

Hampshire Scouts County Annual General Meeting

Date: Sunday 30th June 2024, 2.00pm

Venue: Ferny Crofts, Beaulieu Road, Beaulieu, Hampshire, SO42 7YQ

Minutes

	Item
1	Welcome by the Chair: County Chair Sarah Thomas welcomed the High Sheriff of Hampshire and other distinguished guests to the Hampshire Scouts AGM and Annual Review for 2024. Guests have had the opportunity to see our young people taking part in a range of activities at Ferny Crofts, which has been a taster of some of the exciting and challenging activities that we offer. Fire evacuation and muster point instructions were given in case of an emergency.
2	Presentation from participants in the 2023 World Scout Jamboree and Project 23 International Expeditions: 6 Participants of the World Scout Jamboree gave a presentation of their experiences, describing it as the trip of a lifetime, including: • Before the event; Training camps and fundraising. • The trip itself; the opening ceremony with Bear Grylls and the President of South Korea, the conditions and challenges on site, the rearranged itinerary in Seoul, places they visited, the food, and friendships forged. All agreed it was both an incredible and unforgettable experience! The next WSJ will be Poland 2027. Project 23 participants Charley and Alex gave a talk about their European Trip, including bonding with other participants over the training activities. Highlights of their trips included: • Practicing leadership skills and teamwork rafting in Austria • Amazing views from a cable car in the mountains • A visit to the Science Museum in the Czech Republic • Visiting a castle and theme park in Germany • A stop on the way home to Ypres to pay their respects.
3	Presentation of the Commander Bruce Awards: The Commander Bruce Award was introduced after the Bruce Family donated some money to Hampshire Scouts, taken at the memorial service of the late Lieutenant

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	Commander Henry V Bruce, a former Chair of Hampshire Scouts, which was held at Winchester Cathedral. The award is presented annually, and to be considered for the award a nominee must have inspired and encouraged others in their Scout Section in a way that makes them stand out ahead of the crowd. The total amount for distribution is £1000, which is broken down as follows: £200 each for all five sections, with £100 of the award going to the individual and £100 to their group to invest in Scouting equipment. Our County Youth Commissioner, Zara Seymour, chaired the judging panel which consisted of two Deputy County Youth Commissioners, one of our Elected Youth Reps, and Deputy County Commissioner (Community Support) Martin Rudd. We were privileged this year to be joined by Peveril Bruce to make the presentations on behalf of the Bruce Family. Commander Bruce would have been 100 years old this year and would have loved to have seen the young people achieving in the way they have been this year. The awards are as follows: Award 1: Squirrel Scout Niko Robinson, from 3rd Itchen North – who has gained so much confidence since joining Squirrels, with his leader saying he is an absolute star who deserves to be acknowledged for his accomplishments and progress. Award 2: Beaver Scout Morgan Ludlum, from 3rd Farnborough – who has gone from strength to strength being totally involved in everything she does and who will make a brilliant lodge leader in the future. Award 3: Cub Scout Thomas Fu, of 6th Fleet – who is described as an exceptional example of a young person who brings his best to evening pack meetings and volunteering events. A wonderful example of someone who always does his best. Award 4: Scout Harry West, of 6th Hamble Sea Scouts – who is an inspiration to all members of his Scout Troop, with a positive attitude, motivation and pride in all he does. He stands out for all the right reasons. Award 5: Explorer Scout Elizabeth Roy, of the Spitfires Unit Blackwater Valley – for promoting Explorer Scouts at presentation evenings, being an active member of HEAT (Hampshire Explorers Ambassador Team) and supporting the Top Awards Team. A true role model and proud Scout.
4	Apologies for Absence: Apologies were received and recorded from 31 people for the meeting, these are listed at the end of these minutes.
5	Gone Home: A time for reflection and to remember those volunteers we have lost this year. The County Remembrance Service will be held on Sunday 6th April 2025 at Pinsent Campsite, Winchester.

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6	Approval of the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 25th June 2023: The County Trustee Board have reviewed the minutes of the previous AGM at their meeting held on 18th July 2023. The County Chair put forward these minutes as read and asked the County Scout Council to agree that they are a true record of that meeting. Vote: Approval of the Minutes of the AGM held on 25th June 2023; Proposed by Sarah Thomas and seconded by Martin Rudd. Approval received and Motion carried.
7	Approval of updated (July 2024) Constitution for Hampshire Scouts: In line with the recommendation from Scout Headquarters, the County Trustee Board proposed that we adopt the bespoke 2024 Hampshire County Constitution from Chapter 5 of POR (Policy, Organisation and Rules), a link to which was sent to all guests before the AGM. Vote: for the approval of the updated (July 2024) Constitution for Hampshire Scouts; Proposed by Sarah Thomas and seconded by Keith Hawkins. Approval received and Motion carried. The County Chair gave sincere thanks to Martin Mackey for his ongoing support in updating the County Constitution.
8	Membership of the County Scout Council for Hampshire Scouts: The County Scout Council can admit other people to membership. The Chair advised that members of the following organisations are nominated as County Scout Council members: a) Guide Commissioners for the three Guide Counties of Hampshire b) Leaders (or their representative) of the Local Authorities of Hampshire, Portsmouth and Southampton. c) Hampshire Scouts Youth Council d) Ferny Crofts Staff Members These are to be admitted as members of the County Scout Council as well as the ex officio list in POR Rule 5.6.4 Vote: The Scout Council was asked to accept by a show of hands the members as listed above. Approval received and Motion carried.
9	Acceptance of the Trustees Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2023: County Scout Council members were asked to note that the charities financial year is 01 January to 31 December. The County Trustee Board has approved the 2023 Annual Report and Statement of accounts and has received the report on the accounts from Martin & Company Audit Limited of Winchester.

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	The County Treasurer compiled a written explanation of the Statement of accounts which was included in the link sent to AGM attendees/guests. Vote: The Scout Council was asked to accept with a show of hands the 2023 Annual Accounts. Approval received and Motion carried. The Chair thanked the County Treasurer John Natt for his work on the 2023 accounts, and Michael Doncom for producing the Annual Review booklet.
10	Membership of the Hampshire County Scout Council Trustee Board: The appointment of a Trustee Board was made in order to oversee good governance for the charity over the next year. This was agreed as follows: a. Agree the number of members that may be appointed to the Trustee Board: Following good practice recommendations from the Charity Governance Code, POR states Trustee Boards should have a minimum of 5, and no more than 12, Trustees in total, including ex officio and co-opted Trustees. The outgoing Trustee Board recommends that 12 people are appointed. The County Chair proposed that the County Scout Council approves that recommendation. Vote: to appoint 12 members to the County Trustee Board; Proposed by Sarah Thomas, Seconded by Martin Rudd. Approval received and Motion carried. b. Agree the Quorum for future meetings of the County Scout Council (excluding the AGM) The County Scout Council was asked to agree its quorum – the minimum number of County Scout Council members that must be present at County Scout Council meetings – as recommended by the outgoing Trustee Board as 15 people. Vote: that the County Scout Council Quorum be set at 15 people; Proposed by Sarah Thomas, Seconded by Martin Rudd. Approval received and Motion carried. c. Appointment of the County Chair: The County Chair handed Chairmanship of the meeting to the County Lead Volunteer, Paul Bell. The County Lead volunteer explained the open selection process agreed by the Trustee Board. The recommendation to the County Scout Council is that Sarah Thomas be appointed as County Chair. Vote: To appoint Sarah Thomas as County Chair as recommended by the Trustee Board; Proposed by Paul Bell, Seconded by Peter Knott. Approval received and Motion carried. The County Lead Volunteer handed chairmanship of the meeting back to the County Chair.

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	d. Appointment of the County Treasurer: Following the open selection process the recommendation to the County Scout Council from the Trustee Board is that John Natt should be appointed as County Treasurer. Vote: To appoint John Natt as County Treasurer as recommended by the Trustee Board; Proposed by Sarah Thomas, Seconded by Martin Rudd. Approval received and Motion carried. e. Appointment of other members of the Trustee Board following recommendations from the open selection process initiated by the County Trustee Board. The recommendation to the County Scout Council is that the following volunteers be appointed as members of the County Trustee Board: Paul Hedges, DCC Jackie Noakes, New Forest District Robert Gath, Deputy County Treasurer Zara Seymour, County Youth Commissioner (Ex-officio) Jack Dilly, Basingstoke East District Vote: To appoint the above-named volunteers to the County Trustee Board; Proposed by Sarah Thomas, Seconded by Martin Rudd. Approval received and Motion carried. Kerie Wallace, ACC and Ferny Crofts Management Committee, will be co-opted at the next CTB meeting as per the County Constitution. The County Chair thanked the Trustees for all of their work during the last year and, in particular, those members who are standing down – Harrison Gorst, Deputy County Chair, Josh Hensman, Basingstoke East and James Redfearn, County Operations Manager. f. Re-appoint County President and/or Vice Presidents: The Chair advised that Nigel Atkinson Esq is proposed as President and asked for a show of hands as approval. Approval received, and the Chair therefore notes that the Scout Council appoints the County President, Lord Lieutenant the Honourable Nigel Atkinson Esq.
11	Appointment of Auditors On behalf of the County Treasurer John Natt, the County Chair proposed that Martin & Company Audit Limited of Winchester be appointed. The Chair confirmed Martin & Company Audit Limited are qualified for the role. Vote: To confirm the re-appointment of Martin and Company Audit Limited of Winchester as Auditors to hold office until the next Annual General Meeting 2025. Approval received and Motion carried.

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12	Elect Representatives of the County Scout Council to represent the County on the Council of the Scout Association: County Representatives are to be elected to the Council of the Scout Association under rule 6.5 of POR. They will represent and vote on behalf of Hampshire at the National AGM at Gilwell Park. To represent our County Membership, we need to elect One Adult and One Young Person for every 10,000 members. Sarah Thomas, Paul Hedges and Keith Hawkins have been nominated and seconded for the Adult Representation. Michael Doncom and Oscar Lodge have been nominated and seconded to represent the Young People. A show of hands was given for their election.
13	Notification of Elected Youth Representatives: The County Youth Team will be made up of the following: Isaac Treasure, Jamie Cooper and Joe Biondani (EYRs). A show of hands was given for their election.
14	Address by County Commissioner – including review of the year: The County Commissioner welcomed the High Sheriff and distinguished guests to our Annual review and AGM. At this years Census we had 19,337 young people and 6,784 adult volunteers, an increase of 1.8%. We have now exceeded our pre-covid numbers which is an amazing achievement in the current climate. Scouting is as relevant today as it has ever been, and we strive to help prepare young people to take a better place in the society of the future. During the last year we opened an additional 31 Squirrel Dreys, bringing our total to 84: an incredible achievement and a credit to our Squirrels Team. We will very soon be the first County in the United Kingdom to open our 100th Drey, a milestone that will be celebrated Nationally. Hampshire remains the largest Scout County in the United Kingdom based on the number of young people and adults we have, making this role an incredible and rewarding one to be involved in. This is helped by being surrounded by a fantastic team who help to make things happen, including our Growth & Development Officers who operate right across the County, supporting groups and opening new provision where possible. The Scout Association will be gradually Transforming over the coming months, changing the way we welcome adults, deliver training, new membership systems and changing role titles to make them more relevant and understandable. The County Commissioner will become the Lead Volunteer for Scouts in Hampshire. Change can become very emotive and stressful; however, we have a team of people who will work with various teams around the County, helping people to understand and adapt to the changes. We have a very diverse and successful County; this is because of the dedication and time given by our volunteers and supporters. Thanks are given to our President, Deputy and

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	Vice-Presidents, the Uniformed Leaders, Occasional helpers, Trustees and anyone else who helps us to deliver such a fantastic Scout experience to the young people of Hampshire. a. Vice President Nominations: there were no VP nominations this year. b. Awards Presentations: The County Commissioner presented the following awards: Mark Duffy - the Award for Merit award. Amanda Wallace – the Award for Merit award. Martin Mackey – the Silver Acorn award. John Stevens – the Silver Wolf award.
15	Address by Hampshire High Sheriff Jon Whitaker: The High Sheriff reported that he was delighted to have spent today at Ferny Crofts which is a real jewel in the Hampshire Scouts crown. Having moved to Hampshire in 1985 he joined a group in Basingstoke West as an assistant Leader, coming to Ferny Crofts for basic training and things have certainly changed! Five years ago, Jon joined the County Team as a County Advisor and now sits as head of the County Appointments/ Advisory Team and assists James Redfearn at Ferny Crofts with HR. He really enjoys the roles and finds it a privilege to be involved with Hampshire Scouts, the largest Scout County in the Country. Having read the Annual Review in detail he was blown away by what the adults and young people achieve. With Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorers, Young Leaders, Network, Active Support, Hospitals, International, Community and Ferny Crofts, the list goes on and on! Challenges are tough, we are going to be changing the way we welcome adults and train them, and he is aware of the challenges we face, but is confident that as Scouts we will overcome these challenges and adapt. On behalf of the County President, the Lord Lieutenant, who send his best wishes, a huge thank you to everyone for everything they do, in whatever role. You all make a difference. Thanks were given to the Civic Leaders and guests who have given up their time to support, and to everyone involved in arranging today's event for the hospitality.
16	Address by UK Scouts Regional Commissioner, James Palin: The Regional Commissioner gave thanks for the invitation to the County AGM, giving him the chance to witness some of the amazing achievements made by Hampshire Scouts. Scouting brings together young people from diverse backgrounds, providing them with a common purpose; to develop their character and contribute to their communities. One of the most beautiful aspects of scouting is its ability to create a ripple effect of positivity. When our young scouts engage in acts of service and community engagement, they not only improve the lives of those they serve but enrich their own lives in profound ways.

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	James talked about the opportunity to develop leadership skills, learn valuable life lessons, and build lasting friendships; personal growth and development, teamwork, perseverance and community involvement, instilling in them a sense of responsibility and empowering them to take on leadership roles. In today's rapidly changing world, where the challenges are many and complex, scouting equips our young people with the skills, values and mindset to make a positive difference and none of this would be possible without the skill, time and tenacity of our fantastic Leadership Team. James gave personal thanks to every one of our volunteers, trustees and helpers who make scouting in Hampshire so successful.
17	Launch of the Hampshire Challenge Award: Libby Roy gave information about the Hampshire Challenge Award, which is a springboard for young people to start earning their top awards.
18	Sum up and thanks by the County Chair: This year has seen continued growth in the number of young people joining Hampshire Scouts and we hope to maintain this trend. This could not be achieved without the commitment and dedication of our volunteers, and the patience and support of their families, so thanks extended to all. During 2023 it has been the County Chairs pleasure to attend camps, events, award evenings and AGMs where volunteers have collaborated on delivering a wide range of diverse activities. We have also seen the beginnings of the Transformation process, initiated by HQ to bring our Governance more into line with the Charity Commission. We are now Trustee Boards rather than Executive Committees, but the importance of Governance has not changed. The Chair thanked the County Office team for their support to both the Trustee Board and others across the County throughout the year. Thanks were also given to James Redfearn and the Ferny Crofts team, and also to the Communications team for their support with the AGM preparation. Guests were then invited to stay for a cup of tea and slice of cake and the AGM was closed.
20	Date of the Next Hampshire County AGM: Sunday 29th June 2025, Ferny Crofts Scout Activity Centre.

Hampshire Scouts County Annual General Meeting 2023 – apologies received.

Atkinson Nigel, Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire

Bell Tom, County Vice President

Brakewell Su, County Chaplain

Chatwin Andy, Prog & Events

Clark Clive, Pro-badge

Cluett Paul, District Chair

Cordero-Salvado Jesus, District Chair

Day Peter, DC

Dilly Jack, Team Leader

Dorn Chris, Hart District Council

Farmers Roy, County Vice President

Gilkerson Kevin, Spearhead

Gorst Harrison, Deputy County Chair

Hughes Tom, Dept CYC

Hughes Michael, District Chair

Hunt Daniel, DYC

Kerrigan Donna, District Chair

Ling Victoria, Girlguiding

Mair Julie, County Training Manager

Mendelsohn Richard, District Chair

Merefield Richard, Awards Advisory

Metcalf Terry, Rifles

Miller Doug, DCC

Mori Adrian, District Chair

Natt John, County Treasurer

Noakes Jackie, Trustee

O'Ceallaigh Rory, DYC

Ponting Lena, Girlguiding

Portal Lady Louisa, Dept Lord Lieutenant
Hampshire

Riley Sarah, Girlguiding

Rogerson Joe, County Commissioner - Surrey