

# 1<sup>st</sup> Stoke Gifford Scout Group



## REPORT TO GROUP ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, MAY 2012

### 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 albeit that it is sad that the Group has now lost the twin streams it has had for several years at both Beaver and Cub level. This has been made necessary by reductions in the number of uniformed leaders across the Group (as demand for places remains strong) but despite the loss of Beaver and Cub sections our leadership numbers remain a cause for concern. Whilst we deeply regret that we cannot offer scouting opportunities to all who want them, we must ensure appropriate levels of qualified adult supervision, and must try to 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, we did run a deficit in the past year but we expect to run a balanced budget over the year ahead. This will require both a little tightening of the belt and/or more active fundraising. We are always on the lookout for ideas here, in particular opportunities to tap local companies for donations. If you work for someone who does give money away to community groups, please let us know whom we should contact to try and benefit.

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 of them.

### Finance Report – by Sue Gibbs, Treasurer

The figures below are from the 2011/12 and 2010/2011 audited accounts and show that the Group's finances are healthy. Whilst we made a loss of just over £2000 last year, this reflected a conscious decision to reduce our accumulated reserves a little. Whilst at just over £13000 these appear to still be very generous, £8000 represents funds set aside from the 'windfall' corporate donations we received in 2010/11, and these will be used to fund a storage project which is still at the planning stage. The remainder is broadly in line with our target 'steady state' reserve of 1/3 of annual running costs. In the coming year we need to operate a balanced budget if we are to avoid eating into either of these reserves.

Briefly comparing the past year with the previous one;

- Income has dropped given both decreased numbers across the Group (especially Beavers and Cubs) and a reduction in corporate donations (in fairness, the 2010/11 donations can only be described as 'extraordinary'). BBQ profit and Gift Aid income both remain important to the Group, with figures similar to the year before.
- Overall running costs were up on the previous year. Rent was only marginally down, as increases in rental costs per session mostly offset the savings from the reduced number of sections. Capitation costs are also slightly down on the previous year due to our reduced numbers, and discounts offered for timely payment have been taken up. The increase in spending however mainly reflects World Jamboree donations, increased spending on activities, and an unplanned requirement to replace the door on the garage we have used for storage for the past 10+ years.

### Financial summary

<u>Receipts/Debits</u>	2011/2012	2010/2011	
Receipts	£15025.80	£24755.95	(Down 39%)
Payments	£17179.88	£14395.12	Up 17%
Net balance for year	<b>(£2154.08)</b>	<b>£10360.83</b>	
 <u>Monetary assets</u>	 2011/2012	2010/2011	
Bank account	£13048.41	£15144.20	
Cash in Hand	£ 283.13	£341.42	
	<b>£13331.54</b>	<b>£15485.62</b>	

### **Income**

Gift Aid	£ 2518.43	£ 2537.40
Subscriptions	£ 8661.00	£10213.50
Camp contributions	£ 602.00	£ 437.83
BBQ Takings	£ 2184.06	£ 1978.87
Donations	£ 499.99	£ 9588.35
Contributions towards activities	£ 560.32	£ 650.00

### **Outgoings**

	<b>2011/2012</b>	<b>2010/2011</b>
<b><u>Bank Account</u></b>		
Rent	£3826.00	£3996.00
Capitation to district	£3751.50	£3960.00
Insurance	£ 129.60	£ 126.50
Consumables	£ 215.35	£ 423.47
Equipment	£1199.56	£ 973.84
Activities	£5076.04	£3285.04
Leader training	£ 107.00	£ 48.00
Leader's Uniforms	£ 93.00	£ 40.00
Manuals/Badges	£ 937.23	£1282.24
BBQ costs	£1132.10	£ 776.02
Gifts	£ 20.00	£ 20.55
Other (including garage store repair)	£ 692.50	£ 113.46

### **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 around 95 young people plus our many leaders and helpers.

All sections have had a very good year with varied programs centred around earning badges, teaching new skills, and having fun. Our sections mostly manage to camp at least twice a year, in addition to fitting in numerous visits and activities such as Archery, Rifle shooting, and Climbing.

All of this would not be possible without the support of our excellent team of leaders, including some new joiners this year who have settled well into the Group. I'd like to formally record my appreciation for all their hard work. We are nevertheless always on the lookout for more leaders and helpers. Indeed, as explained in the Beaver section report below, unless we can find at least one leader to take charge of that section it will have to close this Autumn, with dire consequences both for those in Beavers and also perhaps for the long term health of the Group as a whole. If you could help in any way, or know of someone who might be able to, please contact me, or talk to any of the uniformed leaders.

### **Reports on individual sections**

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

The number of Scouts in the School Troop has remained around the 20 mark, with almost a full turn out most weeks. The OSR troop is also in good shape, with 5 regular leaders, some 20 scouts (6 female and 14 male).

The Troops have had an exciting year. The highlights of the Summer term included dragon boat racing, gliding and canoeing, the latter when we did a weekend camp in the Forest of Dean. A number of firsts for most of our Scouts, who had never experienced any of these activities before. In the last two terms the focus has been on badge work, everything from basic scout skills (such as knotting and map reading), through to first aid, cooking, sewing and even knitting! Badges completed include Navigators and Sports Enthusiast Badges, and the Fitness, Global, Creative and Promise Challenges. The troop had a visit from the Thonbury Meccano Club, and evening at B&Q Cribbs Causeway making bird and bat boxes, has been caving under the Mendips, and later this year will be joining the sea scouts in Watchet to take the Level 1 speedboat course.

The School troop had a visit from the founder member of the Internet Movie Database (IMDB) on one of his whistle-stop visits to Stoke Gifford, and also from a Bristol Rugby player. It also visited Redcliffe

Caves and had visits from the Thornbury Meccano Club, and the St Michaels' Youth Leader, Joel. Once a month, the two troops get together and challenge each other at an activity.

The coming year has much to offer, including a joint camp with the Wednesday night Guide unit and the School Scouts Troop to Brownsea Island in the Summer, activities such as Orienteering at Ashton Court, projects with the "40 acres" conservation group, bag-packing in aid of Shelterbox and a Scout Troop in Cyprus, and a 40km bike ride with the Stokes Cycle Club (already done by the OSR Troop). Also coming up is a 20 mile hike over 2 days from Berkeley to Woodhouse park and, as it is an Olympic year lots of fun-based, fitness evenings.

Finally we were delighted that Lydia Booth, Abbie Chinnock and Dan Smith from the 'School Troop' and Jamie Franks, Lewis Jefferies, Callum McQueen, George Phelps and Tom Edgecumbe from the 'OSR Troop' all achieved their Chief Scout's Gold Award, the first time anyone in our Group has done so. A joint presentation evening was held at Woodhouse Park in April, attended by proud parents and leaders alike, to mark this major milestone.

### Cubs

As announced at last year's AGM, a reduction in the number of available leaders necessitated the merger of the two packs from September, with the combined pack meeting on Mondays. Although this meant an increase in cubs (to 30) it increased the number of leaders on that night, and expansion into the whole hall each week (rather than just T1/T2) has meant that there is plenty of space for games and activities. The merged pack is working well, and has been very active. Last term it completed 5 badges, and will be doing 3 this term including the cyclist badge.

The pack has just returned from a very successful camp at Botany Bay (Forest of Dean), where 23 cubs had a great time making pizza's, having a go at archery, and hiking around the local area.

### Beavers

Currently running with 21 children with spaces for 3 more (5 girls and 16 boys), the colony has a full programme of activities planned up until July 2012, including a community challenge litter picking, a couple of nights at Woodhouse and a Hike at Blaise castle. We have a Sleepover booked in for end of June 2012 at Olveston Scout Hut.

The leadership team currently comprises 2 Leaders, 2 Assistant Leaders, 1 'new' Assistant Leader and a parent helper. Janet is however stepping down this Summer (thank you for your huge contribution over the past 10 years), Sue is stepping down to Assistant level, and the colony may also lose its parent helper. Unless as a minimum a replacement is found for Janet, the colony will unfortunately close this Summer.