

1st Cobham Scouts AGM
Thursday 17 May 2012
The Fairmile, Portsmouth Road, 7.30pm

Attendees:	Debbie Coles	Fund Raising
	Peter Amys	Scout Leader
	Helen Amys	Beaver Leader
	Steve Moore on behalf	
	of Alyson Menke	Cub Leader
	Lisa van Koetsveld	(Treasurer)
	Pat Berton	Group Chairman
	Jon Bell	Group Scout Leader
	Dianne ODonoghue	Secretary
	Peter Hanna	District Commissioner
	Sue Hoad	ADC for Cubs

Apologies – Anita Snell (Bookings Manager)

Welcome from Chairman

Thanks for Peter Hanna and Sue Hoad for coming to the AGM and also to Steve Moore for standing in for Alyson Menke.

1. Approval of last Year's Minutes

Minutes were approved by all present.

2. Chairman's Statement

The Group has once again in 2011 offered a wide range of children from the local Cobham community the chance to participate in, regardless of their means, and benefit from, the wide range of activities and opportunities that can be offered by the Scouting Movement.

It would have been difficult to improve on a year such as 2010, the previous year reported on, when the Group celebrated the Centenary of Scouting in Cobham.

However, in so many ways the good work continued in 2011.

Having a fully staffed and functioning Executive is essential and I would like to thank all the members: the uniformed leaders have once again led the Troop with great commitment and I would once again congratulate first Peter Amys, Alison Menke and Helen Amys for their hard work in masterminding and delivering a very active programme for their Scout, Cub and Beaver Sections respectively. A programme that would compare very favourably with other much larger, better financed Scout groups.

In February 2011 Jon Bell joined the Exec. Committee as Group Scout leader, replacing Peter Amys who had been filling this position for a while in addition to his other responsibilities, and he has done an excellent job adding additional "gravitas" to the proceedings as well as building on Peter's established links with the District.

Debbie Coles as Fund Raiser continued her sterling (literally) work and the extra cash generated from the initiatives she has driven and supported over 2008 - 2012 has been a continuing and key part of the improvement in the Group's fortunes in the last 8 years or so. Lisa van Koetsveld has once again run the finances most ably, whilst our new signing as Group Secretary, Dianne O'Donoghue has provided a quality service to the Group. Anita Snell joined the committee in 2011 to supervise and manage the booking of the Hall and this has been most important aspect as the bookings we now have cover the running costs of the operation.

Investments have continued to be made in the infrastructure and equipment in 2011 and the finances overall remain sound.

I believe the 1st Cobham remains on a firm footing and so far 2012 is proceeding well.

3. Annual reports from GSL and Section Leaders

GSL

I have been in post for just over a year and am now beginning to understand the full requirements of the role.

I have received excellent support from both the uniformed leaders and the executive committee members to the effect that I sometimes feel my role is superfluous to requirements. Without this support it would not be possible for the group to continue with the success it is currently achieving.

With regard to Uniformed leadership all three sections have a committed group of leaders without whom the task of the group could not progress and I need to specifically thank Helen, Alyson, Peter and their teams for their continued hard work in running their sections.

Both the Beaver and Cub sections are effectively full with a 'managed' waiting list for the Beaver Colony. Scouts has been a small section over most of the year but towards the end of the year and into 2012 numbers have started to rise as Pete Amys, the scout leader has continued with a very active programme for the scouts. I concur with the chairman that the group is punching well above its weight in terms of involvement in district and local events. I will let the section leaders sing the praises of what they have been doing but I think it important to mention specifically the efforts of Kitt Amys, an ex-Cobham Scout, in being selected to attend the 2011 Jamboree in Sweden and Denmark. Kitt is currently an Explorer Scout at Hinchley Wood. One other item of note, which I am sure Peter will mention, is the winning of the Scout District Air Rifle shooting competition by an all girls team, who says scouting is only for boys.

The efforts of the 'Executive' do not go unnoticed either and I would like to thank **all** the members for their continued support. I am still surprised when Dianne manages to produce and distribute the minutes immediately following the meetings, often on the same night.

As a result of the excellent work from Debbie Coles in the fundraising department the refurbishment of the scout hut has now been full completed, and paid for. Sadly

Debbie is having to stand down from her role as the major fund raiser on the committee due to her own business commitments but thankfully will still be available to provide support and advice to her successor.

2012 I am sure will continue to bring new challenges but I am confident that the team we have in place will ensure that scouting is delivered successfully to the young people of Cobham.

Beavers

The Beaver colony continues to grow, starting the year with 18 Beavers of which 4 were girls and ending the year with 28 of which 10 are girls with approximately 10 making up to Cubs over the year, most of them gaining their Chief Scouts Bronze award.

Last year was the celebration of 25 years of Beaver Scouting so most activities revolved around that theme alongside the challenge of getting the older Beavers to complete their 6 challenge Badges ready for moving up to Cubs. The 25 year activities included doing 25 challenges to earn staged badges over the year from 5 to 25. We achieved most of our Beavers gaining 10 out of the 25.

The Beaver District party was a great success with the theme being Wind in the Willows. We had 14 Beavers attend and it was great fun.

2011 also saw a change to the Beavers Assistant District Commissioner and I myself was asked to take on the role of District Beaver leader – so far this has meant helping to organise the 25 year party on July 3 at Notre Dame School, which 13 Beavers came to and we all had a very hot and wet but enjoyable time (hot and wet because the fire engine turned up and sprayed everyone) and attending a County meeting last September as both our new ADC and the other District Beaver Leader were away. The Autumn term saw the start of the Save the Children Passport which involved learning all about India and gaining stickers whilst doing various activities – these included filtering dirty water, painting hands (not their own) packing a suitcase in 5 minutes because the flood water is rising and various new games with life in India as their theme. This we carried on into the New Year as well as the 25 Year Challenges which finished in February this year.

Last but not least I would like to say a very big thank you to a lot of people. Firstly our young Duke of Edinburgh helper Matt, who was with us from Easter to July, to all the scouts who have helped over 2011, especially Sophie who did more than she needed to, just to help out. To Kitt who came and helped when needed and who is now doing his Duke of Edinburgh Gold with us for a year! Also to Kim who continues to turn up and help, (but not during Wimbledon) and be the motherly figure when needed and last but no means least a very big thank you goes to Claire (Rikki), my assistant Beaver Leader, without whom I could not run all the activities especially the District/County Days. She copes marvellously with whatever I throw her way and steps in when necessary.

Cubs

Started a busy year with 24 Cubs. Huge thanks to Steve Moore (Kingfisher), Klaus Menke (Baloo), David Ruise (Sheakarn) and Dillan King who I could not run the group without! Unfortunately David returned to the USA in June but has kept contact with us as his daughter completes her British Cub badges by SKYPE!

Spring

Completed: Chefs Badge, DIY Badge, Craft Badge and Personal Safety Badge this term.

30 cubs and beavers took part in the first Cobham Pinewood Derby.

Built an Easter laurel cub warren at Painshill Park for all visitors to play in which is still standing.

Had a "Back to Basics" winter camp at Polyapes in 22 degree heat!

Ended the term, with Beavers joining us, at our East Egg Hunt at Walton firs.

Summer

Completed: Local Knowledge, Map Reading, Naturalist, Community Badge, Astronomy, Hobby, Camping, Hiking and Outdoor Badges.

27th – Royal Wedding Party – The Beavers joined us for fancy dress, games and food.

VIP – Norman Hicks delivering the Knott Board he made for us.

Took part and won the district day hike.

We spent an evening at the Church scrubbing and numbering 3,000 ducks, in preparation for Heritage Day Duck Race.

Attended District Cub Camp

The cubs completed 3 major fundraising activities this term raising over £900 for the group.

Ended the term with a Messy Olympic Party on St Andrews School field, cubs against parents. Lots and goo and water, fantastic fun!

Winter

Completed: Global, Fitness Challenge, Global Challenge, Promise Challenge, Communication and International Group by taking part and completing Save the Children Friendship Passport.

Leaf clearing – for the United Reformed Church in Stoke.

Visited Painshill Park for night games, map reading and night hiking.

Burnt sausages at the district sizzle and made crafts at the district craft day.

"Oktoberfest" Winter Camp at Polyapes where the cubs completed pioneering challenges, wore traditional dress, ate German food, danced to German music and learnt German beer drinking songs, with out the beer! Fantastic weekend!

Made lanterns and took part in Cobham Parade of Lights.

The following cubs gained their Silver Scout Award: Liam Snell, Beth Ellis, Freddie Karr, Anya Devon Berry, Joshua Ladd, Tom Lyford.

Ended the year with 24 cubs and lots of plans for Olympic/Jubilee 2012.

Scouts

During the last twelve months the troop has consistently been the smallest troop in the district. The average number has been 14 scouts and currently 17 scouts. Yet the troop has entered all the District Competitions achieving very good results more akin to the largest troops. The troop has won soapbox competitions twice, currently are rifle champions and winners of the first aid competition. In the hike challenge the troop has had the best results for years. All round an outstanding year coming 5th in the top troop trophy district annual challenge – but nearly 3rd!

The programme has been full, varied and progressive. During the year two more scouts achieved the Chief Scouts Gold Award, Nathan Menke and Tim ODonoghue. In total the troop was away 'on-camp' for over 30 nights in the year. Many progress and challenge badges have been awarded, look at their uniforms and you will see...

The highlight of the last year was 'Scoutabout', the county activity camp. This was 100% attended by the troop. As also were our two parades of the year, Remembrance Day parade was 100%, St Georges Day parade was 95% with two explained absences – quite remarkable.

Future events include an adventure camp in two weeks time, survival camp in June, hammock/bivvy bag sleepover in July, Brownsea Island in September and Canal Cruising a month later.

The troop leaders have remained firmly committed. Grahame has moved but is always there and an amazing asset to the group. Greg has had work issues encroach on his troop time, but is so important to the team and is always to be counted upon. Jimmy is settling in to the team and in time will be an excellent leader. My heartfelt thanks goes to all of them, without whom the scouts time would not be nearly as much fun or learn as much.

Therefore a conclusion would be an excellent year for our scouts and leaders, thanks to all.

4. Treasurers Report

Formal accounts were distributed to the attendees and are attached to the printed copy of these minutes.

At 31 Dec 2011 the accounts show £13K receipts and money paid out was £20K with a balance of £12,875

Expenditure this year has been on continuing improvements to the hut – floor, windows and doors.

Income from renting is covering our outgoings.

The Exec Committee had decided not to go the route of hiring for children's parties. This was in consideration of the neighbours and also because we have the benefit of regular hirers who use the hall for events such as dance classes etc.

The accounts issued were agreed.

Proposed : Peter Amys

Second : Peter Hanna and a show of hands

Peter Hanna advised that if the group could demonstrate the building use as a 'community' building (such as the dance school etc) we would likely to get extra funding or grants.

5. Fundraisers Report

A copy of the accounts were distributed at the meeting and are attached at the end of these minutes.

There has been no significant focus on fundraising during 2011 as a lot of focus had been during the previous 3 years. However, with the general fundraising events still being attended the group managed to raise £4k. This was in part due to Gavin doing the marathon and some other larger donations. Smaller activities such as Heritage support, Downside Sports Day and Christmas Extravaganza still continue to be regular fundraising events.

Unless other major expenditure is needed it was felt that these regular fundraising events should be enough to keep the group going.

Debbie has formally stood down from her role as Group Fundraiser. She said that she had enjoyed fundraising but will not be a major focus within the group. Jon expressed his sincere thanks for all her hard work and commitment. Pat reiterated the significant input that Debbie's work has had

Within this section of the agenda, Pat raised some questions of Peter Hanna and Sue Hoad with respect to the issue of minibuses.

Pat explained that the group could raise the capital to purchase a minibus, but do not have enough income to fund its running.

Peter suggested to look at how often the minibus would be used as this would have a bearing on whether it is better to hire or buy. He also mentioned that some private schools, who have charitable status, might be willing to let their minibuses be used as they have to demonstrate they are providing a service to the community in order to maintain their charitable status.

He mentioned how some different groups overcome the dilemma – some groups have their fixed costs borne by the whole group, each section then pay a mileage allowance to cover petrol, maintenance costs or other incidentals. He felt that this option also enabled each section to focus on their budget.

Another option is to have a mileage charge and have this charge passed on directly to the scouts/cubs using the minibus. However, it was pointed out that any charges being made in this way would have to be included within the charge for the whole trip and not identified separately as it will invalidate the minibus act. If you groups are paying to use the minibus then the driver has to have a separate type of licence.

Jon enquired if other groups had received any sponsorship. The answer is that no other groups currently receive external sponsorship, but this is possible if an organisation is willing to do this.

Peter Hanna also explained the need to consider the very complicated rules about who is and who is not allowed to drive a minibus. People with a driving licence post 1997 have more restrictions on their driving licence.

6. Secretaries Report
No issues to report

7. Election of officers and the committee

Chairman – Pat nominated to continue – all agreed
Secretary – Dianne: proposed by Pat, seconded by Helen
Treasurer – Lisa: proposed by Pat, seconded by Jon
Bookings – Anita: proposed by Pat, seconded by Lisa
Auditor – Barry Hitchens, proposed by Jon, seconded by Pat

Debbie agreed to be a co-opted member of the Executive Committee

Advertising for new Fund Raiser – Debbie will write a job description to assist finding a replacement. Debbie resigned at the end of this current year.

8. AOB

Peter Hanna explained the need for independent visitors to attend the AGM. In realising it is difficult to get parents to attend, he suggested the AGM be incorporated in an 'open day' or at a badge giving ceremony.

Both Peter and Sue recommended the benefits of using Parent Reps for each section. He advised that they could take on roll of fundraising or generating additional parental assistance at group activities. These helpers can also be elected or co-opted to the group. They felt that this method would help raise the profile of all the Executive Committee.

Peter expressed his congratulations to the group on their achievements over the year. He offered his thanks to Debbie for fundraising and also support to district camps and cub camps. He explained that the expectations of parents are different in these current times and larger good activities are worthwhile.

He wished the group continued success for the rest of the year.

Peter presented a certificate to Jon Bell – the Chief Scouts 20 Year Service Award.

Jon Bell gave 'Role in Scouting' certificates to Dianne ODonoghue and Steve Moore.

Pat closed the meeting with thanks, on behalf of the Committee to Peter and Sue for attending the AGM.

Next meeting date to be set nearer the time.

Meeting closed at 20.45

FUNDRAISING 2011
BUDGET SHEET
(see page over leaf)

