

1st Cobham Scouts AGM
Wednesday 20 May 2015
HQ Scout Hut, 7.00pm

Attendees:

Helen Amys	Beaver Leader
Alyson 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
Peter Hanna	}
Neil Heather	}
John Baldwin	} District Representatives
Harry Jones	}
Sue Hoad	}
Anita Littler	}

Plus Leaders and parents

Apologies :

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

2014 was, for reasons which do not need rehearsing, a very difficult and challenging year.

Despite the tragic loss of Peter Amys in June 2014 the Group rallied admirably. However, as Jon Bell will explain in more depth in his statement in a minute, we realise we need more than ever to take a strategic look at the future of the Group. We will almost certainly need to expand the team of uniformed leaders, add more parental representation onto the Executive committee, and reignite our fund raising efforts. Our next Executive meeting on 18 June will focus on these matters.

Despite the great upset experienced, once again I can say that 1st Cobham punched well above its weight in 2014, in terms of the balanced and healthy selection of activities that our Leaders managed to offer to the children.

I thank especially 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. I believe we have an incredibly loyal set of Leaders who make it all happen on the pitch, as it were, and they are well backed by our Executive Committee.

Our finances and establishment remains sound thanks to careful management and stewardship and all leaders' requests for additional kit and hut improvements have been

met. The minibus, acquired a couple of years ago, has been a great success and the costs have been met without strain.

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 2014 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, the Christmas Parade and the Downside August Fair.

With attention to planning and development, we will be well placed to continue to thrive in coming years.

4. Annual reports from GSL and Section Leaders

GSL

2014 for 1st Cobham has been a difficult year.

At the last AGM Our Scout section leadership effectively gave notice that they would be leaving at the end of the year. However before we could get any recruitment/succession plans introduced Peter Amys died suddenly. Grahame Carter immediately offered to withdraw his resignation and stand in as Scout Leader to replace Peter. 2014 also marked Grahame's 27th year as a leader at Cobham. He has served in various roles over that period but has always been fully committed to Cobham. Greg Bell who had also been planning to leave at the end of the year has remained to support Grahame. Our remaining Scout Leader, James Norfolk took on a new job early last year and his work commitments have made it impossible for him to continue in a leadership role with Cobham scouts.

The loss of Peter and the change of leadership style and personality has caused some transition difficulties within the troop. This has now settled and we have a small but committed group of scouts who are enjoying the leadership style that Grahame offers.

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 continue to run.

Cobham also hosted the 2014 St Georges day parade at St Andrew's Church. The event was attended by the Mayor and was a very successful afternoon. My thanks go to all leaders and parents for ensuring a good turnout of well presented Scouts/Cubs and Beavers. Also thanks to Alyson, Helen and Will Nicholson for their involvement in creating a service that was enjoyed by all ages. As mention in last years report I had some very positive feedback from all parties involved.

Parental support is as always welcomed and essential for running a Scout group and we are grateful to parents who support when asked 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 suggested last year but not progressed due to the events of the year need to be readdressed. It is essential that we increase the uniformed leadership team bringing in fresh ideas and experience. Additionally as Pat has suggested we will be looking to widen and

strengthen the executive, particularly with regard to fund raising and building maintenance.

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.

I need to end my report by remembering the efforts put into this group by Peter Amys without which we would not be as secure as we currently are. Peter spent most of his life involved in Scouting and for the last 10 years was committed to Cobham. His catch phrase was 'if it's not fun it's not Scouting' and during his life he gave a lot of young people a lot of enjoyment and fun. During his 10 years with this group he was instrumental in putting the group on a firm foundation both from a financial point of view and in developing a strong leadership team for both the uniformed and executive sections. I will miss him both as a personal friend and as a Scouting colleague.

2015 is proving to be a challenging year but I am convinced that the team we have in place is committed to continue to successfully deliver 'Scouting' to the young people in Cobham.

BEAVERS

2014 started very well, we had 28 Beavers (with permission from our ADC!) of which 10 were girls. Over the last year 16 new ones have joined us, 13 have moved up to Cubs, most of who got their Chief Scouts Bronze award and 9 have left for various reasons. The waiting list remains active and I get new enquiries almost every week.

We have covered a variety of activities over the last year, usually working towards one Challenge Badge or another with the view of awarding as many Beavers as possible with their Chief Scouts Bronze. These included special dates such as Chinese New Year, Commonwealth Day, Saints days, Mother's Day and of course Easter and Christmas.

The highlight of the Spring term was the annual Beaver District party – we had 21 beavers attend, all of which had a fantastic time and talked about it for several weeks afterwards!! We ended the term with the now, also annual, Easter egg hunt with the Cubs, to which 17 beavers came. We also had 14 beavers attend the St George's Day Parade of which we hosted this year, mostly organised by Akela with help from others.

The summer term started well and the highlight was the visit to the Fire station in June – which I missed!! Most of you will know that my husband Peter, who was also our Scout Leader, passed away unexpectedly last June and I would like to say a very big thank you for all the support we received at that dreadful time, especially to Akela who stepped in and ran Beavers so ably for me including the trip to the Fire station and to Jon, our GSL who was always there when we needed him. Thank you both. I did manage to return to Beavers for the end of term, which finished with a party.

The Autumn term continued with more badge work and included our 2 now seemingly also annual trips; firstly the sleepover in October. We had 20 beavers go and this time we visited Alice Holt over near Farnham, it was a great day (in spite of the rain!!!) and everyone enjoyed themselves (especially the fish and chip tea!!). The second annual event of this term was the Christmas train ride, where it did not rain this year. 18 beavers

came and one Scout and all went home with a great goody bag. The term ended as usual with a Christmas party, which the theme was to wear all one colour.

Lastly I would like to say a huge thank you to all the parents who helped at the various events and especially to Kim, who cannot be here tonight, but who continues to come every Monday night, (except during Wimbledon) and to Sally who has ably assisted me over the last 2 years as my ABL. But who is now moving on as her son, Carlos, has just moved up to Cubs. Thank you both.

Also a big thank you to my son, Brian, who did his Chief Scouts Gold Award service with us, but continues to come and help if I ask him (and bribe him with Burger and chips after the meeting!!)

CUBS

We've had an incredibly busy year working on 9 Activity Badges, 3 Staged Badges and 3 Challenge Awards. We had a range of between 27 – 31 cubs equally split between girls and boys. This has only been possible because of Hatti (Claire Wolvern), Baloo (Klaus Menke) and a successful, positive parent rota.

Spring

We concentrated on a "Safety Month" (Home, Road and Personal) with visits from the Police, Firemen and Paramedics.

Our annual Cub Easter Egg Hunt, at Painshill Park, with the Beavers and 153 Detachment Cadets (Trolls for the evening) from Esher High School who helped to run the event.

Pinewood Derby, on 22 Feb, at St Andrew's School. 50 cubs/beavers and 1 scout raced on the day. This is now permanently on the District Calendar.

Summer

We completed a Sports Evening" at Woking High School, where Yr 10 students ran activities for the cubs to earn their Athletics badge in an evening.

30 cubs went to District Camp.

David Ruiz and family arrived from the USA for Talia's moving on. She had completed all the cub badges to gain her Silver Scout and is now working on her Scouts.

The AGM evening where cubs served High Tea was a great success. They showed off their pioneering skills, that they had been working on, to great effect.

We ended term with Cub Swim at St Andrew's.

Autumn

We completed Map Reading in preparation for our night hike on 8 October from Esher.

We completed the new Disability Awareness badge, over 3 weeks, with a variety of activities.

Had a great bonfire night, with fireworks, on the 5 November at St Andrew's School with cubs and their families (60 people). Thank you to firemen Richard Stedman and Dave Bowers who came as our fire safety officers for the night.

Winter

18 cubs came to winter camp where we made lanterns and completed the Astronomy badge. Thank you to Nathan Menke and Liam Snell, who supported a very sick Akela with all the outdoor activities; Hatti, Balloo, and parents Anita and Kerry, camp would have been cancelled without them.

We finished the term with "Cobham Lantern Parade", Christmas Crafts and our yearly visit to the Panto with (46) cubs and parents.

Fundraising

The cubs had another successful year:

Refreshments at Pinewood Derby £80
Chutney Stall and Face Painting at Cobham Village Day
Chutney Stall at Heritage Day
Santa's Grotto at Parade of Lights £266
Chutney Stall at St Andrew's Christmas Fair

Total funds raised £1000+

SCOUTS

We started 2014 with 18 Scouts in 3 patrols and activities included the 'Creative Challenge' and Model Makers' badges. An activity weekend with sleepover was also carried out. We entered teams in the district shooting and cooking competitions.

In March two scouts, Liam Snell and Brian Amys, received their Chief Scout Gold Awards.

We had a virtual full turnout (all Scouts smartly turned out) for the St George's day parade for which Cobham was the host group.

Peter's death in June affected the whole troop but it was agreed by all that we still support the tri-annual 'Surrey Scoutabout' event. However our attendance was reduced to being day visitors (0900 to 2300 on the Saturday) and sleeping overnight at the Scout hut. My thanks to Dianne and Stella Horsley, a close friend of Peter's, who stepped in at short notice to support the event, and to Hinchley Wood and Oxshott who allowed us to use their site as a base for our visits. All Scouts who attended enjoyed the event and varied activities.

The Autumn term started slowly as the realisation of Peter's death sank in. The troop numbers were reduced to 13 scouts, 4 older scouts left and 1 moved out of the area. We have had no new cubs up this term due, I assume, to other activities taking their attentions. In spite of the reduced numbers and a younger troop we still sent teams to the district fishing and cooking competitions and entered a training team into the district night hike. In December we ran a stall selling drinks and cakes (thanks to all parents that provided cakes to sell) at the Cobham Festival of Lights to raise funds for the group.

The availability of the minibus has allowed us to take the troop out on a more frequent basis for wide games and hikes.

As we have moved into 2015 the troop has settled down and we now have 12 Scouts in 2 patrols. However we have had no new cubs joining us since early 2014. We have concentrated on pioneering activities building an obstacle course and a 'fairground swing', including a novel knot making session using pastry.

Looking to the future we have expanded our leadership team with the addition of Ben Jackson, an ex Cobham Scout. However we are always looking for additional adults to join us as 'potential leaders' and any volunteers would be most welcome.

Jon Bell (pp Grahame Carter)

(no questions were received from the audience)

5. Treasurers Report

Receipts and payments account summary for the year ended 31 December 2014

	This Year £	Previous Year £
Total receipts for the year	13,766	16,521
Total payments for the year	<u>13,756</u>	<u>12,332</u>
Net receipts (payments) for the year	10	4,189
Cash, bank and similar funds brought forward	<u>19,772</u>	<u>15,583</u>
Cash, bank and similar funds carried forward	<u>19,782</u>	<u>19,772</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: Peter Hanna

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 Menke
Secretary	Dianne	Pat	Sue Hoad
Treasurer	Lisa	Pat	Helen Amys
Bookings	Anita	Pat	Lisa van Koestveld
Auditor	Barry Hitchens	Pat	John Baldwin
Fund Raiser	vacant	Being advertising	

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

7. AOB

No other issues raised.

Peter Hanna gave thanks from The District to everyone at Cobham. Cobham are very important with such things as Pinewood Derby, Grahame manning check-points at District activities etc. Exec Meeting on 18 June, parents invited to come along and be part of the Exec and also to assist the Leaders in the various activities that are put in place for the young people.

Date of Next Meeting

To be set in January 2016 when the Exec Meeting dates will be set for the year.

Meeting closed at 19:40

1st Cobham Scout Group

Receipts and Payments Account Summary for the year ended 31st December 2014

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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 2014

	This Year £	Previous Year £
Monetary Assets		
Bank Current Account	14,691	14,681
The Scout Assoc Short Term Investment Service	5,091	5,091
	<u>19,782</u>	<u>19,772</u>
Scout Group Reserves	<u>19,782</u>	<u>19,772</u>
Non-Monetary Assets		
Land and Buildings - insured value	£183,674	£164,877
Scouting Equipment, furniture, etc - insured value	£2,511	£3,207

1st Cobham Scout Group
Receipts for the year ended 31 December 2014

	This Year	Previous Year
	£	£
Membership Income Received	5,322	6,584
Less Paid	<u>2,557</u>	<u>2,329</u>
	<u>2,765</u>	<u>4,255</u>
Investment Income Received		
Bank Interest	5	12
The Scout Association STIS	0	26
Property Rent	<u>5,309</u>	<u>6,996</u>
	<u>5,314</u>	<u>7,034</u>
Donations	0	100
Activities		
Beavers	197	126
Cubs	977	455
Scouts	730	408
Group	2,055	1,670
Pinewood Derby 2013/2012	<u>387</u>	<u>145</u>
	<u>4,346</u>	<u>2,804</u>
Fund Raising	1,341	1,778
Mini Bus	0	550
Income tax recovered on subscriptions	0	0
Total Receipts for the Year	<u>13,766</u>	<u>16,521</u>

Payments for the year ended 31 December 2014

Premises		
Heat, Light and Water	2,175	2,300
Insurance	1,078	1,026
Repairs and Cleaning	<u>2,162</u>	<u>1,457</u>
	<u>5,415</u>	<u>4,783</u>
Activities		
Beavers	342	255
Cubs	1,287	731
Scouts	1,270	450
Group	1,767	2,410
Pinewood Derby 2013	333	0
Pinewood Derby 2014	<u>268</u>	<u>0</u>
	<u>5,267</u>	<u>3,846</u>
Administration Expenses		
AGM	0	0
Books, Print, Stationery, Training	10	0
Other	<u>7</u>	<u>3</u>
	<u>17</u>	<u>3</u>
Fund Raising Costs	51	157
Purchase of Badges and Uniforms	784	1,138
Purchase of Equipment	338	1,291
Purchase of Mini Bus	1,884	1,114
Total Payments for the Year	<u>13,756</u>	<u>12,332</u>