



Preparing young people with skills for life.

Annual Report & Accounts 2018 - 2019

Romford



ROMFORD DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL



Minutes of the Romford District Scout Association AGM Held at Romford District HQ on Tuesday 4th September 2018

Present

The District Secretary holds a full list of all those in attendance.

Opening and welcome

The District Chairman welcomed all Leaders, County and Hornchurch colleagues to the District AGM. Maria Green opened proceedings with a prayer reflecting on the year's celebrations and sadness.

Apologies for absence were received from Hazel Geach ex-District Secretary, Margaret Polden Vice President, Ted Rose Scout Active Support Manager, Marcia Cockram 4th Collier Row, Mark Hutton 3rd Gidea Park, Joan Walker Vice President and Scout Active Support

Minutes of the 2017 AGM had been circulated before this year's meeting and were agreed as a true and accurate record by those present.

District Secretary's Report

The District Secretary had nothing to add to her written report.

District Treasurer's Report

The District financial report is published in the AGM pack and the report gives a detailed breakdown of the Districts current financial standing. There were no questions raised by the meeting.

The Treasurer's Report was proposed by Geoff Hutton, seconded by Barbara Hall and accepted.

Election of Officers

The members present endorsed the District Commissioners appointment of Keith Pethers as the District Chairman. This was duly noted by the meeting. The District Commissioner welcomed the Chairman to the role and expressed his thanks for his input.

The District Executive proposed Penny Williams as District Secretary.

The District Executive proposed Colin Shepherd as District Treasurer.

Accepted. The Chairman thanked both for taking on these challenging roles.

The District Commissioner proposed the following as co-opted members of the District Executive: Shop and Badge Manager, Secretary of the Appointments Advisory Committee, Warden of Crow Camp, Acting Warden DHQ, Network Leader Representative. Accepted.

The District Commissioner nominated the Deputy District Commissioner, District Scout Network Commissioner, District Explorer Scout Commissioner and the Unit manager of the Scout Active Support as members of the Executive. Accepted.

Fred Barnes and Andrew Green were nominated as Lay Members of the District Executive. Agreed. One additional Lay Member will be appointed during the year.

The meeting endorsed the GSL of 2nd Havering as District Representative on the County Scout Council.

The meeting elected Alan Wiltshire as the District Auditor. Agreed. The Treasurer informed the meeting the Andrew Green is assisting in preparing the accounts.

The District Secretary proposed that the following be re-elected as Vice Presidents: Mr. Peter Chapman, Mrs. Beryl Hart, Mr. Tony Jones, Mr. Stan Lucas, Mrs. Margaret Polden, Mrs. Joan Walker, Mr. Andrew Rosindell M.P., Mr. Ted Webster, Mrs. Audrey Young, Mrs. Hazel Geach M.B. E., and Mrs. Sue Harris. Agreed.

The District Chairman

Although he took some time to consider the invitation to return to the District management, the District Chairman has enjoyed being back as part of the District Team. Everyone – the Executive, the District Team, the Leaders – is working hard at providing the best for all members of the Scouting family in Romford.

There are certain challenges in the year ahead including changes to the Shop and the Badge Section. The Chairman thanked Betty Guthrie, who is standing down as Badge Secretary for all her dedicated hard work and support over many years. The Chairman will be working closely with the District Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioner throughout the year.

The District Commissioner

The D.C. welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending the meeting, especially colleagues from Hornchurch District, Debbie Carter and Louisa Golder.

It has been another busy year and the AGM pack details some of the events the D.C. has been part of. The DC said he was starting his fifth year as D.C. He said he would soon be in discussion with the County Commissioner to discuss his tenure as the DC. However, the DC noted there was still a great deal he wished to accomplish in the District.

The D.C. is continuing with the youth drive, which is showing an upward trend towards 2019. Currently these are 1066 youth members and the aim is to reach 1100. Some Groups have waiting lists while others have gaps, so some work needs to be done to move youngsters around where possible.

The D.C. wants to ensure that there is a GSL in every Group as they can help recruit new Leaders more effectively and work with parents and outside groups. The D.C. has recently appointed Dick Catchpole as the new District Explorer Scout Commissioner to oversee and develop this very important Section in the District.

Work is underway to improve DHQ and Crow Camp and make them more fit for purpose. The Bunny Warren Legacy Fund and the sale of excess land will provide funds to complete these projects. At DHQ, a bigger main hall, more storage, a modern Shop, an indoor climbing wall and meeting spaces will be provided. District members will be asked for their opinions about how best to develop Crow Camp.

Other smaller but equally important projects are also underway. New branding is being introduced along with a new Scout Badge. The 'Skills for Life' project will be running until 2023 and will ensure quality Scouting is a priority, with more Camping events being organised.

Mrs. Betty Guthrie is standing down as Badge Secretary. She has been a stalwart at DHQ for over 25 years, organising the Badge sales and in the past, provided the much needed tea on Tuesday evenings when District members visited DHQ. She was previously a Leader at 3rd Collier Row and has been involved in Scouting in Romford District for 56 years. In gratitude for all of her hard work, a presentation was made to Betty.

The DC presented a Commissioners Commendation to Colin Shepherd, the District Treasurer, for his work in the District and in his Group. He outlined Collins commitment to the District finances and the hard work he put in over the last few years keeping the District on a good footing.

The DC also presented a Chief Scout 10 Year Service Award to 1st Romford Group Scout Leader, Mick Hayes.

The D.C. thanked his family for their on-going support, the ADC Team, the Executive and all the Leaders and the 300 supporters across the District. He thanked Barbara Hall for setting up the Hall and organising the buffet, and the Explorer Scouts Victoria, Hannah and Nathan for helping during the meeting.

The County has recently launched a recruitment drive, and everyone is encouraged to apply for the different opportunities that have been created by the new County Commissioner.

The D.C. thanked everyone for attending the AGM and hoped that they would all enjoy the opportunity to socialise and enjoy the buffet. That brings the meeting to an end.

Treasurers Report for the year ending March 31st 2018

At last year's AGM I advised that we had sold a surplus building that was actually costing the District money. The money from the sale has been invested in various short-term investments and the large majority of this funding will be used to improve the facilities at Crow Camp and to rebuild our District Headquarters. Both of these projects are still in the early planning stages and the money remains invested in medium term investment funds which are currently paying the District an income.

The District Shop continues to support our Groups and the surplus generated from the sale of uniform and badges goes into the District. Last year the Shop transferred a total of £2975 to the District account. Thank you to Barbara and Carol for all their hard work, thanks also to the Scout Groups who continue to support the Shop.

Last year we received £46264 from the groups in membership fees. The vast majority of this money was paid to the County (£39391.20) for the London Levy, the County member fee and to Gilwell for the actual membership fee, we therefore retained £10872.80 for District funding.

The Explorer Scouts closing balance as of 31st March 2018 was £48574. This included £18366 held for Kandersteg 2018 and £11820 from fund raising, which includes Gift Aid. The Explorer Scouts are now paying in by monthly standing order for their Summer 2020 trip to Croatia, and approx £8000 of fundraising for this summer's World Scout Jamboree.

A more detailed breakdown of the income and expenditure appears later in this pack.

Colin Shepherd - District Treasurer

Annual Reports of the District Scout Council 2018- 2019

The District Commissioner

Five years ago last week I took on the role of District Commissioner for Romford and as I write this report after my return from the World Scout Jamboree in North America, do I feel any different about how things are in Romford 1,830 days later ? The answer is yes and some no's. It has been documented elsewhere that I am continuing as the DC for another year and during early 2020 we will start communicating how the process of finding a new DC for Romford will happen.

So before we worry about what has happened over the last 5 years, this report and AGM is about looking back at what has happened during the 12 months up to the 31st March. We may as well start with the bad news first and that was our census results. After three years of growth in the District the numbers took a step backwards. Not by a massive amount but a decline is a decline. The Scout Association has targets to increase our membership as a whole across the whole of the UK, so when a District loses numbers we have to explain why. For some Groups this was by just one or two, but a few groups lost 10 plus and these numbers are not great to be losing. Four groups increased their numbers and two stayed the same.

We still have two Groups with youth numbers over 100 which is good and with not too much effort one or two more Groups could be joining them at the 100 plus club. Sadly, there are one or two Groups at the other end of the spectrum and we need to have plans in place to increase the numbers in these Groups.

I know the joining enquires are on the increase as I dealt with over 100 in the last year. We therefore need to know, why with new children joining Scouting, why are we losing members ?

The Explorer Scout section increased slightly on the year before and during the months after the Census has increased considerably, which is very encouraging. Our Network members also increased which is great for our future leader

pool as our 14 to 25 age range is so important for our future and at the same time, we have re-launched the Network section at a District level.

Compliance has become a major concern, not just in Romford but in Scouting in general. A number of adults have not completed compulsory training (such as Safeguarding, 1st Aid) and this is no longer acceptable. The same with wood badge training, taking longer than 5 years or in some case 10 plus years is no longer something that can be allowed. It is disappointing that we must chase adults to complete this training. I appreciate more than anyone that we are all volunteers and give up many hours a week. However, Scouting may be a Volunteer organisation, what is not voluntary is Safeguarding ourselves, other leaders and our youth members by adults not completing their mandatory training in an acceptable timeframe.

As ever I have tried to attend every District event over the last 12 months and as many Group AGM's or camps / events as I can also fit into the ever-expanding diary. One of the positives of being a DC is I get to see what goes on in some of our 16 Scouts Groups and 6 Explorer units, a total of 58 sections and with Network relaunched that makes it 59 across the District

However, I am pleased to say that we will make it 60 sections in the next few weeks after the AGM as we are just about to announce an exciting new section for the District ! Watch out next month for some social media activity on this project going live.



Cub Scout Report

The year began as ever with the annual St Georges Day parade – and what a fantastic turnout, it was great to see so many smart and proud Cubs.



A Disney Magic themed Kubadoo took place at Hargreaves in July and over 150 Cubs from Romford attended. Bases included Dr Gore, inflatables, with the impromptu base of “running along the stream” becoming a big hit – a great time was had by all.

After the summer break, September saw the Cubs taking part in a Survival Skills day held at Crow Camp with many Cubs learning skills needed to survive in the wild. This was a new event and was designed to bring Skills for life to our younger members.

In October we introduced a new Target Sports competition where Cubs competed in age groups with archery and took part in other activities such as tomahawk throwing. A new event that has the chance to grow into something bigger taking in other sports like shooting as well.

The Cub section was well represented at the annual District Carol Concert at the Corpus Christi Church, always a fun afternoon starting the Christmas season. We are hopeful that year on year the numbers continue to grow.

In January, the District Commissioner made some changes to the District team.

This saw Tony move become a new Deputy District Commissioner (for Beavers, Cubs & Scouts), my thanks to Tony for his hard work in the Cub section over this time. My first official District event as ADC Cubs was the Scooter Rally that took place in February at Crow Camp. Over 80 Cubs attended and it was great to see “the taking part that counts – but winning is what really matters!” spirit and attitude come out.

March saw virtually every Cub pack attend the Swimming Gala held at Hornchurch Sports Centre, this is one of the oldest District events and still has a good take up of young people entering across the Cubs, and Scout section. Well done to all who took part.

The last event of the year, is always a special one. It was fantastic to see 36 sixers/seconders take part in the annual “Sixers” camp at Tolmers with a full-on weekend of hiking and scouting skills. This truly brings the Skills for Life to the Cub section as we prepare them for their move to the Scout section. The 2020 date is already in the diary.



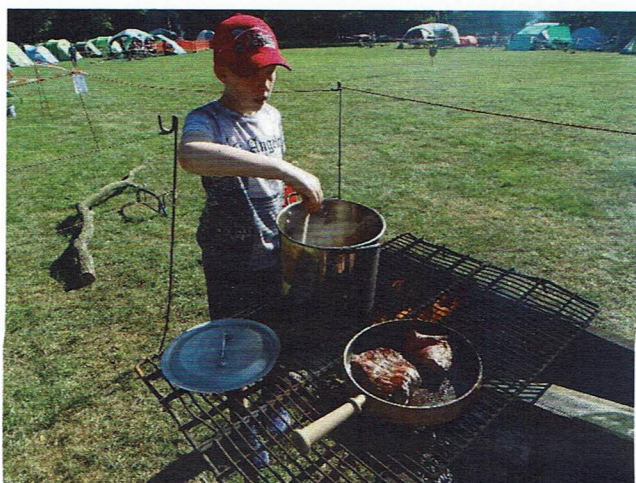
As always, I am astounded at the energy and time leaders and helpers give to Scouting and know that none of these events would take place without their commitment, so THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU GIVE TO SCOUTING.

Maria Green - ADC Cubs Scouts

Scout Report

Another year has gone by and it always seems non-stop in the Scout section, with a number of District events and competitions. I am sure the time and effort you have put in is continually enjoyed and appreciated by our scouts. It would still be nice to see some more Scout Troops at our events as our young people are missing out. Scouts is not just about a Monday or Tuesday night; it is so much more. The Scout age range is key to our success, as we prepare the children to move into the Explorer Scout section. We have a good number moving up but are still seeing some drop off. In the Scout section we endeavour to get our members to begin working as teams and teamwork is a characteristic of many of our competitions throughout the year.

The Franklin shield is our Camping skills competition. This event is held over a weekend and tests the Troops knowledge on all aspects of camping, including cooking on both open fires and gas stoves. It gives an opportunity for the younger, more inexperienced scouts to be assisted through the outdoor challenges camping entails as well as challenging our more experienced scouts ready to move into explorers. I intend to modernise this event going forward to encourage more groups to enter teams.



The Expedition challenge Launched in 2018 enabled scouts to obtain the expedition challenge award in a new and exciting way.



Scouts met at Hargreaves campsite and navigated their way to London accompanied by 2 leaders via buses and trains and competed several tasks in London and had to find the bells / churches in the nursery rhyme "oranges & lemons". A great time was had by all - maybe due to fact they could use their mobile phones ! Some great photos were taken one with a famous celebrity. The day culminated in a barbecue for everyone, and special thanks go to Russel Hughes and James Mortimer who battled against the rain to cook it for us.

The cooking competition Very popular event in the scout calendar. Scouts prepare and serve 3 courses, tidy up and wash up in an allotted time. This gives teams the chance of winning based on how well their dishes taste whilst following a recipe. As always there was a plentiful amount of brave & daring leader's willing to judge (let me know if you would like to be one of our tasters for our event in October 2019). Special thank you to James Mortimer & Tony Osborne for assisting in the planning of this event.

Survival camp is in November and was again held at Thrift wood, where Scouts over the age of 12 have a back to basics experience making & sleeping in shelters and cooking over an open fire. This is a great event for testing our older Scouts with their Skills for Life. Its great to see them get back to basics and cook with no utensils over a fire.

The Orienteering competition held at South Weald with Michael Isaacs stepping up to the challenge of running this event again for us. Scouts attempt to find as many markers as they can scattered across the park in a pre-defined time. Always a popular event to start the new calendar year with.

A big thank you to all the scout Leaders in Romford District for all your time, resources and energy in giving our Members a full and active programme throughout this year. Finally a special thank you to all the Leaders of whom there are too many to list who have assisted me throughout this year to organise events. Look out for some new exciting events coming in 2020.

Mick Clark – ADC Scouts

Explorer Scout Report

At the time of writing this report our Explorer Scout numbers are at approx. 120 and increasing with an expected 10 more before September and a further 10 by the end of December 2019.

With ever increasing numbers, we had the opportunity to open a new Explorer Unit, to cover predominately the Harold Hill and Harold Wood and the North East Romford areas. Unit H opened last year and has seen a steady growth in numbers in that time. With any new unit that opens you cannot fill it with 14 year olds, it has to take time to settle with an age range across the 14 to 17 years. Unit H has grasped the skills for life theme and is already doing some good stuff and thriving.



All of our Explorer Scouts are now paying their monthly subs / fees by standing order and since my arrival I have been recovering unpaid subs from across the District. Sub payments are now under control, and all new arrivals (as soon as we are sent OSM files by groups) are sent a 'welcome to Explorer Scouts' email. The emails contain information on Subs - how to pay, Gift Aid and DofE sign up forms. The introduction of this system seems to be paying off and we have relieved our Leaders of another weekly task.

Over the last 12 months we have spent a lot of time working on tidying up the District DofE provision. This in turn has helped us along with our top awards. Needless to say this has been very time consuming but very rewarding for our young members. In the past year we have had the pleasure to pass through for recognition:

- 25 Bronze DofE awards
- 33 Platinum CSA awards
- 2 Silver DofE awards
- 7 Diamond CSA awards
- 3 Gold DofE awards
- 2 Queen Scout Awards.

These awards are gained through the extremely hard work of our young members and of course our Explorer Scout Leaders supporting them in achieving this. We held our own Chief Scout Award night after a bit of a delay with the County set up, but glad this is now back on track and our young people being recognised for what they achieve.

We have also carried out 2 Bronze and 2 Silver DofE expeditions in various locations in the South of England, which is great for our young people, my thanks to the leaders that give up

their time for these weekends and I look forward to seeing even more DofE and Chief Scout awards being presented into 2020. It was good to see Queen Scout and Gold DofE awards being signed off this last year and two of our members have already been to Buckingham Palace to receive their certificate.

Other activities in the section include:

Managing to get Units A, H, J and X away to camp albeit locally, but it's a start. They all took part in a back to basic / skills camp. More work needs to happen to support our leaders getting the Explorers away more this next year.

We have sent teams to the Southern 50 competition in the Chiltern Hills - a very tough weekend of hiking, with some great performances for the first timers. It was good to be back after a 2 year of non-attendance.

We provided a Microlight experience for approx 50 Explorer Scouts and leaders, who all got to fly in the tiny aircraft at 3000 feet above the Kent Countryside. (Check out the District you tube channel to see a video of the day).



As this report is being written, we have 60 Explorer Scouts booked in for Gilwell 24 for our by annual trip to this event. The event starts Saturday morning and runs through the night, hence the name "Gilwell 24".

And of course, Romford Explorers will have attended the World Scout Jamboree, with 10 children and 4 Romford leaders as part of the IST or County unit. The AGM in September will see them present a report on their trip.

Over the summer and into 2020 we have a lot to get through:

We have just started setting up an Explorer Scout service crew for Crow Camp and are currently 'sounding out' young members to sign up. The idea (hopefully) is to attend Crow one weekend per month, and carry out service for the District, and take the pressure of our SAS team. If it works out, the young members may be able to tick off DofE and CSA tasks, a benefit to all concerned. This is very much work in progress, but high on our priority list.

Explorer Units will be encouraged to camp as often as possible, and not locally. Unit X is off to Derbyshire for some hiking around the Peak District and a day in Alton Towers during August. Help will be provided to facilitate leaders having the correct camp permits to camp more.

There are more flying sessions booked and our rolling DofE programme will continue, hopefully we will see more Diamond Awards coming through.

We have over 60 Explorer Scouts booked in for our by annual International trip in August 2020, this time to Croatia, as well as a day trip to Venice. With leaders it will see approx 70 of us flying out for a week of water activities. We also have four Explorer Scouts attending Euro Jam in Poland at the beginning of August next year.

There is still a lot to do Explorer Scout section, every Unit individually is going in the right direction, but we have only touched the surface of what we can achieve. As ever, we are desperately short of Leaders and as you read this report, we would have just announced the biggest recruitment drive in Romford for the Explorer section we have ever seen. So take a read of the adverts and drop myself or Steve Wiltshire a line about joining the Explorer Scout team in Romford.

Dick Catchpole - District Explorer Scout Commissioner

Network

The Network section in Romford has been dormant for a few years and in January this year with the changes to the District team, it was decided to get this section of the ground once

and for all. I was pleased to take up the position of District Scout Network Commissioner and set about putting some plans in place to re-launch in the spring.

Whilst the AGM reports should end on 31st March we have decided to give you an advance reading of what has happened to date.

The launch night happened in back in May where all 18-25 year olds from across the District were invited to attend and we had a fantastic response, with over 20 people present. During our first meeting, members were brought together by some team building sessions. From then, it was time to get the thinking caps on. We asked the members what they felt Network was perceived as, and what it should be and what they want it to be. A recurring theme returned, based around training. A delight for me as this was always my view when I was a Network member myself.

We brainstormed heavily and started to design what Network in Romford will look like. We came up with a mixture of activities for us to enjoy along with activities that we could learn to run safely and teach to younger members in section meetings.

Since then, our following sessions have been training based. We met at Thriftwood where members learnt how to use Dutch ovens and recipes to use in them, from meals to baking. We also learnt some great tin foil meals. All recipes were really simple and very easy to pass onto a younger generation and build into the programmes of the sections they work in. We've been climbing at 'The Reach' in Greenwich where we got to have fun climbing ourselves as well as relearning how to belay and climb safely. Hopefully, some of our members will be interested in learning and completing their climbing permits meaning even more young people will soon be heading for new heights.

The plan going forward is to be pushing our 18-25 year olds to complete activity permits and qualifications, which can then be used District wide, boosting programmes across the section meetings and making them more adventurous

for our younger members as well as teaching them how to master, teach safely and deliver basic scouting skills in a consistent format.

Going forward, we will be looking at some fundraising events and holding our first unit camp, again sharing skills and knowledge.

Adam Vale – District Scout Network Commissioner

District Secretary's Report

The District Executive has been going through a number of changes over the last 12 months, aimed at ensuring that we provide the best support for Leaders and younger members alike. The Executive is aware of the need to develop and expand the membership, especially as the census figures are down this year. It is part of the Executive's role to find new Leaders from the diverse community in Romford.

The Executive is also prioritising the re-development of the District HQ and Crow Camp, with major projects planned for both sites. Working parties are about to be set up from the Executive and the wider Scouting community to find out what District members want at each location and how Crow Camp in particular can provide the best possible out-door experience across all age-ranges. This will be progressed in the coming months and will make a significant impact in the District in the next 2 years.

The format of the Executive has changed over the last few months with the meetings focusing more on key decision making to make the best use of the time available and the expertise of the members. Two long serving members (Betty Guthrie Badge Secretary and Fred Barnes Chair AAC) have stepped down and new enthusiastic committee members have been co-opted on.

New roles are being developed which are more specifically aimed at addressing the needs of the District. The Executive has met four times over the year with one additional special meeting to discuss the re-developments, and key decisions have been made, from the allocation of funds down to the more mundane issues of cutting the grass at DHQ or the colour of a new scarf.

These decisions all go towards the smooth running of Romford District.

Clearly everyone has been following Health and Safety guidelines as there have only been four reported accidents which have required forms being completed and Gilwell informed. Please keep this up !

The District Executive also has a key role in ensuring safeguarding procedures are followed. New training is being rolled out across the District and all adults will be required to complete a face-to-face training session in order to be compliant. Support and advice is available to ensure Leaders know what is expected of them and the Executive needs to ensure that low level non-compliance does not lead to bigger, more serious issues.

The District Secretary's role has always included dealing with paper-work but over the years this has changed from snail-mail to the instant update provided by Facebook and WhatsApp. Using these state-of-the-art methods, everyone can keep in touch and share the events going on around the District. We have even branched out into doodle-poll (ask anyone under the age of 16!) to decide on alternative dates for meetings. It's like being on the Star-ship Enterprise (ask anyone over the age of 35 !).

With a lot of projects on the horizon, the Executive is looking forward to a productive 12 months ahead which will be beneficial and enjoyable to all young members of the District (and the older ones too!!).

Penny Williams – District Secretary

Appointments Advisory Committee Report

Things have picked up a bit over the last year and the Committee have interviewed 26 people, 19 of whom are new Leaders, with 7 changes of roles. All interviewees were successful and once again the Members of the Committee were impressed with the level of enthusiasm of the new Leaders.

The breakdown is as follows:

Assistant Beaver Scout Leader - 7

Beaver Scout Leader - 1

Assistant Cub Scout Leader - 2

Cub Scout Leader - 3

Assistant Scout Leader - 5

Scout Leader - 1

Group Scout Leader - 2

Explorer Scout Leader - 3

Section Assistant – 2

A number of our Groups are actively recruiting new leaders which is good for the District as well as the Groups, but more needs to be done in some Groups.

The trend of Explorer Scout - Young Leaders taking out Adult Appointments once they turn 18 is still continuing, which is fantastic, and is testament to the commitment of all those involved with YL's and the young people themselves. We are now able to put them on Compass and initiate their DBS and reference enquires shortly before they are 18, which is speeding up the Appointments process considerably. However, there are still Groups that are still not taking advantage of this and we are, once again, experiencing problems getting our young people a DBS, references completed, an AAC interview arranged and their initial training modules done before they are heading off to university.

Many of our GSL's are inputting their new Leaders on to Compass and doing the DBS's then sending me the Adult Application forms so that I can complete the Appointment process, which has significantly reduced the amount of work I need to do, but still needs some improvement to make sure we are compliant at all times.

Unfortunately, Fred Barnes has stepped down as AAC Chair. However I am pleased to announce that Andrew Green has taken over the role and is doing a grand job. I would also like to welcome Adam Vale, who has recently joined the AAC, and say a huge thank you to the other members of the committee for giving up their time to ensure our Young People are in safe hands.

Vicky Hood – AAC Secretary

Crow Camp Report

Crow Camp continues to be used well by sections in Romford as well as other neighbouring Districts and other charity sector organisation, such as the Guides and a Church



Groups. In total the site was used on 87 different occasion, for camps, training days and District Competitions. Works days / evenings were also carried out by Unit H Explorers and the Hornchurch Network.

The Service Crew, of whom we now have just 5 regular members, have continued with routine maintenance work, small repairs to huts, fences, clearance of overgrown shrubs, brambles and minor tree pruning to name but a few. Our in-house tree man, Connor Taylor from 3rd Gidea Park, has attended when necessary and carried out some major tree removal and necessary pruning of large dangerous branches etc.

A supply of firewood and pallets continues to be delivered by a local bus company and a local fencing company who bring van loads of small off cuts.

The Crew are still having occasional problems with some Groups in that we find water taps left open and the stop cock not shut, resulting in excessive use of water. Minor damage still occurs, e.g. fences used for axe practise, wood & logs left scattered around and not put back in the wood pile. It would be appreciated if Leaders would supervise their activities to prevent such incidents and ensure the guides lines issued are complied with.

Finally, we would welcome and new volunteers who have the time to join us help keep the site in good order. If you are free to join us on a Wednesday morning for a few hours then drop me a line for a chat about how you could help.

Dave Marfell - Warden.

Shop and Badge Report

Business in the Shop has continued to be steady throughout the year since the last AGM. Unfortunately, sales continue to suffer from both Leaders and parents purchasing uniforms and a variety of other items directly on-line or other District shops which means they do not visit the Shop and support the District through their purchases.

Despite this, the Shop and Badge sales managed to make a profit and gave a total of £1,500 to the District funds. As the redevelopment of the District HQ proceeds, a decision will need to be made regarding the future of the Shop.

Badge sales are now being organised by the new Badge Secretary, Carol Patten, and are being purchased as requested by the District Leaders. Thanks to everyone who has continued to support the District by helping in the Shop or by making purchases there.

Barbara Hall - District Shop Manager

District HQ Report

The facilities in Park Drive continue to be well-used by both the Scouts and a couple of outside bodies, such as our regular Drama Group. Maintaining the facility is becoming more of a challenge as the structure deteriorates, and whilst it is still fit for purpose no major works will be carried out as plans are pending for the rebuilding of the site.

Some of the grounds have been allowed to become overgrown, partly because of a lack of resources to keep the area clear, but mainly to encourage the flora and fauna of this corner of Romford – with some success, as you can see if you take a look around the site. In the next few months plans for the redevelopment of DHQ will be made available to member and give people a chance to comment on what is needed at the HQ.

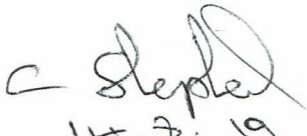
Geoff Hutton

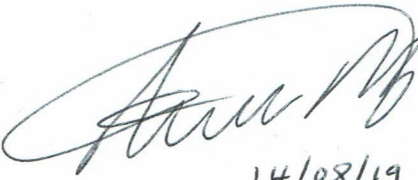
Romford District Scouts


Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31st March 2019

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS

	Balance at 31/03/2019	Notes	Balance at 31/03/2018	Year on Year Movement
INCOME				
Member Fee (Net) - District	17,876.30	1	14,849.40	3,026.90
District HQ and Crow Camp Rental Income	1,259.00		1,815.50	-556.50
Adult Training & Development	580.00		420.00	160.00
Beavers Activities	2,403.75	2	269.98	2,133.77
Cubs Activities	1,523.00	3	11,577.60	-10,054.60
Scouts Activities	255.84		0.00	255.84
Explorer Activities	15,574.61	4	14,496.51	1,078.10
Explorer International Camps and Jamboree	25,138.40	5	26,352.50	-1,214.10
Scout Shop	1,596.87	6	3,071.09	-1,474.22
Donations, Fund Raising, Gift Aid	4,359.51	7	4,116.95	242.56
Investment income & Bank Interest	5,429.83	8	1,621.81	3,808.02
TOTAL INCOME	75,997.11		78,591.34	-2,594.23
EXPENDITURE				
District HQ and Crow Camp Costs	5,810.09	9	5,796.87	13.22
Training	944.14		1,415.73	-471.59
Beaver Activities	2,465.19	2	75.00	2,390.19
Cub Activities	1,710.54	3	10,396.77	-8,686.23
Scout Activities	10.50		50.00	-39.50
Explorers Activities	10,339.62	4	15,652.60	-5,312.98
Explorer International Camps and Jamboree	54,488.66	5	6,865.08	47,623.58
Scout Shop	0.00	6	0.00	0.00
District Events	1,229.03	10	1,715.48	-486.45
Jack Petchey	742.47		659.71	82.76
Officers & Sundry Expenses	3,228.31	11	1,383.59	1,844.72
Equipment	0.00		250.00	-250.00
Mini Bus & Van	6,184.93	12	0.00	6,184.93
Online Scout Manager	432.00	13	1,209.60	-777.60
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	87,585.48		45,470.43	42,115.05
SURPLUS / -DEFICIT	-11,588.37		33,120.91	-44,709.28
Loan repayment	3,000.00			
SURPLUS / -DEFICIT	-8,588.37			


14.7.19
District Treasurer
Colin Shepherd


14/08/19
District Commissioner
Andy Mann


14/08/19
Independent Scrutineer
E G Rogers


Romford District Scouts

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31st March 2019

STATEMENT OF ASSETS, LIABILITIES AND FUNDS

	Balance at 31/03/2019	Notes	Balance at 31/03/2018	Year on Year Movement
ASSETS				
Bank Current Account Barclays	73,443.17	a1	65,528.36	7,914.81
Reserve Account Barclays	65,762.33	a1	65,450.69	311.64
District Shop Bank Account (Co-Op)	2,398.69	a2	2,490.37	-91.68
Badge Shop Bank Account (Santander)	0.00	a2	2,275.81	-2,275.81
Explorers Bank Account	31,910.78	a3	48,574.79	-16,664.01
SAS	0.00		43.83	-43.83
Bank Accounts	173,514.97		184,363.85	-10,848.88
Hampshire Trust Bank	101,285.75	a4	100,000.00	1,285.75
Cambridge Building Society	101,319.08	a4	100,000.00	1,319.08
Teachers BS	100,000.00	a5	100,000.00	0.00
Skipton BS	100,000.00	a5	100,000.00	0.00
Nationwide BS	20,000.00	a5	20,000.00	0.00
Nationwide BS	65,542.36	a4	65,000.00	542.36
Investment Accounts	488,147.19		485,000.00	3,147.19
Shop & Badge Stock	6,961.08	a2	5,822.76	1,138.32
Loan to 3rd Squirrels Heath	0.00	a6	3,000.00	-3,000.00
TOTAL ASSETS	668,623.24		678,186.61	-9,563.37
LIABILITIES				
Prepaid Membership fees	2,025.00	l1		2,025.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES	2,025.00		0.00	2,025.00
NET ASSETS LESS LIABILITIES	666,598.24		678,186.61	-11,588.37
Funds				
Accumulated Fund	87,044.54	f1	53,923.63	33,120.91
Current Year Balance of Income & Expenditure	-8,588.37	f1	33,120.91	-41,709.28
Total Accumulated Fund	78,456.17	f1	87,044.54	-8,588.37
Bunny Warren Legacy	36,931.93	f2	36,931.93	0.00
DHQ Redevelopment	451,210.14	f3	451,210.14	0.00
Crow Camp Redevelopment	100,000.00	f4	100,000.00	0.00
Loan due from 3rd Squirrels Heath	0.00	a6	3,000.00	-3,000.00
TOTAL FUNDS	666,598.24		678,186.61	-11,588.37


District Treasurer
Colin Shepherd


14.8.19

District Commissioner
Andy Mann


14/08/19

Independent Scrutineer
E G Rogers


14/8/19

Romford District Scouts

Independent Scrutineers Report for the Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31st March 2019

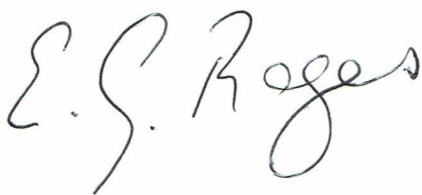
I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31st March 2019.

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that there are any material items,
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts,
3. which give me reasonable cause to believe that the accounting roles of the District constitution are not being met.

E G Rogers

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. G. Rogers', written in a cursive style.