

3rd Epsom (St Martin's) Scout Group

Minutes of AGM meeting held 8th September 2012

Present: Geoff Collins, Wayne Smith, Judith Sitford, Peter Sitford, Richard Ascough, Kathryn Ascough, David Steele, Catherine Luff, Ann Chapman, Dawn Knight, Jo Danks, James Ascough, Jane Smith and a sizeable group of parents together with Roxanna Bostock, County Commissioner and John Jordan, District Commissioner.

Apologies: Gillian Webbsmith, Debra Kaye.

Catherine Luff welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially the County and District Commissioners. She thanked the leaders for their continuing efforts on the Group's behalf and all the parents for their continuing support.

1. Minutes of last meeting:

Agreed (proposer Dawn Knight, seconded Paul Johnson)

2. Matters Arising:

None.

3. Awards:

C.C. presented **Michael Humphries** with his Chief Scout Gold Award. He will be presented with his certificate at a county ceremony.

D.C. presented **Judith Sitford** with her Chief Scout 10 Year Service Award.

D.C. presented **Peter Danks** with his Chief Scout 20 year Service Award.

C.C. presented **Geoff Collins** with his Chief Scout 50 year Service Award.

D.C. presented **Peter Sitford** with his Chief Scout Wood Badge.

C.C. presented **Wayne Smith** with the Award of Merit for his services to scouting.

C.C. thanked 3rd Epsom for allowing her to join the AGM and commented how lovely it was to see such a thriving and friendly Scout Group.

4. Treasurer's Report

David Steele went through the financial accounts of the Group.

He pointed out that reserves are improving slowly but still could do better. Subs have been increased and a joining fee of £20 has been introduced for all new members to the Group to

contribute towards uniform and capitation costs. The accounts have been reorganised to simplify them and improve control.

Ann Chapman is retiring as Treasurer of the HQ accounts after 25 years of valued service. Geoff Collins thanked her on behalf of the Group. David Steele has agreed to take over as Treasurer for this as well. HQ main income is still from Ferndale Nursery, Epsom Players and Nam Yang.

5. Beaver's Report:

Judith Sitford presented the Beaver Leader's report.

I am pleased to report that we have had a healthy colony for the past year. There is plenty of interest in new-comers and it's lovely to welcome siblings from past members into the Colony. Almost every Beaver, when aged 8 has made their way up to Cubs.

The Leaders continue to be myself, Geoff helped by our Young Leader, Kathryn. I am delighted to say that we have had continued help from our 2 D of E helpers who have been with us from September for over a year now, who initially signed up for 3 months! They are a great help, getting involved with the evening's meetings by running games.

The Beaver scouts have had a busy and active year this year. We had a visiting speaker from the RNLI, run activities both inside and outside the HQ for the Royal Jubilee on the theme of Challenge 60. One of these challenges was to grow 60 bulbs and hand them out to the community. This we did, at the Church Parade in May. We were invited down to the church to hand them out, and many members of the congregation were delighted to take one home with them. We also read prayers at the Family Service.

Participation at District events has been low. I had one competitor in the District Cross Country, who ran so well he came 5th. For the District Football Competition, I only had one potential participant, so was unable to enter a team. The District Bowling Competition – normally a favourite, was scheduled in half term, and many families were away. It was a great shame that St George's Day was cancelled as we had publicised this event ahead of schedule to secure participants. The Celebration Parade details came through too late for us to participate. We were looking forward to attending Bazzaz at Cranleigh Showground back in June but due to a water-logged showground, it was postponed until the end of September. This does mean that we have been able to offer the event to more Beavers and we are now taking a bigger contingent.

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

6. Cub's Report

Geoff Collins presented the cub report on behalf of Gillian Webbsmith

We have 26 boys and 4 girls on the roll at the moment and most cubs have gone up to Scouts once they are 10 years old. Over the past year the cubs have enjoyed a wide range of activities including; soap sculptures, making their own Olympic torches, a BBQ on Epsom Downs, a Queens tea party and a Jamaican evening. Their final activity was a water pistol evening, which the cubs thoroughly enjoyed.

Over the past year the Cubs have worked towards a variety of badges including their Book Badge, Animal Carer Badge and their Entertainer Badge. The Cubs who attended summer camp were able to obtain their Outdoor Challenge Badge.

7. Scout's Report

Richard Ascough presented the Scout Leader's report

Over the last year our Scout numbers have grown from 12 to 20 Scouts. This has been mainly due to a number of girls coming up from the Cubs, but we have also had 4 Scouts join who have not previously been members. 3 Scouts have left due to age in the last year (Alex Shepherd, Luke Giles and Michael Humphries) and all three have gained their Chief Scouts Gold Award. Two have also volunteered to continue as young leaders in the Group. Luke helps regularly each week with the Scouts and Michael is about to start helping the Cubs.

Wayne, Peter and Richard have continued to provide an exciting programme for our Scouts. Activities have included:

- Pioneering
- Wide Games
- Cooking
- Global Challenge
- Creative Challenge
- Camp Ovens
- Candle Snuff Challenge
- Cycling in the dark
- Radio Jackie visit
- Ten Pin Bowling
- A session on Knotting,
- A session on Map Reading,
- Our annual chip survey
- A burns night evening (where we all tried Haggis), and
- Chariot racing

This year we have had three very successful dry camps.

At the end of March we arranged a last minute Cycle Camp to Boidierhurst for 6 Scouts. This was very successful with the Scouts cycling to the site and the kit going by car. The weather was hot (except at night) and we had a backwoods meal over a large fire in the evening.

In May we took 15 Scouts and 2 Cubs to Upton Warren Activity Centre near Bromsgrove. They had a fantastic time undertaking loads of activities including Sailing, Kayaking, Raft Building, Climbing, Caving and Bouldering. We had a problem before we left when we could not get the trailer connected to the minibus, but we used the roof rack instead and took an extra car. It meant we arrived late at the site but the kids slept in chalets instead of tents for the first evening so it did not affect the enjoyment of the weekend. We are very grateful to Phil Ascough, the head of the Centre, who gave his time free of charge for the whole weekend.

More recently we held a joint summer camp with the Cubs at Hope Hill in Meopham. This was a big success and all 26 children had a great time. Activities included Wide Games, Shooting, Archery, Climbing, Abseiling, Hikes, Swimming, a visit to Chatham Dockyard, Survival Games and Big Pioneering. We were pleased to be able to invest two Scouts on HMS Gannet as part of our visit to Chatham.

In May we also ran the Church Parade service with the Scouts performing a sketch based on the TV programme 'would I lie to you'. We had a very good attendance with 12 Scouts actually taking part in the service. The Cubs and Beavers also helped with the Service.

Unfortunately we did not enter many District Competitions this year due to Scouts either not being interested or being unavailable, with a small Troop (for the majority of the year) 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 I am pleased to report that that Matthew Steele came second in the District Shooting Competition.

8. Group Scout Leader's Report

Geoff Collins presented his report

I would like to congratulate all the leaders for delivering such an exciting and varied programme of activities and continuing to give so much of their time for the benefit of the children.

I would like to thank Kathryn for taking out a Warrant as Assistant Beaver Scout Leader as soon as possible after her 18th birthday, let's hope she enjoys working with children for as long as I have! I would also like to welcome Michael Humphries as a Young Leader with Cubs.

Can we all please thank Richard for organising this great weekend and for providing us with such wonderful weather.

9. Approval of G.S.L's Nominations of members of the Group Executive Committee

Group Chair Catherine Luff

Treasurer David Steele

Secretary Debra Kaye

Parent Representatives: Beavers Jo Danks

Cubs	Guy Simpson
Scouts	Dawn Knight

10. Appointment of an Independent Auditor

David Steele advised that DNA Accountants, Walton on the Hill have been appointed.

11. District Commissioner's Address

John Jordan agreed that quality not quantity was a key ethos of scouting and having listened to all 3 section reports he could see that the Group was growing and having fun. Scout Groups do not need to be huge. He was pleased to see that 3rd Epsom was gaining new members higher up the Troop, not just in Beavers. He commented that the Group is being run well and properly. He thanked all the members of the Group for their continued work for the benefit of young people.

12. Any Other Business

None

Catherine Luff thanked everyone for attending the meeting and their continued support, and closed the meeting.