



Rosyth District Scouts

Annual Report

1st April 2019 – 31st March 2020





District Chair – Sheena Gilbert

As I write this report, Scouting has had an unusual six months due to the outbreak of Covid-19, which has affected all aspects of Scouting. It has been quite challenging and we have all learned new technology and alternative methods of delivery including delivering this year's AGM by Zoom. However the year under report, thankfully, was another really positive year for Rosyth Scouts.

I have had the privilege of attending many group AGM's and other meetings and to see the enthusiasm and sheer joy of young people learning new skills, enjoying themselves with other people and receiving awards that has given me many memories I will always treasure.

The District's finances are now on a sound footing following the work of our District Executive's Finance Sub-Committee to establish an annual budget and an appropriate District Levy that meets that budget. You will see from our financial statement later in this report that our levy income increased by 60%. By aiming for a breakeven budget, we will be able to turn our attention to how we may responsibly use some of our reserves.

At our last Annual General Meeting, we elected a new Treasurer and I would like to thank Karen Armour and our Assistant Treasurer, Anne Field for providing regular easy to understand financial updates, preparing our annual accounts for this meeting and onward submission to OSCR on our behalf.

We owe a debt of gratitude to the Inch Scout Active Support who continues to raise funds for the District. A review of the Financial Statement for 2019-2020 shows that the District has made a small loss this year, which was anticipated and is a reflection of the expenditure associated with our District trip to Holland in April 2019 and subsequent income received for our planned trip to Austria in 2021.

Looking forward, we may have some challenges for the trip to Austria as a result of the current Coronavirus

pandemic and we are keeping that under review. With the trip being underwritten by the District, we have a potential loss of deposits if the trip cannot go ahead but thanks to the financial health of the District, we will be able to weather that storm.

Our Appointments Secretary continues to process new and existing member PVG Forms and this year has been particularly busy thanks to it being the end of a five year cycle where many existing members have required an update. Our Appointments Committee are meeting the demand for meeting new volunteers however we would be grateful if a few more adults felt able to join our committee to ensure this valuable and essential commitment is carried out. We are especially looking for more women and those aged 18-25 to help make our committee representative of our membership. Huge thanks to Eric Ross, Elaine Pert and the committee for their hard work.

Thanks to all of the group representatives, office bearers and other trustees who make up the District Executive and give of their time so generously. As intimated last year, I intend to stand down as Chair this year following three years in post. Due to the pandemic, we have not been able to recruit a successor so I will continue in the role for a short while longer. We hope to appoint a successor shortly after this meeting. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone on the Executive for their support during the last three years.

Finally, I would like to thank our District Commissioner, Terry O'Neill and our President, Graham Bennett for their support and invaluable help. I would also like to thank my dear husband and temporary secretary for all his support too as he will also be stepping down from his position, I could not have managed the last year without him! I wish Rosyth District all the best in the future and will be keeping up with all our friends made over the years by being a member of the Inch Scout Active Support Unit.





District Commissioner – Terry O'Neill

Writing this report six months into what has undoubtedly been the most challenging time that Scouting has had in many years, it is easy to forget that we actually had yet another brilliant twelve months for the financial year we are reporting on. I have enjoyed writing this report as it has reinforced everything that is great about Scouting! None of it would be possible without our hugely dedicated team of volunteers offering amazing opportunities to our young people.

We have Scout Groups in all of our towns and villages including a brand new Beaver Scout Colony at our 1st Fordell Firs Scout Group, which opened in October 2019. With this addition, our membership grew to 753, of which 209 were adults. That is more young people and more adults enjoying the adventure of Scouting!

Our year began with an action packed international experience for our Scouts as we travelled to a Scout Centre in Delft, The Netherlands. This was a perfect location allowing us to explore Amsterdam, The Hague, Delft and Rotterdam. We had canal cruises, ate Dutch pancakes, tried bouldering, visited windmills, explored narrow streets and visited numerous visitor attractions including Madam Tassauds, Madurodam and the Euromast. Hopefully we've given the Scouts a taste of international trips that they'll want to continue.

Also in April, we had our District Camp, which was the most co-ordinated it has ever been with young people and adults mixed up taking part in a wide range of activities and a brilliant evening carnival (even if it was raining hard!). May was our District 'Totem' Camping Competition, which had a great turn out and the winners were 48th Fife (Donibristle) Scout Troop who went on to represent us at the National Finals finishing fourth.

Our District Beaver Scout Challenge had three Colonies claim the trophy after sharing the top spot. These were 41st Fife, 68th Fife and 77th Fife. We are still trying to prise their hands from the trophy! In other trophy news, 41st Beavers, 48th Fife (St Bridgets) Cubs, 1st Fordell Scouts and Woodside Explorer Scouts won the respective ten pin bowling competitions whilst 77th Fife had a clean sweep (all four Sections) for the archery competition. The District Woolmer Trophy for Scouting Skills was won by the 48th Fife (Donibristle) Scouts.

Explorer Scouts held the inaugural Explorer Scout competition aiming to win the Bull Trophy, named after the late

Alan Bull, a former Rosyth Scouts' District Commissioner. It featured escape rooms, gameshow challenges and inflatable races. The winner was Merlin Explorer Scout Unit.

Not a competition as such but thoroughly worthy of a trophy is our Group Scout Leader at 13th Fife Scout Group, Martin Rogers who was chosen as Fife Voluntary Action's Volunteer of the Year 2019 at a ceremony held in June 2019. Bearing witness to the other individuals and organisations who received awards that night demonstrates just how valuable Martin's commitment to Scouting is. Not to be outdone, Young Leader, Morgan Macgregor was recognised in August 2019 as Kingdom FM's Local Hero Volunteer of the Year recognising her volunteering with 41st Fife Cub Scout Pack as well as Police Scotland Youth Volunteers. Also not to be outdone is Assistant District Commissioner, Claire Fernie, who was chosen by our District Panel as the recipient of the District Quaich for Outstanding Services to Scouting.



As a District, we continue to invest in our adult volunteers and their ability to offer the best programmes. We funded ten adults to undertake training and assessment in artificial climbing walls, eight to complete British Canoeing Foundation Safety and Rescue and six to go for the Paddlesport Instructor qualification. Our District was also very well represented at Scouts Scotland's ScoutFest and the Outdoor and Adventure Conference at Scout Adventures Lochgoilhead.

In the summer, our 48th Fife Scout Group celebrated their 50th anniversary with an international adventure, also in The Netherlands, but at the other side. They had a brilliant time camping, exploring local towns and enjoying adventurous activities. Many memories were made!



Our efforts to support others within and outwith our communities continues as we undertake initiatives to support charities including RNLI, Maggie's, Trussell Trust, Marine Conservation Scotland, Social Bite, British Red Cross, Fife Young Carers, and Barnardos and to reach out to young people outside of Scouting including families from Dunfermline Mosque who joined us for an evening of archery. However our most striking outreach was providing the volunteers to enable pupils from Woodmill High School DAS to enjoy a day of adventure following the devastating fire at their school.

This varied and high quality programme ensures that our young people continue to make great progress towards badges and awards. A full list of award recipients will be published on our top award banner as has become a recent tradition.

Our adults and young leaders also access leadership training. Ten Young Leaders began their leadership journey attending a leadership weekend at Jock Neish Centre provided by East Scotland Region. They will put this learning into practice supporting our Beavers, Cubs and Scouts at their weekly meetings, camps and residential activities. Our adults continue to attend training events and then through validation, achieve their Wood Badges. Nine adult leaders have completed the Wood Badge for their role this year. Several of our Managers and Supporters have also been attending training for their roles, which is delivered by Scouts Scotland. We are expecting a few of these Wood Badges to appear very soon too.

Our District is very fortunate to have an active Scout Active Support Unit made up of leaders who want to offer a little bit more but also other adults who can offer a little and really appreciate the flexible nature of being a Scout Active Support Member. They are a lifeline to the finances of the District and through various initiatives – most recently marshalling races – they have brought income to the District that has enabled us to remain as active and forward looking as we are. This is a brilliant team of adults, who also like to socialise and are very open to new adults who would like to help Scouting.

We ended our year with a group of leaders carrying out a recce of a resort in Austria where we hope to take a group of Explorer Scouts and Scout Network in April 2021. It turns out that trip would be the last face to face activity for Scouting before it was suspended whilst the country responds to the outbreak of Coronavirus. We can now only hope the actual trip – if we are able to proceed - will become a celebration that life has returned to some normality.





AWARDS FOR ADULT TRAINING & GOOD SERVICE

Wood Badges (which take the form of beads) are the insignia that is presented to and worn by adult volunteers who have committed to the training programme provided by The Scout Association.

Awards including Chief Scout Commendation, Award for Merit, Silver Acorn and Silver Wolf are presented to adult volunteers in recognition of good service to Scouting that deserves more than length of service awards.

WOOD BADGES

Lianne Miller	1 st Fordell Firs Scout Group
Gary Dewar	1 st Fordell Firs Scout Group
Suzie Wilson	1 st Fordell Firs Scout Group
Chloe Knight	13 th Fife Scout Group
Zara Cook	41 st Fife Scout Group
Darren King	41 st Fife Scout Group
Martin Docherty	48 th Fife Scout Group
Janine Snape	77 th Fife Scout Group
David Kennedy	Phoenix Explorer Scout Unit

DISTRICT QUAICH

Claire Fernie	77 th Fife Scout Group
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AWARD FOR MERIT

FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE

Melanie Williams
District Scout Network Commissioner

SILVER WOLF AWARD

FOR SERVICES OF THE MOST EXCEPTIONAL
CHARACTER

Elaine Pert
District Appointments Secretary