



**WEST REGION SCOUT COUNCIL
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
30 AUGUST 2025 AT 1400 HRS
AT THE GLYNHILL HOTEL, RENFREW**

1. INTRODUCTION, WELCOME & SEDERUNT

Mr Blair Ross, Programme Lead for West Region, opened the meeting by welcoming attendees, introducing everyone at the top table, advising housekeeping rules, that West Region 2025 AGM Booklets were available in the room and asked everyone to ensure they signed the Sederunt.

Sederunt: The secretary took note of those who attended, which numbered 47.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from:

Tommy Boag (West Region Trustee)
Eddie Thornton (West Region Trustee)

Stephen Allan (Chair, Lapwing Lodge)
Mark Sinnamon (32nd Greenock Scout Group)

Mr Ross then handed over to Mr Bill McCallum, the Regional President ("RP"), following which the RP thanked Mr Ross for his introductions and for taking part in Items 1 and 2 of the Agenda.

3. GONE HOME

The RP gave consideration to some of those who have Gone Home since the 2024 AGM, advising that, whilst obituaries for each are in the AGM Booklet, he wished to highlight and place on record his, and the Region's appreciation for all the work which had been carried out by Mr Ian Hunter, former Lead Volunteer for West Region, Mrs Maureen Murdoch, former Secretary of West Region, and Mr Andrew Sharkey former Chief Commissioner for Scotland. The RP asked that, to show their appreciation, attendees stand and give one minute's reflection on the lives of all who had Gone Home.

4. GOVERNANCE MATTERS

Following the one minute's reflection, the RP advised that neither the Administrator nor any member of the Trustee Board had received requests for any topic to be brought to the Council's attention, so under Any Other Business there will be no topics covered.

He also advised that, as stated in the AGM Booklet, during the 2025 AGM he will be stepping down from his role as RP and, before reaching that point, wished to address the Council. This was followed by a heartfelt reflection on his time as a member of the Scout Organisation, as a young person, then as an adult with Renfrew and Inverclyde Area, then West Region, thanking all who had, and have, been part of his enjoyable and fulfilling Scouting journey.

a. Approval of Previous Minutes

The RP advised that under the terms of West Region's Constitution ("the Constitution") the West Region Trustee Board has the responsibility of approving the Minutes of an AGM at their first Trustee Board after the AGM. He was pleased to advise that the Minutes of the AGM held on Wednesday, 25 September 2024 at Lapwing Lodge had reviewed and by the Trustees at their meeting on 17 November 2024, and approved as a fair reflection of the AGM.

He invited questions from the attendees at the AGM and, as there were none, the Minutes were taken as approved by the Regional Scout Council.

Approved by Council

b. Re-adopt Regional Constitution

The RP advised that there were no changes to the Constitution approved at the AGM on Wednesday, 25 September 2024, so this Constitution continues to be effective. There were no questions or comments to the contrary, so the Constitution was approved.

Approved by Council

c. West Region's Financial Year

It was noted that West Region's financial year is from 1 April to 31 March.

d. Appointed and Community members of the Regional Scout Council

It was noted that, at the time of the meeting, no external names had been nominated as members of the Regional Scout Council.

The RP asked if the Council gave approval to the Trustee Board to fill any nominations which come to them as and when such actions are requested.

Approved by Council

e. Number of members appointed to the Regional Scout Council

The RP advised that POR indicates a minimum of 5 and no more than 12 in total, 12 including ex-officio and co-opted trustees, and recommended the Council approve 12 appointees. There being no comments to the contrary, this was approved.

Approved by Council

f. Quorum for all future meetings of the Regional Scout Council

It was noted that the outgoing Trustee Board propose the Quorum for future Regional Scout Council Meetings (excluding the 2025 Meeting) be 12, in person, which is similar to the previous numbers. There being no comments to the contrary this was approved.

Agreed by Council

5. REVIEW OF THE PREVIOUS YEAR (1 APRIL 2023 TO 31 MARCH 2024)

a. Regional Lead Volunteer's review of Scouting in West Region

Mr James Cumming, Regional Lead Volunteer for West Region, opened his review thanking everyone for their attendance. He then gave the Regional Scout Council a full and informative update of what has been happening since his appointment to the role 10 months ago. His full Report is available as Appendix 1.

At the end of the Report, the RP invited questions from the Council and was pleased to note there were no questions.

b. Annual Report of the Regional Trustee Board including the Annual Statement of Accounts

The RP asked Mr Donald Gordon as Chair (“Trustee Chair”) of the Trustee Board to make his Report, following which Mr Eric Richardson (“Treasurer”) took the Regional Scout Council through the Accounts.

The Trustee Chair began by giving a report the Transformation, specifically highlighting that since the tragedy on the Great Orme, UK HQ are continually tightening the requirements on Health & Safety. He advised that to support Health & Safety, he and Mr Russell Keir (Regional Health & Safety Advisor) are trying to show and use best practice, a key example being recent overseas trips where there were some fantastic applications and which will be used as models for the future.

When concluding his Report (the full version of which is Appendix 2) he advised that during 2024/25 it has been excellent to see Scouting alive and well, being particularly aware that it’s important everyone feels safe and enjoy themselves. He concluded by thanking everyone connected with West Region for all the work they do, and that his thanks are passed on to the parents for making sure their young people experience and enjoy their Scouting.

On conclusion of the Trustee Chair’s report, the RP invited questions from the Council and was pleased to note there were no questions.

The RP then invited the Treasurer to comment on the Accounts.

The Treasurer began his Report by drawing the Council’s attention to the Financial Statements, providing a further explanation on the Region’s finances. A copy of his Report is available as Appendix 3 to these Minutes).

The Treasurer concluded by advising that the sign-off process for the Accounts is in place in time for filing with OSCR within the set timeframe.

Mr Ewan McCrone asked about the list of Trustees detailed in the Accounts and was advised that this has been picked up in terms of resignation dates and will be amended prior to filing with OSCR. The RP asked about the difference between unaudited accounts and signed accounts, to which the Treasurer advised that no audit is required for West Region as the Accounts are subject to an Independent Examination, an audit only being required if income is over £500,000. The RP therefore confirmed to the Regional Scout Council that the accountancy term of Unaudited does not affect the Accounts.

The RP then asked if there are any questions and was pleased to note there were none. He further advised that due to the Constitution, there is now no need for the Regional Scout Council to approve the Accounts, as the Trustee Board approved the Accounts at their Board Meeting on Sunday, 17 August 2025.

6. MAKING APPOINTMENTS

At this point in the meeting, the RP handed over to the Trustee Chair.

The Trustee Chair reflected on the RP stepping down his post and the consideration given to his replacement, bearing in mind that it had to be someone enthusiastic, understanding and good at promotion, so having identified Col Peter McCarthy as an ideal replacement was delighted to advise that Col McCarthy had agreed to take on the role of Regional President for 3 years. He noted that Col McCarthy has been a great ambassador for Scouting and was delighted to recommend his appointment to the Regional Scout Council.

Approved by Council

a. Appointment of Two Members to the Regional Trustee Board

The Trustee Chair advised that following an open selection process for a Trustee Board Member to represent Dunbartonshire, he was delighted to propose Ms Gill Shearer to represent the Dunbartonshire District and asked for approval for the appointment.

Approved by Council

The second appointment, recommended by the West Region Trustee Board, is for Mr Stephen Allan, who is Chair of the Lapwing Lodge Management Board.

Approved by Council

b. Appointment of Regional Treasurer

The Treasurer had intimated his intention to stand down from his role, but due to no replacement being identified, agreed that he will continue as a Financial Adviser to the Region to help with the accounting, but will step back from his role as a Trustee. To progress the lack of a replacement, for the post of Treasurer and Trustee, the Trustee Chair asked the Council to advise him or Mr Cumming if they know anyone who may wish to take on the Treasurer and Trustee role.

c. Composition of Regional Trustee Board

Taking account of the two appointees at 6a, the Trustee Board Composition is now:

- ✿ Mr Edward Thornton – Argyll
- ✿ Ms Gill Shearer – Dunbartonshire
- ✿ Mr Tommy Boag – Greenock & District
- ✿ Mr Jack Winch – Paisley & District
- ✿ Mr Ewan McCrone – Renfrewshire
- ✿ Mr Stephen Allan – Lapwing Lodge Management Board
- ✿ Mr Russell Keir – Regional Safety Adviser

Ex-Officio:

- ✿ Regional Chair – Mr Donald Gordon
- ✿ Regional Treasurer – To be Advised (Eric Richardson continuing as Financial Adviser)
- ✿ Regional Lead Volunteer – Mr James Cumming
- ✿ Regional Youth Lead – Ms Meg Scott

The Trustee Chair asked for the Council's approval of the continuation of the above to the Regional Trustee Board.

Approved by Council

To conclude this point, the Trustee Chair wished to place on record his thanks to Mrs Barbara MacDonald and Mrs Hilary Graham for their help and support during their time as Trustees.

d. Appoint Regional President and Vice Presidents

Regional President

Appointment of Col Peter McCarthy (see Item 6).

Approved by Council at Item 6

Vice-Presidents

The Trustee Chair then advised that the following Vice-Presidents had indicated their willingness to continue in their posts:

- ✿ Ms Jill Young MBE
- ✿ Ms Jane McLeod
- ✿ Mr Ian Banner

Approved by Council

e. Appointment of Independent Auditor/Examiner

The Treasurer proposed MacMillan Craig to fulfil this role, with Mr David Carlaw carrying out the task of reviewing the Accounts.

Approved by Council

f. Election of representatives of the Regional Scout Council to represent the Regional Scout Council on the Council of the Scout Association.

It was noted that two members of the West Region Council represent the Region on the Council of the Scout Association, the nominees being Ms Meg Scott (for the 18 to 24 year age group), with Mr Donald Gordon as the second appointee.

Approved by Council

7. REGIONAL MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1 APRIL 2025 TO 31 MARCH 2026

The Trustee Chair opened this topic by reminding all present that the Regional Levy has been £2.00 per member and that this remains for 2025 into 2026. However, following a lengthy discussion at the Trustee Board on 17 August 2025, a need to increase the levy was identified. To assist the Trustees with their decisions, The Treasurer had prepared a budget, which following review by the Trustees, there had been a majority decision that, for 2026 to 2027 the Regional Levy increase to £5.00 per member (an increase of £3.00 per member). There had, however, been one Trustee who indicated a preference for the increase to be to £4.00 per member. The Trustee Chair recognised the sizeable increase and asked the Treasurer to explain the reasons for it.

The Treasurer outlined the budget, explaining that to allow the Region to do what it does, in terms of supporting Districts, training camps, trips (e.g. to Peru) and adventurous activity training, a £4.00 levy would make the Region break even. Add to this, because the Regional levy had not increased for the last 5 years, there is a need for a retrospective increase. In the same timeframe, the Regional Funds (separate from the Lapwing Lodge Funds) have decreased from £45,000 to £30,000, so the increase would allow these reserves to be built back up, which a £5.00 levy will do.

In response to a query about the budget, he advised that although it had been prepared for the Trustees, it could be made available on a wider basis.

The Treasurer then responded to questions by advising the requested increase to support the reserves will help cover unexpected one off costs; the Region wishes to support the Districts, one way being that within the Regional budget there will be £2,500 adventurous activity funding for each District, which if unused for that purpose will go back to the District; West Region's costs also include paying for selections days, eg for Peru/Blair Atholl; the independent examination of the Accounts (which costs between £2,000 and £3,000); including the adventurous activities and other training already noted.

The Trustee Chair emphasised that the funds set aside for specific uses will be ringfenced, bearing in mind that if more people apply, the fund will be reduced quicker, so if there is a greater demand and there are no funds, Groups or individuals will have to pay. Other funding may be received from Scottish HQ, but in the absence of Regional funding, top ups will have to be made by Groups or individuals.

In response to a query about full Membership fees, the Treasurer advised that HQ fees are £44, the Scotland levy is £4.00 (with the £0.50 early payment rebate), so if approved the £5.00 Regional levy will mean a cost of £53.50, excluding the District levy. This prompted a question about District Levies and that if the Region rises by £5.00, as could a District, the effect on young people could be detrimental. In response to a question about a stepped increase for the Regional Levy, the Trustee Chair advised that the Trustee who had proposed £4.00 had suggested that the following year the cost is increased to £5.00.

To bring the discussion to a conclusion, the Trustee Chair advised that maintaining the Regional Levy at £2.00 means the Region will run out of money, so if anything urgent needs attention there will be no funds. He was aware that £5.00 is a big ask, and as one Trustee had suggested £4.00, with an increase to £5.00 the following year, if the Regional Scout Council approves this in principle, he will hold an emergency Trustee Board Meeting to obtain full Trustee approval for final approval at an emergency Regional Scout Council Meeting. He therefore asked for a show of hands to approve the recommended increase to £5.00. The majority did not approve, so the proposed increase will be re-evaluated by the Trustee Board, the outcome to be considered by the Regional Scout Council.

Not Approved by Council - Trustee Board to reconsider

8. CLOSING THE MEETING

The first of two items to bring the AGM to a close was a very informative presentation from Joe Milloy, Jude Dolan and Olivia Walker, who had undertaken their Explorer Belt Expedition in Bavaria.

The second item was the presentation of Awards, which Mr Blair Ross invited Col McCarthy to present as follows:

- ✿ Angus Gillies – Wood Badge as District Lead Volunteer
- ✿ Meg Scott – Chief Scout Commendation for Good Service
- ✿ Bill McCallum – Commissioner’s Commendation
- ✿ Eric Richardson – Commissioner’s Commendation
- ✿ Joe Milloy - King’s Scout Award

Col McCarthy brought the meeting to a close by thanking everyone present for inviting him to share in the event. He went on to congratulate Joe on his award, reminding everyone that Joe had role models in his Explorer Belt and that he is now a role model, should nurture others on their scouting journey, be proud of what he had achieved and be determined to make the most of all the opportunities which come his way.

He then referred to his closing remarks in 2024, reiterating his belief that Scouting is a compass in giving young people direction to help them navigate life, give them values and the underlying idea of service before self, the Scouting before self being no more evident than in Mr McCallum’s reflection on his years of service to Scouting and Mr Richardson’s dedication as ‘Chief Accountant’.

In concluding his comments he recognised the decades of service within the room, and by those not present by being role models, such dedication underpinning and ensuring the long term liability of Scouting for future generations in West Region, advising that he is particularly honoured to have accepted the role of Hon President for West Region and being able to join the important mission of delivering Scouting to young people. He closed his remarks by thanking everyone, whatever their role, for all they do and bring to West Region, in bringing their undiminished energy and enthusiasm to the Region, all of which he will live up to.

There being no further business, the Mr Ross brought the meeting to a conclusion, thanking everyone for their attendance.

Regional Lead Volunteer Report for 2024/2025

It is with immense pride and a deep sense of commitment that I present my first annual report as the Regional Lead Volunteer for West Region Scouts, having taken on this inspiring role in October 2024. This past year has been a period of dynamic change and significant progress, as we embarked on a comprehensive transformation strategy aimed at strengthening our Region and better serving our young people and dedicated volunteers.

A cornerstone of that transformation has been the restructuring of our Regional Team in line with the new structures that came out from Scouts UK. We have been incredibly fortunate to welcome new talent into key positions, including Blair Ross as Programme Lead, Meg Scott as Youth Lead, and Fraser Wright as Volunteer Development Lead. Their expertise and fresh perspectives are already proving invaluable in driving our strategic objectives forward. This new team structure is designed to foster greater collaboration, efficiency, and support across all levels of our Region.

We also celebrated the appointment of two new District Lead Volunteers who bring renewed energy and vision to their respective areas. A special thank you goes to Gus Gillies, our new District Lead Volunteer for Renfrewshire, and Sarah Lintott, who has taken the helm in Dunbartonshire. Their leadership is crucial as we continue to grow and develop Scouting within these vital districts. We also extend our sincere gratitude to their predecessors, whose foundational work laid the groundwork for their successors' success.

Lapwing Lodge remains the jewel in our crown, a testament to years of dedicated service from Ross and Hilary, who are due to stand down. Their unwavering commitment has made Lapwing Lodge a place of unforgettable experiences for countless Scouts and others who have used the centre over the years. We have big plans for the centre, ensuring it continues to provide excellent adventurous and educational experiences, serving as a beacon for outdoor learning and personal development for many years to come. We are committed to building upon their incredible legacy and look forward to working with their successors.

The past year has also seen the introduction of a new national membership system, replacing the previous Compass system. While any new system presents an initial learning curve, we acknowledge that it has been hard to grasp initially for some.

However, this new digital-first platform, launched by The Scouts in December 2024, is designed to significantly ease administrative pressures on Districts and Groups. It offers a much better, more integrated solution, streamlining essential learning, permit applications, awards, and membership detail updates through "MyMembership" and "MyLearning" components. This transition represents a vital step forward in modernising our operations and enabling our volunteers to focus more on delivering skills for life to young people.

In conjunction with these national advancements, we have also launched a new website for the West Region. This new digital hub will better serve our members, offering improved a fresher look, new communication channels, easier access to information, and a more engaging platform to showcase the incredible work happening across our Region.

Looking ahead, we are closely aligning with "Summit 25," the National Scout Conference held in January 2025. This significant event brought together over 700 leaders, volunteers, and staff from across the UK to reflect on past achievements and, crucially, to collaboratively plan for the future. Summit25 aimed to shape the post-2025 vision and strategic roadmap for Scouting up to 2035, addressing global trends and the evolving needs of young people, skills development, education, and communities. The insights gained from this national strategy will undoubtedly inform our Regional plans, ensuring West Region Scouts remains at the forefront of providing relevant and impactful Scouting experiences to our Young People and ensure our leaders are equipped with the skills and tools to make that happen.

Finally, it is with a heavy heart that I must acknowledge the loss of two remarkable individuals who significantly shaped our Scouting community. Ian Hunter, our former Regional Commissioner, was taken from us far too soon in October 2024. His dedication and passion for Scouting left an indelible mark on many lives within our Region. Similarly, Maureen Murdoch, our Regional Secretary, passed away in June 2025 is much missed. Her tireless work and unwavering support were invaluable, and her absence is deeply felt by all who had the privilege of working with her. Their legacies will continue to inspire us as we move forward. To quote our founder Lord Baden-Powell, both left this world a little better than they found it. I pass on my condolences to all Districts and Groups who have lost Scouters over the past year.

I want to pay tribute to all those who received awards in the past year. We have not been great at recognising our leaders and I know for a fact that there are some outstanding people doing incredible work out there. This is an area we will improve on in the next year.

Youth membership in West Region Scouts sits at 3,477 while adult membership is at 987, This brings the total combined membership of the Region to 4,464.

I said that this past year has been one of challenge and transformation, but more importantly, it has been a year of immense progress and renewed purpose. The dedication of our volunteers, the enthusiasm of our young people, and the strategic direction we are now pursuing fill me with optimism for the future of West Region Scouts. Together, we will continue to empower young people with Skills For Life, fostering a generation of confident, resilient, and responsible citizens.

I am looking forward to what the next year brings as we build on the foundations we have set together.

James Cumming
Regional Lead Volunteer
West Region Scouts

Regional Chair's report for 2024/2025

"The only way to make sense out of change is to plunge into it and move with it", Alan Watts, writer and philosopher, 1915 to 1973.

"The secret of change is to focus all your energy not on fighting the old, but on building the new."
Socrates (470 – 399 BC), Greek philosopher

The financial year from 01 April 2024 to 31 March 2025 has seen Scouting across the UK undergoing transformation aimed at improving the volunteer experience, making it easier and more enjoyable. The transformation, the most important changes to UK Scouting since the Chief Scout's Advanced Party Report in 1966, focused on creating a warmer welcome for new volunteers, providing more relevant and convenient learning opportunities, simplifying the volunteering process overall and promoting good governance practice.

A key feature of the transformation was the implementation of digital tools to support volunteers in various aspects of their roles, from recruitment and onboarding to learning and management.

The strong message during the transformation was about Our Volunteering Culture: Being at our best. This message focused on the shared understanding of what we do and say as Scout volunteers, support each other, following our values and being at our best while acting as role models for young people.

There is no doubt that with the many changes Scouting has and continues to face, as volunteers we must keep our skills, knowledge and learning current to ensure that we do not stop helping our young people step up, speak up, dream big and gain the skills they need for life. At the same time, we must also acknowledge that volunteering for Scouting should have a positive impact on our wellbeing in order that we have fun and enjoy our experiences. These key factors are integral parts of the 4 pillars of Vision, Analysis, Target and Plan of West Region's strategic development plan currently being developed.

Thanks to you, the adult volunteers across West Region, the transformation took place with very few problems highlighted, and those that were highlighted took precedence in being resolved. The success of the transformation will ensure that our young people find their place in the world, learn to believe in themselves, and make a difference to their communities and society. No matter your background or experience, where you're based, or which team you're in, your time and skills help young people gain **#Skills for life**.

By working together, and living Scouting's values of integrity, respect, care, belief and cooperation, our young people have achieved a wide range of awards across all Sections. This has culminated in Chief Scout's Awards, the highest awards in each Section, from Squirrels to Explorers. Additionally, West Region youth members achieved the King's Scout Award, the highest award for Explorer Scouts and Scout Network members, and the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, which is worked on alongside the King's Scout Award.

Scouting across West Region would not exist without the enthusiasm of our adults. All our Leaders and supporters are volunteers who truly believe in the value and impact that Scouting has on the lives of young people, and through the transformation have taken on board the changes required to ensure continuity in the provision of programmes and support for our young people.



I would like to take this opportunity in the annual report to express my deepest gratitude for the invaluable contribution to Scouting across West Region made by our Leaders, supporters and Trustees as they faced the challenges of transformation, and it is welcoming news to note that a number of our Leaders have been recognised by The Scout Association for dedication, outstanding service, and significant contributions with Good Service and Length of Service Awards in the past year.

I would also like to take this opportunity to say a sincere personal thank you to three of our adult volunteers who are standing down at this AGM.

The first thank you is to our Honorary President, Bill McCallum, who has been active in Scouting since November 1957 when he started his volunteering as an Assistant Scoutmaster. Over the years, Bill has taken on numerous roles including District Commissioner for Renfrew and Area Commissioner for Renfrew and Inverclyde. Bill took on the role of Honorary President for the former Renfrew and Inverclyde and now West Region in September 2010, and since then has been a strong supporter of Scouting across our five Districts as well as ensuring that Scouting is recognised as a key developer of young people in our communities. Bill was awarded The Silver Wolf in April 2009.

The second thank you is to our Regional Treasurer, Eric Richardson, who has been a volunteer in Scouting since August 2008 when he was appointed as the Treasurer for Renfrew District, a role he carried out until June 2015. Running parallel with his District role, Eric was appointed Area Treasurer of Renfrew and Inverclyde in September 2009, and role he has undertaken until this AGM. Eric has been the source of all information relating to finances at District and Regional levels and over the time of his appointments has provided sound financial administration, support and information under the Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association. Eric was presented with the Award for Merit in September 2018.

The third thank you goes to Hilary Graham, who began her volunteering journey in Scouting as a Group Section Assistant with the 1st Inchinnan Scout Group in February 1998. A significant role for Hilary was becoming Chair of the Lapwing Lodge Management Board in September 2015, where she has collaborated closely with the Warden, Support Team members, and the Regional Trustee Board (formerly Regional Executive) to make it an exciting venue for Scouting adventures. As we undertake a refresh across the West Region, Hilary is moving on to embrace different challenges in support of Scouting throughout the Region. Hilary was honoured with the Silver Acorn in November 2022.

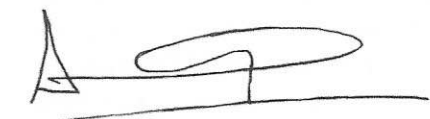
As Scouting continues to develop across West Region under the leadership of James Cumming, the Regional Lead Volunteer, we also need to acknowledge the past year has seen us lose a popular Leader in Ian Hunter. Those of you who were fortunate to visit Ian both in hospital and the hospice will know that his passion for Scouting remained until the very end, and he always wanted to know what was happening across our five Districts.

We must also recognise other adult volunteers who have 'Gone Home' during the year and the impact they made on our youth members, none more so than Maureen Murdoch, who passed away in July. Maureen first took out an appointment as an ACSL in November 1968, and this started her 56 years as an adult volunteer at Group, District and Area/Region level covering uniformed and non-uniformed roles and was 'the person to go to' for help and information on Scouting across West Region. Maureen was presented with her 50 years' service award in 2018 and the Silver Wolf in November 2023 for services of the most exceptional character.

We also need to say thank you to John Kitson BEM, who kept the Region operational during Ian Hunter's illness and up to the appointment of our new Regional Lead Volunteer.

The changes that have taken place in the past year show how resilient and adaptable our adult volunteers are when they step up to deliver and support Scouting to ensure that it continues to deliver **#Skills for Life**. This preparedness to take on the challenges of change is summed up nicely by our founder, Robert Baden-Powell, who in 1907, in the first edition of 'Scouting for Boys' wrote that the Scout motto was 'Be Prepared'. Upon hearing this, he was asked, "Prepared for what?", and he answered, "Why, for any old thing".

Good Scouting to all of you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Donald Gordon', written over a horizontal line.

Donald Gordon
Chair, West Region Scouts



**West Region Scout Council AGM
30 September 2025
Treasurer Report**

The accounts for the Region show a healthy financial position with a surplus for the year of £36,757, net overall reserves of £172,646 and net liquid assets of just under £60,000.

Much of the improvement in the overall financial position is due to Lapwing Lodge having traded extremely well during the year under the stewardship of Ross, Hilary and the management team.

The trading position is also reflective of improved booking numbers which is continuing into the current financial year. Grant assistance has enabled replacement insulation and ceilings in both corridors as well as new windows and fire doors. The driveway at a cost of £40,000 was renewed out of existing reserves.

This has also facilitated the early repayment of the loans with only one payment of £8,250 remaining on the UK Scouting Loan and circa £14,000 remaining on the bounce-back loan. Both loans should be close to being cleared off by this time next year (well ahead of schedule).

In terms of the Regional position, income from the Regional levy amounted to £6,930 against costs of £14,253, a net deficit of just over £7,000. This deficit was higher than in previous years as we incurred costs of £2,500 in respect of the internal investigation and we also paid over £1,000 on rates for Inellan scout hall which should be recoverable following the sale.

The final accounts which have been circulated have been independently examined and have been approved by the Regional Executive at the meeting on the 18th of August. These will now be lodged with OSCR.

Are there any questions on the accounts?

The regional levy has not changed in the last 5 years and in the period the region's bank balance has dropped from £45,000 down to approximately £30,000.

Given the need to rebuild resources within the Region, the executive has reviewed the budget for 25-26 and following this the recommendation is to increase the Regional Levy to £5 for the 26-27 year.

This will help ensure that we can continue to support and develop young people and leaders across the region.

I would like to propose that the Regional Levy be increased to £5.

=== END OF DOCUMENT ===