



Forth Region Scout Council

Minutes of Annual General Meeting 2020

Thursday 12 November 2020 at 19.00 hrs

Video Conference

Minutes

1	Introduction <p>The Chair gave a warm welcome to everyone who had attended the meeting, noting that this was the first AGM to be held by Video conferencing due to the Covid-19 pandemic. 50 participants were logged on at the start of the meeting.</p> <p>There was a special welcome for Sandy Jack, the Region's President who was recovering from significant foot surgery.</p> <p>Andrew Sharkey, Chief Commissioner for Scotland, was also welcomed to the meeting.</p> <p>There were 60 attendees over the course of the meeting</p>
2	Apologies <p>7 apologies were received.</p>
3	Minutes of previous meeting <p>The minutes from the AGM held on Sunday 27 October 2019, which had previously been circulated, were accepted as accurate and approved on the motion of Frank Murray, seconded by Charlie Stevenson.</p>
4	Chairman's Report <p>This covers the period March 2019 - March 2020 and has been issued to OSCR.</p> <p>Gordon started his report by highlighting that 2019/20 had yet again been another highly successful year for Forth Region Scouting. There were three overseas trips, including a World Jamboree to West Virginia, USA, and when coupled with trips to Denmark and Namibia it resulted in the largest ever number of young people from Forth Region experiencing an international scouting event in a year.</p> <p>Due to recent changes to Namibian legislation and protocols surrounding travel of under 18 year olds, numerous young persons were refused to be allowed to travel at the eleventh hour (airport desk!), resulting in significant disappointment and financial loss. Thankfully, the Region is in a sound financial state and could immediately respond to ensure that the trip still went ahead for those affected, albeit a couple of days later, and all involved had a great time. Furthermore, the subsequent endeavours of the organising team meant that virtually all monies laid out by the Region were eventually recovered. This was justification of the Regions 'reserves' policy in relation to International trips and a 'learning' experience for all of us. My gratitude, as ever, is extended to all those volunteers who organise and manage the trip, the fundraising and all financial aspects of such trips, as well as our Treasurer, Bob Anderson who oversees the complex arrangements on behalf of the Region Executive.</p> <p>At last year's AGM, we welcomed yet another 'young person' onto our Executive with the arrival of Anna Semple as the 5th member from the Districts. Now with four Executive members under 30yrs of age this undoubtedly benefits our decision-making process and provides the necessary perspective on what we deliver and how.</p> <p>Another notable success of the past year, enjoyed by over 1,000 local young people was undoubtedly the Barrwood Fun Day in June which saw them all engaged in a variety of fun outdoor pursuits. Thanks to all of the operational organising committee who are working closer than ever with the Executive to ensure the sustainability of this and future events. In an associated vein, we are striving to obtain the necessary insurance cover for all of the Region's equipment currently stored at the Barrwood, it is no mean feat just trying to establish and collate all that we have.</p>

Minutes

4 Chairman's Report (cont'd)

The latter part of the year was taken up with the oversight of the Forth Region contingent for Blair Atholl Jamborette 2020 as well as a cycling expedition to the Netherlands. It was hoped that we could provide significant funding towards the attendance of a patrol from Namibian Scouts at the Jamborette but sadly, with the onset of Covid-19 pandemic all of the planning for these two events had to be cancelled. The latter part of the year has been consumed by the suspension of 'face to face' scouting and we wait to see what form the resumption of scouting will eventually take.

Gordon thanked once again our Regional Commissioner Lenny Jamieson and his Depute, Colin Robertson, for their tireless efforts and to all who volunteer, in some shape or form, towards the success of scouting in their respective Districts and across Forth Region. We could not manage without you

5 Regional Commissioner's Report

Lenny had prepared a presentation for the event and presented this to the meeting. Some highlights from the presentation are recorded here.

Training is funded by the Region and offered across all districts. Non-compliance of mandatory training has been significantly reduced and continues to reduce across the Region.

The Programme of events across the Region in the last year included:

- Barrwood Funday - with over 1,000 young people attending
- 2019 World Scout Jamboree in West Virginia - attended by 28 Scouts and 5 Leaders
- Trip to Denmark included 35 Scouts attending a camp in Sonderborg
- Also in Denmark 25 Explorers and Network Scouts completed their Explorers Belt
- Namibia return trip - 22 attended
- International Scout Centre, Kandersteg, Switzerland - 46 attended this trip organised by Stirling & Trossachs

Awards - 610 members across Beavers, Cubs and Scouts achieved their top awards. 35 Explorers achieved awards.

Duke of Edinburgh - 34 bronze, 15 Silver and 15 Gold.

Explorer Belt - 34

Queen's Scout Award - 9

Finally, as this is his last year as Regional Commissioner, Lenny gave thanks to all the members

- The Regional Executive for support
- Depute Regional Commissioner for his guidance and the work that he puts in
- The ARCs who get on with their jobs
- The DCs who support and advise on relevant matters
- All the Expedition Leaders and members
- All Group Leaders & Commissioners

6 Financial Report

Treasurer Bob Anderson presented the Report of the Trustees and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2020 copies of which had been made available. The Income and Expenditure Accounts were presented in OSCR format.

Bob referred to pages 1 to 6 which provide the Trustees' Report.

Page 7 is the Independent Examiner's Report.

Minutes

6 Financial Report (cont'd)

Page 8 gives a Statement of the Financial Activities and highlights where funds are unrestricted and restricted. Total Income during the year reached £128,316 for unrestricted income and £95,631 for restricted. This latter figure represents the income from the participants of the various foreign trips including the WSJ, Netherlands and Namibia 2021. Total Income was therefore £223,947 against £318,518 in 2019. The majority of the unrestricted income was the annual census income of £104,851.

Expenditure reached £136,009 in unrestricted funds, again mainly due to the payment of the annual census. Restricted expenditure of £133,343 reflects travel and international event costs as highlighted in the notes at number 5.

Net excess of Expenditure over Income for the year is recorded as £45,405 and related to timing differences with the various foreign trips during the past year with most of the expenditure after the year end of 2019, where a surplus figure of £44,498 had been recorded.

Page 9 sets out the Balance Sheet which is in effect a 'snapshot' of the funds held at 31 March this year. This reveals total assets of £61,221 across Restricted and Unrestricted funds with the latter accounting for £47,431 of this and £61,382 being cash balances.

Pages 10 through 14 contain the notes to the accounts which provides, in more detail, the background to the different headings contained in the Statement of Financial Activities and the Balance Sheet together with the Accounting Policies.

Restricted Funds have been built up over the years and the Region are currently in discussions with our Accountants to ascertain the best way to access the Restricted Funds which have been built up as a result of surplus from overseas trips over several years.

The Accounts had been received and accepted earlier by the Region Executive Committee and were subsequently received and accepted unanimously by the meeting.

7 Approval / Election of Office Bearers

Chairman Gordon Samson vacated the Chair and Leonard thanked him for his work over the past year as Regional Chair. Leonard then nominated Gordon to continue in this post which Gordon accepted and retook the Chair.

Bob Anderson was proposed by Bill MacPherson to continue as Region Treasurer, seconded by Joanne Cooke.

Carol Cosgrove was proposed by Gordon Samson to continue as Region Secretary, seconded by Colin Robertson.

These appointments were approved unanimously by the meeting.

8 Appointment of Auditors

Bob advised that French Duncan are the current Auditors, their work had always been satisfactory and their fees had only increased slightly over the last year.

French Duncan were confirmed as the Auditors for the Forth Region Council accounts.

Minutes

9	Election of District Nominees Falkirk District - Christopher Campbell was nominated by Charlie Stevenson, seconded by Ann Gilchrist for election to the Region Executive Committee. Stirling and Trossachs District - Kieran Meiklejohn was nominated by Remco Kind, seconded by Mark Wright for election to the Region Executive Committee for a second term. Clackmannanshire District - Sandy Stewart was nominated by George Burnett, seconded by Sonia Carr for election to the Region Executive Committee for a second term. The above appointments were approved unanimously at the meeting. West Lothian District - Brian MacNeill was elected to the Region Executive Committee for a second term in 2019. Brian has advised that he is continuing in this post and therefore has a further 1 year to serve of his second term.
10	Election/Approval of Other Nominees Under the Region Byelaws, a fifth elected place is available on the Region Executive. Last year, Anna Semple was elected to this role and therefore has a further 1 year to serve of her first term. Last year Colin Robertson, (Depute Regional Commissioner) and Nick Cowie were nominated by the Region Commissioner to serve on the Region Executive Committee. They will continue in post. The Regional Commissioner nominated Lewis McDermott to serve on the Region Exec Committee. Alice Scott and Kenneth Foggo have resigned from the committee.
11	Co-opted Members The meeting was reminded that the Executive Committee had the power to co-opt members as and when they felt there was a need but indicated no one was being co-opted at the present time.
12	AOCB The Chair thanked Charlie Stevenson for his contribution as District rep over the past 4 years. The Chair also thanked Alice Scott who was secretary for a number of years and more recently, Secretary for the Region Appointments Committee. Sandy Jack, President, stated that Groups & Sections Leaders also deserve praise and he was delighted to see how much scouting in Forth Region had developed. Andrew Sharkey, Chief Commissioner, spoke about the good times before Covid-19 as was described during the AGM and how the pandemic WILL pass and Scouting will move on. Finally, Gordon gave special thanks to Lenny Jamieson, the Regional Commissioner, who will retire from his post in March 2021, having served 10 years. Lenny has worked tirelessly over the last 10 years to further improve the Region's scouting for young people. This was echoed by Andrew Sharkey. Gordon passed on the sincere thanks of the Exec for the last 10 years! The Chairman closed the meeting at 19.55 hrs.