
Student Scout and Guide Organisation

SSAGO Annual General Meeting **25th February 2001, Cardiff Rally**

Meeting opened at 10:20 ish

1. 1. Introduction

Alistair Hutchinson	Chair
Caroline Banks	Secretary
Keira Stoble	Members Officer
Paul Teulon	Treasurer
Diccon Booth	Publicity Officer

Bath	Cardiff	Bristol	Leeds	Nottingham
	Cambridge			
Loughborough		Durham	Southampton	
	Tyne Link			
Warwick	Leicester	Birmingham	Aberystwyth	Liverpool
	Coventry			
Manchester	Sheffield			

Jo Hobbs Guide Association

Indie Members

Associate Members

Counters - *David Rafferty, Tom Martin*

2. 2. Apologies

Oxford Herriott-Watt

3. 3. Minutes of last meeting

Proposed as a true record of the previous meeting by Emma Burbridge of Cardiff and seconded by Simon Andrews of Loughborough.

12 abstentions
0 against

Minutes passed.

4. 4. Officers Reports

Chair

I am sorry to say this but I cannot say that I have achieved what I aimed this year. My main objective was to rewrite the constitution and pass it at this AGM. Although I believe that I now have a basis of a good document, there are a few problems with it and therefore I feel it would be unwise to put it through at this AGM. I will now aim to have it finished by the committee hand over meeting in April and ready for ratification at an EGM in the summer.

Constitution aside I would like to thank greatly the rest of the committee. They have done their jobs superbly. This has not left me a great deal to do other than to co-ordinate the other goings on. I would like to thank my Mum, Dad, (Cat), and dog and the rest of the committee and all the hard work they have put in.

Secretary

AGM time again and hasn't the year gone fast? I have graduated, been on a well-deserved holiday and started work as well as participating in SSAGO.

During my year as Secretary I have achieved all but one of my aims. The Secretary folders are now streamlined and self-explanatory – so that the next Secretary should be able to take over without any problems at all. As much correspondence as possible now takes place via email – to cut costs and speed up response time. The confusion between the Member's Secretary and the Admin Secretary has now been resolved and new names for the positions accompanied the changes.

I was going to say that Reps meetings are now shorter, but after yesterday I am not sure that I can! However, all clubs are reminded that club reports must be submitted in writing before the meeting. These reports are then distributed with the minutes rather than having each rep read them out during the meeting.

A new SSAGO leaflet to be distributed to A-Level age people in the summer is well on the way towards being printed and we thank the Guide Association for all their help with this.

The only thing I had hoped to do and have not managed is to chase up people at universities where clubs have existed in recent years but now seem to have died. So I leave that as a challenge for the new Secretary.

I thank all of the committee for making this year such a memorable experience and wish the new committee Good Luck and Good Fun.

Treasurer

Due to financial complications in the previous period, it became necessary to alter the organisations financial year-end from 26th of February to 6th April. The implication of

which is that there are no accounts to be agreed at this AGM, as the accounts for the 1999/2000 were agreed at the SGM at the summer rally in Cambridge.

This report is therefore simply a description of the current financial position as of Tuesday 20th February 2001.

Girobank Current Account	£1188.42
Girobank Savings Account	£3500.00
Alliance and Leicester	£ 126.59
Loan to Durham Rally	£ 200.00
Loan to Cardiff Rally	£ 300.00
Merchandise Stocks	£ 295.00
Total	£5610.01

This confirms the sound financial position of the organisation. I do not foresee any situations, which would significantly affect the financial position in a negative way within the current financial year.

The changes made to the payment of rallies has not had a negative impact on the financial position. However, I do hope that they have helped the organisers of the rallies including the increase in the SSAGO loan from £200 to £300.

The changes made to the membership fees have had an affect in terms of the number of members, but not in terms of the absolute value. This hopefully provides a more realistic interpretation of the true number of active members within our member clubs, which is extremely important in terms of insurance purposes.

I am still in regular contact with the previous committee. I am still trying with their help to close the Alliance and Leicester account. The funds from which will be transferred to the Girobank current account in due course.

The only issue that I have currently identified as possibly affecting the financial position of the club is insurance. If we do become a formal part of the Scout Network section, then our current insurance policy (at £1.25 pp) may no longer be offered by the Scout Association, who require us at some point to pay full Scout capitation. This issue has already been raised by the current committee who are in communication with the SA.

Many thanks to all those who helped me during the course of my year as treasurer to ensure that our organisation has a secure financial future.

Members Officer

This has seemed an incredibly busy year, but has also been very rewarding as well as challenging and I have really enjoyed all of it.

Like every new committee we started off the year sorting out and organizing, so the Secretary and Members Officer had well defined and separate jobs. To try and ease

the situation for myself and future Officers I have written a calendar of instructions for the role.

My main job this year has been answering all the membership queries received. I'm both delighted and horrified by the volume of these, which has required me to implement a new record system so I can also put people in touch when necessary. I have been involved with Herriott-Watt, Lampeter and Liverpool in particular, discussing setting up new clubs and hopefully there are others in the pipeline too.

The other primary task has been registration of all clubs and Indies. To ensure we get all the necessary information, and to hopefully make filling in the forms simpler, I have changed the format slightly this year, which has certainly made my job easier, though a lot of nagging is still required. The address lists have been updated for this year and should have been distributed to all clubs. I have also been looking at past membership details to get some idea of the current position of SSAGO, and recent trends.

Two editions of SSAGO news have been produced, and I have revised and updated 'How to Run a Rally' Guide, which is currently being reviewed by other past rally organizers, but should, hopefully, be available by the end of this term.

I have represented SSAGO at the Gilwell Reunion Weekend and a recent Activities workshop. The Gilwell Weekend was a new venture for SSAGO, and an excellent publicity opportunity for us. We talked to many people across the whole spectrum of Scouting, and definitely raised our profile considerably, as well as meeting many interesting people. It certainly proved there are a lot of ex-SSAGO people around!

Finally I would like to thank the committee for all their support and humour throughout the year, which was usually required in equal measures, and to wish a profitable year to those taking over.

Publicity Officer

It has been a busy year. I have attended the senior section weekend at Bronieron House in Wales, I hope that I managed to raise the profile at that level within Wales.

The largest job has been to maintain the web site and the mailing lists. I think I have done a reasonable job on the mailing lists and the web site now has far more useful resources than it did have. There are now also a number of web submittable forms, which will hopefully speed up the transfer of information from clubs to committee.

I have also sent out an email on the Scoutbase mailing list, which had a very positive response and generated a lot of enquiries. We are also now listed on SID (Scout Internet Directory). There is still a lot to do with this but I only got administrator rights this week.

5. 5. Officer Elections

Chair

Pam from Cambridge (also SSAGO Treasurer this year)

Nominated by Liz from Manchester

Seconded by Barry from Loughborough

Liz

I think Pam would make a good Chair. I also believe that continuity between committees is important and Pam would offer this. Plus he is a 'Leader of Men'.

Barry

Pam has been around Ali so knows what he is supposed to do as Chair. He also acts dedicated, or it could just be stupid!

Pam

I also feel that continuity is important. Last year we were all new to the job and it took us a long time to figure out what we were supposed to be doing and how. Also there are a few things that I think I can help SSAGO to achieve:- the walking authorization; our position in the Scout network. SSAGO is a central hub between Guide HQ, Scout HQ and all of you. Also recruitment of new clubs is important, once you get two or three people together you never know what might start!

QUESTIONS

Phil from Southampton – “What is your favourite sweet?”

Pam – Pacers

Pam then left the room.

The votes were:-

Abstentions 0

RON 0

Pam elected as Chair unanimously. Pam re-entered the room and was commiserated on his election by Ali.

Secretary

Phil from Southampton

Nominated by Linda Gordon

Seconded by Alice Johnson

Linda

Phil has worked for several groups and has also helped to set one up. He is dedicated and organized and I believe he will do a good job.

Alice

Yes

Phil

I would like to get involved at National level and I believe I would do a good job. I would like to carry on the good work started by Caroline.

Liz from Manchester

Nominated by Neil Williams

Seconded by Martin Pink

Neil

Liz has been the Chair and Vice Chair at Manchester and she has always done a good job. She knows how clubs work and I think she can extend this to National level.

Martin

Liz is a brilliant person and if she can do what she did at Manchester it would be cool.

Liz

I think I would be useful on the committee. I have a good idea of how things run and you need a strong organized person at National level. Caroline has done a fantastic job this year and I look forward to carrying on her good work.

QUESTIONS

Helmet from Loughborough to both candidates – What is your weekly consumption of oral contraceptives?

Phil – That is a very interesting question and it is best left at that – suffice to say not very many.

Liz – I used to be on a packet a day but I now use a patch system.

GCS from Cambridge – Will you both still be students by this time next year?

Phil – I am a 2nd year now so yes I will be.

Liz – I will be doing a Post grad course.

Liz and Phil were asked to leave the room.

An initial hand vote was too close to call so a paper ballot was held but this had to be discounted as there were more votes than people eligible to vote in the room. It was then suggested that people divided across the room.

Phil – 40

Liz – 42

Abstentions – 3

Liz was elected as Secretary. Phil and Liz re-entered the room and Liz was congratulated on her election to Secretary.

As there were no nominations for the posts of Treasurer or Members Officer it was decided to move to election of Publicity Officer and return to the other posts afterwards.

Publicity Officer

Chris Green from Cardiff

Nominated by Alison Carpenter from Cardiff

Seconded by Kathryn Dudderidge from TyneLink

Alison

Chris has been an Exec member at Cardiff for two years. He is very hard working and dedicated as well as a good laugh. He has maintained our web site, revamped the Freshers Pack, done the newsletter and was voted best Society Member of the Year by the SU.

Kathryn

I have nothing to add.

Chris

It was good to see a stall at Gilwell and I would like to improve the photos for this stall. I would like to recover the noticeboards from the Guide Association that went missing some years ago. I would also like to get more articles in Guiding and Scouting magazines.

QUESTIONS

Thomas Lafferty from Loughborough – What do you think of rhododendrons in a south facing border?

Chris – Lovely

Pam – Will you be a student for the whole of this year?

Chris – I will be graduating this year.

Thomas – Will you be going off shore?

Chris – No.

Chris was then asked to leave the room.

Abstentions – 1

RON – 0

Chris – All others

Chris was invited back into the room and congratulated on his appointment as Publicity Officer.

Ali then appealed for people to consider standing for Treasurer. Eventually Martin Wheelan from Loughborough agreed to stand.

Proposed by Pam

Seconded by Barry from Loughborough

Pam

I don't want the job any more.

Barry

I know he will be dedicated.

Martin

I have done a lot of work with the Scout Association and other youth organizations. I have 12 –15 years experience.

QUESTIONS

Nicky Baker from Bristol – Can you add up?

Martin – Yes.

Phil from Southampton – Will you run away?

Martin – I am not planning to.

Neil – If you buy a 23p item with a £1 coin how much change do you get?

Martin – 77p

Martin was asked to leave the room.

Abstentions - 0

RON – 0

Martin – All others

Martin was welcomed back into the room and congratulated on his position as Treasurer.

Members Officer

Phil Cole offered to stand for Members Officer

Proposed by Linda from Warwick

Seconded by Simon Parr from Loughborough

Phil was asked to close his eyes whilst we held a vote by show of hands.

Abstentions – 0

RON – 0

Phil – All others

Phil and the rest of the successful nominees were congratulated.

6. 6. Accounts

The accounts were passed at the EGM last summer so the next accounts will be passed at the next AGM.

7. 7. Constitutional Changes

Ali

We spoke about the changes in some depth with your reps yesterday and I ask you all to talk them about what is happening and what is proposed. Does anyone have any points to raise now?

There was no response to this.

Alice from Bristol – Is the proposed new version on the web page?

Diccon – Yes

Ali

Please send comments by email as soon as possible and by the end of March at the latest.

8. 8. Possible Amendments to Scout Walking Rules

Keira

On behalf of SSAGO, I attended a recent Activities Briefing regarding the change in hillwalking regulations, which will affect any club that goes walking in the hills, or and members who take their groups walking.

The new rules should be clearer, and there are now 2 levels of authorisation, both based on national governing body award standards. I just intend to summarise the main points here, but I do have a copy of the fact sheets available if anyone requires greater detail.

As ever, leading means authorised to lead a single party, and the party leader must be with, or in close proximity to, the party at all times. Leaders can also supervise, but no more than 3 parties at one time, and someone in each group must become a designated leader. A party still consists of at least 4 but no more than 7 people.

There are now 3 types of terrain, and if any one of the criteria is met, then the terrain is judged to be of that level:

Terrain Zero : under 500m
under 30 mins from help
No scrambling
summer conditions

No authorisation required, but rule 37.1 still applies, stating the leader needs suitable training for the activity. With the new modular training hopefully hiking skills will be included in adult leadership training. Local approval is also likely to be needed.

Terrain 1 : over 500m but less than 800m
more than 30 mins but less than 3 hrs from help
no scrambling

DC authorisation assessed to Walking Group Leader award standard, which is available for summer only. First response first aid is also required.

Terrain 2 : Over 800m
Over 3 hrs from help
Some scrambling

DC authorisation assessed to mountain Leader Award standard, available as both a summer and winter qualification. Full first aid qualification also required.

Overseas : Currently to be judged individually.

Timetable

1st march 2001 revised arrangements come into force. Existing authorisations may only be exercised at the current level or at the level implied under the new revised arrangement, whichever is lower.

31st December 2002 all existing qualifications invalid.

1st January 2004 all seeking authorisation must (at least) have attended the relevant formal training course, or been exempted.

There are similar arrangements for assessor qualifications, again, I have more details as well as information on some funding assistance for training.

Pete from Leicester – Will SSAGO be providing us with training or will we get that from local DC or National level?

Keira – The Programme Review will decide this and the people at the meeting to be held in June will be better placed to answer this question.

Pam – Counties will be setting up training but there will be training at National level as well. At the moment we do not foresee SSAGO organising training for clubs.

Ali – If you want to know more about the changes please speak to Keira and Pam after the meeting.

9. 9. Publicity Leaflet

Caroline

I shall say a few words but Jo Hobbs may also like to add something afterwards. We had the idea of putting together a leaflet to send out to people who are about to go to university so aimed at Guides and Scouts of A-Level age and we want to send it to as many of them as possible. We have proposed to have an A4 sheet folded in three which will contain a description of what SSAGO is, what we do, pictures. We have tried to cut down the amount of writing that it contains so that people will actually look at it and there will also be contacts for SSAGO as well as a map to show where to find SSAGO groups. A description of the Indie membership will also be included so that they will realise that there are ways to get involved even if they cannot find a group. This should encourage even more people to come and find you at Freshers Fayres.

The Guide Association have very kindly offered to pay for this leaflet for us, which is down to Jo so a round of applause for Jo.

Applause

Jo

It is not going to be a big print run at this stage, only about 3000 to start with to see if this is what is needed. We can see how it is received and then take it from there.

Caroline

I would just like to add that we are going to ask the Scout Association, now that we have a permanent contact at the Scout Association, if they would like to contribute to the cost to share the cost between the two associations.

10. 10. Forthcoming Events

Rally Bids

Spring 2002

Birmingham has put in a bid.

We have our site organised. The rally will have a gangster theme. There is a room on site for the AGM and no it is not a dry site.

Abstentions – 0

RON – 1

Birmingham – All Others

Birmingham will host the Spring Rally in 2002.

Summer 2002

Nottingham has put in a bid.

It is the 50th Anniversary of SNoGS so we would like to have a reunion rally. We will have use of the Students Union and the campsite will be just across the road on the sports field, where we held it last time. We invite old members from all clubs, as we want this to be a huge reunion. The theme will be the 50s as this is when our club was started.

Pam – Do you see any insurance problems with people who will not be covered under SSAGO insurance?

No. We are ready to cope with all the people who turn up and expect that a lot of people may decide to come just for a meal on the Saturday evening and not stay for the rest.

Ali – I can see Pam's point. I think the idea of Nottingham having the summer rally is excellent and these points should be ironed out after this meeting!

Abstentions – 1

RON – 1

Nottingham – All others

Nottingham will host the summer rally in 2002.

Autumn 2002

There were no bids for this rally so it has been left open until the summer.

Raff plugged the Sweetie Rally that is being held this summer.

Si Jerram plugged the Alternative Rally.

11. 11. Any Other Business

Tom proposed a Vote of Thanks to the outgoing committee.

Applause

Pam encouraged everyone to buy stuff.

The meeting was closed at 11:45