



**32ND BRISTOL
(1ST WHITEHALL)
SCOUT GROUP**

GROUP CONSTITUTION

September 2010

Each Scout Group is an independent charitable organisation, and therefore needs its own formal constitution. This document is the Constitution of the 32nd Bristol (1st Whitehall) Scout Group as adopted by the Group Council at the Annual General Meeting on 22 September 2010.

a. The Group Scout Council

The Group Scout Council is the electoral body, which supports Scouting in the Scout Group. It is the body to which the Group Executive Committee is accountable.

- i* Membership of the Group Council is open to:
 - Scouters;
 - Group Scout Active Support members (including the Group Scout Active Support Manager and Group Scout Active Support Co-ordinators – if appointed);
 - Colony, Pack and Troop Assistants ;
 - Skills Instructors;
 - Administrators;
 - Advisers;
 - Patrol Leaders;
 - all parents of Beaver Scouts, Cub Scouts and Scouts;
 - any other supporters including former Scouts and their parents who may be admitted by the Group Scout Leader, the Group Executive Committee or the Group Scout Council;
 - Explorer Scout Leaders (if stated in a Partnership Agreement);
- ii* The District Commissioner and District Chairman are ex-officio members of the Group Scout Council.
- iii* Membership of the Group Scout Council ceases upon:
 - the resignation of the member;
 - the dissolution of the Council;
 - the termination of membership by Headquarters [of The Scout Association] following a recommendation by the Group Executive Committee.
- iv* The Group Scout Council must hold an Annual General Meeting within six months of the financial year end to:
 - receive and consider the Annual Report of the Group Executive Committee, including the annual statement of accounts;
 - approve the Group Scout Leader's nomination of the Group Chairman and nominated members of the Group Executive Committee;
 - elect a Group Secretary and Group Treasurer;
 - elect certain members of the Group Executive Committee;
 - appoint an auditor or independent examiner or scrutineer as required.

b. The Group Executive Committee

- i* The Group Executive Committee exists to support the Group Scout Leader in meeting the responsibilities of their appointment.

The Committee is responsible for:

- the maintenance of the Group's property and equipment;
- the raising of funds and the administration of the Group's finance;
- the insurance of persons, property and equipment;
- Group public occasions;
- assisting with the recruitment of Leaders and other adult support.

ii The Group Executive Committee consists of:

Ex-officio Members

- The Group Chairman;
- The Group Secretary;
- The Group Treasurer;
- The Group Scout Leader;
- The Assistant Group Scout Leader;
- All Section Leaders;
- The Explorer Scout Leader (if stated in a Partnership Agreement);

Nominated Members

- persons nominated by the Group Scout Leader;
- the nominations must be approved at the Group Annual General Meeting;
the number of nominated members must not exceed the number of elected members.

Elected Members

- persons elected at the Group Annual General Meeting;
- these should normally be four to six in number;
the actual number must be the subject of a resolution by the Group Scout Council.

Co-opted Members

- persons co-opted annually by the Group Executive Committee
- the number of co-opted members must not exceed the number of elected members.

Right of Attendance

- the District Commissioner and the District Chairman have the right of attendance at meetings of the Group Executive Committee.

iii Ideally, between the nominated members, elected members and co-opted members, the Group Executive should include a parent of at least one Member of each of the Sections in the Group.

iv The Group Executive Committee may establish any sub-Committees that it deems necessary.

v The Group Scout Leader and the Group Chairman will be ex-officio members of any sub-Committee of the Group Executive Committee.

vi Any fundraising committee must include at least two members of the Group Executive Committee, in addition to the ex-officio members. No Section Leader or Assistant Leader may serve on such a fundraising sub-Committee.

vii A Scout Group is an educational charity. Members of the Group Executive Committee are the charity trustees of the Scout Group.

viii Only persons aged 18 and over may be full voting members of the Group Executive Committee because of their status as charity trustees.

ix Certain people are disqualified from being charity trustees by virtue of the Charities Acts.

x Charity trustees are responsible for complying with all the legislation applicable to charities.

xi Some Groups may also need to register as a charity. Scout Groups registered as a charity in England and Wales will be required to make an annual return to the Charity Commission.

c. The Group Scouters' Meeting

- i* Membership of the Group Scouters' Meeting consists of the Group Scout Leader as chairman, all Section Leaders and Assistant Leaders and the Group Scout Active Support Manager. Explorer Scout Leaders may be included if stated in the partnership agreement.
- ii* The role of the Group Scouters' Meeting is to:
 - consider the well-being and development of each Member of the Group;
 - ensure the progress of each Member through the programme;
 - plan and co-ordinate all the Group's activities;
 - to keep the Group Executive Committee advised of the financial and other resource requirements of the training programme.

d. Conduct of Meetings

- i* Only members as defined above may vote in meetings of the Group Scout Council and the Group Executive Committee.
- ii* Decisions are made by a majority of votes cast by those present at the meeting. In the event of an equal number of votes being cast on either side the chairman does not have a casting vote and the matter is taken not to have been carried.
- iii* The Group Scout Council must make a resolution defining a quorum for meetings of the Group Scout Council and the Group Executive Committee and its sub-Committees.

Resolutions of the Group Scout Council

A resolution was passed by the Group Council on 22 September 2010 that:

The Group Council defines the quorums as:

Group Scout Council:
5 members

Group Executive Committee:
3 members (one of which to be the Group Chairman or the Group Scout Leader)

Sub-Committees:
Quorum will be defined when the Sub-Committee is formed

The number of elected members of the Group Executive Committee will not exceed six.