



WARMINSTER SCOUT GROUP

Charity No. 292471

Group Registration No. 25719

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Reports

2013



Group entry in Soapbox Derby, Trowbridge Carnival 2012

AGENDA

1. Welcome
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of last A.G.M.
4. Financial Report
5. Reports from Sections
6. Group Scout Leader's nomination for Chairman
7. Election of Secretary; Treasurer and Committee
8. Comments

AGM MINUTES - WARMINSTER SCOUT GROUP

HELD TUESDAY 19th JUNE 2012

Apologies: Iain and Pam Blair, Alex Saunt, Nicola Parry, Revd Brett, Joan Davies

Present: Pete Owen, Zena Welling, Gavin Davis, Graham Belsten (District Commission), Cyril Full (District President), Graham Dopheide, Darren Oram, Rachel Daines, David Cox, John Cox (District Chairman), David Thompson, Mark Pomeroy, Steve Welling, Graham Honey, Kate May, De Jones, Nigel Hodges, Nik Viney, Yvonne Airey, Stuart Bath (Amesbury Leader)

Pete welcomed and thanked everyone for attending

Financial Report

The accounts look good but we need to take out £9,000+ for the new roof.

Weekly/monthly running costs show that we are running at a loss, letters have gone out to the parents saying that subs will be increasing to £15 per term. This would be the first increase since the groups amalgamated in 2008.

Gift Aid is almost set up and in place.

Bag packing at Morrison's for the roof was a huge success. The next bag packing will be for general use and a new patrol tent. A well done was said for all the children that took part.

Accounts were accepted – proposed by David Cox and seconded by Mark Pomeroy.

Thank you to Nicola for preparing the accounts.

Stevenson Trust grant was also used for towards the roof. The Fudge Trust was sympathetic to our needs and will look upon us kindly for future grants – perhaps for insulation and fire doors.

It was reported in the section reports that between mid May until end June something was on for 5 out of the 6 weekends between all sections.

It was noted that after the roof has been completed (which is scheduled for the summer holidays) we would like to look at insulating the inside of the hut and to move the heaters – this we would like to manage in house. Appeals for help to be sent out.

Congratulations were sent out to Joan Davies for her Civic Award.

An Explorer Section of Scouts has been set up in Warminster.

Election of Chairman

Chairman – Pete Owen – Nominated by Gavin Davis

Election of Secretary

Zena Welling was proposed by De Jones and seconded by Dave Thompson

Election of Treasurer

Nicola Parry was proposed by Gavin Davis and seconded by Rachel Daines

Executive Committee

De Jones, Nigel Hodges, Joan Davies, Steve Welling, Iain Blair, Nik Viney, Alastair Bell, Russ Kane, Graham Dolpheide.

District Executive Representative

Gavin Davis was proposed by Pete Owen and seconded by De Jones.

The floor was then handed to **Cyril Full** who congratulated the leaders and committee for a successful year. He also congratulated Gavin on his new role as GSL and is looking forward to seeing the hut next year. He thanked us for inviting him.

It was then **Graham Belsten** who said a few words and again thanked us for inviting him. He thanked Gavin for his 1st year in the role of GSL in the leading the group. A well done was said to the Scouts for coming 7th in the County Cooking Competition – the scores were close. Graham also thanked the parents for bringing the children along and supporting them.

John Cox also said a few words to the meeting regarding a new site for the District Camp. Two years have been spent looking into an alternative site and one has been located at Biss Wood, West Ashton. It is likely to be called Jubilee Campsite, £140,000 has already been raised for the 14 acre patch of land and approx another £28,000 is needed. A plea for help was sent out for donations of all kinds from money to materials to trees.

Graham Belsten issued the following certificates/awards:-

Lorraine was awarded a certificate for Beaver Scout Leader Assistant

Kate was presented with her wood beads for Cub Scout Leader – she has already got her Scout Leader Beads.

Pete thanked everyone for attending.

Meeting closed at 7.15pm

Beavers' Report

Wow yet another year has passed! They say that time passes quickly when one is enjoying themselves and we in the Beavers are certainly enjoying ourselves. Well the children appear to do so as we are still running at full capacity. (i.e. 24 Beaver Scouts) with a waiting list holding 29 names of which only 13 are not of joining age (i.e. over 5 years and 9 months).

The Beavers are due to complete at least two more treks this term which will go towards them obtaining their hiking badges and Outdoor Challenge badges.

As reported last year after the discussions relating to there being a large waiting list and the decision to let matters run to see if the waiting list would reduce through natural causes. As can be seen from the figures above this did not happen as the waiting list has once again increased. Five of our Beavers will be moving to Cubs and the end of this term so 5 more will be coming off of the waiting list at the start of next September.

We, the 2 Beaver Scout Leaders, are grateful to the two helpers/parents who have given up their time to help at each meeting. Our thanks, once again, go out to Lorraine and Karen for their time and input over the past year, as without their help it would have been impossible to run such a large Colony. Our thanks also go out to those parents who helped on occasions when the need arose. We would also wish to thank Jordan for his assistance these past few months. This is a young man who came to us to be involved in voluntary work for his Duke of Edinburgh Bronze award and decided that it was such good fun that he would like to stay. It is hoped that within the next few weeks two new Assistant Beaver Leaders will be invested namely Michelle Welling, who has already been helping out and my own son Ben who is returning to Scouting. Welcome aboard. Finally, but not least, thank you to Shaun Welling for his assistance during this past year.

Last year we reported that it was hoped that several Beavers would be attending the District splashdown at Broughton Gifford on the 16th June but unfortunately this was cancelled because of the bad weather. However, there is to be a fun day on the 6th July at Broughton Gifford and hopefully there will be a good attendance as usually great fun is had by all.

September The new term saw us start with 24 Beavers and we started work on the Friendship Challenge Badge although the semi Indian summer enabled us to get in a final walk around the West Wilts Golf Course. The Friendship Challenge Badge involves caring for people, learning about people abroad and meeting people with interesting careers.

October As a result of the District splash day being cancelled it was arranged that there should be a District sleepover. This month saw us enjoy a memorable and enjoyable night at the Boomerang Club in Melksham. We had a very good turn out with just over half of our registered Beavers sleeping over. The District hopes to repeat the sleepover again this October. We also had a visit from a lady who trains special dogs for guiding the blind and she brought along one of her dogs. The Beavers also received a talk from a serving Fireman and former Scout helper on the safety and dangers of bonfire night.

November There was a very good turn out by the Beavers at the Remembrance Day Parade and we were extremely proud on how well they behaved.

December This year we had a Christmas party rather than an outing; playing games, singing songs and having some party food. We also managed to get in a parent quiz evening which went down well.

January/February The New Year saw the preparation work for the departure of 4 more Beavers to Cubs. The Beavers commenced their work on their Creative Challenge Badge. The 4 Beavers moved to Cubs at the beginning of February but were replaced by 4 children from the waiting list.

March The District held their Flag Challenge at Broughton Gifford in which the colonies from around the district complete for the honour of carrying the flag at St. George's day parade. Each colony is invited to bring along their six eldest Beavers to take part in various challenges. Unfortunately due to illness of one of our Beavers we could only attend with 5 but they did extremely well coming joint third. Well done to all of those who took part.

April This month, with Easter being early we had to start preparations for another 4 Beavers to move up to Cubs. St. Georges Day took place on the 28th and regrettably attendance was not that good but this is understandable with so many other activities going on.

May Already this month the Beavers have taken part in the JOTT walk from Erlstoke to Westbury White Horse. Well done to all of you. This was followed by 6 Beavers attending Oxenwood Outdoor Educational Centre for a sleepover. They were part of a group from Broughton Gifford whose Leaders organised the event.

June to July The Beavers are at present working towards obtaining their Global Challenge badge which should be completed just prior to the summer holidays. In the middle of June a County camp is to be held at Longleat which includes the Beavers. 13 Beavers signed up for the experience.

At the end of July we shall see another 5 Beavers move up to Cubs just before the summer holidays start. This will mean that 5 new children will be able to start Beavers in September. The future of the Warminster Beavers looks very promising with such high numbers which indicates that there is a strong interest in Scouting in the town.

Elizabeth Williams and Nigel Hodges
(Kala and Badger)
Beaver Scout Leaders

Cubs' Report

June 2012 A year ago we joined the other sections for our annual camp at Tedbury near Frome. The theme of Robin Hood and his merry men, with each of the Cub leadership team, taking a role from the Disney film. Archery was the main activity, concluding with a shoot off between, Robin, Little John, Lady Kluck, Will Scarlet and Prince John. Of course Robin won with the last arrow. The Group activities on the Saturday were enjoyed by all, puzzles and challenges, and the paracord bracelets were particularly enjoyed by the parent helpers (you know who you are; there's a Scout in everyone!!!) Many thanks to the leadership team for making the weekend a success.

July 2012 The tail end of the year saw the Cubs finishing off their Outdoor and Promise Challenges, with trips to Smallbrook meadows and building bird boxes as part of their DIY Activity badge.

August 2012 - closed season; saw two cubs join our Scouts in Trowbridge Carnivals Soapbox Derby. We won the award for "Most likely not to survive the day" award, due to the steering mechanism designed by the leaders - a bit "wibbly-wobbly"

Sept 2012 We returned in September following the summer break, for another Scouting year, programmes to support their Creative and Community Challenge badges this year, as part of the balanced programme. Backwoods cooking and shelter building saw the evenings drawing in, and the nights getting cooler.

October 2012 Saw us plan and undertake a night hike through Longleat Woods, and practicing for the District Scrapheap Challenge. Plus four Cubs competed in the District Chess tournament in Melksham, coming both 1st and runner up in the individual competition. October also took the Cubs Canoeing in Brokerswood, with our fabulous supporters from Wiltshire Outdoor Learning Team (WOLT), Daz Oram and Alastair Bell, who gave up their evening to teach the Cubs Water Safety and Canoeing skills. All 24 Cubs earned their Water Sports Activity badge and qualified for their Paddle Power certificate. Well done to all...

November 2012 This month and the darker evening, meant more nights indoors and saw us enter the annual District Scrap Heap Challenge at Southwick and North Bradley Scout HQ, but unfortunately we didn't win this year, may be next!!

November also saw a very good turnout at the Remembrance Day Parade, which also involved a sleep over in the lovely Garrison community centre, including an evening of sausage and chips and a film. This is one of the two parades which we really do, appreciated you and your child's support.

December 2012 December was a busy month, with pack visits to the CCTV, night trails around the town, and a Carol Service at Woodmead Care Centre in Portway.

This month also saw us partake in the annual Christmas tree festival in the Minster Church, followed by the thanks giving service, which really finishes the festive period off well.

January 2013 January activities were based on communication, brail, sign language, Morse code and semaphore over a couple of weeks.

Then we looked at local knowledge, and the Cubs making giant maps of Warminster, including the snow. Very cold evenings.

District Swimming event, on the 28th Jan at the Blue Pool in Melksham was well attended, with some 90 cubs across the District achieving either stage 1, 2 or 3 Swimming Activity badge.

February 2013 This month we prepared for world book day, with a visit to the library, to see how it works. We had a great evening of activities provided by the Wiltshire library team.

We also celebrated our Founder's day, and finished the month off star gazing, with astronomy activities, when we had a clear evening....

March 2013 Was Saints' month, Patrick and David, along with Easter and Mother's day activities, the Cubs were very creative.....

Plus Pancake Day and Red Nose Day too many bad jokes – loads to keep us occupied.

April 2013 A short month due to Easter, with the Cubs being tidy and helpful, as they concentrated on their Home Help Activity badge, so their bedroom should now be tidy!!!!

We finished April with a joint meeting with the Beavers as four swam up.

May 2013 May saw the Cubs taking on the Dino Egg Challenge, with their thinking caps on... Plus navigation activities because the weather turned wet very quickly. Again local knowledge activities to finish the month before half term.

The Future Months Sees us camping with the County at Longleat over the weekend of 14th to 16th June. Followed by a planned Cub Camp at Stourton 27th to 30th June, as two schools have additional Teacher Training Days..... (planning)

July 2013 Will hopefully see more outdoor activities and hikes away as the warmer evenings give us the chance to be outside.

Summary: We've again gone from strength to strength, becoming a victim of our own success, which is why we now have a waiting list, with the Cubs at 30 strong, in four sixes. Although we will lose four to Scouts at the end of July, and plan to lose another four in December.

Closing comments, it has again been a brilliant year, one which I personally have thoroughly enjoyed, but could not have achieved any of it without the support and help of Joan (Baloo), Pam (Bagherra), Steve Weston (Nag), Graham Hiscock (Rama), Ruth (Raksha), Alastair Bell (Chil), Graham Honey (Ikki), Rachael Hiscock and not forgetting my wife, as "answer phone, admin assistant, delivery driver etc..." Dawn without her support I would not be able to run this section.

Along with the close working relationships with the other Sections and leadership teams within the Group. Thanks to Gavin (GSL), De (Skip), Kate, Karen, Elizabeth (Kala) and Nigel (Badger) for all their cooperation, assistance and support.

And special thanks to Pete for his long hours in support of the Group and keeping us all in check.

Last point, after six years of Cubs, it's time for me to handover, as I face the new challenge of managing the 14 to 18 year olds in Explorers (oh boy what a challenge!!!). I handover to Pam as the new Akela in September, I will still be around and will be more than willing to help out if the needs be, however, with Patrick Williams (Mang) and the Young Leaders (Alex Daines, Brandon Cadman and Jack Cane) joining the section this last year, there are more than enough supporters of a already strong pack. I wish you all the best.

Many thanks to all the Cubs, past & present, for making this period of my life, a time to remember!!!! "PACK, PACK, PACK!!!!"

YIS

Russ Cane (Akela)

Cub Scout Leader

Scouts' Report

It has been yet another busy year for the Scout section.

Starting with the Scouts completing their Fire Safety and Emergency Aid Stage Two badges.

In July the Scouts started working on their Navigator Activity badge and ended the term with a beach party themed barbeque many thanks to Kate for organising this event.

During the summer holiday Scouts took part in the Soapbox Derby in Trowbridge winning a prize for the soapbox. My thanks to Akela for all his hard work.

In September the Scouts gained their Hobbies Activity badge and started working on their Global Challenge badge.

October was a busy month with the Scouts completing their Global Challenge badge and taking part in JOTA and JOTI at the Wiltshire Scout Centre as well as very successfully taking part in the County Archery Competition. We ended the month by joining the rest of the Group taking part in Warminster Carnival.

November started with a trip to Domino Pizza where the Scouts made their own pizzas with some interesting toppings chosen.

The Scouts took part in the Remembrance Parade and started work on their Craft Activity badge where they started scrapbooking photos of all the events they had taken part in throughout the year which were then displayed on the Scout notice board.

Scouts joined the rest of the Group at the annual Church Service at St John's Church, and took part in the tree planting at Jubilee Wood Campsite. Kate taught the Scouts to make wobble cards to everyone's amusement, completing their Craft badges. We finished the term with an Everything 2012 themed Christmas party.

With the start of a New Year came new challenges and the Troop put forward a team to compete in the District Cooking Competition. Which I am delighted to say they won. The trophy retains its place in the trophy cabinet.

In February the cooking team then represented Wiltshire West District at the County Cooking Competition and did amazingly well, finishing 3rd only 5 points away from the winners.

This allowed the team to represent Wiltshire County at the Regional Cooking Competition.

During February the Scouts brushed up on their navigation skills and had some fun with mini pioneering.

March was yet again another busy month with Scouts taking part in the Patrol/Assistant Patrol Leaders weekend at Wiltshire Scout Centre and I have been told it was a fantastic weekend that they would like to repeat in the future.

The cooking team headed for Shurdington in Gloucester to take part in the Regional Cooking Competition finishing an unbelievable 5th on their first attempt at this level. Making all the leaders and hopefully themselves very proud.

We finished the term with a night hike around Crockerton, thanks to Ben Venton for organising this as part of his Duke of Edinburgh Award.

In April the older Scouts prepared for their Expedition Challenge badge whilst the younger Scouts prepared for the First Timers Camp. The Scouts and Explorers bag packed at Morrison's to raise funds for new camping equipment. The Scouts also took part in the St George's Day celebration in Trowbridge as well as holding a quiz night and enjoying a good old sing song around a campfire.

May saw us take part for the first time in JOTT. The Group walked from Stoke Hill Farm to Westbury White Horse where we said goodbye to the Beavers and the rest of the Group continued on back to Warminster. With County camp fast approaching the Scouts brushed up on their camping skills.

As we approach June with County Camp a couple of weeks away as well as the Warminster Wobble event we are keeping busy.

This year has been a tough one for me personally with having had four operations and I would like to take the opportunity to say a HUGE thank you to all those who have stepped up to ensure the smooth running of the section. Without the support from Kate, Karen, Stuart, Graham, Gavin, Russ, and the Young Leaders Andrew Bryant, Che Pengkerego, Rachel Trollope and Ben Venton, I would have been lost.

Thank you also to the parents who have helped out and supported me in the last year it is very much appreciated.

Finally I would like to thank all the Scouts and their parents for their enthusiasm, commitment and support over the last year.

De Jones (Skip)
Scout Leader

Explorers' Report

September 2012 Saw five of the Explorers undertake a three day/two night expedition, from Warminster to Horningsham, then on to Stourton, and the last day back to Horningsham. Warm weather helped make the weekend a success, with three Explorers completing the whole challenge. The Saturday night saw Rachel Trollope invested into the Unit around the camp fire, and the handing out of the District scarves to the Unit's members. Special thanks to Alastair Bell for supporting me through the weekend.

October 2012 Outdoor activities, including various methods of fire lighting, chemical, friction, flint and steel. (The Hut is still standing)!!!

This month two Explorers undertook Survivor 2012, with the District Explorer Team. Sleeping out and undertaking various activities, including First Aid Training.

November 2012 Bonfire night, and fire work safety, plus the Explorers made Fire work cookies and held an apple bobbing competition.

Plus two new starters, Wesley Bath and Sampson Tam joining the unit.

December 2012 This month saw the Explorers visit the CCTV and preparing for a Christmas party...

The winter months During Jan, Feb and March the Explorers became artistic and creative, in designing and building the Disney Castle for a (still to be) planned Beaver Disney party. Large Cardboard boxes were turned into fabulous castles and towers.

April 2013 Saw three Scouts join Explorers being invested at Brokerswood in Canadian Canoes, following an evening's water sport activities, and learning water safety. Sunday 28th April we joined the rest of the District at the St George's Day Parade in Trowbridge.

May 2013 May and the lighter evenings saw us undertaking outdoor activities including INDO-Boarding, a circus skills, and was enjoyed by all. Sedan chair pioneering challenge and a town trail.

June 2013 Four Explorers will join the County camp at Longleat, and help with the Group activities on the Saturday.

July 2013 Sees Gilwell 24, a challenge in itself, staying awake for 24hours, conducting a number of activities and challenges, or just talking and sleeping the night away.

Also on the same weekend, those left behind will compete in the County Soap Box Derby...

Nine of the ten Explorers are now also signed up as Young Leaders (three per younger section), undertaking additional training and attending Young Leader meetings on the first Wednesday of every other month. They are to be commended for their support and hard work throughout the year....

Summary: It has been a difficult twelve months, for me personally, having to manage both Cubs and Explorers. I'm giving up Cubs to concentrate on Explorers 100% from the end of July. I would like to thank Stuart Bath for his support and wish him all the best in the role as District Explorer Scout Commissioner. Thank you to Gavin Davis, De Jones & Kate May for their support throughout this year, and my Occasional Helper Tina Trollope. The section is run by the Explorers for the Explorers, with the adults guiding the way. Building on the first 18 months, were now 10 strong, should see a successful Unit develop into a further section for the current Scouts to inspire to join.

YIS
Russ Cane
Explorer Scout Leader

Chairman's and GSL's Comments

Yet again numbers have increased (over 90 now, including adults), as have the waiting lists in some sections. The leaders and helpers have produced a wide range of activities throughout the year, many of which are detailed in the Section reports.

Again, as last year, work on and in the Scout hut has continued. The roof has been recovered and much of the inside insulated. The backroom storage area has been completely gutted and now consists of two floors, which enables us to store all of our camping kit etc on-site. A big thank-you to Iain Blair for all his work on this project.

We have submitted our first claim for Gift Aid. If you have not completed a Gift Aid Form and you are a taxpayer please ask for one. Gift Aid can be claimed on subscriptions and donations.

We have tried to play our part in the local Community and have sent representatives not only to the Remembrance Parade, but also to services for Charities, Armed Forces and the Mayor's Civic Service. We of course held our Promise Renewal Service at St John's Church in December. It was with great pride that some of our members acted as flag-bearers at the 3 York's Welcome Home Parade from Afghanistan.

Many of the Group members helped plant the 6,200 trees on the new District Camp Site, at Jubilee Wood near West Ashton and Che Pengkerego, had the honour of planting the centre-piece Royal Oak.

No Group can function properly without the leaders, helpers, Committee, Secretary and Treasurer, so thank you to them for giving so much of their valuable time and expertise.

Gavin Davis
Group Scout Leader

Pete Owen
Chairman

Warminster Scout Group - Accounts for 2012 / 2013

Start of Year - 6th April 2012			
HSBC Community Account			£ 11,988.04
HSBC Money Manager			£ 5,068.48
Opening Balance			£ 17,056.52
Income		Expenditure	
Subscriptions	£4,376.50	Maintenance	£9,821.12
Donations	£3,200.00	Rent / Storage	£500.00
Fundraising	£1,752.90	Scout Levy	£2,977.00
Gift Aid	£0.00	Heat / Light	£1,112.65
Other	£2,236.16	Water	£74.37
Bank Interest	£2.94	Insurances	£369.26
Rental Income	£0.00	Training	£10.00
		Uniform	£384.00
		Lease	£125.00
		Equipment	£394.96
		Subs to sections	£1,565.33
		Camp costs	£1,631.04
		Donations	£40.00
		Other	£176.59
Sub-Total	£11,568.50	Sub-Total	£19,181.32
Income v Expenditure			-£7,612.82
End of Year - 5th April 2013			
HSBC Community Account			£1,872.28
HSBC Money Manager			£7,571.42
Closing balance			£9,443.70
Spreadsheet checksum verification (should be zero)			£ -

Point of Interest

There is a large variation between Income and Expenditure this year due to £9314.91 being spent specifically on hut maintenance. The fund raising / donations for this (totalling £11105) were received last year

Rent / Storage costs should now be discontinued as all equipment is now returned to the hut

Heating / Lighting is significantly higher than budgeted for. To investigate changing supplier

Insurance costs have been reduced significantly by changing supplier (same / higher cover)

1 donation has been made this year to the 'Poppy Appeal' - £40

Notes on the accounts:

Opening and closing balances on the bank accounts are taken from the bank statements

The checksum verification ensures that the income / expenditure matches the balances

Details of Income and Expenditure are tracked via category codes - shown over

