

1st Crownhill
2006/2007
Annual Review





1st Crownhill Scout Group

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

Another year has gone by, and suddenly it's the AGM again. Where did the time go? Well, looking back it seems we have all been very busy with group evenings, camps and other activities. My highlights have been the Walsby forest Scout camp, where we spent a week doing climbing, canoeing, shooting, archery and many more activities, together with the Beaver / Cub sleep over in October and finally this year's Centenary camp which proved a real adventure for everyone.

This year sees the 100 year centenary of Scouting, and as most of you probably know the group has been running a program based around this remarkable achievement. Today it is estimated that there are 450,000 young people Scouting in the UK alone, some of which will be visiting the world Jamboree taking place in Surrey this year during August.

So in this special year it is good to ask ourselves the question, why so many people enjoy Scouting and how do we make it better and more fun in the coming year/s. What make you or your Beaver, Cub or Scout want to come every week? Is it about being with friends, learning new skills, being away from home, lighting fires, chopping wood, tying up a scout leader or playing games? In my view it is about all of these things and more, but especially the sense of achievement and pride when they feel they are doing something new and exciting that ultimately ends up in earning a badge. Over the past year we have seen two members receive the highest awards they can achieved in their sections. Corin Mark (Scout / Explorer) received her Chief Scout Gold award, whilst Miriam Weinbren (Cub) received her Silver award presented by myself at the Centenary Camp. These two young ladies have worked extremely hard to gain these awards and would like to send a big well done from everyone in the group!

On to business, the group's membership increased slightly during the year. At the census (completed in January) the group membership stood at 43 which has since increased to approximately 45 members.

Section	2005	2006	2007	Present	Maximum
Beavers	17	15	8	10	12
Cubs	12	14	13	13	18
Scouts	14	16	22	21	24
Totals	43	45	43	44	60

Moving the group to Christ the Sower School has been good for the group overall in providing extra space and facilities. The Beaver section has declined and we are looking to do some sort of



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recruitment campaign to try and increase these number and ensure that long term it does not effect Cubs and Scouting sections.

No AGM report can be without my usual appeal for help! Many of the leaders and committee members have been in their roles for some years giving up their time, voluntary each week to provide activities or services to the Group. The committee in particular needs a chairman than can help plan the fundraising and group activities, someone for the news letter and collecting subs, whilst Cubs also needs an assistant leader that can help Tricia run group evenings.

Attached is a copy of the group's audited accounts. Please take the time to look through, during 2004/2005 we saw the group's finances stabilise and last year this continued even with the purchase of new tents for the group. As the Group runs more activities and grows so the accounting side gets busier. We do not have people to chase over due subs and activity money so can I ask that, as much as possible, all payments are by cheque are on time. Thank you.

Many of you will know the Group launched a web site earlier this year. It had been a dream of mine for a while that members would be able to get information online, download forms, see event details etc whilst also having email accounts to enhance communication across all sections. The dream is now a reality thanks to Dean Dejean, who also wrote the Group's accounting package. Having never designed a website before Dean spent many hours reading books and learning as much as possible before collating all the information we wanted on the site. I am happy to say the hard work paid off and we are very pleased with the site. For anyone who has not had a chance to look yet, please visit www.1stcrownhillscouts.org.uk.

Finally, a welcome and some thank you's. Welcome to Kate Hogg who joined us recently as assistant scout leader, replacing Mick. Kate has worked with Wing Scout Group, which her family run, and has many years experience in Scouting.

I am sure you will join with me in saying a big thank you to the section leaders who have been working very hard over the last year. Chris (SL), Tricia (CL), Rob (ASL & ACL), Stuart (BL), Julie who helps out at Beavers, and all the other helpers who have worked very hard over the last year to run their sections. My thanks to the people who many do not see very often but do very important jobs behind the scenes. Jean our Treasure, Julie (Group Secretary), Mark for looking after the group's equipment and Fiona (Chris's wife) for coming along to various events, including some wet camps!. Additionally my thanks to Anne Hamilton at Christ the Sower, for helping us in to our new home and continued support of the Group.

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)



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Beavers 2006 – 2007

We have had a great time in Beavers this year; running a lot of activities such as pond dipping at lodge lake with "The Parks trust" where the trust rep found a species of aquatic life which she had never seen before, so that was very exciting. We also had a visit by Karen Hills who is a Hula Animal rescue volunteer, which the children enjoyed they got to ask questions about all aspects of caring for Animals.

We have also taken the children on a walk where they had to look for different items connected to wildlife. Making water rockets was particularly fun especially when they were launched in to the air and I ended up soaked to the skin which the Beaver seem enjoy!

The Beavers have also done many inside activities doing arts crafts and at Easter we made chocolate nests, and did pancake races near Shrove Tuesday and playing games such as a revised version of dodge ball and cross my river which is a firm favourite of the Beavers.

Finally, I would like to thank my assistant, Julie, who comes in every week to help run the activities and keep me in order. Thanks Julie!

Yours in Scouting

Stuart

Stuart Golding
Beaver Leader



Cubs 2006 – 2007

It's nice to see lots of new Cubs with this being the special centenary year. Over the past year we all have had great fun designing and painting t-shirts, walking around Shenley woods naming trees, playing games etc Camping is great fun and this year was the first time for most of them, it was just a shame about the weather.

One of the highlight for me every year is helping the Cubs earn their badges but more so this year when Miriam was being presented with her



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chief scouts silver award. It's a real achievement and I hope to see more cubs get this award

A couple of last things to help the evening run more smoothly. Parent's please could you make sure your Cub is on time so we can start promptly, also it's really hectic at the start of the evening so if you need to speak to me please could you do this at the end of the evening. Thanks

Yours in Scouting

Tricia

Tricia King
Cub Leader



The year since the last AGM has been interesting to say the least. The summer camp last August was a great success, even though there were only five scouts, with loads of activities and adventures including rafting, climbing, mazing(?), kayaking, pioneering and archery being undertaken - I had great fun joining in with most of them too (except the ones that were high up).

We had a very enlightening trip to RAF Hendon to celebrate Sarah's birthday (and eat her cake), where we fulfilled all the requirements of the enthusiast's badge. We also had a very successful entry into the county orienteering competition, where as a group we finished 3rd overall. This was a huge improvement on the year before, and we are all looking forward to winning it next time!

Just before Christmas I had the coldest night camping in my life as I stayed with the five Scouts who took part in the Grimsdyke Hike down in Princes Risborough. The organisation and competition was second to none, and despite the thunder and lightning in the first few hours, the 1st Crownhill team seemed to stay in good spirits and managed to find their way round the huge orienteering course to finish 20th out of 32, which was an achievement as none of the Scouts had done anything like it before.

Since Christmas we have tried to keep a varied and informative programme to teach some of the essential skills. We have tried to incorporate some of the traditional activities as we are celebrating the 100 years of Scouts, and done a few modern ideas. We visited the Buddhist temple at Willen lake and had St. John's in to do some first aid. And in April I left for three weeks to get married in Yorkshire and enjoy a wonderful honeymoon in Scotland, I really did want to come back, honest!



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Most recently, we took part in the washout centenary camp at Aylesbury, which was packed full of activities for the Cubs and Scouts – just a shame it all ended so muddily! I have to express huge thanks to Tricia and Charlotte for their help on the Sunday evening when everyone else had gone and we still had several tents to take down, and then Tony had to be towed off site...

I am hoping to move the group on in the next few months and develop a few more skills within the troop, and have a few trips away from HQ. We are always looking for ideas for interesting and educational visits or guests with a slight hint of fun, so if you come up with any, please let me know. We are also looking to introduce a Patrol Leaders council for planning the programmes after the summer break, so be warned Scouts!

At the moment, the Scout troop has the following leaders:

Chris Snook - SL

Kate Hogg - ASL

Rob King - ASL

Corin Mark – Young Leader

If you have any questions, please speak to one of us...

Chris

Chris Snook
Scout Leader



Treasure's review

Treasurer's Review

Attached is a copy of the summary of Group's accounts for the year 2006/2007. These will be agreed and signed off tonight by myself and Tony in the absence of a Group Chairman and then forwarded to Trevor Dimmock at 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.

The last financial year has been about consolidation and maintaining a stable bank balance. Most of the events and camps we have run in the year have been self funding, so the Group has more or less broken even over the year, accruing a small net profit of £76.66.



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Towards the end of the financial year, the Group invested in the purchase of six brand new tents for the Group. Our good friends at Burcroft Camping at Billing Aquadrome came through once again and provided all six tents for £310 and threw in a rollable water barrel for good measure – even I didn't mind writing the cheque for that amount! In addition, they also donated a camp table and some folding camp chairs, which I'm sure will be appreciated by the adults on camp! I was also able to secure a grant of £100 from Shenley Church End Parish Council towards the purchase of the tents, which will be credited to this year's finances. They have promised us a further £50 if we provide an article for the Parish Newsletter, so watch out for us in the next edition!

A few headlines and reminders:

- Subs are down on last year as the numbers in the Group reduced slightly – this is also reflected in the lower capitation fee paid this year.
- Subs continue to be our main source of income and we need to ensure we are collecting subs efficiently at the start of each term to ensure our cash flow remains consistent. Your prompt payment is appreciated. Remember you can pay via the internet or in instalments – ask me for details.
- We've invested in the Group website: www.1stcrownhillscouts.org.uk. The set up costs were small and development and maintenance of the site is done free of charge by a Group parent. This will continue to improve communication and raise the profile of the Group.
- Bag packing continues to swell the bank balance (can we do it once a quarter?!)
- The Group were successful in obtaining a Wider Use Grant from MK Council towards the cost of renting Christ the Sower – the grant was equivalent to 70% of the annual rental which enables us to afford this excellent space.
- If any of you work for large organisations that 'match' fund raising by their staff – please ask them if they would be prepared to help the Group either in a financial way or by donating raffle prizes.

The new financial year continues to look bright and in the black! As at 31 May 06, the Reserve A/c (savings account) had a balance of £706.06, the Main A/c £1001.60, so the overall net funds at that point were £1707.66.

The Group continues to thrive. We need to keep the momentum going to ensure we can continue to run camps, trips and other fun activities for the children – hopefully in sunshine rather than what appears to be becoming a tradition of wet and windy weather!

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



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1st Crownhill Scouts – Summary of Year End Financials

Period	Period 2006-2007	Period 2005-2006
INCOME		
Subscription	£2,893.05	£3,621.15
Bank Interest	£16.19	£28.37
Raffle	£112.55	£276.00
Bag Packing	£541.70	£422.76
Other Activities	£472.00	£1,189.98
Camping Activities	£890.00	£846.50
Rebate	£32.25	£101.00
Donations	£77.28	£519.56
Wider Use Grant	£1,216.00	£777.30
Uniform Sales	£62.00	£146.30
TOTAL INCOME	£6,313.02	£7,928.92
EXPENDITURE		
Rent	£1,782.40	£971.62
Insurance	£171.36	£188.34
Uniform,Kit,Camp ,Sundries	£1,513.52	£2,271.77
Flags,Badges, Shields	£100.88	£258.93
Capitation Fees	£1,397.00	£1,881.50
Stationery	£28.49	£98.86
Cost of AGM	£212.00	£32.39
Group Events	£966.12	£1,485.39
Donations	£64.59	£0.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£6,236.36	£7,188.80
EXCESS OF INCOME EXPENDITURE FOR YEAR	£76.66	£740.12
FUND BALANCE B/F	£1,515.55	£1,515.55
FUND BALANCE C/F	£1,592.21	£1,515.17
Cash at bank and in hand	£1,775.53	£1,515.55



Group Information

Group Leaders

Group Scout Leader	Tony Mann (gls@1stcrownhillscouts.org.uk)	01908 330861
Scout Leader	Chris Snook (scouts@1stcrownhillscouts.org.uk)	01908 265520
Assistant Scout Leader	Kate Hog	07980 735166
Assistant Scout leader	Robert King	07939933861
Cub Leader	Tricia King (cubs@1stcrownhillscouts.org.uk)	01908 503995
Assistant Cub Leader	VACANT	
Beaver Scout Leader	Stuart Golding (beavers@1stcrownhillscouts.org.uk)	07768 102437
Assistant Beaver Leader	VACANT	

Executive Committee

Chairman	VACANT	
Treasurer	Jean Dejean (treasurer@1stcrownhillscouts.org.uk)	01908 267137
Secretary	Julie Woodruff (secretary@1stcrownhillscouts.org.uk)	01908 340185
Quarter Master	Mark Woodruff (secretary@1stcrownhillscouts.org.uk)	01908 340185