

1st PARK STREET SCOUT GROUP

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

10TH JUNE 1998

Michael welcomed all to the AGM

Apologies were received from Richard Johnson, Sam Cottingham, Mike Turner, Courtney Watson, Sarah.

The 1997 AGM minutes were accepted as a true record. Proposed by Martyn Dadswell, seconded by Dave Ward.

Beavers – Thumpers - June Bailey

The numbers have again been steady at about 20-24. The boys had a great time at Woburn Safari Park. We have had a varied programme from a sports evening to making skeletons out of paper bones and paper fasteners and making gift boxes for Christmas presents. Visited the Fire Station and all the boys and leaders had a ride on the fire engine. We have been on several evening walks around the gravel pits. Had a chippy hike and visited Hedges farm where the boys saw calves, lambs and sheep. Many thanks to Carole and Michelle for all their help and support throughout the year.

Beavers – Wednesday – Read by Michelle Bailey

Over the past twelve months the membership has been fluctuating between 18-21. They have been a good group of children who have taken great interest in the activities throughout the year. They enjoyed the visit to the Police Station but the highlight of the year was a trip to Elstree Aerodrome where all those who attended were able to take a flight in a plane and we didn't lose one of them. My thanks to our two assistant leaders – Claire who has provided continuity during the latter half of the year when Leader attendance was difficult. Claire was always there to make sure the children were not affected. Also to Sally whom came through Scout Fellowship. She has fitted in well with the team and the children have certainly taken to her. We know we may lose both of you in September to University but this is an ideal time to say a big thank you for what you have done and wish you good luck in the future.

Cubs – Monday – Dennis Drake

We have 19 cubs at present with an average attendance of 15-17. Activities included the first camp when the boys have to cook all their own meals. Thanks to John for running this event and to Colin for all his help.

All the boys and the other leaders had a good time (especially Owen who reckoned he had the six from hell). We did the artists badge with help from Peter Coombs (thanks to him). The cyclist badge with thanks to Mr Strother. At the moment we are working on the map readers badge which includes creating a hill to show the principle of contour lines. Future events will hopefully include, visit to the Police Station, visit to Brands Hatch, more camps. We are currently training for the cub night hike and have entered two teams. Finally my thanks to Ann, Jim, John and Ben for all their help and we will be sorry to lose Ann but hope she will stay in touch.

Cubs – Wood Pack – Colin Watson

Currently we have 16-18 cubs. They are mostly on the young side. They have all passed the first badge and we are progressing. Activities have included cub camp, a good chippy hike. Working on the model makers badge. Three will be moving on to the Scouts. My thanks to Eva, Sarah and Keith for all their help. My thanks to anyone else who has helped who I may have forgotten.

Scouts – Steve Davey

We have 10 scouts in the group at present. Last November we went on the Green Beret and came 53 out of 90 teams and the boys and leaders all had a good time. In March we did the Chariot race in Sandridge and 9 overall. Last weekend two teams went to the Camping Competition and came 4 and 7 which they were very pleased about. I would also like to thank the boys for turning up on the Open Day. We are hoping to participate in the Green Beret, Night Hike and Tolmers open week. Also hopefully organising a summer camp. Finally my thanks to Clive, Colin and Keith for all their help and support during the year.

Ventures – Report by Colin Watson on behalf of Courtney Watson

The Venture Unit is not running at the moment due to lack of numbers. It was not possible to carry on with only 4-5 people. We are looking into the possibility of joining forces with Bricket Wood and Chiswell Green. Courtney is still prepared to run the Unit should the numbers increase.

Fund Raising – Martyn Dadswell

Martyn will organise anything if you let him know. Thanks to all the members of fund raising for their efforts in raising money for the Group.

Treasurers Report – Michelle Bailey

Copies of the accounts were distributed to all at the Meeting. The Brownies and Karate Club no longer use the hut. We now have a Play Group using the hut which should improve our financial status.

Group Scout Leader's Report – Richard Johnson

The year has seen quite a number of changes most notably the introduction of a second Cub pack. This brought the pressing need for Leaders and my thanks go to all those who stepped in. Sarah Potterill and Jim Sivvier for Cubs, Courtney Watson for Ventures, Sally Elsdoen for Beavers, Keith Barow for Cubs and Karen Schofield for Mandy's Beavers.

Unfortunately Mandy's Beavers are no more, she had to leave at the end of last month after 5 years in our Group due to her job. Although she is not here tonight I would like to record our thanks for all her efforts and wish her good luck in her new job. I was pleased to see the Hut utilised during the day particularly by the younger element in the village and as we have seen the Play Group have made some excellent improvements. We welcome them and wish them every success in their new home.

I am concerned about the loss of leaders in our sister organisation. Brownies have used the Scout Hut for many years and they will probably merge with the other pack in the village who are looking for a meeting place, we await the outcome of this. Our Venture Unit has struggled to maintain its existence, but there are moves afoot to combine with Bricket Wood and Chiswell Green without losing our autonomy. This will bring membership to 20 and will enable a better programme of activities. Also the increasing membership in the Scout Troop thanks to Steve Davey will have a long term effect of stabilising the Venture Unit.

Leader training continues to be a Leader priority. John Drake has made great strides to achieve his Wood Badge which is now near completion and under the watchful eye of Colin Watson he has achieved his Cub Camping Certificate – well done John. Most leaders attended the First Aid Course and now hold certificates that identify their already very capable skills in the subject. We must continue to identify training needs and during this coming year it is my hope that Leaders will gain their Certificate of Driving Competence for Minibus use. This has been developed by the Scouting County and will give us access to the County minibuses. I would like to have seen a few more of our Leaders taking up warrants and donning a uniform. Certainly Eva Thomas was happy to do so but due to circumstances beyond my control Eva will have to wait until she loses weight! – Congratulations Eva on your pending birth. We hope it's going to be another Little Beaver!!

Once again the Executive Committee have done a stomping good job and the Fundraisers – true to their word – have kept our head above water. Thank you for all your efforts. Whatever your role in the Group your time and effort is much appreciated and my thanks go to you all for what you have achieved throughout this year.

Richard then thanked Martyn Dadswell for all he had done for the group this last year and in recognition of his help he was presented with a Well Done Trophy.

Election of Officers

All were prepared to stand again and were duly elected. Proposed by Carole and seconded by Dave.

Executive Committee were all standing again. Mike Flack agreed to go on the Executive Committee and was duly elected.

Assistant District Commission (Cubs)

Geoff Harrison was present and not Barbara Tallantire. He said how pleased he was to attend the AGM and extended his thanks to all the Leaders and helpers for their efforts. He was sure you got a lot of pleasure out of scouting. He was pleased that the Beaver's were running so well and hoped the boys would all progress to Cubs and thence Scouts and finally Ventures. He hoped the Venture Group would be able to ride the storm currently. He congratulated us on a successful group and was pleased that we had such a strong Fund Raising Committee who have obviously kept the group's head above water.

He then presented a Scouter's warrant to June and Wood Badge to John Drake with many congratulations to both.

The chairman then thanked everyone for attending the meeting and for their efforts throughout the year. Thanks to the Fund Raising and Executive Committee and to the absent Richard for his help in running the group.

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm.