

Dudley District Scout Council

BEAVERS

cubs

SCOUTS

EXPLORERS

network



Annual Report 2018

01 April 2017 – 31st March 2018



May 23RD 2018
Brierley Hill Civic Centre

scouts.org.uk/ourplan
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May MacMaster Memorial Ground
Swindon Road
Wall Heath
DY6 OAW

Dudley District Scout Council

Agenda

1. Introduction from the Chair of the meeting/Opening Statement and Thought - Point of remembrance for 'gone home' scouters - Introduce key people, Housekeeping arrangements.
2. Agree minutes of previous AGM held on 19th June 2017
3. Apologies for absence.
4. Receive and adopt the Annual Report for the previous financial year (just ended). **(Chair/DC)**
5. Receive and adopt the Financial Statements for the previous financial year (just ended). **(Treasurer)**

Elections and appointments

6. Elect key appointments in the District Scout Council (Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Council).
7. Appoint the Independent Examiner for the coming year.
8. Nominate and/or co-opt members to the Executive Committee.
9. Any Other Relevant Business
10. Close of meeting/ Beginning of Adult Networking Event

Current Membership of the District Executive Committee

The District Executive is made up of four types of members:

Ex Officio:

Andre Burns - Chair
Rob Sandy - Secretary
Natasha Shuard - Treasurer
Ted Batham – TEAM DC
Nick Sandy – TEAM DC
VACANT - Deputy DC
VACANT - DESC
VACANT - District Youth Commissioner
Colin Foster – SASU Manager
George Langford – Network Commissioner

District Scout Council - Elected Members (Normally Between 4 - 6):

John Sidaway
Bob Heeley
Alan Chadwick - QM
Paul Todd

DC - Nominated Members (No more nominated members than elected Members):

Rhiannon Griffiths
Sam Beach
Tom Bunce
Mike Abrahams

Co-Opted Members (there must be no more co-opted members than elected members)

Beryl Scott – Outgoing Secretary

Bankers: Lloyds

District Registration No with Scout Association: 15822

Custodian Trustees: The Scout Association Trust Corporation

Dudley District Scout Council

Minutes of AGM held on 19th June 2017

The British Legion, Kingswinford

Chairman Mr. Andre Burns welcomed the County Commissioner Mark Bache, Peter Thomason County Chairman, Russell Woodhall, Walsall North District Commissioner, and Keith Griffiths retired D.C for Dudley District plus 30 persons from Various Groups.

Opening Prayer: - Was read by Mr. Andre Burns, also acknowledging the loss of Maurice Shelley, Brian Gelsthorpe, Ron Darby and Anne Smith from the SASU

Apologies: - Messrs. G. Whitehouse, S. Ashmore, E. McLaughlin, J. Sidaway, C. Foster, Miss S. Slimm, Mrs. S. Abrahams, Mrs. K. Shepherd

Minutes from the previous A.G.M were accepted and proposed by Mr M. Abrahams, seconded by Mrs. S. Annakin

Chairman's Report: - As a committee we need to look to the future, and plan for the coming year. It had been a difficult period with Keith Griffiths retiring as DC. The ADC's also stood down so we were in a time of limbo. County Commissioner had asked him to oversee things until a new DC could be found so he carried on until February when a D.C Team of Ted Batham and Nick Sandy took over. We had one ADC that stayed on for the Scout Section, they need to have support from the Groups in the District.

Paul Todd had also carried on as Treasurer even though he had actually finished at the previous AGM (2016) but no one had taken over until this AGM we do thank him for continuing with the role while a replacement was found.

Sponsored Walk 2017 was down in numbers there was 207 walkers this time compared with 308 in 2016 but the raffle was slightly improved over 2015

Dudley West Explorer's had vastly improved facilities at Headquarters with installing a Kitchen, replacing floor in main room and re-painting the inside of the building.

Treasurer's Report: - As per the accounts submitted to the AGM
Proposed by D. Rides seconded by B. Scott

District Commissioner's Reports: - Report covers from February to March but mostly covers what they would like to achieve in the future, by listening to persons take on board any ideas and criticisms to allow the District to move forward, we have in place two ADC's for each section of scouting but Alun David due to unfortunate circumstances he has had to resign as ADC(Beavers) and we just have one GSL vacancy for 3rd Kingswinford so the District is looking good.

The Young Leader Unit was a bit of a worry with issues with both attendance and accessibility but a new Young Leader has been appointed (Mr. Harry Sargent) hopefully he will have the support from group Leaders. A 1st Response course for younger persons in mind to be arranged.

SASU is still continuing with the steady guidance of Colin Foster unfortunately with the loss of four members since the beginning of the year

Adult support and training have been our main factor and we need to take this forward and improve on the base knowledge of Scouting. Validation is now taking place in the District alternately with Stourbridge who we are buddying with.

A big thank you to Iris Heeley and Rose Tope (Badge Secretaries) making sure badges are always available.

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Alan Chadwick has been appointed the Field Manager so any bookings need to be made via him. He is also responsible for the District Radio's
Keith managed to get some awards sorted before he ended his tenure and it is great to see adults and youngsters being recognized in this way.

Approval of Nomination of Chairperson: - Both D. C's asked Mr. A. Burns to remain in the position of Chairman of the Executive Committee which he had agreed to do.

Election of Officers:

Andre Burns Remaining As chair
Beryl Scott as District Secretary
Natasha Shuard has now become District Treasurer
Iris Heeley, Rose Tope Badge Secretaries
Tom Bunce Public Relations Officer
Auditors for the District

Election of Members to the District Executive Committee: -

Rhiannon Griffiths, Sam Beach, Tom Bunce, Mike Abrahams, Rob Sandy
Proposed by Pauline Porter, Seconded by Fran Sedgley

Nominations to the District Executive Committee: -

Nominated by the D.C.'s Paul Todd, Alan Chadwick, Bob Heeley and Jon Sidaway
Proposed by John Porter seconded by Dawn Rides

Election of District Scouter to the County Scout Council: -

Mr. Dave Greenaway
The vote was carried by everyone.

Presentation of Service Awards: - County Commissioner congratulated Keith Griffiths on his outstanding service's

As D.C for the Dudley North District (9 years) and then as D.C for Dudley District (10 years) a total of 19 years in the role

Keith was presented with a bottle of Whisky from the District.

The County Chairman reminded everyone that the County AGM takes place on the 26th September 2017

There being no further business the meeting was closed.

Dudley District Scout Council

District AGM Scouters Report – 01 April 2017 – 31st March 2018

Executive Committee

Edward Yates Grant Fund – This was a new fund that was setup by the District to help groups financially for the long-term benefit of scouting. Several people have applied so far and we will continually encourage groups to apply!

20th Dudley– This has been ongoing for quite a while and is almost nearing completion following several reports and legal requirements. Hopefully at the last stages of returning this to the council.

District HQ – The aim of the Exec has been to provide the best facility's possible for the District bringing your District HQ up to a standard and maintain it and encourage its use into the future. Over the last year the use of your District HQ by Exec, Daac, ADC's, Explorers and the Training team has increased dramatically. The building is now dry, warm and welcoming. Provisions are being put in place to make the HQ more accessible and provide the right equipment and encourage more use also a memorabilia wall is being created (anyone with plaques or notices from the old groups pass them on). Camping bookings on the field are double from last year and more sections are programming activities at the HQ. Future plans include the securing of a small compound where Alter fires and other activity equipment can be stored safely and to look at what activities and equipment could be provided on your site. Remember it's your District HQ, your money is being used maintaining the facility, I doubt there a Colony, Pack or Troop in the district that could not get some use out of the facilities at the HQ

General – GDPR is this year's buzzword and is a very important item all need to be aware of – Take the time to review how it affects you. It is Law and it does come first as a priority for your protection and that of your members.

The exec is also undertaking constant review on what we can do to modernise and speed up our processes as well as meeting all of our obligations. Part of this will be bringing ourselves in line with the Associations recommendations as well as removing unnecessary barriers whilst understanding and undertaking our full duties.

DAAC

Beryl Scott, Chris McEwan and the team over the past 12 months have almost eliminated our entire backlog of adults waiting to be interviewed into scouting. I believe its currently down to around 8 and most of these people have been appointed within the past 3 months. Continual progress will streamline this and its only as effective as the line manager inducting new adults into scouting and explaining the end to end process.

You wouldn't get a job without a suitability interview AND you want to work with children?

Groups and Executives

We are happy that we are in a strong position manager wise, with only looking to recruit one GSL – However all groups and committee members need to really push the requirement of an AGM to allow for the regulatory Charity commissions rule to be followed as well as using this as an event to engage with parents. Hopefully new creative ideas across the district will allow for the most benefit to be gained by groups from such events!

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Beavers

We are looking to relaunch Team ADC Beavers with two new ADCs alongside Tom in the form of Gareth and Sarah Mason.

Cubs

The guidance of Fran and Louise has been Brilliant and although they have been meeting regularly they are happy with the progress and are beginning to look long term. We have seen Cub members from Dudley take part in Gibraltar – Leaders and Youth Members.

Scouts

The guidance of Rhiannon and Guy has put the scouts in a good position for District Cooperation. Plans are underway for a Master at Arms event and although they have had a few setbacks in terms of events, they persevere continuing to provide events on a District Scale whilst supporting Scout Leaders to the best of their ability.

Explorers/Young Leaders

The explorer units are all in a good position (DWES, DY5, 1st Coseley, 1st Netherton, Beacon, Gornal X) they are now having quarterly meetings to discuss cooperation, and they are looking to hold a District event purely for explorers then look to build upon its success in the future. Although numbers are not huge, they are stable and working more closely with groups. Young leaders have also been going well and under the guidance of Harry Sargent we are starting to see more and more young people gain their YL Belts. Although we are Absent a DESC Role, this is not holding us back!

Network

Harry and George were appointed over 12 months ago and have had their own struggles in getting Network off the ground. They are putting together a new plan of action and hopefully we can find out what that entails in the coming months. This is not a situation unique to our district but by addressing it we are ahead of the Curve.

SASU

Colin has been a rock to the SASU and whilst all 19 members are meeting regularly; they are struggling to be as active in scouting as they would like. We hope to work with Colin and the team in future to see what can be done and we are ever thankful for what they have all done for a given scouting over the years. WE have a solid plan for the longevity of the unit and whilst we don't want to be seen as 'interfering' we want to work with the unit to provide assistance to scouting in a format the members are comfortable with. We are very proud to have a unit of experienced scouters attached to our District!

Events

St Georges / Sponsored Walk – Running at Baggeridge following a pre-set plan for an event we hoped would 'run itself' it was noted that members of the district wanted change. We plan to change this going forward by Utilising the Dudley Trail for the sponsored walk and changing the format to operate St Georges as more of a Fun/Adventurous Day! In turn meeting our Youth Shaped objectives.

District Raffle – We know this is a big fundraiser for many groups and for a small overhead of management there are big benefits to scouting; changing the time scales for Earlier Ticket Deployment and a XMAS draw allowed for maximum potential.

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Adult Thank You – We put this together to thank you all and showing that even a simple gesture as getting together and having a drink is a good way to show our appreciation to all adults in scouting. We had over 60 People attend and it would be nice to run this again in the future to remind adults that their time and efforts are appreciated.

Adult Networking Event – Tonight's AGM is a scouting environment with a Bar – Hopefully we have people from all different backgrounds in scouting for you to meet, share a drink and have a chat with. This will enable us to take this District Scouting Vision forward.

Training

Big headways was made with Training Last year and Liz Humphries made a dent into the original backlog. Although Pauline has took over now, she is continuing with the work. We appreciate that there are no quick fixes here, but patience is required and over time we will get to where we need to be.

Nights away permits are flying out and Safeguarding/Safety/First response are being attended in high numbers by our district. We hope to hold more of these to ensure they are readily available either during the week or weekends.

The only message we can push is be positive and things are always changing on the childcare protection front; training is not only to make lives easier but to protect you in all situations. Its good to think of it not as a Driving Test, but more of a Professional Qualification that requires constant updates. By embracing this and updating Compass when roles change; in collaboration with the DAAC and training we can ensure everyone is on the same page!

General

Communication seems to be better than it was on 18 months ago and with the District Handbook and a new take on events; hopefully District as a structure will have a fresher feel. We are definitely pushing a positive message and all the good work that is being undertaken by all, from young leaders to Sectional Assistants to Section leaders – is paying off!

Keep on the DBS's – this legal requirement protects us all – Whilst we understand they are out of date as soon as printed and checked... they do protect us – and our record in Dudley is of a high Standard – Keep up the good work.

We need to Embrace the new branding going forward to look to keep our movement as a whole fresh and in tune with the modern world whilst retaining our core values!

County Awards event is a big agenda item all should be taking note of to see our young people recognised by visitors such as our National Leadership team!! Its an opportunity not to be missed.

A Big thank you to everyone for all the work in completing the Census in time for the February Deadline.

Thank you to Rose for all her work as Badge Secretary, at the end of the financial Year she resigned and Handed over to Iris who continues to do good work for the district in her Many roles.

And finally, thank you to everyone for everything they do for scouting across the district.....

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Annual Financial Report

[Insert Natasha's Comments]