

Annual General Meeting of the Group Council of the 7th Braid Edinburgh (George Heriot's School) Scout Group, 21 June 2013, held in the School Chapel of George Heriot's School.

Registered Charity No.: SC036159

1. Welcome, introductions and apologies

Richard Smith (Chair) welcomed those in attendance: parents, Robert Anderson (Cub Scout Leader), and May Burrows (District President). Apologies were received from the District Commissioner, Mr Hector (Headteacher) and Mrs Franklin (Junior School Headteacher).

The Chair explained that the planned ceremony to dedicate the Group's new flags had to be postponed until the autumn term because the flags sent were incorrect.

He also explained the function of the AGM, which was obligatory for us as a registered Charity, to demonstrate the good governance of this charitable organisation and the good order of our accounts.

2. Minutes of the last meeting, 8 June 2012

These had not been circulated to parents, but they had been reviewed by the Group Executive Committee and approved by them. They were available on request to any member of the Group Council who wished to see them. This was agreed as acceptable by the meeting.

3. The role of the Group Executive

This committee meets around five times a year to:

- Assist with the recruitment of leaders and adult support
- Raise funds as required and administer Group finance
- Oversee maintenance of Group equipment
- Ensure that there is adequate and appropriate insurance for persons and equipment
- Organise Group occasions as required
- Review the sponsorship agreement as required.

4. Presentation of the Annual Report and financial statements for 2012-2013

i. The Chair commented that the Group's year had been uneventful until the preceding month (see iv. below). His concerns as Chair were to maintain the Group's provision of a safe, happy and regular affair in children's lives, and its character for them as a 'badge factory', which they enjoy immensely; and to prevent the work of the Group from becoming a burden on parents in terms of what they are expected to contribute to it.

ii. The Cub Scout Leader thanked all supporters of the Group – leaders, the Executive committee, and parents – especially for their help with activities such as driving to and catering for camps.

iii. The Treasurer (Ron McLeod) presented the accounts, and reported that Christopher Fenton was a very good independent examiner, who had gone through the accounts very thoroughly, and had agreed that they were all in order. This had been Ron's third year of acting in the capacity of Treasurer, and he offered to continue in the role.

iv. The Chair and the Cub Leader explained that the Beaver Scout Leader, Becky Fisher, had moved to Switzerland, and that her assistant leader, Sophie, is doing a teaching degree and would be on teaching placement from August – December 2013. This meant that the Group needed two new Beaver leaders from September, and these would be sought over the holidays.

5. Group Council business

i. Approve the Trustees' Annual Report and financial statements 2012-2013

Approved.

ii. Form the Group Executive 2013-2014

Richard Smith stood down from the Chair and handed over to May Burrows, the District President, who was deputising for the District Commissioner and acting as the Group Scout Leader for the propose of the meeting. She congratulated the Group on a successful year. She recognised the problems in recruiting volunteers to provide leadership, and asked for members of the Group Council to help by asking around. She was also aware that the Group still lacked a Group Scout Leader, a position that was proving difficult to fill.

She then nominated Richard Smith (Cub Parent) to continue as Group Chair for 2013-14, which he agreed to. This nomination was approved by Council with no objections.

Richard Smith resumed the Chair, and he thanked Ron McLeod (Group Supporter) for doing an exceptional job as Treasurer. He said that this was a time-consuming job, and Ron's good stewardship of it reflected well on the School as well as on the Group. Ron was re-elected to serve as Treasurer in 2013-14 unopposed.

The Chair also thanked Emma Macleod (Cub Parent) for her work as Group Secretary, and re-elected her to continue in that role in 2013-14 unopposed.

Colin Bibby stood down as an Executive Committee member. With two vacant positions in the Executive, the Chair asked for people to volunteer to join the Executive Committee. Paul Kentish (Cub Parent) and Fiona Macdonald (Beaver Parent) offered to serve in this capacity, and were so elected unopposed by Council.

Linda Hunt (Cub Parent) and Christine Rowley (Cub Parent) agreed to continue on the Committee and were nominated by May Burrows. These nominations were approved by Council with no objections.

Sue Galloway had volunteered to continue in the role of School representative. May Burrows advised the Council that Sue was the nominee of the Group's Sponsoring Authority to the Executive Committee. There were no objections. The Chair explained that this was an important and helpful role, and he was very pleased that Sue was able to continue in it.

Robert Anderson (Cub Scout Leader) expressed his wish to exercise his right to serve on the Executive Committee. He also noted that the Executive would want to co-opt any new Beaver Scout Leader, which was agreed by Council.

iii. Appointment of an Independent Examiner

The recommendation that Christopher Fenton be appointed as the Group's Independent Examiner for 2013-2014 was approved.

6. AOCB

i. The Chair raised the possibility of exploring the feasibility of reopening a Scout Troop in the Group. Many other Scout Troops across Edinburgh were full and had waiting lists, so it seemed a good time to try to re-establish a Scout Troop at George Heriot's School. It would be necessary to consult with the District and with the School, but he wanted to consult Cub and Beaver parents first, through the Group Council. This proposal was very positively received, and Richard promised an update to parents by Christmas. Clearly feasibility would depend partly on volunteers to lead the Troop and on other necessary resources.

ii. The Cub Scout Leader presented thank you badges to Colin Bibby, standing down from the Executive Committee, in recognition of his years of service to the Group Executive Committee, and, in absentia, to Shona Bibby for running the Pack's Scientist badge nights for the past few years.

iii. The District President presented certificates of Appointments by The Scout Association to Linda Hunt and Emma Macleod.

7. Date of the next meeting, June 2014

This would be set early in 2013, and would be held earlier in the term if possible than this year's meeting, to make attendance easier for parents.

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