

Annual General Meeting of the Group Council of the 7th Braid Edinburgh (George Heriot's School) Scout Group, 13th June 2014, held in the Council Room of George Heriot's School.

Registered Charity No.: SC03615

1. Welcome and introductions

2. Apologies

Richard Smith (Chair) welcomed those in attendance: parents, Robert Anderson (Cub Scout Leader), and Jennifer Elder (Assistant District Commissioner for Adult Training), who represented the District Commissioner. Apologies were received from the District Commissioner. The meeting was declared quorate.

The Chair 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.

3. Minutes of the last meeting, 21 June 2013

These had been circulated to parents previously, and were available for consultation at the meeting. They were accepted as an accurate record.

4. Presentation of the Annual Report and financial statements for 2013-2014

- i. The Treasurer (Ron McLeod) presented the accounts, and reported that the independent examiner, Christopher Fenton, had reviewed them and had agreed that they were all in order. Ron explained that our reserves were £1000 lower than at this time last year, due to an increase in the number of leaders and the cost of training them; but that reserves of £5600 were still significantly higher than the level required for operating expenses (around £1500, or six months' running costs). The Chair explained that the Group Executive had considered raising the subscription this year, but had decided against it on the grounds that our financial cushion was still very healthy. Nevertheless, he recommended that next year's Executive keep this under review.
- ii. The Cub Scout Leader (Robert Anderson) noted some of the highlights of the Group's year. The census return reported the highest membership of the Group for a long time – membership had grown by 200% over the last five years. The Beaver Colony was now well established in youth members. A very active programme had been run this year, and Robert thanked parents, especially Paul Kentish, for their help with activities such as driving to and catering for camps, and for joining in activities held outwith the School, such as the JOTT walk, when more adult helpers were needed to maintain the adult to Child ratio.

He noted, however, that the leadership team was very fluid, because it relied on attracting students as leaders; numbers were currently comfortable, but this was not a long-term solution.

- iii. The Chair commented that 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. He noted that this is an unusual Group in that it reflects both The Scout Association and George Heriot's School, and that it is influenced by the demands placed by the School on both pupils and parents. The Group's activities are deliberately kept simple and as undemanding for parents as possible, therefore, while making it possible for the children to do as much as possible in these circumstances.

The Chair also noted that leadership was a challenge across the Scout Association, and that Robert Anderson, in his new role as Scottish Headquarters Commissioner for Cubs, aimed to work on attracting adult leaders to the Association.

He further reported that the hope, aired at last year's AGM, of starting a Scout Troop for the Group, had proved to be premature, given the leadership difficulties experienced by the Beaver Colony, and that the Executive had decided that consolidation of the Cub and Beaver leadership teams must take priority.

Finally, the Chair thanked Robert Anderson, as Cub Scout Leader, Ron McLeod, as Treasurer, and Emma Macleod, as Secretary. He assured the meeting that the Group was well led and in good financial order, and that there were no significant issues to be addressed. The Group had a solid record of safety and insurance, a good relationship with the School, and an improving relationship with the District.

- iv. The Assistant District Commissioner (Jennifer Elder) thanked all the Cub and Beaver

5. Group Council business

i. Approve the Trustees' Annual Report and financial statements 2013-2014

These were approved.

ii. Form the Group Executive 2014-2015

Richard Smith stood down from the Chair and noted that Emma Macleod was standing down as Secretary, and that two ordinary members of the Executive Committee (Linda Hunt and Christine Rowley) were also standing down. Four new members of Committee, including a Chair and a Secretary, were therefore required.

For the purpose of providing continuity to the meeting, Richard continued as Chair until the end of the AGM, as no other offer to serve as Chair was forthcoming.

Ron McLeod (Group Supporter) was re-elected to serve as Treasurer, unopposed.

Sue Galloway was the nominee of the Sponsoring Authority, the Principal of George Heriot's School and this was accepted by the Council

Tony Leatherbarrow (Cub Parent) was elected, unopposed, to serve as Secretary.

The Chair asked for volunteers to join the Executive Committee, and to serve as Chair.

Four members of Council volunteered to serve on the Group Executive, and were elected unopposed: Anne Ajilogba (Beaver and Cub Parent), Fiona Smith (Beaver Parent), Audrey Robertson (Beaver Parent) and Richie Adams (Cub Parent).

The existing Executive Committee members, Paul Kentish (Cub Parent) and Fiona Macdonald (Beaver Parent) were nominated to serve another year.

No nomination was received nor offer made to serve as Group Chair, however, a motion that Ron McLeod to serve as interim Chair, with an agreement that the Group Executive would need to appoint a Chair at its first meeting in the autumn was approved by Council. However, Robert indicated he would need to check with POR¹ over this arrangement. It was noted that the Group (i.e. Cubs and Beavers) could not be maintained without a Group Chair.

Post meeting note:

POR¹ rule 3.24f does not allow the combining of the roles of Group Treasurer and Group Chair in any way. If the position of Group Chair is vacant, then POR¹ rule 3.24 allows for the Group Scout Leader to act as Group Chairman for a short period.

Robert Anderson (Cub Scout Leader) expressed his wish to exercise his right to serve on the Executive Committee.

iii. Appointment of an Independent Examiner

The recommendation that Christopher Fenton be appointed as the Group's Independent Examiner for 2014-2015 was approved.

6. AOCB

¹ POR = Policy, Organisation and Rules. The Governing document of The Scout Association.

- i. The Cub Scout Leader presented gifts and Thank You badges to Richard Smith, Linda Hunt and Emma Macleod, and, in absentia, to Christine Rowley.
- ii. The Assistant District Commissioner wished the Group a good year ahead, and noted that the Cub Centenary was approaching, in 2016.

7. Date of the next meeting, June 2015

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