Capitation fees, is biggest expense. Last year it was £54 per year which totalled £6408 for the 112 members.

Capitation fee has increased by £1 for the coming year and will be £6765 for the 123 members.

Current account has high £30k which changes on monthly/termly basis. The group is not looking to accumulate more funds.

Ella Bartlett Trust totals over £73k and the current interest in this National Savings and Investment Account is minimal.

6. Treasurer's update on Ella Bartlett Trust

The treasurer explained that this was set up by a benefactor, giving a substantial amount to put in trust. Currently there is no proposal on how to use this money.

The 3 current trustees have proposed to stand down and that the trust is taken on by the trustee board and placed in a high interest account, with safeguards set up around it for its use.

The treasurer reported that the accounts need to be audited- and for any contacts to get in touch. The date for reporting finances needs to be clarified and this will be agreed with the auditor when they are put in place. Currently we are reporting up until 1 April 2023 and there is a proposal to move this by 5 days to be in line with the financial year.

A question was raised about the purpose of the funds in the current a/c, especially given that this year the group don't want to increase the amount. It was discussed that a proper reserves policy for emergency funds needs to be agreed. A float of money plus capitation fees suggests that a sensible amount in the current account could be £10-15k. The group were asked that if they had any good ideas on how to spend the money to let the group know.

7. Chair's Report on Volunteer Status

The chair explained that the main change is the name- from executive committee to trustee board. There is some governance involved, namely on deciding the writing of the constitution. The chair attended a meeting last week looking at the changes. This included the need to pay for someone to audit the finances.

During this section, the chair highlighted that whilst the group does not pay rent, it does have a social contract with St Luke's to attend services like Remembrance. Whilst he is aware that Sundays are busy for families, he encouraged the group to be mindful that a couple of days a year are expected to be involved with particular events. The chair reminded the group about the Nightingale Walk- where the group has a commitment to run a check point at Kew Bridge serving cakes and coffee. This year it is on Saturday 17 June and walkers are encouraged to raise £50 each. The group used to be the beneficiary of funds collected, but, given the current financial status, they no longer take it. It is given to other local charities instead.

8. Adoption of group constitution for 2023/24

The chair explained that there hasn't been a group constitution before, but now the group needs a set of rules on how it is governed. A template was given to him at the meeting he attended last week and this has been adapted in a very minor way and sent out this morning to the group. Some of the new changes involved are: how the AGM is run, that the accounts need to be audited in advance of the AGM and a trustee report is given, not a GSL report. The group constitution was adopted by the group.

Formal quoracy requirements are also needed regarding numbers of people to attend meetings. For the trustee board, the lead volunteer or chair needs to be present and the proposal is that 50% of the number of trustees attend. Currently the requirement is for 3 trustees (chair, treasurer and lead volunteer) so the quoracy could be either 50% or 3, whichever is more. Proposal for sub committees is to have same requirement and that either the chair or lead volunteer attends. An additional clause was suggested that states that the board of trustees can amend the quorate for sub committee meetings. This quoracy for trustee board meetings and sub committee meetings was voted in by the group.

A quoracy is also needed for the scout council group (this comprises parents of members, the sponsoring authority and patrol leaders) to attend AGMs. The request to attend the AGM is 1 parent per household. It was noted that the constitution can't be amended and that this decision is important. Various options were put forward and the treasurer suggested 15%, including at least two non volunteers. This was voted for.

9. Group Scout Leader to nominate Trustee Board's Chair for 2023/24

Anthony Hamber was renominated as Chair.

10. Elections for the 2023/24 Trustee Board:

- . Secretary – Nominations and approval
Fran Barron voted in. (no other nominations received)
- . Treasurer – Nominations and approval
Oli Hemming voted in. (no other nominations received)
- . Members of the Trustee Board:
 - 1. Elected members:
Marianne Haggstrom- Data Controller
Richard Leoni- training and development
Chris Pearce- admin support
2 more were needed – Nigel Enticknap and Jane Mc Clenahan voted in.

2. Group Scout Leader's Section Leaders:

LV received written notification that Emily Pickett, Jo Thompson and Mark Palmer were willing to take up roles on the Trustee Board in advance of the meeting.

Andrew Hawkin and David Bercovici gave this notification verbally.

11. Section Leader Reports

Section leaders read out their reports. All groups reported on lots of badges gained, trips to nearby places and a plan to carry out more outdoor activities. Many groups have good Duke of Edinburgh support. Some groups carry out joint activities with other groups and where needed, sixers and seconders have been appointed. Easter camp was a great success. Scouts also attended "February Freezer" camp and there is a weekend camping planned in June.

12. Presentation of Awards

- . Beaver of the year – Broomwood Beavers
 - 1. Archie Whitworth
- . Beaver of the year – St Luke's Beavers

1. Fatima Bah – “Fatima always engages with activities and listens to instructions. She is also very helpful and was very keen to volunteer to help out with preparing dinner and washing up at Easter Camp!”
 - . Cub of the year – Broomwood Cubs
 1. Aidan Kai Sojitra
 - . Cub of the year – St Luke’s Cubs
 1. Adam Dziedzic and Sam Hobden.
 - . Scout of the year
 1. Sofia Rigo – “for being the most determined scout I’ve had to go after the chief scout gold”
13. Any Other Business
- Matthew from Scouts thanked all the leaders. Huge thanks also given to Andrew for having 2 roles . Reminder about nightingale Walk volunteers to man the table to email Andrew at gsl@westsidescouts.org
14. Meeting Close

Section Reports:

Broomwood Beavers

Broomwood Beavers meets on a Monday evening and is led by Fiona, Jo, Jon and Alex. This year we have had young leader support also from Chloe, James & Ruairi. We have around 18-20 beavers in our group who attend regularly. Since the last AGM we have worked towards the Teamwork Award and many Beavers completed their Skills Award badge last term. Other badges they have completed include the Experiment badge, Global issues, and the Space badge. This term we are working towards the Outdoors award. We have visited the recycling centre in Wandsworth as part of the Global Issues badge and also enjoyed a Christmas trip out to learn how to make pizza.

St Luke's Beavers

Since September, St Luke's Beavers have engaged with many activities and worked towards and completed many badges. This has included activity badges such as Global Issues, Animal Friend, experiment, book reader and hobbies. We also had 7 Beavers attend Easter Camp which they really enjoyed and was the first night away from their parents for some of them. Our colony has also grown to 18 beavers with 6 joining since Easter. Our current leadership team is myself, Padraig, Joe and Alex and we are very grateful to Padraig for joining us in January and for getting stuck in with helping and planning sessions straightaway! We are also grateful for the support from parents helping out when we have been short of leaders.

Broomwood Cubs

This is my 8th year of being Akela at Broomwood Cubs. I have been assisted by Oli Hemming.

We have been lucky to have a number of Duke of Edinburgh participants and Young Leaders who have joined Broomwood Cubs – Rohan, Ella, Gianluca and Sam. They are fun to have around and engage with the Cubs.

For Broomwood the last year has been another stellar one and we continue having a blast.

Attendance is frequently 90% each weekly meeting. We have around 30 Cubs the majority of which join Scouts.

Badgework

We continue to deliver on a rounded programme earning badges along the way.

Autumn Term last year we did Personal Safety, Egg Challenge as part of Teamwork Badge, Kont and Lashings as part of the Pioneering Badge and enjoyed our Xmas Party.

In Spring Term we covered the Scientist Badge, performed in a Celidh, completed the Communicator Badge and learnt about Money Skills for that badge. We then had Rythmicity Drumming for a joint pack evening and lastly did some Camp Preparations for a return of 12/14th Westside Easter Camp (but aimed at general camping).

This Summer Term we have started the Gardener Badge , and will generally be doing more outdoors meetings. Lastly, we look forward to finished off the year with a fantastic session of Water Games.

Activities

Cubs love Wide Games. They are one of our packs most popular' activities which are jointly held with St Lukes –we have managed doing two over the past year losing one to waterlogged conditions. We have seen record numbers enjoying the various games. Thanks for parents who help marshall and ensure safety for these occasions.

Easter Camp 2023

Broomwood Cubs had 7 Cubs attending Easter Camp at Blackland Camp. On site activities plus a morning hike were enjoyed by adults and Scout members alike.

Thanks to all the other section leaders and parents who helped make the event run so well and ensure that there were lots of happy Scouts. Without these volunteers such events would not be possible.

Future plans

Nightingale Walk 2023 is something that it would be good to build on. Not only is it good exercise; it also helps towards the Hiking Badges whilst raising money for an excellent cause.

Parental helping & Assistance

I have been in touch with parents with respect assistance. I need regular assistance (ideally with safeguarding training and DBS checks done) as well as adhoc help. It is a lot of fun and is important for the pack to thrive. Scout ratios set minimum limits (with higher ratios when outdoors). I feel we are getting there but I would expect help at least once a term. It is thoroughly rewarding and it is important for the group that cancellations are kept to a minimum.

Future Goals

We still need more Assistant Leaders across my section and the other sections. We will continue our focus on badge work in order to get offer the possibility of Cubs attaining the Cub Scouts Silver Award.

Thanks for your continued support.

Akela Broomwood and the Broomwood Cubs Team

St Luke's Cubs

At St Luke's we've settled into our new leadership structure with David Bercovici taking over as section leader, assisted by Keserie Leoni, who has jumped into the leadership role with vigour. Joe and Alex have also provided steady and seasoned support along with our terrific young leaders ,Ella and Joe.

We've welcomed 18 new Cubs since the Autumn term, giving us a very young and 'energetic' bunch of kids, who are providing a strong foundation for our pack's future. We've also added structure to the Pack, reintroducing three Sixes led by our Sixers - Adam, Juliette and Sam.

In the spring term we ran activities covering Chinese New Year and Passover, helping the kids learn while also doing some fun crafts. We also had a festive and filling pancake day, where the kids got to decorate, race and devour their pancakes. We also ran joint events with Broomwood, including a Celidh to celebrate St Andrew's day, Wide Games and a fantastic drum workshop. At our last meeting the Cubs collaborated on a pack charter, which has now been printed up on a large card to be hung at each meeting.

The highlight of the year was Easter camp. St Luke's sent 11 very enthusiastic kids to the camp where the Cubs tried archery, abseiling, crate stacking, the gladiator challenge, hiking and other activities. Most of the Cubs also got to camp out in a tent for a night. Everyone had a great time and were very well fed thanks to Mrs Morrison.

Scouts

Winter camp, easter camp, looking forward to short camp in summer. Ice skating trip highlight. Organising our first external visitor in a while.

Focus on working towards chief scout gold

Sean and Ian, and parents who have helped - would not be possible otherwise!