



1st North Leigh Scout Group Annual General Meeting 2020 Minutes

Tuesday 21st July 2020 via a Zoom Conference Call

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	Alison Kennett	Windmill Cubs Leader
	Anna Lloyd	Woodland Beavers Assistant Leader
	Ant Curran	Endeavour Scouts Assistant Leader
	Jeremy Taylor	Group Chair & Secretary
	Jill Drewett	Group Treasurer
	Joff Greer	Endeavour Scouts Leader
	Kate Drewett	Kestrel Cubs Leader
	Lindsay Cloughley	Woodland Beavers Leader
	Lucy Kennett	Windmill Cubs Assistant Leader
	Matthew Ives	Group Scout Leader
	Megan Magrosky	Woodland Beavers Assistant Leader
	Pip Curran	Kestrel Cubs Assistant Leader
	Ruth Ives	Windmill Cubs Assistant Leader
Apologies	John Masters	Endeavour Scouts Assistant Leader
	Fraser Stokes	Woodland Beavers Assistant Leader

2. Minutes from the 2019 AGM

Subject to the following amendments being added, the Minutes from the 2019 AGM were agreed and would be signed as true and accurate record:

- Item 7. Joff Greer to send the Scout report from the previous AGM.
- Item 11. 'Explorers' to be amended to read 'Network'.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Treasurer's Report

Jill Drewett presented the following report.

Treasurer's report for year ending 31st December 2019

At the beginning of 2019, the Groups financial assets were £25,044. This includes the Groups and Sections monies and reserves put aside for capitation and the planned group camp to Brownsea Island.

The reserve for Brownsea was £5000 and after fees and expenses the remaining balance was a credit of £323 helped by Alison nagging the coach hire company for a refund of £112, for not being at the correct pick-up point. Well done Alison!

OSM continues to be great for collecting subscriptions, fees for camps and events. The total for the subscriptions collected was £7201 and camps £7604.

The annual WOD camp came in at a loss of £610.

The Duck Race raised £709. Refunds for any payments made through OSM cannot be actioned through OSM or GoCardless and the best way is through the BACS system. Fees charged for maintenance of OSM was £395.

Capitation for the year was £3182 for a headcount of 74. This was an increase on the previous year of £25. For this current year we paid £3,555 for a headcount of 79. An increase of £373.

Rents cost £1370 and were increased by both North Leigh School and Hailey Village Hall to an extra £5 per session.

Equipment costs were £1365.

I am pleased to report that we did eventually receive our gift aid claim from HMRC. The amount for the 2018 Hike was £554.54p and for Jeremy's Cotswold walk £67.74p, which he kindly donated to the Benevolent fund. Thank you, Jeremy.

The sum of £1655.62p, for the 2017 subscriptions was credited to the account in March this year. The Group can claim 25p for every pound paid in subscriptions when the payer is a taxpayer. This is an excellent way to boost our funds. Please ask parents to tick the declaration in OSM. I aim to work on the gift aid claims for 2018 and 2019 subscriptions early in 2020 to bring all the claims UpToDate and they can then be claimed through OSM on an annual basis.

At the close of the year the bank balance is still in a healthy position at £16,610, although an overall decrease of £8434 on the year. The executive team decided it would be prudent to place £3000 in a Rainy-Day Reserve account, for any unexpected costs or repairs.

Thank you to all for your support in bringing expenses and monies received to me on a regular basis so I can maintain the accounts and to Jeremy for his help in dual signing the payments and keeping a watchful eye on expenditure.

Jill Drewett
Treasurer
1st North Leigh Scout Group

5. Chairman's Report

The following report was presented by Jeremy Taylor.

We try to keep out of the limelight but 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. Jill has a wonderfully positive attitude and keeps us financially stable. Jill's is a busy role that, like washing and ironing, never seems to be finished. I would also like to thank Matthew who is proving to be a great GSL and who is always there for me when I need to discuss something that is concerning me about the Group.

Our administrative systems are embedded and worked well in 2019. I have had very few queries from parents about OSM Payments or other matters and, whereas I know the leaders have been sorting out some problem, especially with cancelled payments, I am not aware that we had any real difficulties.

We don't currently have a Group Secretary, a role which I have been trying to include within mine – just about! If anyone knows of a likely candidate who would like to give the role a go and lend a small amount of their time towards a wonderful organisation, please let me know! I will buy their first 3 pints!

One of the Advantages of having seen all the reports that are being submitted this evening is that I can avoid too much duplication and won't be boring you for as long as I have done in the past.

However, there are a couple of things that I would like to mention.

Our 2019 Duck Race was a low-key event and didn't raise as much as previous races. However, there was still a lot of work put into the event and I would like to thank all those who sold or bought ducks, to all those who helped run the day and to all those who supported us in the day by joining in the picnic by the river.

We celebrated our centenary – how cool is that?

Our celebratory trip to Brownsea Island was amazing and I feel very privileged to have been a part of it. That said, when I was first asked, I had no idea that I would be spending the whole trip in a hot kitchen tent with 2 grumpy old men for company, having just one 15-minute break to look at the sea - from behind a hedge.

Then there was the 5 o'clock dawn chorus of peacocks and cockerels. If I ever go again, I shall be taking a fox.

Seriously though, thanks to Steve and David for all their hard work in the kitchen and especially to Alison who did so much of the organising. It was wonderful to witness the sections having such a great time on the Island and I am sure that it will remain a life-long memory for all involved.

I am immensely proud to see our wonderful children and leaders represent us at the parades in Witney and North Leigh. We are well represented, well turned out and the best-looking Scout Group in the County.

As Group Chair, I have the privilege of being able to say a little bit about things that don't necessarily fall into the year 2019.

With the current COVID-19 situation, we are in unprecedented times and it is such a shame that so many plans had to be curtailed. That said, I have been hugely impressed by the mass of virtual activities that have filled the void – the way that our leadership team, and our members, have adapted has been mightily impressive – well done everyone.

In consultation with the section leaders, we took the decision to reduce our subscriptions by half for the Summer term. I fully believe that this was the correct thing to do and hope that it will be a one-off.

We are monitoring the situation and hope that we will be able to resume both indoor and outdoor face-to-face meetings in September.

The Benevolent Fund, a favourite of mine, remains in a healthy state and we have not had any additional request to use it during the pandemic. The fund is supported by Mr and Mrs John and Marian Pairman, great patrons of our group, who believe very sincerely in the concept of 'Scouting for all'. I would like to express my grateful thanks to Mr and Mrs Pairman for their wonderful support.

I would also like to express my grateful thanks to Mrs Sophie Warner, owner of Perrotts Hill Farm, who very kindly allows us to use part of her land for outdoor activities. This adds a great dimension to the type of activities we are able to offer our members.

We gained some new leaders during 2019. Fraser Stokes in Beavers and Ruth Ives and Phill Joynes in Windmill Cubs. I know that Fraser and Ruth both have previous - luckily not the type that makes the DBS check – but thank you to all of you for taking that step and joining us and I hope this is the start of a long and happy journey.

Now, sadly, we will be losing Joff at the end of the year. Joff has worked hard for many years to ensure that we have had a Scout Troop that is legendary within the County but he has decided that it is time to move on to other roles within scouting. I won't thank him too much just yet as we will probably be celebrating more nearer Christmas. I have heard a rumour that he is going to take us all away somewhere nice for a weekend – I just hope it isn't that cold wood up at Perrotts Hill Farm!

We don't yet have a replacement for Joff but we are hoping that someone will step up to the challenge in the near future. Matthew is following up a number of options and I really hope that we don't have to stoop to our backup plan of using the spell Obliviate to make Joff forget that he is leaving.

Congratulations to all our young people who have achieved their bronze, silver or gold awards.

Thank you to all our parents for the great support you give us - and for the time you spend sewing on those pesky badges – and for pretending that you got your child to do their own!

Thank you also to the wonderful young leaders who help inspire our younger members. Hopefully you will be the adult leaders of the future!

Now, my biggest thank you of all though is to each and every one of our adult leaders for the incredible amount of time and energy you all put into running your sections. We are a fun, active and evolving Group who are engendering all sorts of important life skills into our members and we have you amazing people to thank for this.

6. Group Scout Leader's Report

The following report was presented by Matthew Ives:

I would like to start with a huge thanks to all section leaders, assistant leaders and helpers for providing an all-round great Scouting program this year. The Group has been well represented by all four sections in many District and County events, including St George's Day and Remembrance Parade. I would also like to mention that the whole Group went to Brownsea Island to celebrate 100 years of Scouting in North Leigh.

Once again, thank you to all of you, and moving forwards working together within the current guidelines we look forward to introducing face-to-face Scouting safely, as soon as possible.

7. Endeavour Troop Report

The following report was presented by Joff Greer:

Summer 2019 Scouts – 25 in total (20 boys and 5 girls)

Summer 2020 Scouts – 23 in total (18 boys and 5 girls)

No. Leaders – 4 full time (Joff Greer – Scout Leader, Aubrey Townsend – Assistant Scout leader, John Master – Assistant Scout Leader & Antony Curran – Assistant Scout Leader) & 1 occasional (Andrew Kennet)

Young Leaders – 3 (Jude Greer, Will Kent and Jasmine Mulraine-Allen)

Meeting Places – Thanks to North Leigh Primary School for use of the School Hall and to Sophie Warner for her continued support and use of her private woodland at Perrotts Hill Fam in North Leigh which enables a full and enriching Programme to be achieved and last memories made for all the scouts and leaders that attend.

Training: All Leaders have either completed 'Wood Beads' or working to personal learning plan to achieve and have assigned Learning co-ordination. Antony Curran has continued to grow and develop his skills and knowledge as a Leader within the Section

DBS – All DBS checks for all Leaders now complete and in date

GDPR / Safety & Safe-guarding – All Leaders are up to date

Nights-Away – Joff Greer and Aubrey Townsend

Activities & events for 2019 / 2020

- CPCW 2019 – two Top 20 Patrols in this event out
- AQUA Camp – The Section enjoyed a wonderful weekend of camping and experiencing all sorts of water activities as they teamed up with Scouts from 1ST Chipping Norton and 1st Bloxham in our Camp Area. This was due to Joff Greer going on the Jamboree shortly after and was assisting in the running of water-based events to fundraise for 24TH World Scout Jamboree and offering to assist with supervision of other Jamboree Leaders Scouts. This was an excellent camp, enjoyed by all and all Groups worked well together and enjoyed shared activity, meal times, games and chill time.
- St. George's Day
- Remembrance Sunday – Scouts attended this year and were well presented for this important time of year.
- North Leigh Hike 2019 – The weather was not kind to us this year and due to extreme weather conditions including snow and drifts and the inability to get safety vehicles to the areas required of the Hike, it was decided by the Event Leadership Team to cancel the event. A new date for March was added for 2020 moving it later in the year so that it did not clash with the Winter Challenge and hoping that the Hike would 'scoop up' any teams that did not get on the Winter Challenge as this event is always oversubscribed. A new website was created just for North Leigh Hike for 2020 and we decided to use Scout EMS as the booking system for the event.
- North Leigh Music Festival Gateway – Scouts pioneered a gateway entrance for the music festival again this year and really enjoy doing this and having games at the football ground when we do it.
- Go-Karting – This year we have found a new and exciting location at Swindon indoor. The Leaders drove two scout minibuses hired from 1st Hanborough and 1st Standlake and took 24 scouts there for the evening and had a great time. This was the first time karting for some of the scouts.
- 24th World Scout Jamboree – West Virginia – Joff Greer took 36 Scouts from around Oxfordshire to the 24th World Scout Jamboree in West Virginia, New York and Canada for three weeks starting on the 21st July 2020 after spending two years as part of the four strong leadership team that along with the Scout Unit, raised £180,000.00 by fundraising, smashing their £160,000.00 target. Thank you to all in the 1st North Leigh Group and West Oxfordshire District that support Joff and the Jamboree Unit to achieve this.
- WOD Camp – West Oxfordshire District Camp

Badges:

- Nights Away
- Hikes Away

- Wilderness Skills
- First Aid
- World Challenge Badge
- Expedition Challenge Badge
- Teamwork Challenge Badge
- Astronautics Badge

Finance:

The Troop remains financially strong though continued fundraising at Troop level and remains with the thought process that funds should be spent on the young people to maximise their time within the troop and the Group. Would like to thank the Executive Committee for all her continued hard work and support in their role within the Group.

The Troop:

The Troop remains strong but has lost some young people this year and our ratio of boys to girls has dropped. Numbers have dropped but are now at a much more manageable level. We have lost some Cubs moving up due to THURSDAY Night meeting clashing with football training, Beavers have increased numbers and we will see numbers increase as they come through Cubs. We had key females from school go across to Guides and this has influenced other girls to following her when this might have been Scouts in the past.

The Troop still has its main focus on Core Scouting skills, principles and values. Joff Greer has informed the Executive Committee that he will be stepping down from his role of Section leader in December 2020 and will be taking other District and County Roles and would like to ask the Exec Committee to speak with the existing Troop Leaders and find new leaders etc either within the Group or from outside.

Thanks:

I wish to thank all Executive Committee members for their continued support and direction, other Section Leaders, Young Leaders, District Team, helpers and parents for their team work and seamless integration from other Sections, our Young People in scouting for making it the most enjoyable and rewarding experience ever and their parents and helpers that make the whole journey just that little bit easier.

Special thanks to my Leader team that work tirelessly with enthusiasm and devotion to making lasting memories for all the scouts in our troop. We have a good time and a laugh along the way. Antony Curran has continued to make a significant impact on the Troop and the Leader Team, growing in confidence and knowledge. John Masters supports the Leaders still with Admin despite not having any of his children any longer within the Group. Thank you, John, for this.

Aubrey remains a massive part of the Troop in his knowledge, commitment and experience. He works tirelessly and is to be thanked for his continued hard work and support of all in the Group.

Our Young Leaders in Will Kent, Jude Greer and Jasmine Mulraine-Allen remain a massive part of the Troop and are learning lots and taking part in the weekly role of the Troop and are respected by the Troop. Thank you to you all.

Jonathan Greer
Section leader
1st North Leigh Scout Troop

8. Windmill Cubs Report

The following report was presented by Alison Kennett.

Windmill Pack North Leigh Cubs – 1 Jan to 31 Dec 2019

What can I say, what a year - 1st North Leigh Scout Group was 100 years old! We celebrated as a group by going to the birth place of scouting, to Brownsea Island, in the middle of Poole Harbour. We travelled down by coach, took over the ferry and then spent a few days on the Island carrying out a variety of activities.

As a pack, in 2019 we enjoyed:

Spring 2019

Badges;

- Worked on World Challenge, Local knowledge, World Faith and Environmental Conservation Activity badges.

Activities included;

- Celebrating the Chinese New Year, Pancake Day fun, Lego challenge and a treasure hunt.
- We visited a mosque which was really interesting if ever you get the chance and dispelled lots of misgivings we previously had.
- We also did 'You Shape' which empowers the cubs to shape the activities we do at cubs.
- We also had a joint session with Kestrel pack, where the guide dogs for the blind came for a visit. We also followed this up by raising some funds for Guide Dogs for the Blind by having a tea party with Kestrel Pack and the Beavers.

Summer 2019

Badges;

- Outdoor Challenge, Adventure Challenge, Skills Challenge, Photographer and Artist activity badges, Emergency aid, Time on the water and Nights away stage badges.

Activities included;

- We tried to be outside as much as possible. We made & tested boats down by the river, pitched tents, outdoor cooking and our traditional Supa soaka night. In addition, we had lots of fun learning about photography and taking various photos in difference places. We also had a session on Canadian Canoes!

Autumn 2019

Badges;

- Personal challenge, Skills challenge, Entertainer and Global Issues Activity badges, Nights away and Hike staged badges.

Activities included;

- We made giant marble runs, practiced some housekeeping tasks for our Skills challenge and have bonfire night fun decorating cookies, apple bobbing and playing bonfire night games!
- We made some puppets and then did a show, had someone come in to teach us Zumba, played laserquest and made Christmas crafts.

Group Events:

- Duck race – July 2019
- Remembrance parade – Nov 2019

District & County Events:

- District Super Cubs – February 2019
- St George's Day Parade – Apr 2019
- County Awards Day – May 2019

Camps:

- PGL - Liddington – March 2019
- WOD Camp (Whole Group) Horley – June 2019
- Brownsea Island Group Camp – August 2019
- Christmas sleepover - Freeland – Dec 2019

Thank you to Rachael Jarvie for supporting me over the past few years, she has now taken a step back and Ruth Ives and Phill Joynes are the new leaders helping me on a weekly basis.

Thank you also to our 'part-time' leaders Megan and Lucy who help out whenever they can when their university studies allow them.

In addition, this year we had Gabriella Balfour-Allen helping us a young leader.

Many hands really do make light work, a really big thank you to all the Windmill Team for their help and support.

Thank you also to the GSL – Matthew for his support and the Exec team – Jeremy and Jill for their continued help and support throughout the year helping the Group run smoothly.

9. Kestrel Cubs Report

The following report was presented by Kate Drewett.

We settled well into Hailey Village Hall, except may be the nights where we have a half hour overlap with the Parish Council when we must be a bit quieter than normal – which isn't always easy!

We welcomed Karl Franklin as a new assistant leader who became the new Chil after the old Chil, Alex Champness literally handed over his woggle on his last night before moving to Cornwall.

Quite a few Cubs moved on to Scouts at once as we had a pack that were all very close in age, 9 leavers achieved their Silver Awards.

Nicola came to visit come in with her Guide Dog who We ran a charity tea party to raise money for the Guide Dogs for the Blind, the Cubs themselves took the orders from guests. We raised £340 and we were planning to repeat the event this year, hopefully we can do that again in 2021!

We also hosted a district junk modelling event with Windmill at the school – again, another one we will repeat in 2021!

Surprisingly one of our most successful nights involved playing board games, but we also had WORCA come in to race remote control stock cars. We also made use of the woodland, with a backwoods cooking session, archery, crafting and a family campfire.

We hiked to Minster Lovell Ruins and took entered Jungle Book scarecrows into the Hailey Scarecrow competition.

We all really enjoyed going to Brownsea with the rest of the group, a big thank you to Alison for organising quite such a mammoth camp, and thanks to Jeremy and David Walker for coming along to cook all the food – and thanks to the peacocks for tidying up the crumbs.

Unfortunately, Sixer and Secunder Camp was cancelled due to heavy rain, so like Windmill we -hosted a Christmas sleepover in Hailey Hall. Pip Curran - Bagheera did an amazing job cooking a mountain of gingerbread so the Cubs could all make sticky Gingerbread houses.

Silver awards

1. Herb
2. Imogen
3. Marc
4. Sam Jeff
5. Ethan
6. Sammie
7. Rhys
8. George
9. George

10. Woodland Beavers Report

The following report was presented by Lindsay Cloughley.

Beavers AGM report April 2019 – 2020

Beavers have had a very successful year despite COVID 19. In April last year we were running with 19 beavers 2 leaders and a young leader. Megan was helping occasionally when she was not at university and we had a parent rota. Since then Fraser Stokes joined us as a leader in September 2019 which allowed us to increase to 24 beavers and since Easter Megan has returned from university and been helping regularly. Therefore, we now have 4 leaders. However, we decided not to take new beavers at Easter as we were just starting virtual scouting and did not feel it was a good first scouting experience, so we now have 16 Beavers. We also have 20 on our waiting list 9 of these will be joining in September. This still leaves 5 who are old enough to join but we do not have space. All potential beavers joining the list are told that we are at capacity.

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

Brownsea Island was an obvious highlight (huge thank you to Alison for all her hard work). We took 11 beavers, some of whom had never been away from home on their own before. To be fair I think the parents were more worried about this than the beavers. We had a fantastic time; the beavers were amazing and it was an experience of a lifetime.

We also went to WOD camp in June with 14 Beavers, had a great evening at Crocodiles of the World and took 21 beavers to Winter Wonderland in November. Joff ran a camp craft evening in the summer term 2019 teaching the beavers to light fires and toast marshmallows and we did our traditional Chip shop walk. In December we went carol singing at the care home on Madley Park, which has also become a bit of a tradition.

During our face to face meetings we completed sections from all the challenge badges as well as our Air Activities badge L1, First Aid L1 and L2, Musician L1 staged badges as well as International, Health and Fitness, and Safety activity badges. Since moving to Zoom meetings we have also completed Disability Awareness, Communicator, Photographer and Digital Citizen L1 as a colony. We have made use of the Badges at Home Feature on OSM and some of our beavers completed badges using this feature. We focused on 10 badges such as Animal Friend and Book Reader that could easily be done at home and provided advice and guidance to parents.

This year we have had 14 beavers progress to cubs and 12 of those got their Bronze award. Our programme is planned so all of our beavers have an opportunity to get their bronze award before they move up.

COVID 19 had a significant effect on our planning. When face to face meetings stopped, we had to review our programme. We decided to use OSM features such as Programme at Home and Badges at Home to allow parents to upload work and activities their beavers had completed. We now send information and activities to parents via a weekly newsletter which was initially supplemented by fortnightly Zoom meetings. The Zoom meetings proved extremely popular with most beavers and we now run them every week. We have 10 beavers who regularly attend and 3 who

complete the badges at home activities. Three beavers have not engaged with our programme at all since we stopped face to face meetings although we do expect them to return when face to face meetings resume

We have attended 2 Virtual camps and the Beavers created their own outdoor/ indoor challenge tasks. We are awarding a camp blanket badge to all the beavers who complete it. Beavers also have the opportunity to complete the Great Indoors staged badge L1 over the summer and we plan to run a virtual event in August and encourage them to take part in Lucy and Megan's orienteering challenge.

11. Any Other Business

11.1 Scouts Training Night. Ant Curran brought up the subject of the Thursday night clash between the Scout Section meeting and Witney Vikings Youth Football Club holding training sessions that took away a number of cubs that would otherwise be moving on to scouts. It was questioned whether or not there was any reason to stop scouts from meeting on other evenings and the general reaction was that there was not.

Kate Drewett mentioned that Miss Abi Currie, a member of staff at North Leigh Primary School, was interested in becoming a scout leader and there was some further discussion about the possibility of starting a second scout section within the group on a different evening that would give potential members more flexibility to join.

Jeremy Taylor asked that the matter be discussed at the next leaders' meeting, then be reported back to the exec committee.

11.2 Training. Joff reminded those present that all leaders need to be up to date with their training or they will not be able to take part in section activities starting in September.

12. Election of Officers

Chair: Jeremy Taylor

Nominated by Alison Kennett; Seconded by Ant Curran

Treasurer: Jill Drewett

Nominated by Kate Drewett; Seconded by Lindsay Cloughley

Secretary: There were no nominations for the role of Secretary so the position remained vacant

13. Close of Meeting

The Group Chair thanked everyone for attending and for their input to the meeting, which he closed at 8.40pm.