

1st Cobham Scouts AGM
Wednesday 4th July 2018
HQ Scout Hut, 7.00pm

Attendees:	
Helen Amys	Beaver Leader
Nathan Menke	Scout Leader
Pat Berton	Group Chair
Jon Bell	Group Scout Leader
Anita Snell	Hut Bookings Manager
Rachael Miller	Group Secretary
Debbie Coles	Fund Raiser
Barry Hutchins	Finance Audit (part attendance)
Hugh Gostling	Esher District Commissioner
Sue Hoad	Assistant District Commissioner (Cubs)

Plus Assistant Leaders and parents

Apologies:

Alyson Menke, Cub Scout Leader

Lisa van Koetsveld, Group Treasurer

Dylan King, Assistant Scout Leader

1. Welcome by the Chair, Pat Berton

Welcome to everyone who has joined us this evening. We appreciate you making the time to attend.

2. Chairman's Statement

Welcome on behalf of the committee to all our parents, scouts and to Hugh Gostling and Sue Hoad from the Esher District. I am pleased to report on the year 2017 on behalf of 1st Cobham Scouts. The year started with a tough challenge as Alyson our long serving Cubs Leader very professionally gave a full 1 year's notice of her intention to stand down after approx. 20 years' service, 15 as cubs leader. Alyson has been in poor health especially in the last two months. She has a cancer, but has embarked on a treatment plan that will take 3-6 months. No doubt she will battle through in typically indomitable fashion, and will be involved in the Group once again once fully recovered; our thoughts

are with her and her family at this difficult time. Replacing her has been a major and time-consuming task but one I'm pleased to report we have nearly completed and Jon will tell you more about this in a minute. So 2017 was another encouraging year as the Group continued to consolidate and move forward, and 2018 has so far continued in the same vein.

What do we do here? Our mission is to deliver the benefits of Scouting to children and young people in Cobham through three flourishing Sections at Scout, Cub and Beaver level, offering a wide and varied range of activities in a safe and well managed environment. The waiting lists we have in Cubs and Beavers are testament to the tremendous appeal of the Scout Movement and its ability to teach children and youngsters so much that will be value in later life - as well as providing a hell of a lot of fun to all involved. Having fun - that brings me to one highlight moment in 2017 which I shall remember – a quiet ceremony at the hut one Sunday afternoon to remember Peter Amys who made such a contribution to the revival of 1st Cobham in recent years. We had cups of tea and unveiled the brass relief of Peter that you can see over there on the wall. Peter's mantra was "If it isn't fun it isn't scouting!"

I would like to thank Jon Bell for his committed work as Group Scout Leader in taking some of the load off the other uniformed Leaders, for his active assistance to the sections, operating behind the scenes in liaising with the Esher District, and for helping with much administration especially on leaders and recruitment. Nathan leads the scouts, Alyson Menke I've mentioned has continued for her last full year as our Cubs Akela, and Helen Amys, likewise, Leader of the Beaver colony. This is the heart of the Group with a terrific appetite for delivering scouting and it is great to have such committed Leaders at all levels and especially to see new Leaders such as Nathan come through in the last year or two.

They are well backed by our Executive Committee. The Committee has in the main been together for several years now but we have welcomed Rachel Miller a parent who has taken over as Group Secretary. Rachel is a high powered Digital Development Director. Anita Snell has continued to carefully look after the hut facilities and manages the bookings and hiring out of the Scout Hut. Lisa van Koetsveld has once again continued as our Group Treasurer and manages the finances very smoothly, juggling her family and work commitments to make it to the meetings. Debbie Coles agreed to return to assist in our fundraising for a further period.

Once again it is fair to say that the Group's finances and establishment remains sound as we enjoy solid income from membership subscriptions and continue to rent out the Hut to a number of local organisations during the week. This enabled us in 2017 once again to fulfil all the Leaders' plans and requests for necessary kit as well as improvements.

What do we need to spend our funds on? We have done in 2017 a significant refit of the garage and storage area. We need to replace the tents and we're shortly going to do that.

What's coming up? First, financial – to make sure that these outlays do not result in our reserve cushion being eroded we will look to support Debbie and the executive with some additional fund raising help and we need to develop this in 2018/19 -if you would like to get involved please let us know . Second, administrative – we are making the Group GDPR compliant and aim to communicate with you better in the future . Third, the shop window- we also need to revamp our rather sleepy website which ought to be a better marketing tool.

We continue to take due care and attention to risk management and risk assessment has been an ongoing concern, as health and safety is taken very seriously by the Group.

1st Cobham continued to be involved in the local community in a number of ways, for example running stalls and activities at Cobham Heritage Day and the Christmas Extravaganza and Parade. The Santa's Grotto in Farrant's was a particular highlight and was an incredible effort by Alyson and her team. We once again supported the Remembrance Sunday Parade and service and the 2017 St George's day parade.

Lastly, that brings me to thanks to, and recognition of, you as our parents, for two things: first, entrusting your children to the Group and thereby ensuring the continued existence of the whole enterprise; and second, for supporting the activities as you so often do when we ask.

3. Financial Status. Barry Hitchens , Auditor,covering Lisa van Koetsveld, Group Treasurer .

Started the year with about £14,500 and ended up £14,000 with a £500 drop.

We have a good solid set of reserves. The way the money is collected and spent the hut costs about £8k a year to run. Money raised by hut rental generates half of this sum and the other half from fundraising and subs.

Regarding Subs – part goes to central office for insurance and part of the subs contributions also help to subsidise group activities. Some activities require additional funding, as they are expensive.

As a local group, we are in a good financial position. Our biggest cost is the hut. If anything untoward was to happen to the hut (that requires major repairs) there is not

enough money coming in to support a large cost right now so this needs consideration in the future.

The Scout hut is owned by the Scout Association and is managed by the 1st Cobham Scout Group Executive Committee, on behalf of the Scout Association, who act as trustees. The use of the building is primarily for Scouting purposes, but other activities can be carried out to provide income.

4. Annual reports from the GSL and Scout Leaders:

Jon Bell - Group Scout Leader

Initially let me say that I am finding it impossible to talk just about 2017 as we are already halfway through 2018 and about to make significant changes in the group.

The year started normally and through the winter and spring terms we had a stable period. All sections were running smoothly, as I'm sure you will hear in the section reports and waiting lists, were being managed.

Group activities included the St Georges Day Parade held at Oxshott in 2017 and the Remembrance Day parade in November in Cobham

This year in April Cobham hosted the St Georges Day parade at St Andrews which was a very successful occasion with several hundred members parading through Cobham in support of Scouting. A good witness to the local community.

However during the summer 2017 break Alyson Menke said she was stepping down from the role of Cub Leader. She has been the Akala at 1st Cobham since Oct 2002 and probably involved before that. She has no wish to sever her involvement with 1st Cobham and I hope will be involved for many years to come.

Following her resignation, the leadership and executive have worked hard to find a replacement. Finding a single person to replace Aly was an impossible but we have managed to develop a team to take over in the Autumn. Jason Sparks whom many of you will already know has volunteered to take over as Akala and we have signed up 4 further 'volunteers' to support him; Asha Quin, Colin Wilkinson, Derek Elsley and Kate Rea. Between them we hope the Cub pack will continue to run as successfully as it did under Alyson's leadership.

Sadly, Aly has not been well over the last couple of months, but the cub pack has continued to run efficiently thanks to the support given by Rachael, Klaus, Nathan and the other scout leaders. The decision to run Scouts on the same night as Cubs has helped this situation and as we progress into the new leadership team in the Autumn this will help the new team 'bed in'.

Rachael, who is currently part of the Cub leadership will be transferring to Scouts to support Nathan, Dylan and Juliet.

Within Beavers Helen continues as leader and we hope will be joined by Brian Amys as an ABSL (assistant Beaver Scout Leader) in the Autumn. We are still looking to expand the Beaver Leadership team to support Helen and Brian Amys

The scout Leadership is still stable with Nathan, Dylan and Juliet and with the addition of Rachael's support is adequate for the present.

We recognise that nobody can remain a leader for ever and continue to look for volunteers both from within the organisation (parents, past members etc) and also from the wider community.

Needless to say we are grateful to and continue to rely on parents to support activities and events. The parent rota used in cubs has also helped the pack run smoothly through the summer

One big change with the way we organise and manage data we hold on the group members is the introduction of GDPR. As a result, we will be migrating membership data to a system called Online Scout Manager which is GDPR compliant. We will be sending out a letter shortly to let you know how we will manage your data in detail.

As GSL I also need to say a big thankyou to the executive headed up by Pat who have been extremely supportive of the changes in the leadership team and continue to help us maintain 1st Cobham as a successful group.

Rachel McArthur :Cubs section

The Cubs section has continued to be busy with an average of 20 cubs all year. This success is very much due to the continued support of Balloo (Klaus) and Shere Kahn (Rachel) who turn up every week to help and all the parents who continue to support the Parent Rota.

We have also had the help of Seb, who was completing his Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Level.

Silver Scout Awards - Nico, Isaac, Kara, Bethany, Daniel A, Carlos, Alexandra and Ruby all earned their award and moved on to Scouts this year.

Completed Activities

We had a busy start to the year with Firework Night, raising over £300 with our night hike ramble for Children In Need, Remembrance Day Parade, Wardening at Polyapes for our Oktoberfest family day and our annual panto at Guildford (54 came).

This year cubs completed map reading, scientist and DIY badges also Personal, Road and Home Safety and Emergency Aid. As well as nights away and many other badges completed outside the group in clubs and at home.

In spring we again hosted the Pinewood Derby with over 80 Cubs from the district racing their cars. This is only made possible because of the support of St Andrew's School

allowing us to use their sports hall. Easter was again celebrated with a hunt around Walton Firs with the scouts.

The summer term saw 10 cubs join the rest of the district at the Annual Camp. A big thank you goes to Nathan for stepping in, when Akela couldn't, which allowed the cubs to go to camp. We also took part in the Guinness Book of Records attempt at a Bottle Boat Challenge highlighting plastic pollution.

Community Events – What we support

Heritage Day – We again had a successful Heritage Day with over 50 entries for the Children's Horticultural Event. The society agreed to pay for a "Badge Making Machine," that can also be used for other events, and we designed the attached badge for all entrants. . Daniel Phillips (Cub) won the Peter Amys Trophy for his scarecrow.

Cobham Parade of Lights – We had a very successful lantern parade and grotto. Over 200 children and adults enjoyed a dry evening and the big builds were fantastic. Especially Nathan's ship!

St Andrews Summer Fete – Although this was a great success for Nathan and the team using our new equipment, rain stopped the full enjoyment of the Archery.

Fundraising Events

Selling drinks and treats at Pinewood Derby.

Pitching Marquee at St Andrew's Summer Fair.

Selling Jams and Chutneys at Heritage Day and St Andrew's Christmas Fair.

Cobham Parade – Santa's Grotto

Private Booking – Santa's Grotto (with Scouts)

Helen Amys : Beavers Section Report

Since the beginning of 2017, Beaver numbers have remained consistently between 26 to 28. 9 Beavers have moved up to Cubs 9 Beavers have left for various reasons and we have had 23 news ones start over the last year.

Highlights of the summer term last year included an evening at St Andrews school to clear the rubbish from the field as part of the Beaver Challenge My World badge. Other evenings included First Aid, sand sculptures, box stacking and following a trail, all of which contribute towards various Challenge badges. The main event of the term was the Beaver District Summer party at Polyapes, 11 Beavers went and had a fun day out.

Autumn term 2017 started with various activities including an obstacle course, leaf printing, tent pitching, a mime evening, den building and the highlight a visit from Pets for Therapy which was a visit from Louise and her dog Hobby who visit various places to help people recover. The term ended with the usual party.

2018 started with a very full colony of 26, we still have an all-girls lodge which proved very successful (they are very competitive against the boys!!). More Challenge badge activities and the highlight of this term was the annual Beaver District Party at Hinchley Wood school. 16 Beavers attended the theme this year was the Greek Myths and was a very successful day.

So far, this summer term we have had St George's day parade, here in Cobham, about half the colony attended and Father Jonathan did us proud. More Challenge badge activities but the two main events of this term have to have been the visit to the Fire station a couple of Mondays ago where all the Beavers got the chance to spray with the big water hose and the Triennial Bazzaz event a couple of Saturday's ago. We had 12 Beavers attend and there were a wide variety of activities based around the pirate theme. A very hot and fun day. Only lost (and regained) one Beaver sweatshirt. We will finish the term with the usual party next week.

Finally my thanks go firstly to Brian who assists me ably as my acting Assistant Beaver Leader (straight after this AGM he is going for his interview as part of becoming a leader), secondly to all the parents who without your help, we would not be able to do a lot of what we manage to do- thank you, and thirdly a big thank you goes to Matt O Donoghue who has come along for the last 6 months to volunteer with us. He will leave us next week as he goes off to become a Cadet with the Merchant Navy to study Oceanography. We wish him well.

Nathan Menke : Scout section report

The Scout group has once again been full of change, taking on new scouts, experiencing an average 12 scouts year round. Our success has only been possible through the support of Akela, Dylan, Juliet and Rachel, without whom many evenings and events would not have been possible. We will be expanding our leadership over the summer holidays to account for all the activities we have planned.

Completed Activities:

This past year we have participated in a variety of activities and link events with the cub group. The Scouts have completed 6 activity and 3 staged badges. We have also completed 2 challenge awards and have worked towards several others.

In the autumn, we had a productive term, powering through a great portion of our garage to clear the junk and sort the equipment into catalogued stores. Then, after a hard few weeks work, the leaders constructed our yearly treat, THE PIONEERING CHALLENGE! The leaders (not just myself this year!) spent a whole afternoon constructing a pioneering obstacle course through the hut, all the way into the rafters. There were rope swings, Jacob's ladder, swinging obstacles and much more! I'm sure the scouts are already looking forward to this project again.

Strangely enough, the scout leaders enjoyed a quiet evening up at the fireworks night, impressively not blowing ourselves up a single time, much to the disappointment of all the cubs and scouts, I am sure.

We ended the year with a fantastic lantern parade display at Cobham Parade of Lights and Christmas Panto.

In spring, we began to enjoy the year's weather, just dodging the rain, with a lovely hike across Box Hill. The scout team of 5 guided us without incident, and with confidence through the journey. Maybe they will be up for the hike competition this year coming.

The highlight of our spring, without a doubt, was the caving! Throwing 9 scouts down a hole while the leaders drink tea was brilliant! The scouts had fun too though, crawling their way through mud and water to see the depths of the caves, seeing stalactites, stalagmites and fully mined caving wonders.

As we all know our summer term has been a little hectic, but we've still managed to complete the local knowledge badge, get a whole day of archery in and all participate in the yearly swim and the Guinness Book of Records Boating Challenge.

5. Fund Raising (Report submitted by Debbie Coles)

As in 2017, our fundraising efforts have been modest during the last year – we raised £1628.22 from activities throughout 2017, a similar amount to 2016.

We have continued to support the group in the background and the funds raised help to pay for various activities and minor maintenance and repairs to the hut throughout the year.

Following on from the garage roof repairs in 2016, we have now replaced the garage doors in 2017, so the storage area is dry and secure. Storage shelving and new camping equipment will be purchased in 2018.

The funds raised have come from several regular activities throughout the year, in particular our jam and chutney sales at various fetes and activities including Heritage Day and St Andrews Christmas Fair, hire of the Scout mess tent to St Andrews for their summer fete, and Santa's Grotto supported by Farrants as part of the Festival of Lights.

As always – if any parents are able to help or have ideas for fundraising we would love to hear from you! This could be for a one off project, or a donation, or perhaps your company could help us in some way. If you are interested, please contact Debbie on 07817 646544 or by email Debbie.coles@party-point.co.uk

6. Election of officers and the committee

Function	Person	Nominated by	Seconded by
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Chair	Pat	John	Colin
Secretary	Rachael	Pat	Helen
Treasurer	Lisa	Pat	Debbie
Bookings	Anita	Pat	Jason
Auditor	Barry Hitchens	Pat	John
Fund Raiser	Debbie	Pat	Rachael

Seconded shown by the raising of a hand.

7. District Commissioner Report by Hugh Gostling

Scouting strapline is changing. Learning by Doing – now Skills for Life.

A new strategy is coming down to the group- the 4 P's –

1. Places (One group within Esher District has no formal location they have to use a church hall for meetings). Cobham very lucky to have the headquarters here in Cobham. We are lucky to have heating and a well-managed hut.
2. People – the children and family.
3. Programme – we must deliver a good programme so that we get the people involved
4. Perception – community activities and being in the community. Making Cobham aware that Scouting is on the map in Cobham.

8. Actions:

Section Leaders to e-mail last year's minutes to parents for approval

Section Leaders to e-mail this year's minutes to parents for approval

If no response received by the end of August 2018, it will be assumed the minutes have been agreed

9. Date of next meeting

To be set by the exec when reconvened in the autumn.

Meeting closed 20:00hrs.