



**Annual General Meeting of the
Greater London South County Scout Council
Saturday 19th July 2025
South London Scout Centre (The Fort),
Grange Lane, Dulwich, London, SE21 7LH**

1. Welcome

A video was shared from the Scout Association with updates on recent activities and achievements across the movement, and thanking volunteers for all that they do for our members. Joseph Shippam, County Youth Lead, opened the meeting formally at 2:20pm.

The County Colours were presented and a minute's silence was held to remember those members across the County who have returned home this year.

2. Meeting Process and Voting

Joseph explained the voting process. Green and red cards had been issued to those eligible to vote, and he outlined the eligibility criteria for being able to vote at a meeting of a County Scout Council.

3. Apologies for Absence

Matt Butterfield read from the list of formal apologies. Those in attendance were asked to give any additional names for apologies to Kay Francis for the minutes.

Apologies had been received from:

- Cheryl Stonebridge, County Trustee
- Chris Russell, County Trustee Board Administrator
- David Dowle, proposed new County Chair
- Alan Piper, Air Team
- Dermot Flynn, Bromley
- Roger Cooke, Vice President, South London
- Paul Cosgrove, County Support Team, South London
- Di Sprowles, Bexley
- Jake Sykes, South London
- Steve Harvey, Bexley
- Howard Strong, Vice President, South London
- Lee Curtis, Bexley
- Sheila Howard, District Lead Volunteer, Bromley
- Liz Fricker, People Lead, South London
- Remi Maxwell-Thomas, District Lead Volunteer, Lambeth
- Jamie Francis, Southwark
- Alfie Francis, Southwark

4. Minutes of the Last AGM

Joseph proposed that the minutes of the last AGM be approved. This was done through a showing of all green cards. No objections or red cards were cast.

5. Undertake Governance Oversight

Re-adopting the Greater London South County Scout Council Constitution

Benedict Long summarised the purpose of the constitution. This was approved by a show of all green cards. No objections or red cards were cast.

The Financial Year for the County Scout Council

Joseph formally noted that the financial year for the Greater London South County Scout Council runs from 1st February to 31st January.

Agree the number of members that may be elected to the County Trustee Board

Benedict explained that the Policy, Organisation and Rules allow for a trustee board of between 5 and 12 people. The board continued to recommend a maximum of 12 trustees in order to represent a wide range of viewpoints. This was approved by a show of all green cards. No objections or red cards were cast.

Quorum of the County Scout Council

Benedict explained the current requirement that the quorum be a minimum of 15, with at least the County Chair or County Lead Volunteer plus at least two others from the trustee board. This was approved by a show of all green cards. No objections or red cards were cast.

6. Presentation of the Annual Report and Accounts

Overview of the Accounts from the County Treasurer

Tim Birse, County Treasurer, explained that this is a difficult year for reviewing the accounts, as there is no clear year available for comparison, owing to the merger of the two counties which had historically had different accounting year dates.

Income was £84,000 with expenditure reaching £89,000 (excluding the Scout Centre). Tim observed that the estimate made regarding the level of membership fees to be set was reasonably close to the amount needed to cover expenditure, and confirmed this continues to be the case within the current financial year.

The accounts are included at the end of the Annual Report and have been independently reviewed. The auditors raised no concerns. No questions were asked of the Treasurer.

Review of the Year

A video was shared with highlights from across the year. Joseph then proposed the approval of the Annual Report and Accounts. This was approved by a showing of all green cards. No objections and no red cards were cast.

7. Make Appointments

The Appointment of County Chair

Benedict explained that following a recruitment process, the trustee board was recommending the appointment of David Dowle as the new County Chair. David had committed to a camping activity with Scouts this weekend and so offered his apologies for not being able to attend. He prepared a short video to introduce himself and address the meeting, which was shared with attendees.

David's appointment was approved by a showing of all green cards. No objections or red cards were cast.

The Appointment of Three Trustees to the Board

Joseph explained that in 2024, decisions were made about the length of term each trustee would sit, in order to ensure a balance between continuity and room for succession. This meant that three vacancies were available this year. Three nominations had been received, and Joseph proposed that the following be elected and appointed to the board:

- Russell Jones
- Cheryl Stonebridge
- Wendy Hutcheson

The appointments were approved by a showing of all green cards. No objections or red cards were cast.

Reappointment of County Vice Presidents

The following Vice Presidents were reappointed:

- Howard Strong
- Peter James
- Linda Hurford
- Roger Cooke
- Gordon Carr
- Mike Jackson

This was approved by a show of all green cards. No objections or red cards were cast.

The Appointment of a New County Vice President

Benedict explained that the County Trustees are proposing that Martyn Bain be appointed as a Vice President to the Greater London South County Scout Council.

In recognition of his exceptional service, the Trustee Board recommended Martyn for this role as he departs from his term of office as a trustee. He has contributed across a wide range of leadership roles within the County, including serving as Chair of the trustee board.

Martyn's appointment was approved by a show of all green cards. No objections or red cards were cast.

The Appointment of County President

The trustee board intends to recruit a County President to drive public interest in Scouting across the County. The trustee board sought approval for a recruitment process to occur this year. This was agreed by a show of all green cards. No objections or red cards were cast.

The Appointment of the Independent Examiner

Tim Birse explained that the trustee board is proposing the reappointment of the existing Independent Examiner, John Lambourne. Tim noted that John carries out this role for some Districts in the County, which is not considered to be a conflict of interest. This was approved by a showing of all green cards. No objections or red cards were cast.

Election of the County's Representatives to the Council of The Scout Association

Benedict explained the proposal that Matt Butterfield be elected to represent the County at The Scout Association's national AGM, which will take place at Gilwell Park in August 2025. This was approved by a showing of all green cards. No objections or red cards were cast.

8. Close of the Formal Meeting

The formal segment of the AGM was brought to a close by Benedict at 2:41pm.

9. County Lead Volunteer Address

Judith Freeman addressed the meeting. Judy spoke of the past year of coming together across the County as South London. Hard work has been completed in Districts, Groups, and Sections. There has been a phenomenal number of King's Scout Awards and Squirrel Acorns, and there has been youth representation to Oxford and Summit 2025, as well as other forums. She spoke of the importance of valuing every one of the County's volunteers and its 10,000 young people.

10. Regional Lead Volunteer Address

Richard Williams addressed the meeting. Richard talked of the transformation that had started at meetings around a year ago, and acknowledged the challenges of the implementation of new national IT systems in January. He acknowledged the hard work of volunteers and thanked everyone across the County for putting this into practice. Richard thanked Matt Butterfield for his work in the County and Region, and spoke about the positive contribution of the County within London Region.

11. Presentations

Judith Freeman made the following presentations:

Celia Wenban-Smith, Lead Volunteer for Southwark, was presented with the Award of Merit for her outstanding contribution to Scouting.

Joseph Shippam was presented with his Wood Badge.

Joseph and Judy presented awards for contributions in youth-led decision making in the County to:

- Kellie Passanha
- Benedict Long

12. Close of Meeting

The colours were collected and the meeting formally closed at 2:55pm.

Refreshments were available for attendees, and Benedict invited those present to spend time connecting with one another after the meeting.

These minutes have been approved by the County Board of Trustees as a true record of the meeting.