



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF BALLYMENA SEA CADET UNIT

**ON TUESDAY 22ND OCTOBER 2024 AT 7.45PM TO BE CONDUCTED IN PERSON
AT BALLYMENA SEA CADET UNIT, LOWFIELD CAMP, BALLYMENA**

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Opening address or comments by Chairperson
3. Minutes of the last AGM for approval
4. Matters arising from minutes of the last AGM (if applicable)
5. Unit Chairperson's Report
6. Commanding Officer's Report
7. Treasurer's Report and adoption of accounts
8. Election/Re-election of the Unit Management Team (UMT) trustees
9. Any Other Business

Ballymena AGM Minutes of Meeting

Attendees:

Ruth Verner
Pauline Nelson
Semena McLaughlin
John Taylor
Lewis Allison
Deborah Preston
Rodney Quigley

No apologies.

Ruth Verner welcomed everyone for attending and thanked all for giving up their time.

The Minutes from the 22-23 APM were approved by Ruth Verner and Seconded by Lewis Allison.

Chairpersons Report – AGM Tuesday 22nd October 2024

The 23/24 year has been successful for a number of reasons however we are still making improvements which are required for the continued success of the unit.

We have lost members of our UMT this past year, and we need to replace those numbers. Similarly, we need more uniformed instructors.

We need to think of more ways to raise money as the funding opportunities are diminishing via funding providers, and some are reducing the funding provided to youth and instead increasing funding for older people, due to the governments decision to withdraw certain benefits, such as the winter fuel allowance.

I would like us to start to think about raising funds to hold as reserve funds, whether this is via our own activities or from grants. Costs are increasing, and we're always trying to find funds as we need them.

I appreciate the effort that the wider team have put in to keeping the unit as successful as it has been, and particularly want to thank Pauline who not only does the treasurer role but helps me with everything else as well. She is invaluable to the unit.

I would also like to thank Lewis who in his first year as OiC has been open to suggestions and has worked well with the UMT. It's important that we continue to work together as one team, and I think we have done that well in this first year.

I am hopeful that we will continue to be successful, increase our cadet, staff and UMT numbers, and increase the offering we can give to our cadets. We are fortunate to have such a good relationship with our young people and I would love to see that continue.

Lastly I do want to thank the support of other external organisations, such as the council and Education Authority, who have continued to support us with funding.

ENDS.

CO's Report

Health of Unit

So far to date we have a unit consisting of 7 Uniformed Volunteers, 13 Junior Cadets and 18 Senior cadets. All of our cadets have been working tirelessly throughout the year and this was evident when we had our presentation at this years RNP. Our communication with our Guards has been excellent up to date and both ourselves and the guardhouse have a great understanding between each unit. We were unfortunate to loose our classroom above the unit at the end of last year, and to date we still have had no official discussions between 2 Royal Irish and ourselves. This matter was referred to our District Officer and to my knowledge he has been trying his utmost to get the classroom returned to us.

Health and Safety

In the past year we have had NIL reports of Accidents or Near misses involving our unit.

Involvement of Cadets and Staff outside the Unit

The involvement of our cadets has been outstanding and really pleasing to see. Our unit has had cadets travel to District Parades, Ships visits, Offshore Voyages and International Relation trips. We also have involvement of Staff at National events such as Sailing Nationals in Southport.

Boating

This year has been extremely disappointing with regards to the quality of the River Bann at Portglenone. It has interrupted our boating season, and has made us have to travel to Larne on a Thursday evening. We took the decision to move to Larne as we felt that it would give the cadets the required experience for their boating needs.

Boats

Our unit has possession of 3 power vessels, 2 Trinity 500 Rowing boats, 14 Dagger kayaks, and 7 Open top canoes. All of the above are more than suitable for our boating needs and I see no need for the purchase of any other boats.

OiC Aims

1. To add numbers to both Uniformed and UMT volunteers
2. Uniformed volunteers to gain more qualifications
3. Volunteers to attend at least 2 District, Area or National courses or events per year
4. To be awarded the best unit in Northern Ireland

OiC comments

As some of you may know this is the completion of my first year as OiC of the unit. I feel that my first year has gone well, though to improve both our Volunteer and Cadets experience within TS. Waveney you will see some changes coming. I am very pleased to announce that we have been awarded a Burgee for our unit. This is awarded to a unit who shows outstanding discipline and involvement of both Volunteers and Cadets outside the normal unit training nights.

A lot of what we do as Volunteers goes unnoticed and this is most certainly the case when I mention the contribution of a certain Chairperson and Treasurer. Ruth and Pauline work tirelessly to ensure the smooth running of our unit and they have the thankless task of filling out multiple grant applications and jumping through the necessary hoops to keep the unit in line with the MSSCC regulations.

As well as putting on all of her 'official' hats, Ruth has also been a massive God send when it comes also to the uniform side of the unit. Ruth, without hesitation will volunteer to do any of the computer work which I can't do, and those of you who know me will know that that's most of it.

Treasurer's Report

Pauline Nelson talked through the accounts for 23-24. No queries from anyone.

Election/Re-election of UMT for 24-25

<u>Name</u>	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>Seconded</u>
Semena McLaughlin	Ruth Verner	Lewis Allison
Pauline Nelson	Semena McLaughlin	John Taylor
John Taylor	Lewis Allison	Pauline Nelson
Ruth Verner	Pauline Nelson	Semena McLaughlin
Deborah Preston	Ruth Verner	Semena McLaughlin

Any other Business

Cllr Stephen Nicholl has resigned as Unit President due to time constraints.

Cllr Rodney Quigley was formally asked if he would be interested in becoming the Unit President. Rodney was happy to accept. The voting was unanimously approved.

ENDS.