

**1st Cobham Scouts AGM
Wednesday 18 May 2016
HQ Scout Hut, 7.00pm**

Attendees:

Helen Amys	Beaver Leader
Alyson Menke	Cub Leader
Nathan Menke	Scout Leader
Lisa van Koetsveld	Group Treasurer
Pat Berton	Group Chairman
Jon Bell	Group Scout Leader
Anita Snell	Hall Bookings manager
Dianne ODonoghue	Group Secretary
Debbie Coles	Fund Raising
John Baldwin	} District Representatives

Plus Assistant Leaders and parents

Apologies :

Graham Gibb – District Representative

1. Welcome from Chairman
Welcome to everyone
2. Approval of last Year's Minutes
Minutes were approved by all present
3. Chairman's Statement

Welcome to all our parents, and to colleagues from the District. I am pleased to report on the year 2015 for 1st Cobham Scouts.

The year has been a very encouraging one and this has very much continued into 2016. You may recall that at the 2015 AGM we reported on how admirably the Troop had rallied and pulled itself together following the tragic loss of Peter Amys, our previous Group Scout Leader. We also made the point that we had realised we needed more than ever to take a strategic look at the future of the Group.

I can report to you, the parents of our Scouts, Cubs and Beavers that we have achieved or are on the way to achieving our main goals. How we have done this I will leave this to Jon Bell, our Group Scout Leader, to explain in more detail in a minute or two.

I thank especially Jon Bell, Group Scout Leader, for his commitment help, both up front and behind the scenes, in taking much of the load off the uniformed Leaders. It is great to have such committed Leaders at all levels and especially to see young and dynamic new Leaders come through.

They are well backed by our Executive Committee. The Committee has in the main been together for several years now and I would sincerely thank Anita Snell who very ably looks after the hut facilities and booking and hiring out the Hut; Dianne O'Donoghue who is a superbly efficient secretary, and Lisa van Koetsveld who has continued to manage the finances extremely effectively in 2015 as our Group Treasurer.

Once again it is fair to say that the Group's finances and establishment remains sound although we will need to involve additional fundraising and ask for parental support for a major overhaul of the storage areas of the Scout Hut. In 2015 all the Leaders' requests for necessary kit and hut improvements have been met. The minibus, acquired a year or two ago has been very useful, however we think it has probably come to the end of the road, so to speak, and we will need to come up with another solution.

We continue to take due care and attention to risk management and risk assessment has been an ongoing concern, as safety is taken very seriously by the Group.

In 2015, once again, the Group continued to be involved in the local community in a number of ways, for example running stalls and activities at Cobham Village Day and the Christmas Parade and has shown a good attendance supporting the Remembrance Day and St George's day services and parades.

With continued work on widening the leadership team, as well as working on the infrastructure, we will be well placed to continue to thrive in coming years.

4. Annual reports from GSL and Section Leaders

GSL

2015 has been a year of change yet again within Cobham, particularly with respect to the Scout section.

At the last AGM I stated that Grahame Carter had withdrawn his resignation and stood in as Scout Leader to replace Peter. This was always going to be a temporary situation and during discussions with the District as to how we moved the leadership forward on a more permanent basis Grahame tendered his resignation and left at the end of June together with Greg Bell, our remaining Assistant Scout Leader. They are now running a group within the Normandy District.

Whilst we, as a group are grateful that Grahame was able to continue for the period after Peter's death he left very suddenly with the result that for the end of the summer term we had no specific Scout Leader in place. This situation led to a further reduction in troop size of the already small troop as a few parents felt that yet another change of leadership in such a short period was not good for their children. Thankfully the three senior scouts chose to stay on and support the troop.

Nathan Menke and Dylan King, both ex Cobham scouts volunteered to take up leadership roles within the scout troop and in September took on the leadership of the troop and with my support have been running the troop effectively since September. They have now both gone through the District interview process and are officially Scout Leader and Assistant Scout Leader respectively. Coupled with this new leadership team and a move of scout meetings from Friday nights to Wednesday, after Cubs, has encouraged more young people to stay on into Scouts and the troop is now starting to gain momentum and numbers again. I would ask you to support Nathan and Dylan as they continue to bring their own leadership style to Cobham, which in my opinion, they are already doing very successfully.

Beaver and Cub membership remains strong with waiting lists for both sections, thanks largely to the interesting and varied programmes that Alyson Menke and Helen Amys and their teams continue to run.

Parental support is as always welcomed and **essential** for running a Scout group and we are grateful to parents who support when asked for the activities we put on. Without support many of the events could not occur.

The efforts of the 'Executive' do not go unnoticed either and I would like to thank **all** the members for their continued support. All have now been around for several years and as such are familiar with the way this group operates. Without their support the group would not run as smoothly as it does.

Looking to the future, the recruitment plans are still ongoing. It is essential that we continue to broaden the Uniformed leadership team bringing in fresh ideas and experience. The addition of Nathan and Dylan into the Troop team is a significant step forward, Beavers have been bolstered by the addition of Brian Amys as a 'Young Leader' and Rachael McArthur has agreed to come onboard as a leader within the Cub section. Additionally, as Pat has suggested, we will be looking to widen and strengthen the executive, particularly with regard to fund raising and building maintenance.

Decorating work has been carried out to the hut and kitchen over the last few weeks – thanks to Aly for organising this. We have employed a gardener to maintain the grounds. Thanks also go to Dan Rayner, who has volunteered to take on work to the 1st Cobham Scout website. One of the projects we intend to undertake in the near future is an overhaul of the garage/storage facilities and the outdoor space around the hut. This will require funding and 'manpower' to achieve and with that in mind Debbie Coles has agreed to come back onto the committee to support fund raising activities for this venture.

2016 is nearly halfway through and the team we have in place is committed to continue to successfully deliver 'Scouting' to the young people in Cobham.

BEAVERS

We started 2015 with 26 Beavers of which 3 were girls, 11 have moved up to Cubs over the year and 3 have left for various reasons. We ended 2015 with 24 Beavers, of which 2 were girls. We had 18 new Beavers start over the year.

The spring and summer terms were mainly concentrated on finishing the old Challenge badges as much as possible in preparation for the new Programme which started officially in September. Activities included parachute games, healthy foods, team and agility games, the Country Code, a visit from a parent to talk about their job ..to list but a few. There were 2 highlights from the spring term, the Beaver District Party in March, to which 14 Beavers came; thank you Debbie for organising this again and the Easter Egg hunt jointly with the Cubs at the end of March, to which 17 came, thank you to Akela for that one. Both events were great fun. The highlight of the summer term was Bazaaz, the 3 yearly County event for all Beavers, which 10 Beavers attended - the theme was Round the World and it was a great day for everyone - thank you to our County team for that one.

The last term of 2015 was taken up with introducing and getting to grips with the new programme of badges. A lot of the activities are very different and more challenging both for the Beavers and the leaders!! So far they have included making shields, welly tossing, making Bara brith muffins, an evening of tying knots, papier maché models and other activities. The year ended with a Christmas party, to which a special visitor dressed in red came and the now seemingly annual train ride to which 15 Beavers came, receiving a lovely present from the gentleman in red again and it didn't rain!!

I would like to say a big thank you for all the support we have received over the last year from parents who have ably volunteered for outside events and especially to 2 people - Kim who continues to turn up every week to help (except during Wimbledon) and particularly to my son Brian, who has decided to become a Young Leader with 1st Cobham and who, at the moment is virtually acting as my Assistant Beaver Leader. Thank you to both of you.

CUBS

2015 has been an incredibly busy year working on 7 Activity Badges, 2 Staged Badges and the introduction of Cub's centenary preparation for 2016. We had a range of between 28 – 40 cubs equally split between girls and boys. This has only been possible because of Hatti (Claire Woolvern), Baloo (Klaus Menke) and a successful, positive parent rota. Cameron Haxton completed his Bronze D of E with us and will be returning to complete his silver.

Spring

We started the year looking at Cultures of the World. Ate Haggis on Burns Night. Chased chocolate, with Beavers and trolls, at our annual Easter Egg Hunt. 60 Cubs raced cars at the Pinewood Derby and Cobham won 2 trophies. Complete exploding, bubbling, glowing science experiments and looked at the new badges.

Summer

Hosted the annual AGM. All the cubs passed their stage 1 First Aid (New Badge). 25 cubs went to District Camp even though we suffered with the dreaded "bug". Built a variety of things for our pioneering badge and finished with our Cub Splash at St Andrew's Pool.

Autumn

We again hosted the Children's Section of Heritage Day with over 60 entries. Had a great bonfire night, with fireworks, on the 5th at St Andrew's School with cubs and their families (70 people). Thank you to firemen Richard Stedman and Dave Bowers who came as our fire safety officers for the night.

Winter

We opened the term with the national "Million Hands Project" helping at Cobham Community Garden, looked at disability and finished the term with "Cobham Lantern Parade" and our yearly visit to the Panto with (52) cubs and parents.

Fundraising

The cubs had another successful year:
Pinewood Derby Refreshments - £90
Pitching Marquee St Andrew's - £150
Heritage Day - £50
Pinewood Derby Track rental - £200
Santa's Grotto - £297

SCOUTS

After joining the group in October both Dylan and I have appreciated the support and encouragement of the leadership team and parents.

We started a new programme with 2 Patrol Leaders and 7 Scouts. Meetings are going very well with parents commenting on how the Scouts are enjoying the new times, especially the weekends. Thanks to Jon for his continued support and Cameron Haxton, who joined us to complete his D of E Silver.

Completed Activities:

Winter Term

We completed the Creative Challenge making picture frames to hold the amazing "long exposure" photos that the Scouts took, we made charcoal pencils over the fire and drew pictures and completed an angel big build for the Lantern Parade. We had an introduction to the new Personal Challenge Award and a very successful session on Knife Safety – didn't need any plasters!

Community

The scouts had a great time carrying their angel big build at the Cobham Lantern Parade. It looked spectacular. They definitely want to take on the challenge again this year.

Fundraising Events

Supported Cubs at Lantern Parade.

Supported Cubs with the grotto.

5. Treasurer's Report

Receipts and payments account summary for the year ended 31 December 2015

	This Year	Previous Year
	£	£
Total receipts for the year	11,483	13,766
Total payments for the year	<u>9,907</u>	<u>13,756</u>
Net receipts (payments) for the year	1,576	10
Cash, bank and similar funds brought forward	<u>19,782</u>	<u>19,772</u>
Cash, bank and similar funds carried forward	<u>21,358</u>	<u>19,782</u>

Formal account sheets were distributed to the attendees at the meeting and are attached at the end of the printed file copy of these minutes.

(no questions were received from the audience)

The accounts issued were agreed.

Proposed : Pat

Seconded: Dianne

Agreed with a show of hands from those present

6. Election of officers and the committee

Function	Person	Nominated by	Seconded by
Chairman	Pat	Jon	Aly
Secretary	Dianne	Pat	Helen
Treasurer	Lisa	Pat	Jon
Bookings	Anita	Pat	Lisa
Auditor	Barry Hitchens	Pat	Lisa
Fund Raiser	Debbie Coles	Pat	Helen

The nominations were all agreed by a show of hands by everyone present.

7. AOB

Badges were presented to two Beavers by Helen.

John Baldwin invested Nathan as Scout Leader and Dylan as Assistant Scout Leader.

John gave apologies for Peter Hanna who could not attend today due to his attendance at a Walton Firs meeting. He commented on the busy year that Cobham Scouts have had and re-iterated that if parents wanted to become Uniformed Leaders to please do come forward. Cubs have their 100 year anniversary this year with lots of varied events taking place. Finished with good wishes for the remaining year.

Debbie Coles – Fund Raiser

Commented that it was good to be back from the last big fund raising event in 2009/10 and 11 where £50k was raised to repair the hut roof, replace the windows and replace the toilets.

This new fund raising push is for extra repairs and equipment: the garage, whilst structurally sound has a leaking roof, gutters not working as they should, doors hanging by a 'thread' etc. In fixing these, we also need to look at the space and the group's needs of how best to use it.

Tents need replacing, poles have broken over time.

The minibus has come to the end of its useful life and needs replacing. Looking at ideas of how to do this – possibly combine with other groups. Also open to ideas and suggestions from parents.

Hoping to sign up 2 or 3 parents from each section to come together to be a spokesperson for that section.

The simplicity of using the Easy Fundraising website to raise money – just sign up to it and make purchases through this via organisations such as M&S, Amazon, Ebay, Groupon etc. No effort is required and since we have been using it we have raised £1800!

If any parents wish to assist with the fund raising organisation please email Debbie at Debbie.coles@party-point.co.uk or speak with your section leaders.

Date of Next Meeting

To be set in January when the Exec Meeting dates will be set for the year.

Meeting closed at 20:00hrs