

3rd Epsom (St Martins) Scout Group

Minutes of AGM meeting held 7th October 2010

Present: Peter Clayton, Geoff Collins, Wayne Smith, Ben Meller, Beverly Stevens, Judith Sifford, Debra Kaye, Peter Sifford, Ann Chapman, David Faulkner and a sizeable group of parents.

Apologies: Richard Ascough

The chairman Peter Clayton welcomed everyone to the meeting. He commented on the success of the Group over the last year in terms of numbers of children and the variety of activities provided, and thanked the leaders for giving up their time to make it possible. He also thanked the Executive Committee for their support.

1. **Minutes of last meeting:** Agreed

2. **Matters Arising:** None

3. **GSL Report:**

Geoff Collins presented the Scout Leader's report:

Geoff thanked all the leaders and committee members for their hard work throughout the year. He thanked Jane for her hard work doing the accounts for the Group over the past years, and presented her with a gift. He also thanked parents for helping at meetings and Beverly for running both Beavers and Cubs.

Geoff briefly discussed the accounts for the year. The Group made a slight profit for the year. The camp receipts were £2700, with the camp breaking even.

4. **HQ Committee:**

Dave Faulkner presented the HQ Committee's Report:

The year's income has again come entirely from hiring out the headquarters building, the principal users being the Ferndale Nursery, Epsom Players and Nam Yang (Martial Arts group).

As can be seen from the accounts, net assets have fallen again this financial year, following payment for re-wiring the building and increased costs of gas and electricity supplies attributable to the cold winter and increased charge rates. In July 2010, our net assets fell further to a new low of £2770. Consequently, only minor maintenance work – replacement of gutters and fascia on the South side of the building with UPVC products at a cost of £540 – was undertaken. After many years of service, the old lawnmower was replaced with a Flymo Compact.

In August, we said goodbye to our Secretary, Clare O'Farrell, because she and her family were emigrating to Australia, and here record our thanks for her work over the last two years.

5. **Section Reports:**

Beavers

Judith Sifford presented the Beaver Leader's report:

The photos on display are from the Beavers visit to Legoland. Photos from the bowling competition and camp visit are on the website. I'm pleased to report that the Colony has been thriving this year, with numbers around 20 each term.

I am starting to make the focus for planning the programme around the Challenge Badges,

something that has not been done before. This has been very successful, with many achieving their various Challenge Badges, and I hope that I will be able to award the Chief Scout's Bronze Award soon – the first for 3rd Epsom. Some examples of activities that have taken place to cover the badges include Country Dancing, learning how to pack a bag, go on a recycling walk, going on a woodland hike, making faces with fruit, circuit training, our recent work on discovering trees, craft work and performing short plays.

I have put the Beavers into Lodges, Red, Blue, Green and Yellow, and they are wearing Beaver Woggles in the appropriate colour. This has been very successful, and Lodge Leaders have carried out their roles with great pride. We must try and get the Lodge points off the ground, and make it more of a competition each half term.

Attendance at Church Parade could be better. We have the same Beavers attending each Parade, with others attending when they can. However, we continue to do our best. Our best attendance was in March when 3rd Epsom took a big part in the Service. This is where the Beavers wrote and read out prayers for the end of the Service. Attendance on St George's Day was very disappointing. Although we only had details a week before, I guessed the date and had warned parents, and got a large number of parents to commit way before the day, however, a charity event meant that many of our Beavers who promised to attend, did not. This said, I was pleased to have the largest turn-out within the other Beaver Colonies. We took part in the District Bowling Competition, and I'm pleased to say that we came 3rd overall, and one of our Beavers, Milly Sandhu (now in Cubs) achieved the highest score. We hope that this event happens again. Unfortunately the District Cross Country was cancelled, and we had very little interest for the District Sports Day.

The Beavers enjoyed our charity disco for Haiti. Thank you to Mr Gunton for running this. Our last meeting in July was held at Charrington Bowl, where we had a game of bowling and a bite to eat to round off a busy year. This was a really fantastic evening. During the Summer holiday, we were invited to visit the Cubs and Scouts camping at Broadstone Warren. 7 Beavers had a fantastic time, climbing, grass sledging, eating tuck, sampling camp food and singing around the campfire. Unfortunately we made a loss on this event, as we were planning for 12 Beavers to attend; 5 pulled out for various reasons, however, we had already counted for them.

Eight Beavers hit Legoland with enthusiasm the other weekend. We were given free tickets for 8 Beavers through mygroupfundays.com, and photos are up on their website, and if they're not, they will be soon. We had a lovely day, however, the height restriction on the rides meant that Ben (Akela) and I had to endure the rides several times over to take the Beavers one by one...I don't think we really minded! However, there was a bit of a drama when the operators had to stop the ride in an emergency, and myself and one of the twins were 'rescued' from the ride and had to walk the thankfully short distance back to the beginning holding tightly onto the side of the track. I hope to visit Legoland again, this time with more of the Beavers and more leaders!

I cannot thank my helpers enough. Kathryn, my Young Leaders always has a game ready to play, Rita and Geoff who offer support whenever they can, and Gill, and the other band of parents who love to help out. Thank you!

6. Cubs

Ben Meller presented the Cub Leader's report:

This is my first Pack report, as I have only just taken over from Beverly Stevens as Akela since the beginning of this term.

We currently have 8 Cubs in the pack – 5 boys and 3 girls. Four Cubs haven't returned this term, due to other commitments. Two of our older Cubs have moved up to Scouts at the beginning of this term, and one Beaver has moved up to Cubs. We are expecting 2 new Cubs to join the Pack later this month, and after half term there will be more Beavers moving up too.

I have had the pleasure of working with Beverly for some years as Assistant Cub Scout Leader, and took on some of the meetings by myself last year to help me get to grips with

some of the tasks and planning involved in running the Pack. James Ascough has been Young Leader with us since the beginning of the Autumn term 2010, and Matthew Pettipher-Young from 1st Cuddington is still doing his D of E service. They both get involved in the planning, running games and supporting other activities that take place. Their ongoing support is much appreciated, as is the support from our parents, without which, the meetings and trips would not be able to happen.

I have it on good authority that there is a Beaver parent who is willing to get involved longer-term in Cubs, which is great news and much appreciated – I have her uniform ordered already, so there is no escape!

Last term the Cubs had been working on their Air Activities badge, and have made kites, learnt about aircraft and had fun exploring the art of flight. Several Cubs attended the SCRAM activity day, which we thoroughly enjoyed. Our base was 'Space Hopper Racing' – thanks to Judith for suggesting this – it was a great success all day long. We also made fires and cooked sausages, had a very wet water evening, and visited Alexandra Park a couple of times.

This term we are focusing on 'Wild and Wacky Wilderness'. The subject will cover the Nature Badge, and as well as learning all about creepy crawlies, bats and small mammals so far, we will also be looking into animal tracks, habitats and winter behaviours of animals. Some activities so far have included: web making, quizzes, animal facts, and a fantastic trip to Nower Wood Nature Reserve. Future activities to look forward to include: Plaster-of-Paris animal tracks, 'Show and Tell' pet evening, and animal sweets to name just a few.

All in all we have not done very well with District Events in the last year, although not always through our own fault. This is a pity as it helps the Cubs realise that they are part of a larger organisation, and not just one pack on our own. We had a very poor turnout to the St George's day parade, but this was partly due to the lateness of information from District about the event. The cross country was also cancelled due to bad weather. Our Pack did not enter a team in the football competition due to lack of interest. The Emergency Aid Badge event was also cancelled due to lack of interest from our Pack and others. Unfortunately, although last term the Cubcraft competition was also cancelled, I have been informed by Elaine Mustow, the new ADC for Cubs that they are re-vamping the event for next year so that the Cubs go to a base to learn a skill and then get tested on it, rather than depending on what they have been taught at Cub meetings. They are also planning to end the day with a meal for Leaders after the Cubs have gone home, to encourage links between Packs and District. This is important, as it should help us to avoid disappointment on events not taking place in the future.

On a more positive note Cubs, Scouts and Beavers did take part in the St Martin Church Parade service. I was not able to attend but I understand it went well. Also, the District Night Hike is going ahead tomorrow, and we have 6 Cubs and 3 helpers who are willing to brave the elements! Let's hope the weather is kind to us.

3rd Epsom took part in a wonderful and successful summer camp this year. We took 8 Cubs, together with 15 Scouts, and made full use of the activities at the Broadstone Warren camp site. The site was amazing and vast, and despite the miles and miles of daily walking to get to various events, it was felt it was a fabulous week away! Activities for Cubs included: Cooking, grass-sledging, traversing wall, abseiling, human table football, swimming, archery, air rifles, pot-holing, night hike, and a trip to the Bluebell Railway and Pooh Sticks Bridge. In addition to this the Cubs enjoyed campfires, wide games and other activities. We were very fortunate with the weather, and the site even had enough space for me to pitch my tent far enough away, so that my snoring wasn't a problem to others!

In summary, I am very proud to be a part of such a lovely group. I am excited about the future, and look forward to continuing to work with the Cubs to give them a fun, safe and supportive environment in which to learn and gain valuable life experiences.

7. Scouts

Wayne Smith presented the Scout Group report

I think it is fair to say that 2010 has been an exciting and fantastic year for the Scouts. Numbers have grown over the year from 13 Scouts to around 18 and even though we have lost 4 Scouts over the summer to other activities (mainly football) new Scouts have joined to keep the numbers constant.

During the year we have managed to cram in a large number of activities, many of which we have never done before. It appears that the activities are popular with typically over 80% turnout to the camps and activities outside the usual meeting times.

As you will have seen from the picture quiz activities in the last year have included:

- Abseiling
- Mountain Biking
- Cooking
- Knotting
- Caving
- Rock climbing on real rocks as well as indoors at Chessington
- Swimming
- Maintenance at the HQ
- A Town Treasure Trail
- A firework wide game with 3rd Stoneleigh
- A wide game with 1st Stoughton (whom we met in Switzerland last summer)
- Ice Skating
- Camp fire stunts
- Learning Sign Language
- First aid
- Map Reading
- Hiking
- A number of Scout Badges
- Raised money for Shelter Box (who are working in Haiti and elsewhere in the world)
- and our Annual Chip Survey

In May, for the first time, we took the Scouts on a Canal Boat for two days. They almost all steered the boats into and out of locks and seemed to enjoy the weekend. We were very pleased that 16 of our 19 Scouts were able to come for the weekend.

This summer went camping for a week to Broadstone Warren (near East Grinstead). Activities included shooting, abseiling, swimming, hiking and human table football.

Unfortunately we only entered one District Competition this year due to Scouts either not being interested or being unavailable. I am however pleased to report that Alex Luff's patrol did win the District Inter Troup Competition. We also had some Scouts apply for the Canoe Badge course, but it was oversubscribed and none were successful.

In the County, two of our Scouts entered the cycling competition and Jack Shaw won in his age Group.

Finally I would like to say thank you to Beverly for all the support she has given Wayne, Peter and myself over the many years she has been running the Cubs. It has been much appreciated and we hope to see her still at the occasional activity.

6. Election of Officers:

- Peter Clayton was nominated to remain as Chairman
- David Steele volunteered and was elected to take over as Treasurer
- Debra Kaye was nominated to remain as Secretary
- Gillian Webb-Smith was nominated as the Beaver parent representative

- Dawn Knight was nominated to be the Cub parent representative
- Jane Shaw was nominated to be the Scout parent representative

The appointment of an independent auditor was put on hold for the moment.

7. **District Representative** – insert report.

8. **A.O.B:**

- Parents were asked to look through the lost property to see whether there were any items belonging to their children.
- The next committee meetings will be held on:
 - 14th February 2011
 - 17th May 2011

Peter Clayton closed the meeting and thanked everyone for attending.