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

## **REPORT TO GROUP ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, JUN 2013**

### **Group Overview – by Ian Butcher, Executive Committee Chairman**

This has been another successful year for the Group, with all sections healthy in terms of both numbers and their programmes, and we continue to have a healthy demand for places within the Group. It is pleasing to see that our finances are back on an even keel after last year's subs increases.

The only cloud on the horizon relates to leadership challenges, which has been a recurring theme in recent years, forcing us to close the second sections we used to have for both Beavers and Cubs. Right now we face a particular challenge with Cubs, as Chris Smith has decided to cease being leader this Summer to enable him to spend more time with his young son, and Nick Smith (no relation) is also stepping down. We therefore need to urgently find new leaders for the pack. We are of course always keen to recruit new leaders and helpers, so if you are tempted (or might have your arm twisted), or know of someone else who might, please get in touch.

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 our Executive Committee members. I would like to offer the Group's thanks to all of them, and in particular to Chris Smith, and to Julie Windows (who is stepping down as Executive Committee Secretary – a valuable 'behind the scenes' task).

### **Finance Report – by Sue Gibbs, Treasurer**

The figures below are from the 2012/13 and 2011/2012 audited accounts and show that the Group's finances are healthy. We have addressed our deficit from the prior year and have produced a surplus of £2179. This was achieved through a budgeting plan which proved successful. Included within the surplus is an amount of £1314 which is made up of deposits for a planned trip to Cyprus by one of our Scout units. The inclusion of deposits and costs for the planned Cyprus trip have inflated both receipts and expenses in the accounts summarised below, and a more realistic figure for last year's surplus is £865. We have maintained our reserves which stand at £14000, which includes £8000 - £9000 set aside for a specific project to acquire a storage facility which we expect will materialise in the coming year. The remainder is our targeted reserve, representing 1/3 of our annual running costs. We have drawn up a balanced budget for 2013/2014 to maintain our reserve target.

As a pack the cubs (and their parents) have trialled over the last 2 terms an online system for paying subs. This fully automated system has been very successful, with requests and reminders sent out on set dates, saving everyone time and making things easier. We are keen to extend this approach across the Group.

The figures on the next page, which are extracted from the audited accounts, briefly compare the past year with the previous one;

- Income, after adjusting for the Cyprus deposits has reduced slightly given lower numbers across the Group and BBQ profits which were less than previous years. Gift Aid was reduced in line with the lower subs income. Income is expected to remain at current levels for the next year.
- Overall running costs were down on the previous year. Rent increased slightly as we had expected, but capitation (the fee paid to Scouts 'HQ') was reduced due to lower numbers in the Group and discounts taken for prompt payment. Spend on activities ended up a little below what we had budgeted for.

## Financial summary

<u>Receipts/Debits</u>	<u>2012/2013</u>	<u>2011/2012</u>	
Receipts	£27283.10	£15025.80	Up 55%
Payments	£25104.39	£17179.88	Up 68%
Net balance for year	<b>£ 2178.71</b>	<b>(£2154.08)</b>	

<u>Monetary assets</u>	<u>2012/2013</u>	<u>2011/2012</u>
Bank account	£14953.68	£13048.41
Cash in Hand	£ 556.57	£283.13
	<b>£15510.25</b>	<b>£13331.54</b>

### Income

Gift Aid	£ 1915.07	£ 2518.43
Subscriptions	£ 9172.76	£ 8661.00
Camp contributions	£ 796.00	£ 602.00
BBQ Takings	£ 1160.35	£ 2184.06
Donations/Fundraising	£ 4740.92	£ 499.99
Contributions towards activities	£ 534.00	£ 560.32
Cyprus Trip deposits	£ 8964.00	£ 0.00

<u>Outgoings</u>	<u>2012/2013</u>	<u>2011/2012</u>
<u>Bank Account</u>		
Rent	£ 3958.00	£ 3826.00
Capitation to district	£ 3402.00	£ 3751.50
Insurance	£ 132.28	£ 129.60
Consumables	£ 103.46	£ 215.35
Equipment	£ 2534.26	£ 1199.56
Activities	£ 2595.28	£ 5076.04
Leader training	£ 252.00	£ 107.00
Leader's Uniforms	£ 179.95	£ 93.00
Manuals/Badges	£ 1227.57	£ 937.23
BBQ costs	£ 549.60	£ 1132.10
Gifts	£ 80.99	£ 20.00
Other	£ 80.00	£ 692.50
Cyprus Trip costs	£ 9392.00	£ 0.00
Joint Fundraisers partners payments	£ 620.00	£ 0.00

### 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 85 young people which is slightly lower than last year, plus our many leaders (22) and helpers (5) and our executive committee without who we cannot operate.

All sections have had a very good year with varied programs centred on 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.

All of this would not be possible without the support of our excellent team of leaders, including some new leaders this year who have settled well into the Group.

I thought I would let you know just how long some of our leaders have been with us (in years).

Marcus Booth 21, Geoff Cane 21, Sue Baker 18, Michele Grattidge 10, Janet Porteous 10, Christopher Smith 10, Andrew Phelps 8, Lee Baker 7, Selina England 7, others ranging from 1 month to 4 years.

I'd like to formally record my appreciation for all their hard work including the executive committee. We are nevertheless always on the lookout for new leaders and helpers. Indeed, as explained in the Cub section report below. If you could help in any way, or know of someone who might be able to, please contact myself, or talk to any of the uniformed leaders.

## **Reports on individual sections**

### **Scout Troops (St Michaels School) – Marcus Booth**

We have had an exciting last 12 months since the 2012 AGM. The highlights of the wet Summer term included cycling, the Meteorologist Badge, and Abseiling and the Assault Course at Woodhouse Park. In the last two terms we concentrated on our badge work; everything from basic scout skills, such as knotting and map reading, through to first aid, cooking, sewing and even knitting! We have had a visit from a Paralympian, hiked across the Old Severn Bridge, had several enjoyable evenings challenging the Guides to events, and done lots of craft and drama, allowing the Scouts to express themselves creatively. The highlight of the year was our Scout and Guide summer camp on Brownsea Island, the home of Scouting. This was a logistical challenge, but well worth the effort. Thanks to Phelpsie for arranging this. We had a Family Camp at Glenny Wood in October, which was very well attended by parents and children alike, and once it stopped raining we all had a great time. We have just finished a camp at Chelwood, where it didn't rain once! Fantastic! A further camp is planned for September.

For the remainder of this term we are going cycling, Dragon boat racing, and visiting Portishead lifeboat and we will end the term at Blaise Castle where we have arranged a private tour of the castle for all scouts and parents.

Our numbers have remained around the 25 mark, with almost a full turn out most weeks. My thanks go to Alison, Michele, Laura, and Lewis (our young leader) for their ideas, support and enthusiasm.

Finally we were delighted that Jacob Dyer achieved his Gold Scouts Award and we wish him well for the future.

### **Scout Troops (Old School Rooms) – Andy Phelps**

We have had an exciting and fun filled last 12 months. During the Summer term as it was an Olympics year we took the opportunity to fill the program with lots of sports such as Archery at Woodhouse Park, Orienteering at Ashton Court, hiring the running track in Stoke Gifford for the athletics activity badge, and inviting a keep-fit instructor to OSR to help the scouts through their Fitness challenge award. We took part in our annual Swimathon with the Guides and Patchway judo club which raised us £600 and was a great success. This fundraising, along with bag packing at Sainsbury's in Stoke Gifford, raised money for The Children's Hospice and our first ever foreign camp this October to Cyprus where we will meet up with the scouts from Dhekelia with whom we have exchanged troop magazines and raised money for Shelterbox. The camp will consist of 16 scouts, 3 leaders and 5 parent helpers and will last for 1 week with activities such as scuba diving, sea kayaking, sailing and cultural visits to their capital Nicosia and the Trudos mountains. The Cypriot scouts will hopefully come to the UK and camp with us next summer.

As usual we balance the program with badge work and scouting activities and we have had a further 3 scouts achieve their Gold Chief scouts award this year. We had the Stokes Cycle Club attend a troop night to service our bicycles and the following weekend cycled 40km, took part in our annual 2 day expedition from the deer park at Ram to Woodhouse Park stopping over at Oldbury-on-Severn (a total distance of 20 miles), took part in the County shooting competition where the scouts did us very proud as well as district events such as the night hike, Dragon Boating, draughts, 7 a side football, also the quiz night run by Marcus and Michelle. All were great fun. We went to Watchet and completed our Power Coxswain Certificate, a nationally recognised award, and went on our summer camp to Brownsea Island.

Our numbers remain around 20 with several cubs due to come up in September raising our numbers to about 24. We have 5 leaders, and I would like to thank Kathie, Janet, Lee and Lyn for all their help and support last year. Also many thanks to Alice, our outgoing young leader, who starts university in September, and our incoming young leader George.

Also I would like to thank the parents for all their help and support. We could not do our active programme without them transporting scouts to the various events. Finally many thanks to all the outside speakers and groups that help us run our exciting programme, and the Wednesday night guide unit for the challenges every term.

## Cubs – Chris Smith

The cubs have had a successful year since the last AGM. We've been to crazy golf, real golf, Rolls Royce to do some science, Woodhouse Park a number of times and completed lots of badges. Many cubs have earned their Artist, Local Knowledge, Skaters, Athletics, Animal Carers and other badges this year.

We have also started an on-going competition between cubs and leaders. Last term we did a number of challenges in the OSR – Draw a dog whilst blindfolded, limbo, guess the flavour of food, etc. This term we are doing to Woodhouse Park to compete in a number of water based challenges. – the leader are currently 1-nil up (and of course are looking to extend that lead).

The cubs are now actively involved in planning each term, spending about ½ hour with leaders at the end of each term running through the available badges and producing lists of activities that they would like to have a go at. We don't manage to cover all the badges or activities, but we have a good go.

We currently have 25 cubs and 4 adult leaders. Unfortunately, both Nick Smith and I will be standing down at the end of this term due to family and work commitments. We are trying to recruit at least 2 new leaders, including someone to take on my role of Akela. The remaining 2 Adult leaders and our 4 young leaders are keen to continue with Cubs and will offer lots of help and support to our new leaders. On a personal note I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as a Cub and Scout, then Assistant Cub and Scout Leader and finally a Cub and Scout Leader. I hope to stay involved with the Group and want to thank those young people, parents and other leaders who have helped and supported my Scouting so far.

## Beavers

Currently running with 27 children (3 girls and 24 boys) and a great team of 6 leaders.

The section had a very successful Christmas sleepover at Woodhouse which we ran with Olveston Beavers and a family camp with the Cubs and Scouts. Another sleepover is planned for the end of June 2013. Two of the Beavers attended the District sleepover at @Bristol and had a great time.

Our Beavers have done lots of badge work with most of them gaining their Chief Scout Bronze Award (the highest award in Beavers) before going up to Cubs. Other activities done during the last year include a visit to Pets at Home, making Christmas cakes and Football Coaching. An active and exciting programme of events/activities is planned for the year ahead.