

1st Cobham Scouts AGM
Wednesday 21 May 2014
HQ Scout Hut, 7.00pm

Attendees:

Peter Amys	Scout Leader
Helen Amys	Beaver Leader
Alison Menke	Cub Leader
Lisa van Koetsveld	Group Treasurer
Pat Berton	Group Chairman
Jon Bell	Group Scout Leader
Anita Snell	Hall Bookings manager
Dianne ODonoghue	Group Secretary
Sue Hoad	Assistant District Commissioner, Cubs
Anita Littler	District Executive Member

Plus Leaders and parents

1. Welcome from Chairman

Welcome to everyone

2. Approval of last Year's Minutes

Minutes were approved by all present.

3. Chairman's Statement

Once again, the Annual General meeting for our 1st Cobham Scout Group comes around! I have much pleasure in reporting that the Group continues alive and well: we are not the biggest, the wealthiest or the best supported in the District but as always, the dedicated, albeit small, team of Leaders, their Assistant Leaders and the supporting parents have enabled Cobham to punch above its weight in terms of the energy and breadth of Scouting activities provided to the local children.

In particular a word of sincere appreciation must go to Jon Bell, Group Scout Leader, for his dedicated and reliable help, both up front and behind the scenes, in taking much of the load off the uniformed Leaders and the rest of the Executive. In that committee I would like to thank all the uniformed leaders, Dianne O'Donoghue our super-efficient Hon Sec, and Lisa van Koetsveld under whose stewardship the Group's finances remain sound. Meanwhile, thanks must go once gain to our Akela, Alyson Menke, in particular, who has kept new funds coming in. Our Scout Hut premises at Hogshill Lane are always under improvement and we have an active programme renting them out to local community users, ably managed by Anita Snell our Bookings Manager. This is an important revenue source for us.

Right now, we face some challenges which have been thrown up by the need to replace Peter Amys, Scout Leader, who has been in many ways the main figure behind the renaissance of the Group in recent years. These are expanded upon by Jon Bell in his GSL's Report. All our thanks are due to Peter for everything he has contributed over the last 10 years.

We continue to pay due care and attention to risk management and assessment as safety is taken very seriously by the Group.

The Group has again notably been involved in the local community in a number of ways, for example running stalls and activities at Cobham Village Day, the Christmas Parade and the Downside August Fair.

Overall, we are making good progress so far in 2014 after a successful 2013.

4. Annual reports from GSL and Section Leaders

GSL

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

We have again experienced a good level of growth over the year. At the end of 2013 our numbers were up another 10% over the 2012 figures, primarily due a full beaver colony and cub pack. Whilst Scout numbers were down at the end of 2013 it is good to see that the last few months have shown a significant increase.

This increase is primarily down to the dedication and commitment of the Section Leaders, Helen, Alyson and Peter, the support they receive from both their 'uniformed' assistants and parents. The uniformed team running the sections currently have nearly 200 years of service and experience between them. However without the additional support from non-uniformed helpers many of the activities which you will hear about would not be possible.

Unfortunately both Beaver and Cub sections are now effectively 'full', especially with respect to cubs. However we are ensuring that any Beavers wanting to move up to Cubs will be accommodated.

With regard to the uniformed leaders; the situation for last year has remained fairly stable with good support from parents when requested. This was particularly helpful during the triennial Esher District Camp at Walton Firs in June when the support of parents and carers in setting up, taking down, cooking and other such tasks was invaluable. The camp could not have gone ahead without such support. In addition parental help has always been provided when asked for during normal weekly activities and we are grateful for this support.

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.

Following on from comments last year the group is now in possession of its own minibus which has allowed the offsite activities to be more easily pursued. The minibus has also been used by St Andrew's School on several occasions. We will continue to monitor the cost and effectiveness of the bus over the next couple of years.

I have, unfortunately, to report that Peter Amys has decided to stand down from his role as Scout Leader at the end of this year. He has no intention of leaving Scouting but after 10 years with Cobham he has decided it is time to move on and pursue other areas within

Scouting. I will be sorry to see him move on but I hope he will still be available for advice and support to us as a group. Peter, along with the support of other members of the Exec, in particular Debbie Coles, have been instrumental in turning the group around and through their efforts we are as a group in a fairly strong position both financially and in numbers.

As well as Peter, both Grahame and Greg have decided to step down from their roles with Cobham; Grahame in particular has spent the last 25 years in various roles within the Group. We will be keeping him on the books as an 'instructor' and he will hopefully be available to support scout camps in the future.

The obvious conclusion of this is that we need to find some additional volunteers to support James/Jimmy Norfolk, our remaining Scout Leader. We will be looking to increase the uniformed team supporting Scouts. We intend to advertise locally and through Scouting sources but will also be looking for volunteers from within the group to support us. In addition to the uniform support that is necessary to continue to successfully run the Scout troop we are looking to add some 'parent reps' to the Executive team. I believe some people have already been approached and have volunteered. If you would like to, or know of anybody who would like to be more involved, please talk to any of the Executive team or Leaders.

Whilst not officially part of last year's reporting, I felt I would like to end my report on a high by mentioning this year's St George's Day Parade which Cobham hosted and effectively organised. I need to say thank you to the adults, both uniformed and otherwise, who supported us both before and on the day. The afternoon ran without a hitch and I have had nothing but positive feedback from the police, the Mayor's office and other Scout groups and District representatives on both the parade and the service which was organised by Alyson and Helen with support from Will Nicholson.

2014 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 past year has been quite a busy one for the Beavers; we have maintained our numbers with 24 in the Colony of which 7 are girls at the present time. We have had 10 move up to Cubs, 8 have left for various reasons and 20 new ones started over the year. The waiting list remains active with new enquiries all the time.

Over the last year we have covered lots of activities usually working towards the Beaver Challenge badges to help when Beavers move on up to Cubs and gain their Chief Scouts Bronze Award. These include Parachute Games, planting activities – so far we have planted hyacinths and marigolds; we looked at celery changing colour with food colouring and studied the Country Code, we have covered Chinese New Year making masks, made several models and instruments out of junk, studied flags and the Commonwealth and lots of Easter activities including the now annual Easter Egg Hunt with the Cubs at the end of March.

The highlight of the summer term of 2013 was sleeping over at the District Camp at Walton Firs. We had 20 turn up all of which had a wonderful day and 13 slept overnight

in one of the huts and went home after a wonderful breakfast – we had several Beavers come up to us at the following meetings and ask when they could sleep over again!!!

Two highlights from the autumn term were the now seemingly annual sleepover at our Hut in October and the Christmas train ride in December. 13 Beavers came on the sleepover, we visited Fort Nelson near Gosport (making use of our new group minibus) and then back to the Hut for tea (from our local chippy), games, marshmallow roasting and bed and again home after breakfast. 24 Beavers, 3 leaders, 2 parents and 1 Scout went on the train ride over at Knaphill in December. It didn't rain this year, we all had a lovely ride and the Beavers (and the Scout!!) got a really great goody bag to take home after a drink and biscuit – tea/coffee and mince pie for grownups.

Last term's highlight was the Beaver District Party at Hinchley Wood School, themed this year on The Wind in the Willows book, all activities were around that theme and the Cats Grin Theatre Company performed the story – another great event thanks to our ADC Debbie.

At the end of last term we had 17 Beavers join the Cubs for the Easter Egg hunt at Painshill, finishing with a sing song and bags of chocolate eggs to take home.

So far this term we have had 20 Beavers attend St Georges Day which was hosted by Cobham this year. Due to Easter being so late and because of Bank Holidays we have only had 3 meetings so far, so have had a St George evening and a Treasure Hunt.

Finally, last year we reported that we had 2 new potential leaders starting after our Assistant Beaver Leader, Claire moved up to join Cubs, sadly one of them; Brian, changed jobs last autumn and has not been able to return. My thanks have to go to Sally who has now donned her uniform and comes with her son every week and to Kim who comes to help every Monday evening (except during Wimbledon!!), without those two I would not be able to run the Colony and also thanks go to Brian, who has done his service for his Chief Scouts Gold Award but continues to come with me and help out at the meetings – the Beavers love having the Scouts there, they look up to them almost as big brothers. Thanks Sally, Kim and Brian.

Hopefully the coming year will be just as busy and exciting.

CUBS

We have had an extremely busy 2013 with a running group of between 24 – 30 Cubs. Unfortunately our ACSL Kingfisher (Steve Moore) did not return after his surgery and is still recovering. Luckily Claire Wolvern moved up from Beavers to become a new ACSL Hatti. We were also joined by Ben Adey who was completing the Bronze D of E programme.

Spring Term 2013

We started the term off by inviting all parents along to a Cub Social where the Cubs made cakes, fruit trays and other treats, served tea and talked about their achievements from last year. They then had Badges presented. We completed our Communicator badge and worked on our ICT and Book Reader.

We had 10 Cubs competing in the Pinewood Derby, 4 Cubs competed in the District Cross Country with two parents and 3 at the District Badge afternoon. We again hosted

the 1st Cobham Pinewood Derby on the 23rd March at Parkside School. We had 76 racers on the day.

Summer Term 2013

Had a very busy term completing badges: ICT 1, Book Reader, Navigator and Local Knowledge.

The Cubs took part in fundraising for the MPS by cooking jam, making crafts and selling them to their parents whom they invited along to our meeting for cream tea and presentation about the charity. A great evening raising £300.

We went to District Camp with 24 Cubs. A busy fun weekend, great support from parents, with 4 dads camping. Ended the term with a "Cub Swim" at St Andrew's School Pool.

Autumn Term 2013

Badges – Map Reader, Environment Partnership Award and Air Activities.

Went to Brooklands Museum for Aviation Day. Had a fantastic day could have stayed longer. Went to Sausage sizzle with 10 Cubs.

Winter Term 2013

Had a great evening with Steve Matthews, Scalectrix, think the grownups had more fun than the Cubs!

Came back after half term and had a "Guy Building" competition and bonfire. Great fun with an unusual variety of guys. We completed the Air Activities Badge with Steve Midson coming and making planes. We went "back to basics" with our orienteering. Many of the Cubs were still struggling with directions and map reading.

Car Wash at Fire Station in aid of Philippines Appeal. (Shelterbox) Amazing turn from Cubs, parents and a couple of Scouts. Washed vans, cars (couple of really expensive ones) and a moped. Community were really generous; made £1,500 so far with Cubs still fundraising to add to the total.

20 Cubs took part in Cobham at Christmas Lantern Parade with the groups Trek Cart carrying Santa. Looked amazing!

Finished the year with our Christmas visit to the Panto in Guildford.

SCOUTS

During the last twelve months the Troop has yet again continued to be consistently the smallest Troop in the District; however it has had many fluctuations over the year and has averaged around 18 Scouts. Currently there are 19 Scouts in number, three of which are female Scouts. The Troop has yet again entered all District competitions it possibly could, achieving very respectable results and hosted the Cooking Competition again for the third time. The Troop came sixth in the Top Troop Trophy, however 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. Most importantly all the Scouts have enjoyed themselves.... Even when they managed to start going anti clockwise not clockwise on the Day Hike competition!

The Programme was very full, we camped four times in the last year, did two sleepovers and two canal cruises in amongst a very busy active programme. For the first time in many years we had a summer camp at White Beeches which was very successful. We won the Soapbox Derby by white washing the opposition - winning every category of the event and have added the trophy to the Troop collection! To view the very full programme the Troop Log shows all, and the huge amount of fun the Scouts have had. Over the twelve months badges of Hobbies, Sports Enthusiast, Guide, Canoeist, Navigator, Survival Skills, Camp Cook, Entertainer, Global Challenge(a disc of the Troop presenting itself is available for viewing for this),Creative Challenge, Outdoor Challenge, Fitness Challenge plus several more specialist badges too such as Angler and Master at Arms have been achieved by Troop members! A lot of sewing has been done to get these badges onto uniforms! We have made good use of the Group minibus too for many events which has enhanced the Troop programme delivery.

This in the last twelve months has resulted in three more Cobham Scouts achieving their Chief Scout Gold Award, Gabriel Alonso, Liam Snell and Brian Amys. On the Chief Scout Award Board of Honour in the hut it is interesting to see Liam and Brian's brothers on the top row and now they are on the board too on the base row!

The Troop Paraded at both Remembrance Day Parade and St George's Day Parade, on both the turnout was nearly 95%, a very creditable response to their Scouting duty. Keeping Scouts in full uniform remains a challenge but one that we are determined to keep on the right track. At the recent camp at the Biblins our Scouts looked very smart compared to some of the Scouts there from other Troops, we are pleased to report. The Troop also did a fair share of fundraising too, manning the stall at the Cobham Parade of Lights, and also raised money by doing car parking duties also raising the Group profile in the progress, well done Scouts!

To look forward, the Troop has the County Scoutabout Camp, another short Really Wild Summer Camp, a Sleepover and a Canal Cruise to come. A return to Brownsea Island is going to happen as a day trip in September too, we hope.

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.

However a change will be coming in the Scout Leadership team as the year 2014 draws to a close. Grahame has kindly given notice of some length that he will drop to just instruct from October on. Peter has given notice in February that he will leave the Group after ten years to move onto pastures new at the end of December, and to continue his current other County Roles in Scouting. Greg also currently intends to plan his return to Godalming District which is where he came from when he and Peter Joined the Group, and currently Jimmy is on leave whilst he tackles his new and very demanding job as a gamekeeper.

Therefore in conclusion it would be fair to say that the last twelve months for the 1st Cobham Troop has been another good successful year, achieving well above what should have been done, having a varied, balanced programme and having a lot of fun, thankyou.

There were no questions from the floor

5. Treasurers Report

Receipts and payments account summary for the year ended 31 December 2013

Year	This Year	Previous
	£	£
Total receipts for the year	16,521	16,499
Total payments for the year	<u>12,332</u>	<u>13,791</u>
Net receipts (payments) for the year	4,189	2,708
Cash, bank and similar funds brought forward	<u>15,583</u>	<u>12,875</u>
Cash, bank and similar funds carried forward	<u>19,772</u>	<u>15,583</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.

Questions raised from the floor regarding accounts:

- Receipts for Pinewood Derby – ‘why are we showing money received from 2012 in 2013’. This is because of timing of when the money was received.
- It was suggested that the value of the premises/grounds value was too low for the area. ACTION: To get additional valuations - Lisa

The accounts issued were agreed.

Proposed : Pat

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	Peter
Treasurer	Lisa	Pat	Sue Hoad
Bookings	Anita	Pat	Dianne
Auditor	Barry Hitchens	Pat	Lisa
Fund Raiser	vacant	Being advertising	

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

7. AOB

Sue Hoad presented Steve Moore (Kingfisher) with a certificate for Chief Scouts 10 Year Service Award – this was achieved in February and presented tonight.

Thank you for hospitality. St George’s Day Parade Service was praised because it was felt that the level of knowledge and understanding of St George that was given to the children made the service of greater value and enjoyment for the children.

The continued growth and success of group was wished.

Anita Littler, on behalf of Peter Hanna, aware that there are good training opportunities available for all aspects of helping in scouting – the message to parents is to not be daunted at prospect of volunteering – help to achieve this is at hand.

Date of Next Meeting

To be set in January 2015 when the Exec Meeting dates will be set for the year.

Meeting closed at 8.00pm

1st Cobham Scout Group

Receipts and Payments Account Summary for the year ended 31st December 2013

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The above account and accompanying statement of assets and liabilities were approved by the Trustees on _____ and signed on their behalf by _____

Chairman

1st Cobham Scout Group

Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31st December 2013

	This Year	Previous Year
	£	£
Monetary Assets		
Bank Current Account	14,681	10,518
The Scout Assoc Short Term Investment Service	5,091	5,065
	<u>19,772</u>	<u>15,583</u>
Scout Group Reserves	<u>19,772</u>	<u>15,583</u>
Non-Monetary Assets		
Land and Buildings - insured value	£180,016	£175,996
Scouting Equipment, furniture, etc - insured value	£3,672	£2,430

1st Cobham Scout Group
Receipts for the year ended 31 December 2013

	This Year £	Previous Year £
Membership Income Received	6,584	5,770
Less Paid	<u>2,329</u>	<u>1,934</u>
	<u>4,255</u>	<u>3,836</u>
Investment Income Received		
Bank Interest	12	7
The Scout Association STIS	26	39
Property Rent	<u>6,996</u>	<u>5,740</u>
	<u>7,034</u>	<u>5,786</u>
Donations	100	183
Activities		
Beavers	126	342
Cubs	455	1,169
Scouts	408	1,269
Group	1,670	0
Pinewood Derby 2012	145	0
	<u>2,804</u>	<u>2,780</u>
Fund Raising	1,778	3,914
Mini Bus	550	0
Income tax recovered on subscriptions	0	0
Total Receipts for the Year	<u>16,521</u>	<u>16,499</u>

Payments for the year ended 31 December 2013

Premises		
Heat, Light and Water	2,300	3,063
Insurance	1,026	1,018
Repairs and Renewals	<u>1,457</u>	<u>2,520</u>
	<u>4,783</u>	<u>6,601</u>
Activities		
Beavers	255	696
Cubs	731	780
Scouts	450	1,980
Group	2,410	363
Jamboree		
Centenary Activities		
	<u>3,846</u>	<u>3,819</u>
Administration Expenses		
AGM	0	0
Books, Print, Stationery, Training	0	0
Other	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>
	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>
Fund Raising Costs	157	1,738
Purchase of Badges and Uniforms	1,138	1,126
Purchase of Equipment	1,291	507
Purchase of Mini Bus	1,114	0
Total Payments for the Year	<u>12,332</u>	<u>13,791</u>