



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 20TH GILLINGHAM AIR SCOUT GROUP

Date: 01/11/2024

Time: 7:30pm

At the HQ

Attendees

Dave Colwell, Roger Lovesey, Lee Barnard, Sian Simpson, Lou Warner-Barrett, Naomi Darlington, Abbie O'Brien, Fin Tej, Denise Searle, Kieran Murphy, James Flower, Rob Taylor, Christian Friday, Val Walker, Claire Warner, Roger Isaacs

Apologies

Tracy Forrest, Andrew Woods, Roger Vandersteen, Eve Warner

DC welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked everyone for attending. DC gave a special thank you to all the leaders without whom the scouting activities for the young people wouldn't take place.

Nominations

Chairman - Dave Colwell continues as nominated by SS and seconded by RL

Vice chair – James Flowers – put himself forward and accepted by DC, RL and SS

Secretary – Val Walker – put herself forward accepted by DL and RL

Treasurer – Lee Barnard – continues, as nominated by SS and seconded by DC

Other Group roles:

Hall hires – vacant

Hall maintenance & Equipment – Roger V interim QuarterMaster

100 club – AO reported role has been dormant for 3 years. Need separate bank account if to be resurrected. Put on hold

Assistant GSL – on hold

Explorer's Rep – Kirk Felix

Leaders Rep – Roger Lovesey

Parent Rep – vacant

Brownies Rep – Eve Warner

Roger I noted that due to transformation changes, executive members are changing to trustees and their roles are changing as is the format of an AGM. To be discussed outside of the AGM.

Treasurer's report

LB reported an increase in income, mainly due to an increased top up grant from the Co-op and the fundraising activities that took place. Noted that receipts in the previous year had been higher due to the sale of the group minibus. Expenditure was down this year, noting that the previous year's higher expenditure had been due to replacement of the heating system. Overall the year end balance is higher than it was in the previous year. Accounts still subject to audit.

Section Reports

Chinooks Annual Report 2024 - presented by SS

I am pleased to report that Chinooks numbers of the last year have been consistent. We, in September 2023, had 20 beavers, 1 young leader and 4 adult leaders; now, just over 12 months later, we have 20 beavers, 2 young leaders and 4 adult leaders.

Over the last 12 months we have awarded a total of 290 badges! 7 of these have been Bronze chief scout awards!

We have covered lots of badge work including our challenge badges, experiment, community impact, emergency aid, time on the water, and many more. The beavers have learnt how to shelter build, start fires, work as effective teams, problem solve, tend to plants, learnt basic sign language and much more. We have also done a few one-off badges such as Lion Aid and, most recently, the Big Buzz - which the beavers raised £102 for!

We have been on several visits out to the Fenn Bell, Mote Park, Matts Hill and the local Gurdwara. There have also been guest speakers come into our meetings, including a local sign language teacher, exotic animals, paramedics and a pilot.

I would like to put out many thanks to Karen, not only for ensuring our beavers badge work is collated effectively so they get all the badges they deserve for their hard work, but also for putting up with me for as long as she has. Thanks also go to Kirsty and Jay, who we would not be able to run the section without. Our young leaders, Aidan and Thomas, whether you believe it or not, are key to Chinooks now. Both of you have come into the group this year, tentative at first, but now the beavers have accepted you and look up to you both as role models. A special shout goes out to Aidan who has been, and continues to be, exceptional with our SEND beavers, picking up on their needs and doing what he can to help them.

I hope that at our AGM next year I can report back that Chinooks have maintained their numbers, or grown further, and that our young leaders continue to flourish.

Hopefully it will be onwards and upwards to further adventures!

Hercules Annual Report 2024 - presented by KM

We have 8 beavers invested. One beaver will be invested in 2 weeks time. I beaver is joining Wednesday cubs next week.

Woodsy has been standing in as the leader because after many years of great work Val stepped down.

We have been working towards the beavers bronze chief scout award.

The beavers attended the sleepover and had a great time. Lots of other activities including kayaking at Mote Park, litter picking in the community, shoe shine and church parades.

Spitfire Annual Report 2024 – presented by LWB

The spitfire cub pack have 14 cubs and 4 more have just started double shuffling from beavers. There are 4 leaders and 2 young helpers. We opened the pack up to girls this year and have currently 2. We have had 3 silver awards in the past year and 2 cubs are very close achieving theirs. We enjoyed campfires, den building, climbing and kayaking and shopping for the local food bank. We achieved a few badges such as road safety, naturalist, personal safety.

Hurricanes Section Report – presented by ND

Since April 2024 the Pack has been run by Naomi and Abbie whilst Sam was absent. Change of Akela from Sam Oakley to Naomi Darlington from 1st September 2024
29 Cubs, 2 moving onto Scouts, one about to leave
2 Leaders
2 Young leaders
2 Young helpers
In need of an extra leader and more girls to join the pack.

Badges & Activities:

Chinese new year with dragon puppets, food tasting & chop sticks
Pizza making with the Pizza Oven
Winter Camp to Skreens included a visit to Duxford- Fire safety badge, crate stacking, wheelchair disability track
Made Hama bead coasters and placemats for International Women's day/Mother's day – invited a female relative/friend and made them a cup of tea
Made daffodils for St David's Day
St George's Day Church Parade
Made keyrings and cards for Father's day
Visted the ski centre and went tobogganing and tubing
Scientist badge
Athletics badge
Gardener badge, including growing sun flowers, weeding our raised bed, looked for mini beasts at the park
Kent Scouts Big Buzz – Learning all about bees including crafts
Backwoods cooking at Matts Hill – made fires, cooked hot dogs & smores, made shelters and had a campfire
Navigator stage 1. Worked on map and compass skills including Matts Hill – Orienteering using 4 figure grid references.
Worked towards their teamwork challenge badge – recreated a camp scene from memory using craft materials
Summer Camp to Lower Grange Farm, included a hike, climbing, cave bus/fun bus, water rockets, pedal karts, Nerf Wars
Work towards challenge badges. 3 Silver Scout Awards awarded.

Brownies – presented by CW

Scouts Report – written by AW, read out by VW

We currently have 16 Scouts invested and 2 cubs who are double shuffling and we hope to invest this term.

We have a good mix of boys and girls in the scout troop and have had good attendance at the camps we have run this year.

The scout team works really well but the scout troop has lost Kirk meaning we are in need of 1 or 2 assistant leaders.

The scouts returned to Kingsdown campsite and they all enjoyed its location on top of the white cliffs of Dover.

The scouts also headed back to the Royal International Air Tattoo where we had behind the scenes tours of various aircraft.

As part of the scouts fundraising coffee morning we raised £239 for the Oliver Fisher Special Care Baby Trust who let us visit the unit to ask questions and obviously have a photograph with a giant check.

We look forward to awarding at least 1 Gold Chief Scouts Award in 2025.

Explorers AGM Report – written by AW, read out by VW

We reopened the Tornado's Explorer troop on the 16th January which is a district troop that is associated with the 20th Gillingham.

We were glad former members of the 20th Gillingham returned to join the explorer troop.

We have 8 explorers currently with more moving up from the scout troop.

The explorers attended RIAT in July with the Scouts and a county event (The Big Weekend) in September.

We look forward to growing the section however an extra assistant leader would be great.

GSL report - written by AW and read out by VW

Myself and Siân took over from Roger Lovesey as joint GSL.

Stepping into the shoes of Roger is a monumental task because of the hardwork and dedication he has put into the group but I am looking forward to working with Siân to grow the group.

I look after the scout and explorer section and i would like to take this opportunity to thank Tracy, Bob, Kirk and any parent helpers or other leaders that have stepped up to help.

I hope the cubs and scouts and the scouts and explorers can integrate more and allow more young people to carry on their scouting journey.

Beavers and Cubs GLV Report - presented by SS

We have had a good year in the beaver and cub sections; we currently have 71 members across the 4 sections with 15 leaders. We will be having a new section leader starting at Friday's Hercules beavers when Woodsy steps away from his temporary cover, which we are very thankful for.

Our number of members shows we are maintaining numbers year on year which I attribute to the hard work and commitment of our leaders, who work tirelessly to ensure meetings, events and camps are always engaging and fulfilling for our young people. I want to extend thanks to all the leaders for their dedication to scouting, creative programmes, and unwavering enthusiasm. Our cub leaders held two successful camps this year – with 26 cubs attending winter camp and 32 attending summer camp. We also had another successful beaver sleepover which had 19 beavers attend.

We have had several successful fundraising events in the past year, including 2 quizzes, the may fete and the shoeshine. Without these events to raise money for the group we would not have the offer we have for our young members. To all the parents who have helped at these events, thank you. Help, at events and meetings, is always wanted and appreciated even if it is as small as chopping onions or putting chairs away.

I would like to extend extreme gratitude to Tracey who regularly herds and organises leaders for events. As well as all the leaders and exec members who get involved to ensure the funds the group needs to continue providing young people with wonderful experiences are there. Thanks also go out to the exec for always looking out for what is best for the group. I must also thank Roger V and Steve L for making sure the hall is always in the best possible condition to be used by our young members, and Dave C for his ongoing commitment as our chairman.

I hope in the coming year we continue this momentum; in hope that we will bring in more young people and adults. The recruitment of more adults into the group, whatever the role, will be vital. Fingers will be crossed that at this time next year we will have a greater number of adults and young people to report, along with many more exciting events from the group.

AOB

DC thanked RL for all his work as GSL

KM – raised the issue of leader recruitment as all sections mentioned the issue in their section reports.

Discussion about how to increase adult recruitment – including recruitment board, beaver bistros and cub cafes, going out to wider community etc. Roger I raised the new procedures for adult recruitment in terms of initial discussions that need to take place with new adult recruits.

RI noted that changes are needed due to transformation, but he praised the group for its pleasing section reports, activities, badge work etc and the way the adults in the group already work together as a team.

8:17 meeting ended