



**10th ROYAL ELTHAM SCOUT GROUP
(SHOOTERS HILL)
ANNUAL REPORT 2019**

Presented on Thursday 20th June 2019

Christchurch Hall, Shooters Hill, London SE18

Group Scout Leader, Alexander Bienkov

Registered Charity No. 1039184

Scout Registration No. 19445

Group Established 1938

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE 10TH ROYAL ELTHAM SCOUT GROUP

AT CHRISTCHURCH HALL, SHOOTERS HILL

THURSDAY 20th JUNE 2019 AT 19.00

AGENDA

1. Presentation of Colours and Welcome from the Group Scout Leader
2. Chairman's opening remarks and apologies for absence
3. Minutes of the last meeting (17th May 2018)
4. Chairman's report and matters arising
5. Treasurer's report and to approve accounts for year 2018/19
6. Section Reports
7. Approval of Annual Report
8. GSL's Nominations of Group Chairman
9. Election of Group Treasurer
10. Election of Group Secretary
11. Election of Members to the Group Executive
12. Nomination of Section Leaders and Group Executive
13. Appointment of Independent Examiner / Scrutiniser
14. Group Scout Leaders Address
15. Beaver Investitures and Awards
16. Cub Investitures and Awards
17. Scout Investitures and Awards
18. Explorer Investiture and Awards
19. Presentation of the XRE new Web Site
20. Retrieving of the Colours
21. Informal questions and answers
22. Refreshments will be served

10TH ROYAL ELTHAM SCOUT GROUP MAY 2018 – APRIL 2019

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS (TRUSTEES)

Honorary President	John Kingsmell
Chairman	Martin Hall*
Administrator	Helen White*
Treasurer	Peter Bennett*
Safeguarding	Matt Lester*
Quartermaster	Nigel Orton*
Communications	Deborah Dumville*
Fundraising	Vacant*
Admissions Administrator	Claire Jones*
Beaver Parent	Vacant
Cub Parent	Vacant
Scout Parent	Nick Jones*
Explorer Parent	Denise O'Malley*

LEADERS

Group Scout Leader	Alex (Skip) Bienkov*
Beaver Scout Leader	Row Pinto*
Occasional Helper	Deidre Pinto
Occasional Helper	Laura Villa
Cub Scout Leader	Deli Bryan*
Assistant Cub Scout Leader	John Ball
Assistant Cub Scout Leader	Vince Bryan
Occasional Helper	Clare Brown
Scout Leader	Caroline Gregory
Assistant Scout Leader	Nigel Raines
Assistant Scout Leader	Martina Douglas
Section Assistant	Marc Hopkins
Assistant Explorer Scout Leader	Louis Pinto
Assistant Explorer Scout Leader	Andrew Crompton
Trustees*	

10TH ROYAL ELTHAM SCOUT GROUP AGM MEETING MINUTES 17TH MAY 2018

1, Attendees

Beavers 10, Cubs 19, Scouts 6, Explorers 6, Parents 30 plus all Leaders and Exec Members 90 total.

2, Minutes from AGM May 2017.

Approval proposed by Jim Kingsmell, seconded by John Bull and Deli Bryan

3, Accounts for Jan - Dec 2017

Approval proposed by John Kingsmell, seconded by John Bull and Row Pinto.

4, Annual Report for May AGM 2018

Approval proposed by John Kingsmell, seconded by Helen White & Debbie Dumville.

5, Nominations.

GSL Nomination for Group Chairman - Current Vacancy (no one nominated).

Peter Bennett to continue as Treasurer, nominated by John Kingsmell, seconded by Nigel Orton.

Helen White to continue as Group Secretary, proposed by John Kingsmell, seconded by Emma Gowing .

Executive Committee Elected Members* to continue for the next 12 months: Nigel Raines, Nigel Orton, Alex Bienkov, Peter Bennett , Helen White, Pauline Macklin, Row Pinto and Deli Bryant.

New Executive Committee member (subject to CRB check) Denise Orton, seconded by Martina Douglas.

Becky Dixon to be the Independent Examiner for the 2017 accounts, nominated by John Kingsmell, and seconded by Vince Bryant and Alex Bienkov.

All Proposals were approved at the meeting.

6, John Kingsmell addressed the attendees and discussed the AGM report which was distributed to all attendees. Alex Bienkov addressed the attendees and discussed volunteering, and Co-op fundraising.

Thank you to Alf Philpott and Andrew Barber both District representatives for attending and addressing the meeting.

Attendees were also reminded on the need for new executive committee members.

At the end of the evening members of the Colony and Pack were invested and collected badges they had achieved with the Troop and Unit making presentations on their recent camps and expeditions.

Next AGM June 2019.

Helen White, Group Administrator

10TH ROYAL ELTHAM SCOUT GROUP

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT OF THE SCOUT GROUP

The Scout Groups governing documents are those of the Scout Association. They consist of a Royal Charter, which in turn gives authority to the Bye Laws of the Association and The Policy, Organisation and Rules of the Scout Association.

The Group is a Trust established under its rules which are common to all Scouts Groups
The trustees are appointed in accordance with the Policy, Organisation and Rules of the Scout Association.

The Group meets the Charity Commission's public benefit criteria under both the advancement of education and the advancement of citizenship or community development headings.

The Group is managed by the Group Executive Committee, the members of which are the Charity Trustees; the Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary, the Group Scout Leader, the individual Section Leaders (Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorers) and parent representatives. The Committee meets periodically throughout the year (at least 3 times).

The Group Executive Committee exists to support the Group Scout Leader in meeting the responsibilities of the appointments and is responsible for:

Maintenance of Group property.

Raising of funds and the administration of the Group finances.

Insurance of persons, property and equipment.

Appointing Group Administrators and Advisors other than those who are elected.

Recruitment of Adult Volunteers.

RISKS TO THE SCOUT GROUP

Reduced income from fundraising: The Group is reliant upon income from subscriptions and fundraising. The Group should hold a reserve to ensure continuity of activities should there be a major reduction in income. The committee could raise the subscription rate to alleviate a shortfall.

Reduced volunteers or children: The Group is totally reliant upon volunteers to run and administer the activities of the Group and any reduction or loss of leaders may result in closure of the group if replacements cannot be found. The Group provides activities for all young people aged 6 to 18. A reduction in membership in a particular section or group would result in contraction, consolidation or closure of a section or the Group.

Risk and internal control: The Group has in place systems of internal controls that are designed to provide reasonable assurance against material mismanagement or loss, including 2 signatories for accounts and comprehensive insurance policies to ensure risks are covered.

Objectives of the Scout Group: The objectives of the Group are as a local unit of the Scout Association. The Aim of the Scout Association is to promote the development of young people in achieving their full physical, intellectual, social and spiritual potentials as individuals, as responsible citizens and as members of their local, national and international communities.

The method of achieving the Aim is by providing an enjoyable and attractive scheme of progressive training based on the Scout Promise and Law and guided by adult leadership.

10TH ROYAL ELTHAM SCOUT GROUP REPORTS 2018 - 2019

GROUP CHAIRMANS REPORT

I have enjoyed the last 6 months as Group Chairman, meeting new people, facing new challenges and most of all helping to provide a scouting programme, similar (quite honestly better) than the one I enjoyed when I was in the Scout Group. I have managed to get around to see the Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers and seen first hand the hard work and dedication shown by all of our uniformed leaders enabling children on Shooters Hill to be involved in Scouting. I have been very lucky to join the Scouts at Hope Hill and Downe for camping weekends and I've also seen the effort and remain grateful to all of our Trustees, known as the Group Executive. You will hear tonight about the near constant requirement for volunteers, both in uniform and on the exec, where we are in particular need of a new treasurer. However, whatever you can do to support the Group, even helping us pack up the van on the way to camp is incredibly appreciated.

With your support we will go on delivering a Scouting programme into 2019/20 that enables youngsters on Shooters Hill to benefit from all of the positive attributes Scouting has to offer, as always, any suggestions, feedback or comments are welcome.

Martin Hall, Group Chairman

BEAVER SCOUTS 6 – 8 YEARS OF AGE

Currently we have 20 Beavers, 1 Beaver Scout Leader, 1 Occasional helper and 1 Young leader. It is a very young colony and over 50% of our Beavers are aged six. This year we have had to call on our supportive parents in order to run some of our activities.

Our programme is carefully planned to make it as balanced as possible and each term we aim to work on elements of the six Challenge Awards, Staged Activity and to complete some of the Activity Awards. Over a two year period, this means that if our Beavers attend every Monday and participate in our days out and camps they have a good chance of being awarded their Bronze Chief Scout Awards just before they move up to Cubs.

In the last twelve months we have had 13 Beavers gain their Chief Scout Bronze Awards, the highest award you can earn as a Beaver Scout. Our members have earned over 180 Badges from all six of the Challenge awards and badges as varied as Communicators, Global Issues, International to Photographers Activity Awards.

The Beavers take part in a huge range of activities, most of which they are trying for the first time and that are an introduction to all the Skills that they will practice and improve upon in their time in Scouting. They absorb all that we do with great enthusiasm and quickly pick things up, work well in their lodges and are friendly and supportive to new starters and each other. Attendance is almost 100% each week and despite being the youngest members in our Group the children enjoy trying to make a difference in their local Community as well as learning about Global issues and how they can make a difference in the wider World.

Over the last year we have had a successful Native American themed camp (where the Beaver Scout Leader gained their Outdoor Camping Permit), gone on a County Scout Lego day and a visit to Clip and Climb. Our Monday evening meetings have included learning about endangered Red Squirrels, Water Aid, Fair Trade, Recycling and attending Jota at Severndroog Castle, finding out about Beaver Scouts in other countries first. A Skills evening, where the children tried different things at each table, the favourite being firing matchstick rockets 30 foot after learning how to light candles.

Beavers cont.

We have helped our local community planting over 1000 Spring Bulbs in Shrewsbury Park, made cards and sung Carols at The Memorial Hospital care home and done a litter pick as part of the Great British Spring clean in Oxleas Woods. We have practiced Semaphore, cooked pancakes outside, learnt knots to make stick Pirate boats, sung at our Group campfire, gone on a Bat walk and perhaps most impressively designed and made their own luxurious 5 star Bug Hotel, now residing at Shrewsbury House.

We are looking forward to our Pirate themed camp next week end and another year of fun and adventure. Thank you to our Young Leaders, Occasional helpers, Parents, Big brothers and sisters and Grandparents for all your help this year!

Row Pinto (Otter) Beaver Scout Leader

CUB SCOUTS 8 – 10 AND A HALF YEARS OF AGE

The Cub Pack have had another fantastic year!

We meet at Shrewsbury House every Thursday from 6pm -7.30pm. Our 90 minutes as a pack flies by and we try to fit in as much as possible into each meeting, doing a mixture of games and badge work activities. We currently have 19 members, compared to 24 last year. We've sadly said goodbye to quite a number of our older Cubs recently, but they have all gone on to join either the our Troop or troops closer to their homes. This year we have had a large number of Beavers moving up to cubs so our Pack has become younger as our older Cubs are moving on up to Scouts.

The Pack have worked towards a number of badges this year. As part of their World Challenge badge we welcomed a visit from a serving member of the Army who visited us on Remembrance Day and gave the Cubs a thought-provoking session. The Cubs also completed their Adventure Challenge badge and some gained their Personal Challenge badge, which our newer members are now also working on. I now have all members who have joined in the last year working towards their Silver Chiefs Scouts Award, whilst there are also a couple of the older Cubs who are very close to achieving this award. The Cubs have also earned their book reader, athletics, backwoods cooking, physical recreation, pioneer and local knowledge activity badges and are currently working on their chef badge and air activities staged badge. Their jumper sleeves are filling up with badges! Our Cubs are also continuing to earn badges through their hobbies and activities they do outside of meetings in their own time.

The Pack have enjoyed a number of trips outside of their regular meetings. On Tuesday we took 15 members to The Hub to take part in a Twang 'n' Bang archery session. We also had a great turnout for a litter picking day in Shrewsbury Park. In July we will be taking 17 youngsters to the Docklands Scout Project, a water sports activity centre in Docklands, where they'll take part in 4 activities – sailing, rowing, kayaking and canoeing.

I'm very proud of our members who took part in the Greenwich and Bexley Hospice Mini Marathon in Greenwich Park recently, between them they have raised nearly £2,000 for the charity, such an achievement!

We have a packed schedule which takes us through to the summer holidays, and beyond that we are planning to take the Pack away on a weekend camp in the Autumn.

Cubs cont.

As always, I'd like to thank John for his commitment to the Pack, he is a fantastic leader and helps me run the Pack to the best of our ability. In the last year Vince Bryan has become our Assistant Cub Scout leader, and Clare Brown is also helping out with the pack weekly – both of whom we are very grateful for as our pack evenings are running smoothly and we can get the Cubs out and about a lot more! We have also been joined by Oliver Orton, who is taking part in the Young Leader scheme, he is doing really well and the Cubs all love him, he will be running the Scientist badge for them very soon. We do sometimes still require adult helpers on a Thursday evening - with extra help we can offer the members a wider range of activities in our meetings and get them outside a lot more, something I think is very important especially in the summer. Thank you to those parents who have been able to support us so far.

Deli Bryan (Akela) Cub Scout Leader

SCOUTS 10 AND A HALF - 14 YEARS OF AGE

3 Chief Scout Gold awards last year! What a special achievement well done to Nathan, Oliver and most recently Niall. The first in 30 years! And well done leaders for providing a varied and exciting program. To gain a Gold Award each scout has to complete 9 challenge badges on a variety of different themes and then 6 activity badges, this is achieved over the 4 years they spend as a scout. Each year the leaders sit down together and work out which badges to cover next so that every scout has the opportunity to complete their Gold Award.

In amongst our program we wanted to highlight some particular favourites, first off:

'Pedal car Olympic camp!' January took us over to Essex to race go karts against other scout groups. We've made friends with friends of Shrewsbury park, we discovered a path and cleared an overgrown area of the park ready for planting, the scouts then planted trees. On survival camp, the scouts made shelters and slept in the woods. We had a photographer in to teach the Photography badge where we made our own calendars. We went for a weekend caving in Somerset with other scouts, this was a truly unique experience. The scouts received a backstage tour of a recycling plant, it's all about who you know!

The scouts planned their own Christmas sleep over which included pizza, air soft and movies. A six weeks Archery badge course took place. On Patrol camp the Scouts planned their own camp - menus and programs and then did the food shopping. Expedition challenge award camp where the scout hikes for 2 days independently - no adult help. A lot goes into this achievement, lots of hiking and navigation practise.

As well as our leaders organising events we also tap into District activities who once again enhance the Scouting experience, this year we joined them for: Laser tag in the woods, Tour of the House of Parliament, Tag rugby match.

Developments

As well as all that fun the troop have moved over to OSM for all of our events and program and all of our payments are now taken via direct debit on OSM, what a great system. We gained a section assistant welcome to Marc Hopkins and once again over the year we have had over 15 different family helpers involved on a Thursday night at scouts. All of which enables us to deliver a great scouting experience.

We do face some challenges now that we have over 20 Scouts, logistics have started to become troublesome and so does keeping that many scouts entertained. We have grown our Troop to over 20 but have remained steady with the size of our leadership team. Over summer we are set to lose our main Scout leader and to accommodate all of the Cubs coming up over the next year and be able to continue to provide the great scouting experience that the Scouts keep coming back for we need a bigger leadership team, which we need your help to grow.

Scouts cont.

Can you help once a month? Can you go to the badge shop for us? Can you come and teach a skill or run a badge? Would you like to help but don't know how? Do you have a place we can take scouts too? Are you the bee's knees at organising people?

If you want to give any of our exciting activities a go or can help us in any way shape of form please do come and talk to us or pop into scouts on a Thursday. Scouting is not just for our youth members it's just as rewarding and exciting for us adults too. Come and join us on our next adventure where the scouts will top the Blackheath fireworks. We know that's a bold statement so come and see for yourself.

Caroline Gregory, Martina Douglas, Nigel Raines and Marc Hopkins, Scout Leaders.

EXPLORER SCOUTS 14 – 18 YEARS OF AGE

Explorer Scouts are a mixed section, District based and catering for young people between the ages of 14 and 18. With some 18 members coming from troops across the Royal Greenwich Scout District.

During 2018, the Unit participated in some six camps these included: returning to our green field campsite in Wales for Easter - based at the foot of Snowdon, we went walking, participated in night activities, worked with National Trust on path clearing project and visited Plas Y Brenin for a mountaineering lecture. In May, we paddled our canoes down the Medway; in July, we completed the Gilwell 24 challenge. After a summer break we held a "Survival" camp in Oct (sleeping out in bivouacs, cooking in dutch ovens & axe throwing), in November, we competed in Red Flare a competition night hike (the Unit came 7th out 35 teams), and we ended the year with our traditional Christmas camp in December. Those working on their Duke of Edinburgh went on additional training camps.

The Unit continues to have a varied weekly programme. Evenings have included First Aid training, an international trade game, canoeing at the docks, climbing at the Reach, cooking at the hut and ice-skating at Canary Wharf.

The Unit also has supported Severndroog Castle Trust at their outdoor theatre and autumn fayre, and has collaborated with them and the Cray Valley Radio Society to host our 4th Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) event for the District at Severndroog Castle. Over 100 young people attended. We held 10 separate sessions with 8 different scout groups and communicated to scouts in 20 Countries (furthest Australia).

The Unit took some of the Exec and Leaders on a canoe trip, with one pair going for an involuntary swim!

Members of Severndroog Unit are supporting the 10th Royal Eltham and other local scout groups as Young Leaders, have run events for the scout troop, provided the largest contingent at the Remembrance Sunday parade and have supported all the XRE's fund raising events.

Louis Pinto, Assistant Explorer Scout Leader

GROUP SCOUT LEADERS REPORT

In the past year the sections have made amazing progress and are now all running quality programmes that allow the children in our local community to experience everything Scouting has to offer. From camping and outdoor activities to working on badges and awards and learning essential skills for life.

Our youngsters, over the last 12 months, have achieved multiple Chief Scout's Awards which is quite unbelievable, I have also never seen so many activity and challenge badges being worn on the uniforms of our members, well done also to Martina Douglas and Caroline Gregory for gaining their Wood Badges (Full leadership training).

Gsl's report cont.

Whilst a quality programme has been provided we still have a massive hole in the leadership team which is increasingly placing pressure on our existing Leaders and is totally unsustainable in the long term. A Scout Group, as we all know, is totally dependent on its volunteers and I can only appeal to all our parents and the members of our community to stand up and come forward and help us out in the future as part of our Leadership team?

Highlights from the last year, from the Group prospective, were once again a successful Summer Barbeque, Group Campfire, Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) managed by our Explorer Scouts at Severndroog Castle, a successful fundraising event achieved by everyone pulling together at the Bag Pack at M&S Eltham and the incredible financial support from the Cooperative Society. We have also worked closer with the community at Shrewsbury Park clearing woodland and planting saplings and developing new flower beds, at Severndroog castle with our Explorers acting as Ushers at their summer season of Outdoor Theatre productions and regularly cleared Castle Woods of its litter.

We have made large investments in equipment including a new Box Trailer, new Tentage, improvements to the inside of our Hut, we have continued to maintain our Minibus, paid rental on two meeting places and the insurance to cover the aforementioned and purchased over 500 badges this year whilst somehow managing to maintain our current membership fees.

A big welcome to Martin Hall, our new Group Chairman who I look forward to working with in trying to expand our adult volunteer team and to seeking a way forward in finding a more permanent meeting place for our multiple Sections.

A special big thank you to John Kingsmell our President and John Field our Minibus guru for their untiring support and hard work.

Finally, thank you once again to all our current Leaders, Occasional Helpers, Young Leaders and Executive Committee members for spending so much of their time and effort in developing good Scouting here on Shooters Hill.

Advance the XRE!

Alex 'Skip' Bienkov, Group Scout Leader