



1st Crownhill Scout Group

1st Crownhill 2005/2006 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





Group Scout Leader's Review

Dear Parents / Fellow Members

It's at this time of year when we start to review past events, and think about what is needed for the future, that I start to question what its all about ? I am sure the other leaders, and committee members, share the same thoughts, why do we rush around on a Monday or Thursday night to open the section meeting on time ? Why do we spend Sunday afternoon preparing activities, or evenings at committee meetings, writing letters, updating accounts....and the list goes on.

But this year it's an easy question for me to answers. At the end of May Cubs and Scouts spent a long weekend at Phasels Wood Scout Camp. During the first day it rain all afternoon, continuing in to the evening. Our camp site was turned to mud and everyone was soaked through. Even though the sun started to shine on Sunday conditions got worst with a large puddle appearing in the middle of the site making cooking and activities extremely difficult.

So with all this going on you may be thinking, "What a disaster!". However through out all this everyone continued to smile, laugh and have a great time. They all pulled together to help cook, wash up, sort out a camp fire and keep each other going. One Scout even came up to me at the end and said that it was the best camp they had even been on!

This is just one example of where the group has run and activity that everyone has enjoyed and will remember for years to come. There are many more like the Scouts cook night, puppet evening at cubs, making fires with the Beavers and Christmas party at Xscape. to name just a few that remind me of why the group exists.

On to business, the group's membership increased slightly during the year. At the census (completed in January) the group membership stood at 45 however has fallen since to approximately 38members.

Section	2004	2005	2006	Present	Maximum
Beavers	10	17	15	12	12
Cubs	12	12	14	8	18
Scouts	6	14	16	18	24
Totals	28	43	45	38	60

The decline in due mainly to lack of leaders in Beavers and Cubs. Beaver especially limited the amount of members due to Clare Mann leaving in March. Although Stuart has help from District



1st Crownhill Scout Group

Leaders, this is a short term solution and another two full time leaders are needed if we are to start taking new members.

Attached is a copy of the group's audited accounts. Please take the time to look through, you will note during last years the group lost money and its reserves were at an all time low. This year has seen a turn around mainly due to the groups fund raising activities and Jean's help with keeping expenses under control!

The group has also been very lucky and has been donated a new trailer, by Visonic, worth £1,400. The Groups existing trailer was very worn out and becoming dangerous, we are all very grateful for the donation as it will serve the Group well for years to come. However, we can not be complacent and the Group needs to keep fund raising in order to ensure we can run activities, purchase equipment as well as pay for all the boring things like rent and insurance.

By this time most of you will be aware that the 29th June will be our last night at Holmbase before moving to Christ the Sower School. We will be sad to leave as the hall has served us well over the last year and we are very thankful to Linda (Caretaker) and the Holmbase committee for their continued support. However, during the Autumn and Winter months space is at a premium especially if we have 15 Scouts or 18 Beavers running around playing games. We also need a regular new intake of Beavers, Cubs and Scouts together with leaders if the group is going to survive for year to come.

Leaders and helpers are particularly important, and one of my objectives over the coming year is to try and get more people involve so we do not rely on the same names over and over again. I know I sound like a worn out record but without Adult helpers and leaders there is a really possibility some sections will not be able to meet, and worst still the group will close. This may sound dramatic but unfortunately it is reality.

Finally, I am sure you will join with me in saying a big thank you to the section leaders, Chris (SL), Mick (ASL), Tricia (CL), Rob (ASL & ACL), Stuart (BL), Alison who helps out at Cubs, and all the other helpers who have worked very hard over the last year to run their sections. My thanks to the committee, especially Julie and Jean who keep me in check, and Mark for all his help in looking after the group's equipment. Additionally my thanks to our outgoing Chairman Richard Whitting.

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)



Beavers 2005 – 2006

Over the past year beavers have completed lots of different activities. We had a great time at Great Holm fire station and a camp fire at the quarries on bonfire night. A messy time was had when the Beavers made chocolate logs at Christmas. In the new year we had a great evening of food tasting from around the world. Unfortunately, Clare decided to leave as Beaver Leader at spring half term, that's when I volunteered to become leader. The beavers have had lots of messy evening since then with glue, paint and glitter. The trip to Hazard Alley proved to be a really good & educational evening.

The beginning of June saw the Beaver Funday Birthday Bash at the Quarries, to celebrate 20 years of Beaver Scouts. There were about 80 beavers from the district enjoying shooting, archery, crafts, sports field, a games arcade and a great water splash field to get soaked and cool of in the wonderful weather we had. The day was ended with a camp fire and songs, and blowing out of the candles on the cake.



Camp Fire At Beaver Fun Day Birthday Bash, The Quarries

July brings outdoor activities all month, so lets hope the weather holds out (at least on Mondays). The Beavers will be bike riding, doing archery and a having a walk along the canal.

Numbers are currently at twelve, which is a few less than last year. The older beavers leave and are replaced by younger ones it seems on a one for one basis. Hopefully we can get a few more to join us. If beavers have friends that would like to join in then please let me know.

That's all from me for now,

Stuart

Stuart Golding
Beaver Leader



1st Crownhill Scout Group



Since joining 1st Crownhill Group last September as Scout leader, I have been trying to get back to doing some traditional scouting activities. Since Christmas we have completed the Chef's badge, which turned out to be a great success. The guests who braved the food were very impressed with the way the Scouts had created the menus, prepared the food, served and presented it correctly, and then managed to clear up all the mess with minimal fuss. All 13 Scouts completed the badge requirements, and were awarded them last week.

Other activities we have undertaken are: pioneering, orienteering, pancake making, astronomy, and climbing. Also, having been on holiday for three weeks, I came back to a night of introducing the Japanese culture to Crownhill Cubs and Scouts. Sumo wrestling seemed to be very popular, with an unlikely Scouts Sumo champion. I was also impressed with the chopstick handling by some, as sticky rice was served for tasting.

The latest big project we have completed is making bird boxes. Most of the resulting boxes are worthy of a bird family in the spring, but one or two turned out to be a little over decorated or could be a bit too droughty for some!

I am in the process of planning a summer camp to Nottingham, which will be joined with the Yorkshire Scout Troop I was a member of for six years before moving south. We are a bit short of numbers, so any of the Scouts who may have missed the letters but would like to attend, please let me know.

Thanks to everyone who helps on a Thursday night and to my assistants, Rob and Mick.

Yours in Scouting,

Chris

Chris Snook
Scout Leader

Treasure's review

Attached is a copy of the group's accounts for the year 2005/2006. The accounts have been viewed and agreed by the Groups current Chairman, Richard Whiting and are currently with



1st Crownhill Scout Group

Keens Shay Keens Chartered Accountants for audit. Once audited, a copy will be sent to the District Treasurer to be held on file for the Group.

What a great year the Group has had! Just by looking at the total cash in bank/hand on the front cover as at 31 March 2006 in comparison to last year shows how healthy the bank balance is! We have practically doubled the amount we had at last year end, but still managed to subsidise many of the years events along the way – particularly the Christmas Party at the Snozone that the Group contributed 50% toward the cost.

I'll give you a few headlines as to why we've managed to grow the finances so successfully this year:

- Subs are being paid and collected promptly and your continued support with this is appreciated. Subs continue to be our main income and we need to ensure we are collecting subs efficiently at the start of each term to ensure our cash flow remains consistent.
- Several, but not all of our activities, generated a small profit for the Group which has helped to swell funds. In addition to this, the Group conducted more fund raising events last year which helped raise funds to either subsidise events or purchase new equipment. The bag packing and various raffles always do well and the now annual Car Treasure Hunt continues to grow!
- We were also lucky enough to receive a 'matched fund raising donation' from Abbey Charitable Trust of £519.56! If any of you work for companies who run similar schemes – ask them if they would be prepared to help the Group either in a financial way or by donating raffle prizes.
- The Group were successful in obtaining a Wider Use Grant from the council towards the cost of renting Holmbase – the grant was equivalent to 70% of the annual rental.
- Capitation costs were higher than last year, but this is a 'knock on' effect of having more children in the Group, which in itself generates more income, so we have to live with that!

Whilst we've had a great year and spent some large sums on camp events, trips and kit, overall, spending has remained under control for the Group and is carefully monitored.

The new financial year looks bright and in the black! As at 31 May 06, the Reserve A/c (savings account) had a balance of £689.87, the Main A/c £1852.67, so the overall net funds were £2542.54.

The Group have achieved a tremendous turnaround from this time last year in respect of finances and we need to keep the momentum going to ensure we can continue to run camps, trips and other fun activities for the children.

Thank you for all your support over the last year and I look forward to this continuing over the next financial year!

Jean

Jean Dejean
Treasurer