

Minutes of the 2025-2026 Annual General Meeting of the Leander Sea Scout Group

Monday 5 October 2026, 7 pm (meeting held in person at Group HQ)

Present:

Neil Bennett, Robin Burr, Russell Constable, Penny D'Souza, Helen Farrell, Steve Hall, Andrew Jackson, Martin Jung (Royal Kingston Scouts District), Cathy Johnson (online), Scarlet Moss, Eli Pullen, Fiona Pullen, Laura Pullen, Tim Pullen (Group Lead Volunteer), Sarah Raoufian (online), John Roscoe (online), Nick Shippin, Samantha Sing, Martin Snodgrass, Chris Stone.

1. **Welcome:** The Chairman warmly welcomed all those attending.

2. **Apologies:** None received

3. Governance Topics

Minutes of the 2024/25 AGM: Accepted unanimously as an accurate record of the meeting

Proposed: Russell Constable

Seconded: Martin Snodgrass

Adopt Model Constitution from POR

Proposed: Andrew Jackson

Seconded: Penny D'Souza

Unanimously adopted

Agree Financial Year End

The meeting noted that the year end will continue to be 31 March.

Agree Meeting requirements

The AGM requires at least 10 attendees

Trustee Board between 5 and 12 Trustees

Over half of Trustees must be present (in person or online) for a Trustee Board meeting

Agreed unanimously

4. Review of the Previous Year

GLV Review

Programme & Adventures

We enjoyed a fantastic range of outdoor activities and residential experiences across all age groups. A particular highlight was our Sailing Camp in June, which brought 43 members together from our sections from Cubs through to Explorers. It was fantastic to see the sections working together, from travelling down to Dorset and setting up camp to getting out on the water at Portland. This also provided unique water-based experiences that we cannot offer at our regular meeting site. We are immensely grateful for the generous donation from Bob Shackleton, which helped make this possible.

Our Scouts and Explorers joined forces for our traditional Summer Camp, this time in the New Forest. Despite the heatwave preventing our usual campfires, the participants still

had a great week. Earlier in the year, our Scouts and Cubs both attended the District Permit Camp in March. This gave two of our leaders valuable support and practical experience in delivering residential.

Our Beavers enjoyed a great day camp at Walton Firs this summer and a sleepover at Legoland last summer. This included a programming workshop, plenty of time to explore the park and rides, and, despite some wet weather, lots of smiling Beavers! Given the greater complexity of providing residential experiences for the Beaver age group, we are particularly grateful to the Beaver Team for continuing to deliver these opportunities and are keen to support them going forward.

Leader Training & Activity Permits

Providing safe, adventurous opportunities requires a huge commitment from our adult volunteers, who have invested a tremendous amount of time and effort to earn and maintain their activity permits. As Sea Scouts, we are particularly dependent on our water activity permit holders to deliver our summer programme.

This year, our volunteers gained the following permits:

Hillwalking: 1 new permit - *Martin*, the Group's first Hillwalking Permit

Nights Away: 1 new permit (*Martin*), 1 renewal

Kayaking: 5 new permits (*John, Stephen, Eamon, Ben R, Ell*) and 4 renewals

Pulling (Rowing): 4 new permits (*Helen, Richard M, Ben B, Peter*) and 3 renewals

Powerboating: 1 new permit (*Samantha*) and 5 renewals

To support this ongoing development, we successfully hosted Paddle UK Paddlesport Safety and Rescue (PSR) and Paddlesport Instructor (PI) courses internally, with plans to continue running these next year. The Group remains fully committed to supporting our leaders by subsidising course costs and assisting with training logistics wherever possible.

Volunteers & Section Teams

While adult recruitment remains an ongoing challenge across the Group, the move towards stronger section teams is progressing well. Spreading responsibilities across team roles is helping to take the weight off individual leaders, share the workload more evenly, and build section teams that are sustainable for the future.

Running our organisation, building and facilities also involves a great deal of work behind the scenes, particularly in meeting our legal and compliance responsibilities. A big thank you to our Chair, Treasurer and the other Trustees for all their essential work over the past year.

Our weekly meetings, both on and off the water, continue to form the core of our Scouting delivery. I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to all of our leaders and assistant volunteers for their dedication in delivering such a varied, creative and engaging programme throughout the year.

Ultimately, all of this work enables us to continue offering our young people a safe, varied and adventurous programme throughout the year. As we look ahead, our priorities remain supporting and developing our volunteer teams, maintaining a strong programme, and ensuring that as many young people as possible can benefit from the opportunities that Scouting at Leander provides. Thank you to everyone who has contributed their time, skills and support to the Group over the past year

Andrew added his thanks to Ell, Scarlett and Laura for all their help with water activities.

5. Trustees Report:

Andrew presented the report and highlighted that our finances continue to be strong and that we have learned a great deal about safeguarding over the past year.

We continue to maintain a substantial fleet of boats and Andrew thanked Robin, Russ and Chris for their work on maintaining them and ensuring they are safe.

The report will be submitted to the Charity Commission and posted on the Leander website.

6. Financial Reports

In presenting his report, Paul reminded the meeting that there is some distortion in that funds raised for an activity (e.g. a camp) are then spent in the following financial year.

He highlighted that we lost a major hirer of HQ which reduced our annual income by around £5,000, which we will cover by an increase in subs.

We need money in reserve to refurbish the galley and also for major repairs to one of the gigs.

Generally, we need between £15K and £20K each year to meet our obligations to the Scout Association and to maintain the building, without any activities.

The meeting noted that it would be helpful to communicate this to parents, to explain why the subs are going up.

Paul asked that activity budgets from GLT be forwarded to him, so he and the Trustee Board know what to expect.

Andrew then stood down as Chair.

We propose that we appoint trustees for a three-year term, to be discussed at the next Trustee Board meeting.

7. Group Lead Volunteer nomination of Chair

Tim proposed that Andrew be appointed Chair for a three-year term seconded by Samantha and the meeting approved.

8. Appointment of Treasurer

Andrew nominated Paul Lomas Clarke as Treasurer for a three-year term and the meeting approved.

9. Appointed members of the Trustee Board

Andrew proposed Cathy Johnson, Samantha Sing, Russell Constable, Robin Burr, Penny D'Souza and Eleanor Pullen. The meeting approved their appointment for a three-year term. Tim as GLV is an ex-officio Trustee.

10. Approval of Independent Examiner of Accounts

Russ proposed that Edward Warens FCA be retained in this role, Penny seconded this motion. Carried unanimously.

11. Any other Business

Martin Jung on behalf of District thanked all the volunteers and the Trustee Board for their work in creating meaningful and safe activities, and to parents and carers for entrusting their children to us.

A question was asked from the floor about whether there will be another sailing camp, and the GLV responded that there will be.

12. Close of meeting

Andrew thanked all attendees and closed the meeting at 19.45 pm.