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

## REPORT TO GROUP ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, JUNE 2018

### 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 so it was really exciting that we were able this past year to re-open the 2nd Beaver colony, and plans are under way to re-open the 2nd Cub pack this Autumn. Both were reluctantly closed a few years ago when Leader numbers dropped below sustainable levels. Fingers crossed that this time both sections are back 'for keeps'.

The past few months have seen significant effort (most of it by Chris Smith, our hard-working Secretary) to ensure that we are compliant with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) which went live in May. The fact that the Group has in recent years become a major user of Online Scout Manager, with relatively little data held on paper, is a big help on this front. A document setting out the Group's position on GDPR has been published on our website, and parents and adult leaders/helpers have all been asked to acknowledge our approach to management of personal data. I am extremely grateful for Chris's hard work on GDPR.

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 – Jenny Webb, Treasurer

The figures below from the 2017/18 and 2016/2017 accounts show that the Group's finances are healthy. They indicate that we achieved a very significant surplus (£3174) in year, but this is misleading as a large proportion is due to income (payments) received for camps (Brownsea and Cyprus) for which the expenditure lies in the future. The auditor has recommended that we establish a 2nd bank account for camp etc. income and expenditure (which would be subject to separate audit) to create a clearer view of the Group's core finances. I agree that would make sense and GoCardless (through which most payments are received) can accommodate multiple accounts. **I recommend therefore that the AGM endorses opening a 2nd Group account.**

I have also discussed with the auditor a change to our financial year to bring it into line with the academic year. That would mean that we end up with another set of accounts and AGM this Autumn. Scout rules do not prescribe the financial year and **I recommend that the AGM endorses aligning our financial year with the Academic year**

A significant, and new, feature in last year's accounts was the Defibrillator, which was installed on the wall of the OSR after a major fundraising effort led by Phelpsie. He raised more funds than were needed, and the surplus (£2471) is held in our account for eventual replacement of the defib. That is several years into the future, and there has been no spending this year.

The end year position regarding assets (£21217) overstates the Group's financial strength, as it includes the surplus defibrillator funds (£2471) mentioned above, the significant accumulated fundraising for the Cyprus camp (£7858), and the advance payments for Brownsea and Cyprus camps. Removing these would cut the total by over half. The balance though still comfortably exceeds the Group's reserves policy which calls for ~1/3 of underlying annual running costs.

Within the details of the accounts, there is little to highlight in the income section.

- The lack of Gift Aid is because the claim (£2260) has only just been submitted.
- Subscriptions income was slightly up on last year, though the formation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Beaver colony came too late to have any material impact here.
- Camp contributions are up, mainly because we are now taking payments for Cyprus.
- BBQ income was well down because last year's Stoke Gifford Fete was a wash out.
- Receipts for activities/merchandise are up, mostly reflecting the purchase of hoodies.

On expenditure, most headings reflect very similar outgoings to last year.

- BBQ costs were up because when the Stoke Gifford fete was cancelled we purchased the still frozen food for future use (to avoid waste and help the Fete Committee offset their losses). Unfortunately, several weeks later, the food was wasted anyway when someone mistakenly turned off power to the freezer – a pity, but accidents do happen.
- Camp expenditure was down, mostly because last year's accounts reflect contribution from accumulated reserves towards the cost of the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Camp at Youlbury
- 'Other' costs are up, mostly reflecting the hoodies which were sold to Group members.

#### Financial summary

<u>Receipts/Debits</u>	<u>2017/18</u>	<u>2016/17</u>
Receipts (Group)	21028	22554
Payments (Group)	17854	22269
Net balance for year	+3174	+286
Receipts (Defibrillator)	0	6061
Payments (Defibrillator)	0	3590
Net balance for year	+3174	+2471
<u>Monetary assets</u>		
Bank Account	20805	17760
Cash in Hand	412	245
	21217	18005
Inc reserved funds (defib)	2471	2471
<u>Income (excluding defibrillator)</u>		
Gift Aid	0	2135
Subscriptions	12802	12229
Camp contributions	5470	4164
BBQ Takings	1186	1930
Donations/Fundraising	635	1307
Contributions towards activities	935	788
<u>Outgoings (excluding defibrillator)</u>		
Rent	3003	3700
Capitation to district	4428	4633
Insurance	192	183
Consumables	34	80
Equipment	723	983
Activities	3747	3798
Leader training	128	108
Leader's Uniforms	27	170
Manuals/Badges	1683	1762
BBQ costs	687	386
Camp costs	1849	6020
Other	1352	531

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

We are lucky to have a very strong leadership team which has this year grown to 30 Adult Leaders, Scouts 12, Cubs 7 Beavers 12 this includes 6 new leaders, Jackie Garde-Evans, George Phelps, Jess Peacey, Stephen Edwards, Ant Miles and Lauren Baker. This will mean that our training advisors (TA's) are kept busy, but fortunately we have three; Marcus Booth, Chris Smith and myself.

We have several leaders who have been awarded achievement and long service awards over the last few months. All sections are undertaking very active programmes and will be attending various Group camps at Botany Bay in May and Brownsea Island in July.

We have very good numbers of young people in all sections. With approximately 110 young people attending on a weekly basis.

Having re-established our 2<sup>nd</sup> Beaver colony during the year, after a gap of several years, our next Challenge is to form a 2<sup>nd</sup> Cub pack this September. There are 25 young people of Cub age currently on the waiting list so restarting the pack can't come a moment too soon.

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**

At present we have 28 young people, being 23 boys and 5 girls, with two due to move on to Explorers at the end of this term. Leaders wise we have Marcus, Kathie, Oscar, Peter, Chris, Laura (awaiting her news on the RAF placement) and Steve, and we have finally been joined by Em, who seems to want to finish her day job of teaching Science to teenagers ....by working with teenagers! We are hopeful also that Michele may be re-joining us in September.

As ever we have a busy programme, including pioneering, rifle shooting, litter-picking, volunteering, cycling/ orienteering, visit to Concorde and the Police Station, some cricket coaching and ending the term with a train ride into Bristol and a treasure hunt. We had a great evening with the OSR Scouts with a presentation on plastics in the sea and they joined us for some tent-sorting early May.

Camps booked, include Botany Bay in May with all the other sections (activities included canoeing, hiking, orienteering and fire lighting and Chris Grattidge did his 'Nights Away' permit). We then go to Brownsea in the Summer, and in September to Woodhouse Park for some fun activities. We're hoping to be joined by the Guides and the all sections.

We have been able to give out a wide range of badges, including Air Spotters, Community Activity, various Challenge badges and the camp in May resulted in lots of water-based badges.

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

At present we have 7 adult leaders, 3 young leaders and several parent helpers. We have 29 scouts (15 girls and 14 boys) attending regularly and engaged in a busy activity programme.

So far in the Summer term we have had a creative evening with the SS Great Britain educational box. Anne Baker came and gave us (in what was a joint event with the School Troop) an interesting presentation on the Expedition she was involved in, and plastics in our oceans, a big talking point worldwide at present. We've done Dragon boat racing in Saltford, and participated in a clean-up around Stoke Gifford as part of South Glos Big Clean month. Other highlights include a visit to the circus in Saltford, fishing in Winterbourne, orienteering at Ashton Court and the Group Camp at Botany Bay. The troop have just completed a cycle maintenance evening with help from South Glos 'Bikeability', followed by a 40km cycle ride with

one of the Bikeability instructors. Well done to all involved. The Group website provides more details of the range of activity that we take part in.

Our troop camp to Dhekelia in Cyprus is gaining pace with flights booked and 10 adults and 16 Scouts signed up. I have done a recce of the site and was pleased to see that the electricity, showers and washrooms have been upgraded. It was 28 degrees this Easter; hopefully it will be warm for our visit in Easter 2019.

We have 3 gold awards to present at the end of term and hope to invite the County Commissioner or his deputy to make the presentations

#### Cubs – Carl Shaw

Currently running with 28 young people and 8 leaders. This term has included a sleepover at soft play and the scientist badge.

#### Beavers – Monday - Sue Baker

Running with 26 children at the moment, 6 of which are girls, and benefitting from 9 Leaders (though work commitments mean that not all are present every week). 6 children move on to cubs this term.

We've a busy programme of activities and badges this term including climbing at Woodhouse, a Hike, a visit to Pets at Home and a golf lesson at Bristol Golf Club. 15 attended the joint camp at Botany Bay in May and we are hoping to organise another sleepover later in the year.

#### Beavers – Wednesday – Andrew Porteous

Currently running with 13 youth members and 3 leaders.

This term has included looking at Beavers across the world and cooking. This term we have looked at various cooking techniques including kitchen safety and cleanliness. Whilst looking at Beaver types around the world we have begun a pen pal scheme with a group in Canada and are opening up a communication link to which we have created a section email account. We have also had three of our oldest beavers promoted to lodge leaders and they are on their way to complete their Chief Scout Bronze award by Christmas 2018.