

DUSAGG AGM

DATE: 10/03/2024

LOCATION: DURHAM SU

Meeting Commenced 18:12

Welcome

Attendance

Present:

Ben Dickinson (Secretary) – BD
Matthew Taylor (President) - MT
Sakura Doody - SD
Beth Clayton (Social Secretary) - BC

Alfie Baker (Liaisons Officer Scouts) - AB
Jess Bond (Treasurer) – JB
Charlotte Chow - CC

MT welcomed everyone, and explained how the AGM will work. Apologies were received from Phoebe.

Voting on motions will take place in the meeting, with an opportunity to oppose the motion and ask questions. Hysts will be given and then questions can be asked with voting online over the next few days.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the previous AGM were approved unanimously.

Reports

Treasurer's Report

JB gave a report.

We started with £686 last year, our income was mostly from membership and the MidMad income. Similarly, the expenditure is mostly MidMad, with some socials thrown in.

We made a loss on socials as we subsidise the socials. JB ran through each grouping of the finances. MidMad made a surplus of £150.49. We did not run any events.

AB: Have you enjoyed being Treasurer?

Yes

Liaisons' Report

AB gave a report on behalf of AB and Phoebe Cook (Liaisons Officer Guides).

AB gave an outline of the report. We have some new volunteers in the district. There are 2 DUSAGG members on the district Trustee Board. We have improved our relations with district and county by running events. DUSAGG members have been involved in events at all levels throughout the country. We have at least 1 volunteer at a guide group. We aim to improve relations with guiding through introducing a trophy for guides at indoor and outdoor.

MidMad was the highlight of DUSAGG's volunteering year. We ran this at 5th Birtley scout hut on 18th-19th November. We had 41 volunteers with base leaders current or recent DUSAGG graduates. We invited the KSWP to help out which was very useful. The venue had great facilities and camping so we will go back. Parking was not ideal but thank you to Morrisons for letting us park there. We aim to have more rangers next year.

Indoor was run in the TLC, we had 88 young people and 15 volunteers across 5 different bases. We invited guides for the first time since 2007. We introduced indoor badges too. We had an almost 50/50 split of scouts and guides. It would be nice to have even more young people next year.

Outdoor was yesterday in 1st Fatfield scout hut. We had 65 young people and 20 volunteers. There was around a 60/40 split of scouts to guides for outdoor. Next year, we should run a navigation weekend to ensure their skills are good enough for Outdoor. A theme may be a good idea for Outdoor in future.

SD: What kind of theme would you think of?

I'm not sure. Maybe based on some sort of childrens literature or maybe spies or any of the previous MidMad themes.

MT: Do you have any ideas for MidMad next year for growing the event, venues etc.?

Possibly looking at Wheatley Hill, it has been suggested that we make a promotional video to improve advertising. Advertise more heavily, maybe promote to groups in person. We should make it the biggest event in the county.

President's Report

MT gave a report.

It has been a decent year for membership, we have been increasing in numbers throughout the year. The exec have been really strong throughout the year too. It has been great to collaborate with other SSAGO clubs. Durham City network has also been restarting which is good.

We have run a number of socials with variable attendance. The best socials have been the escape room, hike at the start of the year and the end of term meal in Michaelmas. The term plan worked well. We need to announce socials further in advance next year. Events have been lighter than usual. Freshers' Camp with NUSSAGG was a good weekend. We were hoping to revive Big Event but we haven't managed that.

All volunteering events went well, lots of members volunteering locally. DUSAGG are making a really strong contribution to local scouting and guiding. We have been logging our hours on the university volunteering system.

We are still working on our transition to office 365. We are working with DUSVO and they are supporting us with printing. Please nominate DUSAGG for the DUSVO awards. MT thanked the exec and all members of DUSAGG.

AB: What advice do you have for the next president?

Make sure people are kept informed, use the exec, communicate properly in advance.

CC: The exec may be mostly freshers, do you have any advice for getting to know the local community?

Help with events, we can put people in touch with people, they're all lovely.

Motions

Use of society funds to purchase wearable promotional material.

AB submitted a motion to buy a mole costume. AB spoke for the motion:

This motion is to designate funds to a professionally made costume of a mole. This costume will be worn by a randomly chosen exec member excluding the president at all events where DUSAGG are visible to the public. This could increase membership and relations with local scouts and guides.

JB spoke neutrally on the motion:

This is £500. We have £985 if we believe the SU. This is almost 60% of our funds.

MT spoke against the motion:

DUSAGG's money has been gained through hard work on our events and a significant donation from a recent member. This probably would not last very long. I think it is our responsibility to safeguard DUSAGG's existence and spend the money appropriately. This does not fall under appropriate spending and the funds would be better used to subsidise events.

AB: MT, why do you think this is an inappropriate use of funds?

Spending over half of our money on something that will live in the stores is not appropriate.

The motion failed with 4 votes against and 1 vote for with 2 abstains.

Elections

President

AB is the only candidate. AB gave a hust:

AB would like to thank Martha and Beth for proposing and seconding him. AB has held the Liaisons and Treasurer roles so far, this means he has experience dealing with Durham SU. AB ran what he calls the "best midmad yet" (although he did run it). AB introduced guides to indoor for the first time since 2007 and introduced badges. AB has become a member of the district scout trustee board.

AB plans to update all of the DUSAGG branding. AB would like a new "long logo" for DUSAGG. AB aims to acquire new resources with the logos e.g. new retrieval signs, feather flags, society branded items of paraphernalia.

AB will continue to support events with the new liaisons officers and keep relationships with local scouts and guides.

AB would like to increase membership by recruiting students from across the university, especially guides. AB plans to run a variety of socials and events.

AB also promises to clear out the stores.

MT: Would you use the new logo on stash?

AB would have to talk to the new exec

BD made a speech for RON. RON will not submit mole costume motions.

Secretary

BC gave a hust:

BC has been involved in scouting in Durham and nationally. BC is events officer for the sociology society. BC has plenty of experience answering scouty emails, which is a large part of the secretary role.

BC has run events for other charities, including while managing other commitments.

BC would establish good relations with SSAGO.

BC would work to build relations with local scouting and guiding too.

MT: How would you improve our social media?

Multiple reminders for events, including posts telling people we are somewhere when running a social.

JB: Will you turn up to things earlier than Ben?

Yes

MT: Will you attend outdoor?

Yes

Treasurer

SD gave a hust.

SD is running as we need a treasurer to be a society. If anyone else would like to do it, feel free to vote RON but if not, I'll do it. AB will hopefully help.

AB: Do you have any plans to spend our money?

As MT said, we should spend it on things that are useful. SD is unsure if a mole costume would fall under this. JB suggested more chairs.

Social Secretary

CC gave a hust.

CC would like to continue the efforts of the past execs. Social sec is a really important role to keep engagement up. CC would like to run things like PowerPoint night, socials to help exec to plan stuff, inviting local volunteers to some socials, working on top awards. CC would like to spend money on food for the socials. CC is committed to learning more about local volunteering and engaging members.

AB: I like the PowerPoint night, can you elaborate?

JB suggested PowerPoint karaoke where you don't know what you're presenting.

Events Secretary

There were no nominations.

Liaisons Officer (Scouts)

Martha has submitted a nomination, BC gave a hush on her behalf.

Martha Manley for Liaisons Officer (sScouts) - nominators include Alfie Baker and Beth Clayton.

I am excited to be able to put myself forward for the role of Liaison's Officer (Scouts) for the society. I am sorry not to be there with you all for this year's AGM due to my work schedule, though a closure for refurbishments in the near future will allow me to be more available in the future. (MT is delighted by imminent loss of employment) Having served as the first year representative for this year, the opportunity to start on a new journey and embrace bigger challenges within the society is a one that I am greatly excited by.

Liaisons Officer was of particular interest to me for a broad amount of reasons, branching back to my own experience of being a young person attending Midnight Madness in 2021. The weekend brought around a great amount of new memories, friendships, skills and experiences for me - though as patrol/group leader, I did of course allow the younger explorers in my team to build their own map skills while I 'supervised'. With the knowledge of all the work that goes on behind the scenes, I would be honoured to work with each volunteer to bring about that incredible experience for others in scouting. ("#skillsforlife" - a little quote from our current Scouts Liaisons Officer).

Furthermore, we're losing many crucial and influential members of our exec this year (with a few brilliant exceptions, of course) and so, by taking on such a role, it is my hope and goal that I will gain the skills and knowledge, alongside others in the society, to be able to help in the years to come to the best of my ability and to grow more and more in my scouting experiences, even after university.

It is my belief that my experiences through employment, scouting and education set me up with great skills for the role - from organising sixth form open days and college outings within our school council to organising camps.

Furthermore, it is my goal to introduce a briefing event prior to MidMad as an opportunity for new volunteers and freshers to socialise and understand, or even practice, the activities - this could happen before the route check, for example. This would be especially important for new students looking to help who may feel intimidated by a big event.

I would also be interested in discussing creating an artistic advertisement for the events to be sent out to both scout groups and the Durham County Scout Group Facebook Group, or perhaps even looking at making an overview video for the years to come (like a trailer for each event).

Finally, being a local student I can bring many helpful connections to the role and help members to get into volunteering locally as best I can.

I hope you consider me for the role and I very much look forward to what the next year in DUSAGG will bring.

Liaisons Officer (Guides)

There were no nominations.

Awards

MT gave an overview of the awards.

Banana Mole

AB nominated BC and CC for sleeping through a large all of the monopoly run. This was approved unanimously.

Order of Mole

AB nominated MT. This was approved.

MT nominated BD for being a dedicated member of the exec for 4 years. BD has been involved in national SSAGO, and good at running socials, social media, dealing with the SU. This was approved.

Order of Roger

JB nominated AB, SD added the entertainment of the mole costume motions. This was approved.

AOB

There was no AOB. MT thanked everyone for coming.

Meeting Ended 19:25

Appendix I – Election Results

President

Alfie Baker – 5

Re-open Nominations – 1

Secretary

Beth Clayton - 6

Re-open Nominations - 0

Treasurer

Sakura Doody – 7

Re-open Nominations - 0

Liaisons Officer Scouts

Martha Manley - 6

Re-open Nominations – 0

Liaisons Officer Guides

Re-open Nominations – 6

Social Secretary

Charlotte Chow – 5

Re-open Nominations – 1

Events Secretary

Re-open Nominations - 6