



## **Lambeth District Annual General Meeting Minutes**

**Held on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2025 at the Streatham Conservative Club,  
111 Blegborough Road, SW16 6DL**

### **1. Welcome and Introductions**

Keith Merrall (District President) asked everyone to stand for entrance of the District flags.

Keith welcomed everyone from the District and thanked them for attending. He welcomed Keith Hill MP (Vice President) and Joseph Shippam (County Youth Lead).

Keith asked all present to stand for a minute of silence to remember all those we have lost in the last year. He noted the following people:

- Betty Stuckey – Akela at 4<sup>th</sup> Streatham Common
- Bob Edwards – Streatham and Leigham District Chair
- Trevor Quinton – 2<sup>nd</sup> South Lambeth, ADC Ventures Leigham District, and County Trouble Shooter for Districts across the South London County
- Margaret Merrall – Akela at 1<sup>st</sup> Streatham St Leonards; District Cub Leader and Leader Trainer for Streatham; District Secretary, Appointment Secretary and Badge Secretary for Lambeth
- Roger Whittle – Venture Scout Leader for Kestrel Unit, Assistant Scout Leader at 22<sup>nd</sup> Streatham and ADC Scouts for Lambeth

Keith shared the fire evacuation procedures for the venue with those present, he advised that no fire alarm test was due during the meeting.

Keith handed over to Alan Walker (District Chair).

Alan welcomed everyone, he introduced himself and informed those present that he is the Chairperson of 2<sup>nd</sup> Streatham Hill. Alan thanked everyone for attending, including our guests and reiterated this AGM covers the period April 2024 to March 2025.

Alan talked about the Transformation that has run its course and what that looks like for Scouting now. He talked about the governance and operational roles, with Trustees being responsible for governance and the District Lead Volunteer (DLV) and Group and Team Leads running the day-to-day Scouting.

Alan thanked Wendy Hutcheson for her significant work both seen and what she does behind the scenes to keep the District running successfully. Wendy is now at the end of her second full term in post, having been District Commissioner / District Lead Volunteer for 10 years. During that time there has been significant changes in Scouting and a global pandemic so on behalf of the Trustees and everyone in Lambeth as well as personally, Alan thanked Wendy.

Alan thanked all adult volunteers in the District, who all contribute to the success of Lambeth.

### **Present**

10 Groups and 1 Explorer Unit were represented; a register of attendees was taken on entry.

## **2. Apologies**

A register of apologies was noted during the meeting.

Apologies were noted from Judy Freeman (County Lead Volunteer) and Matt Butterfield (County Growth, Community Engagement and Volunteer Services Manager).

## **3. Governance**

- a. Minutes from the previous District AGM held on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2024 are available on the District website, Alan thanked Hannah Crampton for taking the minutes. Alan asked that everyone had read these, were there any comments or questions, none raised. Alan proposed Minutes as read and true, all present agreed.
- b. In accordance with Chapter 5 of POR, Alan proposed the readoption of the model constitution from POR – a copy of which is on the District website. He proposed no changes from the previous year, all present agreed.
- c. Alan noted the District Financial year as 1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> March.
- d. Alan discussed the agreement of number of members appointed to the District Trustee Board. In line with POR and The Charity Commission, the recommended number is between 5-12 (including ex-officio members). Alan proposed the District keep to up to 12 members in 2025-2026, including members who are 18-25 years. All present agreed. A question raised from the floor that minutes from last year's AGM stated the number excluded ex-officio, this was corrected as should read include.
- e. The agreement of quorum for future AGMs, it was proposed that for the 2026 AGM, the minimum number of attendees would be 24. This was explained as minimum of the 12 Trustees and equal number of attendees. All present agreed.

## **4. Review of the previous year**

- a. Annual report and annual statement of accounts

Alan made the following points:

- i. District Capitation – this has been reduced by £1 per head from last year
- ii. NatWest Bank – the bank balance from the 1<sup>st</sup> Streatham St Leonard Group, which closed in November 2014, has now been transferred to the District. Alan shared that the bank paid compensation (at 8% interest of the balance) following a complaint raised at the length of time this process has taken. Alan thanked Wendy and Ian Andrews for their persistence with this issue and the work they put in before he took over the task. Alan also thanked Cheryl Stonebridge, who got in touch with a former member, who was a signatory on the account, who authorised Alan to close the account. He noted there were 12 signatories on the account, some had left scouting, some had moved away from the area and some had passed away. He noted that Treasurers in Groups should check who are signatories on their accounts, so this is kept up to date.
- iii. Minibus – this has a small income and expenditure. A sub-committee is being set up and their 2025-26 focus will be to complete a finance review of the minibus to assess costs and income. Alan said input from Group Treasurers would also be welcome. Alan expressed his thanks to Marco Lecca for dealing with the minibus, including bookings, ULEZ fines and maintenance.

Alan thanked Jackie for her stewardship of the District finances.

Governance – Alan informed the meeting that there were 5 Trustee board meetings in 2024-25, these took place at The Fort, in Dulwich with the option of Zoom for those who were unable to attend in person. Alan thanked Gordon Carr at The Fort for facilitating these meetings on the premises. Alan gave a brief overview of the standard agenda which is the model all Groups should be adopting.

Alan talked about key areas including the need to have an asset register, risk register and sub committees, these should also be in place at a group level.

Alan reminded the meeting that Trustees can spend a maximum of 9 years in the role then must have 3 years away before serving again. He said Trustees should be drawn from as broad a range of people and backgrounds as possible, he gave the example of parent/carer trustees at Group level joining the District Trustee board. Alan talked about external influences to enhance and shape governance.

Alan shared with the meeting that Jimmy Weekly and Konrad Bishop can talk about their experience in re-establishing Trustee Boards as both have recently undertaken this within their own Groups, helped by Alan.

Alan talked about the option of being able to appoint Trustees for up to 3 years at a time, for this year, as the previous year, appointments will all be for 1 year.

Alan asked the meeting if there were any questions, none were raised.

b. District Lead Volunteer's review

Wendy expressed that this is her 10<sup>th</sup> and final report as District Lead Volunteer for Lambeth. She explained that last November (2024) we moved over to the new ways of working as adults, using the new team structure and titles and a new membership database to replace Compass. This has been a huge piece of work nationally and not without its glitches and hiccups, not unexpected for a new system. We are now Lead Volunteers rather than Commissioners or Group Scout Leaders, Team Leaders or Team Members rather than Section Leaders or Assistant Leaders, helping to make our roles more transparent to outsiders and to help make flexible volunteering easier to our members.

Wendy talked about the January census, our numbers increased for the first time in several years, we have a total of 661 youth members and 166 adults, an increase of 29 youth and 10 adults. She commented the District is heading back to our pre lockdown levels but unfortunately this is taking time.

Wendy talked about the 75<sup>th</sup> North and Central Lambeth, who are still awaiting the reopening of their HQ at the Lambeth Mission before we can start work to re-establish scouting at the part of the District. Lambeth will be working closely with the County Development Team as well as the Local Growth Team from HQ (formally the Regional Development Service.)

Wendy also spoke about working to re-establish "missing" Sections in existing Groups and establish second Sections where large waiting lists already exist as well as provide new provision where a need has been identified. She said that what is still evident is that as much as ever we are in need of more volunteers to fill roles. All Groups are responsible for recruiting more volunteers, it is not just up to the DLV or County, all Groups can advertise their own vacancies on the new membership system, and this means potential volunteers can contact a Group directly. Matt Butterfield is happy to help complete a 'health check' with Groups, all you need to do is ask! He also has tools to help with recruitment so get in touch with him.

Wendy spoke about the County, who went through a huge change. It was announced in January 2024 that the Counties of Greater London South and Greater London South East would merge, this was finalised in July 2024 with the launch of the new larger County, which covers 7 London Boroughs from Wandsworth to Bexley. We welcomed a new County Lead Volunteer - Judy Freeman - into her role in September and she is already making an impact.

Wendy talked about training, which has been a high priority in the last year as we moved across to new ways of working with new team members needing to complete their "Growing Roots" training within 6 months of taking up their role and all adults in team member roles required to complete their safety training by the end of June 2025 due to the requirements of the Prevention of Future Deaths report provided by the Coroner in the Great Orme inquest. The report was not a happy read and highlighted many issues that the Scout Association has had to deal with urgently to ensure the safety of all our members. It is something we all have a responsibility to do.

Wendy talked about far more stringent requirements for permit renewals and said it is looking increasingly unlikely that any renewals in the future will be "automatic" based on a list of dates but will require at least a quick visit to an activity.

Wendy said we are in a good position as a District, as of 15<sup>th</sup> June 2025 we were showing with only 2 adults requiring their mandatory training to be completed, she stressed that as a District we need to keep this up and get down to zero!

Wendy thanked everyone in Lambeth District.

#### c. Presentations

Wendy shared that she applied for over 30 awards but has only received 3!  
Awards were presented as follows:

#### **Wood Badge**

Gregory Cooper

#### **Long Service Award**

**25 Years** - Rita Douglas

#### **Award of Merit**

Nick Andon

Scott Hembry

Hazel Barrett

#### d. Handover of Lead Volunteers

Wendy shared a few personal thoughts as she leaves her role. She said as a District we need to continue to embrace the changes coming and continue with our activities and event encouraging young people. Nothing could take place without the adult volunteers in the variety of roles across the District, who are making it happen. It is not just those of us at the head of things, but everyone – Leaders, Young Leaders, Helpers and anyone who gives just a few hours a year to help the young people in Lambeth.

Wendy said as she steps down tonight, she will look back on the last 10 years as DC and DLV, it's been an honour and privilege to lead this District. We have seen huge changes in

the way we work, not least those brought on by Covid and the lockdowns, many of us hadn't even heard of Zoom or Teams before then and look where we are now! We have said goodbye to former Leaders that have left us for the next great adventure. We now look forward to what the future holds in the hands of our new DLV team.

Alan presented Wendy with flowers and presents on behalf of the District.

Joseph asked Remy and Konrad up on stage and welcomed them as new DLVs, he presented them with their District scarves and badges.

Alan thanked Wendy for her long service with the District and welcomed the new DLVs.

## **5. Make appointments:**

- a. Appoint the District Chair – Remy proposed the appointment of Alan Walker as Chair, who is duly appointed.
- b. Appoint the District Treasurer – there was one nomination received, and Jackie Hanwell was recommended, all present approved.
- c. Appoint members of the District Trustee Board – Alan shared the names of applicants who are duly appointed – Cheryl Stonebridge, Emma Hutcheson, Jimmy Weekly, Rosemary Merricks, Gillian Crampton and Jamie Francis. In addition, one DLV will attend the Board meetings and Ben Stewart-Tomkins as District Youth Lead. All present approved.  
Alan gave his thanks to Sue Byiers-Oldfield, Sarah Flor-Guedes and Barbara Parsons, who have stood down this year. Alan paid tribute to Roger, who had also previously served on the Trustee Board.
- d. Reappoint President and Vice President – Keith Merrall is reappointed as President and Keith Hill as Vice President, all present approved.
- e. Appoint the Scrutineer – Sheila Ward has served in this role for 20 plus years and having scrutinised the accounts for this AGM, is now stepping down. Alan expressed his thanks to Sheila for her work in the role over such a length of time. This results in no Scrutineer being appointed. If anyone knows of someone who would be willing to do this, maybe someone who scrutinises a Group's account, please speak to Alan or Jackie.

## **6. Closing remarks**

The newly appointed DLVs were invited to say a few words:

Konrad echoed the thanks given to Wendy and wanted to add his personal thanks for her support in his role. He explained her example encouraged him to step up to this role. He talked about looking forward to partnering with Remy and the impact they can make jointly in Lambeth. He talked about the District identity and the plan to share knowledge and experiences to enable young people to have the best experiences.

Remy talked about the plan to hold District events, he expressed his thanks to those who have already stepped up to share ideas and plans, there are already plans in place for a District Survival weekend at the end of September 2025, which Marco is leading on, more details to follow soon. He said they are always open to new ideas and visiting Sections and Groups, he attended the 22<sup>nd</sup> Streatham's AGM yesterday.

Alan mentioned that the email sent to members asking for questions to be submitted ahead of the AGM, he received none.

Alan talked about the AGM season has started, he thanked those who have already invited him to attend. Alan shared he attended the 22<sup>nd</sup> Streatham AGM yesterday and was impressed with the hobbies and collection displays by the young people and the variety of cakes on sale!

Alan talked about governance, that this strengthens Groups. He mentioned that he is happy to speak with Group Chairs and share experiences, he also talked about the need to prioritise volunteers.

Alan asked that the newly appointed Trustee Board to collect after the meeting to arrange a date for the first meeting.

Alan concluded by thanking everyone for attending tonight and passed back to Keith, who closed the meeting and asked everyone to stand for the exit of the flags.

**Meeting closed**