

MINUTES OF THE 45th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE LONSDALE DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL held online on the 17 September 2020 at 7.30 pm.

1. Mrs. Suzie Reynolds, District President, welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. Emily Lavender (Saints Explorer Scout Unit), led the meeting in a brief reflection.
3. **Present:** Mrs. Suzie Reynolds DL (District President), Mrs. Kath Bromilow MBE (District President elect), Dr. Tony Andrews (District Chair), Mr. Carl Hankinson (County Chair), Mrs. Mandy Sweet (District Commissioner), Mr. Craig Dewar-Willox (County Commissioner), Mr. Bernard Pendlebury (County Vice-President), Mr. Alan Hague BEM (District Secretary), Mr. Stephen Landles (District Treasurer), together with 50 members and guests via the Zoom software platform.
4. **Apologies for Absence:** Mr. Stephen Clarke (District Finance Officer), Ms. Cat Smith MP (Lancaster & Fleetwood), Mr. Yak Patel (CEO Lancaster District CVS), Ms Lydia Maun (District Youth Commissioner), Ms Emma Maudsley Incoming Division Commissioner Lancaster & Garstang Division), and further recorded apologies. The Secretary read a supporting message from our Scout Ambassador (Cat Smith MP).
5. **Approval of the Minutes of the 44nd Annual General Meeting held on 27 June 2019.** Proposed by Mrs. Mandy Sweet and seconded by Dr. Tony Andrews. The minutes were approved by the Meeting, without objection or abstention.
6. **The Annual Report and Statement of Accounts for the period ended 31st December 2019. The District Commissioner** introduced the Annual Report, which had been circulated prior to the meeting and had been published on the District's website. It had been another eventful year in Lonsdale. She had written her report during Volunteers' Week, an annual celebration of the contribution millions of people make across the UK through volunteering highlighting that she had spent her first year as DC celebrating the work volunteers in Lonsdale District do every week. She had seen so many selfless acts and so many hours given to making sure that the young people in our District live up to the values of Scouting and are given the opportunity to confidently make an impact on their own futures.

In Scouting, she said, we believe that through adventure we challenge individuals so that they learn and experience new things and enrich their lives.

Firstly, the DC focussed on the pre-coronavirus period [of 2019]. Every week over 1550 young people and 440 adult volunteers take part in Scouting projects and

activities at the heart of the Lonsdale community. It was our role to ensure that every one of our members has the facilities and support to take part in these activities. To enable us to offer young people the opportunity to develop 'skills for life' in a safe environment it is important that our District has focus and direction. The District Strategy developed in 2019, in line with the National and County strategies, would help the District focus on ensuring continued success over the coming years. We have an ambitious plan to raise our profile in the area, to develop and grow our fabulous activity centres, to effectively manage and support our members and to increase the number of young people who are achieving top awards. These, along with other goals that we had identified, would ensure the success of our District going forward.

In 2019 we had been involved with numerous external events, Pride Marches, Remembrance Sunday Services, St. Georges' Day Parade and a very wet carnival in Morecambe. Through these we had been reminded how much we are respected in the community and how many lives we have touched. She had lost count of the number of people who had spoken to her about the wonderful time they had when they had been a Cub, or the time they went wild camping in the Lakes with Venture Scouts. These opportunities should be used by us to become even more visible in the community and to make sure we continued to be recognised as the leading youth organisation in the area.

She continued that we are blessed in Lonsdale to have two activity centres that are superbly managed by our volunteer wardens Kieron and Mick and their hardworking teams with the support of the Activity Centres' Management Board. The sites look wonderful and have seen thousands of nights spent both 'under canvas' and in the two residential lodges. With new activities on both sites and a climbing wall at Carnforth 'Base Camp', shooting range at 13th Lancaster and tomahawk throwing at 3rd Morecambe and Heysham we have lots of opportunities to get out of our Scout 'huts'.

2019 had seen five of our District's young people, go off to the 24th World Scout Jamboree to experience a life-changing trip to America and Canada they would never forget. We had also had a District overseas trip to the Zellhof International Scout and Guide Centre in Austria where the contingent had experienced a brilliant 10 days of discovery, adventure and fun, and made friendships that would last for a very long time. She expressed thanks to Scott Duncan and his team for making this possible. With further members of our District travelling the globe and making a difference in Nepal, Haarlem, Africa and Eastern Europe and a number of fortunate Lonsdale members selected for future trips this is only proving, what we already know, that the young people in Lonsdale District are 'simply the best'.

In the year we have started on our journey to have 2,021 members in the District by 2021; we are aiming high and had recently opened new sections at 1st Silverdale, 53rd Lancaster and Hornby & Wray Scout Groups. We had opened a new Explorer Scout Unit in Caton and we have our sights set on more expansion in the near

Lonsdale District Scouts

Headquarters: 3 Moor Street Lancaster LA1 1PR

President: Mrs. Kath Bromilow MBE District Commissioner: Mandy Sweet District Chair: Dr Tony Andrews

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future. Growth was about making sure that more young people could gain access to our wonderful organisation and become members of our Scouting family.

She expressed thanks to Suzie Reynolds, our District President, for allowing us to use her beautiful home at Leighton to celebrate the service achievements of our leaders and to present some well-deserved Good Service awards. The passion and commitment of our adult members helps considerably in making us such a successful District - the room had been full to capacity, and the cakes were delicious as always! Mrs Sweet warmly welcomed our incoming President into the family of Lonsdale.

Concluding, Mrs Sweet reflected, briefly, on how Lonsdale had adapted since March 2020 and mentioned some of the many activities that had been arranged virtually or as 'door-step' or 'back garden' celebrations. She stated that It was a tremendous honour to be District Commissioner in Lonsdale District. She thanked everyone for their support and unfailing commitment. She knew that if we will all continue to work together Lonsdale would become even stronger.

The District Treasurer spoke to the District Accounts, copies of which had been made available prior to the meeting. He drew attention to the various constituents of the Receipts and Payments Account and concluded by reviewing the District's assets. He indicated that the full accounts had also been published on the District's website. He wished thanks to be recorded to Steve Clarke (District Finance Officer) and to Ray Salisbury (the ACMB Treasurer) for their valued work in compiling them. He stated that if there were any financial questions of a more complex nature or required research then the information would be provided as soon as possible after the meeting. There were no questions.

The 2019 District Annual Report and Accounts were thus received and considered by the Meeting (no requirement for a vote).

7. Appointment of the District President

Mrs. Kath Bromilow MBE was nominated by the retiring President Mrs. Suzie Reynolds. She shared some details of Mrs. Bromilow's extensive experience and involvement in the local community. The nomination was confirmed by the Meeting, without objection or abstention.

At the request of the District Chair Mrs. Bromilow briefly addressed the meeting indicating her pleasure at being asked to fulfil the role and stating that she was looking forward to meeting members and attending events in the future.

The District Chair then invited the retiring President to open the small package that had been pre-delivered to Leighton Hall. The Chair provided a brief narrative to the - the retirement gift comprised a Thank You badge in the form of a facsimile of a cartoon drawn B-P and signed by Lady B-P and himself together with a Thanks Badge of a former type, in silver. Mrs. Reynolds responded appropriately thanking the Chair in the warmest terms for this special gift, and flowers, illustrating her experiences as president with several anecdotes.

8. Appointment of a District Vice President.

Mrs. Suzie Reynolds DL was nominated by Dr. Tony Andrews. The nomination was confirmed by the Meeting, without objection or abstention.

The Chair indicated that Mrs. Reynolds would be joining our other two Vice Presidents: Geoff Boulton and Frank Rice.

9. The DC's Nomination for District Chair. Mrs. Mandy Sweet nominated Dr. Tony Andrews as District Chair. The nomination was confirmed by the Meeting, without objection or abstention.

10. Election of the District Secretary. Mr. Alan Hague BEM was nominated - proposed by Dr. Howard Greenwood and seconded by Ms Courtney Kellett. The nomination was approved by the Meeting, without objection or abstention.

11. Election of the District Treasurer. Mr. Stephen Landles was nominated - proposed by Mr. Jamie Carbert and seconded by Mr. Darren Phillips. The nomination was approved by the Meeting, without objection or abstention.

12. Appointment of the District Finance Officer. The Chair indicated, on behalf of the District Executive, that Mr. Stephen Clarke is nominated. The nomination was approved by the Meeting, without objection or abstention.

13. DC's Nominations of Members to serve on the District Executive.

The following were nominated:

Mr. David Bateman

Mr. Steven Mather

The nominations were confirmed by the Meeting, without objection or abstention.

14. Election of Members to Serve on the District Executive.

The Chair reminded members of the Scout Council that this year the election had been opened up, so that any member of the District Scout Council (over the age of 18 years) could be nominated. There were five vacancies. Four nominations had been received, by the Acting Returning Officer, and thus the following had been elected unopposed:

Mrs. Louise Ash

Mr. Ben Goldsworthy

Dr. Howard Greenwood

Mrs. Rebecca Parker

The Chair highlighted that there were also ex-officio members of the Executive and that we met the required two representatives under 25 years of age.

15. Election of Members of Lonsdale District to be Nominated Members of the County Scout Council.

The Chair outlined the process, which resulted from a change in the County Scout Council Constitution in 2018. Six nominations for election had been received:

Uniformed Leaders: Dr. Craig Graham, Mr. Martin Holmes

Scout Network Members: Mr. Ben Goldsworthy, Ms Eve Simpson

Explorer Scouts: Ms Ellen Aston, Ms Emily Lavender

Proposed by Mr. Scott Duncan and seconded by Mrs. Mandy Seddon.

The nominations were approved by the Meeting, without objection or abstention.

16. Appointment of Professional Staff. The following appointments:

Independent Examiners – FellGills (Lancaster).

Solicitors – Holdens Solicitors, Lancaster.

were proposed by Mr. Jamie Carbert, seconded by Ms Harriet Butterfield and approved by the Meeting, without objection or abstention.

17. County Commissioner's Address.

Mr Craig Dewar-Willox delivered an inspirational and motivational address illustrating the power of Scouting based on his own experiences, a number of which he outlined. He stated that Lonsdale District was a strong District by any measure in terms of its programme, inclusivity and camaraderie. It was in good hands and he thanked all concerned: leaders, supporters and committee members for their contributions, which were appreciated. Top awards were being achieved and standards being maintained, which was a tribute to Lonsdale's leaders. The District had also featured significantly in County events. Having been its District Commissioner had been a great privilege.

Concluding, he urged everyone to look to reach out to get more young people and adults into our wonderful movement.

Lonsdale was in a good place and he thanked the District President, Chair and District Commissioner for their invaluable support to him and to the District.

18. Presentation of Certificates & Awards.

The following awards were announced/presented (virtually) by the District Commissioner:

a. Good Service Awards:

Chief Scout's Commendation:

Mr. Jamie Carbert (District Explorer Scout Commissioner). Also, his Wood Badge.

Bar to the Silver Acorn:

Dr. Howard Greenwood (Warton Scout Group).

b. District Nights Away Shield.

The District Commissioner said that this would be presented to Warton Scout Group.

c. The Peter Ellwood Memorial Award - The District Commissioner outlined the reason for this award to recognise the contributions of an individual or group to the further development of Scouting locally. This had been awarded to the 3rd Hornby & Wray Scout Group.

d. Young Person of the Year – This trophy, presented by the family of the late Peter Hewitt, former District President and District Chairman, was to be awarded to Josh Marshall, Explorer Scout, Silverhelme ESU. The DC outlined many of Josh's achievements which made him such a worthy recipient of the Award.

The DC announced that face-to-face presentations would be made as and when circumstances permitted

- 19. Closing Comments.** The District President thanked all those who had supported the organisation and running of the meeting mentioning particularly Mandy Sweet (District Commissioner), Alan Hague (District Secretary), Tony Andrews (District Chair) plus Tracy Seton.