



1st Crownhill
Scout Group
2007/2008
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
Outgoing Group Secretary





Group Scout Leader's Review

Dear Parents / Fellow Members

AGM time again and I must confess the last year seems to be a bit of a haze. This is because we have been mainly focusing on the sections ensuring that activities are able to run rather than holding group activities like fund raising, equipment purchasing, group events etc.

Looking at the highlights of 2007/2008 there are a few events that are very memorable. Amongst them is cooking with the Beavers at the MK Conference Centre, taking a group of Scouts on the Grimdale Hike and, most recently, camping with the Cubs at Phasel's Wood. Each and all of the activities the group runs has its own challenges, and takes different levels organising. Phasel's Camp, for example, took four months of planning resulting in 3 days camping for 15 Cubs that went home very wet but had great fun.



In all of the fun and excitement it sometimes gets forgotten that the Leaders who give up their evenings and weekends to run these activities are volunteers. The money that you pay each term, and for trips, goes towards the Scouting Associations annual subscription and running cost which you can see in the accounts attached. So why do they do it? From my personal experience working with all the different age groups, providing adventurous and exciting activities, based around Scouting, that they enjoy and learn from is more rewarding than my day job! (although not financially I should add). There are times however that all the leaders need some help and some consideration in order to make things run more smoothly. To name but a few:-

- Activities consent forms – unfortunately the Scouting Association insists we get permission for each and every activities we hold away from our meeting place. Without it we are not insured, and we do not have up to date contact detail in an emergency.
- Equipment – Please ensure you Beaver/Cub/Scout is equipped for the activity. We normally detail this on the activity form however wearing the correct footwear and having a coat are basic requirements. If you're not sure please call the leader.
- Home Contact – For some activities we run a home contact scheme. This is a person who you can contact who has access to all the leaders running the activities via telephone. Equally, if there is an problem or emergency, the leader will inform the home contact who will contact you. This allows the leader/s to concentrate on the problem/emergency. It is therefore very important that we have a contact number for someone who is available during the dates of the activity and will keep their phone switched on and close by. I speak from personal experience when I say there is nothing worse for a leader/home contact who can not contact a parent or carer when they need to, quickly.
- Other forms / payments – again Leaders need to focus on planning and running the activity. If we ask for your form / payment back by a specific date please try to

ensure we get it or that you send a message (telephone or email) to say that you are attending. Full payment should also be made before the activity date.

- Help – sometimes just the offer of a helping hand, even if they don't need it, gives the Leaders your support.

The above may seem like very trivial points, but again I emphasise that the Leader are voluntary and want to spend their time planning and running the activities, which benefit your Beaver/Cub/Scout. Chasing for forms, payments etc becomes very tiresome for everyone.

On to business, the group's membership dropped slightly at the end of the year. At the census (completed in January) the group membership stood at 43 which has since increased to approximately 55 members.

| Section | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | Present | Maximum |
|---------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Beavers | 15 | 8 | 8 | 14 | 15 |
| Cubs | 14 | 13 | 9 | 18 | 20 |
| Scouts | 16 | 22 | 18 | 17 | 24 |
| Totals | 43 | 45 | 43 | 55 | 60 |

There is a significant increase in Beavers which is very encouraging as these members will hopefully move on to Cubs and Scouts. However this will only be possible if we manage to find another Beaver leader which will allow the colony to continue.

This year my appeal for more helpers becomes critical. As people move on / retire the work that is require to keep the group running is still the same. Without new volunteers this work falls to the remaining people, increasing their work load. We desperately need new committee members to take the roles of Chairman, Secretary and a Quarter Master. More importantly we must find a Beaver Leader and assistant Leader by the Summer.

What can you do to help ? Volunteer yourself or, if you know someone who you think would enjoy working with young people, volunteer someone else!

Many Groups have closed over the last few years purely because there were not enough Leaders and committee members to keep them going. I, and the rest of the Leaders, do not want to see this happen to 1st Crownhill but need the support of you all to ensure we continue.

Don't sit back, call or email me today and lets ensure the group has a bright future !

Attached is a copy of the group's accounts together with our Treasures report. Please take the time to look. 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 and are on time. Thank you.

Finally, a welcome and some thank you's. Welcome to Ben Cosstick who joined us last year as Assistant Cub Leader. Tricia and Ben have worked very hard to run some excellent activities over the past year which has resulted in their numbers increasing to an all time record !

Other big thank you's go to Chris Snook (SL) and Kate Hogg (ASL) who have done excellent work with the Scouts part of which resulted in four of their older members getting their Chief Scout Gold awards. Also to Julie and Mark who are retiring from the committee (although Julie

will continue as a help in Beavers) after five years of looking after the groups equipment and paper work. And, lastly Jean and Dean who run the group finances and website without which we would not be able to function at all!

Finally, finally I would like to thank you, the parents and carers for your continued support which is needed and greatly appreciated.

Yours in Scouting

Tony

Tony Mann
Group Scout Leader (GSL)



Beavers 2007 – 2008

The most important thing that happened this year was Stuart Golding leaving the group it was very sad to see Stuart leave. He was a great Beaver leader and is very much missed by us all.

Over the past few months we have run some different activities which I believe the Beavers have enjoyed and have involved many of the parents. From lighting fires at the quarries, to making weather machines, packing rucksacks and walking in the woods, it has been great fun with the number of young people each week increasing.

We have had a great year with the beavers though and have had lots of fun with some brilliant activities and outings. The group have visited the Recycling Centre, St Mary's church and a walk around Tattenhoe woods. We had the community police officer visit us, an indoor camp and food tasting, with food from other countries on the menu.

The Beaver numbers has steadily risen over the past year which is brilliant with all the children being enthusiastic and putting their all into making their time and ours worthwhile. The futures of this section is uncertain however we both greatly enjoy working with such a lovely group and hope that someone can step in and really benefit from the past work that has been done. Finally we would also like to thank the parents for their continuing support with helping out with activities we really appreciate everything you do. Thank you!

Yours in Scouting

Tony

Tony Mann
(Very temporary) Beaver Leader

Julie

Julie Woodruff
Assistant



Cubs 2007 – 2008

2007/2008 has been a great year, and we have done extremely well with recruiting a new assistant cub leader Ben (Thanks for all you help) and increasing the pack from 12 to over 20 cubs, we even have a waiting list for new members!!!



This year has been very exiting, with all the Cubs (new and old) enjoying lots of new activities (Tracking, Fire lighting, Shelter building, Air Rifle shooting and many more)!!

So far this year we have had two camps the first back in November 07, with all 16 cubs coming and sleeping in the hut at the Quarries, (not much sleep was had by all!!) we had a very busy day at Bletchley Park with lots of compliments and praise from the public saying how well behaved all the cubs where!!

The second camp was last May bank holiday (a wet one as usually!!☺☺) For most of the cubs this was the first opportunity for them to sleep in Tents and for some the first time to be away from home overnight!!

Again we have a fantastic time with the Cub's having lots of fun trying new activities including Potholing, Abseiling, the Cresta Run and a rather wet Adventure Trail! ☺☺☺

The Cubs have all worked very hard this year to gain a number of Badges including there: Local Knowledge, Navigator, Road Safety, Adventure and Nights away badge, with some receiving their Outdoor challenge badges!!

Yours in Scouting

Tricia Ben

Tricia King Ben Costick
Cub Leader Assistant Cub Leader



It has been a varied time at Scouts this year, from traditional scouting activities to a few things slightly different.

We took part in the orienteering competition again in October, where we seem to be improving every time we take part. This coming October's competition could see more of a challenge as

most of the older Scouts are leaving in the summer. Also turning into an annual event is the Grimsdyke hike, which we took part in again last November. It was a better weekend in terms of weather and this helped the Scouts come in around half way down the teams.

Since Christmas we have been to China and back – in terms of tasting their foods and experiencing their cultures. A few of the dragons that the Scouts made were a bit scary, but not as much as those underneath!

With the programme tailored to making sure challenge badges are possible, it was a proud moment for the troop and the leaders, to have five of our senior Scouts achieve their Chief Scout's Gold award in March. They all detailed their experiences to the ADCs for Scouts in our district and all came back knowing they had achieved the highest accolade within the Scouts section. I am sure there will be many more that come along in the future, and we will always try and give everyone the opportunity to reach such high levels.

Another couple of exciting terms to look forward to, but before we begin again in September the Scout Troop are heading south in August for their annual Summer Camp.

This year the Scouts will be camping at Ferny Crofts, Hampshire (on the edge of The New Forest). Activities here are in abundance: two climbing walls, raft building, volley ball, archery, crate stacking, high ropes and rifle shooting. Plus other days off site with a possible visit to Brown Sea Island – time permitting! Not forgetting those traditional Scouting activities – pioneering, cooking on open fires and more!!! Plenty of FUN to be had by all.

On our return in September, the fun continues with a packed programme – activities we are hoping to include during the winter term are: another trip round the red routes – exploring Milton Keynes by bike, a planned hike – over the muddy fields, swimming trip to a fun pool or a possible visit to Draycott Manor Park.

In October and November we like to participate in a couple of County events – Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explores and Leaders (yes Leaders) take part running ragged through Wendover Woods – orienteering. Then in November it's the gruelling 25km Grimsdyke Hike – for the older Scouts a bit of green field camping too. – Lets hope we can win at least one of them this year.

Oh yeah! one more thing – how about an "Adventure Weekend" in Edale – for Scouts and parent/guardian – something we will be looking into – some hiking, climbing, weasling (yes, it does exist – Google it) and caving. Luxurious accommodation (not under canvas) but a camping barn in the Peak District – watch this space – it could be winter 2008 or spring 2009.

Finally, I personally would like to thank all the Leaders, parents, helpers and those behind the scenes who help with the Scout troop which allows young people to experience sometimes difficult, though exciting challenges ensuring they always have FUN!

Chris

Chris Snook
Scout Leader

Kate

Kate Hogg
Assistant Scout Leader



Treasure's Review

Attached is a copy of the summary of Group's accounts for the year 2007/2008. 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 managing budgets 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 broken even over the year, accruing a net profit of £278.27.

With no major purchases throughout the year, this amount will enable the Group to purchase a much needed dining shelter shortly to be used by all Groups when camping.

A few headlines and reminders:

- Subs stayed fairly consistent on last year and continue to be our main source of income. We need to ensure we are collecting subs efficiently at the start of each term to ensure our cash flow remains buoyant. Your prompt payment is appreciated. Remember you can pay via the internet or in instalments – ask me for details.
- The Groups website continues to be developed and remains a source of information: 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.
- 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 March 08, the Reserve A/c (savings account) had a balance of £650.39, the Main A/c £1327.29, together with a small amount of petty cash, the overall net funds at that point were £2036.63.

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 Djean
Treasurer



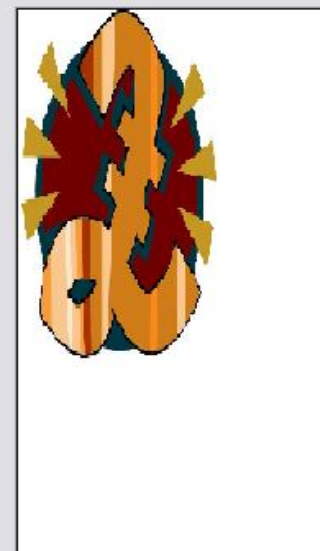
Financial Period Statement for 01/04/2007 to 31/03/2008

INCOME

| | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| Subscription | £2,964.78 |
| Bank Interest | £21.23 |
| Raffle | £41.00 |
| Bag Packing | £310.48 |
| Other Activities | £410.00 |
| Camping Activities | £1,285.00 |
| Rebate | £17.00 |
| Donations | £196.20 |
| Wider Use Grant | £1,657.30 |
| Uniform Sales | £73.00 |
| TOTAL INCOME | £6,975.99 |

EXPENDITURE

| | |
|----------------------------|------------------|
| Rent | £2,071.68 |
| Insurance | £153.57 |
| Uniform,Kit,Camp ,Sundries | £1,952.38 |
| Flags,Badges, Shields | £166.52 |
| Capitation Fees | £1,537.50 |
| Stationery | £44.54 |
| Cost of AGM | £96.83 |
| Group Events | £674.70 |
| Donations | £0.00 |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURE | £6,697.72 |



SUMMARY

| | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|
| EXCESS OF INCOME EXPENDITURE FOR YEAR | £278.27 |
| FUND BALANCE B/F | £1,775.53 |
| FUND BALANCE C/F | £2,053.80 |
| CASH AT BANK ,IN HAND | £2,049.36 |
| VARIANCE | £4.44 |

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 |
| Cub Leader | Tricia King (cubs@1stcrownhillscouts.org.uk) | 01908 503995 |
| Assistant Cub Leader | Ben Cosstick | 07887 565804 |
| Beaver Scout Leader | VACANT (beavers@1stcrownhillscouts.org.uk) | |
| Assistant Beaver Leader | VACANT | |

Executive Committee

| | | |
|-----------------------|--|--------------|
| Chairman | VACANT | |
| Treasurer | Jean Dejean (treasurer@1stcrownhillscouts.org.uk) | 01908 267137 |
| Secretary | VACANT (secretary@1stcrownhillscouts.org.uk) | |
| Quarter Master | VACANT (secretary@1stcrownhillscouts.org.uk) | |