

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Epsom (St Martins) Scout Group

### Minutes of AGM meeting held 19<sup>th</sup> November 2011

**Present:** Geoff Collins, Wayne Smith, Judith Sitford, Debra Kaye, Peter Sitford, David Steele, Gillian Webb-Smith, Ann Chapman, and a sizeable group of parents.

**Apologies:** Peter Clayton, Richard Ascough

In the absence of the chairman Geoff Collins welcomed everyone to the meeting (including the District Commissioner). He thanked the leaders for giving up their time to make the Group possible. He also thanked the Executive Committee for their support. Geoff also thanked the parent's who had helped with maintenance in the afternoon before the meeting.

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 for their hard work throughout the year. He also thanked parents for helping at meetings.

4. **Treasurer's report:**

*David Steele went through the financial accounts of the Group*

David went through the finances of the Group. He pointed out that the reserves have been diminishing over time, and the Group could not continue to lose money year on year. He said that it may be necessary to increase the subs to address this issue. Geoff pointed out that there had been additional expenditure this year, as the Group had needed to replace equipment such as tents which are only replaced every 10 years.

4. **HQ Committee:**

*Anne Chapman 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, after spending money on maintenance of the buildings.

5. **Section Reports:**

#### **Beavers**

*Judith Sitford presented the Beaver Leader's report:*

Numbers fell just before the summer having sent some to Cubs, clashes of commitments on Thursday evenings, and moving away from the area. But, I am pleased to report that we have had a sudden influx of children - almost 1 a week - who are the right age for the Section, and are making up the numbers. We are around 17 in number now, and our waiting list extends to 2015!

The Leaders continue to be myself, Geoff helped by our Young Leader, Kathryn. I am delighted to say that we have had 2 D of E helpers who have been with us from September, and are getting involved with the evening's meetings by running games.

The Beaver scouts have had a busy and active year this year. The Beaver Section is 25 years old this year, so we have included some events from Surrey Scouts on the theme of 25. In March, the Beavers took part in the Church Parade by reading poems they had written. We also had the District Cross Country in early April, and our participants ran very well indeed. We had a great time at the District Bowling Competition, although we were not successful as last year.

The most exciting event that the Beavers took part in was the Big Adventure. Due to a change in the regulations for camping, Beavers can now go under canvas. 6 Beavers camped and had a wonderful time joining in the activities as part of the Big Adventure. They all earned the Stage 1 Nights Away badge and their Outdoor Challenge Badge over the weekend.

As part of the 25 Years of Beaver Scouting celebrations, we took 7 Beavers to Legoland in October, where we joined 9,000 Beavers from the South East Region. We avoided the big queues and had fun running around in the water park, and had a ride on the train where I invested two new Beavers into the Colony.

The weekly activities have continued this term, focusing on learning about New Zealand, through games and craft activities.

In 2012, we will be looking forward to Bazzaz, the All-Surrey Beaver-Scout Fun-day, and I hope to again provide an occasion to take the Beavers out under canvas again.

Thank you to all the people, Leaders and parents who have helped out with Beavers this year.

## **6. Cubs**

*Gillian Webb Smith presented the Cub Leader's report:*

This is my first report, as I have only just taken over running the pack.

James Ascough and Matthew Pettipher-Young from 1<sup>st</sup> Cuddington have helped out with the Cubs. 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.

Some of the Scouts went along to and enjoyed the camp at Mellow Farm over the summer.

This term we will be doing badge work and will also be arranging some activities outside the HQ.

## **7. Scouts**

*Wayne Smith presented the Scout Group report*

I think it is fair to say that 2011 has been an exciting and fantastic year for the Scouts.

During the year we have managed to cram in a large number of activities. It appears that the activities are popular with a good turnout to the camps and activities outside the usual meeting times.

Over the last year we have continued to provide an exciting programme to our Scouts.

- Scouts got Talent
- Golf
- Hikes
- Pioneering
- Cooking
- Camp Ovens
- A meeting on Fair Trade
- Cycling in the dark
- A couple of wide games (in the daylight and also dark)
- A large bonfire to clear the rubbish outside the HQ
- Buying their own food (to a budget) and then cooking it
- Swimming

- A session on Knotting, and
- Our annual chip survey (Kingfish still seems to provide the best chips)

We currently have 12 Scouts having lost a few due to age. Unfortunately we have not had any new Scouts, however a large number of Cubs are due up at Easter. Also some of the Scouts we lost last year due to football have now returned, so hopefully we are doing some things right.

Last June we took 6 Scouts to Scoutabout in Ardingly. Over the weekend they joined with 4,000 Scouts and Guides undertaking a large number of activities including Caving, Canoeing, Archery, Rock and Ice Climbing, Abseiling, Crafts, Shooting and Popcorn making. We again joined with 3rd Stoneleigh for the catering. At this camp the leaders did all the cooking and ran a base whilst the Scouts disappear around the site undertaking the activities.

In the summer we had a joint camp with the Cubs at Mellow Farm in Farnham. For the first time this was jointly held with a Big Adventure Camp with parents staying for the weekend. This was a big success and everyone had a great time. During the camp we undertook the following activities:

- Built a Monkey Bridge
- Canoeing
- Hiking
- Hot Air Balloons
- Cycling
- Cooking for themselves
- Swimming and
- Raft Building

Unfortunately we did not enter any District Competitions this year due to Scouts either not being interested or being unavailable, with a small Troop it is hard to get the necessary numbers to make up a team. Often one or two are interested, but a number are unavailable due to activities outside Scouts (e.g. football). However some of the Scouts have taken part in District Badge Courses like Emergency Aid and Master at Arms.

#### **6. Election of Officers:**

- Peter Clayton (not present) requested to stand down as Chairman
- David Steele remained as Treasurer
- Debra Kaye remained as Secretary
- Dawn Knight was nominated to be the Scout parent representative
- Jo Danks was nominated to be the Beaver parent representative

#### **7. District Representative**

The District Representative thanked the Group for inviting him and for the continued support over the last year.

#### **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:
  - 6<sup>th</sup> March 2012
  - 26<sup>th</sup> June 2012
  - September 2012

Geoff Collins closed the meeting and thanked everyone for attending. The Beetle Drive was due to start directly after the meeting.