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1st Stoke Gifford Scout Group

REPORT TO GROUP ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, JULY 2017

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, as noted in the GSL's report below, we hope that we may soon be able to reopen the 2nd Beaver colony. As you will see from the Treasurer's report, our finances remain in excellent shape.

The Group's activities would not 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 would like to offer the Group's thanks to all of them.

Finance Report – Ian Butcher, Acting Treasurer

The figures below from the 2016/17 and 2015/2016 accounts show that the Group's finances are healthy. We finished the year with a £286 surplus, well down on our prior year surplus £2170 (which reflected significant fundraising) but in accordance with our financial plan. The plan had increased provision for spending in some areas and had included a contribution from accumulated Group surplus towards the Group's 25th Anniversary Camp in Youlbury.

A significant, and new, feature in this year's financial overview is the Defibrillator, which has been funded by a mixture of Scouts activity (e.g. bag packing), Grant funding from various sources, and personal fundraising by Phelpsie who was the driving force behind the whole idea. His efforts here have been truly outstanding, with funds raised significantly exceeding the cost of buying, installing, and maintaining the defibrillator over its planned life, with a considerable surplus held by the Group (as reserved funds) to at least partly offset its eventual replacement.

The end year position regarding assets (£18005) overstates the Group's financial strength, as it includes the surplus defibrillator funds (£2471) mentioned above and it is important to note that some large payments (capitation and rent for example) which fall early in the financial year reduce the balance significantly. The account also holds the proceeds of fundraising (£7083) over the last few years towards a future overseas camp. The balance however comfortably exceeds the Group's reserves position which calls for ~1/3 of annual running costs.

Within the details of the accounts summary, subscriptions income was up on last year given increased membership across the Group but Gift Aid receipts are little changed. Camp contributions are also up reflecting the tendency now for camp fees to be paid via Go-Cardless straight into the main account. Donations/Fundraising were down on the previous year, but the figures here exclude funds raised specifically for the defibrillator.

On expenditure, most headings reflect similar outgoings to last year. Expenditure on section (weekly) activities was up reflecting a conscious decision to increase the budget. Equipment purchases primarily reflect the purchase of more tents to match last year's purchases (the price was too good to let pass); we will now retire some of our older nylon tents). Spend on manuals/badges was well up, reflecting the fact that unit costs of badges are up and our young members can get more following changes to how the badge system works. The fact that BBQ costs are shown this year but not last is simply an accounting issue, depending whether costs were taken out of proceeds before or after the latter were banked. Finally, the big increase in camp costs reflects both the tendency for money to flow through the main account rather than our separate camp bank accounts, and a decision to contribute towards the cost of the 25th Anniversary Camp at Youlbury from accumulated reserves (it was after all very significant milestone).

Financial summary

<u>Receipts/Debits</u>	<u>2016/17</u>	<u>2015/16</u>
Receipts (Group)	22554	18843
Payments (Group)	22269	16674
Net balance for year	+286	+2170
Receipts (Defibrillator)	6061	0
Payments (Defibrillator)	3590	0
Net balance for year	+2471	0
<u>Monetary assets</u>		
Bank Account	17760	14841
Cash in Hand	245	407
	18005	15249
Inc reserved funds (defib)	2471	0
<u>Income (excluding defibrillator)</u>		
Gift Aid	2135	2016
Subscriptions	12229	9846
Camp contributions	4164	1213
BBQ Takings	1930	1733
Donations/Fundraising	1307	3276
Contributions towards activities	788	759
<u>Outgoings (excluding defibrillator)</u>		
Rent	3700	3459
Capitation to district	4633	4074
Insurance	183	173
Consumables	80	110
Equipment	983	404
Activities	3798	2564
Leader training	108	195
Leader's Uniforms	170	183
Manuals/Badges	1762	1204
BBQ costs	386	
Camp costs	6020	889
Other	531	184

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

The Group has had another good year. All the sections are flourishing with 122 young people registered (see below for figures from our last capitation return), up from 111 last year and continuing an upward trend. We have been able to offer places to those on our waiting list in all sections, with some exceptions. There are 111 names on the list: 52 aged under 6; 20 aged 6; 14 aged 7; with 49 aged between 8 and 10 years old. We can only admit more by increasing the number of sections but I'm optimistic that we may soon be able to reopen the 2nd Beaver Colony which closed some years ago. That would create a log-jam at the Cubs stage, so we'd then be looking for leaders to re-establish a 2nd cub pack.

<u>Section</u>	<u>Totals</u>	<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>	<u>Leaders</u>
GSL	1			1
Beavers	32	20	5	7
Cubs	32	19	8	5
Scouts OSR	44	20	15	9
Scouts School	40	23	12	5
	149	82	40	27

plus 5 Executive Committee members and 6 occasional helpers

We are lucky to have a very strong leadership team with new leaders in both Beaver and Cub sections but we have inevitably had some losses, Peter Read and Michele Gratidge the latter stepping down from Scouts after 17 years' service, but still continuing in her Explorer role). I would like to thank them both for their support and give them our best wishes for the future.

I would like to thank Jenny Webb for volunteering, subject to ratification at the AGM, to become Treasurer and to Ian for covering that role for a slightly longer period than had been expected.

All our leaders are progressing with their training with support from Christopher and Marcus.

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

Reports on individual sections

Scout Troop (St Michaels School) – Marcus Booth

We currently have 34 scouts, 23 boys and 11 girls, with 4 leaving this term as they reach 14.

Activity highlights include completing the Cyclist badge (featuring a 23 mile ride along the Bristol to Bath cycle path), an Expedition Hike camp, a session canoeing in Monmouth, and a return to Westonbirt after an enjoyable visit there last year. Several scouts have completed the Creative badge and we're working on the Teamwork and Outdoor Challenges. We hope to finally complete our twice-aborted trip to Bristol Airport Fire Station in August

Two scouts are on the verge of achieving their Chief Scouts Gold Award.

Our team won the District Night Hike in February and again ran the District Quiz in March, where our Scouts came a creditable 4th.

On the Leadership front, Peter moved to Thornbury with his family just before Christmas, but completed his Wood Badge, which I was delighted to present him. Laura, Oscar and Chris are still with us, and remind us 'oldies' of the days when we had fitness and youth on our side! Our young leader Olivia also lends good support, taking after her mother in being very good at managing and controlling noisy children! We are sad to be losing Michele after so many years but thankfully Kathie hopes to be able to support on a full-time basis from September.

Scout Troop (Old School Rooms) – Andy Phelps

The Troop is healthy, with 9 Adult Leaders, 2 Young Leaders, 4 occasional helpers and several parents who help out on weekend activities. We have 21 boys and 15 girls attending regularly.

Last term ended with the troop bowling at Cribbs Causeway with the top scores being entered in the Jambowlree competition. Hopefully we can improve on last year's 10th place internationally for our age group. We also entered teams in the District Quiz and County cooking competitions, winning the cooking at Keynsham HQ and representing the County at the Regional finals at Shurdington, Gloucestershire. A team entered the County Kahoutek competition with 44 other teams of Scouts and Guides, finishing a very creditable 8th. The Swimathon was successful, as in previous years, raising lots of money. The Judo club completed the most lengths, but all teams managed over 100 and everyone had a good time.

The Troop has completed Electronics, Circus skills, Hobbies, Physical Recreation and Astronomy badges and had visits to Asda (bag packing raising £391.76), Cattybrook Quarry and the Shal Jalal Jame Mosque. It has also completed an environmental project with 40 Acres Conservation group with equipment supplied by South Glos Council.

A further 4 scouts receive Gold Chief Scout's Awards this term with a presentation being made by the Deputy County Commissioner (Stu Ballard) at the end of term. With the new badge structure this has been no easy process. Well done to them.

So far this term we have been fishing, held an evening of sewing, cleaning, ironing and drill plus an aerobics session with an outside instructor. Looking ahead, we've got a 2-day camp

planned, are visiting Portishead RNLI station, attending the County Water Regatta and the Strategy incident camp at Cirencester Park.

We are sad to be saying goodbye to Harry and Larah who are returning to London after completing their education at UWE. We wish them success in the future, and thank them for their support over the last 3 years.

Finally the defibrillator is fitted outside the OSR and is fully operational and we have held a community training session. This was published in Stokes Matters magazine.

Cubs – Carl Shaw

The Pack currently has 28 Cubs (5 girls, 23 boys), with 5 Leaders and 2 more under training. We've had a very active programme this year, successfully running two Cub-only camps for the first time in many years. We've had an action-packed weekend at Woodhouse doing abseiling, the adventure course and crate-stacking and have just returned from a canoeing and kayaking weekend where those attending earned their 'Paddle Power' starter certificates.

We are continuing the outdoors theme this term and will be joining the Scouts on their next camp as well as the canoeing trip. We also have an outdoor-focussed general weekday programme for the rest of the summer term.

Beavers – Sue Baker

We are currently running with 25 children, 21 boys and 4 girls. We are very lucky to have 10 Leaders and 4 Young Leaders but this number of Leaders is needed given some very challenging behaviour from the Beavers at times.

This term we are doing the Faith, Space Activity, Navigator, and Communicator badges. Some of these are fairly new to the programme and haven't been done before.

Since the introduction of the new badges, we have struggled to get any Beavers to complete the 'Chief Scout Bronze' badge so were really pleased to award one last term and we hope to award a few more this term. It is a lot harder to achieve than it used to be!

We have just completed a sleepover at Olveston, with another at Woodhouse planned for December. Beavers are no longer restricted to a 24 hour sleepover now and can also sleep under canvas.... so watch this space.

This term we are finishing up with lots of outdoor activities, a Hike, a games night at '40 acres', a summer party and a joint night at Woodhouse with a water gun fight and a campfire. The summer break will be very welcome 😊