



Cole AGM

Sept 2020

Welcome to Cole AGM

Agenda

- 1. Welcome and apologies**
- 2. Minutes of last year's meeting**
- 3. District Commissioner/ADC reports**
- 4. Treasurer's report**
- 5. Nomination of Chairperson**
- 6. Election of members to District Executive**
- 7. Election of representative on the Solihull Scout Council**
- 8. Appointment of Scrutineer**
- 9. Any other business**

Minutes of 2018 AGM

Wednesday, 26th June 2019

Solihull Council Building

1. Welcome and apologies

Liz Rashvand, District Commissioner Cole, opened the meeting and welcomed all those attending.

Present: There were 33 members present. List retained by Cole District Executive Committee Secretary.

Apologies for absence: Dave Smith – Knowle Sea Scout Explorer Leader, Sharon Matthews – ADC Cubs, Emily Clapham – ACC Cubs, Apache leaders, Penny Parker, Ian Carnell – DCC.

2. Minutes of last year's meeting

The minutes of the 2018 AGM were circulated within the AGM report pack for 2019. The minutes were agreed to be a true record of that meeting and their acceptance was supported by a show of hands of those present.

3. District Commissioner/ADC reports

District Commissioner Report

Liz Rashvand presented her report saying how incredibly proud she was of all the work carried out in the District by the volunteers who make it possible. She ended by thanking everyone in Cole for delivering fine Scouting and equipping the Young People with skills for life.

Assistant District Commissioner Beavers Report

As Ian Hodgkiss was unable to attend, Sheila Cole read out the report.

Assistant District Commissioner Cubs Report

As Sharon Matthews was unable to attend, Liz Rashvand read out the report.

Assistant District Commissioner Scouts Report

Michael Blake presented his report.

Assistant District Commissioner Network Report

As Lauren Evans was unable to attend, Lis Rashvand read out the report.

4. Treasurer's Report

Roger Pacey, Treasurer, talked the meeting through this year's accounts and thanked David Whitfield for scrutinising them. The Executive Committee has already voted to accept them. Roger proposed that they be accepted by the meeting. Michael Blake seconded. All agreed by show of hands.

Roger is recommending £4 per head capitation, which will mean a small loss on the accounts, but is within Charity Commission guidelines.

Roger explained the individual group accounts table and talked through the notes. He asked the meeting to approve these accounts subject to the three points on the notes for the accounts. Liz assured the meeting that Shirley and her are addressing the issues surrounding Network in the next few months.

Michael Blake proposed to accept this. Meeting approved this by a show of hands.

5. Nomination of Chairperson

Richard Skinner has resigned as Chairperson of Cole District Executive Committee. This position is vacant.

6. Election of members to District Executive

District Executive Treasurer – Liz nominated Roger, Suzi Pilley seconded, there being no other nomination, it was unanimously agreed by the meeting that he would stand for a further year.

District Executive Secretary – Suzi Pilley will be standing down as secretary from October 2019. From October this position will be vacant.

District Executive GSL – There being no other nomination it was unanimously agreed Alison Lowe would stand for a further year.

District Executive - There being no other nomination it was unanimously agreed Dave Landreth would stand for a further year.

District Executive - There being no other nomination it was unanimously agreed John Cheshire would stand for a further year.

District Youth Commissioner – Liz nominated Joe Jones, Roger seconded, there being no other nomination, it was unanimously agreed by the meeting Joe will stand for a year.



7. Election of representative on the Solihull Council

Roger Pacey was nominated. Seconded by Liz. Unanimously agreed by the meeting.

Other nominations

At present there is no Cole District representative on the Scout County Executive Committee. This position is vacant.

It was unanimously agreed by the meeting that Dave Whitfield will act as scrutineer for a second year.

8. AOB

Richard Stubbs asked why the accounts are explained in great detail to the meeting, suggesting that this should perhaps be an action point for an Executive Committee meeting instead? Roger explained that the AGM is the only opportunity where they can be discussed and he has a legal obligation to raise any issues.

Liz confirmed that she will be meeting with ADCs in July to decide on the future of the District's swimming gala.

Liz closed the meeting by thanking all present.

Cole District Executive Committee Secretary – Suzi Pilley



District Commissioner

Report

A very warm welcome to the Cole 2020 Annual General Meeting and for the first time ever this AGM is being held via Zoom!

It's been an interesting year for Cole, and the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic has created waves of innovation and adaptability that have shown what amazing leaders, volunteers and young people we have in Scouting. Our young people have been supported in their Scouting journey by so many different resources which have enabled them to still acquire lots of skills for life, thanks to the time and energy of all those volunteers.

During the year I usually hear about all the exciting camps and activities that have happened. These activities are so enjoyed by the young people, and the skills they learn, and the challenges they overcome to take part are invaluable in helping them on their Scout journey. This year those wonderful outdoor and indoor activities have been restricted, but leaders, volunteers and young people are undaunted and online and offline activities have been shared and enjoyed by many. Before the lockdown started there was a Beaver sports day, District Cub camp, Scout cooking competition, Operation Chameleon and many other Group, Unit and District events. These events were enjoyed by large numbers of Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers and I would like to thank everyone who helped organise them.

I know you'll enjoy reading the ADCs reports which will give you an insight into the different sections of Scouting in Cole. This year has proved challenging, but good Scout programmes are being followed and this is a great achievement for all in Cole.

This year Alison Lowe has stepped up to the role of Assistant District Commissioner, Cole, I'd like to formally welcome Alison to the Cole District Team, and to thank her for all the support she is giving me.

Finally, my thanks go to everyone in Cole, you have striven to deliver fine Scouting through the current difficult times to enable our young people to experience the adventure of Scouting, to grow and to learn skills for life.

THANK YOU!

Yours in Scouting

Liz Rashvand

District Commissioner Cole



Assistant District Commissioner

Beaver Report

It seems a little strange writing a report in a year where so little Scouting has taken place.

The last Bronze Awards evening was held in the autumn of 2019 at St Mary's Church, as always the district was well represented with a number of colonies in attendance. The evening was organised by Chris Thomas (Eagle) and hosted by Ian Carnell (Sherlock)

Moving onto December Knowle parish church was the venue for the annual carol service, the event well attended by Beavers from Blythe and Cole districts. The event was organised by the county team, again, Ian Carnell hosted proceedings which culminated in the traditional rendition of The 12 Days of Christmas

The district swimming Gala was held at the new Stechford leisure centre for the 2nd year running. The event was well attended by Beavers and parents were treated to some fierce competition. As beavers not only swam but chased ping pong balls, carried shopping and negotiated hoops in the pool. Let's hope we are in a position to run the event next year as it is enjoyed by so many of our colonies.

Whilst face to face scouts has been suspended it is impressive that so many of our leaders have well and truly entered the digital age and have continued to successfully deliver a virtual programme through Zoom or Microsoft Teams. It is great to hear so many of our Beavers have continued in lock down to work towards not only activity badges but also their Challenge badges. I have had reports from a number of colonies saying Beavers have completed their Bronze Award.

On the subject of badges I would like to take the opportunity on behalf of all the colonies to thank Marion Dodd for all her hard work over the years as district badge secretary. Over the years I am sure many leaders have visited the box in the porch to collect their badges.

We have a closed facebook group for Cole Beavers. Unfortunately it has been really quiet on there recently. I would encourage leaders to post what they have been doing and share programme ideas. I think that everyone would agree, the sharing of information can only promote a more diverse programme for our young people.

Finally I would like to thank the leadership teams from all our colonies without your time and commitment far fewer Beavers would have the opportunities that you afford them.

Ian Hodgkiss

Assistant District Commissioner Beavers



Assistant District Commissioner

Cub Report

We always have a full programme and have the support of the lovely Cub leaders. It was really good to see so many cubs attending.

Since April we have had many events including.

District pack model

St Georges day

District bowles

Safari camp

District Quiz

District xmas party

We haven't done anything this year except district pack model, that we managed to get in before covid 19 lock down.

Thank you again to everyone who made these events happen. Hopefully we will be having lots of fun again soon.

Sharon Matthews

Assistant District Commissioner Cubs



Assistant District Commissioner

Scout Report

Looking back to a year that 'felt' normal from a new season where the new normal is more like virtual reality' and 'digital' changes our perspectives somewhat. The lack of physical contact embracing the adventure just accentuates how special scouting has been to so many discovering their potential whilst growing in confidence attending troop nights and participating in camps and activities their leaders run for them.

In time those will return but for now a brief recap on the year that was.

It's been a privilege visiting local scout sections aiding leaders as they run their programs. This has included engaging with those looking to open new sections, such as 16 th Solihull, though somewhat slowed down points to others aware of the positive impact of scouting who will want to open new groups.

Scouts love competitions! So, it's no surprise that whether we are talking about Cooking, Operation Chameleon, the Swimming Gala, Target Shooting or Night Hike to name some; that we see so many and more each year keen to participate. Added in the year was our London weekend exploring the workings of Tower Bridge and monopoly challenge which was won by 1 st Hampton in Arden.

In addition to these we were able to organise a number of adventurous activities in support of local scout troops covering mountain biking in Derbyshire, wild camping in the Rhinogydd mountains and mountain taster weekend at a mountain centre in Snowdonia.

Looking forward to restarting face to face scouting with more adventures as we move towards 2021 following the hiatus for much of this year.

Michael S Blake

Assistant District Commissioner Scouts



Assistant District Commissioner

Explorer Report

The past year has again been good in parts, and a little more than trying at times, for Explorer Scouting across the District. Numbers were at a similar level on last year, though Leader recruitment is still proving to be an issue however.

November 2019 saw Operation Chameleon take place once more with 26 teams from across the County. The current Covid-19 situation has however necessitated the cancellation of many planned activities and events for the first part of 2020, though the County Night Hike still managed to take place before we all descended into Lockdown. On a very blustery night the Night Hike trophy had to be unfortunately relinquished from the District, and passed to Intrepid ESU from Blythe, who comfortably took the top two places.

Other large scale events such as Six Summits still happened, albeit in a slightly unfamiliar virtual sense.

The Pandemic has meant a suspension of all 'normal' Scouting activities for a number of weeks, though some units have managed to operate virtually, becoming proficient experts in the art of Zoom calls. In the last few weeks, a few units are now starting to hold socially distanced meetings and activities once more.

Numerous sleep-outs, bivouacs, and all levels of Chief Scouts and Duke of Edinburgh Award Expeditions, had been held in various corners of the country over the second half of 2019, though again have now been suspended until such time as advised by Windsor and the NYA.

Hopefully we can look forward to and move towards more face to face activities in the near future, and a return to a more usual form of Scouting for the forthcoming year.

Richard Budd

District Explorer Scout Commissioner



Assistant District Commissioner

Network Report

This year we have had a roller coaster!

We have had two of our members successfully gain their Chief scout gold awards and their Queen scout awards. This is an amazing success as they are the first in a very long time.

We have also camped at Gilwell reunion, which is a yearly adventure for us. Unfortunately, lock down has affected us like the other sections, we have not met since February. This has led to us missing out on camps we would have done, such as 'The Festival' at Rough close and group camps as well as missing out on weekly meetings, but this definitely didn't stop us communicating! We will still continue to aim to meet weekly, depending on availability of members. The biggest change for us this year was the unfortunate loss of our hut. We have been meeting at Arlescote for a number of years, but this year we said goodbye to the hut and handed it back to the district. The hut served us well for these years, but the latter few years, we have struggled with the upkeep of it.

Our membership stands stable, at 10 members, we would love to increase this and once scouting resumes we plan to create a better relationship with the explorer groups in the district to help the flow of over 18s throughout scouting. We look forward to hopefully welcoming new members to network this year.

Lauren Evans

District Scout Network Commissioner

Treasurer's Report

Solihull Cole District Council

Accounts for 2019-20

The Consolidated Accounts for the Cole District Central Support Services, Explorer Units, Badge Secretary and Network are presented. The more detailed accounts for the Central Services Accounts are not shown separately this year.

General Health of the District

The District is comfortably placed financially, insofar that the Central Support Account which is the biggest wealth holding, has a value close to 12 months of operation without income at all, and the Consolidated Accounts are at nearly 15 months.

The reserves policy is to hold one year's income as reserve in line with the Charity Commission guidelines. Two ESUs hold more, enough to raise the District's overall reserve to nearly 15 months. As the Cole District Executive has long had a policy of maximum self government for the ESUs, it is now up to those two Units to determine what needs to be done to bring reserves in line with the CC's expectations.

Notes to the 2019-2020 Accounts

These are at the foot of the last page and do not need repeating here.

I thank all the District's Treasurers, including our Badge Secretary, for their efforts in producing the various Accounts detailed at this meeting.

Motion before the AGM, proposed by the Treasurer The AGM accepts the Consolidated Accounts as presented and approves their publication on the Charity Commission web site.

Appendix 1 Developments since the end of 2019-20

I would not normally comment on the new financial year's events but this is an exceptional year with Covid-19 forcing the AGM back three months.

Scout Association financial position

HQ finances are now perilous as various Zoom meetings have declared. Costs have risen recently with safety, safeguarding and legal costs chiefly to blame. Then Covid-19 forced revenue generators like camp sites and adventure centres to shut down with only partial relief of overheads. Compared with Solihull Cole District's 12 months, the national reserves are likely to be down to two months or less before the new Capitation payments help to refill the coffers.

Many Leaders are unaware of the full costs that HQ bear for Scouting at national level. All those safety safeguarding and legal costs would become unpredictable



overheads for the Groups, for instance. The support given, through HQ, to one of our own GSLs at inquest in Preston would have bankrupted all but the richest of our Scout Groups.

So HQ are increasing the national rate – here are the words from the web site:

“The 2021 UKHQ membership fee for all members under 18 will be £36.50 (£36.00 for prompt payment by 23 April 2021).

£1.50 of this fee will be ring-fenced to support those Groups who can’t access funding – further details of this will be made available to the movement in due course.”

Arlescote Road

Disposal of the Arlescote Road site of the former 2nd Solihull Group HQ Jean Linton Hall is in progress. This is the biggest reduction of our overheads we can identify and will be executed as fast as possible. Ironically, possession of Arlescote Road enabled us to apply to The Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant Fund (RHLGF) for Covid-19 support of £10,000 which has been received.

When the Restricted fund for the disposal of Arlescote was set up before the Covid-19 shutdown, Solihull County were able to offer a further £5,000 towards disposal costs. However, now we have the grant County has withdrawn it’s offer and the grant may well have to be deployed in the disposal costs. For that reason the £10,000 grant cannot be seen as “free” money to be redeployed at will.

Solihull Cole District Capitation for February 2021

In past years, Solihull Cole District’s Trustees have been able to set their Budget and announce the capitation at the AGM in May or June. HQ’s announcement makes us

more cautious and without more certainly I will be recommending to Exec the same District charge as last year. If County do the same, the charge per Scout will be:

	Payable in February 2021	Prompt payment returned to Group/Unit	Net after discount repaid
HQ	£36.50	£0.50	£35.00
County	£5.00		
District	£4.00		
Total per Scout	£45.50		£45.00



Solihull Cole Exec will be looking, with County, at what (if anything) may be done to moderate the HQ increase and I cannot double guess any discussion.

Treasurers' Meeting March 2021

For a couple of years now Cole District Treasurers have had a mini conference in March and Blythe District's Treasurers have also attended. There is support for the event to become a truly County-wide one, sponsored by Cole District, and I am willing to arrange it.

Roger Pacey

Solihull Cole District Treasurer

14th August 2020

Please refer to the attached spreadsheet.

