



Doncaster District Scout Council
Annual General Meeting 2024-2025

Agenda and Contents

	Agenda Item
1.	Welcome by Chair
2.	Apologies for absence
3.	Approve minutes of 2024 AGM
4.	To re-adopt the District Constitution
5.	Agree quorum for future meetings of the District Scout Council and the Trustee Board
6.	Note dates of the charity's financial year
7.	Agree maximum number of trustees to the Trustee Board
8.	Receive and consider annual report and accounts
9.	Appoint an Independent Examiner for the accounts
10.	Appoint the members of the District Trustee Board
11.	District Chair thanks
12.	Date and venue of next District Scout Council
13.	Close of business
	Appendix (Reports)

3. Approve minutes of 2024 AGM

Doncaster District Scout Council Minutes of the annual general meeting 4th September 2024



1. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was opened by Andy McAteer and Ailsa Johnson, who welcomed all attendees and outlined the agenda for the evening.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from:

Alison Beresford, Liz Howitt, Caroline Proctor, Lee Marshall, Nicola Marshall, Michelle Lambert, Liz Pattenden, Clare Oakford, Dirk Gilbert.

3. Approval of Minutes from the Previous AGM

The minutes of the previous AGM were approved by James Hagyard (JH) and Martin Johnson (MJ).

4. Chair's Report

The Chair, Ailsa Johnson, reflected on a busy first year in the role. The report highlighted key achievements, ongoing governance changes, and challenges that have been overcome during the year.

5. Approval of Accounts

The accounts were presented and unanimously approved by those in attendance.

6. Constitution

The new Constitution was formally adopted to align with the Policy, Organisation and Rules (POR) of The Scouts.

Unanimously approved by those in attendance.

7. Board Membership

In line with the POR and Trustee Board agreements, the following appointments were confirmed:

- Chairperson: Ailsa Johnson (AJ)
- Treasurer: Clive Scott (CS)
- Trustees: All other current board members confirmed in post.

8. Election of Scout Council Members

Rachel Whittaker was elected as a member of the Scout Council.

9. Independent Examiner

It was agreed that the appointment of a new Independent Examiner would be deferred to the next Trustee Board meeting for final approval.

10. Attendance

The following members were present:

Andy McAteer, James Hagyard, Martin Johnson, Ailsa Johnson, Angela Perkins, Joey Perkins, Paul Stead, David Williams, David Holland, Chris Harrison, James Harrison, Andrew Reeves, Jessica Reeves, Colin Tidmarsh, Sue Lloyd, Carl Rodgers, Angela McAteer, John McAteer, Jane McDermott, Fiona Campbell, Alison Ingamells, Louise Caldwell, Karl Caldwell, Aidan Massingham, Neil McKay, Rachel Whittaker, William Whittaker, Benjamin Whittaker, Eric Hepworth, Syed Miah, Leanne Bradley, Ashley Bradley, Joanne Cooper, Rob Parkes, John Green, Megan McAteer.

Signed as a true record

Chair

Date

4. To re-adopt the District Constitution

Doncaster District Scout Council formally re-adopts the constitution set out in Rule 5.c.2 of The Scout Association's Policy, Organisation and Rules without amendment other than set out below in respect of the quorum. Future updates to the constitution set out in POR shall be automatically adopted on the date of publication

5. Agree quorum for future meetings of the District Scout Council and the Trustee Board

The quorum for meetings will be:

For meetings of the District Scout Council:

- At least 12 members;

For meetings of the District Trustee Board:

- From rule 5c.2.8.4, one third of the Trustees (ex officio & appointed & co-opted) plus one[round down if necessary]; subject to
- Where either the annual budget or non-budgeted spend is being voted upon, one of members present must be the Treasurer;

For sub-committees of the District Trustee Board:

- From rule 5.c.2.6.5, the quorum is determined by the Trustee Board, but in the absence of any determination, at least 50% of members

6. To note the dates of the charity's financial year

The dates of the Charity's financial year are the 1st April to 31st March

7. Agree maximum number of trustees to the Trustee Board

The maximum number of members of the Trustee Board is proposed as 12 (maximum permitted by POR)

8. Receive and consider the Trustee Board Annual Report and Accounts

9. Appoint an Independent Examiner for the accounts

The Board proposes that Doncaster District Scout Council appoint a suitable independent scrutineer to examine the accounts. Following the last Trustee Board meeting, Clive has confirmed through further research that we do not need to engage a paid accountant for this role.

10. Appoint the members of the District Trustee Board

The Board of Trustees consists of between five and twelve Trustees.

- District Lead Volunteer (ex-officio)
- District Youth Lead (ex-officio)
- Up to Ten appointed or co-opted Trustees with specific skills sets as identified by the Board.
- Two separate Trustees must hold the appointments of Chair and Treasurer

Proposed Appointment Process and transitional arrangements

1. Board to identify which Trustees are:
 - a. Coming to the end of their term and their wish to continue or stand down
 - b. Wishing to stand down before the end of their term
 - c. To be asked to stand down due to performance and/or attendance issues
2. Board to review the skills/experience matrix (appendix 1) and identify:
 - a. Any changes in the skills base required by the Board's priorities
 - b. The gaps required to be filled as part of the recruitment and selection process
3. Board to produce a recruitment pack to be circulated around the District and to other organisations as relevant. Expressions of interest to be made via an online expression of interest/application form.
4. Board to review expressions of interest/applications and agree suitable Trustees for appointment meeting the needs matrix. Where multiple expressions of interest with the same skills/experience are received a further selection process may be carried out by the Board.
5. Where there is no suitable candidate, the vacancy will not be filled (as long as at least five Trustees are on the Board) and attempts will be made to fill the gap during the year via co-option.
6. The outcome of the process will be confirmed at the AGM.

Transitional arrangements to this process are set out below along with the proposed Trustee Board membership.

District Trustee Board

The Trustee Board for this year is given below:

1. Dr Neil McKay (ex-officio) District Lead Volunteer

2. Sam Finn / Paige Werrett (ex-officio) District Youth Lead
3. Ailsa Johnson – Chair
4. Clive Scott – Treasurer
5. Robert Parkes
6. Megan McAteer
7. Elizabeth Howitt
8. John Green
9. Glynis Robinson
10. Joanne Cooper
11. James Hagyard
12. Heather Johnson

11. District Chair thanks

12. Date and venue of next District Scout Council

The next meeting of the District Scout Council will be advertised in due course.

13. Close of business

APPENDIX

Scout Band Report

Doncaster has many jewels in its crown the scout shop, squirrel wood, sailing and canoeing. We also have music in the form of the Danum District Scout Band.

The band is small in regular attendees but has a great extended family of musicians that we call on when required.

A lack of grass roots musicians is affecting many youth bands. There was at one time five marching bands in Doncaster Scouting alone with many other non-scouting youth bands around and about the Borough. Sadly, Doncaster Danum Scout Band is the only youth band provision for scouting in the local area. Even the local education authority bands have dwindled to near extinction.

Doncaster Danum are looking to the future and changing how it delivers music and how it provides musical experience. We have recently received a grant allowing us to purchase new musical instruments which are enabling us to reach a wider audience and facilitate instant music. I am referring to our boom whackers and Pbuzz instruments. Simple instruments that can be played by Squirrels through to our oldest volunteers. We will soon take ownership of some simple tuned percussion instruments which again allow young people to experience making music with very little tuition. Oh, by the way, if you want to find out what a boom whacker or Pbuzz are then book a visit by the band to your meeting night and find out first hand.

We have taken part in our usual activities, during 2024-2025, including providing music at Fr Henry's leaving party, Remembrance, Christmas light switch on at Thorne, Family Service, Corpus Christi various activities at Squirrel Wood including several Have a go sessions.

As part of our up grade and reflecting the progress made by the young members of the band we have invested in new music including titles such as APT, You've never had Chocolate Like This from Wonka, the Magnificent Seven, Ennio Morricone's Ecstasy Of Gold from The Good , The Bad and the Ugly and a Spanish standard of many American High School bands Malaguena.

The annual district Christmas Carol Service for 2025 will be getting a make over and will be a Festive Concert celebrating the festive season, showcasing the band and best of all having audience participation. Flyers out soon but advance notice Tuesday 9th December 18:30 – 20:00. All Welcome!

We are on the lookout for new members and that “unicorn in the scouting world” a volunteer who wants to teach music.

Once again, thanks go to St Peter in Chains Church and Father Darren for his continued support and provision of a meeting location. You can find us at the St Peter in Chains Church Hall, Chequer Road. Every Tuesday from 5.30pm until 7.00pm. There is always a welcome to the young and old, players and absolute beginners.

John Green

Lead Volunteer Doncaster Danum Scout Band

Treasurers Report

As per my previous years I was going to provide lots of facts and figures to show how the various District run accounts have performed over the year. But then I thought ‘Not many people are bothered about balance sheets or if we managed to sign a new contract to reduce electricity by 35p a unit to save £27 a year!’ so thought I would use this forum for something different.

The one thing I have realised in my ten or so years of being District Treasurer is that finance is pretty boring for most people. Essentially it is paying bills and balancing accounts which sends most to sleep.

So I wanted to show the human side of finance and how commitment and hard work from others means that my role is pretty easy!

I am this year going to refer to the Scout Shop where I also have a role working there for around the past 8 years. As part of the 2024/2025 accounts we had a loss of £209.50, which compared to previous years was unheard of as it always generated a positive balance. I received a bit of a panicked call from Ailsa the shop manager. I replied that I was already looking into it as I thought it was unusual.

Two days later I sent Ailsa and the other staff members the following mail

‘Hello all

As Ailsa has said it seems like a disappointing year Or was it!?’

After looking a bit deeper at the accounts, we can observe the following :

- *The card machine costs have increased to approx. £100 per month – I will be looking at other card transaction firms to see if savings can be made here.*

- *The utility costs are massively increased over the last few years so I will be looking at where savings can be made by switching providers*
- *In last years accounts we made two insurance payments – One at the start of the financial year and one at the end. The start of the year, when we were still using cheques the payment was taken in February (due to postage and banking delays) whereas this year we paid in January using BACS. This created an adverse balance of approx. £1100*
- *The shop pays all the utility costs for the building including the HQ upstairs which has been used throughout the year.*

In my opinion the Scout Shop is more than somewhere where we look to generate money. It is a great location for parents to come to, and get advice / information about Scouting, whilst they are picking up their sweaters. This is most definitely something that you don't get from buying online!

All the staff have played a massive part in keeping the shop going and I am personally proud to be a member here, as should the rest of you!"

This instance made me realise we all got caught up in our roles, and obviously want to do them to the best of our abilities, but sometimes we have to take a step back and remember why we do it.

The 1323 youth members are the main reason all the scouting volunteers give up their time to host groups, go camping, cut grass at the wood, try and guess a kids sweater size when the parent has no idea or indeed fill in spreadsheets to show income and outgoings. And personally it is something I don't think we should ever lose sight of or take for granted all the hard work we do!

Anyway, how can I save £13 on the water bill at the wood.....

Clive Scott – District Treasurer

Scout Shop Report

Doncaster Scout Shop continues to operate by opening on Tuesday night and Saturday morning during term time.

Although I had a year of less shifts on the shop rota both Martin and I are now picking up quite a lot of Tuesdays and Saturdays mainly acting as key holders. It's not ideal in terms of our other commitments but we are struggling to find new people to take responsibility for the till and building.

We currently have 13 team members which includes a new Explorer, and everyone shows commitment to the shop and supporting one another to cover absences. We still need more cover for Saturday mornings particularly from women which could help us balance our Saturday team. In line with all District appointments staff work on a voluntary basis alongside their other Scouting roles and to a rota planned on a termly basis. Without our volunteer's goodwill we would be unable to function so thank you to the Scout Shop Team for your time, patience and good humour – you really are amazing.

I continue to deal with banking, stock and customer orders and Martin looks after badges and badge orders in his role as the District Badge Secretary.

I would normally report our annual profit, but Clive has covered the situation in his report, and I must thank him for putting the Scout Shop financial situation into perspective and on a personal level for calming me down when I thought that I had messed up.

I like to think that we are more than just a shop, we also act as a hub for the District. It's a place to drop off and collect things, we manage the lost property following large events, experienced staff can advise on numerous issues. I am able to inform leaders when new badges are issued and deal with pre-orders when necessary. It's also a place for leaders to meet informally and catch up – sometimes bumping into parents buying uniform at the same time.

The meeting room and office upstairs at the HQ are now being used more frequently but it's still worth reminding people that they are available free of charge to leaders for training and meetings. If you wish to use the rooms let me know - you needn't worry about keys if you coincide your meeting or event with the shop opening times.

Our group of volunteers is varied and works well together as a team, if you or anyone you know would like to join the team or would like to take over the running of the shop then please do contact me for a discussion.

Ailsa Johnson

Programme & Events Report

2024-25 was another great year for events across Doncaster Danum Scouts. Our young people undertook a wide variety of activities within their own Groups and attended several District events. Quality programmes delivered by groups led to

many, many badges and awards being earned by our young people. This was shown by the number of activity and nights away forms that came to me to approve.

Early in 2024 saw the annual Patrol Leader Training weekend at Squirrel Wood. A fun weekend of learning and experience delivered by our exceptionally talented and dedicated team – We're lucky to have them within our District providing this experience to our Scouts.

May 2024 saw the return of the Cub Challenge Day and Beaver Fun Day at Squirrel Wood. Always anticipated dates in our calendar. Over 200 young people from several Groups attended both days and enjoyed a fun packed day of fun and activities. Thank you to Glynis Robinson and Chris Green for leading on these events.

July saw the District having a medieval Bungle-ee at Squirrel Wood with hundreds of Beavers, Cubs and Scouts enjoying a fun filled weekend. Numbers attending were a little disappointing but we have addressed issues raised for 2026.

There were two District Awards Celebrations held this year, with 80 young people and 25 adults attending to collect awards. Congratulations to all award recipients for their hard work and dedication.

The Scouts and Explorer District Night Hike was held in Scawsby in October 2024. Interest was that high that some Explorers had to camp outside at the 9th's HQ. Andy Howitt, Peter Bailey and Ray Sherlock delivered another brilliant event, supported by Dirk, Eric and Jo. 70 Scouts and Explorers took part in the nocturnal event following a route around Scawsby, Sprotbrough and surrounding areas completing several difficult challenges as they went along.

Frosty's Frolics at Squirrel Wood took place in November 2024 and over 150 Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs and their leaders attended. Lots of festive fun took place and the 'big man' Santa also paid a visit.

The year was rounded off with the District Carol Service at the beginning of December 2024. Young people attended with their families to celebrate Christmas. It

would be great to see more people attend the revamped Carol Concert in December 2025 and get in the festive spirit.

Early in 2025 saw Scouts enjoy the annual Freezer Camp at Squirrel Wood. Although cold, the Scouts showed resilience camping out in the conditions and enjoyed yet another fun filled weekend. The event was run by Sam Finn and Georgia Gilbert, supported by the District Team.

Numbers across the District have once again shown a slight increase. Some groups had issues during the year, but they all overcame these. As leaders we need to continue to ensure that we do all we can to recruit and retain new members by continuing to offer exciting programmes and other activities such as camps and days out. Please reach out to the District Team if you need help with this.

I spent several evenings and weekends throughout the year visiting groups on their activities. As always, I was impressed with the great, fun, exciting Scouting being provided on group nights and camps.

To finish, I would like to thank all leaders in the District for their support during this year at events. We have lots of hard-working leaders who are giving their best to provide young people in Doncaster Danum with Skills for Life. Once again, I need to thank the other members of Doncaster Danum's District Team for their help and support this year assisting and helping to deliver District events.

A big BRAVO to you all!

James Hagyard
District Team Leader Programme & Events