



Forth Region Scout Council

Minutes of Annual General Meeting 2019

Sunday 27 October 2019 at 14.00 pm

**Grangemouth High School,
Tinto Drive, FK3 0HW**

Minutes

1	Introduction The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, highlighting that the attendees at this meeting now included all persons over the age of 18yrs, registered as a member of the Scout Association within Forth Region following the change to the constitution last year. The Chair made a special mention of our President, Sandy Jack and welcomed him to the meeting. 44 members attended.
2	Apologies 12 apologies were received.
3	Minutes of previous meeting The minutes from the AGM held on Sunday 4 November 2018, which had previously been circulated, were accepted as accurate and approved on the motion of Bob Gorman, seconded by Sandy Jack.
4	Chairman's Report This covers the period March 2018 - March 2019 and has been issued to OSCR. Gordon started his report by stating that while the year had been relatively 'low key', it had also been a very busy year preparing for several forthcoming large-scale International trips in mid 2019. On behalf of the Exec, he extended their gratitude to all relevant Scout leaders from the operational side and all financial coordinators of each trip who worked tirelessly with the Region Treasurer, Bob Anderson, in managing securely and accurately what were very significant sums of money. This year, two longstanding members of the Executive stepped down and Gordon thanked Stan Sanderson, Stirling and Trossachs and John Spruce, Clackmannanshire for their contributions over the years, whilst welcoming Kieran Meiklejohn and Sandy Stewart respectively as replacements. The Executive and, perhaps more importantly, the newly created Financial Sub-Committee has started to provide financial hardship assistance across the Region and managing our budgetary intentions in line with the Operational Development Plan. This has been challenging at times and it is appreciated that the Executive need to provide more detailed guidance to assist Groups and Districts in this regard. Once again, Gordon expressed his gratitude to our Regional Commissioner Lenny Jamieson and his able Depute Colin Robertson for their help and guidance over the year, as well as thanking the entire Executive Committee for their support. Gordon stated that we are here to support and help all of the many leaders / volunteers across all four Districts who consistently deliver high quality Scouting to the benefit of our young people. It is very much appreciated.

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.

The region continues to operate fully with representation at national level by both adults and Young People (18 – 25). We continue to be honoured as having the chair to the Scottish Scouts Youth Advisory Committee and a member of the Scottish Youth Parliament from the region.

The Executive continue to have good representation from our youth members (under 25) as well as a balance from the four Scout districts.

We had the largest growth in membership numbers of any region in Scotland with an increase of 4.3%, Scotland had a growth of 1.3% overall. Significantly the growth was 4.1% for our youth members and 4.9% for our adult membership. Our youth membership is 3,632 and adult membership 1,365.

In line with our development plan the region ran and participated in the following:

- An open day at our local campsite in June 2018, attended by over 800 of our young members.
- 2018 was the year in which our young people participated in the Scottish International camp at Blair Atholl, 3 young people attended an Explorer Belt run by UK headquarters to UAE and 2 young people attended a development project in Madagascar
- 3 Explorer Scouts gained their Queen's Scout Award, the highest award for youth members
- The largest contingent from the region, 28 young people and 4 adult leaders, were selected to attend the 2019 World Scout Jamboree in North America.

The region now completely fund the provision of adult training for the Wood Badge and we offer grants for adult leaders, in hardship instances, to gain activity permits. We also provide financial support to youth members who have personal financial difficulties. The region has paid for groups with their own premises to purchase new signage following the rebranding of the association and we funded a building at the local campsite to store the regionally owned water-based equipment.

The region is working through projects related to the 5-year development 2018 – 23 which were launched at last year's AGM. A large part of the year has been spent planning for the summer of 2019, a repeat visit for further development in Namibia, an Explorer Belt expedition to Denmark, attendance at a Scout Jamboree in Denmark and the previously mentioned attendance at the World Scout Jamboree.

As Scouting continues to grow, we are successfully making a difference in providing opportunities and developing young people throughout the region. Our leaders have more opportunity to train and we are offering exciting opportunities at home and overseas to our membership.

As regional commissioner I am grateful to the time and commitment that our executive, commissioners and leaders give at no cost for the development of our young members.

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6 Financial Report

Treasurer Bob Anderson presented the Report of the Trustees and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2019 copies of which had been made available. The Income and Expenditure Accounts were presented in OSCR format.

Bob referred to page 5 which gives a Statement of the Financial Activities and highlights where funds are unrestricted and restricted. Total Income during the year reached £107,425 for unrestricted income and £156,868 for restricted. This latter figure represents the income from the participants of the various foreign trips including the WSJ, Denmark and Namibia 2019. Total Income was therefore £318,518 against £213,312 in 2018. Bob pointed out that a large part of the unrestricted income was the annual census income of £99,578. Expenditure reached £145,015 in unrestricted funds, again mainly due to the payment of the annual census. Restricted expenditure of £129,005 reflects travel and international event costs as highlighted in the notes at number 5.

Page 6 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 £110,745 across Restricted and Unrestricted funds with the latter accounting for £23,307 of this and £108,855 being cash balances..

Pages 7,8,9 & 10 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.

A query was raised re the limit for compensation from the bank. Bob advised that the limit was £85k, however any risk that the compensation amount would not cover the amount in the account is thought to be low and is only for a short period of time.

Gordon commented that reserves are necessary but the levy of £1.50 per head will continue at that level and is not being increased although income is slowing down as predicted.

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 Gordon Samson to continue as Region Treasurer, seconded by Lenny Jamieson.

Carol Cosgrove was proposed by Gordon Samson to continue as Region Secretary, seconded by Frank Fotheringham.

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 not increased for 2 years.

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

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9	Election of District Nominees West Lothian District - nominated Brian MacNeill for election to the Region Executive Committee for a second term and this was approved unanimously at the meeting. All other District nominees stayed in post as follows: Stirling and Trossachs District - Kieran Meiklejohn was elected to the Region Executive Committee in 2018. Kieran advised that he was continuing in this post and therefore has a further 1 year to serve of his first term. Falkirk District - Charlie Stevenson was elected to the Region Executive Committee for a second term in 2018. Charlie advised that he was continuing in this post and therefore has a further 1 year to serve of his second term. Clackmannanshire District - Sandy Stewart was elected to the Region Executive Committee in 2018. Sandy advised that he was continuing in this post and therefore has a further 1 year to serve of his first term.
10	Election/Approval of Other Nominees Under the Region Byelaws, a fifth elected place is available on the Region Executive. Cristian East has now completed his second year. Following discussion about what was involved in this role, Anna Semple nominated herself for this role, was seconded by Gordon approved by the meeting to serve on the Region Executive Committee. Last year Colin Robertson, (Depute Regional Commissioner), Nick Cowie, Alice Scott and Kenneth Foggo were nominated by the Region Commissioner to serve on the Region Executive Committee. All four will continue in post.
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 There was no other business. The Chairman closed the meeting at 15.00pm.