

# 6<sup>TH</sup> WHITLEY BAY (ST MARY'S) SCOUT GROUP

Reg charity 508183

19<sup>th</sup> July 2016

## WELCOME TO OUR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

<u>Contents</u>	<u>Page</u>
Agenda for the Annual General Meeting 2016	2
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting on 7 <sup>th</sup> July 2015	3
Treasurer's Report and Accounts	4 – 8
Chair's Report	9
Group Scout Leader's Report	10
Beaver Scout Section Report	11
Cub Scout Section Report	12
Scout Section Report	14



## Agenda for the Annual General Meeting 19<sup>th</sup> July 2016

1. Welcome by Group Chair Lindsay Reid
2. Approval of membership of the Group Scout Council.  
It is proposed that all those who signed the admissions sheets tonight represent the Group Scout Council for the purposes of this Meeting. Proposed by Lindsay Reid and seconded by Group Secretary Ian Lamont.
3. Apologies for absence
4. Approval of the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2015 (Page 3)  
Proposed by Ian Lamont and seconded by Lindsay Reid.
5. Matters arising from the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2015.
6. Approval of the Treasurer's Annual Report and Accounts (Pages 4 to 8) Proposed by Group Treasurer Julie Stafford and seconded by Lindsay Reid.
7. Approval of the nomination of Lindsay Reid as Group Chair by Acting Group Scout Leader Scott Blackett.
8. Approval of the proposal defining a quorum for the Group Scout Council and for the Group Executive Committee.  
The quorum for a Group Scout Council meeting shall be 30.  
The quorum for a Group Executive Committee meeting shall be 8 including-  
    at least 2 from the Group Chairman, Group Secretary and Group Treasurer and  
    at least 2 from the Group and Section Leaders and  
    at least 2 Elected Members.  
  
Proposed by Lindsay Reid, seconded by Ian Lamont
9. Election of Group Secretary.  
Ian Lamont has been proposed by Lindsay Reid and seconded by Julie Stafford.
10. Election of Group Treasurer.  
Julie Stafford has been proposed by Lindsay Reid and seconded by Ian Lamont.
11. Election of members of the Group Executive Committee
  - a. There are to be up to 6 Elected Members. Proposed by Lindsay Reid, seconded by Ian Lamont.
  - b. Member nominations proposed and seconded. Election of up to 6 members so nominated. Andrew Cooper and Mungo Nicholson having agreed to continue as Elected Members and were proposed by Lindsay Reid and seconded by Ian Lamont.  
???????
12. Approval of the nominations to the Group Executive Committee by the Acting Group Scout Leader.  
There are none.
13. Appointment of an Independent Examiner of the Accounts. David Stafford proposed by Lindsay Reid, seconded by Ian Lamont.
14. Report by St Mary's Church, the Sponsoring Authority.

15. Presentation of the Group Reports by Acting Group Scout Leader
16. Presentation of Awards and Badges
17. Address by the District Commissioner
18. Chair's closing remarks.

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the 6<sup>th</sup> Whitley Bay (St Mary's) Scout Group on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2015**

1. Group Chair Lindsay Reid welcomed everyone to the meeting and proposed that we get through the formal business as quickly as possible and get on with the awards, presentations and refreshments.
2. Approval of membership of the Group Scout Council.  
It is proposed that all those who signed the admissions sheets tonight (72) represent the Group Scout Council for the purposes of this Meeting. Proposed by Lindsay Reid, seconded by Group Secretary Ian Lamont and approved.
3. Apologies for absence  
Julie Stafford, Sarah Ramsay and Nathan Ramsay
4. Approval of the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2014 was proposed by Ian Lamont, seconded by Lindsay Reid and agreed by the Meeting.
5. There were no matters arising from the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2014.
6. Approval of the Treasurer's Annual Report and Accounts. Proposed by Group Treasurer Julie Stafford, seconded by Lindsay Reid and agreed.
7. The nomination of Lindsay Reid as Group Chair by Acting Group Scout Leader Scott Blackett was approved.
8. It was proposed by Lindsay Reid and seconded by Ian Lamont that:  
The quorum for a Group Scout Council meeting shall be 30.  
The quorum for a Group Executive Committee meeting shall be 8 including-  
at least 2 from the Group Chairman, Group Secretary and Group Treasurer and  
at least 2 from the Group and Section Leaders and  
at least 2 Elected Members.  
These proposals were approved.
9. Ian Lamont was re-elected unopposed as Group Secretary having been proposed by Lindsay Reid and seconded by Julie Stafford.
10. Julie Stafford was re-elected unopposed as Group Treasurer having been proposed by Lindsay Reid and seconded by Ian Lamont.
11. Election of members of the Group Executive Committee
  - a. There are to be up to 6 Elected Members. Proposed by Lindsay Reid, seconded by Ian Lamont.
  - b. Member nominations proposed and seconded. Election of up to 6 members so nominated.  
Andrew Cooper and Mungo Nicholson having agreed to continue as Elected members and were proposed by Lindsay Reid and seconded by Ian Lamont.  
These proposals were approved by the meeting.  
Joanne Chater and Marianne Good are standing down as Elected Members and we thank them for their contribution to the Group.
12. The nomination of Josh Lumsden to the Group Executive Committee by the Acting Group Scout Leader was approved.
13. Report by St Mary's Church, the Sponsoring Authority. The Reverend Dr. Peter Knibbs, who recently moved to St Mary's from a group of churches in Truro reported that he was impressed by the level of youth involvement, including the uniformed organisations, at St Mary's and pleased at their continued growth. He had asked Tony Bennett to liaise with other youth groups using the Church Hall on the production of a list of improvements to and additional facilities and equipment for the Hall. He was delighted to announce that the Wellesley Trust have just confirmed a grant of £6,272 to the Church to be spent on improving facilities for young people.

14. The re-appointment of David Stafford as Independent Examiner of the Accounts was proposed by Lindsay Reid, seconded by Ian Lamont and agreed.
15. Presentation of the Group Reports by Acting Group Scout Leader.  
Scott thanked his great leadership team, St Mary's Church, particularly Ann Dodgson (The Church's representative on the Group Executive) and the officers and members of the Group Executive for their help in making the past year a great one for the 6<sup>th</sup>. Badges and awards were then presented to the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. These included the new Excellence awards to Cubs and Scouts rated as outstanding by their leaders and fellow pack members. These went to Cubs Dominic Marriott, Harrison Tose and Thomas Dawson and to Scouts Marcus Devlin, Edward Gardener, Connell Pike and Jamie Reid. This was followed by a DVD showing the highlights of the year
16. Address by the District Commissioner. Michael Munro thanked the Group for inviting him and started by presenting Cub Scout Leader Tony Bennett with his 10-year service Award and Assistant Beaver Leader Susanna Buckley with her Wood Beads. He then reminded us of the 4 elements of Scouting's Vision for 2014/18; 1) Growth in numbers, 2) Inclusivity of adults and young people irrespective of gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, disability or background, 3) Youth involvement in shaping the Scouting experience and 4) Community Impact and of the commitment of the 6<sup>th</sup> to these and its achievements within this framework.
17. Chair's closing remarks. Lindsay highlighted the continuing growth of the Reid dynasty within the 6<sup>th</sup> and her continuing amazement, even after 4 years in the Chair, at the time and effort spent by the leadership team. She plans to set up a fund-raising committee to take some of the burden from the uniformed leaders and would welcome volunteers for this.  
She particularly thanked Tony Bennett and all those involved in the planning and organisation of the Unknown 2015 Camp in which she had participated and had thoroughly enjoyed despite some terrible weather and desperate conditions. She then presented a gift from the adult campers to Tony and his team.  
In closing she thanked everyone for attending and celebrating a fantastic year for the 6<sup>th</sup>.

### **Treasurer's Report and Accounts for the Year Ending 31st March 2016**

This has been a successful year for the Group with Income of £14,913.63 and Expenditure of £11,924.83. Income for the year exceeded Expenditure by £2,988.80. This increase is largely due to the income being held for the Marra Camp (May 2016) and the Unknown Camp (August 2016).

Items of note:-

**Income: -**

Gift Aid Claims for the years ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014 and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015 have resulted in payments received of £1,137.96 and £1,151.54 respectively.

The Christmas bag pack at Morrisons was again successful raising £1,189.29.

The collection of subscriptions by standing order continues to be well maintained and is well monitored by the section leaders.

**Expenditure: -** capitation of £2,983.75 was paid on time and is up to date.

The Group has continued to support various activities during the year across the sections. The events of note include the Unknown Camp and the District Cub camp together with other sleepovers and badge challenges.

Cash funds held by the Group as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016 presently stand at £18,779.88 of which £6850 is held in the Expedition account for the forthcoming trip to Holland in the Summer. £55.97 is presently being held by the District Badge Secretary.

The accounts have been examined by the District Treasurer, David Stafford. My thanks to him and all those who have assisted the Group during the last year.

**Accounts page 1**

**Accounts Page 2**





## Chair's Report

I'm now in my 5<sup>th</sup> year and I continue to be amazed by and eternally grateful for the dedication shown by the Leadership Team for the 6<sup>th</sup> Whitley Bay Scout Group. It's really hard to find new ways to say thank you but it's really important to tell those involved how grateful the parents of the young people in the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts are. The number of hours that are invested in making sure that our young people enjoy their weekly sessions is phenomenal. We get regular updates at the Group Exec meetings – here we get to find out about how many young people are in each section and about the activities that have taken place and that are planned to take place for the young people. In addition to the Officers on the Exec Committee, there are a number of volunteers who attend and offer their support to the Officers, when and where they can. I am keen to establish a Fundraising Committee which will take some pressure off the Leadership Team and allow them to concentrate on organising the various events and sessions that take place over the year. If you can spare some time to help support this new sub-committee please contact me directly.

Yet another jam packed year has passed and I would challenge anyone to say that their son or daughter hasn't been involved in something fun and exciting over the last 12 months!! The Section reports which follow will detail the activities specifically and you'll hear/read all about the numerous events and activities that have been run so successfully for the young people in Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. My personal thanks to Tony, Scott, Kathryn and the wider team must be recorded here.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the rest of the Executive Committee for all of their 'behind the scenes' work and to the other occasional helper, parents, grandparents and carers who make the group as successful as it is. We can always do with more help so if you're interested in lending your support, whether its for an hour once a week, once a month or once a quarter, please contact me or any other member of the Exec Committee.

Since the last AGM, Jamie has turned 15 – he is currently enjoying learning new skills through the Explorer Scouts section and has started to plan next year's camp to Switzerland. Jared is now a Scout and counting down the number of sleeps to their trip to Holland. Nat is having great fun as a Beaver, allowing the Reid Scouting Dynasty to continue.....

Here's to another successful year!!"

**Lindsay Reid, Group Chair**

## Group Scout Leader's Report

It's hard to believe that another year has passed so quickly.... But it's another successful year at the 6th!

It doesn't seem five minutes since I first sat down to write my first GSL report – but here we are **ten** years later.

Scouting has changed dramatically over this time, since 2006 we've made so much progress that it would be impossible to write it all down, but the fundamentals of scouting have remained steadfast and the enthusiasm, commitment and energy of the beavers, cubs and scouts are an example to us all.

Sometimes it's good to take stock of what we have. We now have a solid financial base and the security that comes from that. Our Admin processes are in place and provide greater information for parents and young people (as well as leaders) plus better use of social media from our facebook and twitter pages. We have more equipment than ever before (camping and activities). We have a working Group Executive with all three main positions in place. All of this is something we would have killed for back in 2006.

Scouting at the 6<sup>th</sup> continues to offer exciting, varied and unique opportunities to our young people, and to more people than ever before. I'm really grateful to all of the leadership team – warranted, unwarranted and young leaders, for the amount of time and energy they inject into scouting at the 6<sup>th</sup> every week. It wouldn't work without you – so on behalf of the beavers, cubs, scouts and the executive – **a very big thank you**. I'd also like to take this opportunity to formally welcome Anthea Livingstone-Polley to our beaver leadership team as ABSL.

We continue to have a progressive group executive under the leadership of our group chairperson (Lindsay Reid), group treasurer (Julie Stafford) and our group secretary (Ian Lamont) – I'd like to take this opportunity to formally record my thanks for their support over the past year and also (I hope) for the foreseeable future.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank Ann Dodgson (of St Mary's church) for her support of the group over the past year.

I'm really proud of the achievements that the group has made and the positive impact we have on the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts each week. As you will read from the section leaders' reports, we have a lot to shout about and be proud of.

For the second year, the Cub and Scout Excellence Awards will be announced tonight. Well done to everyone who receives one, it's something that the leadership teams have thought long and hard about and again it's something that you really should be proud of.

I know over the Summer, all of the leadership teams will be working on developing creative and new programme ideas to deliver in the next year of Scouting, enabling us to challenge our young people to grow, develop and reach their maximum potential in the future. The behind the scenes work which often takes longer than running the activity is important to note and is vital to delivering Scouting as its best!

**Scott Blackett, Acting Group Scout Leader**

## **Beaver Scout Section Report**

As ever, the Beavers have had a very busy year!

We've had lots of new Beavers join us, and just as many move up to Cubs, meaning that our numbers stay about 30.

We have 3 leaders; Kathryn, Anthea and Susanna, and 2 young leaders; Johnny and Rachael – who are invaluable to us!

We also have probably the youngest Beaver ever; Anthea's little girl Piper, who has been to every Beaver meeting since she was born a few weeks ago! I'm sure she's already earned a few badges.....

Anyway, to our activities over the last 12 months:

We worked towards the My Skills challenge badge last autumn. Activities included making pizzas and fruit salads, for which the Beavers also gained their Cooks badge, learning about health and fitness, and many other fun activities. We celebrated Guy Fawkes Night, and of course Christmas. We attended the annual Beaver and Cubs District carol service too.

In the spring we achieved the My World challenge badge. This got us involved with people in the community, and we had a brilliant visit from the Monkseaton Morrismen who taught our Beavers a Planting Beans dance, which they were able to perform to their parents. Great fun was had by all!

We had a visit from a lady who told us all about Dementia, and explained it very well. The Beavers all became Dementia Friends, and each were given a badge to show this.

We talked about the Beaver Promise, and the Beavers carried out a promise at home. We even learnt the Promise in sign language. We also played lots of games, and celebrated Burns Night, Mothers' Day and Easter.

In the summer term we have worked towards the My Adventure challenge badge. We had a discovery walk at the Rising Sun Country Park, and the Beavers achieved their Hikes Away badge and the Explore badge. We learnt a lot about safety – on the road, in the water, at home – and we learnt about calling the emergency services. The Beavers achieved their Safety badge with these activities.

We also had a sponsored goal shoot, with the Beavers raising an amazing £103.20 for the Alzheimer's Society. We also learnt that Beaver Scouts started 30 years ago! We did some '30' challenges to celebrate, and learnt a little about 1986. The Beavers will be rewarded with a badge celebrating 30 years of Beaver scouts.

We celebrated Fathers' Day, and of course played lots of games! Including the extremely popular Lighthouse Game...

Beavers love to tell us about their interests and achievements, and anything interesting that they've been up to! Often this can result in a badge, so we have had individual Beavers gain their Sports Badge, Swimming Badge, Music Badge, Hobbies Badge, Photography Badge – to name just a few.

In the Autumn term we are taking some brave Beavers on an exciting weekend away, to an adventure weekend near Hexham. This should be lots of fun!

Thank you to all the Beavers for being such a fabulous bunch – always keen and interested and willing to give any activity a go! (If a little noisily at times!) And many thanks to you their parents and families for all your support. We really appreciate it. Thanks again.

**Kathryn Lynn, Beaver Scout Leader**

## Cub Scout Section Report

Cub scouting at the 6<sup>th</sup> Whitley Bay has continued to develop and grow over the last 12 months building on the work we have done over recent years.

Last July saw the Cub section join our Beavers at their indoor residential sleepover at Gibside National Trust Centre, everyone who attended had a great weekend and the Beavers thoroughly enjoyed their first residential experience in many years. Between September and December 2015 the section worked on team building activities, personal challenges and explored the world of secret agents. This saw the cubs inviting an agent friend to cubs and they completed a number of agent assignments over the course of the evening, this was a great success and something we will consider in the future.

Christmas saw the return of our popular 'Cub Scout Advent Challenge' this saw our Cubs working throughout December to complete 25 separate challenges, tasks and missions to gain badges and awards whilst at home! We had over 95% of our Cubs taking part and completing their logbooks and folders. The quality of these was outstanding and was very difficult for us to assess and mark. The event was so successful it assisted 8 Cubs with the completion of their Chief Scout Silver Award, 22 in the completion of challenge and activity badges as well as providing valuable skills and experiences during the festive break. Thank you to all of the parents/guardians who helped to make this challenge happen at home and congratulations to all of the Cubs who took part and put so much work into it.

We again ran our popular Mother's & Father's day celebration challenges, this time at the Church Hall; we came up with new activities, tasks and challenged the skills of our members and their guests, thank you to everyone who continues to support these activities.

Over the last 7 months we either completed or began a number of badges across the section, some of which are; Emergency Aid, Road Safety, Pioneering, Environmental Conservation, Digital Citizen, Cyclist, Navigators as well as a number of challenge badges. We have embraced the changes in the national Cub programme, the badge system and their requirements making it slightly difficult to manage the development of our cubs as we have some working towards the old and some working towards the new requirements.

In May this year we took our Cubs and Scouts to Wild West Marra – Northumberland's big adventure camp, this was held at Causey Park in Morpeth. This was a fantastic new experience for our members and it was a brilliant weekend of scouting activities delivered to nearly 2,000 members of Northumberland County Scouts. See the AGM video to see what we got up to!

Over the next 6-12 months the leadership team still have more to offer, we have a number of exciting new challenges coming up! Looking ahead into 2017 we already know that our programme is going to be full of more fun! I know I write this every year but I continue to believe that each year we work tirelessly hard with our Cubs to help them achieve the highest award in the Cub Section, the Chief Scout Silver Award. During a 'CUBS' time in our section this is our ultimate aim, with their commitment your support and the dedication of our leadership team there is no reason why every cub cannot achieve this award.

Every week the Cub Section is supported by John Arkley, Laura Main, Andrew Coulson, Imogen Wright, Paul Grange and when not in University or working away we are joined by, Jack Swann all of whom continue to provide endless amounts of support to me and the section, they have a wealth of skills, knowledge and experience helping to provide new, exciting and dynamic activities throughout each year. I can honestly say that without their continued support the section would not be achieving the results it does each year; they all know that they are invaluable to me and the group.

We are still lucky to be supported by Peter Wilson, Nathan Burn and Matthew Anderson who work as Young Leaders, they have continued to develop their personal, teamwork and leadership skills and they also remain an invaluable asset to the section. I will work with them and our cubs to ensure we provide new ideas and challenges that will keep our activities fresh, modern and youthful!

I would personally like to thank all of the groups other leaders, Scott Blackett (Acting GSL & Scout Leader), Matthew O'Brian (Assistant Scout Leader), Kathryn Lynn (Beaver Scout Leader), Susanna Buckley (Assistant Beaver Scout Leader), Anthea Livingstone-Polley (Assistant Beaver Scout Leader) all of the colony, pack & troop assistants, the executive committee members, group supporters (Anne Lewis & Dave Stafford), our parents/guardians and my wife for continuing to support everything we do within our section and the wider group. I hope that 2016/17 will be just as exciting as 2015/16 has been and I look forward to the year ahead with you all.

Please continue to use our website, social media and e-mail systems as these are proving to be the best way to keep you all update with our progress and activities, especially at camps.

If you get the opportunity at our AGM tonight, please complete the 'Section Feedback Form' and hand this in to one of the leaders, this will help us lead the section into another year of fun, challenge and adventure!

**Tony Bennett, Cub Scout Leader**

## Scout Section Report

A blink of an eye and this year has gone!

The leadership team of the Scout section has continued to work to provide a varied programme of activities for the scouts over the past year and I'd like to place on the record a BIG thank you to the team for their hard work, creativity, tireless effort and commitment over the past year. This also includes my three young leaders, Will, Josh and Connell.

Since the last AGM, Scouts have taken part in the unknown camp 2015 and also at Marra County camp in Morpeth. They took part in a fantastic set of challenges and were completely exhausted by the end! Thanks to Tony for putting this together along with the cub section.

Over the past year we've worked on the Astronomers Badge, Astrologers Badge, Meteorologist Badge plus a whole range of challenge awards. We also made pancakes (then scraped the results from the ceiling!), took part in a scout version of catchphrase, cooked on gas stoves, erected tents, built edible bridges plus lots more. We held our very first Easter egg competition – and we were all really impressed with the quality of the entries – congratulations to our three winners – John, Brandon and Dominic. This will definitely be back on the plans for next year – it was fiercely competitive!

In March we completed our challenge for the Scout Association "1 Million Hands" programme, designed to promote scouting in the community and raise awareness of a range of issues – the scouts became "dementia friends" gaining a greater understanding and appreciation of the impact of this terrible condition.

We also took a few scouts to the RVI Children's Cancer Unit to present a cheque for £189 which was raised by the scouts as part of a previous stay-a-wake in 2015. Since then we've also held a second stay-a-wake which has raised funds for scouts going to Holland in the summer. You've never lived until you've done a night hike through Whitley Bay Town Centre at 4am (and been stone cold sober as well)!

Two of our Scouts also took part in the District's Gang Show and gained their Entertainers Badge, we've also completed stages 1 and 2 of the Emergency Aid award and I'm really proud to say we have a further four Scouts who have achieved their Chief Scout Gold Award (the highest award in the scout section – well done!!!)

In April the Scouts took part in a visit to Safetyworks – an interactive learning centre in Newcastle and participated in a range of sessions including first aid, metro safety, fire safety and also drug awareness.

Looking forward we've got a brilliant camp on the horizon as we count down (only days away now) to our Summer Camp in Holland. This will be a whirlwind of visits and activities, providing fantastic experiences for 18 scouts (although I did suggest to Tony that 12 would be an ideal cut off point!)

Finally, I'd would also like to say a big thank you to you, as parents and supporters, for your help and support over the past year, and I hope for the foreseeable future, and finally to the Scouts for turning up week after week and giving us the motivation (as Leaders) whether they realise it or not, to keep volunteering!

**Scott Blackett, Scout Leader**