

DUSAGG AGM – 21/3/2021

Present: Rory Baxter, Chloe Todd, Heather Moore, Kate Roberts, Ben Dickinson, Ellie Fisher, Ryan Murphy, Ceri Foster, Edmund Lea, Rose Buchanan, Harry Peachment, Owen Hucklesby, Sophie O'Sullivan

No apologies

Meeting started at 20:05

Chloe outlined the agenda for the meeting, as well as how motions and elections work. Specific detail was provided for how these work in an online setting.

Approval of minutes

The minutes for last year's AGM had been circulated on Facebook a few days prior.

A typo was found. The minutes have been corrected.

The handover did not go as intended as the lockdown was not expected to have lasted that long. Instead of being in person but distanced, handovers were all virtual.

A note was added to the minutes.

Treasurer's Report

Our starting balance was £1005.79.

Our ending balance was £1094.78.

Made a profit of £88.99.

The main source of income was Freshers' fees.

The mascots were the main expense.

It was concluded that there was no point applying for a grant as we have a sizable amount in the account.

Previously we had discussed the purchase of equipment such as tent, but this was not actioned as lockdown restrictions have meant that we were unable to access the DSU's stores of equipment.

This will be an action for the following exec committee.

There was a brief discussion about how the healthy account last year was able to subsidise the Big Event to Amsterdam.

Liaison's Report

The role has been very different this year due to Covid.

It has seen a different way of running the role.

The Thinking Day activity was very successful.

There has been lots of positive feedback from the event.

This was the first event for local brownies that DUSAGG has run in a long time.

Aim to have more Guiding activities in future.

MidMad

Although MidMad had been discussed, it did not happen due to the third national lockdown.

It has been good to see that new people have been helping with units virtually.

We have been helping with Durham Camp At Home.

We have been organizing/running activities and have received good feedback.

It was noted that the future Liaisons Officer(s) may not have experience with any of the in-person events.

It will always be possible for them to ask current members who do have experience, or former members.

Of note are the DOGS, many of whom live in Durham and are activity members of Durham Scouts anyway

President's Report

It has been a good year, all things considered.

Weekly meetings have been maintained and have been successful.

We have been involved in iScout, as well as getting more involved in SSAGO, having gone to multiple virtual rallies.

Chloe's aim had been "Don't kill the society" and she felt that she had achieved that.

The freshers intake was very good this year.

The socials with NUSSAGG have been successful and both groups have enjoyed them.

The hiking competitions have also been successful.

Initially just an internal friendly thing, it has now successfully been transformed into a semi-competitive charity event with NUSSAGG.

Many thanks were given to Kate for running socials. In particular the Murder Mystery night

Thanks were given to the exec as a whole.

Motions

Motion to change the DUSAGG logo to the new logo design.

Following on from a motion passed at a previous EGM, the logo needs to be changed.

The exec had asked people to submit potential designs and then selected their favourite. This design was then put forwards for this motion.

A comparison between the proposed logo and the current logo was made.

A discussion on the cost of using more colours in the new logo and its impact on the cost of stash was held. It was concluded that there would be minimal difference and that any major difference would be footed by the society.

Motion passe unanimously

Motion for Banana Mole to be a DUSAGG award.

Inspired by SSAGO awards, this award would be given at the end of each term to someone who has done something silly or funny.

Banana mole is a new mascot made by Kate, and Chloe has made a similar copy.

The idea is that at the end of term social/meal people can vote on who they want to hold banana mole.

Nominations can be given to the president at the meal and then people can vote on them.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion for the Order of Mother Mole and the Order of Uncle Roger to be changed so they are gender neutral.

Currently the roles are gendered, and we as a society, and in general, should aim to be more tolerate of those who may not fall into the binary of such gendered roles.

It is also important not to assume the gender of an individual.

The tradition was considered important, but it should be updated.

The awards were to be renamed to remove the gendered roles of "Mother" and "Uncle".

The awards would be given not based on the quality of motherly or uncle-y, but instead of those who reflected the personality of the relevant mascot.

Motion passed unanimously.

Exec Roles

There was a discussion relating to the DSU and if using the SSAGO system was allowed.

This had been cleared with the DSU beforehand, and we had made sure everything was ok.

There was a discussion of if there should be a time limit on the hustings.

As this had not be advertised before the AGM had started, no time limit was set.

President

Ben Dickinson - Won 16-0

Husting

Introduced himself. He is currently the fresher's rep and has been very involved in the society. He is also on the Viking Rally committee.

Questions

Ideas for president of DUSAGG

It would be very dependent on what restrictions are still in place.

He would work with the DSU where possible, but mainly he would just see what happens as the year goes on.

What have you learnt on your time on the exec?

If you are going to propose a joke motion, make sure it is not going to pass.

Make use of all the resources you have got.

How would you make sure that everyone is balanced within the exec?

Tell the exec to focus on university work first.

Ensure that if someone is struggling then allow them to share their workload with the rest of the exec.

What are you going to do to compare against previous presidents?

He is going to try and remember who the previous presidents were.

Do you feel confident in your ability to split the commitment of Viking Rally exec and being President?

As the publicity officer of Viking Rally, the workload is very manageable, so yes.

What has been your favourite part of DUSAGG so far?

Scavenger hunts

Favourite campfire snack

S'mores

Are you looking forward to DSU meetings?

"Yes, I hear they're thrilling".

How do you plan to represent the society?

Go to meetings with Scouts and Guides in Durham

Talk to Liaison officer about that.

Present at DSU meetings

Secretary

Chloe Todd Won 16-0

Husting

Capable of role as she is currently the President and that has allowed her to know how to work with members of the exec.

Has frequently had to contact the DSU already, and so has experience with that aspect of the role.

She is happy to attend rep meetings for SSAGO.

She is currently the secretary for Viking Rally.

Can read and write.

Questions

What does SSAGO stand for?

Rory protested at this question

“Student Scout and Guide Group” – quickly correct to Organisation.

How involved do you anticipate DUSAGG being with SSAGO and how will you adapt to that?

The current level of involvement is nice, and she wishes to maintain it.

It is well known that there are strong opinions in SSAGO, how will you navigate these.

She has proven that she is capable of handling them already. She would try to present an unbiased and balanced account to DUSAGG and allow the society to decide.

What wisdom do you take forward?

Knowing what SSAGO stands for is important.

Make sure that minutes are typed up quickly and accurately, following from Rory's example.

What is your opinion on microwave S'mores?

S'mores done on a fire are better, but in lockdown they are a very good alternative.

Treasurer

Kate Roberts Won 16-0

Husting

Well known member of the group who has posted frequently on social media and has run the socials for this year. Committed member of DUSAGG who can count and is able to fill in forms and spreadsheets.

Organized and good at doing what needs to be done.

Her general commitment to DUSAGG means that she is willing to help with other roles if need be.

Questions

Do you know how to cash cheques with the DSU as many events still use cheques?

No yet but can learn.

If virtual events continue next year, would you consider putting funds towards digital assets.

This had been discussed before, but never actioned.

Potentially getting Jackbox games.

Distributing craft activities.

Would be decided by all the exec.

Online stuff would not be a huge cost, so we will be able to do it.

How can you transfer your current exec role experience to that of treasurer?

Demonstrated herself to be consistent and sustained a workload throughout the year.

Able to keep up to date with everything.

In the past, the treasurer has worked closely with events sec to plan events, would you be able to do this?

Yes, she would be able to do this.

There is a lot of money in the pot, what would you do with it?

She had many ideas, including another special Big Event, like Amsterdam last year.

What are your thoughts on current expenses?

We charge a lot less than other societies in Durham, but slightly higher than other SSAGO groups. It may be possible we could lower our fees.

Favourite campfire snack?

S'mores or chocolate in banana

Liaisons Officer

Harry Peachment

Won 15-1

Husting

Although he is not as well known within the society, he wants to use his experience as a Scout to contribute back to the community.

He plans to organize collaborative experiences.

As liaison officer he will organize MidMad etc and perform the typical roles of the liaison officer while also trying to expand the role

He will use his contacts with cadets and emergency services.

He wants to foster lasting relationships.

He recognizes the need to maintain a constant supply of helpers for the groups that need it.

Questions

In the past, the role has been split between Guiding and Scouting. How do you feel you can bridge that gap?

Although he is a Scout, he will try his best to collaborate with Guides by liaising with them.

He would consider approaching Guides no different to approaching Scouts.

Ideally, a Guiding liaisons officer would also get elected at some point.

Going into next year, what approach do you have to recruitment with respect to both in person and virtual meetings?

The way things have been done this year have been good and aims to maintain it.

Place emphasis on allowing anyone who wants to be volunteer being able to and ensuring that they are directed to the groups that need it.

MidMad, Indoor Outdoor etc is mainly aimed at Scouts. How will you try and aim these at guides as well?

Ideally there would be a Guiding liaisons officer who could help.

He wants to collaborate where possible and open up events to Guides where possible.

What do you mean by liaising with Cadets?

Integrate experience he has with the cadets into Scouting and Guiding.

Use skills teaching and experience that have been popular before

Favourite campfire snack

Chocolate and banana, or S'mores

Do you feel confident that you could represent DUSAGG to local groups?

Yes, he is very confident that he could. Given his experience with representing his own troop, he feels he has the experience needed.

Would you feel comfortable / confident communicating with DOGS?

He would be happy to keep them in the loop and work with them.

It would be good to use their experience.

Social Sec

No candidates

Events Secretary

Heather Moore

Won 16-0

Husting

Proposed to follow a similar plan to what she put forward in her manifesto at the recent EGM.

Take restrictions as they come.

Learn from the experience of online activities, e.g., Green Rally Yellow Rally.

Questions

How do you feel you can transfer the skills from your current role to the events sec?

“Amazingly, as they are the same role”.

How will you deal with Covid risk assessments?

Do what the DSU requires.

Follow SSAGO, DSU, and government guidelines.

It is important we actually follow the guidelines and not just say that we are going to do so.

If Big Event goes ahead next year, will you invite graduates?

“Yes, the more the merrier”

What destinations would you like to go to?

International would be nice.

France, Netherlands, Germany, Switzerland are all doable.

How would you feel with engaging/coordinating with DOGS for events?

It would be a possibility, depending on what we are able to do.

Thoughts on Fresher's Camp

Optimistic that we would be able to run it.

Unsure what we would be able to do.

Instead of an overnight camp, it may have to be multiple consecutive day events.

In person events would be ideal.

Favourite campfire snack

Chocolate and banana, but bread and water is also good.

How do you feel about getting more involved in SSAGO and the Northern Region in general?

We already have a strong connection with NUSSAGG, and there is a lot of potential to get more involved.

Would you make sure that all events do not clash with other events, namely Viking Rally?

Yes, events will be spaced out to allow people to have some time to do work.

Werewolf Officer

Rory Baxter (in place of Lulu the Goat)

Won 10-6

Questions

What would your mascot be?

There is already a wolf mascot, so cannot have another.

The human exec members have animal mascots, so it might be an idea to have a human stuffed toy as a mascot.

Favourite campfire snack

Crispy marshmallows

Voting opens at 21/3/2021 – 21:30 and closed 26/3/2021 – 21:30

Awards

Order of Mole

Ellie nominated Ceri.

Ceri has been a great social sec, president, and a brilliant member of the society.

Her extensive collection of stash reflects her experience within the society.

She has been very welcoming to new members.

She has been very helpful this year, even though she has been on placement.

Banana Mole

Kate nominated Rory.

Rory forgot what SSAGO stood for while recording the podcast to advertise the society.

This is despite the secretary being the key point of contact with SSAGO.

The video of Rory forgetting this was played, much to Rory's protest.

Kate led a message from the rest of the exec to give a massive thanks to Chloe for all her hard work. She has been a very committed and wonderful and has done a lot for the society. She has gone above and beyond in every aspect, especially in this non-conventional year.

The exec has a gift to give to Chloe, which can hopefully be given to her at an in-person event in final term.

There was a discussion about the challenges that exec roles may face in the coming year.

AGM ended 21:55.