



1st Eaton Socon Scout Group Committee

**Minutes and Reports
of the**

59th Annual General Meeting

Date: Saturday 10th September 2022 @ 7pm

Venue: Eaton Socon Scout Hut





Chair: Reuben Milne
Treasurer: Geoff Brim
Secretary: Gay Mockler-Hall
Group Scout Leader: Martin Dixon

Present: Reuben Milne, Martin Dixon, Geoff Brim, Jan Kitt, Steve Rowsell, Angie Hawkins, Lesley Devaney, Emma Jones, Eliz Walton, Anne Littleford (District Secretary) plus various previous members of 1ESSG and partners of committee members in attendance.

Apologies – Jude Miles, Gay Mockler-Hall, Adrian Ashpole, Heidi Clifford.

Angie Hawkins took the minutes for the meeting in Gay's absence

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Chair's report
2. Review of Minutes of last AGM
3. Record of Reports:
 - Group Scout Leader report
 - Treasurers Report
 - Section Reports
4. GSL Nomination of Chair
5. GSL Nomination of Secretary
6. GSL Nomination of Treasurer
7. Nomination and election of various roles on exec committee
8. AOB



1. Welcome and Chair's report

Reuben Milne officially opened the AGM by welcoming everybody and thanking them for attending. He began by reading the official statement from The Scout Association regarding the sad passing of our Patron, Her Majesty the Queen, last Thursday 8th September.

Reuben went on to say that the past year has been stable for the Group, in that the leaders of all sections have remained the same throughout the period. He also thanked the executive committee and noted the success of the "Welcome Back BBQ and Activity Afternoon", which preceded the AGM at the Scout Hut this afternoon.

Regarding the committee, Reuben announced that Eliz Walton, Gay Mockler-Hall, Jude Miles and Adrian Ashpole are stepping down, and he thanked these members and gave a summary of each of their contributions, noting that many had given several years of service to the committee.

Reuben highlighted the current positive financial situation of the Group and said that as a result we are fortunate enough to be able to invest in a defibrillator to be fitted on the Scout Hut exterior.

The full report is attached to the minutes.

2. Review of Minutes of last AGM

The minutes of 2021 were not discussed in depth, but copies had been circulated prior to the meeting for review.

3. Record of Reports

- Group Scout Leader's report - Martin Dixon provided the GSL and Cubs report.
- Treasurer's Report – attached to the minutes
- Section Reports – attached to the minutes. In addition, Steve (Scout Leader) and Jan (Beaver Leader) gave their highlights of the previous year – both of which was the delight in getting back to being able to camp again!

4. GSL Nomination of Chair

Reuben Milne was nominated again as Chair. Seconded by Jan Kitt

5. GSL Nomination of Secretary

Angie Hawkins was nominated as Secretary. Seconded by Reuben Milne

6. GSL Nomination of Treasurer

Geoff Brim was nominated as Treasurer. Seconded by Jan Kitt

7. Nomination and election of various roles on exec committee

Reuben explained that there are some roles available, but unfortunately as no new or potential committee members were in attendance at the AGM, additional communication would go out to the parents to drum up support and increase committee membership. In the meantime, those roles were being taken on temporarily by current members of the group.

8. AOB

Anne Littleford presented awards to Martin Dixon (5 years' service), Adam Miles (10 years' service), Steve Rowsell (20 years' service and Wood badge) and Geoff Brim (30 years' service).

Reuben thanked everyone for their contributions to the days' events and closed the meeting.



Executive Committee Chair's Welcome / Report

In a moment I'll hand over the AGM to our treasurer to update you on our finances, and our GSL to update you on what all of our sections have been up to and what your young people can expect in the upcoming year.

But before I do, as we've just enjoyed a wonderful event designed to bring the group together, I wanted to spend a little time focusing on 1st Eaton Socon Scouts as a group.

And, thinking about what has changed at group level since our last AGM, I think the best word to sum it up is 'dullness.' Glorious, wonderful dullness. Let me explain.

For the first time in a while, we have a settled group of inspiring leaders for all the sections, brilliantly supported by their assistants and young leaders that, like them, volunteer their time to create wonderful experiences for all the young people in the group.

So that's a big thank you from me to Jan and her team who make Beavers so special, Martin and his team who run Cubs so well, and finally Steve, our newest leader, and his gang who are really making a difference to our Scouts.

Equally, our Group Exec Committee - those individuals who volunteer their time to ensure that everything is in place for those leaders and their teams to do great work - is settled. We're enjoying more parental representation than we have in previous years and this strong, talented team has allowed us to do things like organise this event today as well as the transformation you've seen in the hut – the revamped kitchen and the disabled toilet to mention a couple of the more obvious changes.

Once again, it's a huge thanks from me to Gay, Geoff, Martin, Angie, Jan, Adrian, Steve, Emma, Lesley, Heidi, Elizabeth and Jude for all the work that you do to make the group function – from fundraising to communications and hut maintenance.

And finally, after the pandemic, we actually find ourselves in a fairly settled situation as regards our finances. That's what has allowed us to do big things, like the kitchen refurb, the little things like providing all the refreshments at the event today and has also helped us invest in our new website which went live this week.

At this point, I'd like to offer my personal thanks to Geoff, our treasurer and all-too-often unsung hero who ensures that we have a clear view of the finances so that we can invest in the group.

So what does next year hold for the group? Not dullness, that's for sure.

One reason I am so sure about that is some key members of the exec committee are stepping down after today:

- Adrian Ashpole, who has been leading the efforts on maintaining the hut, is stepping down to allow him to focus his energies on supporting the Beavers team.
- Jude Miles is also leaving us after years and years of service, first as a parent representative and more recently as our fundraiser-in-chief
- Gay Mockler-Hall is stepping down as our group secretary after today to allow her to focus on helping support a future Olympic swimmer (!)



- And finally, after a decade of managing all our scout hut hirers who are such a crucial source of revenue for the group, I'm sad to say that Elizabeth Walton too has decided to bow out after 10 years of invaluable service.

Some of their roles will be filled from the committee members who remain – more of that in a minute – but I would like to take this opportunity to ask the parents and carers here today (and also those who will read this afterwards) to think about volunteering to sit on the committee to ensure that the group can continue to function effectively.

We have a full committee meet once a quarter – often over Zoom to help with travel and childcare issues – and the rest of the time just get on with whatever we are interested in – whether that be fixing up the hut, promoting the group or helping to organise fundraising events...

We still need greater parental representation – especially from Scout parents – and have an urgent need for someone – or several people – to take over from Elizabeth and help us manage all our hut hiring. If you are interested in exploring what any of this might entail, please grab me for a quick chat at the end or email me.

As I hope many of you saw in the Hunts Post this week, other things on the horizon include creating a comprehensive online archive to celebrate (and remember) 60 years of 1ESSG scouting. By the way, if anyone is interested in being a part of the archiving team, please do let us know.

We are also eager to further develop our website so it becomes a really useful place for you to know what's happening and when with the group and the individual sections. Please do keep giving us feedback and let us know what else you'd like to see up there.

And because we are in such a good, settled place, I'd like to focus our energies on becoming even more of a good local citizen. For instance, the next investment we make will be to fit a defib to the Scout Hut that'll help save lives in the Eaton Socon community – so if you have any ideas that you think will help us deliver on that, please do let us know...



Group Scout Leader and Cubs report

After all the lockdowns and restrictions it is great to get back to some sort of normality specially as it was our 60th birthday this year. The lifting of the Scout Association restrictions allowed the group to get back to doing the scouting activities we like doing.

All the sections have started to grow in leaders and young people.

The committee has got some new committee members join this year but unfortunately we are losing three members.

Jude Miles(Fundraising), Gay Mockler-Hall (Group secretary) and Eliz Walton (hut hirer organiser which she has done for 10 years). Their participation in the group has helped to provide young people with skills for life. I and the group want to say a massive thank you for all they have done throughout the years.

After two years the cubs had their first camp at Great Barford campsite. Where they were able to do archery, shooting, wall climbing, play wide games in the field and singing around the camp fire.

We also had our group camp to celebrate the group's 60th birthday. All sections attended and took part in various activities. At the end of the camp we ate birthday cake.

Finally, I want to thank all the committee members, all the leaders, Young Leaders, all the volunteers, all the parents and especially the young people which is why we volunteer, to invest in the young people.

Martin Dixon
Cub Scout Leader
Group Scout Leader



Treasurer Report

1st Eaton Socon Scout Group
Financial Report 2021/2022 - Statement as at

31-Mar-22

Receipts				Payments			
Subscriptions		7,080.00		Membership		2,375.00	
Gift Aid		517.71		Insurance		2,129.74	
Contributions from other Hall Users		7,765.62		HDC Rates		41.82	
Fund Raising	May Day	0.00		Electricity		494.55	
	Bingo	0.00		Water Rates		398.76	
	Raffle	0.00		Unit Expenses		1,753.83	
	Race Night	0.00		Scout & Guide Shop		313.62	
				Cleaner		1,311.58	
HDC Covid Grants		0.00		Hall Maintenance		8,276.87	
Donations		10,667.00		Equipment		1,197.90	
CTT Charity Payments/ Amazon/Everyclick		0.00		Admin/Other		549.15	
Interest		38.98		Broadband		0.00	
		2.22		Zoom		0.00	
Other				Website		0.00	
		0.00		Training/Uniform		640.00	
Events	District	0.00		Badges		213.06	
	Group	0.00		OSM		155.34	
	Cubs Sleepover	0.00		G Cardless Fees		13.86	
	Cub Camp	0.00		Events	District	247.12	
	Autumn 21	480.00			Group	0.00	
	Spring 22	310.00			Summer	330.61	
	Expedition Badge	10.00			Expedition Badge	0.00	
	PGL	0.00			Camp Jam	0.00	
					Sleepover	0.00	
					Swimming Gala	50.00	
Totals		26,871.53		Bank Charges		380.61	
						17.48	
Bank Account Current		10,249.02		Excess of Receipts over Expenses		6,361.24	20,510.29
Bank Account Deposit		23,211.39					
Cash		0.00		Accumulated Fund B/Fwd		27,849.17	
Equus Expense Cards - Float		750.00		Excess of Receipts over Expenses		6,361.24	
Check to Cash Book		34,210.41		Accumulated Fund C/Fwd		34,210.41	
		0.00		Check Receipts less Payments		0.00	
				Bank		33,460.41	
				Floats		750.00	
						0.00	

Note: Balance C/Fwd includes £10,000 for
Dilapidation/Major Maintenance Reserve/Restatement of site



1st Eaton Socon Beavers- 2022 AGM report

The easing of Covid restrictions has seen a successful return to full activities at the hut and offsite for the Beavers during our 60th Year.

The colony has grown in numbers over the last 12 months, we now have 16 Beavers. We have also invested 2 new section assistants to the team myself (Ash) and Izzy (Aspen) who will continue to support our Leaders Jan (Cherry) and Adam (Hemlock) in the future. Our leaders have also been supported by Luke Miles as part of his D of E who I would like to thank for all his help this year. We also continue to receive excellent support from our parent helpers each week and I would like to take the opportunity to also thank all the parents for your continued support each week and helping ensure we can run many wonderful activities.

This year we have seen our young people thrive and gain confidence as they progress their activity badges. These included cycling, hiking, first aid, healthy living and many more. In addition, we have continued to support the Beavers to progress and complete their challenge badges, with 5 of the beavers going onto complete their bronze chief scout awards!

The beavers have also enjoyed an exciting range of activities away from the Hut, which included a visit to the Fire Station, climbing St Mary's Church tower and playing a rounders game with 1st St Neots Beavers which we won!

The highlight for this year was of course the 60th Group camp at Bromham in June. It was wonderful to see our Beavers have the opportunity to participate in many exciting activities and being able to interact with the cubs and scouts as a team.

Overall, the participation and engagement from our Beavers across all activities has been excellent this year. It has been empowering to see the beavers develop new skills, make new friends and gain confidence as they start out in their Scouting Adventure. Over the next 12 months we have a varied range of activities and badge work planned and hopefully news of a special night away trip coming soon!

Finally, I would like to thank Jan, Adam and Izzy who without their continued effort and support all of this would not be possible.

Many thanks

Adrian Ashpole (Beaver Section Assistant)



Scouts Report

Over the last year the Scouts have taken part in various activities

Our first Camp since Covid (also the first one for our new Scout Leadership Team) we visited a site in Thetford for a weekend camp, learning how to put up the tents! Aswell as taking part in Rock Climbing and Abseiling.

6 x Scouts took part in an Expedition around the local area, sleeping at a local campsite and exploring the area. They planned their own routes and adjusted accordingly on the route.

The Swimming Gala was attended by 4 x Scouts who represented the Group and won a few races, well done all.

At Christmas we visited "Operation Christmas Child" for the Samaritans and helped them pack up shoe boxes with appropriate gifts ready to be shipped abroad to those in need.

This year 6 x Scouts gained their Chief Scouts Gold Award, we welcomed Cubs moving up to the section and said goodbye to others who reached their 14th Birthday and moved on.

Many thanks to Damien, Kat, Colin and Martin for their support over the last year and thank you to all the Parents and Relatives who allow the Scouts to take part in these activities.

Steve Rowsell, Scout Leader