

# 1st Cobham Scouts AGM

## Wednesday 17 May 2017

### 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
Harry Jones	Esher District Chairman

Plus Assistant Leaders and parents

#### Apologies :

Peter Hanna	Esher District Commissioner
Debbie Coles	Fund Raising

#### 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 2016 on behalf of 1st Cobham Scouts.

2016 was another encouraging year as the Group continued to consolidate and move forward, and 2017 has so far continued in the same vein.

Above all we want to continue to deliver the benefits of Scouting to children and young people in Cobham through three flourishing Sections at Scout, Cub and Beaver level, offering a wide and varied range of activities.

In a moment Jon Bell our Group Scout Leader will report to you in more detail on the highlights of the year.

I thank first Jon, for his committed help in taking some of the load off the uniformed Leaders, for his active assistance in the Scouts section to Nathan and Dylan, operating behind the scenes in liaising with the Esher District, and for helping with many varied matters tasks concerning the hut. Alyson Menke, has continued as our amazingly energetic Cubs Akela, and Helen Amys, likewise, Leader of the Beaver colony. This is the heart of the Group with a terrific appetite for delivering scouting and it is great to have such committed Leaders at all levels and especially to see capable and dynamic new Leaders such as Nathan 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 incredibly carefully looks after the hut facilities and manages the booking and hiring out of the Scout

Hut. Lisa van Koetsveld has continued to offer sterling service in 2016 as our Group Treasurer manage the finances very smoothly, juggling her family commitments to make it to the meetings. We have welcomed back to the Executive Debbie Coles who agreed in 2016 to return to assist in our fundraising for a further period. Debbie was, as some of you may remember, amazingly successful and effective in running the major fundraising drive that the Group undertook between 2008 and 2010. This resulted in a major refurbishment of the Hut, replacing the leaking roof and installing modern toilets. Finally, a sincere "Thank you" to Dianne O'Donoghue, the most efficient Group secretary who is standing down after several years of service. I will remember warmly getting home after many an exec meeting and waking up the next morning to see a freshly delivered set of minutes from Dianne ready to be looked at and sent out at something like 6.15am! That brings me to thanks to, and recognition of, you as our parents, for two things: first, entrusting your children to the Group and thereby ensuring the continued existence of the whole enterprise; and second, for supporting the activities as you so often do when we ask.

Once again it is fair to say that the Group's finances and establishment remains pretty sound as we enjoy solid income from all the scouts' subscriptions and continue to rent out the Hut to a number of local organisations during the week. This enabled us in 2016 once again to fulfil all the Leaders' plans and requests for necessary kit and hut improvements. A major clear-out of the storage area of the hut was masterminded by Alyson last summer and carried out with the help of many of the parents.

What do we need to spend our funds on? We are now planning to do a significant refit of the garage and storage area, and this will cost some money. Second, 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, which will inevitably cost some money although we hope to find some sponsorship. Third, there is a need to replace the tentage.

To make sure that these outlays do not result in our reserve cushion being eroded we continue to look to strengthen the executive with some additional fund raising help from within the group to back up Debbie Coles.

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

1<sup>st</sup> Cobham 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 once again supported the Remembrance Sunday 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

After the last couple of 'turbulent' years 2016 has appeared to have settled down to a much steadier time.

Within the Scout section 2016 has been a year for Nathan and Dylan to develop their leadership styles. The move of Scouts from Friday to Wednesday has proved successful and the scout numbers have gradually increased as the cubs have moved up. Alyson Menke has also stepped in to support scout activities, where necessary until Nathan and Dylan completed their training.

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. Brian Amys has now been involved with Beavers for over a year and Rachael McArthur has become a warranted leader supporting Aly in Cubs.

The following e-mail was received by the group in March from Richard Shortman, the Surrey Scouts County Secretary:

*On behalf of Joe Rogerson, Surrey Scouts County Commissioner, I am writing to congratulate you and the 1st Cobham Scout Group for increasing your numbers by over 10% during the past year. This is an impressive achievement and reflects the hard work that must have happened to achieve this superb increase. Would you please pass on my warmest congratulations together with those from Joe and Ian Newbery, our Regional Commissioner, to everyone in the Group who has worked so hard to achieve this increase*

However, whilst the leadership team remain very committed it is still small and it is important we continue to try to broaden the uniformed leadership team to bring in fresh ideas and experience to all sections.

Regrettably Claire Woolven and Sally Dear, who for several years have supported the Beaver and Cub sections have last year stood down from leadership. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their support over the years. Claire has been with us since 2008 whilst her children went through Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. Sally is still associated with the group but has had to stand down from uniformed leadership.

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 this 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. Sadly, Dianne is standing down as secretary after many years' service but hopefully she will continue to be involved with the group.

## SCOUTS

The Scout group has once again been full of change, cycling through many new scouts, experiencing an average 11 scouts year round. Our success has only been possible through the support of Akela and Dylan, without whom many evenings and camps would not have been possible. We are currently looking for a willing female leader to join our team and support us on camps.

### Completed Activities:

This past year we have participated in a variety of activities and link events with the Cub group. The scouts have completed 6 Activity and 3 Staged badges. We have also completed 2 Challenge awards and have worked towards several others.

In spring we joined the Cub group in a link event where we assisted the cadets in hunting down the cubs in our annual Easter egg hunt, and then were invited along with the cubs to 153 Cadet Detachment. We employed a series of skills and were taught the basics of cadet survival... camp discipline, ration packs, first aid, skill at arms and weapons training.

During the summer term we went on our first District camp, alongside the rest of the group. We ran our own activity involving ballistae and armoured bombarding armoured knights and participated in a massive variety of scouting activities such as climbing, high rope courses, giant pioneering builds and all round camp and sporting games.

We ended the year on a high with our sunny summer swim, completing up to 3 grades on the Staged Swimming activity badge. All of our scouts achieved their badges, with some of our scouts thriving on the borders of stage 4 (an Explorer level badge!)

Autumn was full of activities too, greatest of which being our mystery night! The Leaders spent a whole afternoon constructing a pioneering obstacle course through the hut, all the way into the rafters. There were rope swings, Jacob's ladder, swinging obstacles and much more! I'm sure the scouts are already looking forward to this project again, though I won't be building it on my own this time round.

Once again, Scout Leaders succeeded in blowing ourselves up during the annual fireworks night, much to the amusement of all the cubs and scouts. Fortunately, our great bonfire went down much better, keeping all the parents warm and providing a nice atmosphere for the night.

We ended the year with a fantastic lantern parade display at Cobham Parade of Lights and Christmas Panto.

Community Events – What we support

**Cobham Parade of Lights** – Our scouts supported the lantern parade, building a total of three Christmas tree big builds and refurbishing our angle.

## CUBS

The Cubs section has continued to be busy with an average of 28 cubs all year. This success is very much due to the continued support of Balloo (Klaus), Hatti (Clare) and Shere Kahn (Rachel) who turn up every week to help and all the parents who continue to support the Parent Rota. In July Hatti, after many years of support, stepped down to concentrate on her family and work. We shall miss her very much. We are still looking for another two leaders to join Shere Khan and myself to keep the section successful.

A new member joined our Cub team this year as part of the centenary celebrations. Gary Geko, with his passport, has travelled wide and far with our cubs, writing up a journal to describe each trip. He's been on school trips, to parties, various beaches, museums, walks, sailing, surfing and abroad to Munich, Thailand, Spain, New Zealand and over the sea to the Isle of White! He's had such a great year that he's going to continue his journeys in 2017.

Completed Activities:

We had a very busy and successful centenary year with "100" challenge going on each week. The cubs completed their Challenge Book and shared all their weird and wonderful "100" activities: jumps, walks, coins, stamps, painting wood slats, planting, leaf kebab and many more. Each month had a theme which was linked to various badges. The cubs completed 7 Activity and 4 Staged badges, 3 Challenge awards and 5 cubs earned their Silver Scout Award moving up to the Scout section.

The cubs also took on the Million Hands Project looking at mental health, how it affects all people and what can be done.

In spring we again hosted the Pinewood Derby with over 60 cubs from the District racing their cars. This is only made possible because of the support of St Andrew's School allowing us to use their sports hall. Our Easter Egg Hunt was supported by 153 Cadet Detachment from Esher High School as trolls. Over 60 beavers, cubs and scouts and 20 cadets ran amok at Polyapes. In return the cadets invited us to an activity evening at the school. Both cubs and scouts enjoyed trying out first aid, ration packs, skill at arms and basher building.

The summer term saw all the cubs joining the rest of the group at the District Camp. A successful weekend with the Cub section gaining a Guinness Book of Records Award for the most people to make a badge. We also went to an extremely wet County SCRAM.

Autumn was a little quieter but not much! We were invited to carve pumpkins at the Cobham Community Garden but the light failed us so 3 extremely large pumpkins arrived at the hut. The cubs had a fantastic time and the pumpkins were displayed for the week outside the hut with many comments from local residents! Our annual Firework Night went off with a very large bang, a great bonfire with marshmallow and some very doggy singing! We ended the year with a fantastic lantern parade display at Cobham Parade of Lights and Christmas Panto.

Community Events – What we support:

Heritage Day – This was a very successful day with lots of entries for the Children's Horticultural Competition which we organise and run. We need to find a way to encourage more local children to join in next year.

Cobham Parade of Lights – We again organised and ran all the lantern workshops also building all the "big builds" for the parade. A big thanks to Anita Snell who always steps up no matter what I ask of her!! I could not run these workshops on my own. The parade was a great success!

Fundraising Events:

Selling drinks and treats at Pinewood Derby.

Pitching marquee at St Andrew's Summer Fair.

Selling jams and chutneys at Heritage Day and St Andrew's Christmas Fair.

Cobham Parade – Santa's Grotto

Private booking – Santa's Grotto (with scouts)

Hut / garage refurb

We were really busy over the summer holidays. Clearing the garage with some support from parents, 2 skips and many trips to the tip. Great job so far, but still much to do. We have nearly finished the Leaders' room and kitchen. Thank you to Klaus, Dad Bill, Dylan and Nathan for all their time given over the holidays.

## BEAVERS

2016 started with 20 beavers of which 2 were girls. 17 new ones started over the year, 6 have moved up to Cubs and 4 have decided to leave for various reasons. 2016 ended with 22 beavers of which 4 were girls.

The spring and summer terms of 2016 were mainly spent consolidating the new Challenge badges which are, in places, completely different to the old ones. Activities included a 1st Aid Evening, a meeting spent (eventually after being rained off the 1st week!!) picking up litter from the fields of St Andrews school (there was a lot!!), making sand sculptures, box stacking, following a trail over Leith Hill and the usual end of term parties.

Autumn 2016 covered more badge activities such as leaf printing, tent pitching, a mime evening, building dens, Bonfire Night and of course, Christmas activities. The highlight of the term was a visit from Pets for Therapy with Louise and her huge dog Buddy. We unfortunately missed out on the train ride as the email wasn't sent to us. 'Bob a Job' month, organised by Debbie, was a great success for the Beavers, over half the colony took part.

We started 2017 with 26 beavers of which 6 are girls and with that number we have recreated the 4th lodge, Red Lodge, which seems to have become the girls lodge. So far this year 12 new ones have joined us, but only 2 are due to move up to Cubs, the others have left to join Cub packs closer to their homes.

Spring term 2017 started with the annual Beaver District party at Hinchley Wood, (thanks to our ADC Debbie) which 12 beavers went to. Activities such as making bird feeders, an animal quiz evening, junk modelling, planting and Easter activities were only some of what we did. We had 15 beavers attend St Georges day last month, which was a bright sunny day and very well attended.

Finally, I would like to say a few 'thank-you's'. Firstly, to all the support the Colony has received from parents over the last year, without your help, particularly for outside activities, we could not manage. Special thanks go to Kim who faithfully turns up every week (except during Wimbledon fortnight) and to Brian, my son, who continues to act as my Assistant. We also had 2 Duke of Edinburgh bronze helpers, Tabby who did from last September to February and Emily who is still ably helping us. A big thank you to all.

#### 5. Fund Raising

Our fundraising efforts have been fairly modest during the last year – we raised just under £1600 from various activities throughout 2016, but we have continued to support the group in the background and have contributed towards some of the building repairs that were raised as issues at the last AGM.

In particular, we have now completely replaced the leaking roof on the garage, and will shortly be replacing the very old damaged doors. Once the doors are secure we will work on getting new storage shelving and replacing some of the old camping equipment.

We have also worked with the cubs and scouts to update the kitchen, including replacing the flooring, which we hope will help to 'sell' the hut to prospective hirers – all of which brings vital funds into the group.

We are continuing to look at a shared minibus for the group, but are cautious of the expense commitment.

As always, if any parents are able to help or have ideas for fundraising we would love to hear from you! This could be for a one off project, or a donation, or perhaps your company could help us in some way. If you are interested, please contact Debbie on 07817 646544 or by email [Debbie.coles@party-point.co.uk](mailto:Debbie.coles@party-point.co.uk)

## 6. Treasurer's Report

Receipts and payments account summary for the year ended 31 December 2016

	This Year £	Previous Year £
Total receipts for the year	14,777	11,483
Total payments for the year	<u>21,648</u>	<u>9,907</u>
Net receipts (payments) for the year	-6,871	1,576
Cash, bank and similar funds brought forward	<u>21,358</u>	<u>19,782</u>
Cash, bank and similar funds carried forward	<u>14,487</u>	<u>21,358</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: Aly

Agreed with a show of hands from those present

## 7. Election of officers and the committee

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

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

## 8. AOB

Badges were presented to three Cubs by Harry Jones, Esher District Chairman.

Harry also gave apologies for Peter Hanna who was not able to attend this evening. Harry explained that Peter was hoping to retire at the end of last year, however plans are afoot for his replacement. Harry has been involved with Scouting for 20 years and applauded Leaders and Executive for their good work. He likened supporting a football or rugby team to that of supporting the Scouts and how it needed the skills and assistance of parents to enable the 'scouting team' to grow and flourish. He said that the role of the District is to check and make sure Scout Groups are functioning correctly and was pleased to report that Cobham 1<sup>st</sup> is always reported as doing very well.

## EOB

The Exec Committee agreed to move the bank account to Lloyds from CAF Bank because CAF Bank now charge fees and there is nowhere for money to be paid into at Cobham.

## **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