

CRAWLEY DISTRICT SCOUTS



AGM 2025





CRAWLEY DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL

Annual General Meeting

3rd June 2025 at 19:00

Tilgate Golf Club

Please be seated by 19:15 in readiness for a Kings Scout Award Presentation by Courtney Palmer-Jones

AGENDA

Prior to commencing the AGM, we will observe a one-minute silence as we remember Tony Finch, former District Commissioner for Crawley.

1. Introduction and welcome

2. Apologies for absence

3. Governance topics



- a. Approve the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 23 April 2024.
- b. Adopt the model constitution from Policy, Organisation and Rules (POR).
<https://www.scouts.org.uk/por/5c-constitutions-of-groups-districts-and-counties-except-scotland/#5c.2>
- c. Note the District's financial year.
- d. Approve appointed and community members of the District Scout Council.
- e. Agree the number of members that may be appointed to the Trustee Board.
- f. Agree the quorum for future meetings of the District Scout Council (excluding this AGM).

4. Review of the previous year

- a. Review of Scouting in Crawley during the previous year.
- b. Receive and consider the Annual Report of the District Trustee Board, including the annual Statement of the Accounts.

The accounts and Independent Examiners Report are available online.

<https://crawleydistrictscouts.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/CDS-Accounts-2024-Final.pdf>

<https://crawleydistrictscouts.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Independent-Examiner-Submission-2024.pdf>

5. Making appointments

- a. Appoint the District Chair.
- b. Appoint the District Treasurer.
- c. Appoint members of the District Trustee Board.
- d. Appoint the Independent Examiner (Nomination : Mike Yearwood).
- e. Nominate representatives of the District Scout Council to represent the District on the County Scout Council.

6. Closing remarks and presentations



Tony Finch, former District Commissioner for Crawley, who passed away last month.



CRAWLEY DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL

Annual General Meeting,
Held 23rd April 2024 at Tilgate Golf Clubhouse

1. Meeting opened with Health & Safety Arrangements, Introductions and Welcome by Meeting Chair David Palmer

Opening remarks including .

Thanks to the venue for the use of their facilities.

Welcoming members of the District Scout Council and guests (Tom Dalton -County Lead Volunteer)

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies received in advance from Stefan Bolin and Emma Trabelsi.

Further apologies are noted separately within the attendance and apologies register.

3. Governance topics

3a. Proposal by Chair for the approval of the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 25/4/23

“The District Trustee Board have reviewed the minutes of the previous AGM. These can be found in the annual report booklet published before the meeting. I put forward these minutes are taken as read and ask the District Scout Council to agree they're a true record of that meeting”

Proposal seconded by Pauline Maddocks, approved by show of hands

3b. Proposal by Chair for the adoption of the model constitution from Policy, Organisation and Rules (POR)

“In line with the recommendation from Scout Headquarters, the District Trustee Board proposes we adopt the model constitution from Chapter 5 of Policy, Organisation and Rules. A copy of this was available for review and inspection prior to this meeting in the annual report booklet.

Proposal seconded by Christine Hobbs, approved by show of hands

3c. Note by the chair recording the District's financial year

“Can the District Scout Council members please note our charity's financial year is 1st January to 31st December.”

3d. Proposal by Chair for approval of appointed and community members of the District Scout Council

“... District Scout Council can admit other people to membership. These could be admitted as members of the District Scout Council as well as the ex officio list in POR Rule 5.5.4

It was noted that there are no nominations in addition to the ex-officio list”.

3e. Proposal by the Chair for agreement of the number of members that may be appointed to the Trustee Board

“Recommendations from the Charity Governance Code and POR states Trustee Boards should have a minimum of 5, and no more than 12, Trustees in total. This includes ex officio and co-opted Trustees.

The District Scout Council must agree the number of people to be appointed to the Trustee Board. The outgoing Trustee Board recommends that 13 people are appointed.

POR allows for adaptations to this recommendation where there are good reasons to do so. This recommendation is one more than the recommended number in order to provide a stable knowledge base during the transition and also to allow us to co-opt a chair should one be found during the year. We suggest this arrangement be reviewed again at the next AGM.

I propose the District Scout Council approves that recommendation”

Proposal seconded by Craig Edwards and approved by show of hands.

3f. Proposal by Chair for agreement of the size of quorum for future meetings of the District Scout Council (excluding this AGM)

“The District Scout Council must agree its quorum – the minimum number of District Scout Council members that must be present at District Scout Council meetings. The outgoing Trustee Board recommends the quorum should be set at 10 people. Does the District Scout Council approve that recommendation?”

Proposal seconded by Brian Eastman and approved by show of hands.

4. Review of the previous year

4a. The District Lead Volunteer’s review of Scouts in Crawley

“District Lead Volunteer wished to extend his thanks and commendation for everyone’s hard work and particularly wished to congratulate everyone who has completed their training this year”

No questions were raised in the meeting as DLV offered to take questions after the meeting

4b. Receive and consider the Annual Report of the District Trustee Board including the annual Statement of Accounts

Chair noted that the District Trustee Board has approved the Annual Report and Statement of Accounts, and has received the report on the accounts from the Independent Examiner.

Chair asked the District Treasurer to give their explanation of the Statement of Accounts.

Treasurer remarked that the District finances were in a stable condition and the accounts look healthy however most is set aside for specific budgetary purposes with only 1/5th being allocated to general funds. Stanford Campsite has run at a slight loss for the last couple of years so small increase in their budget had been allowed.

Chair invited questions from the floor however, no questions were raised in the meeting

Chair thanked the Treasurer

5. Making appointments

5a. Appoint the District Chair, following recommendations from the open selection process initiated by the District Trustee Board

Chair handed the chairmanship of this meeting over to the **District Lead Volunteer**.

District Lead Volunteer explained the open selection process agreed by the Trustee Board, for the position and advised an advert and job description was sent to all Adults registered on Compass in Crawley District in the hope of receiving applications for the vacancy which still remains open.

District Lead Volunteer made the recommendation to the District Scout Council that the District Trust Board continue with rotating the Chair position between the District Trustee Board members until a Chair can be found.

Recommendation was approved by show of hands.

District Lead Volunteer handed the chairmanship of this meeting back to the Chair.

5b. Appoint the District Treasurer, following recommendations from the open selection process initiated by the District Trustee Board

Chair explained there was no requirement for a selection process as there was no vacant post. The recommendation to the District Scout Council was that Simon Maddocks should be appointed as District Treasurer.

Recommendation was approved by show of hands.

5c. Appoint members of the District Trustee Board, following recommendations from the open selection process initiated by the District Trustee Board

Chair explained as a result of a maximum limit on numbers of Trustees, there were no positions to fill. Trustees terms are now limited to 3 years, when posts are available the vacancy will be widely advertised.

The recommendation to the District Scout Council was that Eddy Hills, Ian Pearse, Kevin Ives, Mick Hill, Paul Masters, Phoebe Woolard, David Palmer, Sean Edwards and Tim Hall should be appointed as additional members of the District Trustee Board. It was noted that Ollie Gidman as DLV and Jake Sawyer as DYL are ex-officio members.

The recommendation was approved by a show of hands.

Chair thanked the Trustees for their work during the year and, in particular, those members who were standing down – Bev Hills, Yvonne Seetayah, Allen Heath, Chris Hobbs and Dave Brades. It was noted that Dave Brades has agreed to take on the role as District Secretary – going forward as a non-voting, non-trustee position.

5d. Appoint the Independent Examiner

Treasurer proposes Mike Yearwood FCCA.

Chair confirmed that Mike Yearwood FCCA has been proposed, seconded and is qualified for the role, and asks for a show of hands to approve Mike Yearwood FCCA's nomination.

The proposal was approved by a show of hands.

5e. Nominate representatives of the District Scout Council to represent the District on the County Scout Council

Chair:

“It is proposed that as we have a significant number of County Scout Council ex-officio members in the District and on the District Trustee Board that we continue not to have any additional nominations. Please can I have a show of your hands as approval”

The proposal was approved by a show of hands.

6. Closing remarks and presentations

Chair closed the formal part of the AGM and thanked everyone for attending.

Chair invites Tom Dalton (CLV) to speak.

County lead Volunteer noted that this was his first Crawley District Scout AGM attendance however he was aware of what was happening in district as he followed various social media feeds and was a supporter. He advised that he was open to taking questions after the meeting.

Chair Invited **District Lead Volunteer** to speak and make presentations/investitures.

District Lead Volunteer noted that his aspirations were to ensure groups had support and carried on growing. He was focused on keeping volunteers and retaining their knowledge.

District Lead Volunteer then made the following appointments and presentations:

Jake and Ben Sawyer were appointed as **District Youth Lead (Shared role)**

Dominic Smith appointed as **ADC Cubs**

Harrison Lynn: **5 year award**

David Goodwin: **10 year award**

David Palmer: **15 year award**

Sheila Jones: **20 year award**

Luke Winstanley: **25 year award**

Paul Abbott: **25 year award**

Robin Lawrence: **Wood Badge**

Luke Winstanley: **Commissioners Commendation**

Mick Hill: **Award for Merit**

Geoff Ridgeway: **70 year award**

Cornwall Shield for most improved Group or Unit in 2023 was presented to 2nd Ifield for creation of 2 Squirrel Dreys

Barry Jones Memorial Award – a new award to remember Barry’s long service to the District following his passing away last year was presented to Christine Hobbs of 1st Southgate.

CRAWLEY DISTRICT SCOUTS

REVIEW OF THE 2024 YEAR

DISTRICT LEAD VOLUNTEER'S REPORT

Well, it's that time of the year again, AGM season. A year of scouting has flown by and what a year it was. Every single member, youth and adult, contributed towards the enormously successful year that Crawley District Scouts had in 2024. I am incredibly proud to stand alongside each and every member of Crawley Scouts - thank you for everything you do to make Crawley and the world around you a better place.

2024 saw some incredible achievements within the District, we opened a brand new group in Handcross which is thriving - 3 successful sections and plans to open a fourth going into the summer. Multiple groups opened Squirrel sections or started the planning to do so - I am incredibly proud of the growth of Squirrels in Crawley, thank you to those that have championed this within their groups. Both of these achievements contributed to the District achieving over 12% growth in our numbers of youth members in 2024 - an incredible figure amongst a tough year for the charity sector.

2024 also saw us finally reach the culmination of Scouts transformation project, a culture change in the way we volunteer as well as the launch of the new digital platform. It wasn't all smooth sailing but every single member has done their absolute best to embrace the change and that is all we can ever ask. Teams based volunteering has the potential to help us bring in volunteers we never would have been able to before, the more we embrace it, the more beneficial it will become.

We can't forget all of the individual achievements by members this last year, countless young people achieved Chief Scout Awards and I have lost count of the amount of wood badges and good service awards I have given out. Giving out these awards is my favourite part of the District Lead Volunteer role, seeing the joy on people's faces will never get old! On top of the formal awards, I feel confident in saying that every young person achieved something this year, they did something they have never done before, learnt a new skill, tried a new food, went camping for the first time - without all of our incredible leaders this would not be possible!

Looking forward to the coming year, I want Crawley Scouts to be available to more young people than ever before. In the current climate, young people need scouting more than ever, so I encourage each and every member to have sustainable growth amongst their priorities in scouting this year - let's do our best to make a difference in the lives of even more young people.

I want to finish off by repeating my thanks for the hard work of every single volunteer in Crawley. We are going to spend time this year working towards a goal of not only making Crawley a simpler, easier environment to volunteer in, but also ensuring volunteers are better rewarded for their outstanding effort! As always, my phone is always on (the 2025 version of my door is always open), please get in touch anytime – no such thing as a silly question!

Yours in Scouting,
Ollie Gidman, District Lead Volunteer

CRAWLEY DISTRICT SCOUTS TRUSTEE BOARD

The Trustee Board met four times during 2024, in February, May, September and November. The Board has continued to operate a rotating Chair as the role remained vacant throughout the year.

As in previous years, its main business during 2024 has been to ensure the continued good governance in its overview of District Scouting, achieved through regular oral and written reports, with a specific focus on

- Transformation including the migration to Digital Tools
- Supporting groups without a Group Lead Volunteer / Manager or Trustee Board members
- District Finances
- Promoting Safety and Safeguarding
- Training Compliance
- Strengthening our Health and Safety oversight with the appointment of an advisor from within the District
- The maintenance and upkeep of Stanford as an excellent local Scouting facility
- Lark Rise Management
- Growth and Recruitment

Dave Brades
Secretary

SQUIRRELS & BEAVERS LEAD

The Squirrels and Beavers have had another fantastic and action-packed year. We opened more Squirrel Dreys in 2024 with more opening across the district in 2025. We saw 6th Crawley grow from strength to strength and 1st Handcross opened, with both groups looking to expand further in 2025.

Easter Fun day (April'24)

We held this year's Easter event at Stanford camp site, Over 100 young people attended with their Families, this was the first District event attended by the new Section, Squirrels. Everyone enjoyed a variety of activities like Carrot toss, Crafts, Eggy zip wire task and Archery.

Chief Scout Bronze award

We celebrated all the Beavers who achieved the top award a Beaver can earn and presented them with their certificates at our 2 Awards ceremonies held in May and November.

GO Beavers '24

June saw lots of the Beavers travel to Blacklands Farm for this event, where they got to enjoy all 4 zones (Craft and go, Adventure, Explore and Fun) and go home with a goody bag.

Christmas Craft Day

After much reflection on previous events looking at what worked well and where could we improve, we tried a few new approaches with this years Christmas event.

We used an online sign-up sheet; we split the day into 3 timings with one being a quieter more relaxed session aimed at those with additional need for more accessibility.

This event was attended by over 120 Squirrels and Beavers and Santa Claus himself (with his 2 very mischievous elves).

We are looking forward to all the exciting things 2025 has instore and continuing to support all the groups.

We thank all the members of the Squirrel and Beaver teams within the district for all their hard work, dedication and support without whom none of these events would be possible.

Emma Ellison & Niki Woodcock
Squirrels & Beavers Programme Leads

CUBS

As a district this year we have had a very busy 2024.

We started the year with a cub hike from Tilgate to Stanford and back again, which was supported by many groups and Cubs. Everyone had fun.

We had a cub from every group in the district welcome Crawley Town to the pitch for St. George's Day, which helped the team win on the day.

Dave Palmer then ran the biggest conker competition we have held in the district for a number of years, with more Cubs from more packs that we have had since Covid. Jodie Grinham came down to hand out the awards and let the cubs see her gold medal.

Finally the district came together for a very successful Christmas craft day. A huge number of leaders, adults and helpers came together at 4th Worth for two very busy sessions of craft making.

Dominic Smith
Cubs Programme Lead

CRAWLEY DISTRICT EXPLORERS

2024 was a year of growth, adventure, and achievement for the Explorer Scout section in Crawley District. From international expeditions to award successes and leadership development, our Explorers embraced every opportunity to develop skills for life.

Growth and Volunteer Support

Explorer Scout membership rose to 90 young people in 2024, demonstrating strong engagement across the district. This success would not have been possible without the dedication of our adult volunteers. A special thank you goes to the many new volunteers who joined throughout the year, including those supporting SRF Explorers, helping to deliver a wide range of activities and keeping units thriving.

Young Leader Training Scheme Relunched

The Young Leader Training Scheme was successfully relaunched in 2024, with Explorers from across the district taking part. Many completed modules and practical missions that enhanced their leadership skills within younger sections. Several went on to achieve the full award and received the Young Leader Belt Buckle, reflecting their commitment to making a difference in local Scouting.

Programme Highlights

Explorers enjoyed a wide-ranging and exciting programme this year, with opportunities to take part in adventurous activities, international travel, and leadership development.

Highlights included:

Summer Camps:

- Drake and Shackleton Explorers embarked on a joint international expedition to Sweden, where they completed mini-expeditions involving hiking, canoeing, and cycling.
- Neil Armstrong Explorers spent a week in the Peak District, enjoying activities such as hiking, climbing, and team-building.

Mountain Camps:

- Shackleton Explorers attended a mountain activity camp in Snowdonia, developing their outdoor skills and mountain navigation.
- Drake Explorers took part in their own adventure camp in Wales, with a focus on resilience and teamwork in a remote, challenging environment.

Leadership and Community Events:

- Explorers participated in St George's Day celebrations, supported younger sections, and contributed to district events throughout the year.

Local Camps

- Explorers from all units attended local camps at Stanford, Parkwood, and other venues in West Sussex through 2024 developing specific skills

Awards and Achievements

2024 was also a standout year for top awards. The following members achieved significant milestones:

Duke of Edinburgh's Award:

- Bronze: 16 Explorers
- Silver: 8 Explorers
- Gold: 3 Explorers

Chief Scout's Platinum and Diamond Awards:

- Platinum: 13 Explorers
- Diamond: 9 Explorers

King's Scout Award:

- 3 Explorers completed the highest award in Scouting, recognising sustained commitment, service, and adventure.

Thank You

We extend our sincerest thanks to all the volunteers, leaders, and supporters who made 2024 such a successful year for Explorer Scouting in Crawley. Your time, energy, and passion continue to make a lasting impact.

We look forward to building on this momentum in 2025.

Sean Edwards

CRAWLEY SCOUT NETWORK UNIT

2024 has been a great year growing and building the unit. During 2024, Crawley District Network met 30 times; either at programmed unit events or district events. Some of the activities included were air rifle shooting, crossbows, tomahawks, beer and cider making, quiz nights, beach trips, footgolf, camping, stand up paddle boarding, escape rooms and a New Years Eve party! At the end of the year there were 30 active Network members (requirement of 2 or more attendances within the year, due to some being away at university). 16 of these 30 members are leaders with younger sections.

As well as some members completing DofE sections, our members attended 5 camps during the year. Intercamp in Poland, Brownsea Island, Sweden, Network Gathering, Network festival. We had one member attend the Roverway 2024 in Norway. During the year Rebecca Hull completed her DofE Gold Award.

Looking forward, in 2025 we have two unit members attending the 16th World Scout Moot in Portugal. Two members of the unit are also attending Intercamp 2025 in Germany as IST.

Allen Heath

STANFORD CAMPSITE REPORT

Though 2024 was a bit of a wet and windy year we managed to keep on top of things with most projects being completed. One major job we succeeded in doing was to replace the Archery net posts with Telegraph poles. Hopefully these will last a good many years.

With the wet and windy weather which hampered a few Work Parties we still continued to get an awful lot done. It was unfortunate that we lost a number of trees. These were given priority as they had to be dealt with for Health and Safety reasons to allow continuous use of the site. No trees are taken down or removed from the site just for the sake of it, they are removed for a specific reason.

The site as a whole is looking good and has been well used by District groups and various outside groups and organisations.

Our main problem at the moment is the Toilet and Shower block where it was found the wiring was not up to standard and needs replacing. A report has been sent to CDC to obtain the necessary quotes before we can move forward. In the meantime, a number of the showers have had to be turned off. The disabled facilities are in full working order.

We are also involved with a conservation project being run by Crawley Council. They are expanding the Cemetery and want to relocate all the wildlife. You will find an area of the main field has been fenced off. Wildlife found at the Cemetery will be placed in this area and left to migrate out. The project is expected to last for at least 18 months

Courtney from 5th Crawley managed to obtain and erect a pergola in the Chapel entrance in memory of Don Clements as part of her King Scout Award.

The Stanford Support Unit is going strong with 6 work parties planned for 2025. We do need more support though; it seems to be the same Leaders who turn up time and time again on the work parties. With more help from other Leaders the workload can be spread about making the various jobs easier and more manageable. It would be nice to see a few more new faces.

Grass Cutting Report. Supplied by Eddy Hills.

Over the past year despite challenges with the weather and unreliable equipment the grass cutting team continued to maintain the grassed areas to a good standard. Many thanks to Simon, Pauline and Graham for their efforts.

We are looking to extend the team this year so we can share the load more now we have three machines up and working. Please contact eddy.hills@5thcrawley.org.uk if you can help.

A big thank you to all those who supported and helped us throughout the last year.

Kevin Ives and Mick Hill