



1st North Leigh Scout Group Annual General Meeting 2019 Minutes

Tuesday 30th April 2019 at the Mason Arms Public House

1. Welcome

The Group Chair opened the meeting at 7.30 pm and welcomed everyone. He expressed his disappointment that, despite trying hard to encourage parents to attend the meeting, none were present.

Present	Matthew Ives Joff Greer Alison Kennett Lindsay Cloughley Lucy Kennett Alex Champness Jill Drewett Jeremy Taylor	Group Scout Leader Endeavour Scouts Leader Windmill Cubs Leader Woodland Beavers Leader Windmill Cubs Pack Assistant Kestrel Cubs Assistant Leader Group Treasurer Group Chair & Secretary
Apologies	Kate Drewett John Masters Aubrey Townsend Ant Curran Rachael Jarvie Pip Curran Joy Rendell	Kestrel Cubs Leader Endeavour Scouts Assistant Leader Endeavour Scouts Assistant Leader Endeavour Scouts Assistant Leader Windmill Cubs Assistant Leader Kestrel Cubs Assistant Leader Group Secretary

2. Minutes from the 2018 AGM

The Minutes from the 2018 AGM were agreed and signed.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Treasurer's Report

Jill Drewett presented the following report.

The Financial Reports can be found at the end of these Minutes.

The start of 2018 brought new beginnings, not only a new Treasurer but also a new online accounting system GNU. OSM was also implemented across the group.

I am pleased to report the OSM system has simplified the recording of payments and to date only two parents/guardians are paying by other means.

The GNU system has enabled reports to be run off for individual sections and to date I've not had any complaints, so hope you are finding them useful.

The bank balance for the group is still in a healthy position finishing the year with £25,044. This is £1,415 increase on last year.

Donations throughout the year were generous at £2,866, and we thank Jeremy for his hard work knocking on doors for the Duck Race and taking part in the Cotswold walk for the Benevolent Fund and raising a total of £841. Also, many thanks to all those who kindly donate to the Group it is very much appreciated.

Capitation was £3,157 down on last year by £82, also a reduced head count of 74 from 77 the previous year.

I am still trying to obtain the gift aid due from HMRC. It was submitted but returned till the Treasurer's name is changed, which is proving to be an arduous and daunting task. The District Treasurer told me she had spent many an hour filling in these forms, but I will not be beat!

On that point can I ask Section leaders to try and persuade the parents and guardians to tick the box on OSM to claim the gift aid, as hopefully, it will simplify the collecting in the future.

I close by thanking all of you who have made my first year as Treasurer a welcoming if not brain searching experience.

5. Chairman's Report

The following report was presented by Jeremy Taylor.

It has been another busy year for the Exec Committee. I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to Jill who is the unsung hero of our committee, keeping an eye on and a record of the money flowing in and out of the group. This involves many other tasks that go on behind the scenes.

Sections

I won't waste much time talking about the sections because the section reports will be far more enlightening. However, it is great that Anna Lloyd has been able to join the Beaver team, which has grown from strength to strength over the last 12 month. A big thank you to Lindsay and Anna for the excellent work you are doing with the section.

We are currently a little light in female numbers within our scout troop. I personally believe that a flourishing Beaver section helps the flow of children upwards through cubs and scouts and will stand us in good stead for the future.

I was extremely lucky to be allowed to go along on the scout section's trip to Snowdonia last year. It was fantastic fun and an amazing adventure for the scouts and leaders alike. A big thank you to Joff, John and Aubrey for organising a trip that will live long in the memory.

Sadly, it looks like we will be losing Alex from Kestrel Cubs later this term and he will be missed. It is not often you meet someone who enjoys talking about IT as much as you do. I particularly enjoyed spending time with Alex in Snowdonia where he wore Indiana Jones' cast offs and carried a ruck sack containing one of everything you could ever imagine.

Events

Aside from the huge number of events and activities put on by each of the sections, I think we had some excellent group events in the last year.

Our 2018 Duck Race was another great day out in the sun. In fact, it was too hot! It was so hot that we struggled to get anyone to eat from the BBQ or to buy a beer from the drinks tent! Nevertheless, we still made a good profit and everyone who came along had great fun.

I would like to thank everyone who helped for all their hard work, especially Alison, whose endless energy and enthusiasm made it all come together so successfully.

Group Day at Youlbury was great fun again. Despite the slightly damp conditions, all the children seemed to have a great time. This is probably my favourite group event because I love seeing the children from the different section mixing together and helping each other. The elder children are fantastic role models to the younger members.

Thank you to all the leaders, their families and friends, for all the hard work that goes into making this such a successful event.

Sadly, the annual Scout Hike had to be called off this year due to bad weather. It was the right decision to make as we could not risk anybody getting into difficulty. However, it was very sad because of all the hard work that had gone into preparing for the event. It also produced a lot of additional work in returning fees and equipment, etc.

Thank you to everyone who helped in any way with the hike and let's hope that the weather in 2020 will be perfect for hiking.

Administration

The use of OSM Online Payments is going well and I have had very few queries from parents over the past 12 months. I know that the leaders have been sorting out the odd problem with cancelled payments but I am not aware of any real difficulties. Hopefully, all section leaders feel that the system is working for them.

The Benevolent Fund, formally known as the Bursary Fund, is in a healthy state and, despite knowing that there are members of the group who could use it, we have not

yet had any calls upon it. It is supported monthly by Mr and Mrs Pairman, great patrons of our group, who believe very sincerely in the concept of 'Scouting for all'.

After the last AGM, we put together a committee, consisting of group representatives and subject matter experts, to look our accommodation problems. This was mainly that scouts were finding the school to be too small for their meetings. We looked at radical options like getting the scouts to slim down but soon returned to reality. We considered options such as building a bespoke scouting facility, building a shared village facility and even splitting scouts into 2 sections. There are no obvious solutions and some very challenging ones. Currently, partly due to a slight reduction in scout numbers and increased use of the woodland, the committee is in abeyance; however, with the thriving Beavers Section and a growing North Leigh, I think this may become a greater priority in the future.

Looking Forward

We are a fun, active and growing Group who are engendering all sorts of important life skills into our members and we have some great adventures on the horizon.

It is not long now until the West Oxfordshire District Camp and we have around 40 attending.

The anniversary Brownsea Island trip is looming and will be an amazing group event.

We are a financially stable.

Thank you so much to each and every leader for the incredible amount of time and energy you put into running your sections. You are all amazing people and we are so lucky to have you.

Resignation

Lastly, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Joy Rendell who has been our Secretary for several years and who has been at the heart of many of our events. Joy has been trying to resign as Secretary for as long as I can remember and I have persuaded her not to do so.

However, we have abused Joy's willingness to help for too long and Jill and I have now taken a 2:1 majority decision and, even without having someone to step into the role, have decided to retire her ourselves.

For the time-being, I will carry out the role, including the Compass tasks and Jill and I will use Matthew as our '3rd person scrutiniser' on any financial transactions. Joy had kindly agreed to allow us to continue to use her name in the role until we get a replacement, just to keep us legal.

Joy, it has been a joy to work with you. I will miss your wisdom and encyclopaedic knowledge of the Group, which is the only thing that has kept me out of prison these last couple of years.

We have a small gift for Joy that I will deliver to her.

6. Group Scout Leader's Report

Matthew thanked everybody for welcoming him into the Group. He said that scouting had changed from the time of his previous involvement and that he felt fortunate to be part of our Group. He was looking forward to working with all the sections, helping with training and anything else that the leaders felt was needed.

7. Endeavour Troop Report

Sadly, whilst Joff Greer spoke at the meeting, a copy of what was said was never received to add to these minutes.

8. Windmill Cubs Report

The following report was presented by Alison Kennett.

Spring 2018

Badges;

Worked on Skills Challenge, World Challenge, Scientist, International and Artist Activity badges.

Activities included;

Celebrating the Chinese New Year, Pancake Day fun, making air powered rockets and electrical circuits, trying out the Golf Range and a treasure hunt.

Summer 2018

Badges;

Outdoor challenge, Adventure challenge, Nordic challenge, Road Safety and Athletics activity badges, Navigator stages 1 & 2, Nights away and Top Secret Spy Challenge fun badge.

Activities included;

Learning how to understand and read maps – the treat at the end was some chips! We made & tested boats down by the river, pitched tents, outdoor cooking and our traditional Supa soaka night.

Autumn 2018

Badges;

World challenge, Personal challenge, Skills challenge, Adventure challenge, Teamwork challenge, Outdoor challenge, Naturalist, Animal carer, Pioneer, Backwoods cooking and Artist activity badges.

Activities included;

This term we finished off a lot of badges we had started. We had a visit from birds of prey and ferret specialists, we had an evening at Brookes climbing wall in Oxford, did paper pioneering in addition to earning our pioneering badge, which ended up with the cubs making and testing stretchers around the hall, went ten-pin bowling, made Christmas crafts.

Group Events:

Winter Hike – Feb 2018
Litter pick – May 2018
Duck race – July 2018
Group day – Sept 2018
Remembrance parade – Nov 2018

District & County Events:

Scrapheap challenge – January 2018
St George's Day Parade – Apr 2018
County Awards Day – May 2018

Camps:

Secret Agent Camp (with Beavers) – at Youlbury – July 2018
Sixer & seconder camp – Sept 2018
Christmas sleepover – Dec 2018

Thank you to Rachael for supporting me over the past few months.
Thank you also to our 'part-time' leaders Megan and Lucy who help out whenever they can when their university studies allow them.

9. Kestrel Cubs Report

The following report was presented by Kate Drewett.

Big change in our location this year as we finished meeting at Abingdon and Witney College due to construction work starting on the building we were meeting in. After a hunt for a new location in North Leigh came up blank we decided to start meeting in Hailey Village Hall as it has a large room for running around and a great outside space. We plan to now split our sessions between Hailey and the Woodland in North Leigh.

Many thanks to Sophie for allowing us to meet in her woodland, the cubs really enjoy using the woodland - especially for endless requests for Capture the Flag. We built bug hotels and hedgehog homes and we hosted a family campfire. We did a litter pick along the hedgerow to help manage the woodland in return for its use. In addition to continuous work on the core Challenge badges we worked on our pioneering, scientist, backwoods cooking, astronomer and naturalist activity badges. We also worked on Navigator level 3.

We also had a Hawk and Ferret night in the woodland and we visited the Ardley Energy Recovery Centre. We then followed on the re-use, recycling theme we had a junk crafting evening which produced some amazing models including an almost life sized crocodile.

A 'bring a friend to cubs' night which resulted in a new addition to the pack.

We joined up with Windmill pack for Christmas crafting to make snow globes from jam jars and sock penguins. (Which reminds me - we need a glue gun!)

Another Narrowboating camp with LNBP went really well and included an awful lot of pie eating. We also held a rather soggy post group day camp!

Pip did some lovely work with the Cubs from both packs to create a beautiful felt wall hanging to commemorate 100 years since WW1.

Our visit to Pizza Express for a Christmas treat was great fun and we enjoyed playing quiz games around the table.

We helped with the Jamboree fund raising by hosting a Santa Sleigh night around Madley Park - a huge thank you to the Cubs and Parents who came out to help out bedecked in sparkly lights.

A big thanks to both assistant leaders Pip and Alex who continue make scouting fun and thank you to all the parents who have come along to help with crafting and badge work and hikes. Parent support is always much appreciated.

Sadly for us Alex is moving to Cornwall later this term. I'd like to thank him for being such good fun to work with and hopefully he will stay in touch and can still come to Brownsea with us this Summer!

10. Woodland Beavers Report

The following report was presented by Lindsay Cloughley.

Beavers has 2 leaders, 1 young leader and 18 ... soon to be 20 beaver. We also have occasional help from Megan when she is home from university and a dedicated band of parents who help on a rota system.

We have been very busy over the past year and it is hard to pick out the highlights BUT here goes....

We have visited the fire station and went to sing carols at the old peoples home on Madley park, the local police have been visited us twice to talk about personal safety and calling the emergency services we have also had a talk from Guides Dog for the blind.

We have completed sections from all the challenge badges as well as our Navigation badge L1, Global issues, Disability Awareness., Builder badge and Digital Maker L1 and this term we are undertaking our Air activities badge L1

In July we had a visit from a Joey scout from our pen pal troop in Burliegh Heights on the Gold Coast in Australia it was a fantastic evening, but a little stressful as it coincided with England playing in the world Cup.

We have been on 2 sleepovers in the school and an overnight camp at Youlbury.

Alison helped with our St George and the Dragon sleepover in April 2018 and this encouraged 6 beavers to attend Secret Agent Camp at Youlbury in the summer ...

thank you to Alison for organising everything. We have just had another sleepover this April on the theme of explorers this time. Thank you to Kate for helping this time. Hopefully this one will get my permit ... but we will still need help!

This year we have had 5 beavers progress to cubs and 4 of those got their Bronze award. Most of our beavers are on target to get their bronze award before they move up. Which is great ...

But one of the most exciting things this year was the investiture of Lynx AKA Anna who started in September as our ABSL.

This has made a huge difference to beavers and this Wednesday we will go to 4 lodges and 20 beavers. This time last year we had 11 beavers so you can see we have grown steadily. We could not have done that without Lynx.

Beavers are going from strength to strength we have 7 on our waiting list with start dates from September. So I de expect to maintain our colony at 20 – 24. We could just do with a few more girls.

Overall the colony has grown and become more adventurous. The beavers are all looking forward to WOD camp and Brownsea Island. Oh and if you want any tent pegs hammered in give me a call we have 14 experts after our sleep over last weekend !

11. Any Other Business

We have a received a thank you from Network for all those who partook in completing the Nordic Badge and for letting them have a stall at the Duck Race in July 2018.

12. Election of Officers

Chair: Jeremy Taylor
Nominated by Alex Champness; Seconded by Alison Kennett

Treasurer: Jill Drewett
Nominated by Lindsay Cloughley; Seconded by Alison Kennett

Secretary: Joy Rendell – This appointment was in name only
Nominated by Jill Drewett; Seconded by Joff Greer

13. Close of Meeting

The Group Chair thanked everyone for attending and for their input to the meeting, which he closed at 8.15pm.