

**1st Cobham Scouts AGM**  
**Thursday 16 May 2013**  
**HQ Scout Hut, 8.00pm**

Attendees:	Peter Amys	Scout Leader
	Helen Amys	Beaver Leader
	Alison Menke	Cub Leader
	Lisa van Koetsveld	(Treasurer)
	Pat Berton	Group Chairman
	Jon Bell	Group Scout Leader
	Anita Snell	Bookings Manager
	Dianne ODonoghue	Secretary
	Debbie Bowles	Assistant District Commissioner Beavers
	Neil Heather	District Appointments Secretary

Plus leaders and parents

Apologies	Peter Hanna	District Commission
	Barry Hitchens	District Treasurer

**Welcome from Chairman**

Welcome to everyone

Apologies received from Peter Hanna as he is unable to attend. He sent a message of thanks to all the leaders, committee members and parents for the support they provide to the Group and also the District.

**1. Approval of last Year's Minutes**

Minutes were approved by all present.

**2. Chairman's Statement**

I would like to thank all who have been involved in Scouting in Cobham for helping deliver another year of successful Scouting activity to local children. Both our small but highly energetic group of Leaders who and the Executive, that has continued to back their efforts ably, and provided stability and security to the Group.

In particular a word of sincere appreciation must go to Jon Bell, Group Scout Leader, for his increased help, both up front and behind the scenes, in taking some of the load off the Leaders and the Chairman.

The Group's finances remain sound, although we actively seek an individual to take charge of co-ordinating fund raising activities. However, the unstinting efforts of Alyson Menke, in particular, have kept new funds coming in. Our premises at Hogshill Lane are well maintained and we have an active programme renting them out, ably managed by Anita Snell. Due care and attention is paid to risk assessment and management, as safety is taken very seriously by the Group. The Group has

continued to put its best foot forward in the local community to ensure that after a successful 2012, 2013 is progressing well.

### **3. Annual reports from GSL and Section Leaders**

#### **GSL**

1<sup>st</sup> Cobham has had another excellent year, with full programmes from all 3 sections.

Whilst we are still one of the smaller groups within the district our numbers have grown over the last year (based on the Scout Census returns) by 25%. The increase in the District and County was around 3%.

This increase is primarily down to the dedication and commitment of the section leaders, Helen, Peter and Alyson and the support they receive from both their 'uniformed' assistants and parents. Without this additional support many of the activities which you will hear about would not be possible.

All 3 three sections are now full or nearly full, within Beavers there is a 'managed' waiting list and Helen does all she can to ensure children are not left waiting.

With regard to the uniformed leaders, Clare Woolven has spent the last 5 years supporting Helen in Beavers and is now moving up to the Cubs where she will be ably supporting Alyson. I would like to thank her for the excellent work she has put into the Beaver colony. To replace her Helen is signing up two more leaders, Brian Rayment and Sally Dear. They are now actively involved in helping Helen. The Scout leadership has been fairly stable over the last year, in particular without the support given to Peter by Grahame it would have been impossible for many of the Scout activities to be successfully carried out.

The support of parents in being present for evening meetings and providing transport when asked is invaluable.

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 without their support the group would not run as smoothly as it does.

However we are always in need of additional Leaders/helpers to provide new ideas (and enthusiasm) and if anybody would like to be more involved either in a uniform or in support of the Executive Committee please talk to Pat Berton or myself. In particular, we have been looking for a person to support the 'fundraising activities' of the group.

As a result of the increase in size and activities of the group we and the Scouts in particular are finding transport to activities and events more difficult. To that end the group has been looking at purchasing and running a minibus to support these activities. Currently we are discussing a level of joint ownership with a couple of other organisations to share the costs, but would also consider sponsorship from local companies and individuals as a way to support this move.

2013, 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**

Over the past year the Beaver Colony has remained steady in numbers. We have had 29 new Beavers since last May, 17 have moved up to Cubs and 7 have left for various reasons, but mostly because they were moving away or had other commitments on Wednesday nights which meant they could not fit Cubs in!! At present we have 28 on the register of which 8 are girls; the waiting list remains steady with new enquiries almost every week.

Last year's spring and summer term meetings mostly consisted of activities based around the Jubilee and the Olympics. We themed parts of various Challenge Badges such as Union Jack biscuit decorating; red, white and blue rainmakers; dyeing celery in the same colours to show how plants take up water; a mini Olympics in the field across from the Hut; planting red pepper plants and finishing with games in a local wood belonging to one of our parents.

The autumn term contained several activities outside the Hut, starting with the postponed Bazaaz in September to which we took 22 Beavers. We combined this with our now Annual Sleepover and had 22 sleeping over at the Hut – not the same 22 as one couldn't sleep over and one couldn't come during the day.

This was followed by a visit to our local Fire station which, as they didn't get called away this time, all the Beavers got to spray their water hose!!!! Other activities included an Apple evening, learning about the Country Code and Fair Trade, making (and "playing") musical instruments and learning how magnets work. We finished with Christmas activities and a Christmas games party. Just after the end of term we took 21 Beavers to the Christmas Train ride, over at Knaphill, on a lovely sunny but cold afternoon. Lots of sitting on trains and seeing Father Christmas and a present for the Beavers (and hot tea and mince pies – for the grown ups!!!)

The first term this year started with a knot tying evening with Grahame and then we started the Imagination Badge as a Colony – this involved a little bit of homework for the Beavers!!

We had 22 go to the Beaver District Party in February – which was a great success according to the Beavers - thank you Debbie Bowles, Chinese New Year, Baden Powell's birthday and Mothers Day all also featured this term, as did St Patrick's Day and Easter. We finished with an Easter Egg hunt, jointly with our Cubs, at Painshill Park to which again 22 went!!

So far this term we have talked about St George – we had 18 go to last year's parade and 20 to this year's; we have planted Sunflower seeds and the Beavers are going to measure them once they have grown to see how high they get and next week we have a visitor coming to see us - our local Youth Officer from the police. We are also setting up a link with a Dutch Colony, thanks to Kim, our helper and starting to collect flags from around the world.

Finally the Beavers all said goodbye to Rikki (Claire) on Monday as she is moving up with her daughter to Cubs – we will all miss her and thank her very much for all her hard work over the last four or five years – I would not have been able to do as much with the Beavers as we have without her help and input – so here is an extra thank you. (Aly will find you a great help at Cubs and if you want to come back when Katie moves onto Scouts – let me know!!!)

As Claire is moving on, so we have found a new Assistant Beaver Leader, Brian who has agreed to go into uniform and help, so welcome to Brian. We also have Sally who has just joined us and is also willing to be a Leader and will be going into uniform soon. Last but by no means least, Kim is still willing to come each week and help out (except during Wimbledon!!!) and huge thanks go to her too for all her hard work. With all this help, we look forward to doing much more with the Beavers.

### **Cubs**

We have had an incredibly busy year with many links to both the Olympics and the Diamond Jubilee.

Many thanks to both Kingfisher (Steve Moore) and Baloo (Klaus Menke) who have helped run the pack. Also many thanks to all the parents, who have continued to support the rota; I could not run the unit without them. We started the year with 19 cubs and ended with 22 after many moving on events.

Spring Activities – took part in ‘Our Sporting Adventure’ that links with the Olympics and runs throughout the year, Recycling challenge (Deb), Senses, DIY and Craft.

Weds 29 Feb celebrated Leap Year Loonies.

We hosted the 1<sup>st</sup> Cobham Pinewood Derby on 17 March at Parkside School. We had 67 racers on the day, a great event.

End term with our link event with Beavers, Easter Egg hunt at Walton Firs.

Took part in District Badge afternoon, cross country and day hike.

Summer Activities – we concentrated on compass and map reading skills, outdoor challenge and basic camping skills (pioneering, cooking etc) this term. Also continued with ‘Our Sporting Adventure’ that linked with the Olympics.

Filling visit to Krispy Kreme – part of our cooking badge (food safety and healthy eating etc) great fun especially making our own donuts.

Unfortunately because of the terrible weather we had to cancel our joint event with the Beavers – Jubilee Picnic at St Andrews on Weds 30 Jun and our end of term Parent Messy Party at St Andrews School.

Winter Activities – a big thank you to John Baldwin (who covered for me whilst I was away) and completed 3 knots with the cubs.

Completed two parts of Science badge with exploding lunch bags, disc hovercrafts and rockets. Very messy – the cubs loved it.

We completed three evenings of First Aid Training, with Anne Collins from the Red Cross, for our badge.

We went to Guildford panto on 8 December. Got two minibuses and drivers from Dave at Thames Ditton Group.

Camps:

Spring DIY sleepover decorating our hut. Cubs worked their socks off rubbing down all surfaces and then completing two layers of paint. Camp fire cookout and games. Everyone exhausted, but happy.

District Summer Cub Camp – at Polyapes in June, Olympic theme.

Winter camp (19 Oct) went very well. Slightly soggy but we didn't care.

14 cubs came and enjoyed a Friday evening of Astronomy with Dave Putland.

Saturday saw 14 Beavers and 1 Scout joining us for the day making star lanterns for Cobham Parade of Lights in November. We finished Sunday with the cubs cooking over open fires. Great weekend.

Community Linking – had a wonderful flower festival celebrating 50 years at URC (United Reformed Church). Cubs decorated the outside front of the UR church, it looked fantastic. Went to Sunday service and had a delicious lunch afterwards. We again ran the Cobham Heritage Day Children's Horticultural Section (very successful year).

October Leaf clearing for URC church. Great fun hard work!

On 30 November we had 30 lanterns at the Cobham Parade plus we carried 8 big builds. A fantastic evening

Cubs Fund Raising – took part in a recycling challenge.

We packed bags at Waitrose, with Cobham Chamber Commerce, and it went amazingly well. The three sections raised £2,208.65. Hard work, but great fun and good publicity for the whole group.

### **Scouts**

During the last twelve months the Troop has continued to be consistently the smallest Troop in the District; however it has grown from the previous year to an average of 18, sometimes over 20, and currently is 19 in number with two female Scouts. The Troop has entered all District competitions it possibly could, achieving very respectable results and hosted the Cooking Competition again. All in all we should be very happy as the Troop improved by two places on last year in the Top Troop Trophy Competition and finished third overall. This truly is outstanding when you consider the size of some of the other Troops, and we should be justifiably very proud of our Scouts.

The Programme was very full, we camped seven times in the last year and had two canal cruises on top of that, achieved a lot of badges, had a lot of fun, and wow we have a lot to come in the next twelve months! To have a Scout gain the Chief Scout Gold Award takes endeavour on the Scouts part, and I am pleased to say we have had another Scout do this which was Asha Quinn, well done. But it was a lot more special than that for him, as he had it awarded at our very important camp on Brownsea Island in September, where 1st Cobham Troop camped on the first ever Scout camp site, and the award was given by the World Wide Scouting Memorial Stone there, and the camp was all done in fantastic sunshine, it was a landmark for the Leaders too

who had never camped there! We had another camp in May, an Adventure Camp, also on probably the hottest weekend of the year, considering the weather in the last twelve months we were very fortunate, we did a Wild Camp and a Hammock |Sleepover, and of course whenever we camp the Scouts learn so much, and have a lot of fun!

The Troop Paraded at both Remembrance Day Parade and St Georges Day Parade, on both the turnout was nearly 100%, a very creditable response to their Scouting duty. The Troop also did a fair share of fundraising too, bag packing, a sponsored bike ride(which is about to be repeated), manning the stall at the Cobham Parade of lights, and also raised fun by doing car parking duties, and raised the Group profile in the progress, well done Scouts.

To look forward the Troop has the District Camp, A short Really Wild Summer Camp, a Sleepover and a Canal Cruise to come. We have another Scout qualifying for the Chief Scout Gold Award and two more possibly to come before the year is out. Our badge tally work continues; in this Summer term alone we have Scouts earning Navigator, Guide, Canoeist, Hobbies, Sports Enthusiast and Entertainer Badges, plus the Community Challenge, The parents will have to work hard to keep up with the sewing!

Meanwhile the Troop Leaders have remained firmly committed, Thank you Greg, Grahame and Jimmy, backed up by Jon (GSL) and several parents at times. My heartfelt thanks go to all of them. Without their help the Scouts time would not be as nearly as much fun. But as always we would like more Leaders to spread the load and fun!

Therefore in conclusion it would be fair to say that the last twelve months for the 1st Cobham Troop was one of the best for years, achieving well above what should have been done, having a varied, balanced programme and having a lot of fun, thank you.

#### **4. Treasurers Report**

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.

At 31 Dec 2012 the accounts show:

	This Year	Previous Year
Receipts	£16,499	£13,749
Expenditure	<u>£13,791</u>	<u>£20,054</u>
Net Receipts (payments) for the year	£ 2,708	£-6,306
Cash, Bank and similar funds brought forward	<u>£12,875</u>	<u>£19,181</u>
Cash, Bank and similar funds carried forward	£15, 583	£12,875

Accounts show a large expenditure this year on Heat, Light and water. This was due to a big gas bill that had not been paid over last three years. This has now been paid and is being managed.

Income from renting is covering our outgoings.

Expenditure this year has been on guttering, fencing and lines painted on the hall floor

The accounts issued were agreed.

Proposed : Pat

Second : Aly with a show of hands from those present

## 5. Election of Officers and the Committee

<b>Function</b>	<b>Person</b>	<b>Nominated by</b>	<b>Seconded by</b>
Chairman	Pat	Jon	Helen
Secretary	Dianne	Jon	Pat
Treasurer	Lisa	Jon	Pat
Bookings	Anita	Jon	Pat
Auditor	Barry Hitchens	Pat	Peter
Fund Raiser	vacant	Being advertising	

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

## 6. Date of Next Meeting

To be set in January 2014 when the Exec Meeting dates will be set for the year.

Meeting closed at 8.45pm