

1st Hoveton and Wroxham Sea Scouts AGM 2023

Documents Pack.

AGENDA 2023

1. Apologies
 2. Approval of the minutes of the last AGM
 3. Approval of the Annual Reports
 4. Approval of the Accounts and Treasurer's Report
 5. Adoption of POR Section 5.4 as the Group Constitution
 6. Approval of the GSL's nomination for Group Chairman
 7. Election of Group Board of Trustees Officers
 8. Appointment of Auditor
- The meeting will be followed by the presentation of awards.



GSL AGM REPORT 2022/23

The Group has seen a few changes over the past year

The Scout section has more than doubled in size. This has certainly made running the troop much easier, playing games and running competitions with 5 or 6 Scouts is hard work and now the older Scouts can now help instruct the newer members.

Both Cub Packs are working hard, Andy has moved from Friday Cubs. Steven and Rob are running things there with a very active program. Wednesday Cubs have been doing all sorts of interesting stuff from sailing, air rifle shooting, kayaking to a visit from Guide dogs for the blind.

Beavers are still having one meeting a week at the moment due to a Leader shortage. Andy is now running of the Beavers and is slowly adding Leaders to the team. We do need to restart our other Beaver colony, so please if you or you know of anyone who may be able to help, please get in touch with Andy.

Another area we need more help is on our Board of Trustees, we need parent representatives from all section to help steer the Group forward. The Board meets about 6 times a year to discuss all aspects of the Group from the price of subs to the colour of the walls in the HQ, please talk to Nigel or Terry if you wish to know more about our meetings.

Steve Petch our Treasurer has been with us for a year and what a year it has been for him instead of a gentle easing into the role he has had to do battle with two banks and three different accounts, sorting out mandates and signatures with next to no help from the banks! And then of course we added to his jobs by applying for a grant to modernise our HQ. Sorry Steve but thank you for all your time.

Our Board of Trustees meetings are chaired by Nigel, Nigel has been with the Group a good number of years in that time he has had a number of jobs all of which he has thrown himself into, none more so than his current role as chair.

Because of his drive and determination, we are in the exciting position of being part way through a very big grant application which will see our Headquarters totally transformed. This just wouldn't be happening without Nigel. Thank you Nigel, for putting in all the extra time that this application has demanded.

Of course, this is not the only big thing for Nigel this year as in a few weeks' time he is off to Korea but not on holiday, Nigel will be joining hundreds of other Adults at the 25th World Scout Jamboree on the service teams helping to make life long memories for 40,000 Scouts from all over the world.

Nigel and Carole (Wednesday Cubs) were both nominated to receive a local Community Champions thank you by the Lord Lieutenant at the Royal Norfolk Show, well deserved.

A very big thank you to all of the Leader teams and their families for all the time that goes into running the sections.

A special thanks to Steven who is at the Scout HQ at least twice a week and puts the reports in the Bridge magazine

Thank you Chris for all your hard work strimming and painting and generally keeping things tidy around the HQ.

And lastly but by no means least Thank you to my wife Carol who allows me so much time for Scouting.

Terry

NOTES FROM THE CHAIRMAN (Nigel)

I have been the Chairman for nearly a year now, although this is not exactly a new experience for me as I have been acting Chairman on a couple of previous occasions, and I was the Chairman of the 3rd Bromley Scout Group for nearly 20 years in the 80s and 90s.

I hope that in my time as Chairman, I can help the Group to progress in many different ways, and indeed, it certainly has been a busy year with lots of things going on already:

One thing you will have noticed is that we have changed our name and I am now the Chairman of the Board of Trustees and not the Group Executive. This is just part of a wider set of changes in Scouting which will focus on the fact that we are all volunteers. However, we are not just volunteers, we are volunteers in Scouting, the largest Voluntary Youth Organisation in the world, and we have the power to change that world for the better.

A year ago we were still struggling to get going again following the pandemic, and we are still not fully back on our feet. The pandemic took a toll on our volunteers and there remains a significant need for more people to come forward to fill vital roles within the Group. The good news is that things are starting to happen and we are getting on with Scouting in so many ways. However, if you can help in any way, or if you know of anyone who can, then we need to hear from you. It's not for me, it's for the young people of Hoveton and Wroxham. They are the future.

I would like to thank everyone who has helped to make this a fun and memorable year of Scouting. Thank you to the Trustees who manage the finances and the buildings to keep the Group running smoothly. Thank you to the Rotary for donating money for the young people. Thank you to everyone who turned out to make the Group Camp so much fun and already want to do it again next year. Thank you to those who help with the HQ maintenance. Thank you to everyone who turns out for fund raising events like bag packing and jumble sales. Finally, I would like to thank our GSL Terry for all his support over the past year. I am sure you are aware that the HQ has got a brand new heater which is just amazing. It is the first time in 20 years that I have actually been warm here. It is an air source heat pump and is the start of a newer, greener Group.

In my last report I spoke about ideas and plans for improving our HQ building which has served us well down the years, but is starting to show its age. This always looked like a slow and long term project as it is very expensive. However, just before Christmas, I became aware of some significant grants which the Government has made available for youth infrastructure projects. However, they were really only able to fund projects that were ready to go and we were far from that. Fortunately, we were able to get a grant to help get us started, and aided by £14,000 of Government funds we engaged an architect, drew up plans and applied for planning permission for a significant upgrade to our HQ. Planning was approved at the end of April. As I write this we are out to tender with building contractors and we have applied for the all important grant funding. There are two committees which decide if we get the grant and I am pleased to say that the Governance Committee has approved our application. We are currently working on due diligence with the building contractors and we go to the Grants Committee on the 8th of August. I do not know right now if we will get the grant. It is possible we will know more by the time of the AGM. If so, I will update you then. This is a fast moving and exciting time for the Group. As soon as I know more then so will you.

At the end of this month, Cath Howes and I are off to South Korea as part of the International Service Team at the 25th World Scout Jamboree. With 50,000 people on a camp site 8km across it will be a huge event. I will be part of the Programme Delivery team working with the young people on science and the environment. The world faces a lot of environmental issues at the moment and these young people are the ones who have got to sort it out. I have faith in them. They are Scouts and Scouts have the power to change the world.

I look forward to another exciting and fun year of Scouting. Come along with us and enjoy the ride.

Nigel Pope

Chairman of the Board of Trustees.

Beaver Report

It's been a fantastic year for the Beavers. Our numbers continue to grow and we have offered an excellent variety of activities.

The Autumn term saw us on a beach visit to Hemsby, seeing for ourselves the impact of Coastal erosion. We also had a session involving deaf awareness and wheelchair user issues. We found out about the culture of South Korea, explored the solar system and looked at other Faiths. We were also delighted to reinstate the Christingle Session at Wroxham Church, our first since before Covid. We hope this event grows over coming years.

We leapt into Spring by exploring cookery and making pancakes. We also worked through our Health badge, considering healthy teeth and how to contact the emergency services and keep safe on roads. We looked at different sports with Beavers demonstrating a number of different sports for us to play. We rounded off the term with a great Easter Egg hunt at Caen Meadow.

The Summer term is always great fun with the outdoor activities. We completed our gardening badge by planting out the flower boxes outside the HQ. We sharpened up our camp craft skills by learning how to pitch our tents – and ten of our beavers attended the group camp in April. We have earned out photography badges, hiked alongside Salhouse Broad, learned about staying safe on bikes as well as completing a bike ride together. We had a lovely trip to Strumpshaw Fen, where we experienced pond dipping and built some fantastic dens in the woods! The last two weeks of term will be a campfire evening followed by a huge water fight!

Our numbers are still very high – we currently have 18 Beaver, and 15 old enough to join on a waiting list. We would love to open up a second colony to facilitate everyone on this list but a shortage of adult helpers currently limits this. There are several plans in place to solve this recruitment issue – with all of the potential we offer it's really the highest priority right now.

A big thank you to all of those who have helped us over the last year. Elle, Rosemary, Esme, Cath, Maria, Lucy, Rob and Nigel. The Beavers are really grateful for all you have done

Andy Petch, Beaver Team Leader.

Wednesday Cubs Report

We have had an amazing time this year, so here are some highlights-

2022-June Life skills like sewing on a button and Kayaking at Caen Meadow.

July-Everything chocolate, tasting, smores, bananas. Litter-pick in Hoveton with the help from the Lions.

October-Scouting history and all it involves. Wroxham Library visit. Apple Day, tasting, bobbing, fritters (yummy).

November-Bottle bottom poppy make for remembrance. Parliament Week, Election time, the things we all have in common.

December-All stuff Christmas, Party-time.

2023-Fire Safety Badge, Burns Night (haggis tasting yuk).

February-Korean Night hosted by Nigel Pope many thanks. Communications Badge.

March-Air Activities Badge, Compass work and learning how to read the map.

April-Preparation for the BVR hike and all aspects of the hike.

May- Wonderful evening for a hike on the BVR path from Colishall to Wroxham. Also prepping for Guide dogs for the blind tea party

Mina Akela

Friday Cubs Report

So the time has come to write my annual report once again and this year feels like the first proper year we've had since lock-down. We managed to hold a group camp and most of the Friday Night Pack attended. We have had a full programme and awarded our greatest number of badges since I took over as Akela, quite a few years ago now. Our badge work has covered subjects from Entertainer, Artist,

Photographer through to Environmental Conservation and Sports Enthusiast. We have been on quite a few hikes around the local area and spent evenings cooking and fire lighting and have often combined the two cooking on open fires. As part of a Sea Scout group no year would be complete without some water activities and the children have all had the opportunity to try kayaking and sailing both at camp and during pack meetings.

Friday Night Cubs would not be as successful as it is without the great amount of support that we get. Rob - Bagheera - attends every week and is an absolute star in helping me sort and run the programme, I really cannot thank him enough. Andy - Baloo - has, very sadly, recently left us to concentrate on running the Beaver Colony within the group and so, although this is a great loss to us, he still remains in constant contact and his ongoing support and help is greatly appreciated and at some point in the future we hope to entice him back. Once again I have to thank the leader team of Wednesday Cubs who regularly invite us to come and join them in activities they sorted and their support is also greatly appreciated.

I feel Friday Cubs is currently in a really good position and I already look forward to a great year ahead.

Steve - Akela, Friday Cubs