

15<sup>th</sup> May 2025

The Annual General Meeting was held in the McMordie Scout Hall on the above date at 7:30pm.

PRESENT:	William Mawhinney	Robert McKissick
	Paul Entwistle	Colin McShane
	Michael Bennett	Elizabeth Matthews
	John Corry	

Apologies                      Stanley Mawhinney

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming everyone especially the new President John Corry and thanked Robert and all the section leaders and volunteers, without whom there would be no scout group. He asked that a special thanks and best wishes to be sent to Christine Johnson who recently retired from volunteering with the squirrel section for the last 15 years.

On a sad note, the Chairman mentioned the passing during the year of Harry Diamond a real stalwart of the group – Harry was an ex. Scout leader, GSL, and a committee member for many years.

The Chairman then asked the GSL to present his annual report to the meeting.

#### Group Report for 2024-2025

The Scouts/Explorers finished of last year with a weekend camp at Crawfordsburn Scout Centre at the start of June, and all Sections finished for the summer break.

Sections started back in September and are currently active and continue to meet, we again saw a slight reduction in membership this year with 65 Members, 46 Youth and 19 Adults as per breakdown below,

12 Squirrels

8 Beavers

13 Cubs

10 Scouts

3 Explorers

15 Leaders and 4 occasional helpers.

Unfortunately, no Summer Camps took place last year. Agreeing dates which suit the majority of Families/Volunteers is increasingly difficult which in turn reduces the numbers which makes it not viable to run a camp.

December saw the Transformation of Belfast County and East District becoming part of the new East Region joining with North Down and Strangford. The introduction of a new Digital System for the Adult membership is still having some technical issues, which we are assured will be fixed by 14<sup>th</sup> July. Leaders/Scouters are now known as Volunteers, Refresher training continued throughout the year with updates to Safeguarding and Access NI renewals.

The tradition of various members and ex-members meeting for a game of football on Christmas morning continued.

Scouts/Explorers held their Winter Camp in March at Mourneshore, after it was cancelled in January due to Storm Éowyn. Fortunately, the weekend was dry and sunny and enjoyed by all who

took part. On the Sunday it was an early departure to meet with the other Sections of the Group where we took part in the East District Centenary Parade from Stormont Buildings to Campbell College for a short Thanksgiving Service.

It was great to present Long Service Awards to the following and congratulations to all, Colin McShane 30 Years, Elaine Mosgrove and Richard Clark 25 Years, Alix Devenney and Jennifer Higgins 15 Years, Cameron Mosgrove and Karen Shearer 10 Years. Also, Long Service Awards to the following Executive Committee members, Elizabeth Matthews 25 Years, William and Stanley Mawhinney 20 Years and Steven Boyle and Michael Bennett 10 Years.

Charlie Broon Explorers from Edinburgh used McMordie Scout Complex for an overnight in March while they explored Belfast.

The Beavers took part in some District activities and continued with Badgework throughout the year.

The Explorers took part in the few District activities that were arranged and spent Easter Tuesday walking to Hares Gap along with a few of the Scouts.

The Cubs also used Mourneshore for their Easter Camp in April, the weather was fine which helped make it an enjoyable weekend for all involved, they also visited Mountstewart for a day of activities.

The GSL concluded by thanking all the Section Volunteers and helpers and to the Executive Committee for all the support and continued commitment to keeping the Group going.

The Group is always looking for more Adult Support particularly in the Younger Sections, if anyone is interested, please speak with myself or any other Section Volunteer.

### Finance Report

William presented the 2024/2025 accounts to the meeting.

The overall financial position of the group is strong with the current account balance at 31-3-25 of £24,843, in addition the group has building society bonds totalling £103,500 giving total funds of approximately £128,800.

Our total income for the 2024-2025 year was £23,548

Our expenses for the year were £24,704

Resulting in an operating loss of £1,156

William stated that fundamentally the group needs to get onto a strong foundation of funding that is not solely relying on Venture Kids. William proposed reviewing the subscriptions for each section with a view to increasing them, as they have not been increased for many years.

William concluded by thanking all section leaders who volunteered their service to the group and for their help in co-ordinating all the subscriptions.

Paul thanked William for his report and to Mervyn Bannister for scrutinising the accounts, he again reinforced to the meeting that although we have money in the bank, as a committee we are fully aware of the responsibilities, and we must carefully manage this money to future proof the group. Although on paper it may look like we have sufficient money, upkeep of the hall and the minibus would quickly use it, if we have any major jobs to do such as repairs to the roof, heating, toilets, electrics etc.

#### Election of members of the Executive Committee for the 2024-2025 year

All existing members of the committee confirmed they were prepared to stand for re-election. As per POR Robert proposed all members to continue in their roles, and it was therefore agreed to re-elect all 8 current members the executive committee for the coming year.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8:10 p.m.