



Scouts

Thames Ridge

Thames Ridge District Scout Council
8th Annual General Meeting
Thursday 24 September 2020



Thames Ridge District Scout Council

8th Annual General Meeting

24 September 2020



Agenda

1. Welcome by the Chair of the District Executive Committee – Tim Clark
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 18th June 2019
4. Matters arising from the minutes
5. Treasurers report and accounts 2019/20 – Pat Earl
6. District Commissioners report including receiving and considering the annual report – Jaco Mare
7. Approval of the District Commissioners nomination for Chair of District Executive Committee
8. Confirmation of number present for quorum for District Executive Committee
9. Election of Officers of District Executive Committee
 - a. Treasurer
 - b. Secretary
10. Election of up to six members of the District Executive Committee
11. Approval of the District Commissioner's nominations of up to six members of the District Executive Committee
12. Names or positions of up to six members to be co-opted onto the District Executive Committee
13. Appointment of independent examiner of for the 2020-21 accounts
14. Announcement of awards (if applicable)
15. Any other business
16. Presentation on Scouting activities in lockdown



Chair

I don't think any of us will forget this year and no one could have predicted what would have happened and how our lives have currently changed. Regularly used words in our vocabulary now include; Zoom, Teams, virtual, online, unprecedented and yet my first year as Chair started so well – apart from being locked out of our meeting room and having the first meeting in a pub!

I am delighted that Thames Ridge District has moved from strength to strength led by our excellent District Commissioner Jaco Mare. New groups have been formed for Beavers, Cubs and Explorers with more planned. Regular meetings have been held with the leaders of the sections in the district as we try and work as one rather than Abingdon, Didcot and the villages.

Planning was in place for twinning groups around the district. St Georges Day, district events for the sections and then Covid-19 and lockdown hit us. Not deterred virtual scouting started online using Zoom and Teams. More young people joined each week. Cooking, Art, camping out all continued online.

In the background the District, County and National Scouting prepared for when scouting would re - start. Risk assessment processes, financial contingency planning, Adult recruitment, approval and training. All vitally important to ensure Scouting is safe, resourced and will continue when we come out of the current crisis.

I would like to express my thanks to Pat Earl our District Treasurer for keeping our finances in excellent shape and Eileen Bracken who somehow manages to makes sense of the discussions at our Executive Committee meetings and produce coherent minutes. Special thanks to Judith Penrose- Brown who has helped me (I am not a day-to-day Scouter) with her expert knowledge of the District and Scouting as a whole. Thanks also to all of the District Executive Committee members who tirelessly give up their time and provide their invaluable experience at meetings.

While I know we as a District are in a good place with sound finances and a strong leadership team the one aspect I wish we had been able to do more on was identify and help recruit more adult supporters; without whom we cannot provide Scouting for young people. So, if you know of anyone that might be interested please do ask them; if you don't ask the answer will always be 'No'!

Tim Clark – Chair Thames Ridge Scouts District Executive Committee



Treasurer

Thames Ridge District is made up of 18 Scout Groups, 5 Explorer Units and 1 Network Unit. It has a mix of village and town Groups in the area surrounding the Oxfordshire towns of Didcot and Abingdon.

Overall, in the year April 2019 to March 2020 the District has reduced its retained funds by £1,959.00, resulting in a retained surplus of £17,181.00 to carry forward to 2020-21. In April 2019 the District share of the membership fees was set at £3 per head, which brought in an income of £3,384. The operating costs of the District during 2019-20 have reduced by £1,353.00 to £6,459.00 from the previous year, showing an operating net loss of £3,075.00.

It was decided during the year to take out licenses to legally allow Groups to both sell fund-raising raffle tickets to the wider community, and to also view DVDs, at a total cost of £425.00.

During the year the District has continued to review and offer grants; £350.00 towards the cost of an international camp to Chilton ESU, and £1,250.00 towards the planning costs of a building project to

1st Harwell. £237.00 has also been provided as Training grants. We continue to set aside £250.00 each year to be able to offer a grant to the County's Jamboree contingent, which will next take place in 2023 (see Note 3).

There was no major event in the District in April 2019 for St George's Day so no costs were involved in the year.

The District is responsible financially for the 5 Explorer Units within its geographical boundaries. Longworth, Chilton and Harwell Units use their Group bank accounts to record their activities. Abingdon and Didcot Explorer Scout Units have their own bank accounts.

The Abingdon & District Christmas Post raised £1,184 in 2019 and £200 has been paid out to each of the 6 contributing scout/guide groups.

The sum of £617 owed to District for the Badge stock that was sold in 2017 to a 3rd party, who has set up an online shop for Scout Groups to buy direct, has now been reimbursed.

The District Scout Active Support Unit closed in December 2019 and the balance in their bank account of £397.72 was transferred to the District account.

It is anticipated that District expenses for 2020-21 will be in the region of £4,800. It is also expected that there might be an on-going increase in Training Grants, especially for trailer training, with £500 being budgeted for the coming year, together with £1500 as a provision for Grants. It is hoped that District will, at long last, be able to fund the appointment of part-time Administration support for the DC and Appointment's Committee.

Pat Earl - District Treasurer



Accounts 2019

Thames Ridge District Scout Council
Provisional Receipts and Payments Account
For Year Ending 31 March 2020

		2020	2019
		£	£
Operating Income			
Membership Fees	Note 1	1,772	0
Donation			172
Interest		0	0
		<u>1,772</u>	<u>172</u>
Operating Expenditure			
Expenses	Note 2	2,320	2,598
District Equipment		0	0
Hall Fees		440	417
Group Grants		1,600	2,576
Training Grants		237	289
Explorers		0	0
St George's Day		0	1,682
Contribution to Jamboree 2023		250	250
		<u>4,846</u>	<u>7,812</u>
Operating Profit (loss) over year		<u>(3,075)</u>	<u>(7,640)</u>
Passthrough Income			
Badges	Note 4	617	0
S A S balance on closure	Note 7	398	0
Christmas Post	Note 5	1,184	1,377
Camps & Expeditions	Note 9	1,865	7,520
		<u>4,063</u>	<u>8,897</u>
Passthrough Expenditure			
Christmas Post		1,200	2,020
Didcot Explorers	Note 6	0	1,137
Camps & Expeditions		1,748	10,823
		<u>2,948</u>	<u>13,980</u>
Passthrough Profit (loss) over year		<u>1,115</u>	<u>(5,083)</u>
Total Income		5,835	9,069
Total Expenditure		7,794	21,792
Profit (loss) over year		(1,959)	(12,723)
Add B/F surplus		19,140	31,863
Retained surplus		<u>17,181</u>	<u>19,140</u>
Represented By:			
		33,569	25,823
Less Deferred Income		(16,543)	1,613
Plus Deferred Expenditure		0	(11,135)
Jamboree Provision	Note 3	(250)	0
Loans	Note 8	405	2,839
Plus Cash in Transit		0	0
Plus Cheques in Transit		0	0
Closing Balance at 31st March		<u>17,181</u>	<u>19,140</u>

APPROVED BY DISTRICT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

.....
Chair

.....
Date

AUDITORS REPORT

I hereby certify that I have examined the accounts and records of Thames Ridge District Scout Council and find that they are correct and in good order

.....
Adele Winsey

7.7.2020
.....
Date



Notes 2019

Note 1 In 2017/18 income of £1612.50 was reported in the accounts, however it was received early and it related to 2018/19 . In 2018/19 (when the income was due) it was reported again, effectively double counting it, and adding it to the carried forward in 2019/20 , this amount of £1612.50 has been written back ,i.e the income for the year has been reduced, to correct this . This is a non cash adjustment and has no impact on the bank account, only on the surplus reported as carried forwards.

Note 2: Expenses Breakdown

DATE	Description	£
April	DC Search expenses	46.93
June	Leaving gift and card for DC	33.74
June	AGM Refreshments	15.98
June	Hall Hire - AGM Balance	17.00
June	Grant - Chilton Explorers	350.00
June	Training Grant - Cole - Climbing	70.00
August	DC Mileage	98.43
August	20 District neckers	255.60
August	Training grant - 50% Climbing course	37.50
September	Unity Insurance	59.75
October	DC Expenses	165.31
October	Lottery Licence - Abingdon	40.00
October	Training Grant - First Aid	129.00
November	Lottery Licence - Didcot	40.00
November	DC Expenses	136.17
November	Unity Insurance - additional	70.72
November	Hall Hire - new Group at Peachcroft	30.00
November	Poppy Wreath - Abingdon	20.00
December	Hall Hire - Young Leaders	17.00
December	Badges for YLU	22.80
December	MPLC - film licence	345.60
December	DC Expenses	124.22
December	Building Grant - Harwell	1,250.00
December	Poppy Wreaths - Didcot	40.00
January	Hall hire - YL Training	22.00
February	DC Expenses	110.28
February	Hall hire - Didcot Open Day	48.00
February	Hall Hire - 4th Abingdon (January)	84.00
February	OSM	561.60
March	Hall Hire - AllSaints	157.50
March	DC Expenses - February	70.08
March	DC Expenses - part March	62.80
March	Hall Hire - Didcot Methodist church	64.00
March	Jamboree Contribution	250.00
		4,846.01

Note 3: Jamboree Account/Provision

In 2019/20 £250 was set aside within Thames Ridge accounts as the year's contribution toward the 2023 World Jamboree. This is a non cash transaction. It has been adjusted in the accounts to avoid a one off large adjustment every 4 years. The intention is to put aside £250 every year, enabling the District to contribute £1,000 towards the Jamboree in 2023.

Note 4: Badge Account

The District Badge account ceased 1st April 2018 with all the badges passing to a 3rd Party, George Laing, to manage. The stock transferred was valued at £617.17. This has been now been repaid to District.

	£
Note 5: Christmas Post:	
brought f/wd from 18/19	34.59
Income 19/20	1183.53
Expenditure:	-1200.00
c/fwd to 2020/21	18.12

Note 6: Didcot Explorers Unit (Manates) closed end 2016/17, leaving a balance of £1,137.13 within District Bank Account. The unit restarted and this balance was repaid to them in January 2019.

Notes 2019

Note 7: District Scout Active Support Unit was closed down in December 2019 and the balance in hand of £397.72 was transferred to the District bank account.

Note 8: All Loans made in the latter half of the 2018/19 year have been repaid:
A loan has been made to the new group at 4th Abingdon to cover expenses whilst their bank account is set up, which will allow them to claim start-up grants.

	£
	<u>405.40</u>

Note 9: Pass through Camps and Expeditions

District Explorer Camp	Expenditure	-£300.00
	Income	<u>£0.00</u>
		<u>-£300.00</u>
Damboree Camp:	Expenditure: (Deposit pd Dec 2019)	-£50.00
Winter Hills:	Balance b/f: (shortfall Feb 2019)	-£1,448.44
	Income:	£1,865.00
	Expenditure:	<u>-£1,398.00</u>
	carried f/wd to 19/20	<u>-£981.44</u>

District Commissioner

As a district we saw growth again this year across all sections. Beavers up 15.5%, Cubs up 5.3%, Scouts up 17.7%, Explorers up 4.3% and Network up 10.3%. We managed this incredible achievement even though we had a reduction of 25.3% in the leadership team from the previous year.

One of the key objectives for the district team was to look at ways we can better support the groups and leaders within the district. We started the year by rolling out a new website as well as migrating to Office365 for our email services to ensure better stability across our IT infrastructure.

The District Exec also had an objective to unite the District and we have made huge gains in this regard with more and more groups and explorer units supporting one another across the district, we have more work to do here, but if the last few months is anything to go by I know we will succeed as the perseverance and determination shown by each and every one of you has been truly incredible!

I was tasked to grow my district team as soon as possible and as such appointed a Deputy DC at the start of the year to help support programme initiatives in the district. Becki Brewis hit the ground running and I would like to thank her for all her support and input.

Becki and I spent a lot of time meeting as many groups as possible during the past year, to experience first-hand the incredible work you all do across the district and meeting the great young people you support. We have not met with everyone yet but will do so.

I also appointed James Keeping as District Youth Commissioner later in the year and his support and input to myself, Becki and the rest of the District has been invaluable the past few months.

Finally I would like to thank all the adults in the district for their support during my first year as DC, without each and every one of you the incredible things we do week on week for the young people in our care would not be possible, so for that I would like to say THANK YOU!

Jaco Mare - District Commissioner



District Team

This has been an interesting year for the District Team and has certainly proved to be challenging. Over the last 6 months especially we have had to adapt our roles as District Youth Commissioner (DYC) and Deputy District Commissioner for Programmes to better support our District as a whole and to help support Leaders in these challenging times.

Through this change we have been focusing on several different areas to help keep scouting active in Thames Ridge. We've begun to work closer with our leaders through our bi-monthly Section Leaders meetings. These meetings have had a variety of topics with the first ones being geared towards virtual scouting and how to engage the young people and more recently revolving around Risk Assessments and Training in the hopes to support more groups in the transition back to face-2-face scouting.

We hope to continue these meetings going forward as we believe that talking to our leaders on a bi-monthly basis allows us as the district team to better support both our leaders and young people across the District by getting a clear picture of scouting at grass roots level. It also means that the GSL meetings that have started to be run again can be focused on supporting the GSLs in the new aspects of their roles.

We have also spent a great deal of time thinking about the programme and how to encourage young people to achieve the top awards through scouting at present. Through the fantastic work of many people in the District and County we have started to put together shared resources to support virtual and face-2-face meetings. We have produced booklets of activity ideas linked to top awards and have support both County and District virtual camps.

More importantly we have started to reach out to the District as a whole building on our sense of identity as members of Thames Ridge, through celebrations of key events such as VE Day, the District Bake Off and Photography Competition we have started to come together in a range of activities. We have also started the Leader recognition and District monthly updates to celebrate what is happening within the District.

More recently we have been focusing upon recruitment both at a group level and District level. This is being done through an extensive social media campaign and word of mouth and through recommendations from others in the District to help us find the best team to support you and provide the District events and opportunities to support the young people of Thames Ridge. As a District team we have several roles that need filling and we are always happy to welcome new members to the team, documents that have been sent out recently say a bit more about some of these roles but if any of these roles online spark someone's interest please don't hesitate to contact one of us or email our volunteer page.

Going forward we have many great ideas to bring to you but one of our main aims will be in focusing on supporting the groups in the district to ensure that when they are ready they can return to face-2-face meetings and support those who are in need of leaders to help. We are also looking forward to working with our respective group and unit that we have recently set up with Becki supporting the 4th and James supporting Sutton ESU. We will be focusing more upon Training and Risk Assessments in the weeks after the AGM with James taking the lead on Training and Becki focusing upon Risk assessment in order to support you in these key areas.

We look forward to meeting and working with you all in the coming months and seeing what challenges the next year brings

Becky Brewis – Deputy District Commissioner for Programme

James Keeping – District Youth Commissioner

Adult Appointments

The purpose of the AAC is to make sure that all new Leaders, or Leaders changing to a new role, know what they are taking on and understand what is expected from them as a Leader in The Scout Association. Three members of the AAC meet with the Leader to do this. In 'normal' times, this is done face to face but for the last few months these meetings have been held virtually and this may continue as it seems to be a lot easier.

At the start of the year there were 14 members of the AAC; since then we have welcomed Karen Jackson and said goodbye and thank you to Rita Alexander, Dominie Burton and Dave Neal. We have appreciated all the time and helpful suggestions made by those three. The best part of being a member of the AAC is meeting new people, often at the start of their time in Scouting. It meets four times a year as a committee and we would welcome anyone who would like to join us.

Michelle Cox acts as Appointments Secretary and has arranged 93 meetings with new Leaders between April 2019 and now. We are grateful to her for all her hard work and efficiency. One thing that has emerged from lockdown is that AAC members from other Districts have been helping out across Oxfordshire, so consequently Thames Ridge AAC members have met with Leaders from other Districts.

My thanks go to Michelle and all members of the AAC for their willingness to meet new Leaders and to overcome the shortcomings of virtual meetings, especially when the Internet connection is unreliable.

Judith Penrose Brown - District Appointments Chair

Thames Ridge District Scout Council

7th Annual General Meeting 18 June 2019

Minutes



Present: As recorded on the attendance sheet – 34 members / 2 others

1. Welcome

David Cooke, Chair of the Thames Ridge District Executive Scout Council, welcomed everyone to the Annual General Meeting. David also welcomed Cllr Anthony Dearlove – Mayor of Didcot Town Council and Cllr Cheryl Briggs – Deputy Mayor of Abingdon

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from 19 members / 2 others.

3. Minutes – 2018

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on the 26th June 2018 were proposed by D. Stretton-Smith and seconded by Tricia Hawkins. All in favour.

4. Matters Arising

None.

5. District Commissioner's Report

Martin Richards, DC, referred to his report in the Annual Report. Martin said it was time to step down and thanked the Leaders for their support over the years. The annual report was accepted and approved by the meeting. All in favour.

6. Treasurer's Report – 2017/2018

Pat Earl, the Thames Ridge District Treasurer, produced a very comprehensive report which was reproduced in the Annual Report. Pat was thanked for her hard work in providing an in-depth report.

The annual accounts, also printed in the Annual Report, were accepted and approved by the meeting. All in favour.

7. Introduction of new District Commissioner

Phil Earl, County Commissioner, thanked Martin for his work in the Thames Ridge District and reported that there was an 11% growth over the years of integration between Abingdon and Didcot. Phil announced that Jaco Mare had agreed to take on the role of District Commissioner and he was duly invested and renewed Promise.

8. Chair

David Cooke to continue as District Executive Committee Chair.

9. Confirmation of number present for quorum for District Executive Committee

The quorum was proposed by Judith Penrose Brown and seconded by Brian Zimmerman. Number agreed as 6. All in favour.

10. Election of Officers of District Executive Committee

Treasurer – Pat Earl: Proposed by Marie Reed, seconded by Mike Furse

Secretary – Eileen Bracken: Proposed by Tricia Hawkins, seconded by D. Stretton-Smith. All in favour.

11. Election of up to six members of the District Executive Committee

Rita Alexander - proposed David Neal, seconded Alan Leader

Angela Arnold - proposed Rita Alexander, seconded Graham Brewis
Tim Clarke - proposed Dave Stretton-Smith, seconded Mike Furse
Tricia Hawkins - proposed John Atree, seconded Mike Pearce
Joe Suttner - proposed Duncan Cox, seconded Graham Brewis
All in favour.

12. Approval of the District Commissioner's nominations of up to six members of the District Executive Committee

Judith Penrose Brown, Marie Reed, Andy Reed
Unanimous approval.

13. Approval of the District Commissioner's nominations of up to six members of the District Executive Committee

Dave Stretton-Smith – proposed Brian Zimmerman, seconded Stuart Howes. Approved by all.

14. Appointment of Independent Examiner for 2018/2019 accounts

Adele Winsey. Proposed Tricia Hawkins, Seconded Graham Brewis.

15. Presentation of Certificates/Awards

There were no certificates or awards to be presented by the District. A gift was presented to Martin Richards.

16. Any Other Business

Refreshments

Thanks was extended the refreshments for the Annual General Meeting with the cakes being made by the Explorers.

17. Presentation from Scout Network

A presentation was given on the Explorer Belt Expeditions 2018

18. Close

David closed the meeting and thanked those present who he hoped would take away a good feeling of Scouting in the Thames Ridge District.

Meeting closed at 2045