



26th High Wycombe (Penn & Tylers Green) Scout Group

Annual General Meeting

Group Executive Chair's Annual Report 2020

Annual General Meeting & Scout Group Executive

Members of the Executive Committee (Exec) are Charity Trustees of the Scout Group and as such are responsible for ensuring that the business of the charity is carried out according to its own rules and within the rules of The Charities Commission, hence our AGM and annual report.

Group Executive

The Group executive is responsible for:

- maintaining the Group's property and equipment,
- raising funds and administrating the Group's finance,
- insuring individuals, property and equipment and
- assisting with the recruitment of leaders and other adult support.

There are three officer roles that are elected each year:

- Chair: Charles Barlow, responsible for leading the Executive Committee, ensuring that it fulfils its responsibilities within the Group,
- Secretary: Michael McPhillips, who supports the Chair of the Executive Committee to ensure the smooth functioning and sound administration of the Scout Group
- Treasurer: Jon Merry who manages finances and insurance and has made great progress in transforming the collections of subscriptions and the management of Sections' funds

All three officers have indicated they are willing to stand for a further term, if elected. Other members of the Executive are:

- Group Scout Leader: Roger Chinn, whose responsibility is to manage and support the Scout Group and its Leaders to ensure it runs effectively and that Scouting within the Group develops in accordance with the rules and policies of The Scout Association
- Quartermaster: Barry Osborne, who looks after all the equipment used for camping and other scouting activities. Barry is also Chair of Scout Hut Committee and gives up a significant amount of his time to maintain the furnishing of the building.
- Heather Cooper, Lynn Chinn, Paul Wickes, Paul Newcombe, Ian Peart and David Deadman whose varied responsibilities include communications, organising fund raising events such as jumble sales and generally supporting scouting in the village.

We are always keen to refresh and supplement the Exec by recruiting more parents with active scouting members, specifically from the Beaver and Cub packs. We believe this would help the Exec provide greater support to the Leaders enabling them to spend more time with the members on scouting activities.

Section Leaders

The most important individuals in any Scouting Group are the leaders, Heather, Sue, Lynsey, Paul A and Paul W, Heather again, Adrian, Sam, Tim and Ian. A huge thank you to you all for your enthusiasm and efforts that make scouting in P&TG so successful.

Unit meetings

At the beginning of 2020, we all hoped that it would be back to business as usual pretty quickly, how wrong we were. My own recollection of the ever-changing rules relating to gatherings has, perhaps thankfully, been lost. What I do recall is that at each stage of the year the Scout troop maximised the opportunity to meet, either virtually or outdoors, and the level of enthusiasm has been sustained throughout. I should like to record thanks to Adrian and his team for their enthusiasm and creativity.

There have been fewer virtual meetings for cubs as younger members are less able to concentrate during on-line meetings. The good news is that face-to-face Cub and Beaver meetings have recently resumed, with Beavers currently running as a combined colony due to the reduced number of active members. Many thanks to Heather and Sue and their teams for their energy and fortitude in helping young people at the beginning of their scouting journey.

Risk Assessment

For all stages of the scouting programme, a formal risk assessment was completed for each individual meeting covering both Covid considerations and also general health and safety issues, this latter requirement being introduced by the Scouting Association in 2020.

Membership

The Scout membership has held up well during the pandemic. It has been more difficult to determine the effect on Beaver and Cub membership. Unfortunately, the duration of the restrictions has meant that many young people will have missed out on part of their scouting journey. Thankfully, early indications of the demand for places for new Beavers and Cubs is looking good.

Volunteers

We hope that the evolving work life balance and increased appreciation of 'community' will enable us to recruit the additional adult helpers necessary to provide a varied programme of activities in a safe environment. If you are able to assist, please follow the links on our website.

Village post

The Scouts were unable to run their usual Christmas postal service delivering cards to residents of Penn & Tylers Green. However, a Village postal service was provided by local volunteers, many of whom were from scouting families. We invited donations to a charity chosen by Scouting members and raised over £600 for Shelter, the homeless charity.

We look forward to resuming a more active scouting programme from September as the Penn and Tylers Green group looks forward to its 100th year anniversary in 2023.

Charles Barlow
Group Executive Chairman
9 July 2021