
Student Scout and Guide Organisation

SSAGO Full Committee Meeting

25th June 2000, Cambridge Rally

Meeting opened at 09:08

1. Introduction

Alistair Hutchinson Chair

Caroline Banks Secretary

Keira Stoble Members Officer

Pam Teulon Treasurer

Jo Hobbs (*Guide Association*)

Sara Caldicott (*Bath*) Alison Carpenter (*Cardiff*) Elizabeth Johnson (*Bristol*)

Nicholas Murphy (*Leeds*) Simon Bubb (*Leeds*) Gareth Evans (*Nottingham*)

Bill Holledge (*Cambridge*) Barry Wild (*Loughborough*) Ian Wild (*Durham*)

Phil Cole (*Southampton*) Dan Smith (*Tyne Link*) Rosalyn Schaverien (*Bristol*)

Melanie Mason (*Warwick*) Peter Butler (*Leicester*) Catherine Evershed (*Birmingham*)

Kay Rigg David Rafferty Julien Pike (*Aber*)

2. Apologies

Diccon Booth Publicity Officer

3. Minutes of last meeting

Agreed as a true record of the previous meeting.

4. Matters Arising

Jo Hobbs introduced herself and said that if anyone has any problems or queries then please contact her at Guide HQ.

The date of the rally in the North is wrong. Can reps make sure that all clubs know when the rally is.

5. **Officer's Reports**

Chair

I have taken over and although not yet in full swing a very successful meeting of the new committee was held on Friday. We now understand each other and what we all hope to achieve. Over the Summer there will be a push on publicity to prospective students as well as trying to contact the Students Unions where there have previously been clubs to see if we can regain some Universities.

Secretary

Unfortunately the work for my final year has prevented me from getting started on my work sooner. However, now that I have finished Uni I will be able to carry out my duties properly. Friday managed to sort out the confusion between us as to who should be doing what work and over the Summer I hope to sort out all of the folders I have been given.

Members Officer

I have not been functioning until recently. I am now sorted and have a clear idea of what my job entails. The registration forms will be sent out in October as this will give a more accurate picture of the numbers in each group. I shall contact you for items for SSAGO news over the summer.

Publicity Officer

Diccon sent information that the web site has been his main task since taking over the position.

Treasurer

As I have a lot to say later I shall leave it until then so I don't bore you all.

Bristol Rally

We made a profit, exact details of which to follow at a later date. Most of use survived and we had a good time.

Thanks were given from the Chair to Bristol for hosting such a good rally.

6. **Club Reports**

Nottingham

A copy of the report submitted can be found at the end of the minutes.

Bath

Not done a lot since the last rally. Had a BBQ, some meetings and hope to gain more members in September.

Cardiff

Had a successful but quiet term. Beer and Skittles, a new event of boating and contacted by a Finish group who were on a cycling holiday.

Leeds

Continued as normal with a new committee. All the usual events.

Cambridge

A copy of the report submitted can be found at the end of the minutes.

Loughborough

Done quite a bit. At the C&S Presentation Evening won the 'Most Outstanding Event' for the rally. Had a Progressive Supper and Summer Camp last week in the N. Yorkshire Moors.

Southampton

We now have a group with a new committee and although there are not many of us we have been doing things. Went bowling and now we are here.

Durham

Only 1 Fresher but more are coming to stuff. Summer camp in York and despite exams have carried on. Are now organising the rally.

Tyne Link

On March 2nd held the Tyne Link Challenge for local S&G groups. 80 people turned up. Had the AGM but not a lot since then. 4 members going to Mexico Moot.

Bristol

Done loads of stuff. Had the AGM and Summer Holiday.

Warwick

Changed reps at Easter. Been bowling, had BBQ, Campfire for Scout Millennium Camp. Going camping in Coventry tomorrow.

Leicester

Not a lot. New committee ready for next term. Been climbing and on summer camp.

Birmingham

AGM and camping in Newcastle-Under-Lyme.

Aber

Member has not been there so not really sure of the activities that have taken place. No committee for next year so likely that it will fold.

7. Rally Bids

There are two dates still not confirmed for next year.

7.1 Autumn 2001

A proposition from Bath for a 'Bugs Life' rally was read to the reps. They intend to have a general Disney theme for it and hope to hold it in a school to bring it into Bath town centre. There are plenty of activities in Bath town centre so it will not be a problem. On the Saturday morning they are planning photo treasure hunt. It may put the cost up a bit holding it in a school but it will be warmer and more secure.

Several questions were asked about the rally in general and it was agreed to take the matter to the EGM.

7.2 Summer2001

There are as yet no firm bids for summer 2001, however, there have been discussion with 'The Old Gits' who seem keen to help support a rally but don't feel they should do it on their own. Leeds area are keen to organise with them so there will be further discussions between the two groups and the committee as to how it would work. Any other club who has not hosted a rally was invited to join the discussions after the meeting. The idea shall be summarised at the EGM.

8. Constitution

The amendments are not going to be discussed now but there is feeling that there are many holes within the constitution. Pam and Ali want to re-write the whole thing and make it understandable and without holes. If anyone has any views about the constitution can they please inform Ali. The draft will go out a few weeks before the Durham rally. Then, in the time between the Durham

and Cardiff rallies, further amendments will be made ready for the new version to be passed at the Conference in the spring.

Pam made the point that these changes are not just for the sake of it but that the holes are important such as not being able to get rid of the Exec Committee if they are not doing their jobs. The changes will not make a difference to individual clubs but it will provide protection for SSAGO as a whole.

Any strong views about these changes should be made before the end of this rally. After that emails should be sent over the summer to the Chair.

Kay pointed out that this should be mentioned to all club members so that everyone can have their say.

9. Accounts

Pam had circulated copies of the accounts the night before. He pointed out that the previous treasurer did not do the end of year accounts so a lot of his time had been spent trying to get the accounts in order.

There were some unexplained cheques that had not been recorded in the books and although pretty sure that they were for club registration this could not be proved at the moment.

9.1 Insurance

In relation to expenditure the insurance per member has gone up but Pam has managed to find a way to lower costs by £100 even so. At the moment SSAGO owes CUSAG money for the insurance as they loaned the money to cover the bill until the present committee can access the funds. In total SSAGO broke even last year.

9.2 Share Fund

The share fund is still there for any club that wishes to use the money, they just need to make an application for it. It needs to be a capital project lasting over 3 years and although the form looks difficult it is okay really and Pam will give help to those who need it.

9.3 Rally Loans

There is an outstanding loan to Loughborough of £200 that is now considered a loss as the rally did not make a profit.

9.4 Bank Accounts

At present SSAGO has three bank accounts. One with Alliance and Leicester holding about £100; one with Yorkshire Bank holding about £100; and one with Girobank holding about £4000. It is Pam's proposal to close the A&L

and Yorkshire accounts, as they earn no interest and present problems every time the committee changes. Also Girobank earns no interest, which means we are losing about £100 in potential interest every year. Instead Pam proposes to open a high interest, ethical banking account that will be easier for the change over every year. He hopes that the reps trust his views. He is trying to make sure that the fixed costs, which need to be covered every year, do not rely on rallies making a profit.

Pam also suggested on the subject of rally profits there could be an account set up that always has at least £1000 in it to cover the event of two rallies losing all money completely. This was agreed as a good idea, as was the idea of putting the profits into the development fund and keeping it at a minimum of £1000 as a crisis fund.

9.5 Registration Increase

The club registration is £500 every year but we have a £400 deficit. By lowering the costs this leaves the deficit at £300. This leaves a decision to be made as to whether the Indie membership and / or club membership should be increased. The club membership has remained at £1 for some years now and it is certainly cheaper than the £12 Capitation fee that Scouts pay.

Chair asked for objections to the raise.

The Cambridge rep suggested that the increase should be inflation pegged.

Pam stated that the minimum increase to cover costs should be 50p to £1.50 per member. This would allow SSAGO to break even. However, he would suggest a forward thinking approach so that it would be some time before the amount has to change again and double it to £2.

Raff pointed out that for the last 4 years they have been trying to raise the membership fee but the idea of inflation tied raises means that there is pence involved which becomes messy.

The Leicester rep felt this might reduce their numbers, as the minimum fee at their Union was already £2 and a further increase may put people off.

Raff pointed out that some unions will pay affiliation fees and perhaps it is something for reps to look into.

A heated discussion on the topic took place but it was eventually decided to propose the increase at the EGM. The Indie membership would be left alone as it is really only £5 to cover cost of individual posting and as most correspondence takes place via email it could not be justified. The £10 minimum fee will remain.

10. Share Fund

It was pointed out again to the reps that this money is there for the clubs to use before a proposal was put to the assembly. CUSAG have asked for a sum of £300 towards the cost of a new punt. This amount represents 10% of the total cost of the project and in all other respects the project meets the requirements set.

Kay pointed out that the share fund had a limit of £200 for a project but with the agreement of the committee the amount could be given. Although the CUSAG rep made an objection to an exception being made for the CUSAG punt the committee agreed to the proposal.

11. Publicity

To keep clubs informed of what is about to take place the chair explained the planned publicity. Firstly, we are exploring ways to get in touch with Ventures and Rangers so that they know who and what we are before they go to university. Secondly, we have been asked to provide a piece for the Scouting magazine Venture section. Together the Chair and Publicity Officer will work one out. One suggestion was that something could be put in County Newsletters but this could have problems with actually getting the information to the right people. The matter will be looked into further.

Keira pointed out that the Mexico Moot and the Gilwell Reunion are both good places to advertise SSAGO. The Reunion is the first weekend in September and SSAGO will have a stand there. If anyone has any display materials about projects undertaken, activities etc. can they please see Keira. Also if anyone can help out they should also let her know.

12. Any Other Business

12.1 Web Sites

The Warwick rep asked for things to be put on the web page, as attachments to emails are not always easy to read.

12.2 Badges

Ali stated that it had been put to him that SSAGO could buy a large quantity of the badge pieces that are used at rallies, as this is cheaper and stops clubs having to try and find a supplier. This was decided to be a good idea and the committee will go ahead and purchase the stock.

12.3 Club Reports

Caroline pointed out that all clubs should hand in a written copy of their report not less than 2 weeks before a rally. This would mean that the meeting could concentrate on more pressing issues and the copies could be circulated with the minutes.

12.4 Rally Cost

The Durham rep asked if the rally fee would go up at all. The CUSAG rep commented that with the current £18 per person it had been very tight for them. The Aber rep said that they had achieved so much by calling in favours from people.

A general discussion on the topic followed. A skills database for all clubs may help in some respects and this will be looked into. The main arguments against putting the fee up were that Bristol's rally made a huge profit and that students have enough money worries already, do we want to put them off coming to a rally?

The Durham rep asked for a copy of the Bristol accounts so that they could see where money could be saved at their rally.

Keira pointed out that 'How to Run a Rally' is about to be rewritten and this may help future organisers.

A final decision will be made at the next meeting after reps have had a chance to discuss with their groups.

12.5 SAGGA

Raff said that the AGM had taken place and that the committee had changed. They are looking into being able to contribute SSAGO, in particular helping with the training of minibus drivers.

12.6 Scout Divisions

The Aber rep pointed out that there is a discussion board set up for the changes to the Scout divisions. He asked if SSAGO were a part of it and if not then they should be. The board is led by the County Commissioner for Devon.

12.7 Leeds

The Leeds rep just wanted to inform of the change to their web address, which is now www.geocities.com/LUUSAG.

Jo Hobbs concluded the meeting by reminding us all to look at the Senior Section on the Guide web page.

The meeting was finally closed at 10:58

SSAGO REP'S REPORT – NOTTINGHAM

First of all apologies for not being at the meeting and thanks to all those who are standing in for me.

After the Bristol Rally we continued our activities each week, celebrating St. David's day by making pancakes. The next week was our AGM where we elected the new committee and our new mascot was named Dilbert.

Planned activities this term included a night hike, karting, laserquest, a scavenger hunt and snooker. All were successful apart from the karting, which had to be cancelled because we couldn't find anywhere to go.

We finished the year by visiting Alton Towers and having a barbecue. They both were great fun, although the barbecue had to be moved indoors and onto a grill because of the weather!

Next year we have planned a number of events after the freshers fayre to encourage new members to keep coming. this year we had many people join but not come to any of our meetings so we hope to change that.

See you at the next rally!

Mark

SSAGO REP'S REPORT – CAMBRIDGE

As ever CUSAGC has had an action-packed few months, despite many of our undergraduate members being plagued by exams. Easter saw a group of CUSAGCers heading off to the Wicklow mountains, followed by a brief stay in Dublin. A weekend trip to Cheddar was organised, including an introduction to caving. On a less adventurous, but no less exciting front, CUSAGC's review of the benefits associated with SSAGO membership reached completion; a heated debate concluded that CUSAGC's place was within SSAGO, and that greater efforts should be made to ensure efficient communication between the organisations. The CUSAGC loan to SSAGO for insurance cover reflects one aspect of this effort. The C-Rally represents the culmination of CUSAGC's programme for this term – the C-Rally team hopes that everybody has an enjoyable and relaxing time.