



**Student Scout and Guide Organisation
Executive Committee Meeting
'Black County' Rally, Rhydd Covert Campsite, Kidderminster
20th February 2009
11.20pm**

Present:

Darren Clowes (DC)
Emma Dean (ED)
Mat Lewis (ML)
Paul Thompson (PT)
Heather Coupe (HC)

Chairperson
Secretary
Treasurer
Members' Officer
Publicity Officer

Apologies:

GirlguidingUK
The Scout Association

Agenda

1. Approval of minutes
2. Officers' Reports
3. Financial Report
4. Any other business

Approval of Minutes: Executive Committee Meeting Minutes from 15th November accepted and signed.

Officer's Reports

Publicity Officer

Has launched the poster competition but has only had one entry-this will be emailed around to the rest of the exec.

Members' Officer

Sent more emails and letters than can be imagined! Sorted many CRBs and as over 50% of the membership is CRB'd will now eat a CRB form. Is concerned that one CRB was in the system for 7 months having been sent off in August and finally received back in February. Is disappointed not to have spent as much time as hoped helping new clubs.

Treasurer

Sorted accounts and had them audited. Sorted merchandise. Approved budgets for the ball and this rally. Has not set up the new accounts due to having the change of signatories with a new exec being voted in this weekend it wasn't worth the hassle.

Secretary

Written the minutes. Drafted a letter to county commissioners to be sent at the beginning of March. Continued to chase the Crystal Maze Rally. Written SSAGO News and compiled the club reports. Written outstanding factsheets-How to Run a Ball and Honorary Members and established that there is no need to have the minibus assessment forms anymore so has not written a factsheet about that. Has printed goodness knows how many agendas for the weekend plus the manifestos. Been interviewed for Guiding Magazine. Sorted the Returning Officer with emails (thanks to Paul for help on this) and opened elections.

Chairperson

Resolved a number of personal issues. Spoken to TSA with regard to International trips for SSAGO clubs and policy around Roverway. Liaised with Returning Officer regarding candidates. Responded to lots of emails. Received a few NAN forms.

Financial Report

Any Other Business

1. AGM

DC has sorted the ballot papers for this but will suggest a vote by show of hands. SAGGA to appoint tellers. For the Members' Officer vote DC will step down as Chair due to a conflict of interest (one candidate from SCOGUI). Chair to be handed to ED, ML to act as secretary. If votes for Chair or Treasurer candidate draw with RON then DC informed the exec he will vote RON as in this instance there is obviously concern within the membership about the suitability. Rally and Ball bids need to be with DC by 9pm tomorrow (Sat) night so as the AGM can start earlier than 10am if necessary- this to be announced at the opening ceremony and at Reps' Meeting.

2. Constitution Changes

Exec happy with these. Will be taken to Reps' Meeting for questions and for approval at the AGM

3. Crystal Maze Rally

Still no bank statements have been received. GirlguidingUK have been consulted about sending a letter to Becca, they've asked in the first instance that other signatories are approached to get reprints of the statements. Gerald has been contacted and is on to this. Ongoing problem. **ED requested that ML takes this on now and communicates with GGUK about how to take this forward.**

4. Hesley Wood

ED was informed this should be at rally but it is not. There are issues with where it may now be due to Becca having moved house. **HC to call Gemma Lawrenson as she lived in the same house.**

5. Uniform Badge

DC realised he was meant to have looked into a new uniform badge. PT was meant to look into name badges. These have not been done. **Will be passed to new exec to look into if wanted plus name badges.**

6. Essex Network Banner

DC has sent a letter to Essex Network but has not had a response. **DC to contact again to ask them to be quick about this so as it doesn't drag to the next exec. PT still to establish who was involved in damaging the banner.**

7. CRB letter

DC has drafted this as shown at last exec meeting. This needs approval from TSA and GGUK before sending out. **This will be passed to the new exec.**

8. Welsh Health Forms

It has been established that this was the Student Union being funny and the club involved is not worried about having these. TSA did not approve them!

9. Honorary Members

ED has a list of all current Honorary Members and has written a factsheet about this. Factsheet needs circulating to the exec. ED suggested that Cutlery Cup winners received Honorary Membership as part of the Cutlery cup-this to be taken to Reps' tomorrow for approval. If approved a Policy Document about the cutlery cup needs to be written. DC informs exec that Ed Wilson is no longer able to come to the ball to accept his honorary membership. ED proposed that Sally Payne, SAGGA Chairperson, be presented with Honorary Membership for all her hard work and help towards SSAGO. Discussion continued as to whether to wait until she gave up as SAGGA chair but it was felt that it may be difficult to find this out before Sunday so she would be awarded on Sunday. With reps approval Honorary Members will receive a polo shirt embroidered with their name, this to be presented to Sally at the SAGGA AGM. Cutlery Cup winners will not get the polo shirt as they are presented with the Cutlery Cup.

10. International

DC has spoken to TSA about international trips. Clubs wishing to do international trips still need to go through local Scouting, so their ACC/AAC International.

11. Roverway

For this members of GGUK go as members of GGUK. Members of TSA have it signed by their international commissioner but go as GGUK. If they belong to neither association they are stuck! TSA would not approve those who were not members of either, ie only SSAGO members. It is known that one member joined SSAGO only to go on Roverway. DC is not sure what has been sorted but this is something that GGUK and TSA have been sorting out rather than SSAGO itself.

12. CRB/DS

Paul has chased the CRBs and DS forms from Summer Rally and is mainly caught up although one was received only a couple of weeks ago. The majority of this was to do with a backlog in checks, not PT himself. The only exception is Edinburgh whose forms were lost in PT's house move. The club has been contacted and an apology accepted.

13. Banned Activities

DC to announce banned activities at AGM. PT has spoken to Leicester about this. Clubs to be picked out at reps but not at the AGM. Point out that calling an event 'This is not Laser Quest' is as good as it being Laser Quest in the eyes of GGUK.

14. Minutes

ED has scanned missing minutes for the website but not uploaded these as does not have access or knowledge of how to. **DC to show ED how to do this.**

15. Policy Documents

DC has a policy document to write on use of publicity material. POC NI has changed to A NI so the CRB policy document needs updating, DC to ask for reps approval on this tomorrow. DC to still update the policy document regarding old members.

16. Webmaster

James Knights has quit as webmaster hence why nothing has been done on this.

17. National Vetting Database

From October there will be a National Vetting Database that is being launched alongside CRB forms. SSAGO needs to follow this closely to establish how this will alter the procedure. Wait until TSA have decided their position on this before doing anything but TSA should be chased to clarify what needs doing. **New exec to ensure this is chased to try and provide info to clubs by summer rally.**

18. TUGS

PT has had a couple of conversations with TUGS who have said they want to sort out being affiliated to SSAGO. As yet PT has not received their membership form, another week will be given and then this will be passed to DC to sort

19. Returning Officer

This seems to have gone fine. Presuming there were no questions received. For consistency between minutes ED set up Returning Officer email address rather than DC due to personal issues at the time.

20. Colin Young

A verbal warning was given to Colin at the last SSAGO rally. This was meant to be followed by a written warning which never happened. It is too late now to give a written warning but he is on his last strike within SSAGO due to trouble caused.

21. Associates

These must be voted in / approved by the national exec so as we do not have too many non-student members. PT has ensured that all members requesting associate membership have a reason provided by their club.

22. SSAGOrally website

ED asked Mark Glendinning not to do much work on this incase it was changed in the near future. A decision needs to be made quickly by the next exec if this is to be developed or whether the ssago website and ssagorally will be merged.

23. Rally budgets

ML has not chased Bristol or Leeds for their rally budgets. **ML to chase these rallies.** ML points out that merchandise has been restocked and is present so the shop can be open at rally.

24. Emergency Rally Plan

ED has received this and has sat on it! This to be announced to reps / AGM that this is being sent to clubs and needs to come back in asap. It needs to be checked over and rewritten before sending out. **ED to sort emergency rally plan.**

25. Future plan for SSAGO

Membership is up by about 30 on last year although we are one club down. CRBs have doubled and there are now more members CRB's than ever before. Number of clubs is going downhill. PT asked how SSAGO could be pushed forward, how to think ahead. What can be done with the resources to help small clubs or to start up clubs? This will always be difficult to try and get new clubs going as the exec is not able to go everywhere all the time. Individuals with a drive at the university is needed. This is something that may need considering in the future although what to suggest is not known!

26. How to Run a Rally

PT still in the process of writing this. **PT to try and have this complete by handover.**

27. AGM Candidates

PT raised concern about the potential of more than 2 members of the same club being on the exec due to rumours as to who would run for the position of secretary. Perhaps it should be questioned how many people from one club should be allowed to run but that would be difficult to sort out and enforce. Possibility to consider writing something about this in the future.

Meeting Closed: 12.50am.

Next meeting: 14th March, Loughborough.