



West Region

**WEST REGION SCOUT COUNCIL
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
THURSDAY, 5TH OCTOBER 2023
At LAPWING LODGE**

1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTION, SEDERUNT AND APOLOGIES

The Regional President opened the meeting by thanking everyone for coming along and hoped they had an enjoyable year in Scouting.

Our Regional Commissioner, Ian Hunter, is not with us tonight due to his ongoing illness and Ian has asked that I thank everyone on his behalf for their good wishes. Ian can be contacted by e mail/text so please keep in touch with him. John Kitson has been appointed Acting Regional Commissioner by Barry Donald-Hewitt until further notice.

I was delighted to present a 60 year award to Sandy Sinclair, Inchinnan Scout Group, at the Founders Day service.

Thank you all for your time and commitment.

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The Secretary took note of those who attended and there were 39 in attendance.

Apologies

Anne Smart, Barbara MacDonald, Martin Buchan, Carole Allan, Stuart Wilson, Barry Donald-Hewitt, Chief Commissioner, Ms Jane MacLeod, Lord Lieutenant Argyll, Ms Jill Young, Lord Lieutenant Dunbartonshire, Col. Peter McCarthy Lord Lieutenant Renfrewshire and 9 others.

Before commencing the AGM Regional President, Mr Bill McCallum, advised that no notifications had been received by the Regional Secretary for any other business to be conducted at the AGM.

2. Approval of Minutes of AGM 2022

There being no matters arising from minutes held at Lapwing Lodge on 28th September 2022, Regional President requested approval

Proposed by Mr Blair Ross and seconded by Mr Jim Sneddon

3. Annual Accounts

A summary of the accounts noting the financial statement and balance sheet is included within the Annual Report. I also have a full copy of the annual accounts should anyone wish to review these.

With both the trip to Nepal and the Jamboree, the overall income of the Region for last year amounted to £667k and, as this exceeded the OSCR threshold of £500k, we understood that a full annual audit would be required.

This has been a concern for a number of charities and with fewer accountants doing audit work in the charitable sector, the best quote we were able to obtain was £12k including VAT from the firm that audit the Scouts Scotland accounts.

Thankfully John Kitson referred me to a firm in Glasgow who highlighted a clause in the OSCR regulations that indicated that monies collected on behalf of a 3rd party do not count towards the £500k limit. This includes membership fees and the Jamboree payments where we collect on behalf of Scouts Scotland and rather than a full audit we can continue with an Independent Examination.

Rather than a £12k audit fee we are now looking at a cost of £2.5k. What this does highlight is how fortunate we have been previously in having had Anne O'Hagan carry out this work on an ex gratia basis.

The financial statement shows overall income of £667k, expenditure of £613k resulting in a net surplus of £54k. This however gives a slightly confusing view of the position due to the timing of income and expenditure associated with the Jamboree and the trip to Nepal.

Jamboree income exceeded expenditure by £17k and Nepal income exceeded expenditure by £42.5k.

Excluding these trips, the financial position for the Region shows a small net deficit of £4.5k

The financial position at Lapwing Lodge remains very strong. 2022/23 saw an operating profit of £40k although the cost of repairing the dam at £44k resulted in a net cash outflow for the year of £4k as the grant income to support this project had been received in the previous financial year. This strong trading position has continued into the 23/24 year and thanks are due to Ross, Hilary and the many volunteers who support the centre.

The income and expenditure of the region showed a break-even position and overall reserves on the Region's balance sheet as the end of the financial year remain in a healthy position

4 Election of Regional President

At this point in proceedings, the Regional Chair took over and asked Council to consider the proposal that Mr Bill McCallum continue as Regional President for 2023/2024

Approved by all

Regional President then resumed presiding the meeting.

5. Election of Regional Chairman

Regional President asked Council to consider the proposal that Mr Donald Gordon continue as Regional Chair for 2023/2024.

Approved by Council.

6. Election of Regional Treasurer Nomination of Mr Eric Richardson CA for 2023/2024

Approved by Council.

7. Election of Regional Secretary Nomination of Mrs Maureen Murdoch for 2023/2024

Approved by Council.

8. Election of Honorary Vice Presidents of the Regional Scout Council

**Mr Ian Banner
Mr John Hawthorn
Ms Jane Macleod
Ms Jill Young MBE
Colonel Peter McCarthy**

Approved by all

9. Nominations for election to Executive Committee

The following are elected to serve as members of Regional Executive Committee for 2023/2024

Tommy Boag, Beth Aitken, Brian Donaldson, Jack Winch, Stephen Barbour, Claire Somerville

10. Regional Commissioner's nominations to Regional Executive Committee

Jim Sneddon

Approved by all

11. ACTING REGIONAL COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

As mentioned by Bill during his opening remarks I have been appointed as Acting Regional Commissioner while Ian Hunter is recuperating from his major operation

I am delighted to report that West Region has enjoyed another year very successful year.

The Region has performed well as Scouting continues to recover from Covid and last year increased its total membership by 2.2% to a combined figure of 4900. This compares to a pre-Covid high of 5625. I am confident our numbers will continue to increase over the coming years.

Our 6 Districts have all had a productive year. This year has seen a return to more traditional District activities and events. The Regional Commissioner thoroughly enjoyed visiting many of these events and engaging with the local leaders and young people.

The Regionally administered Group at Kilpatrick School has had a year of transition and has grown from strength to strength. The Group will now settle in Dunbartonshire District going forward.

I would like to express my gratitude to all the members of both the Regional Team and the team here at Lapwing who have served the Region well during the last year. I would particularly like to highlight the dedication and Leadership of our District Commissioners.

Argyll – Anne Smart
Dunbartonshire – Barbara McDonald
Greenock & District – Martin Buchan
Paisley & District – Colin Bell (to August) now Acting DC Graham Reid
Renfrewshire – was vacant and now Acting DC David Blair

The Region was delighted to be able to offer the young people international Scouting this year. Under the leadership of Stephen Allan and Stuart Wilson, a party of Explorers and Networkers visited Nepal. Following extensive training, specific projects were arranged for the young people, and these were all completed. The feedback from the young people has been excellent and significant and thanks are due to the whole leadership team.

The World Jamboree also took place this year in South Korea. The camp did not exactly go to plan, but the young people all enjoyed the experience and the international adventure. Thanks go to the tour Leaders of our Joint Unit shared with South West Region.

We all noted with sadness, the passing of Her Late Majesty the Queen. This was a unique time for the country and Scouts played their part in this national occasion. Paul Burns from Greenock and District was selected to participate in the lying in state arrangements while Network members from both Dunbartonshire and Greenock and District assisted in the Coronation of King Charles. These memories will last a lifetime.

The Region is run by many volunteers and my thanks go to all of them as well as the thanks of the young people they lead giving them both exciting programmes and skills for life.

12. Nominations to Council of the Scout Association

Nominated member - Mr Donald Gordon
Youth representative - vacant

Regional Commissioner was given approval by Council to appoint Youth Representative during 2021/2022

13. Nomination of Independent Examiner

The Independent Examiner of the Region's Accounts was thanked for the work on the Accounts in line with OSCR requirements and approval was given by all to the proposal that McMillan Craig be appointed as the Region's independent examiner for 2023/2024.

14. Commissioners' Commendations were awarded to Pat and David Woodrow for their continuing support and friendship to John Hawthorn, Honorary Vice President, who is now in a care home in Greenock.

At the end of AGM excellent presentations were given by the young people who attended :

1. St George's Day Parade at Windsor Castle in April
2. Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III and Queen Camilla in May
3. West Region trip to Nepal in July
4. 25th World Jamboree, South Korea in August

There being no further business the meeting was closed.