

## WOKINGHAM AND DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 4<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2009 AT 1<sup>st</sup>  
EMMBROOK SCOUT GROUP HEADQUARTERS, COMMENCING AT 8.00.p.m.

### Present:

Harry Row (District President), Roger Ilett (District Chairman), Steph. Gould (D.D.C.),  
Andy McBain (D.D.C.), Dave Taylor (District Treasurer), Hamish Stout (County Commissioner), Nigel  
Coopey (County Chairman), Mark Hawkins (County Treasurer), Mark Elliott (A.C.C. Explorer Scouts),  
Sue Clarkson (A.C.C. International), Geoff Mitcham (D.C.C.), Ullakarin Clark (Town Mayor,  
Wokingham), Daphne Skates (District V.P.), John Cooper (District V.P.), Jim Earls (District V.P.),  
Margaret Earls, Barbara Peterson (Beavers), Alison Sutton (BSL 1st Woosehill), Vicky Stanford (Parent)  
Lis Ramsay (Exec/DESA/1<sup>st</sup> Finchampstead), Simon Gosden (GSL. 1<sup>st</sup> Finchampstead), Margaret Hammett  
(3<sup>rd</sup> Wokingham), Kaye Gambles (Fellowship/1<sup>st</sup> Emmbrook), Keith Gambles (AESC Phoenix), Margaret  
Taylor (Fellowship), Fiona Barnes (District Exec.), Martin Wilson (GSL 1<sup>st</sup> Emmbrook), Malcolm  
Fillingham (DESL/YL), Paul Aucklam (AESL Phoenix), Alex Thurston (Phoenix Explorers) Ness Owens  
(Phoenix Explorers), Tom Dodington (Phoenix Explorers), Jessamy Wilson (AGSL 1<sup>st</sup> Emmbrook),  
Andrew Jordan (CSL 1<sup>st</sup> Woosehill), Lynn Smith (ADC Fellowship), N. Graham (ASL 1<sup>st</sup> Winnersh),  
Jeremy Burden (ADC Scouts), Debs Parker (GSL 1<sup>st</sup> Wokingham), Keith Winter (District Quartermaster),  
Terry Dungate ((Chair, Appointments Sub-Com.), John Hook (Appointments Sub-Com. Sec.- data) Garth  
Corry, (Explorer Scout) Karen Coinn (Explorer Scout), Ben Ramsay (Explorer Scout), Lewis Wilson  
(Explorer Scout), Michael Hook (Explorer Scout), Jack Stanford (Explorer Scout), Jean King  
(L.T./Appointments Sec.), Chris Brett (Minute Secretary) Total 49 people

### Apologies for absence:

Michael Bowyer (District V.P.), Bob Loades, Dave Judge (G.S.L.1<sup>st</sup> Finchampstead), Colin Smith  
(Webmaster), David Barnes (District Exec.), Ruth Fillingham (A.D.C. Cubs), Nancy Savage (1<sup>st</sup>  
Finchampstead), Wokingham Times Editor

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting in the newly refurbished 1<sup>st</sup> Emmbrook H.Q., and was  
especially pleased to welcome Cllr. Clark the Town Mayor, Hamish Stout and members of the County  
team, Harry Row the District President, and District Vice Presidents, Daphne Skates and John Cooper.

Those present were asked to stand in remembrance of the passing of Don Brett and Les Cooper (District  
Vice Present) during the last year, and for the Opening Prayer lead by Andy McBain.

At her request Cllr. Clark spoke at the beginning of the meeting. Cllr. Clark was extremely pleased to  
attend. As a long time member of the Town Council she had a special interest in matters relating to young  
people in the Town and was a member of the Wokingham and Winnersh Youth Committee. It was very  
pleasing to note that numbers involved in Scouting in Wokingham had increased by 24%, and every  
opportunity should be taken to give prominence to these statistics. Scouting enabled young people to  
become rounded citizens, and the involvement of adults should not be forgotten. Cllr. Clark was sure she  
would be meeting many again throughout the coming year.

## MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 10<sup>th</sup> JULY 2008

The Minutes of the 2008 A.G.M. had been circulated prior to the meeting. There being no amendments, or  
matters arising, those present were asked to approve these as a true record.

|           |                |
|-----------|----------------|
| Proposed: | Jessamy Wilson |
| Seconded: | Debs Parker    |
| Agreed:   | Unanimously    |

## DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS' REVIEW OF ANNUAL REPORTS

Copies of the Section Reports had been circulated, and copies were available at the meeting. Steph Gould spoke of the growth of Scouting nationally, Wokingham being no different. Beaver numbers had increased by 16%, Cubs by 6% and Scouts by 24%. The District had temporarily lost an Explorer Unit, but volunteers had come forward and this should re-start in September. 1<sup>st</sup> Finchampstead was the largest growing group, and had opened a second Beaver Colony and Scout Troop – it was good to see them create different ways of delivering Scouting. Numbers of girls were up in Wokingham. Activities had been undertaken far and wide, including caving. The District Fellowship had re-started evening meetings once a month. All sections showed that by delivering strong programmes they ensured achievement of badges and awards. Hopefully during the coming year the Beavers would enjoy District Activities. All leaders and adults were thanked for giving their time to Scouting.

Adoption of the annual Report:

|           |              |
|-----------|--------------|
| Proposed: | Lynn Smith   |
| Seconded: | Tony Hayward |
| Agreed:   | Unanimously  |

Andy McBain then introduced a presentation on the next 12-18 months.

Since becoming Deputy District Commissioners Andy and Steph had put in a plan for change in the District, and had spent the last two years focusing on particular areas of concern in the District and in the Groups.

Beavers had reported a 15.9% increase, and a further Beaver Colony had been opened that evening. There had been an 80% increase in the number of girls in Beavers. Cub numbers had increased, and Scout numbers had increased by a very good 23.9%. Explorer numbers had dropped 23% as a Unit had to be suspended due to lack of leaders. Hopefully the Unit would be re-opening in September and numbers should increase again. Increasing numbers of adults were now volunteering which was great. 1<sup>st</sup> Finchampstead were the fastest growing group in the Country.

The D.D.C's were trying to improve communication, and were introducing a monthly newsletter, and were also talking to the outside world. David Barnes was talking to the press, and had focused on girls in Scouting there being an 80% increase in the number of girls in Beavers.

In spite of the expanding membership there was still a need to work at providing Scouting for those wishing to join. There was a need to develop leadership teams. Training was needed – it did help. Those who had done their training had a different outlook. This would be a focus area.

Other initiatives included car stickers, and communicating with around 700 parents in the District to encourage them to undertake 24 hours per year of involvement with Scouting. There would be increased focus on activities – a lot of which would be linked to the 2010 celebration of 100 years of Scouting in Wokingham. The District was looking to develop Scouting in Arborfield. Every child should have a chance of adventure.

The D.D.C's also wished to do something to make more of Awards.

## FINANCIAL REPORT

Copies of the financial report had been distributed. Dave Taylor advised that the accounts had already been audited and signed off. Finances remained very healthy. The District had decided to terminate the Badge service following the retirement of the Badge Secretary, and this had affected the financial position slightly. It had been a quieter year following the previous year's Centenary Celebrations.

#### Receipts

The District had received a grant for the purposes of training of £141 from the St. George's Palm Association. This had been earmarked for the Skills Training day which had to be postponed, so would be carried forward.

Income from District Cub activities had been higher than expected. The St. George's Day collection had been donated to Naomi House. The climbing activity had been so successful that a refund of charges had been made.

Interest on the Investment Account was higher than anticipated at £900., but was likely to be considerably less in the coming year. In response to a question regarding the decrease in income the Treasurer advised that the Centenary year celebrations had cost the District £9,000.

#### Payments

A lot less had been spent on District equipment this year, following last year's rejuvenation of the District stores. The climbing grant from last year had been spent on climbing equipment.

Each Section was given a budget to spend. The Cub section had done outstandingly well and had had a huge 'take up' Other Sections were asked to put on District Activities. The District was there to help.

There were no questions on payments.

#### Assets and Liabilities

There was a lot more money in the District than should really be held. The District Executive was gradually using this to keep Subscriptions low, and to spend on equipment. There was a contingency provision of £1,000. - £500 being set aside each year for Jamboree expenses. The disposal of the Badge stocks had raised less than the value in the previous year's accounts, and the balance had been written off. The NS&I Account was just used for secure investments. £7,000 had been transferred into the Current Account to cover potential late returns on Subscriptions, and this had subsequently been repaid.

#### Adoption of the Financial Report

|           |             |
|-----------|-------------|
| Proposed: | Fiona Shaw  |
| Seconded: | Lynn Smith  |
| Agreed:   | Unanimously |

Dave Taylor was thanked for all his work.

#### APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR/EXAMINER

Caroline Starkey had agreed to be Auditor/Examiner of the District's Accounts.

Dave Taylor wished to record the District's thanks for her service and "free training".

#### NOMINATION OF DISTRICT CHAIRMAN

Andy McBain advised that Roger Ilett was happy to continue as District Chairman, and there being no other nomination those present agreed unanimously to his appointment

#### ELECTION OF DISTRICT TREASURER AND SECRETARY

David Taylor being willing to continue as District Treasurer, there being no other nominations those present agreed unanimously to his appointment.

Chris Brett was willing to become the District Secretary. There being no other nominations those present agreed unanimously to her appointment.

## NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION OF THE DISTRICT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

### (a) Members elected by the meeting

Harry Row, David Barnes, Daphne Skates, Claire King, Debbie Brown  
Approved unanimously

### (b) D.D.C's nominations

Tony Hayward representing District Team; An Explorer Scout representative;  
Liz Ramsay representing Explorer Scouts; Terry Dungate – Appointments Chairman

The District Chairman, Deputy District Commissioners, Secretary, Treasurer, and District Explorer Scout Commissioner were ex-officio members of the Committee

The D.D.C's intended to confirm the following appointments for the coming year:

|  |             |
|--|-------------|
| District representative to the Wokingham Council for Voluntary Service | - Harry Row |
| G.S.L. representative to the County Scout Council                      | T.B.A.      |
| Appointment of new Vice President                                      | Jim Earls   |

Jim Earls thanked the District very much for this appointment, and said it was particularly nice being at 1<sup>st</sup> Emmbrook as his first experience of Scouting in Wokingham was with this Group. Having been involved in Scouting in Wokingham for 45 years, he was really looking forward to carrying on the work.

## AWARDS

Wood Badges were presented to Keith Gambles, Jeremy Burden, Malcolm Fillingham.

## HARRY ROW CUP

The Harry Row Cup was presented to Alison Sutton, a Beaver Leader at 1<sup>st</sup> Woosehill Scout Group who had stepped forward and made a difference within the Group and had strengthened communication between the Group and the District.

## MIKE NIGHTINGALE DEVELOPMENT AWARD

The Award was presented to 1<sup>st</sup> Winnersh who “had a small, but developing, Leadership team”

## COUNTY COMMISSIONER

Hamish Stout said that Wokingham, and Scouting generally, had had a fantastic twelve months, and thanked everyone for contributing to it. This was really down to people in the Groups and Sections all continuing to give what young people wanted. There were 350 Sections across Berkshire – a huge number – providing excellent programmes for young people.

7% of members were now girls, and Hamish was sure that Scouting could look forward to increased numbers in the coming year.

There had been growth across the Districts and County during the year. There was no league table of who grew the most. Not everybody wanted to become involved, but the more Scouting could attract the better. Scouting was making a difference in communities across Berkshire. Taking Scouting into a new page was really important.

With regard to the new Chief Scout, Hamish reported that he was very clearly “right on message” and wanted to help. Since the appointment was announced, the Information Centre telephone had not stopped ringing with people volunteering. Scouting for many years had lacked confidence. The hardest thing was to overcome people who said “it will never work”.

Scouting was a partnership. Everything that happened in Wokingham, Groups, and County, was built from partnerships.

Over 5,200 young people from 45 Countries would be attending WINGS this summer, and it would be really good to welcome Scouts and Guides from around the world, which would be an opportunity to demonstrate Berkshire Scouting and Guiding, and also show people outside what Scouting and Guiding could do. The ability to put on things like WINGS; the ability to start new Sections and Groups demonstrated competence and self belief. Scouting was beginning to believe in itself. Self-believers had the edge – they never lost, always lived to fight another day, and always came through.

Each and every one of the young people owed a vote of thanks to the adults.

#### PRESENTATION OF SILVER ACORN

On behalf of the Chief Scout, Andy McBain presented Martin Wilson with his Silver Acorn.

#### MEETING CLOSURE

Steph Gould presented flowers to Chris Brett and Lynn Smith.

Roger Ilett thanked 1<sup>st</sup> Emmbrook for their hospitality, and the District Team for their work during the year.

The formal meeting closed at 9.09.p.m. with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.