



1st Cheddington Scout Group

Annual Report 2007-2008

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Scout Headquarters, Mentmore Crossroads, Cheddington, Buckinghamshire

Patron HM The Queen **President** HRH The Duke of Kent **Founder** Robert Baden-Powell OM **Chief Scout** Peter Duncan

1st Cheddington Scout Group Council

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

to be held on Sunday 20th July 2008 at 5 p.m.
at Scout Headquarters, Station Road.

AGENDA

1. Welcome by the Group Chairman.
2. Apologies for absence.
3. Minutes of 2007 Annual General Meeting and Matters Arising.
4. Approval of Annual Report.
5. Approval of Accounts.
6. Approval of GSL's nomination of Group Chairman.
7. Election of Group Treasurer.
8. Election of Group Secretary.
9. Election of Group Executive.
10. Presentations.
11. A. O. B.

Chairman's Report

Welcome to 1st Cheddington Scout Group's annual report for 2007/2008.

Young people have many options for spending their spare time. It is a tribute to the dedication and enthusiasm of our Leaders that many of the young people of Cheddington choose Scouting as a regular activity – for both fun and entertainment, and for acquiring some essential life and social skills.

My particular thanks and appreciation, therefore, go to our Leaders, but I am also very grateful to our other Committee members and those parents who are willing to turn out on the day, or night, or weekend if an additional pair of hands is needed! Whether it is cutting the grass, helping with camps or fundraising, additional help is much appreciated.

On that note, if there are any parents who are willing to inject some new blood into our committee, please make yourselves known to us – it really is only a couple of evenings a year of meetings plus one or two fundraising events, so not too much of a commitment (and the more people that come forward, the easier for everyone concerned!)

As well as activities within each section, I have been happy to see there have been a couple of events in the last year involving all of the sections on a Group wide basis. One of these involved planting a hedge along a section of the fence alongside Station Road to give more privacy and act as a barrier against road noise in the future. The saplings were provided free of charge by The Woodland Trust and a good crowd of people turned out to dig and plant. Hopefully we can nurture them against the nettles and weeds to thrive!

A more recent, (and personally very touching), Group wide event was a sponsored hike and family BBQ, raising over £600 for Cancer Research UK in memory of Karen Boddy who supported the Chairman's many years of commitment to Scouting until she died from cancer in December 2007.

In recent years we have had a very good relationship with Tring Model Railway Club, who hired our premises each week, providing substantial income. They have now found more appropriate premises, and although we will miss the rental income, we maintain our contact with them and wish them every success in their new premises. The shortfall in income from the loss of their rents will be made up for by a forthcoming increase in subscriptions (the first one for over seven years).

With the enthusiasm of our Leaders and young members, Scouting in Cheddington is likely to have another successful year ahead, and we look forward to your continuing support.

Howard Boddy
Group Chairman

1ST CHEDDINGTON SCOUT GROUP COUNCILMINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD ON 24th May 2007 SCOUT HEADQUARTERS

Chairman's Welcome:

The Chairman (Howard Boddy) welcomed the District Commissioner David Tichener and parents to the Meeting.

Scouting had been given a high profile in the Media this year and with all the alternative activities and distractions offered to young people, Scouting still is a popular option.

Leaders and Committee Members were thanked for their hard work and dedication in keeping the Group running successfully.

It was noted that there had been a shortage of parental help with fund raising activities, (particularly the Jumble Sale) so Subs would have to be raised to subsidise the short fall in income.

A plea was made for new Committee Leaders.

Group Scout Leader's Report:

G.S.L. Ian Hale thanked Parents and Leaders for their help in running the Sections and especially the Leaders for their time and hard work in planning and running camps.

Overall this has been a very successful year, even though numbers are down and he was very impressed with the behaviour of the Group.

This has also been a year of change with girls now able to attend Cubs (none yet in Cheddington) and also the loss of Scout Leader Keith Waller as he has moved.

It was commented upon that although there was some parental involvement in Meetings, few parents were willing to attend other events or volunteer for Committee or Leadership.

With regards to the maintenance of the Scout Hut, it was felt that this was a priority for spending money as several areas needed attention.

Finally he thanked the Chairman, Committee and District for their hard work and dedication in keeping the Group running successfully.

Treasurer's Report:

The Accounts for 2006-7 were presented and approved by the meeting.

Appointment of Officers:

The meeting approved Howard Boddy as Chairman, Jill Griffin as Secretary and Julia Robinson as Treasure for the next 12 months. Christine Joyce, Karen Chapman and Mark Tutty were approved as members of the Executive Committee.

D.C. Report:

The Centenary Camp was to be held this weekend with 3000 Scouts in attendance.

Thanks were given to District for their help in running this event.

A.O.B.

It was felt by all in attendance that the parental profile should be raised by inviting them to attend family events e.g. BBQs. Games etc. utilizing the land around Hut.

Treasurer's Report for the year ended 31 March 2008

Overview

The accounts are prepared on the receipts and payments basis in accordance with the Scout Association and Charity Commission guidelines.

This has been another successful year for CSG financially with surplus transferred to reserves of £1,513 (2007: £2118) after capital spend of £910 (2007: £nil) and Aylesbury Vale District Scout Group capitation charges of £3,023 (2007: £2,877). CSG has retained bank and petty cash balances totalling £7,645 (2007: £6,132) at the year end.

Activities such as camps and trips have been supported through subscription income, additional activity charges and fundraising. The surplus for the year is comprised largely of investment income (see below).

Subscription income and activities

Subscription income has been stable at £6,095 (2007: £6,350) due to static headcount and subscription charges maintained at £25 per head for the period. The apparent reduction in comparison to prior year is accounted for by timing differences created by using the receipts and payments accounting method.

Activities have required net funding of £2,776 (2007: £3,182) from subscription and fundraising income. This is a pleasing outcome bearing in mind that this year includes additional activities such as The Centenary Camp.

Investment income

Investment income comprises rental of the scout hut to the Tring and District Model Railway Club (TDMRC) and Brownies of £1,268 (2007: £1,260) and interest on bank deposits of £159 (2007: £9).

The income from TDMRC has now dropped to £20 per month post year end as TDMRC has moved its operation to other premises but maintains storage on the CSG site. This reduction in income of £780 per annum has implications for looking for alternative sources of revenue, maximising investment income within the bounds of Scout Association and Charity Commission rules and subscription rates ongoing.

Fundraising

CSG has raised significant additional funds through fundraising contributing a net £1,497 (2007: £86) from a jumble sale, Bonfire Night food stand and Christmas post.

As noted above, fundraising subsidises CSG activities.

Sundry income

Sundry income has dropped to £268 (2007: £1,224) as Gift Aid rebate has not been received in this accounting period; the 2007 Gift Aid receipt was £1,041. Gift Aid claims will be submitted and received in the next accounting period.

Expenditure

Establishment expenses, including insurance, have risen to £964 (2007: £752) partly due to timing of water bills compared to the prior year and in part due to inflation.

Expenditure on equipment

CSG has used income to fund the purchase of new gas burners, benches and tents and a second hand mower totalling £910. All of these have replaced or upgraded existing equipment.

Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2008

DRAFT SUBJECT TO REVIEW

	Year to 31st March 2008	Previous Year
	£	£
RECEIPTS		
Membership Subscriptions	6095	6350
Bank Interest	159	9
Rental Income	1268	1260
Donations/Grants	0	0
Activities	2784	1766
Fundraising	1698	394
Sundry Income including Gift Aid rebate	268	1224
Total Receipts for the Year	12272	11003
PAYMENTS		
Premises		
Water	262	87
Light & Heat	237	241
Insurance	466	424
Repairs & Renewals	0	0
Section Activities	5660	4948
Fund Raising Expenses	201	308
Capitation	3023	2877
Purchase of Equipment	910	0
Purchase of leader's Uniform	0	0
Total Payments for the Year	10759	8885
EXCESS OF RECEIPTS OVER PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	1513	2118
BALANCE SHEET - BANK SUMMARY		
Balances b/f		
Current Acc	702	3566
Reserve Acc	5231	223
Petty cash	199	225
	6132	4014
Excess of Receipts over Payments	1513	2118
	7645	6132
Represented by:		
Current Acc	2188	702
Reserve Acc	4390	5231
Petty cash	1067	199
	7645	6132

Group Scout Leader's Report

As ever, the last year has been an extremely busy and successful one for the Group and it is very difficult, if not impossible, to squeeze it all in to the small space available.

As described in the individual reports, all of the Sections continue to enjoy a full and varied programme of activities. Camps are particularly popular with all of our sections. As well as the camps, the sections have enjoyed many different events and competitions and not forgetting the all important weekly meetings which provide the core of the activities. Our two parades, Remembrance Day in November and St. George's Day in April, were also very well attended with everybody looking extremely smart and well behaved; a real credit to Cheddington.

Our numbers continue to be healthy with a slight increase this year from 76 to 79. Beavers and Cubs continue to be full with everlasting waiting lists and our troop too remains steady although with some room for new members. The transition from Cubs to Scouts appears to be a difficult one and this is an area we are paying particular attention to currently. We now have girls in all sections, although still far fewer than many groups.

2007 was our Centenary Year in Scouting with the main events being the Centenary Camp in May and the Scouting Sunrise in August. The Centenary Camp was particularly memorable for all those attending with the awful weather conditions forcing us to abandon camp on the Sunday night after the winds and rain meant it was too risky to stay in the tents! Many thanks to the hardy few who stayed out to save the tents or who came out to clear up the devastation the next morning.

I would like to give a sincere thanks to everybody who has helped this year in making Scouting in Cheddington what it is, especially to all of our dedicated leaders who turn out every week and provide such a fantastic and imaginative programme. We have also seen an increase in young people helping at the sections and these now provide an essential part of our leader team. Thanks are also due to Howard and the Group Executive for their time and support in keeping the Group going. Scouting is an active organisation, without all of these people working together and giving up so much of their precious time every week of the year, none of the sections would even get off the ground. We are also increasingly reliant on parental support in all the sections to provide that extra hand or two at weekly meetings and outings and so a big thank you is due to all for this support, especially to those who provide even more help behind the scenes with administration or maintenance on the headquarters.

Finally, I would like to end with the biggest thanks of all, to the young people of Cheddington, to the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts who come along to the meetings and activities and thus make all this effort so worthwhile.

Ian Hale
Group Scout Leader

Beavers

The beaver section has a total of 23 boys and 3 girls and attendance is very good, nearly all beavers turn up to the sessions. We have enjoyed many exciting trips out and the beavers have worked very hard towards their badges.

Happily we have a few parent helpers this term and we have also been assisted by Joel Corkhill who is currently working towards his Duke of Edinburgh award, a very big thank you to him. We can always do with parent help and were encouraged by the number of parents who came along to the Rothschild Museum in Tring. They helped the beavers take part in the sponsorship challenge on behalf of the leukaemia charity.

All the beavers have completed new badges this term; Global challenge and the Promise challenge. Well done!

We are arranging our sleepover in September which will include a trip to Whipsnade Zoo and an excellent campfire. All the beavers have shown a strong interest in joining in and we hope that they can all make it.

During this year beavers had a great day out at Gulliver's Eco Park in Milton Keynes; it was a very interesting and enjoyable visit.

Tracey Mailes
Beaver Leader

Cubs

The cub section goes from strength to strength; unfortunately we are currently beyond our ideal capacity and have a waiting list.

We are still aiming to provide continuity to all those who have come through the beavers section, however this is proving to be difficult to accommodate. Our current numbers are 31 cubs.

Our attendance is good at approximately 85%. We are only able to deliver the program due to the assistance of our 3 young helpers, Patrick, Nina and Charlotte. Additionally we do often ask parents to help at pack evenings; we haven't struggled for help so far and hope those who have joined us enjoyed the evening.

We attended the district athletics event hosted by Ivinghoe and Pitstone in May. The Cubs did very well and as a pack we came third, there were some exceptional individual performances.

Our summer camp is proving to be popular; we have 25 cubs attending and 2 parent helpers staying for the weekend. We are planning to use the climbing wall, zip wire, crate stacking, shooting and archery.

We are always grateful of help, so if you can assist us by cutting the grass or have an interesting job you could talk to us about or an idea for a visit we could do then please feel free to talk to us.

Hayden David/Dave Fisher
Cub Scout Leaders

Scouts

The Scouts section had an average of 15 scouts, both boys and girls.

Our Centenary Camp in May 07 was held at Weedon, and was literally a washout! Winds and lashing rain - but we were one of the few to stick it out!!! We also enjoyed a scouting sunrise and sunset to mark our official Centenary on 1st August 2007.

Our regular troop nights involved swimming, a scavenger hunt, our ever-popular "Survival evening", hikes, a bike ride, campfires, camps (including one sleeping without cover!), "Ready Steady Cook", a visit to a local climbing wall, a visit to Aylesbury Mosque, and of course many games + traditional scouting activities.

A very full year indeed – however, the bad news was that we saw 2 of our 3 leaders go. Firstly we lost Keith Waller in Feb 07 as he moved away, and secondly Jan Doole departed for her year-long round-the-world trip in April 08.

Keith Malcolm
Scout Leader