



## **Whitehall Scout Group**

### **Annual General Meeting**

**Date:** 03/10/22 at 19:30

**Attendance** John Legg (JL), Dave Webb (DW), Charron Plumstead (CP), Simon Plumstead (SP), Lyn Blackmore (LB), Alison Heyes (AH), Steve Foster (SF), Charissa De Zeeuw (CDZ), Lucy Eggleston (LE), Daniel Thame (DT)

**Apologies** Clive Mason (CM), Josh Keyte (JK), Billy Perkins (BP)

### **Minutes**

#### **1. Chairperson's Remarks from Charron Plumstead**

The Chair (CP) thanked and welcomed everyone to the third AGM.

CP thanked the Group Scout Leader, John Legg, the Section Leaders; Dave Webb, Simon Plumstead, Charissa De Zeeuw and Lyn Blackmore; Assistant Leaders; Lucy Josh, Billy, Dan and Ellie and Young Leaders; Fred, George, Eva, Isabella, Zac and Elliot.

CP acknowledged the group has recovered well after the pandemic with new members and waiting lists to demonstrate the success of the group.

So far this year, the group has enjoyed:

Whole group Easter camp, Beaver camp, Cub camp and Scout Survival camp. CP volunteered to attend so she could see first-hand the success.

The group has been using the scout hall as a temporary basis whilst waiting for the school hall to become available again.

CP acknowledged that it is disappointing we are unable to offer all those on the waiting lists a place. There is the possibility of opening more places with the help of District, but the group needs more leaders to be able to do that. CP said that this support can make a life altering experience to a young person.

CP stated that the group has maintained a solid financial position this year and has invested in equipment and training to enhance the experiences of the group.

Well done, Whitehall!

## **2. Treasurer's Report from Steve Foster**

The Treasurer (SF) reported on the accounts. The balance at the beginning of the year was £18,640.89. The balance as of 31 August 2022 was just over £12,000.

SF reported that there was;  
£11,178.37 in income  
£17,772.89 in expenditure

SF explained that the expenditure was higher as the group bought some fixed assets (for example, equipment for archery, air rifles, a marquee and tents). SF noted that the expenses for the fun day are higher than in a usual year as equipment was bought. SF noted that these items will be used many times over future years.

## **3. Report from Group Scout Leader, John Legg**

JL thanked everyone for coming to the AGM. JL expressed his thanks to all the section leaders and other volunteer leaders.

JL acknowledged that a full schedule has been run for all 3 sections this year. During the last year, activities included an Easter camp, Cub camp, Scout camp as well as all three sections being well represented at the District Airhop Sleepover. We also held our first ever Annual Family Fun Day!

JL acknowledged that the leaders have developed themselves with new skills and certifications to enable our young people to further enjoy a wide range of Scouting Activities.:

Dave – air rifles and soon to be and hill walking  
Charissa – archery  
Simon – rafting and soon to be and hill walking  
Josh – air rifles, archery and soon to be climbing  
John – District training Advisor

JL congratulated Dave on his fundraising for the group, particularly raising over £750 in last few days by completing the Virtual London Marathon.

JL also thanked everyone who donated to our annual food drive and volunteered time to freshen up our HQ!

### **JL noted the numbers in each section;**

Scouts section - currently 30  
Cubs section – currently 29 (will be at capacity soon)  
Beavers section - currently 21 (will be at capacity soon)  
Leaders – 8  
Young Leaders – 6  
Occasional Helpers - 14

### **Waiting List numbers**

Beavers - 47  
Cubs - 98  
Scouts - 41

186 in total

JL thanked the Exec Committee for their support and is looking forward to the year ahead.

#### **4. Section Leader Reports**

##### **Beavers Report – Charissa De Zeeuw**

CDZ noted that it has been a great year. Several trips included:

Slimbridge

Air Hop sleepover

Easter Camp

The Beavers have spent a lot of sessions outdoors, including night-time walks, cooking, fire lighting, foraging walks, conservation, cycling and nature art.

CDZ welcomed and thanked Lucy for all her support during the year.

##### **Cubs report – Dave Webb**

DW updated on numbers. There are currently 29 cubs - 4 girls and 25 boys.

179 badges have been awarded, 4 of them Silver Chief Scout Awards.

Activities have included:

Group Easter camp (the largest yet with over 70 people on site), Air Hop sleepover, Cubs summer camp.

The weekly program included Fire lighting, Shelter Building, Nerf Battle, Clip & Climb, Orienteering in the Rain, Paddle Sports in the Harbour, A Cycle ride and Archery.

DW also thanked the leadership team, Lyn and Dan and the 3 Young leaders – Elliot, George and Zac.

##### **Scouts report – Simon Plumstead**

SP reported that the section has settled down after a few turbulent years with numbers steadying. Some Scouts have moved to Explorers and some have become young leaders.

SP noted that the leadership team is going strong and thanked Billy for becoming more involved. SP thanked Josh and Lyn as well as the young leaders, Fred and George.

Activities have included kayaking, camping, Air Hop sleepover, and camp.

Over the last year, over 130 badges have been awarded including a Chief Scout Gold Award, making it 6 in the last 4 years.

#### **5. District report – Clive Mason (Apologies)**

Friends and Scout colleagues of Whitehall, I'm so sorry I can't make this evening but do hope it is an enjoyable one as despite the recent challenging times, you review another year of great Scouting. The pandemic obviously affected Scouting and society as a

whole. Nationally we lost 17% of our young people and 12% of our volunteers. The pandemic reminded us that Scouting has a huge part to play in the development of young people. It has been recognised like never before that Scouting strengthens communities and also improves the quality of life not just for young people but our fantastic volunteers as well. Our membership numbers have not only returned to pre-pandemic levels but in many areas surpassed them. As a result, many Groups in the District are looking at increasing their number of sections before the end of the year.

Along with many Groups, I know Whitehall has had some discussions to perhaps start one of the first new Squirrel Dreys (for 4-5yr olds) in the District. When...and only when... you are ready, I and the District team look forward to supporting that development as and when you are ready to progress.

The importance of Scouting has once again been recognised nationally and we're delighted that as an organisation, we've recently been awarded the Queen's Award For Voluntary Service...basically the MBE for voluntary organisations. Even better news is that we'll shortly be issuing a badge for all adult volunteers who were in role at the last census (31st January 2022) to wear indefinitely with pride...so more sewing for everyone! You have noticed that The Scouts has also been recognised recently as 2022 charity of the year by 'The Times'...we really are riding high as an organisation, deservedly so and absolutely down to the hard work and commitment of you...our outstanding volunteers!

There are some big changes coming in Scouting and by this time next year, the way we recruit, train and support volunteers should be much improved and hopefully make it not only easier, but more welcoming to new volunteers joining and enjoying what we do. There will be other changes coming but as a District we will be supporting Groups with this transition and John (as GSL) and Sharon (as Executive Chair) will be invited to an initial information and support day in November.

A heads up that we intend to run a District weekend event up at Woodhouse Park on 9th - 11th June next year. This will essentially be like our traditional 'BJAM' event...but also very much based on the Woodhouse Park 'Big Fiesta' model you may have heard about. Watch this space for further details as this will very much be about getting everyone back together face to face, at District expense and having fun with their peers. Whilst the District ran the very well received Brunel 'Bounce Back' at the beginning of the year, a full weekend residential experience at District level is something we haven't been able to do for a long time. Incidentally, I was delighted that Whitehall took a full participation in the "Bounce Back" event...whilst very tiring, I know both the YP's and volunteers had a great time.

Whitehall continues to be a well managed and governed Group and my sincere appreciation and thanks to all volunteers who support it. This is not a hollow thank you...Scouting has absolutely bounced back and it's testament to everyone's commitment. At the end of the day, you continue to deliver a fantastic programme and genuinely change lives for the young people in your community.

## **6. Election of Officers**

- Chairperson – Charron Plumstead nominated.
- Secretary – Alison Heyes nominated.
- Treasurer - Steve Foster nominated.

- Parent Exec committee role – John Lynch nominated.

It was noted that Simon Plumstead will continue as Quartermaster.

### **7. Exec Meeting Dates**

The following meetings dates have been agreed:

January 16 at 19:30

April 24 at 19:30

July 10 at 19:30

### **8. AOB**

No AOB was noted.

The meeting was closed at 20:10.