

SSAGO Full Committee Meeting

8th November 1997, Bath-Time Rally, Gloucester.

Meeting Opened 19:05

1 Introductions & Apologies:

Simon Pugsley - Chairperson
Si Jerram - Secretary
Claire Thorpe - Treasurer
Matthew Townsend - Publicity Secretary
Gavin Cox - Regional Rep NW & Midlands

SSAGO Reps:

Hugh Miller	-	Amanda Thompson	-	Rebecca Barford	-
Oxford		Portsmouth		Aberystwyth	
Lizzie Nash	-	Charlotte Bond - Bath		Kay Rigg	-
Hull		Caroline Banks - Nottingham		Birmingham	
Sally Nutt	-	Stephen Coulson	-	Paul Bellamy	- Loughborough
Sheffield		Exeter		Vincente Sera	-
Elizabeth Johnson	-	Jamie Hirst	-	Wolverhampton	
Bristol		Manchester		Martin Pink	-
Sam Baker	-			Coventry	
Cardiff					

Apologies:

Jane Horwood	-	Indie Secretary			
Robert Townsend	-	Regional Secretary		North East & Scotland	
Chris Wall	-	Regional Secretary		South West and Wales	
Tessa Sutters	-	Elanor Aynsley	-	Tom Oldershaw	
Cambridge		Leeds		- York	
Sam Whatmore	-	Hazel Kurz	-	St.	
Durham		Andrews			

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The following amendment was requested:

That it be noted that there was general disagreement with the proposal to raise club membership fees. In addition to Martin Pink and Caroline Karl Ashford and Giles Atkinson also raised objections. Martin also stated that he did not recall the indie fee being mentioned at the Bristol meeting.

Matters Arising

In response to the query about age range changes we asked at our headquarters meeting for clarification: no section age ranges are no due to change, they are staying the same for all sections. They felt that this might have been confused with the Scout Network Field trial which is in the 18-25 age range.

At Bristol we briefed you on a problem with Imperial College Scout and Guide Club. Their webpages stated that they have nothing to do with Scouting and Guiding, this is against SSAGOs constitution. On further investigation the club seems to be a

glorified climbing club which uses to Scout and Guide name in order to make themselves different from the ICU Mountaineering club. Their programme does not provide the support for members of The Associations which should be expected from a Scout and Guide Club. We have written to them asking them to explain the situation but received a reply answering none of our questions and stating that they were covered by BCU insurance and are considering disaffiliation from SSAGO. We would prefer not to lose a long standing London club, and there are Scouts and Guides at Imperial who would love to have a proper Scout and Guide club. We have written asking what their decision was and informing them that as a College or University Society they are not allowed to use the words Scout, Guide or plurals thereof in their name without affiliating to SSAGO. If we do not receive affiliation forms from them we will assume they have disaffiliated. If they are still going under the name Scouts and Guides we will inform the legal department of The Scout Association.

3 Officers' Reports

Chairperson - Simon Pugsley

The committee training weekend mentioned at the last meeting is planned to go ahead. We recommend each club sends two to three new committee members. 11/2 day event like a mini-rally with activities on Saturday and Seminars on the Sunday. Clubs should be able to apply to their Unions for funding. Location is Birmingham. Cost is £10 including food.

Venture abroad is a company running trips for Scouts and Guides abroad. They have provided us with brochures and information. There are job opportunities running these trips which will be suitable for SSAGO members. Applications should be sent by Christmas.

Karen Perrin, our contact at The Scout Association has got married this year and is now Karen Spruyt. She has been our contact for the last 3 plus years, and although most members may not have been in contact with her, she has done a lot of work for us. I propose to send her some sort of thank you (meeting agreed to this) for all she's done for us.

Information manual is done and available for collection. The work has been done by Ed Wright from the previous exec, and the current committee. It is free to all paid up clubs and indies, the binders are financed by previous rally profits, and the photocopying arranged through contacts for free. Given the man hours put in to producing the manual, it is a very valuable document. Some additional pieces of information are to be provided in the next mail-out.

We've had correspondence on the subject of Look Wider. This is a Guide Association Scheme for 14-25 year olds which SSAGO members are entitled to take part in. We don't know any more as we haven't been provided with the information brochure. You will have been provided by a form requesting feedback, please send it in, even if you are only ticking the box saying "never heard of it" this is still feedback.

Tracey Rogers at Scout HQ has introduced us to voice for young people. It is a national scheme within Scouting which will involve getting two young people, i.e. under 25s, onto committees from group to national level. She did draw our attention to three opportunities [which were publicised in SSAGO news and have now passed

their closing dates] which did not seem particularly suitable for SSAGO members as they involved regular commitments in London mid-week.

An Open day is scheduled at Baden Powell House into the workings of Scout Headquarters. If you're in the area please go and introduce yourselves as SSAGO members. It will help you and SSAGO as a whole to make yourselves more visible. A cup of tea will be available at Simon Pugsley's afterwards (if he's in).

Someone at Leeds has written to The Scout Association complaining about the level of publicity and awareness within The Association for SSAGO and its age group. Hopefully this will prompt The Association to do more for us publicity-wise. If you have an opportunity to promote SSAGO as a whole please do so.

We are on target with the business plan. Matto has a draft copy of a new publicity poster for inspection.

Secretary - Si Jerram

Things are going OK. The Committee has been working very hard on your behalf over the past 6 months, sending info and generating interest in SSAGO and thus helping your clubs with membership levels. Has everyone read a copy of SSAGO news? I'm sending out a mail-out in the next couple of weeks so I would be grateful if you would let the members of your club see it.

I don't have club and membership numbers as club forms were only due in last weekend. Thanks to those who have registered on time and those who have contacted us to explain the delay. All clubs existing last year should have either sent the form to Claire by now complete with a full list of all your members as registered with your Union with their course year and whether they are already members of The Scout or Guide Association, or told me why they can't register just yet.

New clubs have formed at Aberystwyth, Cardiff, Cheltenham, Sheffield, Stirling, and Wolverhampton, (welcome to those members from there) with clubs in Edinburgh and Dearn Valley College in the pipeline, also students trying to start clubs at Hertfordshire, Liverpool, Middlesex, University of North London, and St. Martins College Lancaster.

Regional SSAGO is up and running with regional reps representing all regions. All of you except SW/Wales clubs should have contacted your rep and sent him a copy of your programme, if not why not, get on to it immediately. Please try and invite other members of SSAGO on your events by using the regional system. SW/Wales rep is Chris Wall whose s-mail address is on the indie list and email address is wally@area51.upsu.ac.uk . He should be getting in contact with you soon.

Contact Addresses: please let me know when these change the moment they do. Last year very few clubs filled in the change of address form, and hence some information packs have got lost in the post.

Web pages should now have up-to-date programmes, they will have a negative effect on your membership if they don't. It may take a while to design a webpage, but updating one only takes 10 minutes, (plus Union approval time if your subject to that sort of thing) so really there is no excuse for having an out of date page this late in term. If you are having difficulty in operating your webpage me Simon and Matto can help.

Treasurer - Claire Thorpe

Firstly can everyone make sure that they are sending things to my current address. Items sent to my Sunderland address have been marked "no longer at this address" and got lost in the post. My current address is in London [It will be circulated in the next mail-out] if you don't have this send things to Loughborough. I don't have easy access to e-mail, please ring me or send such queries to Si J, who will pass them on.

Balance: Current Account: £1651.96 Building society Account:
£124.87 (Unchanged)

The Current Account balance does include some of this years registration fees, but most clubs still owe these, can I have these as soon as possible, unless I have been given a good reason for delayed payment.

We have been awarded 250 shares in Alliance and Leicester, which are being held by Ed Wright on our behalf. We were due a dividend in October which Ed was to receive on our behalf. Ed is holding on to the shares for us while we are assessing our legal position regarding charity status and being subject to income tax. We may have to pay income tax on these shares but given that the shares are doing well we will still receive a tidy sum.

Rally Accounts:

No Outstanding accounts and profits at start of rally. Bristol rally accounts should have been received before this rally, they are now overdue. The rally loan has not been returned and we have been told through the grapevine that they made a small loss.

Publicity Secretary- Matthew Townsend

Sorry for not being active over the Summer for personal reasons.

The poster draft is done and ready for inspection, I'm getting someone to produce artwork from the initial draft.

I've been talking to Cotswolds the camping and outdoor equipment shop about rally sponsorship. Cotswolds sponsor many Scouting events: basically they will pay to put up a tent selling clothing and equipment, and will take orders for stock not available on site and bring it back the next day.

Individual Members' Report - not Present

Jane Can't be with us today due to having to be on a field trip. We have 23 Indie members [of which 3 are associates] and have had an Indie weekend.

Claire spoke about the Indie Members climbing weekend which she organised. This weekend took place on 17-19th October. 7 people took part, despite heavy publicity beforehand, most were associates rather than Indies. 3 out of 4 of those who took part in the last indie weekend 4 years ago were on this one. Those who attended had a relaxed enjoyable weekend, with not too much climbing as we didn't feel like it. If we are to run these activities it would be appreciated if they are supported.

Jamie Hirst asked who the weekends were for as he'd binned his form after reading no further than the word Indie. The Indie weekends are specialist weekends aimed at

Indies as they don't have a club structure to be able to organise such events, but they are all open to club members. The publicity may not have made this clear.

4. Publicity and Profile

We have had articles in Scouting, Guiding, the Community Development bulletins and a number of Scout and Guide District and County Newsletters. If you can get us an advert in your local newsletter please do. Please if you are doing anything interesting or unusual, write an article for Scouting or Guiding. Unlike the sections and the Scout Network we do not automatically get publicity in these quarters, unless we can provide an angle. By publicising SSAGO as a whole you are publicising yourselves.

5. Constitutional Amendments

Constitutional amendments have been drafted for presentation at the Spring reps meeting and passing at the AGM. These are now available for consultation. The amendments consider tidying up some small errors, clarifying our position regarding non-student associate members who may be eligible for club membership constitutionally or under union regulations. An amendment regarding the new health form procedure is also proposed.

6. Subscription Fees

These were discussed at the last meeting and the rise turned down. SSAGO cannot sustain the club subscription fees at the current level. We have to pay insurance and administration costs out of this money, and costs are rising whilst revenue is falling. Please consult your clubs over what you wish to do to rectify this situation.

7. Insurance & Activities Rules

As SSAGO clubs and members we must follow the activities rules in Scout and Guide POR. A summary of these rules is in the new information manual. As was explained at the Bristol Rally it is really important that clubs inform the SSAGO secretary of the names of any non-student members that are attending any event, not just the national and regional ones. It is also important that for any overnight club activity that health forms are filled in for all attending, and permanent addresses kept by the club secretary for a period of not less than 12 months. Please note we are not trying to restrict your clubs activities, just trying to make sure that insurance cover is maintained.

8. Club Reports

Wolverhampton: *New Club!* Got 25 members and just registered with union.
Just getting going

Loughborough: Largest registered club. Done tour-de-trigs and have lots of Scout and Guide involvement.

Birmingham: Good recruitment, minibus stolen at freshers camp, join event with Wolverhampton.

Aberystwyth: *New Club!* Scavenger hunt, 3 peaks challenge.

Manchester: Activities including Ready steady cook and helping with night hike.
Finding ways to con minibuses and rooms.

Exeter: About 30 members, run night hike, slowly making contacts.

Nottingham: Had problems with people getting Scouting contacts then not joining. Night hike, progressive meal and trying out potential rally activities. Running challenge weekend on 3rd December open to all other SSAGO clubs and members.

Portsmouth: 30 members at freshers fair, freshers weekend in Wales. Bowling Ice Skating, good links. Proposing a couple of weekends which will be open to SSAGO members.

Cardiff: 36 members, pub crawl, cinema trips, good support and many members help out.

Bath: Running Scout wide games, rally planning. Some help out with units.

Bristol: Running competitions,

Sheffield: *New club!* 20 or so members, fake wounds night plus rally

Hull: 15 or so members, many help out with units next term going OK

Oxford: 35 members, North peaks trip, lots of events, going well.

Coventry: 23 members, visit to peaks, bowling, cinema, ice skating

9. Rallies and Forthcoming Events

Spring 1998: Hull 20-22nd February Fish and Ships Theme
 Summer 1998 Nottingham, On campus, Casualty Theme, Looking for sponsorship

Autumn 1998 Manchester Working on Theme
 Nottingham are planning on sending out an activities survey before the rally, to gauge what will be popular and what can be charged. Manchester had a similar proposal with a pre-booking scheme. It was suggested that this should be carefully planned in case people pre-book expensive events with surcharging and then go on something cheap.

Spring 1999 Was booked as Guildhall & London Clubs. This is still going ahead anyway as there will be London Clubs setting up.

Bids for rallies Summer 1999-Spring 2000 will be voted on at the Spring rally AGM. Please plan your submissions and bring them to us there.

Cambridge are opening up "Wetweek" a water activities camp to all SSAGO members in September 1998. More details to follow.

10. Any Other Business

SSAGO T-Shirts and Sweatshirts are now available to order. An order form was included in the last mail-out

Please use up-to date address lists. Simon Pugsley is Chairperson and his flat is now number 24, but some people are *still* sending him mail as Secretary and to his old flat number. His preferred address is home where all mail gets forwarded during term-time.

Please keep your e-mail addresses up-to-date on the SSAGO e-mail list. E-mail su3bugs=admin@bath.ac.uk with any additions or changes.

Close of Meeting: 20:15, Next Meeting: 21st February 1997 during Hull Rally