

**1st Cobham Scouts AGM
Wednesday 15th May 2019
HQ Scout Hut, 7.00pm**

Attendees:	
Helen Amys	Beaver Leader
Nathan Menke	Scout Leader
Jason Sparks	Cub Leader
Pat Berton	Group Chair
Jon Bell	Group Scout Leader
Anita Snell	Hall and Bookings Manager
Rachael Miller	Group Secretary
Debbie Coles	Fund Raiser
Lisa van Koetsveld	Group Treasurer
Andrew Burns	Esher District Deputy commissioner
Harry Jones	District Chair

Plus Assistant Leaders and parents

1. Welcome by the Chair, Pat Berton

Welcome on behalf of the exec committee to all our parents, scouts and to Andrew Burns Deputy Commissioner of Esher District, and Harry Jones, District Chair. I am pleased to introduce the meeting and report on the year 2018.

2. Chairman's Statement

Last year was another one of challenge for 1st Cobham and yet one of development and consolidation. There have been challenges, there has been a lot of sadness but a lot of progress. We have waiting lists in our Beavers and Cubs sections, we have had growth in our teams of uniformed leaders, I would like to thank them all, in particular Jon Bell our Group Scout Leader. Jon has been Group Scout Leader since 2011 and has supported and backed the other uniformed Leaders, actively offering assistance to the sections, operating behind the scenes in liaising with the Esher District, and for helping with much administration required to bring on new leaders and other volunteers. I'm going to hand to Jon in a minute or two for him to report to you in detail on these matters.

The Chair's specific responsibility is the smooth functioning of the Executive which stands behind supporting the Leaders and the scouting, acting as a board of trustees, looking after the fixtures and fittings of the establishment, the governance and the financial reporting and fundraising. So let me introduce them, the "civilian" or non-uniformed members of the Executive, to those of you who may not know them already: Rachael Miller, a Cubs current parent, our Hon Sec; Anita Snell is our Hall and Bookings manager, she has continued to carefully look after the hut facilities sorting out the cleaning, manages the bookings and hiring out of the Scout hut. Lisa van Koetsveld has once again continued as our Group Treasurer, sorting the books, and juggling her other commitments. Debbie Coles is our brilliant Fundraiser, she helps the group in so many other ways too.

The Group's finances and establishment remains sound – more on this from Lisa in a moment. This stability meant that in 2018 once again we could fulfil all the Leaders' plans and requests for necessary kit as well as improvements to the establishment : in 2019 we have a new boiler on the way this summer holidays, and hopefully before then we will have paved over the grassy area behind the dropped kerb enabling some parking in the garden and better access to the hall. We're also investing in new tents and also new racking in the storage area.

What's coming up? First, financial – to make sure that these and other inevitable future outlays which will be required as we grow the group do not result in our reserve cushion being eroded we would like to support Debbie with some additional fund raising help and we need to develop this in 2019/20 - if you would like to get involved please let us know. Also, we would like to continue the project of developing the website, and we would welcome some help with building the site and then once it is to an adequate standard, regularly adding updates.

We continue to take due care and attention to risk management and risk assessment has been an ongoing concern, as the health and safety of the children 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 St Andrews School Christmas and summer fairs, Cobham Heritage Day and the Christmas Extravaganza and Parade and Jon and the leaders will give you more information on this.

That brings us to thank and recognise 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 often do when we ask.

We have a precious tradition here in Cobham as a very long established Scout Group of nearly 109 years' standing. You can see from the Memories Books on the tables in front of you what a lot of effort has gone into 1st Cobham over the years. And what a lot of good times have been had. Please have a look but do not remove these.

There are some wonderful stories in the book, “the writing and researching in itself was a story in 2010” when Alyson Menke took it on as part of the Group’s Centenary in 2010.

The foundation of the group by a vigorous young curate in charge of Hatchford Church and Downside parish, being inspired by “B-P” at one of many camps he held to promote scouting, - and passing on his enthusiasm to another young local man named Edward Cripps, aged 24 ; the camps and expeditions down the decades; the building of this hall in 1959-60 mostly by volunteer efforts; the many memorable characters over the years; our centenary celebrations, with wonderful displays and activities run in 2010. It is truly a great story and there are many more years to come!

Note: Action agreed - last year’s minutes have been approved

3. Financial Status. Lisa van Koetsveld, Group Treasurer .

Receipts and payments summary. Throughout the year we started with £13,000, the money we had in was £12,000 and we spent £10,000 and at the end of the year we had £15,000.

Money came in from subs, less what we paid District. Property rent was £4,000, money from parents was £1,000 and fundraising is £3,000. This will differ to Debbie’s report and there are always accrual’s and timing differences. Spent less on utilities as we had a large rebate. We spent money on boiler repairs and similar and we spent £3,000 on activities. We spent £200 on training and we bought a new gazebo, cupboard and some archery equipment.

Harry Jones EDC – advised that we should build more of a reserve fund. He advised that we could charge more. The new Esher District is charging £45 per term. Oxshott charge £15 per month. Claygate is £50 a term so we are very cheap in comparison.

We have 3 or 4 sources of income but it would be good to have more funds built up. We are mindful that the subs level is part of the equation. Other groups run a hardship fund so that people can afford it pay the general fee but that there is the hardship fund which helps include those that are on low incomes.

4. Annual reports from the GSL and Scout Leaders:

Jon Bell - Group Scout Leader

2018 started in the full knowledge that Alyson Menke, Cub Akela was standing down in the summer. As most of you are aware, we have managed through hard work and lots of support to find a team to replace her and Jason Sparks took over as Akela from the Autumn term of 2018. He is ably supported by Colin Wilkinson, Derek Elsley, Asha Quin and Kate Rea all of whom bring their own skills and knowledge to the group. We are

currently in process of adding to the team with Andrew Dickson looking to become an Assistant Cub Scout Leader (ACSL).

The Scout troop has continued under the leadership of Nathan Menke, he is supported by Dylan King and Rachael MacArthur who has moved up from cubs.

The beaver leadership team of Helen and Brian has been added to with the addition of Lisa Townsend as an ABSL.

We also have several non-uniformed helpers ('Occasional Helpers' in Scouting parlance) supporting all three sections in addition to support from parents when requested by the leaders. Needless to say, we are grateful to and continue to rely on parents to support activities and events as requested by the leaders.

All sections continue to run successfully and with some difficulty we are managing the waiting lists we have for new starters.

Detailed reports will follow from the section leaders.

2018 saw Cobham's turn to host the annual St Georges day parade with involvement from Claygate, Hinchley Wood and Oxshott. The event went well with several hundred members parading through Cobham in support of Scouting. A good witness to the local community. Additionally, the group too part in the Remembrance Day parade in November in Cobham. Into 2019 we have already passed St Georges Day, this year held at Claygate with a good turnout from all sections.

Whilst we currently have adequate leadership within the 3 sections, we are continually looking for more people to support on a regular basis. Esher District have recently been running a series of meetings called 'Grow your Group'. These meetings are designed to show how to and help support groups in finding new adult members. The approach has been successfully carried out in Esher where a new group, 3rd Esher has recently been formed. We have certainly used some of the methods over the last year and have been successful in that we have found new leadership both from existing parents and from outside the group. However, we recognise that this is an ongoing process and continue to look for volunteers both from with the organisation (parents, past members etc) and from the wider community.

The Scout movement is GDPR compliant and with significant support from Kate Rea in formatting our policy and now Dianne O'Donoghue in entering members' data onto 'Online Scout Manager', an online system that allows us to maintain GDPR

compliance and keep an up to date record of members. It is important that the information we hold is up to date and with that in mind we will be asking you to regularly check and update as required the information we hold.

Lisa and Debbie will be updating you on our financial position but at this stage I would like to say that we are reviewing section subscriptions, our last increase was in January 2015 and with the continuing increase of running costs together with necessary

updating of the headquarters we will be looking at increasing subscriptions for next year.

As stated earlier Alyson Menke stood down from Cub leadership in July and was intending to continue her involvement with the group in a community liaison role. We had an Xmas social where we formally said thank you to Aly for her support to the group in various roles but mainly as Akela over the last 20 years. Her death in January came as great shock to the group and it was good to see significant support from members both adult and youth at her funeral. The Scouting Association had awarded her a 'Commissioners Commendation Award' which read :- "In recognition Alys many years of dedicated service to scouting as a supporter and cub scout leader at 1st Cobham Scout Group. Alsyon provided an example to all the cubs for whom she was Akela by actively participating in and helping organise district events especially the famous Pinewood Derby and by ensuring 1st Cobham Cubs were involved in local community events"

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.

In concluding I have to say that I am looking to stand down from my role as Group Scout Leader at the end the summer. It is with regret that I am taking this decision as I have enjoyed being part of Cobham Scouts since around 2006, first as a scout section leader under Pete Amys then as GSL from 2011. I had previously been involved with Horsley scouts since 1988. However, moving to Bookham in 2015 together with other commitments has made it difficult for me to continue in this role here in Cobham.

Pat stepped in to thank Jon for all his work and contribution over the years and handed jon a gift from the group.

Nathan Menke : Scout section report

The Scout group has grown to the comfortable number of 16 scouts. Our success has only been possible through the support of Nathan, Dylan, Liz and Rachel, without whom many evenings and events wouldn't have been possible.

Completed Activities

This past year we have been asking advantage of our leader's qualifications in both archery and air rifle shooting, having many great nights up the hut. Our scouts have been achieving 7 activity badges (depending on activities) and working towards 4 Challenge Awards, which will be completed within the next few months of work.

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, getting involved in the District cooking competition, where we came 5th in the district.

We ended the year with a fantastic bag packing event and 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 great District Day Hike where, if not for the fact that our group gave up on questions, we would have come 1st/2nd!! Unfortunately, as it turned out, we came 7th! However, the scout team of 5 guided us without incident, and with confidence through the journey. Maybe they'll be up for making a competition team for the hike next year.

The highlight of our spring, and recent term times, has been taking advantage of our qualifications, taking some time away from badges to really delve into our District competitions, and just getting stuck into as many group activities as we can, like Shooting, archery, hiking, cooking.

As we all know our summer term will be cumulating into our District Camp, where we will all be camping together, and the completion of 3 Challenge awards. It's a full term ahead, and we can't wait to get stuck in!!

Jason Sparks :Cubs section

I had to step into very big boots' from Aly's tenure. Lucky to have a team around me, in order to run a Wednesday meeting with the children it takes a lot of admin to support the Wednesday session. Without the team support I wouldn't be able to run the group.

Group size does have some minor flux as kids come and go and move to Scouts, on average the group size is approximately 20-25 cubs on average. There is a regular rotation of Sixers and Seconders to help manage the process and get them ready for Scouts. Derek one of our leaders has a lot of experience from the building industry and this comes with extensive experience on fire safety etc. and Derek was a massive help for Backwards Cooking and Fire Badges. We had the fire brigade in and this was week 3, master fireman he had the group hanging on his every word. We learnt a lot about how to control the kids. We had the bonfire night, Cobham Extravaganza, bag packing at Waitrose which we will look to repeat this year. That was the first time. Went in a flash. This year we did personnel safety badge, cook badge sponsored by Domino's pizza in Cobham. We managed to get all the kids down there, pizza made and back to the hut in 1.5hrs. Day hike recently. More focus on Staged Activity badges this year. Hike with Oxshott unit. Took the cubs on a night hike – it's a very environment for the kids as everything changes at night. Walking/ map reading etc. Everyone loved it and everyone was out of the comfort zone – lots of learning. Leigh Hill is a common spot to take the group outside just like Bear Grylls. We will always seek to be outside if possible. Recommend "You v Wild" programme, helps make the children think about choices and good decisions. Tonight we did an Emergency Aid stage 2 and they had impressive answers to our questions about what they would do in an emergency. More badges for

this last term. Aiming for 7 if we can. Camp to look forward to which is new to me and the team – will be exciting for all.

Helen Amys : Beavers Section Report

At the end of the Summer term 2018, the Beaver colony had 24 Beavers of which 4 were girls. 6 had moved up to Cubs that term, 2 had left and 2 new ones had started. At the end of term, we introduced our new Mascot - a bear wearing our 1st Cobham scarf whom the Beavers named Liam. The idea is that each week a Beaver gets to take Liam home and look after him till the next meeting.

At the start of the Autumn term 2018, the Colony was growing and by the end of the term we had 29 Beavers, now including 6 girls. Over the term 7 moved up to Cubs and 9 new ones started, one of whom came accompanied by his father who is now an adult helper!! Challenge badge activities continued and the highlight of those was a walk over to Leigh Hill to complete a nature quiz. Other activities include an apple evening, bonfire night and an evening of activities from other countries which included making African drums and writing Egyptian Hieroglyphics!! We also welcomed Edgar who came to do his Duke of Edinburgh Bronze volunteering with us and more particularly Lisa Townsend, who saw all the posters about Cub leaders and came to get involved with Beavers!!

2019 started with again with 29 Beavers, 5 of which are girls. Over this term 1 left and 1 moved up to Cubs and 9 more new ones started. As usual activities were based around the Challenge badges. the highlight of this term was the Annual Beaver District party - the theme of which was Aesop's fables ably performed by the Cats Grin Company. 9 Beavers came and a big thank you goes to the 2 parents who came to help as none of my assistants could be there!!! The term finished with an Orange/ Yellow themed Easter party.

This term has started with 24 Beavers, now 4 girls and 7 new ones started last Monday which brings the Colony up to 31!!! 5 will be moving up Cubs next month but there are no more new ones till September. The main event of this term will be Escapade (District Camp) in June which is being ably organised by our Scout leader.

At the beginning of this term we welcomed Joshua who is doing his Duke of Edinburgh Bronze volunteering with us.

Finally the thank yous - Firstly to Brian, my ABL (and my son) who turns up every week - he has no choice, he comes in my car !! and mostly finds things I need and tidies up! Thank you Brian.

Thank you to Lisa also my ABL who is very good at reminding me when I forget things (frequently!!) and helping run activities. Thank you Lisa.

Thank you to Edgar who, even though he has completed his D of E Bronze volunteering still comes along every week to help. Thank you Edgar.

Thank you to Andrew, our adult helper who has been a great help but who will be moving onto Cubs soon when his son moves up next month.

And a very big thank you to all our parents who support us in any way they can. Without your help particularly with outside activities, we would not be able to do half the things we do. Thank you.

5. Fund Raising (Report submitted by Debbie Coles)

Reference latest report from group Exec meeting.

6. Election of officers and the committee

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

Nominations All approved by the meeting

7. Actions:

Look to raise subs by £5 per term in September

8. Date of next meeting

TBC