



4th East Grinstead Annual General Meeting Minutes

Date: 11th July 2024 at 6:30pm

Venue: Trinity Methodist Church East Grinstead

Attendees

Attendees	Present	Apologies	Title
Tony Parsons	X		Group Chair
Caz Gould	X		Group Secretary
Jill Beckingham	X		Section Lead – Cubs
Chris White			Section Lead - Scouts
Tracey Roberts	X		Trustee
Kristina Parsons	X		Section Lead - Beavers
Colin Smith	X		Trustee
Maria Dias	X		Assistant Cub Leader
Heather Furminger Harvey		X	District Commissioner and Acting Group Scout Leader
Tony Harvey	X		District representative
Jake Sheeran	X		Assistant Scout Leader
William Mewis		X	Trustee
Emily Brooks	X		Group Treasurer
Tim Winkley	X		Assistant Cub leader
Claire Goold	X		Assistant Scout Leader
Sandra Devine		X	Trustee Membership Secretary
Billy Davies	X		Assistant Scout Leader
Susie Shaw	X		Parent
Tori Harrison	X		Parent
Peter Hussey	X		Parent
Jazz Kirby	X		Parent
Alex Kirby	X		Parent
Debbie Ackroyd	X		Parent
Kyle Smith	X		Parent
Claire Muggleton	X		Parent
Nikki Bell	X		Parent

1. Chairman's Welcome

The Chair opened the meeting at 6:30pm and welcomed everyone. The Beavers and Cubs sang a couple of campfire songs for our entertainment guided by Ben Parsons, a young leader.

2. Apologies for absence

- Sandra Devine
- Heather Furminger Harvey
- William Mewis

3. Minutes of Last Years Meeting and matters arising

The Chair advised that copies of the minutes were available to read and requested confirmation that these were a true reflection of the meeting from those who had been at the meeting last year. Chris White proposed and Jake Sheeran seconded this and the minutes are therefore approved.

It was confirmed that there have been no matters arising.

4. Group Governance Topics

a. Reaffirm Group Constitution from POR – Revised 2024

The Chair explained that the group is required to adopt a constitution and there is a recommended standard constitution from the Scout Association for groups to use. The Chair proposed that this is the one that the Group accepts and reaffirms. Jake Sheeran proposed agreement and Kristina Parsons accepted.

b. Confirm the number of members that may be elected to the Trustee Board

The recommendation from the Scouting Association is that we have the minimum 4 but another 4 as well.

The proposal is that we keep it at the same 8 members for the Trustee Board as per last year. This was proposed by Emily Brooks and seconded by Tracey Roberts.

The Chair explained that the Group management committee is separate and will look after the day to day operation – doesn't need elections as members can be cooped on and off at any time.

c. Agree the Quorum for each of the Group Scout Council (including this AGM), meetings of the Group Trustee Board, meetings of any sub-committees.

For the AGM it is required that we have a minimum of 15 members of the group council - leaders, youth leaders, parents and helpers. Jake Sheeran proposed and Emily Brooks seconded the motion. Agreed.

For the Group Trustee Board meetings and sub-committee meetings, we are proposing that these will be the same and that the recommendations is to be third of 8 plus 1 = 3 or 4. Jake Sheeran proposed and Chris White seconded the motion. Agreed.

5. Treasurers Report and Account Approval.

The accounts are presented in the tables below.

The group has 3 funds:-

- General Fund – this is monies used for the day to day running of the Group.
- Vehicle Fund – this is money put aside for replacing the group's Shogun. If there is sufficient surplus in the general fund then monies are transferred to the vehicle fund.
- Equipment Fund – this is the surplus funds from Camp fees. It is used to repair/replace camping equipment.

General Fund:

- The group this year had a deficit of £2,287 on the General fund.
- A claim for Gift Aid has yet to be made. Please ensure that you've signed a gift aid form.
- Also in FY 22/23 we received a grant from SE Water and still have a balance of £95 to spend.
- We raised £265 at a Christmas Charity event, and the money was split between Crawley Open House (£150), Chestnut Tree House (£55) and the Fundo Foundation (£50).
- We were also able to raise £730 for the scouting group through the fundraising activities as shown below.

Amazon Smile	£30
May Fair	£673
Easy Fundraising	£18
Other	£10

Equipment Fund:

- The equipment fund balance at the end of this year is £2,027.
- In FY 22/23 a grant for £1,000 was received from East Grinstead Common Good Trust. This was spent this FY on tents, a gas fridge and Trangia stove for the Marathon Hiking challenge.
- We were delighted to receive a grant for £500 from East Grinstead Memorial Trust and £2,000 from Mid Sussex Community Fund for equipment, of which £1,705 was spent this FY. The balance of £795 will be used this year.

4th East Grinstead Scout Group Accounts 1 Apr 23 – 31 Mar 24

General Fund	2023/24	2022/23
<u>INCOME</u>		
Subs	7,552	6,392
Camps/Activities	9,609	9,723
Fundraising	730	1,444
Fundraising for Charity	265	321
Gift Aid	0	0
Grants/Donations	50	890
Covid Grant (District)	0	0

Misc.	21		110
Total Income	£18,227		£18,840

PAYMENTS

Hall/Barn Rent	3,852		2,912
Badges/Scarves/Leader Uniforms	542		674
Equipment Purchases/Maintenance	556		139
Sections (for week night program activities)	275		288
Camps/Activities	9,615		8,916
Vehicle Running Costs	2,089		135
Insurance	430		540
Fundraising Expenses	34		76
Scout Association Membership Fee	3,522		2,280
Grant Spend	100		655
Charity Donation	215		321
Misc.	0		51
Total Payments	£21,230		£16,987
Balance b/fwd (1 st April 23)	716		35
Net Receipts	(3,003)		1,853
Transfer from Vehicle Fund	0		0
Transfer to Equipment Fund	0		(1,172)
Balance at 31st March 24	(£2,287)		£716

Vehicle Fund	2023/24	2022/23
Balance b/fwd (1 st April 23)	3,900	3,900
Net Receipts	0	0
Net Expenses	0	0
Transfer (to)/from General Fund	0	0
Balance at 31st March 24	£3,900	£3,900

Equip Fund	2023/24	2022/23
Balance b/fwd (1 st April 23)	2,232	700
Net Receipts	2,500	1,000
Net Expenses	2,705	640
Transfer from General Fund	0	1,172
Balance at 31st March 24	£2,027	£2,232

Fund Balances	2023/24	2022/23
General Fund	(2,287)	716
Vehicle Fund	3,900	3,900
Equipment Fund	2,027	2,232

Balance at 31st March 23	£3,640	£6,848
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A request from the Treasurer was that it would be useful to do a stock take of the equipment in the barn this year for valuation purposes.

6. Acting Group Lead Volunteer Report

Tony Parsons delivered this for and on behalf of Heather Furminger District Commissioner who sadly could not attend the AGM.

It has been a privilege to have got to know the team at the 4th EG over the past year. The 4th is an extremely strong Group, has an excellent name and a very experienced Leader team, supported by an equally strong trustee board.

The Beaver Colony - Kristina with over 20 years' experience is supported by Sarah who has been appointed for almost a year now, who along with the young leaders continue to provide creative and imaginative weekly meetings and sleepovers. The Cub Pack - Jill with over 40 years' service recognised with a Silver Acorn from The Scout Association is well supported by George 8 years, Tim 10 years and Maria for 3 years and young leaders with so many new fresh ideas. The summer camp is always themed and the highlight of the year providing so many lifetime memories for all who are lucky enough to attend.

The Scout Troop is second to none. Aply steered by Chris and Claire with 19 years' service each and Claire recognised with a Medal of Merit too supported by Jake with 6 years, Scott with 10 years and newcomers Alex, Samuel, Billy and until recently Jamie (who has taken his experience to Scouting in Tonbridge). Camps are the envy of the District and are executed to a really high standard of which the 4th are justifiably proud.

The young leaders are valued for their ideas, energy and enthusiasm and many go on to become future leaders. Chris Whites passion has seen him recently taken on this additional role for the District as the Unit manager.

The trustee board support these 3 sections with a well experience team with Tony as Group Chair for 8 years, Emily as the new Treasurer, Caz as Group Secretary and Sandra as membership secretary. Again the parent representatives from each section are able to contribute their valuable insight which ensures the continued development of all sections.

The 4th are in a very strong position but could be so much more with the appointment of a Group Lead volunteer to provide direction and support to the Group ensuring that the Group continues to develop and grow. The 4th would then be in a position of creating more opportunities for the young people in the Group and attract more adults to join from the community. The role provides an oversight on safety, safeguarding, governance and programmes. Difficulties that may arise are overcome quickly and complaints are dealt with before they escalate.

Chris and Jake have both held these roles for a year each but their passion is with the young people and the development of the fantastic young leaders within the Group. They do not have the time to be the Group Lead volunteers and with my commitment to the District regrettably neither do I. If you, or anyone you know, would be interested in the Group Lead volunteer please do not hesitate to get in touch. These really are exciting times and I guarantee you will make lifetime friends in a Group that it is a real privilege to volunteer with.

7. Beaver Report

4th East Grinstead Beavers have had a good year since our last AGM. An exciting program on a Thursday evening included:

- Tie Dying T-Shirts
- Backwoods Cooking
- Bowling
- Learning about other cultures
- Visiting the church, East Grinstead Museum and Pooh Bridge
- Singing carols at the retirement home again

...and lots more, all whilst earning lots of badges, including the new 'You Shaped' badge which we have introduced for our Older Beavers, and which is run by our Team of Young Leaders

But Beavers isn't only Thursday evening – we had weekend activities as well. The Beavers, joined by some of the cubs, marked Remembrance Day with a walk to the 'Airman's Grave' to lay a wreath.

Santa put in a surprise visit at our Christmas Sleepover in December where the Beavers were doing lots of craft and participating in fun activities. A great time was had by all.

The Beaver's Summer Sleepover in May was on the theme of Disney Brave and was amazing, despite a change of venue at less than 12 hours notice. 16 Beavers and a number of special guest characters attended.

For a second year, 4th Beavers attended the County 'Go Beavers' event where they took part in activities such as: Inflatables, low ropes, tunnels, and visiting the emergency services.

The colony currently has 21 Beavers – since last AGM we have had 8 new members, and 12 Beavers swim up to cubs for further adventures – a further 3 will join them in September and 10 achieved their Bronze Award.

The Colony could not run without our Leader and Young Leader Team – Thanks go to Assistant Beaver Leader, Sarah Adams, and our team of 6 Young Leaders, Ben, Liam, Seth, Peter, Lily & Rosie. All the parents who help out at our sleepovers, adult support week in week out. Thanks to the Leaders who have supported the Beaver Sleepovers Jake, Jill and Lucy for travelling down from Yorkshire. The Ladies from St Lukes - Joan, Jean and Penny and Tony for doing the cooking. Finally, an important date for Beaver Parents is our Christmas Sleepover to be held 14/15 December – further details to follow.

Young Leader – Overland

Some of the Young Leaders asked to be entered into Overland Hike. Overland is a 2 day competition hike called the 'Ultimate Challenge' and run by East Sussex Scouts. We have never entered teams into this competition before whilst some of the other teams were very experienced having been entering teams for many years. Both 4th EG teams did extremely well, completing the two days hike and receiving their completion woggles. Thank you to Will and Jake who helped with training and support.

8. Cub Report

Cubs has had a very successful year with 34 cubs at present. I had promised not to go over 30 again due to the acoustics in the hall, but the higher number is in part the result of covid and a very successful Beaver team building up the colony after lockdown. Beavers are all coming at once! The pack is however a lovely enthusiastic group of youngsters and it is great fun every Thursday. We also have a fantastic team of leaders and young leaders - so a big thank you to them for giving up their time and effort to make the 4th so successful.

We have achieved many badges throughout the year and are trying to get the cubs to attempt others at home which can't be done on a Thursday. These include hobbies, book reading, photography, martial Arts, home help etc. Have a look online at the many badges and let us know when one is completed - for instance -get the swimming teacher to sign off stage 1 or 2.

Cub camp was a great success on the theme of Moana. There was over 50 of us at camp (nearly

2 others to every cub) and again the cubs all behaved beautifully and gave their all. Cub camp is a big challenge especially if it's the first time camping but all rose to that challenge. Every year I say it will be my last one but then we go to camp and the friendships from the youngest to the oldest and the fun we have are very hard to find anywhere else! Again thank you to all the leaders - old and young- who give up their holiday to not only be at camp but to go a few days in advance to pack and then set up our many marques and tents. It's this dedication that sets the 4th as one of the best.

The cubs had a fund raising event for charities other than ours. They made and ran games, brought cakes and toys and in just over an hour we raised well over £250. This went to a homeless charity in Crawley, a Children's hospice and a children's charity overseas. Fantastic work!

We were unable to take part in the Go karting last year due to illness. Cub packs from all over the UK sent teams to compete at Goodwood and it is one of the highlights of the year. We are hoping however to take part this year so watch out for the practice times sent by Kaa.

Just to finish I would like to again thank Kaa(Tim) and Bagheera(Maria) for their fantastic dedication in running cubs, parents who have offered support and turned up especially outdoors this summer, and finally to the young leaders - Ben, Isabella, Imogen and Sam who turn up each week and support the cubs in many ways. Thank you to the Scout and Beaver section leaders who help us when needed but especially with our camp.

Help is always needed not just in the sections but with fundraising etc. So don't be shy, keep us going please and support the 4th East Grinstead Scout Group in whatever small way you can.

9. Scout Report

Since the last AGM the Scout section has been building from strength to strength. Summer Camp 2023 was a fantastic camp with a phenomenal result for the 4th EG out of 12 Patrols at the Summer

camp the 4th EG scuppered the 12th Windsor's hopes of celebrating 20 consecutive 1st place wins.

With both 4th EG patrols coming 1st and 3rd overall at the camp which is no easy feat. So, Congratulations again to the two patrols who attended, we are all immensely proud of you.

Congratulations are also in order, for Seth, Isabella and Peter, who finished and were awarded their

'Chief Scout Gold Award', the highest award for the Scout Section at Summer Camp.

After we returned in September, we lost 6 scouts who moved on to Explorers, and I'm pleased to say that all of them have returned as young leaders/ Explorers for 2024. The section has concentrated on badge work and getting Scouts through their 'Chief Scout Gold Award' among other badges.

Spring saw an intensive program of activities and training for the camping season which meant all Scouts were best prepared for the summer term when it came. We had a fantastic evening kayaking

at weir wood reservoir, fundraising and various activities in and out of the hall.

We have now (just) completed all 3 of our weekend camps and the Scouts have performed fantastically. They have risen to the challenge and have worked really well together to learn all the necessary skills required to camp to the high standard the 4th EG has grown to expect. We had a good May joint weekend camp with Windsor and Southampton at a fantastic new site 'Pinsent Campsite' just outside Winchester. The weather was challenging but the new patrol and assistant patrol leaders did very well for their first camp of the season, without the 'usual' patrol leaders training camp. The group weekend camps in June and July have seen the patrols rise in strength and confidence and I am optimistic we will have a good result at Summer Camp this year.

We are now in the final stages of getting ready for Summer Camp. We are about to pay for our camp fees and the final coach hire fee. Last year the section was mortified that our advance planning on train tickets fell through and that we had to resort to a plan B. It was agonising that

£600 paid on part of the rail journey, still not being eligible for a refund is a major financial sting for the group.

Looking at all possible options available, the section came to the decision to hire a coach. The main

reason for this was, there isn't enough confident drivers to transport either person or equipment.

So, as I work in the transport industry, I asked our coaching company if I could drive and hire a coach, and I was gobsmacked when they said yes. The challenge for us was the cost of £3,500.00

price tag for the privilege. In the absence of any better idea, we opted to agree the coach. The Section then formulated plans to fundraise money to reduce the cost of the coach as much as possible. And so, we distributed May fair brochures, Owen Jones Launched a Just giving page, we ran a fantastic Beetle Drive fundraiser and recently we agreed to help another Summer Camp group with their transport issues. All of these efforts mean we have kept the cost down and will only charge the Scouts £200pp and Leaders and Young Leaders £160pp for the entire camp.

I would like to express a heartfelt thank you to my fellow section Leaders; Claire Goold, Jake Sheeran, Owen Jones, Billy Davis, Samuel Baker, Cameron O'Brien, Alex Mackenzie and our fantastic Young Leaders; Jack and Beth. Without whom the Scout section simply wouldn't function and would not be the success it is today. The Sections Future will be a different one, but I am 100% confident its success will continue.

This leads on nicely to my final message. It may come as a complete surprise to some, but at the end of this year I will be resigning from all my roles at the 4th East Grinstead Scout Group. The main reason for my resignation is because, for many years I have had the plan to relocate to the north. The delay has been because of my passion and drive for the group. However, within the last couple of years my determination to relocate has taken over, and now is the time to leave the 4th EG and concentrate on relocating to pastures new. I have been privileged to grow up with the 4th EG, became the first and longest serving young leader before my 18th birthday. I then took on an

assistant leadership role and launched my adult Scouting career through various roles at the 4th EG and EG District. I have been an adult leader in Scouting for 18 years since September 2006, I have seen countless generations come and go, but my greatest feeling of success has been seeing

countless leaders go through Scouting and take on the role themselves, I am really proud of all of them, they are all my brothers and sisters in Scouting and I wish them all the greatest love, joy and

success in their Scouting futures. I won't be gone forever and would hope an occasional camp invite

might come my way to come and visit? but I will still see you all at the Scout Summer Camp which I intend to continue attending for years to come. Although the group may be sad at this news, now is the time for the next generation of leaders to rise up and move the group forward into a new direction. I ask all you the parents, to stand behind the leaders and offer your encouragement and support to the team as they get used to the change to lead the section and group.

So, for the last time, yours in Scouting,

Chris

Chris White, Scout Leader

10. Nomination and election of Chair

It is proposed that Tony Parsons will continue in this role. This was proposed by Emily Brooks and seconded by Jake Sheeran.

11. Nomination and election of Treasurer

It is proposed that Emily Brooks will be the Treasurer. This was proposed by Jake Sheeran and seconded by Billy Davies).

12. Nomination and Election of Group Trustees

It is not a requirement to have a secretary, however Caz will continue in this role.

The current Group Trustees are therefore:

Chair - Tony Parsons
Secretary – Caz Gould
Treasurer - Emily Brooks
Trustee – Maria Dias
Trustee – Colin Smtih
Trustee – Tracey Roberts
Trustee – William Mewis
Trustee – Sandra Devine

Maria Dias has confirmed that she will be stepping down as Trustee and we thank her for her time and contributions.

The remainder of the members are happy to proceed.

The Group Trustees going forward the next year will therefore be:

Chair - Tony Parsons
Secretary – Caz Gould
Treasurer - Emily Brooks
Trustee – Colin Smtih
Trustee – Tracey Roberts
Trustee – William Mewis
Trustee – Sandra Devine
Trustee – Heather Furminger

This has been proposed by Jake Sheeran and seconded by Chris White.

We can also Co-opt people throughout the year if we need for example on the management committee for fundraising or equipment support. Speak to the board if anyone is interested

For clarity this the current Management Committee:

Scout Leader – Chris White
Cub Leader – Jill Beckingham
Beaver Leader – Kristina Parsons
Assistant Scout Leader - Jake Sheeran
QM – Alan Goold
AQM – Cameron O/Brien
Young Leader Representative - TBC

13. AOB

- If any parent helper needs a DBS check for cub camp Tony Parsons can submit these after the meeting if you come and speak to him.
- Fundraising – we really need some help running it. Even if its small things. There was a general discussion relating to ideas: Bingo, Silent disco ideas were discussed. Rugby club – will give the space for free as long as they can take the money from the bar. Car wash in the

church car park. RH uncovered – Debbie Ackroyd – very happy to advertise there for us.

- Vehicle. The Shogun has not been in the best of health. The Trustee Board has not yet made a decision on what to do. Billy Davis expressed an interested in helping to look at this. The Trustee Board will set up a group in September and invite him to this. Thank you to the District for their helps towards the shogun fund.
- Subs do not cover all expenses – parents at the AGM were happy with putting subs up by £5 – The Trustee Board will bear this in mind and consider at their next meeting.

The Chair closed the meeting at 19:36hrs.