

1ST PARK STREET SCOUT GROUP

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT THE SCOUT HUT
ON MONDAY 8TH JUNE, 1987 - 8.15 P.M.

PRESENT:

Mrs. L. Cummins, Mr. S. Rees, Mr. I.R. Thomas, Mrs. B.E. Lawrence
Mr. & Mrs. R. Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Boxshall, Mr. M.V. Turner,
Mr. & Mrs. J. Hemmingway, Mrs. S. Revitt, Mr. S. Cottingham,
Mr. D.S. Watson, Mr. P. Jennings, Mr. L. Simpson, Mr. & Mrs. Hicks,
Mr. D. Drake, Mr. K. Barrow, Mr. P. Keyner, Miss L. Chapman,
Mrs. C. Abington, Mr. S. Block, Mr. and Mrs. D. Hirst, Mr. & Mrs.
Dadswell, Mrs. S. Dickens, Mrs. J. Metcalfe, Mr. & Mrs. J. Baker,
Mrs. P. Woods, Mr. and Mrs. D. Ward, Mrs. P. La Riviere, Mr. and
Mrs. M. Flack, Mrs. J. Henderson.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: M. Turner, K. Rothery, R. Firmin & E. Woods.

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

A welcome was extended to those present by the Chairman, in particular a special welcome to Ivor Thomas and John Baker.

2. GROUP REPORT

It has been rather a difficult year especially with the loss of Anna and Mike Cox, Mike being G.S.L. and Anna an Akela. Steve explained he was now acting as G.S.L. but we urgently need a young and more able man to take over as well as more section leaders. It is only due to the enthusiasm and energy of existing leaders that the Group has survived. New members are also needed to help the Fund Raising Committee and would be made very welcome. Thanks were extended to all Leaders, the Executive Committee, the Fund Raising Committee in what has been a successful year.

The Chairman thanked Steve for all his time and hard work over the past year.

3. SECTION REPORTS

Ventures (Mike Turner)

It has been a good year for the Venture Scout Unit in a number of significant areas.

First the numbers game. The Unit has consolidated the healthy situation which existed at this time last year. The number of invested Ventures has risen steadily to 20. This includes 3 student members undergoing full time education. The average age of the Unit is slightly lower, which should provide some stability for the next few years, although the male/female balance could be better with only 5 young women. Although there are no new members in the pipeline, a recruiting evening has been arranged for the near future and the next 12 months should see some more Scouts graduating to the Unit. For the first time, older Scouts have been involved in some Venture activities and this should encourage their transition.

Without doubt, the high spot of the year, and perhaps since the formation of the unit, was the achievement of the Queen Scout Award by four members, Philip Reeves, Alistair Abington, Lynda Pye and John Cox. To put matters in perspective these are the first Queens Scouts in the District for over 18 months, and Park Street had over 10% of the Hertfordshire Queens Scouts at the annual St. Georges Day parade at Windsor Castle this year. Hand in glove with these awards, Alistair Abington and Laura Chapman have almost finished their Duke of Edinburgh Gold Awards, Alistair is awaiting his final assessment and Laura has one small element to complete.

This year's activities have been wide and varied as usual, with many outdoor and physical activities to complement the indoor sedentary events both serious and lighthearted. Worthy of mention is our annual sortie

to the Peak Assault in March, where we entered two teams, one of which achieved our best ever result of 28th out of 120 teams, in the worst weather conditions since the event was first put on. Our second team, although retired, showed great team spirit, maturity and good training by assisting a team mate who was overcome by the extreme cold. It was pleasing to see the Unit Executive, although very young, taking such an important role in programme planning.

Finally, the leader situation is very healthy, with three warranted leaders all of whom seem set to remain for some time. In this context I should like to express my thanks to Mike Flack and Laura Chapman for their enthusiastic dedication over the last year.

Scouts (Richard Johnson)

Over the last 12 months we have experienced a fluctuation in numbers which has now steadied at 27 and is on the increase.

Summer last year saw a most successful camp at Kingsdown, near Dover, during which a night hike was staged and one of the teams misread the map and set off in the wrong direction. They apparently decided they were going the wrong way five or six miles later, when questioned they insisted the "compass was wrong". The swimming gala is obviously not our forte, but I would say that there are definitely some up and coming talent which will produce better results at the next gala.

The Troop Christmas Dinner went off in great style all prepared by the lads. This event has proved itself in that we have had 8 lads take their Cooks Badge, and all 8 passed this difficult test.

We recently entered the District Camping Competition. This produced a great deal of enthusiasm allowing us to enter three patrols. The one thing that pleased me greatly was the leader ship from the patrol leaders and the team spirit that was generated through out all the lads involved both before and during the competition. This two day competition in which the lads are constantly under the Judges eyes came to a climax as the results were given, a resounding victory for Park Street, taking 1st, 2nd & 6th places.

This summer we are not having a troop camp but have proposed visits to either Phasels Wood or Tolmers Camp Sites.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those who have helped with the different scout activities, and would like to take this opportunity to ask for help, part time or full time, in running the troop.

Wood Pack (Eric Woods)

This is only a short report as I took over three months ago. We had a very good weekend camp in March and 14 boys passed their Communicators Badge. I am very pleased to say that 4 boys have now received their Silver Arrows and 2 their Gold Arrows.

The pack strength has risen from 19 to 30 boys.

We enjoyed a Treasure Hunt in which 28 cubs from both Packs took part despite the doubtful weather - and we didn't lose any.

It is hoped to arrange further outings in the months to come.

Birch Pack (Mrs. Shirley Revitt)

This report dates from the beginning of November when I first became involved with Cubs. At present the Pack has 22 invested boys with 3 new recruits. The Pack is managed by 3 warranted instructors, Dennis Drake, Mike Turner and myself with Colin Watson soon to join us as a 4th instructor. Keith Barrow also helps regularly with four scouts, Andrew Dadswell, John and Alan Drake and Owen Turner. There are also several other parents who have willingly given their time to assist with badge work, outings, pack holidays or imparting specialist knowledge. Thanks are due to those who have helped.

We try to provide a varied and stimulating programme and have made steady progress through the Arrow Scheme and proficiency badges. Time has been concentrated on Home Help, Handyman, Hobbies, Communicator and Sportsman badges. We try to make provision for Cubs requesting to take a particular badge.

Since November we have had a "Burn Burger Night" to celebrate November 5th, a Chippy Hike in the dark to Radlett, our Pack good turn for Christmas was Carol Singing at Eric Steele House. In March, a talk on Water Safety by Colin Wilcox, a member of the R.L.S.S. was followed by a visit to Ambassador College swimming pool to give the cubs a fun evening with the opportunity of swimming for their Arrow work or to be tested for the swimmer or rescuer proficiency badges. Over the Easter holidays Cubs attended the St. Georges Day Parade at St. Albans Abbey and took part in Bob a Job Week.

Recently we were lucky to have a very interesting talk and film by Superintendent Turner of the Metropolitan Police. This is to be followed by a visit to St. Albans Police Station with a follow up visit on a Pack Night by P.C. Sanderson, our Home Beat Officer.

Since November the Birch Pack has entered the District Chess Competition, and the District Handicrafts Competition. Unfortunately we missed the 5-a-Side Football as details were not received in time.

In March we were lucky to be able to take 12 boys from the Birch Pack with an equal number from the Wood Pack to Well End for a Pack Holiday weekend. This weekend was organised by Anna Cox, now unfortunately retired from scouting.

Next weekend the Pack is going on an organised tour of Wembley Stadium. This is purely fun, surely an important aim in modern scouting.

Cub Football (Bob Boxshall)

Last June entered 6 a side at Hitchin, reached final out of 40, but lost on penalty shoot out. The season starts in October, we play 12 matches at home and away; season ends February/March. We won that league, won 10, drawn 2, lost none. Entered the cup for the teams in both Divisions and won that. Saway Cup, won that as well. We represented St. Albans District at Stevenage and won that. Thanks given to Mike, the referee and Peter, regular linesman for their support and hard work through the season.

The Chairman thanked Bob for his report and explained that no discussion would be allowed on the football question at this meeting but a special meeting had been called for 22nd June when all the facts would then be at hand.

Fund Raising Committee (Martyn Dadswell)

This comprises seven members and with your help we have managed to raise £1800 which includes the funds raised by the sponsored cycle ride by Mike Turner. Thanks to the committee for all their help, the leaders and all all the parents who have given their time.

Future Events:

18th July - Car Treasure Hunt and BBQ at Scout Hut.
12th September - 60's Night at Village Hall.
17th October - Jumble Sale.
26th October - Under 13's Disco
14th November - Quiz Evening
18th June 1988 Bazaar/Jumble Sale, Town Hall.

It would be helpful if people could let us know in advance if they can join us at socials as it does make catering much easier. Once again thanks for all the help received.

4. Approval of Reports

Proposed by C. Abington, seconded by C. Ward that the reports be accepted. Agreed.

5. Approval of Accounts to 31.3.87

Copies of the Accounts having been distributed, it was proposed by C. Ward, seconded by M. Flack that the accounts be approved. Agreed. Thanks were extended to Mr. Firmin for auditing same.

6. Appointment of Group Chairman

Steve Rees informed the meeting that Lis Cummins was willing to continue for a further year, for which he was very grateful. This was approved by the meeting.

7. Approval of G.S.L.'s Nominations to Executive Committee

The majority of the executive have agreed to continue. Steve Rees, G.S.L., also nominated Mrs. Hewer and Mr. Baker. Further nominations were requested from the meeting; none received.

8. Election of Group Secretary

June Henderson has agreed to continue. Approved by the meeting.

9. Election of Group Treasurer

Chris Abington agrees to continue. Approved by the meeting.

10. Election of Members of Executive Committee

Approved as above.

11. Any Other Business

John Hurley queried one figure on Treasurer's Report, the Treasurer clarified this.

Ivor Thomas, District Commissioner, thanked all the leaders of the Group for all the work entailed in entering at District Level which ensures the strength and enjoyment of all the Groups, over and above the individual programme. Thanks also to the Executive Committee for taking on a fairly onerous task of managing the funds. Lastly thanks to all the people present for their support, without whom there would be no Groups.

The meeting closed at 9.02 p.m.

.....Chairman