

1st Stoke Gifford Scout Group



REPORT TO GROUP ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, JUN 2011

Group Overview – by Ian Butcher, Executive Committee Chairman

www.stokegiffordscouts.co.uk

This has been another successful year for the group, with all sections healthy in terms of both numbers and their programmes. Falling numbers of uniformed leaders is however a cause for concern, having already forced (last year) the merger of our two Beaver sections, and merger of our two cub packs is imminent for similar reasons. We sincerely hope that both of these mergers are temporary, but must ensure appropriate levels of qualified adult supervision, and must ensure that our remaining leaders don't get stressed to the point where they too want to move on.

As the Treasurer's report makes clear, the past year has been an excellent one for us financially, with significant corporate donations coming on top of what was already a fairly well balanced financial position. This windfall income will be used to help secure the long term future for the Group, hopefully allowing us to establish a purpose-built storage facility for Group equipment, thus removing/reducing our dependence on garages owned by our current leaders. Discussions regarding possible locations for the storage unit are ongoing, but are best kept private for now.

The Group's activities would not be possible without the support of the leaders and parent helpers who generously give up so much time, and also Executive Committee members. I would like to offer the Group's thanks to all.

Group Scout Leader's (GSL) Report – Paul Smith

All of the sections are flourishing and we have been able to offer a place to those on our waiting list within the age groups, with some exceptions. We have regular attendance of 105 young people and 17 Adult Leaders and helpers.

All sections have had a very good year. All sections have had varied programs. We continue to set our focus on earning badges, teaching new skills and having fun. We try to camp at least twice a year plus numerous visits and activities, Archery, Rifle shooting, Climbing and others, we have completed a number of very successful camp with Scouts, Cubs and adults attending.

All of this would not be possible without the support of our excellent team of leaders, however there are some changes taking place whereby leaders are changing sections and roles which means that we need new leaders to be able to continue at the current levels of weekly commitments in each section

If you could help in any way please contact me, or talk to any of the uniformed leaders.

One of our main fundraising activities is our Gift Aid claim on the Tax man, this has raised over £20000 over the last few years, however we still have a number of families that have not completed Gift Aid forms, so you are a tax-payer and you have not completed a Gift Aid form, it would be very much appreciated if you and return them to your section leader

Reports on individual sections

Scout Troops (Wednesday St Michaels School and the Old School Rooms)

The troop have strong leadership/helper teams, the school troop currently running with 20 Scouts (of whom nearly half are girls), and the OSR troop with 16 scouts. Attendance rates for both are high, suggesting that they are meeting the needs of their members well. The troops have a very active programme, much of it delivered jointly. With luck, in the coming weeks they will be going gliding and dragon boat racing, and past activities have included caving in the Mendips, and orienteering at Blaise.

10 scouts from across the two troops attended the recent Jamboree camp, and all had a good time despite the weather. The troops have booked a campsite near Monmouth for 8th-10th July, with planned activities including canoeing, hiking, and visiting Clearwell Caves. Some of the scouts are also about to go on a 20 mile hike and overnight camp at Berkeley.

Monday Cubs

The pack has recently risen to 21 members, and as a result has gone back to 4 'sixes', giving 2 more Cubs the change to be a 'sixer' or 'seconder'. They have just had their first camp of the year, and despite poor weather on the Friday and Sunday it was a success, with the cubs shooting air rifles, bow and arrows and tackling the assault course – some good photos have been uploaded on the website. Following camp the decision has been made to practice one camp fire song a week with the cubs ahead of the next camp so they will know the songs better and be able to sing louder... so listen out for melodious (??) singing when you come to collect your Cub in the future. The pack continue to do a mix of badge work, games and other activities and hopes to continue the increasing involvement of the Cubs in planning the programme each term.

Tuesday Cubs

Since the last AGM, the section has been running with 18/20 cubs, lower than in previous years due to a steady flow of cubs leaving to scouts, a temporary lull in beavers coming up and uncertainty on leader numbers. The section currently has 3 uniformed leaders (1 of whom is leaving in July 2011 to focus on scouts) and the young leaders have not been able to commit much since January 2011 due to exams etc.

Over the year, they have camped once, a couple of weeks ago at a very wet Woodhouse Park. (thank you to those parents that helped break camp in the rain and take the tents down 2 days later). They have had a visit from the Police!!!, have visited Redcliff caves, and Woodhouse Park on several occasions. Activity Badges have included "Book Reader", "Navigator", "Collector", "Athlete" and others. A mainly outdoor theme is planned for this current term (weather permitting) as it feels like they have been inside for far too long over the winter

Merger of Cub packs

A reduction in the number of available leaders has necessitated the merger of the two packs from September, with the combined pack meeting on Mondays. Although this will mean an increase in cubs, it will increase the number of leaders on that night and combined with use of the whole hall each week (rather than just T1/T2) there will be plenty of space for games and activities, and we don't anticipate any problems running the merged pack. That said, we hope that new leaders can be found in due course, enabling the packs (and similarly the Beavers section) to separate at some point in the future.

Beavers

Currently running with 23 Beavers, about 1/3 less than last year. This has made running the section a lot easier. The section has 4 leaders plus 1 parent who comes to help each week, and 1 young leader. Several Beavers move on to cubs over the coming months, but there will be some admissions from the waiting list, the intent being to run the section with about 20 Beavers for the immediate future.

The section has recently had a great joint sleep-over at Glenney Wood with the 1st Little Stoke Beavers, and intends doing further joint activities with them in the future. The next sleep-over will be in December 2011 at Woodhouse.

The section has an active programme, which has included a trip to the SITA waste recycling facility in Yate and at the time of writing this report a visit by the Bristol Zoo team, with a selection of small animals, is imminent.

Solar Explorers Unit (*strictly a District unit, rather than part of our Scout Group, but included for info*)

Solar ESU continues to meet on a Monday straight after the end of the Cubs meeting. They currently have a membership of about 40, with about ¼ of the Explorers supporting 1st Stoke Gifford as Young Leaders, whilst they work towards their Duke of Edinburgh awards, whilst other help in Bradley Stoke on other local units. Later this summer 3 of the Explorer Scouts will be taking part in the International Jamboree in Sweden. The costs of attending Jamborees is quite significant, and 1st Stoke Gifford Group helped with joint fund raising events and some direct donations, to assist those going to this once-in-a-life-time opportunity.

Treasurer's Report

- The figures below are from the 2010/11 and 2009/2010 audited accounts.
- They show that the Group's finances are healthy and stable.
- Running costs are up a little on last year's (mainly due to increased spend on activities, badges/manuals, and equipment), but these outgoings are in step with income (excluding one-off donations).
- Capitation costs are down on last year, due to a drop in numbers within the group. This reflects mainly the amalgamation of the Beaver colonies last year, and the constraints placed as a result on admissions from the waiting list.
- BBQs costs were higher than in previous years reflecting a more active programme, but profit was higher as well so these balance.
- The past year was an excellent one from the donations viewpoint, with money received from Rolls Royce (£250), Axa (£450) and Bank of Ireland (£7,628.35). We are extremely grateful to the companies for these generous donations. Last year we had no donations, and can't assume we will get any this year, which emphasises the importance of not becoming reliant on these to balance the books. Last year's donations will, for now, be treated as a windfall, set aside in particular to fund a proposed storage project which would improve the Group's long term security, and allow us to look after our equipment better.
- Given both our financial position, and the overall economic situation, we have decided to keep subs payments fixed this year, rather than put them up by £1 (per term) as we have done in previous years.

Financial summary

<u>Receipts/Debits</u>	2010/2011	2009/2010	
Receipts	£24755.95	£13651.81	+81%
Payments	£14395.12	£12312.51	+17%
Net balance for year	£10360.83	£1339.30	

<u>Monetary assets</u>	2010/2011	2009/2010
Bank account	£15144.20	£2049.23
Building Society	£0.00	£3068.50
Cash in Hand	£341.42	£7.06
	£15485.62	£5124.79

Outgoings

	2010/2011	2009/2010
<u>Bank Account</u>		
Rent	: £3996.00	(£3930.00)
Capitation to district	: £3960.00	(£4480.00)
Insurance	: £126.50	(£124.69)
Consumables	: £423.47	(£1184.66)
Equipment	£973.84	-
Activities	: £2635.04	(£793.59)
Leader training	: £48	(£370.00)
Leader's Uniforms	: £40	(£69.48)
Manuals/Badges	£1282.24	(£679.21)
BBQ costs	: £776.02	(£438.00)
Gifts	£20.55	-
Other	£73.46	-

Income

Building Society Interest	-	-
Gift Aid	£2537.40	(£2186.18)
Subscriptions	: £10213.50	(£9800.50)
Camp Levy	£437.83	-
BBQ profit	: £1978.87	(£1040.13)
Donations	£9588.35	
Other (Camp fund transfers, activity contributions)	-	(£725.00)