

1st North Springfield
Scout Group



Annual General Meeting

27th May 2004

Riffhams Campsite, Danbury.

AGENDA

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

Introduction.

Welcome once again to the AGM of the 1st North Springfield Scout Group.

As always it is a pleasure to read the reports that the sections have produced giving brief details of all they have undertaken. For you as parents I hope they not only remind you of the fun and opportunities the boys have had this year but will also give you an insight into the activities undertaken by the other sections. I have to be strict on the amount of space I give to them so their reports only give a taste of what has happened.

I feel sure that you are proud of your own son's achievements during the last year. These achievements however can only be obtained with the support, hard work and dedication of the leadership team and their helpers.

For those of you who attended our recent Family Camp (mud, mud and more mud) you would have seen how much the various leaders had to do in order to ensure the success of the camp. This level of commitment by the team continues to make the group successful not simply in terms of competitions but in meeting the aims of the Scout Association.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the uniformed leaders, parent helpers and young leaders who give so much for the benefit of the boys in the group.

Derek Cummings.
Group Scout Leader.

Scout Troop

The past 12 months have been another busy year for the troop, and we have taken part in a wide selection of activities. Our regular troop meetings have covered a diverse range of topics from the teaching of traditional scoutcraft skills to the more fun activities such as chip shop surveys, pitch & putt and bowling. A visit from the Royal Engineers also provided a fun and entertaining evening, with hands on bridge building challenges. Our attendance at weekly troop meetings remains in the mid 30's, which is a clear indication of the enthusiasm of everyone.

June was a busy month, starting with a district organised day trip to Belgium. The day included a visit to a theme park followed by the exploration of some World War I trenches and attendance of the final ceremony of the day at the Menin Gate. At the end of June we attended the district Mayhem camp at Mersea youth camp, which as always proved popular with everyone. This fully catered camp provided a wide selection of activities throughout the weekend, from climbing and mountain biking to crafts and watching films.

In July we headed off to Kent for our summer camp. The week was highly successful with a range of activities both on and off site, including a visit to Chislehurst caves, the historic Chatham dockyards and canoeing and sailing near the Medway. A group of Cubs joined us for a day, to find out more about Scout Camp. After joining in with a selection of activities including open fire cooking and crate climbing it was a struggle to persuade them they had to go home!

In October we had our annual bivi night at Riffhams, which provided some back to basics training, such as making shelters and cooking on fires. Later in the month we attended the national air rifle championships where members of the troop came 5th in the Junior Air Pistol event and 7th in the under 12 Six Yard Rifle competition out of over 200 competitors.

A very wet and muddy weekend was spent by a brave contingent, at our winter camp in November. Despite continuous rain all weekend, everyone had a great time and enjoyed a selection of activities and a spit roast.

The troop has continued to participate in fundraising activities throughout the year, with car parking and litter picking duties at the Essex 5-a-side football competition, bag packing at Asda over the Christmas period and stewarding at Danbury fireworks.

A visit to the Midlands provided the opportunity to visit the outdoors show at the NEC before going on to participate in the Inter-county airgun championships. This was a tough competition and whilst we won no medals it was excellent experience for everyone involved.

Two teams recently gained their expedition award by undertaking a 20-mile hike fully laden with everything needed for 2 days. Despite the heat and a few wrong turnings they completed it with 'some' energy to spare!

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 thanks to Neil, Robin, Sue and Gary for the enthusiasm and hard work, which is put in every week. However, without the support and commitment of the parents and young people themselves the Troop would not be the success it is today.

With our imminent attendance at the forthcoming Essex International Jamboree, the year ahead looks set to be a good one, and we look forward to your continued support.

Jonathan Wentworth, ASL

Scarlet Pack Report.

Scarlet pack has had another enjoyable and successful year. Many thanks to leaders Lorraine Cummings, Kevin Edwards, Tamsyn Hockaday and Carrie Ward.

We have taken part in District events such as the chess competition; the swimming gala, the Riffhams challenge and the handicraft competition and have enjoyed some success in these events as well as the joys of taking part and believe me making shortbread faces at Cubs is fun.

We have also had our summer camp with a theme of Cowboys and Indians; visited the Scouts at their summer camp and had our usual joint Parent and Son camp with Royal pack which this year had a theme of Down Under.

Just before Christmas the pack produced a pantomime 'Caveman's First Christmas?' when we raised funds for the British Red Cross by selling the programmes that we had previously made in the University's ICT suite. Some members of the pack, inspired by this went on to take part in this year's Mini-Gang which the rest of the pack went to see at the Civic theatre and everyone enjoyed it.

Last summer we took the older Cubs canoeing and the two oldest Cubs had the closest look at the Chelmer which was not from within their canoes! Undeterred we plan to take more Cubs this year – perhaps from previous experience it should be the youngest!

Beaver Scout Section

What can I say?another fantastic year for the Beavers!

The new programme for all sections was launched with many changes to Policy, Organisation and Rules. As usual, we met these changes with enthusiasm and total commitment.

We have mixed with other Colonies from within the Chelmsford Scout District, inviting groups to join us at Riffhams for various events. We have also been joined by the Cubs from Royal Pack for our famous Halloween event. Unfortunately, meeting on different evenings, it is difficult to meet up with Scarlet Pack but it was lovely to do so at our recent Family Camp which, of course, included our Scouts and their leaders as well. We will be holding our second Parent and Son Camp in May 2005 as well as one planned for September this year!

We held our sixth annual sleepover in February when the theme was "Emergency 999". This was great fun and an excellent way for the boys to experience what, for some of them, is their first night away from home on their own.

Once again we have maintained our link with the elderly at Cotman Lodge, entertaining the residents and serving refreshments.

We like to try and put the "out" into Scouting and are frequent visitors to the Riffhams Campsite in Danbury for our "Rummage", Easter Egg Hunt, open fire cooking and generally having fun. We have been fishing in the local rivers, hiking in the local countryside, snow balling when the weather permitted and enjoyed a visit to the theatre to watch Gnash in the Gang Show.

Throughout the year we have raised funds for the Helena Rollason Appeal, Ebenezer (our sponsored child in Africa), the Asthma Society and collected stamps for the Guide Dogs for the Blind.

Our boys have entered and attended District Events such as the Beaveree and Handicraft Competition, Harvest Festival and Christingle services at St. Augustine's Church and the St Georges Day Parade at Chelmsford Cathedral.

Deano, who has been with us for a while now has accepted "Young Leader" status along with our latest member to our team - "Moose". Gnash, our resident Scout, continues to help on a weekly basis.

During the year the boys have worked hard as well as playing and having loads of fun, earning many activity, staged activity and challenge badges. Quite a few have earned their Chief Scout's Bronze Award before moving up to Cubs. We continue to take on new boys, keeping our total membership at 28 with no sign of the waiting list running out.

As leaders, we have organised social events for ourselves (not all involving pubs!) and have also successfully completed a Child Protection Awareness Programme in conjunction with the NSPCC, EduCare, St. John Ambulance and the Guide Association. We also featured as the cooking team for Royal Pack Cubs at their Summer Camp.

As members of the Scout Fellowship, Fergus and I have also attended and helped at the Gang Show, Swimming Gala, Fuchsia Show and catering at various events.

My grateful thanks, as always, to my team of 7 leaders and helpers and to the various parents who have helped out when help is needed. I won't name names but you know who you are and once again, thank you.

As we fast approach mid way through 2004 (where have all the years gone?) we look forward to another exciting year ahead with many new ideas, plans and experiences to encounter.

Jane Milbank (Boomer) BSL

Treasurers Report

Accounts for year ended 31st March 2004

The unaudited accounts for the Group are attached which have been prepared on a cash book basis. The accounts would on first glance appear to show a surplus for the year. However, the problem with cash book accounting is that it does not tell the whole story. There were a number of exceptional items (as every year seems to!) and substantial items which do not “belong” to that year such as the initial deposits for the recent Family Camp. By the way wasn't that great value, everyone was well watered and fed. In an attempt to show the “correct” financial state of the Group I have also attached a supplementary page which hopefully gives a better understanding of the Group's finances.

The most significant items which I would comment on from this years accounts are:-

- ◆ **Hall Hire & Weekly Programme Expenses** look as if they have decreased and increased substantially since 2003. Neither is in fact the case, it is the dreaded timing differences. In fact hall hire has increased, the Boswells School in line with inflation and the Beavers took on a larger hall during the year. The 2004 figures are probably most representative of the correct position.
- ◆ **Equipment expenditure** has again been light during the last 12 months, mainly representing climbing equipment and smallish replacements. However, since the year end we have already spent considerable sums on equipment such as the new hike tents. Other pressing equipment needs have been identified such as groundsheets. The Scout Leader also wants staves and I daresay he also wants champagne flutes for camp but we shall need to prioritise the needs – so flutes it will be.
- ◆ **Training** has also shown a small increase but in reality both years have been low considering the increased cost of training. We anticipate the costs will increase this year and in future as the requirement to train & retrain the Leaders and the Adventurous Activity Leaders becomes more rigorous. I know it is hard to believe any of the Leaders need training , which of course just goes to show how good the training is!
- ◆ **Explorer Scout Partnership Agreement** was income & expenditure introduced last year. The Group has since September 2002 partnered an Explorer Scout Unit (for young men and women aged 14-18). Under the Partnership Agreement signed between the Unit; the Group and the Scout District the Group has agreed to support the Unit essentially in the same way as any other section. However, technically the Unit is not part of the Group and therefore the payments received and made require to be identified separately. The District Treasurer will receive a copy of these accounts and will no doubt try and reconcile these with the Unit's. Knowing who does the Unit's Accounts I can only wish him luck!

As always my thanks go to the various leaders who produce the accounts for their respective sections. I am especially grateful to those who provide their accounts to me termly as requested and allow me plenty of time for presenting them to the AGM. As anyone who has ever been involved in accounts will know these things are not as easy as they look (I'm trying to justify my job here) especially when you can't find these vital receipts (and that's just the Treasurer!)

Sandy Wilson
Treasurer

1st North Springfield Scout Group
Consolidated accounts
Year ended 31st March 2004

Receipts & Payments Statement

<u>2002 /03</u>		<u>2003 /04</u>
	<u>Receipts</u>	
£9,382.50	Subscriptions	£9,200.00
£2,986.92	Tax reclaim	£1,372.77
£347.55	Explorer Scout Unit Partnership receipts	£618.75
£313.67	Bank Interest received	£279.34
£230.50	Donations Received	£156.00
£0.00	Grants	£0.00
£11,751.49	Activity specific income (eg Camps)	£9,075.30
£409.05	Fund raising (gross income)	£604.75
£130.15	Other miscellaneous income	£161.60
£25,551.83	Total receipts	£21,468.51
	<u>Payments</u>	
£2,838.55	Capitation fees	£2,709.00
£5,102.40	Hall hire	£3,975.85
£202.51	Insurance	£206.45
£12,150.25	Activity related expenditure	£8,369.03
£1,937.58	Week night programme expenses	£2,564.85
£347.55	Explorer Scout Partnership Agreement	£540.00
£20.00	Fund raising expenses	£49.87
£12.60	Administration expenses	£0.00
£1,128.38	Equipment purchases	£705.38
£949.85	Badges & Uniform	£713.22
£186.00	Training	£269.00
£1,120.84	Other expenses	£300.64
£25,996.51	Total Expenditure	£20,403.29
(£444.68)	Net Surplus / (Shortfall)	£1,065.22

Statement of Assets & Liabilities

<u>2002 /03</u>		<u>2003 /04</u>
£2,828.19	Bank accounts	£4,322.18
£23.82	Cash	(£604.21)
£10,005.86	National Savings	£10,270.93
	<u>less</u> Funds held in Trust for Charity	(£65.81)
£12,857.87	Total assets	£13,923.09
£66.00	Funds raised for other Charities	£247.81

1st North Springfield Scout Group
Consolidated accounts
Year ended 31st March 2004
Adjusted to exclude "Exceptionals"

<u>2002 /03</u>	<u>Receipts & Payments</u> <u>Statement</u>	<u>2003 /04</u>	<u>Estimate</u> <u>2004/5</u>
	<u>Receipts</u>		
£9,382.50	Subscriptions (See Note 1)	£9,200.00	£9,200.00
£2,044.90	Tax reclaim (See Note 1)	£2,005.13	£2,005.13
£313.67	Bank Interest received	£279.34	£279.34
£11,751.49	Activities	£9,075.30	£9,075.30
£389.05	Fund raising (Net)	£554.88	£554.88
£130.15	Other miscellaneous income	£161.60	£161.60
<u>£24,011.76</u>	Total receipts	<u>£21,276.25</u>	<u>£21,276.25</u>
	<u>Payments</u>		
£2,838.55	Capitation fees (see note 2)	£2,709.00	£2,979.90
£3,700.00	Hall hire (see note 2)	£3,975.85	£4,373.44
£202.51	Insurance (see note 2)	£206.45	£250.00
£11,751.49	Activities	£9,075.30	£9,075.30
£12.60	Administration expenses	£0.00	£100.00
£2,000.00	Equipment purchases (see Note 3)	£2,000.00	£2,000.00
£949.85	Badges & Uniform	£713.22	£1,000.00
£186.00	Training	£269.00	£350.00
£1,937.58	Week night programme expenses	£2,564.85	£2,520.00
<u>£23,578.58</u>	Total Expenditure	<u>£21,513.67</u>	<u>£22,648.64</u>
<u><u>£433.18</u></u>	Net Surplus / (Shortfall)	<u><u>(£237.42)</u></u>	<u><u>(£1,372.39)</u></u>

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

Activities & Explorer Scout Partnership agreement income & Expenditure are considered to be self - financing