



THE SCOUT ASSOCIATION – ISLE OF MAN

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 7th July 2015, at the Salmon Lake Centre, Wheel Hill, Laxey, at 7.30pm.

Present:

P Kelly (President), J Slark (Hon Vice President), James Kite (Chairman), Guy Thompson (Island Commissioner), H Shimmin (Treasurer), K Andrews (Secretary), C Bates, (Training), T Denning (AIC Scouts), C Brew (AIC General Duties), Bev Hewson, (AIC Beavers), Adam Killip (AIC Network), Steve White, AIC Explorers; K Brew (Media Development), Mike Southall, AIC (International); Jay Thompson (AIC Activities); Sarah Cain, (GSL and Property Manager) ; Julian Ashcroft, (Scouters Council and GSL) Kevin Williams, (1st Douglas Secretary); Lissy Corlett, (Explorer Leader); Amy Scott, (AEL) Dominic Shaw, (ACSL), Nick Kaighin, (GSL 3rd Peel), Mark Bentley, (CSL, 3rd Peel); R Smith, Arbory; Catherine Bridson (Badge Secretary), Niomi Phillips (GSL, Ballaugh), Penny Collier (AGSL Ballaugh), M. Bates (1st Arbory GSL), P Brew (SAS), R Brew (SAS), Joan Cannon (SAS), Penny Collier, (1st Ballaugh); Jo Kelleher, (SAS); Roger Birtles, (ESL & SL 1st Malew); Leanne Urwin, (GSL 1st Malew); Paul Aldridge, (District Leader); Emma Morter, (Explorer); Gil Salway (Arbory SL); Josh Williams, (1st Douglas Scouts); Bernard O Kelly; (Lay member).

1. The Island President, Peter Kelly, welcomed everyone, commenting how pleased he was to see so many people in uniform. He also gave a special welcome to Andrew Corrie, Regional Commissioner, Alan Teare, former Island Commissioner and John and Celia Slark, who have made a visit to the Island specially to attend the AGM.
2. The Island Chaplain, Ian Faulds led prayers. Peter Kelly then remembered those who had gone home: Isobel Morris, 1st Ramsey and AIC Cubs; Pat Garrett, family involvement with 1st Douglas and part of the catering team at many scout functions over the years; John Rudd, 3rd Castletown; Bob Marsden, 3rd Castletown; Laurence Kermode who was 100 years old, 1st Douglas Cubs and Scouts; Thelma Kneale who kept 1st Braddan Cubs going during WWII when her husband Victor, the Akela leader was overseas.
3. Apologies were received from: Alexander Armstrong, Julie Leece, Jackie Russell, Warren Seymore, Joy Faragher, Beth Leadingham, Mike Cubbon, Sandie Herring, Gill Higgins, Davine Taylor, Karen Freestone and John McBride.
4. The minutes of the AGM held on 16th July 2014 were then taken as read by Colin Brew, seconded by Chris Bates, approved by the meeting and signed by Peter Kelly.

5. There were no matters arising. Peter Kelly thanked the Island Secretary for the minutes.
6. The Island Treasurer, Harley Shimmin presented the audited accounts for the year ended, 31st March 2015. Harley mentioned that the outstanding amount of £260.10 was in relation to one group. The Peel Charity Shop donation of £2,000 was for MYC, and MYC also received £4,745.94 from the Manx Lottery Trust. Balances of £20,219.40 have been established in dormant accounts relating to 3rd Castleton and this will in time go back to the group. £850 was received from the Government in respect of the Tynwald Day Car Park and this has been distributed to all the groups who assisted. Not all the cheques have been presented for payment. Many thanks again, to Colin Brew for arranging the staff and also to Mr and Mrs Peter Brew for arranging the subsequent hospitality. Low interest rates continue to keep the income on our investments low. With the work scheduled at MYC funds were often drawn from the fixed deposits in anticipation of expenditure. The payments noted under training not only include facilities utilized but also equipment purchased with the largest amount being £1,500 on projectors and ancillary equipment. The charge for insurance at MYC was £469 last year and this was included in the insurance section. This year the charge of £540 has been allocated to MYC. Harley then detailed other payments relating to MYC. Last year's item of £12,817.37 included £10,526.18 for the provision of electricity to the site, with the balance of £2,007.80 being rates and sundry small items of work. This year we spent £68,932.85 on the building work. The balance covered removal of and work on trees, rates, insurance and sundry items of gear and electric. The equipment figure of £4,713.66 covers equipment for MYC plus marquees and camp equipment. Non-monetary assets, the figure of £70,940 relates solely to building costs at MYC and we will be looking to depreciate this at a rate of £3,547 over the next 20 years. The balance in the current account of £38,510.03, of which £19,413.50 was paid to Gilwell in April 2015 for capitation fees, and so far this financial year a further £9,000 has been paid out to purchase new equipment and some items for MYC.

Harley then invited questions on the accounts and confirmed in answer that the rates payment at MYC relates to water rates.

Harley then confirmed that the accounts have been approved by the Executive, signed by the Chairman and audited.

Gratitude was expressed to the Hon Auditor, Morris Kelly and a letter of thanks is to be sent.

7. Harley proposed the accounts, they were seconded by Mike Bates and the meeting received the accounts unanimously. Harley was thanked warmly for all his work on behalf of the Association.
8. The Island Commissioner explained what had been achieved in the last year and outlined his plans for the next year. His report as given to the meeting is in the Annual Report booklet. Peter Kelly thanked Guy for his report and commented that Guy has dealt with a vast array of matters over the past year very competently and diligently. The meeting accepted the report and gave applause in support of Guy.

9. Election of Officers: There was an addition of nomination of Island Chairman to the original Agenda, following Peter Kelly's advice that this should be included.

1. Island Chairman (James Kite) was nominated by the Island Commissioner and accepted.
2. Island Secretary (Kath Andrews) Proposed by Niomi Phillips, Seconded by Paul Aldridge
3. Island Treasurer (Harley Shimmin) Proposed by Julian Ashcroft, Seconded by Mike Bates
4. Appointment Secretary (Joy Faragher) Proposed by Colin Brew, Seconded by Paul Aldridge
5. Badge Secretary (Catherine Bridson) Proposed by Mike Bates, Seconded by Nick Kaighin.
6. Quartermaster (Bernard Moore) Proposed by Trevor Denning, Seconded by Celia Cooper.

All of the above were agreed with the unanimous consent of the meeting.

10. The Island Commissioner nominated Edward Bennett and Bernard O'Kelly as lay members to replace Kevin Brew and James Kite who have accepted other roles. Guy thanked Janet McCabe and John McBride who have agreed to continue as lay members of the Executive Committee, and Christine Collister for her works as a lay member, Paul Bridson is nominated as her replacement.

All of the above nominations were agreed with the unanimous consent of the meeting.

11. The Scouters' Council election of 5 Scouter Members to the Island Executive Committee were confirmed as follows:

Jane Rumney, Beavers
Sarah Cain, Cubs
Neil Simpson, Scouts
Niomi Philips, Explorers
Julian Ashcroft, GSL

Thanks were given to Lissy Corlett, Karen Freestone and Laura Skears who are standing down.

12. Trevor Denning and Ron Cooper are prepared to continue on the Cunningham House Committee, for a two year period, it is the wish of the meeting that they do so, and they were thanked.

13. The Accounts have been audited by Morris Kelly, who was proposed by Harley Shimmin as the Hon Auditor. This was seconded by Chris Bates and agreed unanimously by the meeting. Harley was also thanked on behalf of the Association for all his work.

14. Luke Brammer was nominated Youth Representative by Guy Thompson, Island Commissioner and accepted. Thanks were given to Aleya Taggart whose term as Youth Rep has ended.

15. Peter Kelly introduced John Slark and his wife Celia and gave a resume of John's distinguished scouting career. John first came to the Island as part of the Birkenhead Gang Show, he was a ASL in Burnley, a GSL in Blackburn. In his time on the Island he did two terms as Island Commissioner, was part of the race committee and trustee, Chairman and Treasurer of the Cunningham House Committee. It gave Peter much pleasure to be able to acknowledge in a tangible way John's contribution and long and dedicated service to Isle of Man Scouting by presenting him with a decorative piece of engraved Manx glass.

16. There were no AOB items.

Matthew, Isla and Mark spoke about their excitement and anticipation of what lies ahead on their trip to the Jamboree in Japan. Peter Kelly mentioned that Alan Teare visited Japan in 1971 and gave a slide show presentation to show his adventures on his return. We are all looking forward to the presentation on the Matthew, Isla and Mark's visit when they get back to the Island.

Peter thanked Andrew Corrie for his visit to the Island and the AGM and presented him with a Manx Scouts woggle.

Guy thanked Chris Bates for her help with the training and Cath Bridson for all her work as Badge Secretary by presenting them with flowers.

17. Andrew Corrie then thanked everyone for the warm welcome on his second official visit to the Island. His first visit was in February when he was delighted to realise that the wide range of activities that were taking place had not been arranged for his benefit as they were happening anyway. He has also enjoyed this visit enormously with a variety of activities and weather!

Andrew went on to explain that the North West region is very diverse with urban, rural highland and island scouting and that he felt that the Island was a key part to the Region and that he was very pleased and encouraged that the links between the Island and the rest of the region were strengthening. Jackie Russell and Kevin Brew were thanked for their help and support to the Region with directories and websites and Andrew reminded everyone that the Region is also available to help the Island.

The County Commissioners meet regularly and pool ideas through Regional Panels and other events. Andrew confirmed that the Region is to appoint a Regional Training Manager and a Regional Ambassador for Diversity who will be available to help us.

Andrew began to speak about the plans for Vision 2018 by commenting how pleased he was to see young people here to help plan for the future. He then went on to summarize why it is important to pool ideas to plan for growth to make sure that as many people as possible can share the wonderful experience of scouting. We need to consider is the community represented in scouting and is scouting involved in the community? We must ensure that the scouting on the Island is as diverse as the Island itself and that scouting is open and accessible to all. Finally Andrew stressed the importance of the young people shaping their own future. Young people have always been involved in councils but now their involvement needs to be taken to a new level with a genuine involvement in deciding how scouting will progress into the future.

Andrew concluded by complimenting the Island on its long and impressive scouting history and the good year that has just been celebrated at the annual general meeting. Andrew gave thanks to everyone for helping to provide a good programme on the Island. He also gave thanks to Guy and his team and James and the Executive. He finished by suggesting we “Rejoice in the present, and look forward and plan for the future”.

The meeting then moved into four groups who would consider the key elements of Vision 2018. The outcome of the discussions is detailed below.

18. Following the conclusion of the discussions James Kite, thanked everyone for coming and for their input on the most important of subjects to plan for the future of scouting on the Island. He thanked for the Salmon Lane Centre for hosting the event and wished everyone safely home.

Achieving Vision 2018 - Feedback from discussions at AGM 2015

Growth

- Increased numbers of YP only possible with more adults.
- Lack of leaders seen as a barrier to growth
- Retention of YP between sections and then on to being leaders seen as the way forward.
- 10% growth seen as achievable.
- Areas of the IOM to be looked at to see if any are not catered for.
- Groups which are oversubscribed, what do they need to take more YP?
- Can well established groups nurture new “satellite groups” in the area.
- Consider involvement of girls, some groups have none and some have lots. Why is this?
- YP are the best advocates for Scouting. They have to be the key to achieving growth.
- Conclusion: Provide a safe environment with enthusiastic leaders and a good programme and the YP will come.

Inclusivity

- All halls need to be accessible and have appropriate facilities.
- Girls should be welcomed at all groups and at least 10% of girls seen as a minimum.(improving media coverage seen as important so scouts is not just seen as for tom boys)
- Finance should not be a barrier. – Groups to hold a fund to assist families as appropriate and 2nd hand uniform to be available.
- Links to be strengthened with local organisations that support YP with additional challenges: Manx blind welfare, Autism in Mann, the Children’s Centre, Manx Deaf Society etc, .
- Links to departments for looked after children, and young carers.
- Additional skills, training and equipment may be required for leaders.
- Disadvantaged areas should be investigated to see if groups could be established eg Jurby and Pulrose.
- Ethnic communities in the IOM, Filipinos, Muslim, Polish. What do we need to attract YP from these communities, and are there any barriers?
- Recruit leaders from ethnic backgrounds.
- Recruit leaders with disabilities.
- Schools were seen as the place to start to find out the information about the communities, and as appropriate places to recruit YP.
- Sensitive and appropriate publicity and media information seen as very important and key to breaking down stereo-types about Scouting which may prevent wider inclusivity.
- Conclusion: Provide an accessible and appropriate environment with well trained, informed and compassionate leaders and a range of YP will come.

Youth Shaped.

Responses from young people:

- “Cubs and upwards should have a say in what they want to do and beavers at a basic level. Apart from Explorers it is adult run and we need a way to change it”
- “Listen to what YP want, have better activities and then with better communication have everyone working together to achieve it”
- “Better communication between leaders and kids and please stick to the programme”
- “Listen, Involve, Excite and talk to members”
- “Modernise ways of communicating – messaging system for every group”
- “Have dedicated youth executives run by YP”
- “Let the YP know what decisions have been made by the adults”

Responses from adults:

- Encourage YP to attend meetings and to be hands on.
- Feedback to YP on things already done.
- Deliver YP's ideas, shape events around their ideas but with support from adults.
- Don't limit to leaders, use parents and others with an interest in an activity.
- Achieve more permits in order that activities are not limited.
- Learn from experiences and develop the ideas of YP with support.
- Pool ideas and share successes island-wide.
- Pool leaders' skills and share with groups across the island.
- Allow young leaders to give options for island events and support them in the delivery.
- Facilitate the Island forum for projects
- Input to the programme = more enthusiasm for it.
- All regular decisions to be made by the YP appropriate to the section eg beavers choose games, explorers select their own programmes.

Community Impact.

- To leave a lasting legacy.
- Scouting should be visible, out in the community.
- Needs to cover all sections
- Need to raise profile with MHKs, Commissioners
- Start a new group in an area that doesn't have one.
- Work in schools and with other YP groups to raise the profile and help other YP charities.
- Arrange an all island event eg scouting music festival
- Hold whole island events eg renovate the millennium monuments as an Island event and then groups continue to main their local one.
- Develop a two way share between generations. Eg visiting an old people's home for YP to entertain or do a job and then ask the residents to talk to YP about their lives and experiences.
- Media was mentioned frequently in importance of making scouting relevant to today.