

**1<sup>st</sup> North Springfield**  
**Scout Group**



**Annual General Meeting**

**6<sup>th</sup> June 2003**

Skreens Park Campsite.

## **AGENDA**

- 1) Reports from sections.
- 2) Accounts
- 3) Election of post holders
- 4) A.O.B.

### **Introduction.**

As always it has been a very busy and successful year for all sections. The following reports give you an indication to just how busy.

Writing the reports for this meeting gives the leaders and especially myself the opportunity to reflect and consider the last year. It has been a time of major changes not simply for the Group but the National Association. The introduction of the new uniforms and programme of activities has had a major impact on the activities the boys undertake. Leaders have had to attend additional training and implementation meetings for each section. Yet more time that they give up willingly to ensure we maintain our high standards. I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank them for this.

As with any organisation there are times when people move on for a range of reasons. On your behalf may I take this opportunity to say thank you to Robin and Jon for the hard work and commitment they have made during the years they have been associated with the Group. They both move on for personal reasons Robin starting a new career as a teacher and Jon moving to Canada. There will always be a warm welcome for them and I hope they will remain in contact.

Losing such key members of the team is always difficult but I am pleased to say that Sarah and Neil both of who have been leaders with the group for some time will ably fill their roles. I feel sure that you will continue to support them as you have Robin and Jon.

As part of the new structure for the Association a new section, Explorer Scouts has been introduced. Explorer Scouts are young adults, both male & female, aged 14-18. Whilst the Explorer Scout Units are the responsibility of Chelmsford District rather than formally part of a Scout Group most Units have close links with a Group through partnership agreements. It was with pleasure that I was able to sign on behalf of the Group such an agreement. This has meant that since September we have had a group of older scouts associated with us. This has given us the opportunity to offer our older Scouts a varied and enjoyable programme of activities but also encourage new people into the movement including girls.

Once again can I take this opportunity to say thank you to all the adults who support Scouting at 1<sup>st</sup> North Springfield and say that we are always looking for new leaders. So come on down!

Derek Cummings.  
Group Scout Leader.

## Scout Troop

Over the past 12 months the Scout Troop has had a busy and varied programme, and has continued to thrive with its 50 members.

The highlight of 2002 was the summer camp in Staffordshire. Four patrols, including an Explorer Scout patrol, participated in both on-site and off-site activities. Off-site days included canoeing on Rudyard Lake, a visit to the Gladstone Potteries and Water World in Stoke-on-Trent. The week culminated with a visit to Alton Towers.

The autumn term saw the roll-out of the new programme and award scheme. The transition to the new scheme has worked well, and the continued enthusiasm of all of the young people is reflected in the constant stream of badges we award.

We continue to support the district organised events, and won 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> places in the raft race in September. Our map reading practice failed to pay off when we entered 3 teams in Wozimooloo, a local hike with challenges along the way, in October. One team failed to find their way out of Hylands Park! The Brass Monkeys camp at Riffhams in November was well supported, despite less than ideal weather. This was certainly not an event for the faint hearted, as they battled to survive overnight with only what they could fit into a supermarket carrier bag. We also entered 2 teams into the swimming gala in February and were the proud winners of 2 trophies.

Despite bad weather prior to the event, November saw our Winter camp at Thriftwood campsite. The camp was enjoyed by the boys, especially when it involved cooking rabbits and running round the woods playing Laser Quest!

December saw us raising our profile in the local community as we helped Christmas shoppers at ASDA pack their provisions. The winter term started off with our super patrol competition, which ran over 6 weeks with a variety of challenges and activities to test the teamwork, mental and physical abilities of the patrols. The winning patrol has recently just taken their prize at Rayleigh Karting.

Over the past year leaders within the troop have attended a number of training courses including troop leadership, climbing / abseiling, first response first aid, and archery. We are also delighted that Corrine has recently become a warranted leader.

It is only right to take this opportunity to thank all those who have contributed to the varied and successful meetings and events throughout the year. In particular I would like to thank Neil, Jonathan, Corrine, Chris and Gary for the enthusiasm and hard work which they all put in, and the support with which they have provided me. However, without the support and commitment of the parents and young people themselves the Troop would not be the success it is today.

After 4 years of being involved in the Troop, it has also become time for me to move on to pastures new, and by the time you read this I will have got married, before moving to live in Calgary, Canada, later in June. May I thank all adults and young people alike who have worked with me, supported me and above all made my time with the group fun and rewarding. I leave with many memories, not least my recent leaving party! I wish Neil and his team every success for the year ahead and am confident that the Troop will continue to thrive and go from strength to strength.

Jon Himmens

## **SCARLET CUB SCOUT PACK**

The past year has been another busy one for Scarlet pack so my grateful thanks to all the helpers adults and young people without them it would not have been possible.

Pack nights have included tent pitching; First Aid; walks; international themes; badge-work; soldering; handicrafts; tracking and much more.

Activities have not been confined to pack nights and last June saw the Sixers and Seconders at camp at Gilwell Park with a Jurassic theme. I wonder if cave men really did possess such multi-coloured furs but there is little doubt that there were such fearsome dinosaurs.

July saw the pack at Skreens Park for a Harry Potter themed weekend. All parents who helped referee the quidditch matches were gratefully received; as was the help from the Scout leaders who mixed the dye for our brightly coloured t-shirts not to mention the camp-fire and the assistance with the Christmas decorations by the Beaver leaders.

In October we joined with Royal pack for our annual parent and son camp at Skreens when our theme was Great Britain, for the jubilee year. Model car racing was one of the highlights even though not all cars raced in the same direction.

The pack once again took part in various District events and we enjoyed success in the Riffhams challenge in September; the chess and handicraft competitions in March.

Once again, thank you to everyone who helped during the year.

Deborah Wilkes

## **ROYAL CUB SCOUT PACK**

Dear Parents, a very brief run down of another year at Royal Pack – action packed as always!

### **Autumn Term 2002.**

**Events / Activities.** - Jubilee Funday at Skreens Park, Jamboree on the Air, District Challenge Day, Group Legoland trip. Parent and Son Camp 2002 – ‘Great Britain’. Another fantastic camp for our two Cub packs – thank you to Debbie for leading it. A great weekend for all who came along.

**Pack Meetings...** Filling food parcels for the ‘Harvest for the Hungry’ appeal, Banana Night, cross country hike to Broomfield chip shop, Halloween at Riffhams with the Beavers, Pack project to gain the new Art Badge, visit to the Essex Police HQ and a Thailand Party Night to celebrate the World Jamboree!

### **Spring Term 2003**

**Events / Activities...** Two teams entered the District Swimming Gala, Winter Adventure Day at Riffhams including a 5km hike, open fires, shelter building etc! 6 cubs spent the night aboard HMS Belfast with the district, 33 badges gained at the District Handicraft competition – Oliver Milbank won best overall Cub in the District for an amazing third year! Joint Pack trip to Duxford Air Museum attended by 49 Cubs and Leaders, Cubs paraded our flag at the District St George’s Day parade, plus 61 members of the group attended the Chelmsford Gang Show – well done Oliver Milbank and Matthew Clifford who appeared on stage in the Mini Gang!

**Pack Meetings.** Visit to the Police Helicopter at Boreham (in blizzard of snow!), gaining the Air Activities Badge as a pack, cooking mini pizzas on our Sixers night, celebrating St Patrick’s day, dark games night at Riffhams, plus testing Cubs’ senses!

### **Summer term 2003.**

**Events / Activities.** ..In late June we will be visiting Colchester Zoo to see ‘ Sasha’ the white tiger that we have sponsored – the cubs raised a brilliant £199 with a sponsored challenge to tie as many Reef Knots as they could in 15min – using cooked spaghetti! Messy, but great fun!

**Pack Meetings.** Essex Police talk about Stranger Danger, a 3 week pack project to gain the Naturalist Badge, including a Nature Night at Great Leighs, plus end of year BBQ at Riffhams with the Beavers!

**Summer camp 2003 – ‘Camp Safari’ – an African Adventure!** - We have another great camp ahead of us, as we return to Thorrington Scout Campsite in Colchester. Lots of African activities and crafts, plus a Zulu Banquet and Parade to Campfire! Not forgetting the Cubs chance to abseil down a 40 foot tower – ‘ Mount Kilimanjaro’ So far 26 cubs are attending so it is going to be a fantastic camp!

### **Thanks and Goodbye!**

At the end of this term I will be stepping down as Akela. I want to take this chance to thank everyone who has supported Royal Pack, past and present – especially the 94 cubs who have been in the Pack in the 6 years I have been Leader! My personal thanks to Chil, Rikki, Bagheera, Sarah Beadel, Senga, Jane and Nick Milbank, Jane Shelley plus Sally and Nick Kruger – not forgetting all of the parents who join our Rota. Your support makes Royal Pack possible and provides great Scouting to our Cubs. I have had an amazing time as Akela of such a strong Pack – I will miss it hugely. The best of luck to Rikki as she takes over from me in September!

Robin Foster

## **Beaver Scout Colony**

Yet another exciting and ground breaking year for the Beavers!

During the last 12 months we have maintained our links with the elderly at Cotman Lodge and the sick at The Lawns Nursing Home, entertaining and providing refreshments. We have joined sections with both the Cubs and the Scouts with events such as trips to Riffhams Camp Site in Danbury, Skreens Park in Roxwell and a Group trip to Legoland, Windsor.

In February we held our 5<sup>th</sup> annual sleepover for Beaver Scouts and became the first Beaver Colony in the Chelmsford District to hold an incredibly successful parent and son camp under canvas in May. 1<sup>st</sup> North Springfield lead the way again!

We have held a swim party at New Hall, attended a fun day at Gilwell Park, had several events at Riffhams and been on a “fishing trip” to the river at Great Waltham having made our own nets!

We have been visited by two guide dogs for the blind with their owners as we continue to collect used postage stamps for this very worthwhile cause, Father Frank from St. Augustine’s Church as part of the boys’ Faith badge and several other Beaver Colonies as we have fun making crafts, playing games, singing songs and making new friends.

We attended the St. George’s Day Parade at Chelmsford Cathedral, visited the Police HQ and the CCTV Control in town.

I am delighted to say that many “activity” and “staged activity” badges have been deservedly earned and presented along with several Chief Scout Bronze Awards and Moving On badges as our boys have progressed up to both Royal and Scarlet Cub Packs.

The number of Beaver Scouts in the Colony remain at 28 with a fairly healthy waiting list although, if you know of any boys aged between 6 and 8 years, who would like to be considered for a place in a very active and well supported group, please pass their details to us. We have boys as young as 2 years old on our waiting list so, it is never too early!

I take this opportunity, as usual, to thank my dedicated assistants; Nick (Fergus), my husband, Jane Shelley (Castor), Chris Nock (Amik) and Dean (Deano) who has been a real asset. Without their help my work would be an impossible task. Thanks to all the other leaders and assistants within the Group for their support and help and to all the parents who have assisted and supported our section in so many ways. If I have forgotten anyone or anything, I apologise but it has really been a very full year!

We look forward to another exciting year ahead with several plans in the pipeline including a golfing experience, a family camp, trips, visits and a whole lot of fun!

Jane Milbank (Boomer) Beaver Scout Leader.

## Treasurers Report

### Accounts for year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2003

The unaudited accounts for the Group are attached. The first page details the formal accounts which have been prepared as in previous years on a cash book basis. These would appear to show a small deficit for the year. However, these incorporate a number of exceptional items and therefore I have also attached a supplementary page which hopefully gives a better understanding of the true financial position of the Group which is actually better than the initial figures suggest with a small surplus in the year.

The most significant items worthy of note this year are:-

- ◆ **Equipment expenditure** has been minimal during the last 12 months. However, since the year end we have already identified equipment which requires to be replaced (eg groundsheets) as well as equipment which with training already undertaken by Leaders will allow us to broaden the scope and frequency of activities (eg climbing equipment). We have managed to avoid replacing the Group's hike tents and marquee for a further year but these are likely to need replacement in the not too distant future;
- ◆ **Badges & Uniform** has shown a significant increase in the last two years, 2002 largely because of the replacement of leader uniforms and 2003 as a result of badges for the new programme. Badges remain a significant expense and are likely to continue to be so;
- ◆ **Training** has also shown a small increase but in reality both years are low considering the cost of training. The new programme will require some retraining for leaders and therefore we anticipate the costs will increase this year and in future years. Indeed we have already spent more this year than we did in the year just gone;
- ◆ **Other (Miscellaneous) Expenses** include £860 expended on resource material relating to the new programme and a contribution by the Group to assist one of our boys in attending the World Jamboree in Thailand;
- ◆ **Explorer Scout Partnership Agreement** is a new line on both the income and expenditure sections of the accounts. As Derek mentions in his introductory comments the Group has since September had a new Explorer Scout section attached to it. Under the Partnership Agreement signed between the Group; the Unit and the Scout District the Group has agreed to support the Unit essentially in the same way as any other section. However, as the Unit is technically not part of the Group the payments received from and to the Explorer Scout Unit require to be identified separately.

As always my thanks go to the various leaders who have to produce each section's accounts and the supporting paperwork. As anyone who has ever been involved in accounts will know these things are never as easy as they look especially when you can't find these vital receipts.

Sandy Wilson  
Treasurer

**1st North Springfield Scout Group**  
**Consolidated accounts**  
**Year ended 31st March 2003**

**Receipts & Payments Statement**

<u>2001 /02</u>		<u>2002 /03</u>
	<b><u>Receipts</u></b>	
£8,410.50	Subscriptions	£9,382.50
£2,202.82	Tax reclaim	£2,986.92
-	Explorer Scout Partnership Agreement	£311.66
£466.78	Bank Interest received	£349.56
£396.22	Donations Received	£244.81
£0.00	Grants	£0.00
£10,401.66	Activity specific income (eg Camps)	£11,751.49
£477.28	Fund raising (gross income)	£409.05
£34.50	Other miscellaneous income	£79.00
£22,389.76	Total receipts	£25,514.99
	<b><u>Payments</u></b>	
£2,602.00	Capitation fees	£2,838.55
£2,636.85	Hall hire	£5,102.40
£180.01	Insurance	£202.51
£12,750.54	Activity related expenditure	£12,300.25
£1,500.10	Week night programme expenses	£1,937.58
-	Explorer Scout Partnership Agreement	£360.00
£32.70	Fund raising expenses	£20.00
£53.20	Administration expenses	£12.60
£220.14	Equipment purchases	£1,128.38
£1,114.66	Badges & Uniform	£949.85
£172.00	Training	£186.00
£459.05	Other expenses	£1,120.84
£21,721.25	Total Expenditure	£26,158.96
<b>£668.51</b>	<b>Net Surplus / (Shortfall)</b>	<b>(£643.97)</b>

**Statement of Assets & Liabilities**

<u>2001 /02</u>		<u>2002 /03</u>
£3,041.72	Bank accounts	£3,131.21
(£54.94)	Cash	£23.82
£10,685.31	National Savings	£10,005.86
<b>£13,672.09</b>	<b>Total assets</b>	<b>£13,160.89</b>
£635.00	<b>Funds raised for other Charities</b>	£470.00

**1st North Springfield Scout Group**  
**Consolidated accounts**  
**Year ended 31st March 2003**  
**Adjusted to exclude "Exceptionals"**

<b><u>Receipts &amp; Payments</u></b>		<u>Estimate</u>	
<b><u>Statement</u></b>			
<u>2001 /02</u>		<u>2002 /03</u>	<u>2003/04</u>
<b><u>Receipts</u></b>			
£8,410.50	Subscriptions <sup>(See Note 1)</sup>	£9,382.50	£9,382.50
£2,202.82	Tax reclaim <sup>(See Note 1)</sup>	£2,986.92	£2,646.35
£466.78	Bank Interest received	£349.56	£349.56
£10,401.66	Activities	£11,751.49	£11,751.49
£444.58	Fund raising (Net)	£389.05	£389.05
£34.50	Other miscellaneous income	£79.00	£79.00
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£21,960.84	Total receipts	£24,938.52	£24,597.95
<b><u>Payments</u></b>			
£2,602.00	Capitation fees <sup>(see note 2)</sup>	£2,838.55	£3,096.60
£2,636.85	Hall hire <sup>(see note 2)</sup>	£4,203.40	£4,400.00
£180.01	Insurance <sup>(see note 2)</sup>	£202.51	£227.82
£12,750.54	Activities	£12,300.25	£12,300.25
£53.20	Administration expenses	£12.60	£100.00
£2,000.00	Equipment purchases <sup>(see Note 3)</sup>	£2,000.00	£2,000.00
£1,114.66	Badges & Uniform <sup>(see note 4)</sup>	£949.85	£950.00
£172.00	Training	£186.00	£350.00
£1,500.10	Week night programme expenses	£1,937.58	£2,000.00
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£23,009.36	Total Expenditure	£24,630.74	£25,424.68
<hr/> <b><u>(£1,048.52)</u></b>	<b>Net Surplus / (Shortfall)</b>	<hr/> <b><u>£307.78</u></b>	<hr/> <b><u>(£826.73)</u></b>

Note 1 - Subscriptions and the related tax reclaim have been assumed as the same number of boys paying £90 per annum as present.

Note 2 - Increase in estimate has been assumed as the same percentage rate as for last year

Note 3 - Notional reserve / depreciation charge @ 10% of total equipment cost

Note 4 - 2001/2 included extra expenditure because of the new Programme