

25th Lincoln (Scothern) Scout Group AGM – October 2025

Group Lead Volunteer's Report

Since our last AGM in October 2024, all three sections have continued to meet with steadily increasing numbers. During the year our Leadership Team has stayed steady, though since the summer holidays there have been various changes.

Our membership numbers are nearly back to pre-COVID levels in all three sections. We continue to operate a waiting list system for those wishing to join, and this is mainly with younger children wishing to join Beavers. The closure of Welton Scout Group in 2023 has led to us 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.

As a Group we attended the Remembrance Sunday services at Scothern and Sudbrooke and the District St. Georges Day Parade and Service at Lincoln Cathedral.

At the start of 2025 **Beavers** was led by two leaders, Ed (Kingfisher) and Cara (Raven) and are assisted by parent volunteers when needed. As both Ed and Cara were student Paramedics, they had to carry out work placements which meant that they were not always available for Tuesday meetings. This was overcome where necessary by either other leaders helping out or parents attending.

Since the summer, we now have joint Team Leaders in Ed (Kingfisher) and Laura (Robin) with Emma (Wren) joining us as a Team Member and William a Duke of Edinburgh Award volunteer. This gives us some resilience though parents may be called upon to help on the occasions when not all the leaders are available.

Over the past year the programme has led to many activity badges being awarded, these include: Builder, Communicator, Safety, Space, Digital Maker, Air Activities, Earth Tribe and many more. Other Tuesday evening events included celebrating the Chinese New Year and a visit by Lincolnshire Police.

The **Cub Pack** was successfully run with a great programme by Tim (Akela) and Megan with support from Caz, Brian and Harry, our Young Leader. During the summer with Tim having left Cubs, Caz and Megan have agreed to be joint Team Leaders supported by Brian and Harry. Chris and Lee joined us at the start of the Autumn term as new Team Members.

Nature and the outdoors remain key elements in the Cub programme. They visited Ashing Lane Nature Reserve again to take part in orienteering, as well as

boat racing down the Beck at Nettleham. A fantastic visit was arranged by one of our parents to the Red Arrows Aerobatic Display Team at RAF Waddington. I'm not sure who enjoyed it the most - the Cubs, the Scouts or the adults!

Scouts was run by me, Tim, Cara and our newest leader Adam. Scouts is where we need to really consider succession planning. Tim and Cara have now left and Tom is still not available on Tuesdays for the next year. At present I am running Scouts as Team Leader with Adam as Team Member. Most weeks this acceptable but when one of us is unavailable we will require help from parents. From this Easter Ed has agreed to move from Beavers to Scouts, and hopefully Tom will return this September.

Scouts continue to work towards the various badges and challenges. During the year under review we have awarded 12 Challenge Awards, 68 Activity Badges and 21 Staged Activity Badges. As well as the meetings in the Scothern Village Hall, Scouts have carried out some litter picking around Sudbrooke and Scothern, did some climbing at the Sudbrooke Campsite, an evening hike around Wragby, visiting the Lincoln Observatory on a memorable night seeing 5 of the 9 planets in our solar system.

Looking to the future, 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. With a number of leaders having now left, or due to leave Cara (Raven), Tim (Akela) and Lee, we will need some help in the next couple of years to keep the group going.

Also please recall that I have already indicated that I will be stepping down in from my role as Scout Team Leader and Group Lead Volunteer at the end of July 2026. Though Ed has agreed to move from Beavers to Scouts, we are still lacking a prospective Group Lead Volunteer. What may help is if we can get a volunteer to assist with the various administrative tasks. Any volunteers?

On a positive note, we are booked in for Poacher 2026 with a number of Scouts (including those Cubs who will be Scouts by then) camping for the week and many Beavers and Cubs joining for the one day Junior Poacher.

We are always looking for additional trustees for the Group Trustee Board. If you are not comfortable working with children (or just want a break from them!) how about joining it? We already have the key roles of Chairman and Treasurer in place so we just need a couple more members. We meet around 3-4 times a years to support the running of the sections from a finance and governance perspective. Alos as mentioned earlier we are now looking for someone to help with admin support. Please feel free to speak to myself.

We are in a reasonable financial position and have been able to meet all current 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.

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 their support and understanding.

Nick Cornwell-Smith (Skip)
Group Lead Volunteer (GLV)
Nick.cornwell-smith@lincolnscouts.org.uk
078924 995070

March 2026