



**Student Scout and Guide Organisation
Full Committee Meeting
Bradley Wood Scout Campsite, Nr Huddersfield
5th November, 2005**

10.00am

Present:

Nick Varney – Chairperson
Ruth Smith – Secretary
Jennie Macdougall – Treasurer
Hayley Goldman – Members Officer
Darren Clowes – Publicity Officer
Mike Walters – SAGUWE
Rosemary Wheatley – Warwick SSAGO
Emily Batchelor – Cardiff SSAGS
Sarah Eastwood – SSAGO Ball 2006
Sarah Boyle – Bangor BUGS
Rosemary Ghosh – Southampton SSAGO
Caroline Chambers – UCE SSAGO
Mike Dixon – Birmingham BUSAG
Martin Whelan – SAGGA
Jon Ellison – Leicester SLUGS
Rob Gauld – Aberdeen
Danny Cunningham – Aberystwyth SSAGO
Gemma Lawrenson – Liverpool SLAGS
Heather Coupe – Indie
Anna Swann – Swansea SSWIGS
Warwick Conway – Leeds SSAGO
Lucy Eastmond – Loughborough SCOGUI
Daniel Farnes – UEA SSAGO
Michael Fisher – Glamorgan GUGS
Luke Cartey – Oxford OUSGG
Pete Jeffreys – Reading RUGS
Gareth Clay – Durham DUSAGG
Chris McCorquodale – Bath BUGS
Catherine Fagan – Lancaster SSAGO
Sarah Parker – Cambridge CUSAG
Alexandra Bushell – ManSSAGO
Will Carr – ManSSAGO Rally 2005
James Sladen – Nottingham SNOGS
Sarah Wright – Sheffield StinGS
Philip McCarthy – St Andrews SSAGO

1. Apologies for absence

Keele SSAGO
Bath Spa SSAGO
Anna Massey Girlguiding UK
Anders Warnqvist – Indie Representative

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The attendance for the Scottish Rally was amended to 175.

Proposed by Mike Dixon of Birmingham BUSAG and Seconded by Warwick Conway of Leeds LUSAG.

3. Officers Reports

a. Publicity

Daz reported that lots had been achieved over the summer months including EuroJam, Gilwell Reunion and Innovate Wrexham. Hopefully those we met at the events came back and signed up with our clubs.

Freshers packs went out at Manchester Rally or in the post.

b. Members

4 indies and 1 club have registered so far. Please get the forms in by December 1st. Hayley asked for the reps opinion on the new form, all agreed they were an improvement. E-mail or print and post are much preferred by all.

c. Treasurer

Jennie announced that merchandise would all be available by the end of the week; we are only waiting for one thing to come back into stock. Come and buy it and pay money for registration!

d. Secretary

Ruth reported that the new issue of SSAGO News was available to take away at the end of the meeting. She apologised for the lateness of some of the minutes but they are mostly up to date now. Ruth reminded reps that club reports and articles for the newsletter were still few and far between and the same clubs were still the only contributors.

e. Chairperson

Nick exclaimed that he had no idea why he volunteered to rewrite the constitution this year! He thanked all for their hard work publicising SSAGO whilst at EuroJam.

Daz was thanked for all of his hard work. Thank you to Mike Walters, Saz De'Ath and Ruth for getting the article into the camp newsletter. Lots of new members were gained – fantastic!

4. Financial Report

Jennie reported:

£1250.02 in the current account
£2631.96 in the deposit account
£107 approximately in the paypal account

The Leeds Rally loan is still to go out and the Scottish and Manchester Rally loans and profit are still to come back in. The Ball loan needs to come back.

2 loan requests have been received from Birmingham and Nottingham.

We are “not doing too bad”!

5. Past Events

a. Manchester Rally

Will Carr reported that 120 attended rally plus 30 staff. It was sunny and all had a nice time! No damage or injuries took place and the campsite was happy with us. £227 profit made.

b. Eurojam

Nick thanked Ruth for organising the polo shirts and blanket badges, they stood out and worked extremely well! Lots of new friends were made and HQ contacts made. It was felt that it was a shame all of SSAGO could not be there! All were informed of the IST for 2007 opportunities and told that a limit of £800 for the fee has been set.

c. Gilwell Reunion

Daz and Nick reported that although the event began as a disaster, with the help of EuroJam friends we got sorted and attracted lots of attention. The green and gold helium balloons really helped!

Reps reported on people who we'd met at events who signed up.

The BBQ at reunion for SSAGO and our friends was a fantastic success. Many thanks to Suze Rixon of ManSSAGO (EuroJam friend) and Jennie for all their help!

Innovate Wrexham was a repeat of the Reunion display and was staffed by Daz, Nick and Ruth.

6. Future Events

a. Birmingham Rally

Mike Dixon informed all present that the rally dates were 17-19 February and it would be held at Blackwell Court in Bromsgrove and the theme would be chocolate!

b. Cardiff Ball

Sez Eastwood announced that the ball would take place on Saturday April 1st at the Quality Hotel in Cardiff. The all-inclusive price will be £49. Posters and leaflets were available to take away from the meeting.

7. Review of SSAGO constitution

Four versions of the constitutional changes have been mailed out over the past three weeks. Version 4 is the copy being brought to conference tomorrow and copies will be pinned up at the end of this meeting.

Version 4 cannot and will not be changed by this meeting for the EGM. Accept, Reject or Abstain will be the only voting option and standing orders will be suspended. Voting will be by show of hands and will require a simply majority to pass.

Minor changes such as spelling and grammar in clauses will be voted on in chunks. Contentious issues will be voted on one by one, e.g. postal voting.

Policy Documents will hopefully be ratified so that club reps can be asked to vote on the role descriptions PD at the end of the EGM.

Nick read through the changes to ALL clauses. The change to the cut off date for affiliation of clubs will now be December 31st in order to make plans for the AGM easier. Jon Ellison of SLUGS asked for clarification of when a member stops being classed as a student. After much debate it was decided that student membership of SSAGO upon graduation would run until the Summer Rally or 31st August (whichever is latest), exceptions to this rule can be made at the discretion of the executive committee. This clause is not to be inserted into the constitution, but to be reviewed at the 2006 handover meeting.

It was made clear that the 'Guidelines for Scout and Guide clubs' mentioned in 3.4.a do not actually exist and never have.

After discussion a decision was reached that non-student members who are elected by their club to act as SSAGO rep in the full committee may vote in this instance only as they carry the vote of the students within their club.

Jon Ellison of SLUGS asked if it was now possible to buy votes for £2? This question was debated briefly, but the consensus was that hopefully nobody would behave in such an immoral manner and unbecoming of a member of either Scouting or Guiding. But if such a plot were attempted, the returning officer with the executive committee would be able to call foul play and refuse to grant postal votes.

Requesting that candidates submit a manifesto for distribution removes the unofficial canvassing that has happened in previous years and stops candidates gaining the upper hand before nominations have even been announced.

Mike Walters (SAGUWE) asked if nominations would be accepted from candidates who were not planning to attend the annual conference. Nick replied that these would be accepted, but that this is still primarily a popularity contest and that a huge part of getting elected would be the ability to work the crowd on the day. Candidates not in attendance forfeit the right to speak.

The postal voting clause will be a separate point to be voted on at the EGM.

Mike from SAGUWE asked what the rules would be on canvassing. The reply was that they would eventually be included in the elections and voting policy document. This will not come into effect this year as there is not time to have it ratified by the full committee.

Sarah Boyle (BUGS) asked how the questioning one month in advance would work. This will be by public forum on the national message board. Pete Jeffreys (RUGS) commented that this might be perceived as unfair for members or candidates with limited access to the internet. Jon Ellison (SLUGS) remarked that the forum has low usage at present.

8. SSAGO Bank Account

The suggestion is that SSAGO should change the bank to a more generic high street bank. Halifax, Barclays or Lloyds TSB. The reps were asked about their good or bad experiences with any high street banks and the feedback was that Abbey should be avoided.

Whilst on the subject of the bank account, Ruth asked the reps permission to sign a cheque to Nick as a one off, as Simon Andrews had not attended rally and she and Mark Glendinning were the only other two signatories. The major point being that between her and Nick they were owed nearly £100 and that was a significant amount. The reps allowed Ruth to sign the cheque in the presence of Jennie as a one off. This situation needs to be resolved quickly.

9. SSAGO News e-mail sign-up for clubs and Indies

An e-mail link to the downloadable version of the newsletter will be sent out in future. This makes the sign-up list unnecessary, as we will not be sending out the entire newsletter.

10. Any other business

Nottingham Rally committee informed all present that CRB will be required for their summer 2006 rally as they are using a shared site.

Rally numbers limits were discussed and it was decided that generally these were disliked especially for the autumn as this potentially stops freshers from attending and leads to potentially losing them forever. **Action Nick** – phone Gilwell re: large scale event numbers

Nick spoke on the subject of club challenges that involve stealing other people's personal property, i.e. alcohol from around the campfire. This is severely frowned upon and is not a good introduction for new members! Not good form.

SSAGO have been formally invited to National Network Gathering to be held at Great Tower, Windermere on Easter weekend. All are encouraged to attend if possible.

11. Date of Next Meeting

18th February, 2006 – Blackwell Court, nr Bromsgrove