

1ST PARK STREET SCOUT GROUP

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT THE SCOUT HUT  
ON TUESDAY 11TH JUNE 1985

PRESENT: Mr. S. Rees, Mrs. A. Hemmingway, Mr. and Mrs. M. Cox,  
Mr. G.P. Wildman, Mr. P. Wenham, Mrs. H. Birch, Mrs. C. Ward,  
Mrs. Le Riviere, Mr. M. Turner (Ventures), Mr. M. Turner,  
Mr. M. Flack, Miss L. Pye, Mr. J. Cox, Mrs. C. Abington,  
Mrs. S. Harwood, Mr. J. Hurley, Mr. P. Brindley (ADC. Lt.)  
Mr. A. Firmin, Mr. D.F. Drake, Mr. A.R. Vernon, Mrs. M. Seckerson  
Mr. N. Carruthers, Mrs. L. Cummins, Mr. N. Puffett, Mr. and Mrs.  
Boxshall, Mrs. H. Flack, Mr. D. Davis, Mr. & Mrs. P Baldwin  
Mrs. N. Polkinghorne.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Mr. M. Dadswell, Mr. S. Cottingham, Mr. D. Ward,  
Mr. S. Birch and Mrs. S. Getley.

1. WELCOME AND MINUTES OF LAST A.G.M.

A welcome was extended to those present by Mike Cox,  
The minutes of the last A.G.M. were proposed by Mr. M. Flack  
seconded by Mr. M. Turner, as being a true record.

2. GROUP REPORT (Mike Cox)

The group is still alive and kicking, in fact it has the  
same number of members as last year. This is a good sign  
as the general trend is for the numbers to drop because of  
the decline in numbers of children. Over the year we have  
made a number of improvements in our facilities, the grass  
at the front has been levelled. The portakabin outside will  
be brought into use in the Autumn. The Y.O.P have painted the  
the Hut and finally left.

3. SECTION REPORTS

Ventures (Mike Turner)

The past year has been a difficult year for the Venture Unit  
both because of local problems and the general situation.  
The Unit is in it's 3rd year, a difficult period for any Unit  
and it is generally accepted that if the Unit can survive  
through the 3rd Year it will become a permanent institution.  
I am pleased to say the Unit has survived and looks like  
increasing in strength for the rest of this year. Other  
problems are the success of the recently formed Ranger Unit,  
the youthful nature of the feeder Scout Troup and the general  
decline in numbers of children. The Unit has 10 members with  
9 regular attenders. Special Thanks to Mike Flack who kept  
the Unit going during my 3 month absence and to Nigel Puffett  
who has assisted recently. This year there have been 3 further  
Venture Awards. Most important is the enrolment of 6 Ventures  
for the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award. This has been helped  
by the Borehamwood Badminton Club who have provided organised  
coaching sessions on a weekly basis for Ventures. Two members  
have passed their First Aid Certificates and performed practical  
assistance on a recent 3 day Army Exercise on Salisbury Plain.  
Activities have again included the serious and trivial and has  
included the usual crop of "flops". Nevertheless I am pleased  
with the overall programme. Other activities have included  
a Trip to France for a weekend. We competed in this years Peak  
Assault with Colney Heath V.S.U. and finished 69th out of 115.  
The most recent activity was a team in the Buccaneer Trophy  
where we finished 5th out of 22.

### Scouts (Stan Birch)

It had been a beneficial year with an increase in numbers. There are now 5 patrols, 33 boys, the majority are in the younger age group but most of the boys are very keen. During the year they have been canoeing, sailing and have attended two camps. Steve takes the boys away at weekends. We had a patrol at the family camp which was very enjoyable, played football against parents, came 5th in the District Camp competition. They bravely took part in the Chariot Race and even though the chariot broke half way round they carried it to the finish. We took part in the Night Hike and came 6th overall in this event. At the Sports Day only 4 boys took part and to their credit they came 5th overall. At the present time we are running a First Aid Course. The Group has been very busy and had a good active year.

### Birch Pack Cubs (Nigel Carruthers)

The Pack is smaller in numbers now than it has ever been. We have 17 boys at the moment but it looks as though numbers will increase in September. We are pleased at the number of boys who are continuing in scouting by going up to the Troop. We have had some excellent Pack nights thanks in no small measure to the enthusiasm of Baloo and Shere Khan both of whom have helped very regularly. Looking at the non-pack night activities, these include the Summer Camp at Phasels Wood and was greatly enjoyed by the 12 boys who went. We entered 2 teams for the Hike and Camp competition, 21 teams took part and our A team was placed 3rd and the B team 6th, a special thank you is due to the 2 Venture Scouts who accompanied the teams. We entered the Maud Coleman Trophy but were not very successful. Three of our sixers went along to Sixers Day and had an enjoyable afternoon. We were unable to enter a team for the Swimming Gala. There was a school event on Gala Night and only one Cub was available to swim which was not a viable team. The Welly Walk two days after Christmas was enjoyed by a small group of Cubs and parents. We had very few entrants for the Handicraft Competition and it really requires the Pack to spend several evenings working for this event if we are to make a good showing in the future. In the Chess Competition we did much better. Our team came 4th and Alan Drake won the individual competition. We'll have to name this event the Park Street Shield. In the Inter-Pack Football we were just beaten (was it 11-1?) by the Wood Pack. Shere Khan has suggested an interpack cricket match! Finally 9 cubs went along to the District Activity Day at Lees Wood and had an excellent time - several of them coming back with Athletes Badge certificates. All told quite a successful year.

### Wood Pack Cubs (Anna Cox)

We have had a Pack of 28 boys all year and have awarded 5 Gold Arrows and with the exception of only one or two boys who have been irregular in their attendance the cubs have progressed with their bronze and silver arrows. We ran our usual First Aid and Home Help proficiency Badge courses and altogether 65 proficiency badges have been awarded.

Last June we came 6th in the District Cub Sports and in our first ever attempt at the Cub Hike and Camp competition we came 9th only 5½ points behind the winners. In July we had a very successful camp with Birch Pack at Phasels Wood covering aspects of the communicators badge when the boys tried their hands at semaphore morse code, string telephones and hand held C.B. sets.

September saw us at Ambassador College with St. Julians Pack on a Camper/Explorer weekend. We also joined with the St. Julians Pack on a visit to the Flower Festival in Liverpool. In the District Arrow competition we came 9th. We entered the District Swimming competition and won it. Just before Christmas we did our Pack Good Turn and cleaned an elderly lady's brasses. Stuart Ward managed to shake hands with the Chief Scout at the County Carol Service in the Abbey which was arranged after the Scoutguide 1 cub day was rained off. January was our most successful month with winning the first ever County Chess Competition when we represented St. Albans after winning the District Chess last year. Our team comprised Maxwell Claret, Andrew Cummins, Alex Alcoe and Richard Fingland. It was a very close competition which needed the last round to decide the winners - 13 Districts took part. I think this was the first County Challenge St. Albans actually won. We were obviously in high spirits and hopeful when we entered two teams for the District Chess a week later. Much to my amazement our 'A' team won and our 'B' team came runners up.

Dave Davies, St. Julian's Akela, invited us to a joint Pack Meeting which he organised as part of his Wood Badge. He ran a fun night and called it Crackerpack. Yes there was squid, brown sauce and other odd feeling things "in theBox", questions, both easy and hard, in take a letter and special guests were splattered in "take a chance the boys thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

In March we took on the Birch Pack in the annual friendly Inter-Pack football trophy which we won. As a result of winning the District Swimming Gala we were invited to represent the District in the County Cub Swimming - when I received the entry form I was slightly apprehensive as this one had events for all age groups i.e. 8's, 9's and 10's as well as non swimmers. I had to ask Nigel to provide two 8 year olds as I did not seem to have any who could swim the required length. On the night we came 5th out of 13 Districts which was marvellous considering we were a Group swimming against the cream of other districts - we did manage 5 firsts. We are still awaiting the certificates from ACC (CS) for the cubs.

Since this term started we have been down the woods lighting fires and tracking. We also welcomed Steve Rees who brought down his magic rucksac. Last week we had a very informative visit to the M25/M1 interchange courtesy of Balfour Beatty. Firstly they showed us a film on the dangers of playing on building sites and then we toured the actual site in land rovers and saw the vehicles and machinery and the different stages of the construction of the motor way and interchange. I think the land rovers proved to some the most exciting part. In the future we have the Water Activity camp this weekend, the District Sports as well and then looking a little further ahead we have planned a visit to the Abbey and Duxford as well as annual camp with the Birch Pack and our September one with St. Julians Pack.

My special thanks go to Carol Ward who helps me every week, to Dave who not only gave up every Saturday during the Football season but who also took charge of my County Swimming team and my sports team while I was at camp. Also I would like to thank Robin Harwood who provided us with the superb trophy cabinet to show off our trophies and any other parent who has helped in any way with the Pack Meetings and/or camps. I would also like to thank the parents of all my cubs who have given me such a successful Pack this year. Lastly I would like to thank my family who have been tolerant of my scouting activities.

## Fund Raising Committee

Our thanks to Carol and Marilyn who have helped throughout the year and also to all the parents who have supported us. The Summer Fete was reasonably successful. We held 2 Jumble Sales, 2 Cub Discos which are always very popular, one Barn Dance and the usual Halloween evening which was very well attended. The Football Challenge was enjoyed by all those who braved the weather. Our thanks to Pauline for organising the Webb Ivory sales which raised £90. The total amount of funds raised this year was £835.

### Cub Football (David Ward)

The season got off to a very slow start as we had quite a few young members in the team. Full marks to those who turned up every time. Our thanks to Mr. Evans for the use of the pitch and to Mr. Philpott for refereeing. Thanks also to Mrs. Ward for washing the strips. Our results were 38 goals for us, 48 against resulting in 8 points, just 2 above relegation. I am taking early retirement from Cub football after four years and would like to introduce my successor, Mr. Bob Boxall, and I am happy to say I can leave him with the team just in the First Division.

4. APPROVAL OF REPORTS - Agreed.

5. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS to 31st March 1985

The accounts for the year ended 31st March 1985 having been circulated it was proposed by Mike Turner and seconded by Anna Cox that these be accepted. Our thanks and a small presentation were made to Mr. Firmin for auditing the accounts.

6. APPOINTMENT OF GROUP CHAIRMAN

Lis Cummins agreed to continue.

7. APPROVAL OF G.S.L.'s NOMINATIONS TO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Sam Cottingham, Mike Flack, John Hurley and Steve Rees & Hazel agreed to serve on the Committee.

8. ELECTION OF GROUP SECRETARY

June Henderson agreed to continue.

9. ELECTION OF GROUP TREASURER

Chris Abington agreed to continue.

10. ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Agreed as above.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mike Cox raised the question of subscriptions and the fact that they seem to be low in relation to other Groups in the area. It was therefore proposed to increase each section by £1 per term, £4 for cubs and £5 for scouts. Proposed by Mike Cox seconded by Mike Flack

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS (Cont'd)

Mike Cox proposed thanks to all the people who have helped during the year, Hazel, the Scouters and all the parents. There has certainly been more parent participation this year than we have seen for a very long time. Thanks also to Mrs. Seckerson who keeps the hut clean and tidy.

Meeting closed at 9.08 p.m.

Cheese and Wine refreshments followed.

*Robert M. Cummins* Chairman

..... *June Henderson* ..... Secretary

