

14-25 FINANCE AND SUPPORT GROUP MEETING

6 March 2019¹



Welcome

- For the benefit of the newly-appointed DC, the acting Chair outlined the composition of the sub-Committee and the key functions (particularly to act on behalf of the District Executive Committee in relation to Trustees' responsibilities for Explorer Scouts and the Scout Network).
- Noted that we had made little progress in recruiting members to fill the vacancies (as detailed in the sub-Committee's Terms of Reference).

Minutes/Notes for Last Meeting (14 November 2018)

- None were available.

Matters Arising

- None.

Explorer Scouts

- Tracy presented an analysis of the Census figures (comprising 146 Explorer Scouts):

	2019	2018	Change
ESU only	62	48	29%
YL only	25	30	-17%
YL and ESU	52	42	24%
YL and out-of-area ESU	4	1	300%
DofE only YL	3	5	-40%
	146	126	16%

For ESUs:

Unit	2019	2018	Change
Odyssey	10	10	0%
Castleton	22	23	-4%
Discovery	13	17	-24%
Eric's	10	3	233%
Illustrious	20	9	122%
Saints	10	1	900%
Silverhelme	29	27	7%
	114	90	27%

- The above figures show progress made in a number of areas. Pleasing to note that there are fewer YLs only (meaning that more young people are engaging in activities with their peers). Also note the increase in numbers for some ESUs.

1. *Present:* Tony Andrews (acting Chair), Mandy Sweet (DC), Tracy Seton (District Explorer Scout Administrator) and Jamie Carbert (District Network Commissioner).
Apologies: Dave Squirrell.

- Mandy reported on plans being made for a new ESU based in Caton. There were an enthusiastic number of interested young people (including some who had left Scouting some time ago). A taster session is planned for Monday 1 April 2019 with a start after Easter.
- Tracy felt that we are beginning to see the benefits of introducing OSM for the Section but there are still some who are reluctant to use it.

Explorer Scout Finance

- **ESUs**

- Tracy presented a detailed summary of information in relation to each ESU - including financial matters.
- Other than one ESU (for which there was no information) all other ESUs had paid their Membership Fees.
- Some ESUs are in a better financial position than they had been previously.
- In line with the District Executive Committee's decision, Silverhelme ESU were aware that their continuation towards the use of the Mortimer Cabin had been set at £150 per annum and that it had been agreed that this would be paid at the beginning of each year (an invoice had been raised, for 2019, by the Activity Centres Treasurer).
- Further progress is being made in transferring all bank accounts to Barclays online (but there are some difficulties in completing the necessary paperwork, signatories, etc).
- It was suggested that the sub-Committee write off the sums of £183.00 for Membership Subscriptions for 2016 and £255.50 for 2017 incurred for Saints ESU. These had been paid from the District Explorer Scout Fund. It was the feeling that these sums should not be a burden on the current Explorer Scouts who were not members when these debts were incurred. The District Chair undertook to research what discussions there had been in the past - before a decision was made.
- In terms of a claim for Gift Aid: one ESU had full records to enable a claim to be made, for a further two there were partial records which could be used and for the remaining four no records were evident. It was agreed that the current target was to ensure all ESUs maintain records on OSM and to make a claim using what data is currently available.
- The acting Chair thanked Tracy for her work in preparing all this information and commented that, although not ideal, there had been a marked improvement in many aspects of ESUs' financial matters over the past few years.

- **District Explorer Scout Fund**

- Tracy presented the receipts and payments accounts for the (restricted) fund for 2018 showing a balance of £2,513.89 (compared with £1,539.36 for 2017). The receipts amounted to £15,921.00 and payments £14,946.47; these were larger than usual - reflecting Explorer Scout participation in Red Rose 2018.
- Tracy also presented a summary of transactions from 1 January 2019.
- It was reported that the fee due to the Activity Centres as a result of very last-minute cancellation at Silverhelme had been paid.

Scout Network

- Jamie reminded members of the 'cull' (in the order of 50) carried-out previously to remove from Compass those who had held adult appointments and who were also recorded as members of the Scout Network. Their primary appointment had been terminated (for a variety of reasons) but they remained listed as Scout Network members (although they now had no contact with the Movement).
- Those present reflected on how it might be possible to act more promptly when such circumstances occur in the future.

- The small sum of money allocated in the District budget had mainly been used for purchase of items which were later sold-on. Other than this, funds had been used to produce Birthday Cards for Explorer Scouts, etc.
- A new publicity leaflet was at the design stage.
- Jamie reported that the intention was to organise County monthly Scout Network events - moving around the Districts. Upon reflection it was felt that distances involved may be an issue; the future methodology was subject to discussion.
- It was noted that the registration process for the Queen's Scout Award was now easier to use.

Any Other Business

- There were no other items for discussion.

Next Meeting

- This had already been programmed for 8 May 2019.