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1st Stoke Gifford Scout Group

REPORT TO GROUP ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, NOVEMBER 2019

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. We continue to have a strong demand for places and it was really great to be able to re-open the 2nd Cub pack last Autumn, completing our recovery back to 2 sections across the Group. Fingers crossed that we are back there 'for keeps'.

The Group's activities wouldn't be possible without the support of the adult, young leader and parent helpers who generously give up so much time, and also our Executive Committee members. I'd like to offer the Group's thanks to all of them, but note that we do need some 'new blood' on the Exec, in particular to replace Chris Smith who is stepping down as Group Secretary but now back as a Leader. Thankfully Chris has agreed to continue to manage a lot of the Group's admin via Online Scout Manager, Compass and Go-Cardless where his skills are a huge asset to the Group.

Finance Report – Jenny Webb, Treasurer

Main Account

The figures for 2018/19 are shown below. In 2018, to enable the accounts to work easier, we aligned the financial year with the school year. A comparison with the previously presented accounts is not presented as it would not be a fair comparison. The main bank account balance is healthy at the moment, but a couple of points to note from last year.

- (Leader) uniform claims have risen significantly. This has triggered a review of our 'claim back' policy to restrict costs in the future.
- The figures also include a missed Gift aid claim from 2018 (an extra £2,600).
- The BBQ's did well last year; we raised just over £1000 across both.
- We bought some new tents reflecting increased numbers of children camping.
- "Other costs" are mainly on Beaver T-shirts this year.
- One camp was incorrectly credited to the main account. This will be debited correctly to the camp account in due course.

Underlying growth in costs (badges, rent and capitation in particular) is however putting pressure on section activity budgets costs and **I propose that we increase subscriptions by £1 a half term (£6 per year)** to offset this. It would be the first increase for several years.

Camp account

The Cyprus camp took place in April this year and consumed most of the money in the Camp account. All the groups had UK camps.

Recommendations from the Auditor is a spreadsheet is created, when spending money abroad, so the exchange rate impacts can be calculated. This will make the camp account neater.

The Auditor also recommended a separate Treasurer for the camp account given the volume of transactions.

<u>Main Account</u>	2018/2019
<i>Receipts/Debits</i>	
Receipts	£27,184.32
Payments	£23,150.89
Amount in account	£8,516.43
<i>Income</i>	
Gift Aid	£4,729.37
Subscriptions	£13,863.74
BBQ takings	£1153.24
Donations/Fundraising	£154.89
<i>Outgoings</i>	
Rent	£4,428
Capitation to district	£6,380
Insurance	£38.00
Consumables	£25.98
Equipment	£480.86
Activities	£5,549.89
Leader training	£332.00
Leaders Uniforms	£772.18
Manuals/Badges	£2,091.51
<u>Camp account</u> (includes defibrillator money in)	
Receipts	£5243.38
Payments	£18,733.95
Amount in account	£3,183.42
Defib money in camp account	£2,471

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

1st Stoke Gifford Scout Group started on 6th June 1991. So, as we move into our 29th year, we are lucky to have a strong leadership team which has increased in size to match our needs. We now have 15 with Scouts, 10 with Cubs, 15 with Beavers, and 5 Occasional Helpers.

New Leaders that have recently joined us are Pip Emsley, Jamie Butterfield, Terri Roberts, Helen Duthie, Helen Morris, Caroline (Cas) Studley, Jayne Wotton and Emily Mulligan. All of which have undertaken to complete the required training to receive their Wood Badges. This will mean that our training advisors (TA's) are kept busy to meet these requirements in the time scales required, however we do have three TA's; Marcus Booth, Chris Smith and myself.

We have several leaders who have been awarded achievement and long service awards over the last few months and Wood badges have been awarded to Mike Webb, Martin Fackrell, Andrew Porteous and George Phelps. My congratulations to all of you

We have very good numbers of young people in all sections. With approximately 138 young people attending on a weekly basis made up of Scouts: 60 Boys, Girls 36; Cubs: 30 Boys, 14 Girls; and Beavers: 30 Boys, 8 Girls with a waiting list of 106.

All sections are providing excellent and very active programs and have attended various Group and Section camps that took place throughout the year, with all sections taking part in one or more of these camps. The Old School Rooms Scout Troop went to Cyprus for a week in April.

None of this would be possible without the support of our Executive Committee, uniformed leaders and occasional helpers. I would like to take this opportunity to formally record my appreciation for all their hard work and commitment to the group.

I've been involved with Scouting all my adult life and with 1st Stoke Gifford for the last 29 years. I've have decided that it is time for me to retire from Scouting, which I plan to do in October 2020 on my 70th Birthday, so my last challenge will be to recruit a new Group Scout Leader.

Reports on individual sections

Scout Troop (St Michaels School) – Marcus Booth

On average this year we have had 28 young people, about 1/3 girls. Leaders wise we have Marcus, Kathie, Peter, Chris, Laura, Michele, Em and Adam. Laura has finally secured a place in the RAF and will be leaving us permanently in March 2020.

As ever we have a full years' programme, concentrating in the main on badge work, but also lots of "fun" nights, where we engage with the more creative and social aspects of scouting.

We had two camps this year. In early June we went to Cranham with the Cubs and did the Expedition Challenge, and in the Summer we went to Huish Woods, Taunton which included a hike, caving, zip wire and aerial runway. We are taking 16 of our scouts on a Christmas camp at the end of November at Olveston scout hut, where everything will be Christmas themed.

We have been able to give out a wide range of badges, including various Challenge Awards and Activity badges and have had a number of scouts achieve the Chief Scouts Gold Award.

We've also sent a number of scouts to Solar Explorers, where they've continued their scouting life and two have come back to us as young leaders as part of their D of E volunteering.

We have supported a number of District events, including hosting and running the annual quiz in March and will be attending the District Night Hike on 16th November.

Overall everything has gone well, and we get between 95-100% attendance each week.

Scout Troop (Old School Rooms) – Andy Phelps

The OSR scout troop have 9 adult leaders, 4 young leaders and 31 scouts (17 girls and 14 boys) we also have several parent helpers that fill in during our busy troop year.

Ten of our scouts have achieved their Gold Chief Scouts Award since our last AGM this is the highest Award that scouts can achieve and shows a busy and well balanced programme.

The troop have been involved in the local community with litter picks around the village, tree planting and beach cleaning. We've held camps at Cirencester, Ledbury, Oldbury-on Severn, Dhekelia and Spanorium Hill where we have developed basic scouting skills like pioneering, backwoods cooking, team building and hiking etc.

The troop have competed in County competitions in Cooking, Kahoutek, Strategy, Jambowlree, Jamboree on the internet and our own swimathon. The troop have registered to attend the 2020 Avon County Jamboree at the North Somerset Showground, and having recently returned from the World jamboree in the USA I know the scouts will love the experience.

We have invited lots of outside speakers and made many visits to give the Scouts information on life skills and community organisations. We hold meetings most weekends during term time as well as Wednesday evenings, covering over 20 activity badges and all 9 challenge awards.

Standout activities this year were our day at Stoke Park learning all about edible plants, nature and fire lighting techniques from Steven England (a local conservationist), our science evening at the UWE, and the CREST Award experiments with Paul and Heather.

The many fundraising events at Tesco, Sainsburys and Bradley Stoke Pool for the Royal British Legion, The Purple Angels and our International 8-day camp to Cyprus. Finishing our highest ever result in the Gloucestershire Strategy completion, top of any teams from within Avon.

A big 'Thank You' to all the leaders that have volunteered their time for the troop.

For more information parents can visit the Group's website and see photos of all the many activities we have squeezed in this year. Just search - 1st Stoke Gifford Scouts/news.

Cubs – Carl Shaw

The OSR Cub Scout pack has 28 Cubs and 5 leaders.

Last year we ran a very active programme. They took part in physical activities of all types including Yoga, kick-boxing, tennis, basketball, hiking and wild walks, orienteering (on bikes!), ice-skating, sailing and getting very muddy on an assault course. They've learnt about the environment and plastic waste, learnt about blindness and deafness from guest speakers, and the wider world including a visit to a Hindu temple. We've also covered traditional Scouting skills including cooking a full meal on camp-fires, learning navigation, first-aid and knot-tying and taking part in the annual Remembrance and regular uniformed church services.

We ran a number of weekend camps last year, with both Cub packs attending. In June we had 20 Cubs attend a joint Cub/Scout camp at Cranham where we ran camp-fire cooking and air rifle shooting activities and in September we ran a Cub-only weekend camp at Botany Bay in Wales with 32 Cubs attending where we ran archery and kayaking on the river Wye. This was our first Cub-only camp in many years, made possible by our increased Cub numbers.

Looking forward to Christmas, we plan to go ice-skating and trampolining, sing some carols and do some Christmas craft-making. Running with 28 young people and 8 leaders. This term has included a sleepover at soft play and the scientist badge.

Cubs – Chris Evans

School Cubs has 13 children, 2 girls and 3/4 leaders. We are celebrating our one year anniversary at the start of November. In our first year we have done some exciting events including attended two camps, hiking round Maes knoll and going caving.

We have explored our creative side, channelling our inner Banksy and making our own pottery. We learnt about disability with visits from a visually impaired person and a deaf lady. In the Winter term we focused on World Faiths celebrating Diwali and visiting a Hindu Temple. During the summer, we took our chance to be active going orienteering, doing the assault course at Woodhouse, and doing some Yoga and Martial Arts.

Beavers – Monday - Sue Baker

Monday Beavers are currently running with 30, six and seven year olds. 22 of these are boys.

We've had a fab year with a very successful 'Harry Potter' themed sleepover in March, our first 2 night sleepover at Taunton in May and in 2 weeks' time, we are running our first sleepover at the Old School Rooms to try and encourage some of our new younger Beavers to attend.

We started the year with a trip to Patchway Fire Station have had a talk by the RNLI, completed lots of badges and are finishing the year with a trip to the Panto and a Christmas party.

Beavers – Wednesday – Andrew Porteous

Currently running with 18 young people and 4 Adult leaders. So far this term we visited the M Shed and Wild Place and finish this term with 10 pin bowling. The Beavers have also raised £100 for Macmillan cancer support. Looking forward planning an amazing spring term.