



THE TRAILBLAZERS



# AGM Pack 2020

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# **Agenda for AGM 2020**

Date: Sunday 5th July 2020

Venue: Virtually via Zoom @ 3pm

1. Welcome and Introductions.
2. Apologies for absence.
3. Approval of the minutes of the last AGM.
4. Acceptance of annual report and statement of accounts.
5. Approval of the District Commissioner's nomination for Chairperson.
6. Nomination and election of officers and Executive Committee.
7. Appointment of Scrutineer.
8. Presentations.
9. Celebrating 50 years of the Group!
10. News from TSA

# Minutes of previous AGM

## MINUTES OF THE 2019 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

### HELD AT THE TRAILBLAZERS DEN

6<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2019

Dave Farthing, Chairperson, opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and thanking them for attending.

Dave then put a call out for volunteering for both leaders and Executive committee members as Andy, our treasurer, is stepping down.

Apologies received: Naomi Treanor and Paul Thompson

#### 1. Minutes:

The AGM pack had been circulated via email prior to the meeting. The previous minutes were accepted with one correction:

“Three of our general committee members are also stepping down, Sam Jones, Louise Cook, and Tracey.”

Proposer: David Farthing, Seconder: Tim Ford

Signed by David Farthing as all present approved last year's minutes.

#### 2. Annual Reports and Statement of Accounts:

Trustee's report – Dave Farthing (DF), Chairman

A statement is in the AGM pack as well, but DF went through his report:

DF thanked parents for attending, and all those involved in the group for the hard work over the last year. It has been a good year for the group with lots of highlights to report.

#### Highlights of the year

- We have opened a second Beaver colony and hope to open this up to those on the waiting list from September 2019
- With the help of grants from the District Scouts we have been able to replace the fire doors to the hut at a cost of £4K
- We have started to publish a newsletter so parents can find out more about what their children do and can be more involved with the group
- Our Leaders and assistants are completing training to allow them to do more with the children, like nights away and climbing.
- A number of children have achieved their Bronze or Silver Chief Scout award – the highest award for a Beaver or Cub.

DF also highlighted the need of parents to become a bit more involved with the committee and the running of the group as the work is being handled by only a few people at the moment.

#### Treasurer's report – Andy Wray, Treasurer

Andy Wray (AW) went through the statement of accounts which had been circulated with the AGM pack to parents. The accounts are sound and in good order, however he estimates we need at least £8K in the accounts to keep the group running smoothly. We currently have £10K, which gives us a little money to put towards the replacement of the garage.

Fundraising was down on last year – and is something we need to focus more on next year.

AW said we managed to claim £1.3K in gift aid last year -however not all parents are signed up to gift aid. He encourages all parents to please sign up as this is an easy way for the group to increase its income for very little effort.

In the last year the group has successfully moved to online banking and there are now three signatories on the accounts. Dual authorisation on payments out of the accounts is still used – we just do this electronically now! This has made it easier for the group and parents to pay monies in and out.

In addition to paying online via the OSM platform, the group has also introduced the ability to pay via Credit Card (via SumUp) – making it even easier to pay for small one-offs to the group.

In terms of fundraising AW also highlighted the following:

- Amazon Smile – The ability to shop via Amazon.co.uk and Amazon will donate a small percentage of the sale to the group. All it requires is a change of your bookmarks to <https://smile.amazon.co.uk> and choosing “6Th Farnborough Scout Group” as your charity.
- Paypal giving- AW has registered the group with Paypal Giving to help receive donations from people. This costs the group nothing!
- Rushmoor Borough Lottery – You can also play the Rushmoor Borough Lottery and choose the group as your chosen charity.

Cost of subs will be increasing due to increases in the amounts we have to pay District and HQ levels of Scouting – These increases are likely to be every year for a while. They will be £40 a term from September 2019.

AW said he will be stepping down as treasurer at this AGM. It was emphasised that without a Treasurer the group will have to close as we must have a Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer in order to meet the requirements for Charitable status. AW has done a lot of

work with excel macros etc to make the treasurer role as painless as possible – so the work would not be hard.

#### Section reports

Please see AGM pack for details.

### **3. Approval of Chairperson:**

Tim Ford Nominated Dave Farthing for the position as Chairman, seconded by Nichola Jones. All attending voted in favour. The meeting was handed back to DF.

### **4. Election of Officers and Committee:**

- Treasurer: No nominations for the role were received at the meeting and so the position is currently vacant.
- Secretary: Liane Frydland was nominated by Tim Ford, seconded by Nichola Jones. All attending voted in favour.

DF then went on to talk about the work of the committee and the need for parents to get involved. Our current treasurer is stepping down and we must have a new treasurer by law for the group to function. He called for more parents to get involved and not to let all the kids have the fun! It can be a very rewarding role and something for the CV.

### **5. Appointment of Scrutineer:**

A scrutineer for the accounts is needed as the current scrutineer had been doing it as a favour to us c/o Andy, and with Andy stepping down – they are also stepping away from the role.

Dave asked for nominations for a scrutineer from the parents, but none were offered at this meeting. The scrutineer role is therefore also vacant.

### **6. Presentations and closing:**

Awards were given out to the following children in each section:

#### **Fiona Allgood Endeavour Award (FAEA):**

Beaver: Lawson

Cub: Joseph

Scout: James

#### **Other Awards given:**

Most improved Beaver : Lily-Rose

Best Beaver : Leon

Best Cub : Martha

Most improved Cub : Jaylan

Best Scout Award : Luke

TF gave a personal thanks to the committee for their work and thanked all the Leaders, Assistant Leaders, Sectional Assistants, and Occasional helpers for all that they do for the group. He thanked all the children who come along each week and make the experience such a rewarding one for the Leaders – as they are the reason the Leaders do this role. Lastly he thanked all the parents for bringing their children each week regardless of the weather!

TF then invested Linda Knoll (Raven) into the group as our new colony Beaver Scout Leader.

#### Emma Buckett (EB) – District Scouts

EB also said a few words regarding the need for a treasurer for the group – without it the group will fold, and that would waste all the efforts put in this year to increase the group with a new Beaver colony. The waiting list to join the group is now over 30 children long so the need is there.

TF mentioned that it is written into the rules of Scouting that Leaders are not allowed to stand for elected committee roles (i.e. Chairman, Treasurer, and Secretary) – which is why the role must be filled by a parent.

EB also mentioned the increases from District in subs is due to the development of a growth unit post at District level – which the group has already benefitted from as they have been involved in getting our second Beaver colony off the ground.

#### Gifts to Leaders

DF then presented AW with an Amazon gift card to thank him for all his work over the past year.

DF presented Fiona (Akela) with a nurse's watch as a gift for her works as Cub Scout Leader. She is stepping down to a Sectional Assistant role due to personal commitments.

DF presented Tim Ford (Bear) with an engraved Axe (with an accompanying plaster!) for his many years of service to the group as an Assistant Scout Leader and now Group Scout Leader.

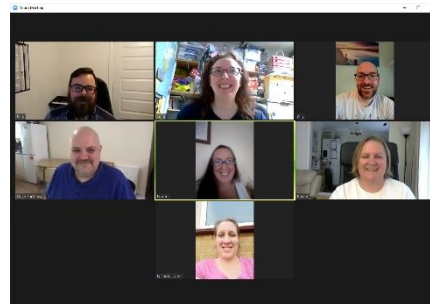
The meeting closed and then the fun began!

## Trustees Annual Report for Year Ending...31 March 2020

To say that 2020 has been unusual for 6th Farnborough Scouts, and indeed for everybody, would be somewhat of an understatement! On behalf of the group I like to offer our absolute sympathy to all who have been impacted by the terrible COVID-19 Pandemic.

Events of the recent months have clearly meant that the group has had to develop new approaches to scouting. I think I can safely say that there is no leader training manual that exists to prepare for the challenges faced by our leaders. I'd like to thank them, each and every one for their efforts and continued dedication to providing continued opportunities to all of our members. Adapting scouting into a virtual, online world is no mean feat and the time taken to do so often exceeds that of our regular meetings. Despite the additional pressures of home life that I think we have all felt over the past 3 months, our volunteers have still given their time to provide scouting using online resources such as Zoom.

Our committee has also continued to work behind the scenes to ensure the group weathers the storm and continues to operate through the pandemic and beyond into better times. There is no question that our usual fundraising program has taken a hit, but opportunities have still been created - such as "Wear your pyjamas to work" day. This along with some generous donations have kept some much needed funds rolling in. So thank you to the committee for your dedication also.



*Committee meetings via Zoom!*

We have been fortunate to benefit from a grant program setup by the government that promises to see the group able to survive in what would otherwise have been challenging times financially.



Looking back prior to what seems like an eternity ago before any of us knew that COVID-19 even exists, we were very fortunate to be awarded two very generous local grants to help toward the cost of two critical projects the group has.

We were awarded **£1000** from **Rushmoor Lottery** towards the cost of ceiling renovations and storage inside of Trail Blazers Den. Many of you will have seen the handiwork of a team of mostly pensioners (The Monday night crew) who volunteer their considerable skills and provide labour to complete this work. We are beyond thankful to them and thrilled at the results.

Additionally we have been awarded **£1,500** from **Blackwater Valley District Scouts** small grants programme towards the increasingly urgent replacement of our outside storage. This programme is making a huge difference to Scouting in Blackwater Valley, and although somewhat delayed we hope to complete this project as soon as we possibly can. My thanks on behalf of the group to

Emma Buckett (District Commissioner) and the rest of the Blackwater Valley District team for their continued support.

At the last AGM, I announced the departure of our Treasurer - Andy Wray. The position remained vacant for some time and through his absolute generosity we have been able to squeeze one more year of service from him (thanks Andy). I'm happy to say we have a new volunteer ready in the wings to take on the position and continue where Andy leaves off.



*Andy Wray - Outgoing Treasurer*

The committee however, remains small. The Group relies on volunteers in all ways, from the legalities and paperwork of running a charity to the small things like pushing a broom around at the end of the night. All help is warmly received and makes a real difference to the Group and the experiences we are able to provide for your children. The period of lockdown has brought about by necessity new methods by which we can engage as a committee and it may now be easier than ever to get involved and offer a little time to support the Group. We welcome all input of both time and fresh ideas, so please consider getting involved. You can email me [chairman@6thfarnboroughscouts.org.uk](mailto:chairman@6thfarnboroughscouts.org.uk) for details.

We don't know what the immediate future holds for Scouting. The safety of all involved is our paramount concern - but we look forward to the day when we can get back to Trailblazer's Den and welcome you all in person once again.

**Dave Farthing**  
Chairman



## Treasurer's Report

[Full accounts are attached as Annex A]

As can be seen from the accounts, the group is run on a tight budget and as such needs to rely heavily on fundraising, donations and grants to enable it to invest further in facilities and equipment. In this financial year we balanced income and expenditure well whilst making some key investments. These included the final payment for the fire doors replacement, the refurbishment of the hut and purchase of Dutch ovens and hammocks. This represented an investment of over £4,600 in this financial year.

Looking forwards, as a Group we also urgently need to replace the storage facilities on site; the current plan is to purchase a container to act as a secure storage facility on site and will require a further investment of approximately £6,000 within the 2020-2021 financial year.

The highlights from a fundraising point of view this year included:

- |                                 |           |
|---------------------------------|-----------|
| • Storage Container Grant       | £1,500.00 |
| • Hut refurbishment grant       | £1,000.00 |
| • Race Night                    | £749.03   |
| • PayPal Giving                 | £592.86   |
| • AGM                           | £352.11   |
| • Other miscellaneous donations | £269.84   |
| • Rushmoor Lottery              | £115.00   |
| • Fun Run                       | £87.00    |
| • Amazon Smile                  | £81.56    |

As always, a big thank you to all who help at our fundraising events but more help is always needed.

Overall, fundraising was up on last year and generally in-line with previous years. Our ability to fundraise in 2020/2021 is much more limited given the pandemic, however this has been offset somewhat by our successful application for a Covid-related grant.

It should be noted that we did not claim Gift Aid this year as a significant number of parents have not yet completed Gift Aid forms. We can still claim the Gift Aid retrospectively in the new financial year if we can get these forms completed and as such, I would encourage all parents who are eligible to do so. We will let you know if we do not have a form on file for your

*giftaid it*

child and would appreciate your help with this as it represents a significant sum of monies from HMRC that needs no additional fundraising effort.

Online Scout Manager and on-line banking continue to work well for the group with 96% of all parent payments made electronically this year. In addition, 100% of supplier invoices and leader expenses were paid electronically (typically within 48 hours and following dual authorisation). This move to rapid electronic payments and receipts has allowed the group to keep a tight control of the finances and to understand exactly where we stand financially at any given time.

Finally, we are aware that a number of parents had paid deposits for summer camps that were cancelled due to the pandemic. We will look to either hold these as a credit against future activities or refund. As such, we will be contacting those affected by the cancellations over the coming weeks to discuss options.

**Andy Wray**

Acting Group Treasurer

## Group Scout Leader Report

Last year was my third as your Group Scout Leader (GSL) and although last year I thought I was getting into my stride, this year that stride was knocked for six. This year we started with 4 sections as normal, having the Pond Beavers running as a fully operational section. Something that I am so proud of my Leaders and Committee for making happen.

In addition to the regular section meetings the young people of the group have also taken part in district events like the swimming gala, sleepovers, 6-aside, Mastermind, carol services, incident hikes and more; including winning the Scouts Marksman competition.



Winners of the Scouts Marksman competition

The COVID-19 outbreak and lockdown has meant that face to face meetings were suspended in March, affecting the Scouting that we could offer to our members. Undeterred our Leaders rose to the challenge and invited our members to do so too. We ran online meetings almost the very next week and have a real success with Beavers, Cubs and Scouts all joining in. Our leaders have had to learn new skills to do this and I can say that there is no less effort that goes into an online meeting as there is in a physical one. We have managed to use the online Scouting to help members earn badges and even posted them out. We decided quickly that we shouldn't be collecting Subs this last term but to ask for donations instead. Thank you to everyone that made donations via our PayPal giving.



Online scouting via Zoom!

The lockdown did negatively affect us in other areas. Our fundraising efforts this year were a little dampened as we had to cancel our Horse racing night and Summer BBQ, our two biggest events to collect additional funds. Our Secretary did however "go to work" in her pyjamas raising some funds for us. Please remember that you can add 6th Farnborough Scouts as your preferred charity at [www.smile.amazon.co.uk](http://www.smile.amazon.co.uk) and for every eligible purchase you make Amazon will donate money to us. We also are one of the charities taking part in.

[Rushmoor Community lottery](#)

[easy fundraising](#)

We have also set up a PayPal giving account to allow online donations to be made where none of the money donated is taken in banking fees.

[Donate](#)

Despite the early planning our planned nights away had to be cancelled, instead we took part in the world record breaking virtual camp along with thousands of other Scouts from around the world. I know I had fun and all the planning for summer camps will be used for next year.



I say a big thanks to all our Leaders Clive, Martyn, Marie, Fiona, Paul, Karen, Helen, Nichola, Linda and Tony who all volunteer their time freely to run the section nights, events and camps. Without their dedication and drive we would not be able to operate. This of course includes the young leaders Lucy, Katy, Dan, Olly and Lex.



*Virtual camp night*

I also would like to thank the members of the committee Dave, Andy, Liane and Naomi. They keep a roof over our heads, make sure we have funds and pay the bills, and arrange the AGM and other fundraising events. It is your continued support that keeps us all going. This includes a welcome to our newest member Olly who will be coming in as our new Treasurer. This of course leads me to say a massive thank you to Andy, who took on Treasurer a few years ago and moved the group to online banking and donations. Andy has managed to set up the accounts so that Olly will be able to take over with some real ease.

I would like to thank all of our young members who come to section nights with enthusiasm and passion to try out new things. A massive thumbs up to all the young members that joined us online. A scary new thing to try but you all did really well.

Finally thank you to the parents that support us by showing up and helping out when we need you. From the simple tasks of offering lifts to others so that all children can get to us or taking tea towels home to wash them to maintaining the building or grounds, it is very much appreciated.

### Next year and beyond

With all that the group has managed in the last year where can we go next?

- I would love more parents on the committee or fundraising committee
- I would also love more adults to join the leadership team especially in our River Beaver section
- To gain a young leader in the Pond and River Beaver sections. Achieving one in all sections
- To finish the storage project, get the container in place and remove the shed
- To improve our equipment in general for all sections
- To provide new and exciting opportunities for our young members

Tim Ford (Bear)

Group Scout Leader

6<sup>th</sup> Farnborough Scout Group

## Beavers Section Reports 2019-2020

It has been a busy year in Beavers. Raven and Hawk have been invested and lead the Tuesday evening Pond Beavers while Deer continues to run Monday night's River Beavers. Sixteen new Beavers have been invested this year; with two more due to be invested at the AGM. During our meetings at the hut, we have seen many challenges fulfilled: apple bobbing, spaghetti and marshmallow bridges, tallest towers, naming constellations and tying shoelaces.



*Raven being invested as a leader*

We have done plenty of activity badgework like: Book Reader, Experiment, Health and Fitness and Air Activities. Challenge Awards take more time to complete and we have been working on them all year. We are so proud of our Beavers!

The groups work together, and the Beavers have earned many badges while having fun along the way. Some examples of our joint events are: Hallowe'en party, Remembrance Parade and going to the Church of the Good Shepherd to complete our Faith badges. We have also participated in the District trip to Paulton's Park and joined the entire unit at the Panto in December. We had a sleepover and a visit to the F.A.S.T. Museum scheduled, but unfortunately these have been cancelled. We were impressed that almost all Beavers participated in Camp at Home.



*Beaver's Halloween party*

We are currently meeting virtually via Zoom. Many Beavers take part and each week we send home tasks they can work on to help them earn badges. The children have been busy and receiving their badges via post. We have even had one virtual Investiture in Pond Beavers. Parents can also access badges-at-home on OSM so parents can work with children to earn their interest badges or complete some challenge badgework. The leaders have learned some new skills to help provide effective virtual meetings. Technology can be challenging!



There have been 4 Beavers earn their Chief Scout's Bronze Award and swim up to Cubs. There are Beavers still earning their badges during lockdown and swim ups to Cubs will still take place. We have awarded 271 badges since the last AGM.

There are some activities which are very challenging to complete during lockdown, but don't be worried as there has been an extension to allow for this and hopefully all Beavers will earn their Chief Scout's Bronze Award.

Also River Beavers young leader, Lucy, earned her acorn badge - which all young leaders work hard to achieve - as well as being nominated for Young Leader of the year!



*Lucy earning her Acorn badge*

Deer, Raven and Hawk would like to say thank you to all the parents who have occasionally helped at meetings, special events or who are helping their Beaver with virtual meetings. A special thank you goes out to our section assistants who help regularly: Andrea, Martyn, Alex, Chan and Emma.

## Cubs Section Report 2019-2020

It's been a busy year for the Cubs! We started off this period with our summer camp at Bentley Copse, with loads of adventure (and the odd badger!). We've been a part of a load of District events, including the first District Fun Run, Carol Service and the 6-a-side Tournament (in which we came in second place!)



Learning archery

In our weekly meetings, we tried a lot of new things, including a talk about bats (followed by a twilight walk around the woods with bat-detectors!), a night-hike along Cove Brook, and air rifles and archery. We've learned a lot too - everything from local knowledge (what the area was like a long time ago), how to cook pancakes on a tin can, how to stay safe online and how to tie knots and read maps!

Although COVID-19 has limited our ability to meet face to face, we've still kept our meetings going online, and we've done quizzes, memory games, guess who and seeing who could build the best giraffe during our meeting! There's been a lot of badges awarded and sent out, and we've even managed to get some nights away with the Camp at Home event!

We also welcome Jacala as a Young Leader this year.



Introducing our new Young Leader - Jacala. (L to R) Badger, Jacala, Won Tolla, and Kala



It's not just the kids that have fun at summer camp!



Our 6-a-side team who took 2nd place at the District Competition #soproud!



Making giraffes in lockdown!

# Scouts Section Report 2019-2020

A warm welcome to our report. What have your sons and daughters been up to this last year?

They took part in everybody's favourite event Sports Day yippy! So a big thank you to those that took part and well done for doing your best.

Summer Camp was held at Broadstone Warren. This included various activities like Axe Throwing, Climbing, Swimming and Water Zorbing to name a few. They also did the cooking and washing up (so no excuses for not doing it at home) and learnt Knife and Axe which required them to understand safety rules for use and storage, demonstrate how to use properly to gain a certificate of use. Even if Luke did try and cut his thumb and finger off with an axe.



Axe throwing while on camp

District Swimming Gala with some good swims from Adam and all the others that took part. Panto with all sections "o no they didn't o yes they did" and "lets sing it again then" and "5 toil...let rolls!!

We had 2 teams take part in the District Master-at- Arms Competition doing Air Rifles, Archery, Blow pipes and darts. Zak, Crystal, Jack and Charlotte with Jack and Charlotte coming First overall out of 15 teams.

Over the last year they have gained 60 plus badges in the Challenge/Staged/Activity sections with Cameron and Adam earning 8 apiece so well done you two.

With the Corona Virus Pandemic Scouting has had to change dramatically so a big thank you to those doing weekly Zoom meetings and badge work.

Finally, I would like to thank Bear for all his hard work keeping us going. To Fox for his support and Leadership till work commitments got in the way. To Dragonfly for stepping up to Scouts and bringing fresh ideas and views. To Daniel for leading programmes and games and our two new Young Leaders Oli and Lex as they start their Leader training.

Yours in Scouting

Skip



Skip and Bear



Our Young Leaders