

25th Lincoln (Scothern) Scout Group April 2025

GSL's Update and Report

Since our last AGM in October 2024, all three sections have continued to meet normally without any COVID interruptions. However we have had a few changes in our Leadership Team which at times has caused some issues to ensure that we have enough leaders to run the Tuesday evening meetings.

Our membership numbers are nearly back to pre-COVID levels though Scouts are a bit lower. We do operate a waiting list system for those wishing to join, and this is mainly with younger children wishing to join Beavers. However with the closure of Welton Scout Group in 2023, we are now getting requests to join from a far wider area than before. This means that we are not able to accept all requests when they reach the age of 6 due to lack of spaces.

Currently **Beavers** have two leaders, Ed (Kingfisher) and Cara (Raven) and are assisted by parent volunteers when needed. As both Ed and Cara are Student Paramedics, they have to carry out work placements which does mean that they are not always available for Tuesday meetings. Usually this can be overcome if both are not on the same shift, or help from our newest volunteer Megan and parents. Megan has joined us as a Cub Team Member but was a Beaver Leader in another Lincoln Group.

The **Cub Section** is being successfully run with a great programme by Tim (Akela) and Megan with support from Caz and Brian. However we are now in the position that our Cub Leader is due to leave at the end of the summer term. We are therefore desperate to build a new team to run Cubs. If we cannot get a new team, then we may have to take the drastic decision to close Cubs after the summer.

We are now running **Scouts** with a team of three, myself, Adam and Cara. Our other leader, Tom, is now on his PGCE Course on a Tuesday evening. This is ultimately not sustainable in the long term as all three of us have other roles and I'm not getting any younger. We will need a new Scout Leadership team to help lighten the load.

Without our dedicated volunteers, we cannot operate the group. We now have a younger team (well most of them are younger!) and hope to keep them for a while but we do need to consider succession planning. We will need some help in the next couple of years to keep the group going. Ed and Cara will be finishing their university courses in a year's time, and I have indicated that I will be stepping down as Scout Leader/Group Lead Volunteer in 2026.

If you are not comfortable working with children (or just want a break from them!) how about joining our Trustee Board. We already have the key roles of

Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer in place so we just need a few more members. We meet around 3-4 times a years to support the running of the sections from a finance and governance perspective. Please feel free to speak to myself or any of the other Trustee Board members, now or later.

You will hear from our treasurer that we are in a reasonable financial position and have been able to meet all costs and our reserves have recovered somewhat from the COVID crisis. The Trustee Board always consider fund raising, the level of termly fees, and other financial issues to ensure that the Group remains financially viable.

As we moved in to the 2025 there were some national changes that may affect how scouting is run, but hopefully not too drastic. We have already taken on board the need to become and Trustee Board. In reality this change does not make much difference to local scouting. Other changes include streamlining the adult appointment process and associated training, sorry - learning, increased use of digital tools and systems. But hopefully as parents and young members you won't notice much difference.

On behalf of the Group, I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Trustee Board and my fellow Leaders for their support and help in these difficult times. Also, a thank you to all parents for your support and understanding.

Skip aka Nick Cornwell-Smith
Group Lead Volunteer (GLV)
April 2025