



1st Crownhill 2004/2005 Annual Review

Introduction

Rather than holding a traditional AGM with speeches from various people, 1st Crownhill Scouts Group produces a short summary, together with a statement of accounts, for you to read and take away. Please take a few moments to review the enclosed, you may ask any questions or give comments during the AGM or afterwards if you prefer.

During the evening you will be asked to vote in the main committee members. Additionally we will be asking for a parent or carer to represent each section. If you feel you would like a say in how the group operates or help with fund raising this is your opportunity, let us know!

Julie

Julie Woodruff
Group Secretary





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Group Scout Leader's Review

Dear Parents / Fellow Members

It's that time of year again where we review what the group has been doing over the past 12 months and look forward to the next.

2004/2005 has been particularly challenging, following the last AGM the group was short of funds, members and more importantly leaders. I am pleased to say that we have made significant progress in most of these areas.

The group is now lucky enough to have two leaders in each section with the recent addition of Tricia and Robert King as Cub leaders. We now have an active committee which is taking care of day to day administration and fund raising. All of these factors are helping to ensure we can focus more on section meetings and running more outside activities

The group's membership has increased significantly since 2004. At the census (completed in January) the group membership stood at 43 and at the 1st June there were approximately 50 members.

Section	2003	2004	2005	Present	Maximum
Beavers	16	10	17	18	18
Cubs	17	12	12	14	18
Scouts	17	6	14	18	24
Totals	50	28	43	50	60

It is good to hear that many new members are joining because they have heard from other members that Scouting is fun and that they have a great time. This is credit to the leaders who give up their free time, unpaid, to prepare and run the meeting.

Attached is a copy of the group's audited accounts. Please take the time to look through, you will note over the last two years the group has lost money and its reserves are at an all time low. This is due to a number of factors not least because our membership increased significantly just before we needed to pay capitation (membership) fees to the Scouting Association for each member and Leader. One of our challenges last year was to reduce expenditure and fund raise. I would like to thank Marks & Spencer's, and in particular Caroline Mark, for allowing us to run two bag packing activities over the last 6 months that managed to raise nearly £900 for the group.

However we need to do more if the Group is to increase its cash reserves and continue providing equipment/activities. For the first time in 18 months the Group is increasing its subscriptions,



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from September, to £35 per term. However, to encourage extra support with section meetings and fundraising there will be £3 discount for parents / carers that place their name on the Parent Helpers Rota. See your section leader for more details. Additionally if you have any fund raising ideas let us know!

Finally, I am sure you will join with me in saying a big thank you to the section leaders, Dave (SL), Mick (ASL), Tricia (CL), Robert (ACL), Clare (BL) and Stuart (ABL) as well as Lynn who helps out at Beavers every week, who have worked very hard over the last year to run their sections. Additionally my thanks to the committee, especially Julie and Jean who keep me in check, Mark for hosting all the group's equipment and Richard for taking on the role of Chairman.

We greatly appreciate all their efforts and thank them for their continued support over the coming months and years.

Yours in Scouting

Tony

Tony Mann
Group Scout Leader (GSL)



This time last year Lynne and I were looking forward to the new term on our own, as Yvonne from district stepped down and left us to our own devices, we were both scared and excited at the same time and hoped we were up to the challenge! We were joined by Stuart, who became Assistant Beaver Leader, in November. We threw him in at the deep end by taking him to the Police station for a look around the cells and asking him to come to Beavers in his pajamas for our pajama party. We ended the year with a very successful Christmas party.

The first half of the new year we spent working towards the Discovery challenge with a very interesting visit to a Chinese restaurant, where we learnt about Chinese new year and sampled some food. This last half term has had a space theme and we have made planets from biscuits as well as paper Mache, launched rockets and learnt about astronomy from a guest speaker. We look forward to activities such as pond dipping and a BBQ night and of course are very excited about our trip to Gilwell on 19th June.

Looking back the year has been at times stressful, at times hard work but definitely fun, our numbers have remained high and we feel we have definitely risen to the challenge, we hope the children agree! We would like to thank those parents who have helped with activities over the past year and encourage more of you to sign up to help on an evening in the coming year. We can always use an extra pair of hands and it is essential on outdoor activities when our ratios go



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down. I would personally like to thank Lynne and Stuart for all their help and support in making Beavers a success over the last year.

Clare

Clare Mann
Beaver Leader



Since joining the Group in January we have been trying to restart the program of activities that leads towards the Cubs completing their awards and gaining those much treasured badges that you all loving sewing!

It's not been easy as both Robert and I are new to Scouting and there are many aspects that we still need to learn before becoming like the experts we meet on various training courses. However, it has been great fun so far and we are both looking forward to the coming 12 months.

In particular we plan to take a selection of Cubs on their first camp towards the end of July, at the quarries. We expect this to be a great success that hopefully we can repeat in September / October before the winter sets in.

During the next term we will be running a parent rota to help with activities like running games, badge work etc. I started helping out, and went on to become a leader...but don't let that put you off, any help is greatly appreciated so please put your name down on the list when it comes round.

Yours in Scouting

Tricia

Tricia King
Cub Leader



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Well, what a year we've had, when I took over the troop back in September we had only Three Young People and now, less than 12 months later we are almost at full strength with a regular attendance of eighteen and nineteen on the books.

The Scouts are progressing really well with the award scheme and are earning badges on a regular basis with almost all the Troop gaining at least one badge this year and some gaining a lot more. Some of the badges we have awarded are Athletics, Swimmers, Artist, and Hobbies. Also Outdoor, Community, Fitness and Creative Awards and most of the Troop have also gained Nights Away Badges.

We have competed in most District events including the Camping Competition where we took the whole Troop along more as a training weekend but managed to come around 6th out of 12 teams. We also took part in the Quiz where we didn't do so well.

Some of the Scouts took part in the Chess & Draughts evening with one of our Scouts getting to the Semi Final and Finally the Cooking Competition (Ready Steady Cook) We have taken part in two of these now (September and June) we came 4th in the September competition with 3 out of our 4 Scouts taking part and only Seren ever having done anything like this before and we **WON** the latest one at the beginning of June, so on that I have to say a big **"WELL DONE"** to the team of Seren, Euan, Craig and Jenny for the work they put in to win the competition and a specially big **"THANK YOU"** To Seren for her work in planning the menus and leading the team to victory Incidentally, this is the first District event that Crownhill Scouts have ever won, so it is quite special to us, once again Well Done Guys.

Earlier this year the District ran an International evening that the Troop took part in, the country we had to find out about was Poland and the guys did really well, finding out about the Culture, Lifestyle, Food and Famous People although we couldn't find out about Scouting out there. The display they put on included a traditional Polish meal cooked by one of the Scouts, a PowerPoint presentation on Famous people and a short talk on the Culture and Lifestyle this was well received by the rest of the District.

On the Camping front, other than the Competition Camp we have held a 2 night camp at Henlow back in November, this was sleeping in a building and included the Armistice Parade that we were allowed to join, also, we have recently carried out a long weekend camp at Phasels Wood nr Hemel We took 14 Scouts with us and this was the first time under canvas for a lot of the them. On the camp some of the things they learned were Cooking on open fires, how to use Axes & Saws, Site cleanliness and Camp Hygiene. They also had the chance to try Abseiling and Pot Holing in man made tunnels. They even managed to put up their own tents.

Over the next few months we are planning another camp during the Summer Holidays, also more badges will be earned and we are looking at starting a Conservation Project which should give the Scouts a chance to work with the other Sections.

I will finish up in the time honoured tradition by saying my Thank-you's



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Thanks to Mick Clark who has joined as Assistant Scout Leader, Mick Nimmo (Assistant District Commissioner Scouts) and his team for getting us going, Tony Mann (for leaving us to get on

with things 😄) Seren Everson for her help with running the meetings, The Committee for Supporting us, You the parents for giving me something to do on a Thursday night by allowing your Young People to come along and finally, the most important people of all, The Scouts for being there and helping us to achieve all that we can as a Troop. **THANK YOU!!!**

Dave

Dave Mark
Scout Leader

Chairman's review

Hi everyone welcome to the 1st Crownhill scout group annual review my name is Richard Whiting, Chairman of the committee for the group

I can not make a full year report as i took the chairmanship only 3 months ago but I was very happy with the success of the car treasure hunt and thanks to all who helped with the clues-food-drink whilst the rest of us had a nice Sunday drive. Well done to the winners I'm sure the trophy is only lent!

The job of the committee is to help the sections with the back up, so they can run their sections, and the committee puts on fund raising events so the leaders can ask for items to help run the beavers-cubs or scouts. As a committee we have a Chairman – Secretary, Treasurer, Parents from each section and Group Scout Leader (Tony). We try to meet once a month for about 2 hours i have found out that the group needs a lot of items at the moment but we will get there with your help so the boys and girls can enjoy there time in scouting if anyone as ideas for fund raising please tell your child's leader or a member of the committee thank you all for the support in the last year. Let's look forward to a good year in scouting and family events

Richard

Richard Whiting
Chairman of the Committee



Treasure's review

Attached is a copy of the group's audit accounts for the year 2004/2005. First impressions on paper are not good, with the group having just £774.60 net in the bank and cash at the end of March – which is down on the same period last year.

However, there are several reasons for this:

1. The accounts cover the period 1 April 04 – 31 March 05. During the transition period for the group during the summer term last year, events were being organized for the members but no subs were being collected. This had a major impact on receipts for that period.
2. The new leaders and committee did not join until September 04, by which time the member numbers were quite low. Through the hard work of the leaders, membership increased dramatically but this had the 'knock on' effect of much larger numbers when the year end census was completed. This meant that the group had a massive capitation bill of £1632 to find in March 05 – and increase of £642 on the same period last year. The Group also managed to subsidise the annual Christmas Party, despite funds being low.

Despite this, overall, spending has remained under control for the group and with several fundraising events (including the massively successful bag packing events at M&S) having taken place recently funds have increased considerably. Our major income still remains subs and we need to continue to be more efficient and timely when collecting subs to ensure our cashflow remains consistent and parents are paying for their child attending the sessions.

The new financial year looks more promising. As at 31 May 05, the Reserve A/c had a balance of £261.50, the Main A/c £1582.43 (including paid out but not yet cleared), so the overall net funds were £1843.93.

Jean

Jean Dejean
Treasurer

Thanks to our Sponsors who generously donated raffle prizes for today's, and future events :-

The Bridge at Fenny, Virgin Active (Xscape), Hilton (Kents Hill), Abbey Hill Golf Centre, Livingwell Premier, Waterworld, Fairclough Homes