

## **Minutes of the AGM of 89<sup>th</sup> Reading Scouts held at Group HQ on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> June, 2017 at 7pm.**

Chairman, Roy welcomed everyone to the meeting. Besides the committee there were 20 parents, leaders and friends with apologies received from Brent Smith.

The **Minutes** of the AGM in 2016 were distributed and approved, after the correction to show that the Waiting List is closed to children over 4, not under 4.

The **Chairman's report** was distributed, in which he stated that the final part of our re-development project, the wetland area is now complete and in use by our members. It will add to the facilities available for hire including the Activity Centre, Camping, Climbing and the Mine which are bringing in funds to fully cover the maintenance of the whole site.

He thanked everyone connected with it for their hard work and especially the Branching Up team.

He announced that Eric is retiring as Treasurer and he will take on the role temporarily alongside the post of Deputy Chairman.

The **Treasurer** presented the Account for the year, and thanked Steve Brown for scrutinising them. We are in good shape with income from Subs etc, covering the running costs of the Group. John Burrows is now helping with the Book-keeping side of the task. A printed copy of the full account is available to anyone. Please just ask. It is wasteful to print lots of copies of a long document if it is not required.

It was proposed that Steve Brown should continue as **Scrutineer** of our accounts and accepted by the meeting.

The **Group Scout Leader, Colin Blount**, reported that we have had a fairly good year, despite problems with leaders for the Scout section. We have here facilities to run 3 groups in each section, but we don't have the leaders. We need Scout leaders first, so that Cubs and Beavers can move up when ready.

The Cubs had their centenary this year and the Beavers their 30<sup>th</sup> so lots of extra activities were connected to those celebrations. 280 nights camping were offered and we also took part in the Three Towers Hike again. During a recent Beaver camp they went pond-dipping and found lots of life in our new pond. The Climbing wall is well used by us and outside groups and a new training course for climbing leaders is just starting. Mine training will follow. A local group of 30 geologists booked a mine visit recently and such adult groups bring in valuable income.

Two leaders have recently completed their training and gained the Wood Badge. Beaver and Cub leaders are stable and working well. The two leaders of Wednesday Scouts left and the Friday Scouts leader is out of action with an injured shoulder. Luke has been keeping Scouts running by having one group each week.

Colin emphasised again that there are many tasks other than running a group, which make the leader's life easier. We currently need, urgently, a Treasurer and a Quartermaster as well as other. Please volunteer yourself if you can help in any way.

Colin thanked the Executive committee, especially Roy, but the biggest thank you is to all the leaders who are committed to looking after the children. Adult helpers get a lot of satisfaction out of Scouting, and the children smile and keep coming back for more.

The GSL asked **Robin to take the post of Chairman** for 17-18 and he agreed, saying that he had declined the post 5 years ago to concentrate on the building project management. That being complete and being maintained, we now have to plan for regular replacement of things like climbing equipment. We are building reserves for this purpose and only have the District loan to repay, this year and next.

He ended with a demo of the 89<sup>th</sup> web site, created by Paul Haigh, which will meet the request from parents for more information about group activities.

**Members of the Executive Committee** agreed to continue and were approved by a show of hands.

Group Secretary – Anne Mace

Temp Treasurer – Roy Gordon

Deputy Chairman – Roy Gordon

Group Administrator – Joy Blount

Brent Smith, Jo Wilkinson and Paul Haigh were proposed and seconded as elected members of the Group Executive Committee and approved by a show of hands.

The following Section leaders had signed the declaration of intent to act as members of the Group Executive Committee and Charity Trustees. Richard Gundry BSL, Robin Dryden BSL, John Wright BSL, Georgina Howell ACSL, Julian Rae CSL, Luke Dixon SL and Natalie Hoye ESL.

**Paul Bandy DC**, congratulated the 89<sup>th</sup> on a good year, saying that we have retained our numbers, only 1 down on last year, but he wants us to do better! There are 300 children on the waiting lists in Caversham. Those in the audience are already on board, but who do they know who could help in some way? Maybe someone knows a pond enthusiast?

He suggested we should plan succession – help with a post, learn what is involved, and maybe take it on later.

The National Scout program emphasises “outdoors” and the 89<sup>th</sup> does it. He presented Naomi with her Wood Badge.

A short video of Scout activities was shown before the meeting ended at 7.50.

The AGM next year will be on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> June, hopefully as part of a Family Camp or Fun Day.