



Executive Committee 29 June 2022, 7.30pm



Executive Committee Meeting 29 June 2022, 7:30pm Minutes

Attendees: Martin Burnett (MB), Martin Hall (MH), Alice Veersema (AV), Keith Miller (KM), Stephen Duncan (SD), Lana Duncan (LD), Brian Davidson (BD), Gregor Robertson (GR), Andy Till (AT), Neve Mitchell (NM), Nicholas Knutton (NK), Christopher Knutton (CK), Charlotte Cottam (CC), Lindsay Mckenzie (LM), Tim Connor (TC), Jeff Burns (JB)

Apologies: Rebecca Jamieson (RJ), Lucy Freyova (L), Mike Scott (MS), Aileen Mutton (AM)

Item	Discussion	Action
1. Welcome and introductions	AV welcomed everyone and opened meeting KM presented BD with a certificate for long service to the group	None
2. Acceptance of previous AGM minutes	Previous minutes were reviewed and accepted by the committee	None
3. Appointment of new Executive Committee	MH introduced new Executive Committee members (CC, AM, JB) All Members will be required to complete online training.	None
4. Nominations for Committee Members	MH introduced the nominated committee members Executive Chairperson – AV Secretary - RJ Treasurer – SD All nominations were accepted.	None



Executive Committee 29 June 2022, 7.30pm



5. Ex-Officio Members (Section Leaders)	MH confirmed the Section Leaders Beavers – LG Cubs – MH Scouts – MB Explorers - MS AV stated that the Executive Committee only recently formed and that the prime focus is to support the Section Leaders.	None
6. Outstanding GSL position	AV thanked MH and MB for their continued support in acting as Group Scout Leader. MH and MB agreed to continue in the GSL role until September but reiterated the need for a dedicated GSL. MH advised that there were 1 or 2 potential candidates. AT noted that the GSL is a large role and recommended that a deputy GSL is also appointed. MH agreed and advised that a deputy would be sought.	None
7. Financial report	SD was introduced as new treasurer. AV advised that current finances were not an issue, and therefore no initial fundraising required. AT suggested that the accounts should be circulated. It was proposed that there should be no increase in fees due to current 'cost of living' circumstances. All committee members approved.	AV/SD - Financial reports to be circulated to committee members
8. Proposed amendment to Constitution	AV advised that there was no longer a requirement to amend the constitution to address potential issue with the AGM timing.	None
9. Section Reports		
a. GSL	MH advised that the main issue is to fill the GSL post. Safety and Safeguarding policies are up to date. Leaders/Assistant leader training requirements are currently ok.	None



Executive Committee 29 June 2022, 7.30pm



	First aid training needs to be arranged. Finances are currently ok.	
b. Beavers	Beavers Section Report was read by MH on behalf of LG. A copy of the section report is provided below.	None
c. Cubs	Cubs Section Report was read by MH. A copy of the section report is provided below.	None
d. Scouts	Scouts Section Report was read by MB. A copy of the section report is provided below. AT advised that if MB would need to formally request use of the Daviot Scout Hall if they intended to use it for Scouts on Wednesdays	MB to formally request use of Daviot Scout Hall
e. Explorers	Explorers Section Report was read by KM on behalf of MS. A copy of the section report is provided below. KH added that the Explorers could use additional leaders and thanked MH / MB for their continued support.	None
10. AOB	AV remarked that the Daviot Hall will be used every night of the week. MH noted that main issue is with car parking – in particular during the Cubs/Explorers groups cross over – although there hasn't been any real issues to date. MH formally thanked Paula Harkins for her work in the treasurer role. MH thanked Tina Biddlecombe for all her efforts with Beavers KM thanked the new executive committee for coming on board. KM noted that training advisor support is needed. MH advised that someone has been approached to provide support. KM advised that the issue of training requirements has been raised and is high on the agenda.	None



Executive Committee 29 June 2022, 7.30pm



	MH stated that (Compass) training system should notify members of any training requirements. KM offered to run a First Aid course if needed	
11. Close	AV closed the meeting and thanked everyone for coming. Biscuits were had by all.	



Executive Committee 29 June 2022, 7.30pm



Beavers Section Report – AGM 2022

Last August myself and Lucie, along with another 2 leaders took over the Beaver section from Linda. Linda had run the Beaver section for 15 years at Oldmeldrum Academy. The 4 of us knew we had big boots to fill but with the support of Martin B, Martin H and Mike we got to work.

To say it has been a steep learning curve is an understatement as not only did we take on 18, 6–8 year-olds once a week on a Friday, but we also took on using the Online Scouting System (OSM). The newness of the system was soon overridden by its effectiveness which has enabled us to share information between sections- mainly for transitions. To share planning, risk assessments and badge work with parents and leaders.

Once the Covid rules relaxed, we went back up to 24 Beavers on a Friday! At times we thought this was complete madness but with an ever-growing waiting list, we thought it was for the best. The winter months made it challenging but once the lighter nights came, we were able to make good use of the campsite having made the decision to move Beavers from Oldmeldrum to Daviot Campsite back in August.

We have made good use of all the resources Linda left us. We have also had external visitors to Beavers: Oldmeldrum fire fighters, Makaton teacher, First Aiders, Robert Burns recital and a trip to Mackies. We have made beads, painted stones, had a Jubilee party, played games, gathered food for the food banks, wrote Christmas cards for a nursing home and the Beavers did very well at the Christmas Jambowlree!!

During the year Lucie underook her promise so that she is now ready to take over as Section Leader.

More recently we have been joined by more Assistant Leaders: Jim, Peter, Gillian, Justin and two new young leaders called Kirsten and Cara. Our new young leaders, along with Neve and Ethan, have lots of great ideas and made sm'ores and bubbles with our Beavers during our camp/no camp a couple of weekends ago.

We would like to finish by saying that this time last year we were faced with the possibility of the Beaver Section closing but we are proud to say that as a result of two parents' determination, the section now stands strong with nearly half the section moving up to Cubs after Summer and new Beavers making a start on their Scouting Journey in September. We want to thank both Martins for their guidance and support after Mike stepped down as GSL. And also, a huge thank you to the Beaver parents who have always been there to help us when we needed it. We are glad to be adding a strong Beaver section to an already fantastic Cubs, Scouts and Explorers section. Daviot & Oldmeldrum Scout Group provide an outstanding experience for our young people. Good luck to the new Executive Committee!

Tina and Lucie



Executive Committee 29 June 2022, 7.30pm



Cub Section Report – AGM 2022

The Cub section is in a very strong position in terms of youth members, adult members and in terms of having a well-balanced and fun program of activities.

The last two years have seen significant disruption to our daily lives and also to how we delivered Scouting during the Covid-19 pandemic. Except for a very short period at the start of the pandemic, we have continued to run Cubs through the past two years. Initially this was over Zoom, before moving to face to face meetings outdoors in all weathers! This year, we returned to a much more normal program and even have had a couple of camps!

Our leader team is now quite stable and experienced despite a few changes. Wullie Pirrit will be leaving the section soon having given over three years' service to the Cub section. Wullie has grown into the role over the years and leaves with our best wishes!

Joining us as Section Assistants are Saif Arif-Hall, Sophie McCartney and Neve Scott all of whom were Young Leaders. They will join myself, Tim, Colin, Teri and Gregor as Leader for the Cub Section. We will have new Young Leaders joining after the summer with Conner and Josh joining Harry, Sara, Heather and Anna.

We have a strong and enthusiastic team in place which will hold us in good stead going forward. I am very grateful to all the leader team, past and present, for their support in running the Section. The section has good numbers at the moment and we are predicting a Pack size of around 46 over the two nights, two short of capacity. This Summer will see quite a large change in the Pack with 18 Cubs leaving, 13 of whom will join our Scouts.

We have ran two camps this year – our annual winter camp at Monymusk and a May camp at Daviot, which was organised and led by Colin McKenzie – his first camp which will hopefully see him earn his nights away permit. We are looking forward to taking around 30 Cubs to the Gordon Gathering in September.

As always, we have been concentrating on completing the Challenge Badges at our weekly meetings with the aim to give every Cub an opportunity to achieve the Chief Scout Silver Award before moving to Scouts. In the last 12 months we have awarded 25 Chief Scout Silver badges and close to 600 badges overall.

Looking forward, the Cub section is in a very healthy position with a committed leader team, fantastic Cubs and great support from parents and carers. The biggest challenge in the future is going to be managing the numbers coming through the section to ensure that the whole Group is sustainable, particularly as now there are no Cub age children on the waiting list.

Martin Hall



Executive Committee 29 June 2022, 7.30pm



Scouts Section – AGM 2022

Firstly, I would like to thank all the Scout Leaders for their enthusiasm and hard work throughout the past two years, especially keeping Scouting going through the pandemic.

We currently have 6 ASLs (Matt, Joanne, Chris, Nick, Andrew, Keith) and 5 SA's (Euain, Alistair, Penny, Fraser, Lewis). Alistair & Penny are leaving soon, having been with us since January 2020. We have a new Assistant Section Leader (Kevin Lawrence), and two Section Assistants (Lana Duncan and Chloe Parker) joining us next term. Euain Drysdale is moving to an ASL role from SA over the summer.

We currently have 5 YL's (Matthew, Jack, Joel, Aidan & Joe), with two leaving to go to uni in the summer. We will be looking for another three YL's for next term. All have been taking part in the YL training scheme run by District, and some using the experience as part of the volunteering section of the DofE Award.

Over the past two years, the Scout section have operated on four smaller Troops of 18 Scouts (initially due to group size restrictions) meeting fortnightly on Thursdays and Fridays. In August 2022, we are planning a return to weekly meetings and operate three Troops of 24 Scouts meeting on a Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. This will give the Scouts a much better experience and allow more time to focus on developing skills and working on badgework. Each evening will be led by a Troop Leader, supported by three ASL's or SA's plus 2 YL's.

We currently have 64 Scouts, with almost no Scouts leaving mid-term and the majority of those who leave the Troop at the age of 14 join the Explorer Unit.

With the 3-Troop system, we will operate on a maximum of 24 Scouts in each Troop giving a total capacity of 72. Looking at the projected numbers going forward, we will be at capacity for the next few terms: 72 in Aug 2022, 72 in Jan 2023, 66 in Aug 2023.

Due to the current fortnightly Troop system, it has been more difficult to work towards badges at each meeting, although the majority of our activities do work towards elements of the Challenge badges. Scouts are encouraged to work towards both Activity and Challenge badges in their own time and we use OSM Badges at Home which allows Scouts to upload evidence for checking by Leaders.

Challenge awards are undertaken through weekly meetings and camps. We have awarded 2 Chief Scouts Gold Awards since June 2020, with a few more expected to attain this before the end of the year. Around 30 Challenge badges and 80 activity/staged badges have been gained since Jan 2021.

During the first lockdown, we held weekly Zoom meetings with a variety of fun activities and had a virtual camp too! We initially returned to outdoor face-to-face meetings in all weathers, and soon returned to a much more normal programme.

Our programme continues to be well-balanced with a good variety of activities being undertaken during Scout meetings. In the past year activities have included firelighting, cooking, pioneering, mini catapults, navigation, and shelter building.



Executive Committee 29 June 2022, 7.30pm



We have run three camps over the past year – Summer camp in Cullen (July 2021), a PL Camp (Oct 2021), Skills Camp (Nov 2021) and a Night Hike & Camp (Daviot to Fyvie, Jun 2022). We have also run the Formartine & Buchan Way cycle twice, walked the Gordon Way, taken part in the Jambowtree competition, and done a litter pick around Daviot.

Martin Burnett



Executive Committee 29 June 2022, 7.30pm



Daviot and Oldmeldrum Explorer - AGM report 2022.

So what a roller coaster it has been since our last AGM report in late 2019 where we reported that we were two thirds of the way to our £30K fundraising target for the 2020 Uganda trip.

March 2020, literally days before the first COVID lockdown we had the £30k in the bank, final training camp completed and “relaxing” into the final trip preparation. Lockdown happened and we all thought ok, six weeks of lockdown and the trip would still go ahead. How wrong we were! As you probably know the trip had to be cancelled. Through the Scout travel insurance, we got the bulk of our travel costs back to refund everyone. Hoping still it would only be a 12month delay we sent the £15k build money over to Uganda where during lock down they got the shell of the dormitory built, keeping a lot of people in employment. The Ugandy primary school was closed for a significant period and children relying on the occasional radio broadcast lesson. Thanks to the hall we built in 2018 eventually the P6/7 children were allowed back in as they could socially distance in the hall. Many of the local government schools were not so lucky. The Uganda Project has suffered a massive loss of income with very few volunteers being able to travel but due to low overheads is in a good place. We have been supporting it by donating our Pitmedden Litter Pick money twice a year.

So back to 2022, we have just kicked off planning a 2023 trip to finish the inside of the dormitory. Obviously not 100% confident it will happen, but we have to try!

This year, Explorer Scouting is celebrating 20 years of Explorer Scouting and also that of the Unit. The unit has been running this year with over 40 explorers on the books and typically 30 turning up on weeknights. We must be one of the largest in the region if not Scotland. The fact that Scouting as a whole were able to resume face to face meetings after the first lock down seemed to help boost our numbers particularly with the regular feed in from the Scout Sections.

The leadership team still includes myself, Tim Reid and Keith Millar, Chris Knutton (is there a section who Chris doesn't help with?!) and then more recently Douglas Rintoul has moved from the Scout Troop. We are also regularly supported from other sections particularly Matt and Lewis Kaye, Martin Hall & Burnett and others as required. Another couple of leaders (big kids) would not go a miss!

We have run quite a few weekend activities and camps, but attendance has not been as good as weeknights. Dec 20 A Bennachie Orienteering Challenge in thick mist, June 21 we held a Camp No Camp which coincided with Scout Association allowing residential again, so became Camp Yes Camp. July 21 we had our first traditional summer camp for years where we were able to bask in 30deg sunshine on the shore of Loch Insh and cool off in it in various ways. Sept 21 we had a bike/hike and bieve to the back of Bennachie. Feb 22 Had our 18th Ski Camp at Braemar and were lucky to get there with the amount of snow. Apr 22 A group attended the national Woolly Jumper camp and June 22 we had a few training hikes for our 20th Anniversary Munro Challenge where last weekend we managed to climb 8 over the two days.

During lockdown it took Explorers a while to try Zoom and virtual meetings. Attendance was poor, but we gave it a good try, quizzes, geoguesser, blockbusters and flying to the international space station to



Executive Committee 29 June 2022, 7.30pm



name a few. We then decided to take a break until face-to-face meetings could start again. In preparation for this, we set up a temporary marquee shelter on the Daviot site. This meant we could meet outside in most weathers. It opened our eyes to actually how much better it was than using the hall. I think we have only used the hall three times since around September 2020. The only drawback was going home stinking of smoke from the fires we lit under it to keep warm! After nearly 18 months the temporary shelter was starting to rot and storm Arwen finally finished it off. Luckily we were quickly successful with a £1700 grant from the Scottish Scout Association Development fund which meant we could replace with a custom made roof piece.

Initially our outdoor meetings had restricted numbers and need to be socially distant. We soon cottoned on that Explorers have no idea what two metres was so our meetings usually consisted of activities where they remained seated on socially distant seats. Soon restrictions were lifted and we could get back to more normal activities and also away from Daviot. Bennachie was used for hiking, biking, litter picks until storm Arwen then we had to try other places. As ever activities involving food are the most popular for Explorers. Our Fish and Chip Film nights in particular. The Halloween Blair Witch Project Film night was specifically one to remember, sitting watching it in the middle of the wood in the dark.

This year we have been pushing the Duke of Edinburgh scheme and have a about 15 signed up for this with plans for a bronze expedition later this year. This works in conjunction with the Chief and Queen Scout Awards so almost a two for one scheme.

So to wrap up I just want to give a massive thank you to the leaders, the Explorers and the parents in helping us delivery an amazing programme in a particularly challenging period. All the sign up and number restrictions, covid testing, masks, hand washing, risk assessment and planning seemed to change by the month. The majority of folk managed to keep up with it. Finally, another thank you to the support we get from the Scout Group, a lot that goes on behind the scenes without being seen.

Mike Scott