

14th Midlothian (Bonnyrigg) Scout Group
Group Executive AGM
17 December 2020

1.	Attendees – Trish Elder Gracie, Richard Fairbairn, Pauline Brodie, Louise Duncan, Erika Pryde, Calum Mackenzie, James Cameron, Mike Guilar
2.	Louise, the Chairman, welcomed everyone to the AGM. The Minutes from the last AGM were all accurate and the Accounts were all in order.
3.	<p>Group Scout Leader's Report</p> <p>Not sure if I had known what was coming I would've taken over the role as GSL in February. One might think that with a whole country lock down in March it would have made things simpler! During the initial few weeks of lock down there was a lot of worrying about survival of scout groups' in general and how long was lock down going to last. Just how could we deliver a programme that would keep the young people engaged? So what it did do was make us more focussed as a group to continue to give our young people the best experience possible. With a lot of thinking out of the box as a group I think we have risen to the new challenges. We needed to embrace technology like never before, use the power of social media and get everyone to engage in online scout manager. Zoom meetings became the normal with various quizzes, treasure hunts and a lot of noise in my dining room! So much so my daughter actually thought everyone was in our house! We participated in the JOTT, Hike to the moon, SES-Sleepout, Mid-jam and a wonderful virtual camp fire. Who knew it would be so much fun doing this in our own gardens and hikes with the family. With the easing of lockdown came more concerns how we could keep ourselves and the young people safe to be able to return to some face to face scouting. As a group and with funding from the government we embarked on making our hall safe, we cleared the hall of virtually all but a few items, we deep cleaned then installed hand sanitizers dispensers and instituted risk assessments for a safe systems for when we would return indoors. We completed many outstanding repairs. We now have a deep clean of the hall done monthly. The scouts were the first to meet face to face outdoors with continued risk assessments for activities within the government guidelines and indeed have only returned to indoor activities in the last few weeks. The scout leaders have managed a very full programme since face to face outdoor scouting began in September. The Cubs and Beavers returned to the hall in October for face to face scouting. We have had to do things a little differently but our young people are still working towards badges, they are still engaged and we continue to have good numbers of young people within the younger age groups. As we move closer to 2021 we are not sure what to expect (particularly after this year) but we are still here and we continue to thrive as a group. This would not be possible without all the hard work of all the leaders and the executive team whom I would like to thank for all their support. We continue to look for new leaders to assist with beavers and cubs and would welcome enquiries from anyone who feels they could give us some of their time to help us deliver a balanced programme of activities to our young people.</p>
4.	<p>Group Treasurer's Report</p> <p>The accounts have been independently reviewed.</p> <p>The accounts were not much different from the previous year apart from the cost of Harlaam. Subs were slightly down as well as the Ragbag but not too much. We have cleaned the hall more so the cost for those things have increased. We were paying more for utilities but this has now been changed and should be cheaper going forward. An Inventory has been done by Peter recently of all the stuff held in the Scout Hall.</p>
5.	<p>Election of Louise as Chairman Nominated by Trish and seconded by Erika.</p>
6.	<p>Election of Pauline as Secretary Nominated by Erika, seconded by Louise.</p>
7.	<p>Election of Kathryn Parkinson as Treasurer Nominated by Richard and seconded by Pauline.</p>
8.	<p>Election of Executive Committee which includes Erika, Callum Anderson and Pauline Spence Nominated by Pauline and seconded by Trish.</p>
9.	<p>Nomination of Independent Examiner Richard confirmed that David McFarlane was happy to do this.</p>

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10. **Any Other Business**

- a. Camp Funds - Erika confirmed that there is money in the account from funds raised however this was raised specifically for camps and therefore will not be returned to the individual Scouts but instead will sit in the account until needed for the next camp.
- b. Waiting List – There are 41 young people on the list that have not been placed as yet.
- c. Scouts are only meeting on a Monday as there is not sufficient numbers to meet on a Wednesday also but this may change as some Cubs are due to move up. Unfortunately we have lost some young people over the last few months who are not returning.
- d. The Census is due shortly therefore we will have to get a note of exact numbers for that.
- e. Richard wanted to thank everyone for all they had done over the last few months and especially to Trish and Cameron who had scrubbed the hall which had never been so clean before!

Trish also commented that everyone had really pulled together which was followed by other members thanking all the leaders for all they had done for their young people.