



LIVE THE ADVENTURE



West Regional Scout Council Annual Report 2014/15

Chairman's Report



This year has been a year of change across West Region as we have continued to develop Scouting at all levels to ensure that it is fit for purpose for our young people, Leaders, administrators, parents and supporters. The appointment of Stephen Allan as Regional Commissioner is now showing the rewards for the energy and enthusiasm he has put into his new role.

Change has been a major part of the Regional Commissioner's work in taking the Region forward and with a full team of Leaders on his team he has created plans which will link into both the SHQ and National Vision for 2018.

Change has also been important at a District and Group level where Scouting has continued to grow and develop supported by Leaders and volunteers who give many hours of their precious free time for the benefit of the young people in our communities. Scouting would not be able to deliver quality events and activities without these individuals who constantly amaze me in how they keep the 'game of Scouting' fresh, vibrant and challenging.

The Region hosted the annual Scottish Awards Ceremony in Paisley Town Hall on the 14 June. Not only was it heart-warming to see Leaders and Explorer Scouts from across the Region be presented with well-deserved awards, but the

crowning glory of the Awards ceremony was the high level of participation from our young people. This was a great example of how our young people are fully involved in shaping Scouting across the Region.

This year has seen unprecedented growth in the usage of Lapwing Lodge where Scouts and non-Scouts are enjoying the experiences of what is now a must visit venue. The Warden supported by the Management Board and a team of volunteers make sure that visitors to the centre have a great experience. Lapwing Lodge has also seen change this year because it became a film star. Thanks to location scouts for Outlander and River City the centre was transformed to make it fit into the stories these programmes were running. Lapwing Lodge also missed out on having a part in one of the James May programmes about rockets and whilst he visited the centre when the International Rocketeers were holding their annual event, no filming was done. Further change was also seen at the centre where the first wedding was held which was a great success.

Scouting across the Region is delivered by Leaders, volunteer managers, administrators, parents, friends and supporters who work away in their own area to ensure that our members reap the benefits of 'playing the game of Scouting'. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for what you do and for the time you give so generously to this great youth organisation.

Finally, the last change I will be associated with this year is stepping down from the role of Regional Chair. It has been a challenging five years where I have learned new things, met new people and had the opportunity to play a small part in ensuring that we all continue to 'play the game of Scouting' across the Region for the benefit of our members and the communities they live in. To everyone who has supported, advised and worked with me during the past five years I thank you most sincerely.

I wish West Region, its members and Leaders Good Scouting as you continue to 'play the game'.

Donald Gordon
Chair,
West Region Scout Council

Regional Commissioner's Report



Since August 2014, the Region has undergone a transformation as it established its identity, purpose and vision.

This transformation has only been possible due to the many individuals that have taken on the challenges of new roles both at District and Regional level. I would like to thank everyone that has come forward to be part of the West Region team of Scouting as without them we simply would not have been even able to start the reorganisation that was required.

The key part to building this Region is to ensure that there are five strong Districts and an active outdoor centre at Lapwing Lodge. For the first time since the Region's creation in 2008 there are now five District Commissioners and District teams supporting Scouting locally. All Districts are working towards producing a five year development plan in partnership with the youth members of the District

The training team, led by ARC (Adult Training) Shirley Cairney has delivered residential Wood Badge course which have resulted in an incredible 62 Wood Badges being awarded across the Region - the highest number ever. We have a blend of experience and youth that has inspired everyone that has attended to

return to their Sections and deliver an exciting balanced programme from the youngest Beaver all the way through to an Explorer Scout Unit.

To ensure we have succession planning there was a very successful Young Leaders' weekend ran by Karen Friar, Dunbartonshire District, at Auchengillan when 52 Explorers took part in the newly launched YL scheme. These initial 52 Explorers will be monitored over the next five years to see what they have learned. It will be great to see the numbers that progress onto Wood Badge training.

Development has been across many projects however the work of David McCallum, ARC Development (North), has been remarkable with the establishment of an operational District in Argyll with a Development Day in Inverary where for the first time the District came together. There was a new District team formed which has led onto District training and support across Groups. There has been initial work on opening a special needs Group in Dumbarton which will see the Region well on its way to having five special needs Groups. It is vital that Scouting is for all!

Development plans by Iain Kent, ARC Development (South), will see the targeted growth of Scouting within the town of Johnstone and the re-establishment of Scouting within Linwood.

The appointment of Stuart Wilson as ARC (Communications) has seen the creation of social media sites and by the time of the AGM a new Regional website. This will be the interface that promotes the four cornerstones of the Region; training, communications, development, section support. There is now a Regional wide support for the District Communications teams which has seen never before exposure in the local media in all five Districts.

The International programme of events ranging from Kenya in the summer of 2016, onto Denmark, Iceland, Switzerland and finally Malaysia in 2019 has been announced.

One of the key priorities of the Region is to greatly increase the number of adults holding adventurous activities permits, the courses ran by Jeremy Game have resulted in the highest number ever of Terrain 1 and Terrain 2 hill walking

permits being awarded. We have also seen increasing permits for archery, powerboating, canoeing and mountain biking.

The Region's outdoor centre, Lapwing Lodge, has seen a complete transformation in the occupancy levels and activity sessions due to Ross Dunbar and Hilary Graham who have been supported by many volunteers on a regular basis.

This is the beginning of living the adventure in the West Region, I would like to thank everyone that enthuses, inspires and excites youth and adult members in the varied roles that Scouting offers.

Stephen T. Allan
Regional Commissioner





Recognising our adult volunteers

Silver Wolf

Kenny Wilson

Greenock & District

Bar to the Silver Acorn

Kenny Paton

70th Greenock & District

Silver Acorn

Tommy Boag

70th Greenock & District

Medal Of Merit

Roland Shackell

70th Greenock & District

Bernie McGuinness

80th Greenock & District

James Canning
Susan Duffy
Gerry Green

73rd Greenock & District
Paisley & District
21st Paisley (St.Mirins)

Chief Scouts Commendation

Angela Aitken
Alyson Bright
Amanda Hetherington
Martin Jones
Alan Newbigging
Alison Reid
Kyle Wilson
Jill Brooks
Gordon Wright
Alan Birss
Sinclair Smith

73rd Greenock & District
47th Greenock & District
Finnart Explorer Scouts
6th Greenock & District
6th Greenock & District
70th Greenock & District
33rd Greenock & District
2nd Paisley (Abbey)
2nd Paisley (Abbey)
2nd Paisley (Abbey)
5th Paisley (Oldhall)



West Regional Scout Council

Finance Report

Financial Year Ended

31 March 2015



Income & Expenditure

Opening Reserves	1 April 2014		£128,555
Regional Income		£9,067	
Lapwing Development		£7,920	
Jamboree Contribution		£1,400	
Regional Expenditure		<u>(£7,343)</u>	(£7,596)
Jamboree Income		£83,636	
Jamboree Expenditure		<u>£79,058</u>	£4,578
Lapwing Lodge Income		£100,025	
Investment Income		0	
Grants		£4,500	
Donations		£2,000	
Lapwing Lodge Expenditure		<u>(£99,236)</u>	£7,289

Investment Gain		<u>£1,329</u>
Closing Reserves	31 March 2015	<u>£134,155</u>

Balance Sheet

Fixed Assets		£50,781
Investments		£19,674
Stock	£1,000	
Cash & Bank	£107,185	
Johnstone Group Loan	£5,000	
Debtors	£49,346	
Creditors	<u>(£98,831)</u>	
		<u>£63,700</u>
		<u>£134,155</u>

Eric Richardson
Region Treasurer, CA



Membership

	Male	Female	2015 Total	2014 Total
YOUTH MEMBERSHIP				
Beaver Scouts	934	170	1,104	1,130
Cub Scouts	915	171	1,086	1,172
Scouts	840	251	1,091	1,004
Explorer Scouts	290	80	370	386
Network members	11	3	14	8
TOTAL YOUTH MEMBERSHIP	2,990	675	3,665	3,700
LEADERSHIP				
Sections leaders	261	186	447	467
Sectional Assistants & Skills Instructors	31	30	61	86
Group Scout Leaders	52	21	73	64
District Scouters	4	0	4	2
District Commissioners	7	4	11	18
Regional Advisers	3	0	3	2
Regional Commissioners	2	0	2	6
TOTAL LEADERSHIP	360	241	601	645
ORGANISATIONAL SUPPORT				
District Administrators	1	0	1	3
District Office Bearers	7	5	12	9
Regional Office Bearers	2	1	3	3
Active Support	28	24	52	62
Individual Members and Associate Members	11	12	23	28
TOTAL ORGANISATIONAL SUPPORT	49	42	91	105
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP	3,399	958	4,357	4,450

West Region Scout Council

Registered Scottish Charity SC006564

West Region Scouts
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